



Bhatti Pushes EHS Implementation

Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has made it clear that the Telangana government will not compromise on the implementation of the Employees' Health Scheme (EHS), stressing that providing healthcare security to government employees and their families remains a key priority. Bhatti held a high-level review meeting with EHS Trust Board members and senior officials on Sunday and directed authorities to take immediate steps to strengthen the scheme. He said the health-card initiative was intended to address a long-pending demand of government employees and reduce the financial and emotional strain caused by medical emergencies. The Deputy Chief Minister said the government was working to ensure that employees, pensioners, their families and eligible dependents receive timely and effective medical services. He directed officials to closely monitor implementation and resolve operational difficulties without delay.

Guidelines and Hospital Network

Bhatti said comprehensive guidelines for EHS were being prepared in consultation with employee associations. He instructed officials to maintain regular coordination with employee representatives while finalising the framework so that practical difficulties faced by beneficiaries could be addressed. According to the latest government and media reports, 354 private hospitals have already been empanelled under EHS, while additional hospitals have been brought into the network through the deemed-empanelled system. Bhatti directed officials to hold discussions with hospital managements and ensure that beneficiaries receive uninterrupted treatment.

P3



HYDERABAD | VOL-2 | ISSUE - 346 | MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 7 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : HYDERABAD □ VIJAYAWADA

Modi Stresses Growth and Opportunity

New Delhi, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) after 13 years, addressing its centenary celebrations and recalling his widely discussed 2013 speech at the institution. Blending economic arguments with contemporary phrases aimed at younger audiences, Modi said India's recent growth demonstrated the country's resilience amid global uncertainty. Modi highlighted India's 7.8 per cent GDP growth in the April-June quarter, saying the performance came despite the continuing conflict in West Asia and disruptions affecting international trade. He argued that India was not merely expanding economically but was also generating employment opportunities. The Prime Minister contrasted the current situation with 2013, when, he said, India faced high inflation, economic difficulties, corruption allegations and what was described internationally as "Fragile Five" status. Recalling his 2013 address, Modi said he had presented an optimistic vision even when the national mood was pessimistic. He repeated his earlier metaphor of a glass being viewed as either half full or half empty, saying he had chosen to see it as completely



full, with water and air. The Prime Minister also spoke about national security, claiming that terrorism had been significantly weakened and that peace had improved from Jammu and Kashmir to the Northeast. He said India's response to terrorism had become more decisive and asserted that the country was now better equipped to protect its interests. Using popular expressions, Modi described SRCC alumni as the "OGs" and referred to the film Dhurandhar while praising their achievements. He also warned students against what he called "angry uncles" who oppose development projects by repeatedly asking why they are necessary. Modi pointed to the growth of domestic manufacturing as another example of India's changing economic landscape. He said smartphones made in India were now reaching global markets and claimed that the country's mobile-phone exports had crossed Rs 2.5 lakh crore. Looking ahead, he said India could become a global manufacturing, research and innovation centre and a major agricultural exporter. He reiterated his vision of an Indian space station and an Olympics hosted in India. The Prime Minister urged students to pursue ambitious careers in startups, technology, agriculture, space, drones and artificial intelligence. He said the ecosystem available to young Indians today allows them to pursue opportunities

CM Orders Probe Into Nurse's Death

Tukkuguda, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the reported rape and murder of a nurse at a private hospital in Tukkuguda, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, and directed officials to examine possible security and management lapses. The Chief Minister instructed authorities to investigate every aspect of the incident, including the circumstances surrounding the crime, security arrangements at the accommodation provided to the victim, and whether the hospital management had fulfilled mandatory safety requirements for women employees. With police having already taken the accused into custody, Revanth Reddy directed senior police officials to closely supervise the investigation and ensure that no aspect of the case was overlooked. He called for the speedy completion of forensic examinations, collection of technical evidence and other investigative procedures before filing a comprehensive charge sheet. The Chief Minister also directed the Law, Police and Prosecution departments to coordinate closely to avoid procedural delays. He ordered officials to take necessary steps to pursue the case through a fast-track court so that the victim's family could receive justice at the earliest. Revanth Reddy assured the victim's family of full government support. Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Danasari Anasuya, popularly known as



Seethakka, have already visited the family and conveyed their condolences. The government has also sanctioned financial assistance to the family and approved an Indiramma house as part of the support measures. The Chief Minister further instructed officials to identify any systemic shortcomings that may have contributed to the incident and take corrective measures. He emphasised that workplace and residential safety arrangements for female employees must be properly implemented and monitored. Officials were asked to ensure that the investigation proceeds without delay and that all available evidence is collected and scientifically examined. The government also reiterated its intention to pursue the case through a fast-track process to secure timely justice for the deceased nurse's family.

India Eyes Second Metro Spot

New Delhi, September 6 | TPN Bureau

India is on course to overtake the United States and become the world's second-largest metro rail network after China, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal has said, highlighting the rapid expansion of urban mass-transit infrastructure across the country. The minister said India's metro system, once restricted to a handful of cities, has expanded significantly over the past decade. Government data shows that the operational metro network has grown from about 248 km across five cities in 2014 to more than 1,155 km in 2026, with metro connectivity now available in 26 cities. Manohar Lal said the pace of expansion is expected to accelerate further as several projects under construction become operational. Based on the



projected growth, India could surpass the US in operational metro network length within the next two years and move into second place globally, behind China. The expansion marks a substantial transformation in India's urban transport landscape. According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the country crossed the 1,000-km operational metro milestone in 2025. The number of cities with operational metro services had also increased to 26, compared

P3

CM Hails Mahesh Kumar Goud

Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy congratulated Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on completing two years at the helm of the state Congress organisation. In a message posted on X, Revanth Reddy praised Goud's journey from an ordinary party worker to the leader entrusted with guiding the Congress in Telangana. The Chief Minister described his elevation as an indication of the party's commitment to social justice and representation for backward communities. Revanth Reddy said placing the responsibility of leading the state unit in the hands of a leader from the Backward Classes was more than a political appointment. He said it reflected the Congress party's emphasis on social inclusion and opportunities for leaders who had risen through grassroots-level work. The Chief Minister also appreciated Goud's efforts to strengthen the party organisation and maintain close relations with Congress workers. He credited the guidance of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for providing direction to the party's organisational activities. Revanth Reddy said Goud had worked consistently to consolidate the party and stand by its cadre during his tenure as TPCC president. He expressed confi-



dence that Goud would continue contributing to public service with the same commitment and dedication. The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt wishes to Goud and hoped that he would achieve greater milestones in the years ahead. Goud assumed charge as TPCC

president in 2024 and has since overseen the party's organisational activities across Telangana. His tenure has included efforts to strengthen the party structure, coordinate with grassroots workers and advance the Congress government's political and organisational agenda.

India Backs UN Map Resolution

New Delhi, September 6 | TPN Bureau

India has supported a United Nations General Assembly resolution seeking more accurate representation of the world's landmasses on maps, while making it clear that the move does not alter the country's position on its sovereign territory. The resolution, titled "Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World's Regions, Particularly Africa," was adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 4. It received 164 votes in favour, while the United States voted against and six countries abstained. The initiative seeks to encourage greater use of equal-area cartographic projections that represent the relative sizes of continents more accurately. Traditional projections such as the Mercator map can make regions farther from the Equator appear disproportionately large, while underrepresenting the actual size of equatorial landmasses, particularly Africa.



India, while voting for the resolution, separately clarified that its support should not be interpreted as an endorsement of any particular map projection or alteration of international boundaries. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India had specifically emphasised that its sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be shown in accordance with India's official map. He said

any inaccurate or misleading depiction would be unacceptable. The MEA also stressed that the resolution deals with the principle of equal-area cartographic representation and does not itself determine political boundaries, disputed territories or territorial claims. India's position on its sovereignty and territorial integrity, Jaiswal said, remains clear and non-negotiable. The resolution was sponsored by Togo on behalf of the African group and reflects a

long-running effort to address distortions associated with widely used world-map projections. The UN's official schedule confirms that the resolution was considered during the General Assembly's 114th plenary meeting on September 4. India's vote therefore represents support for more geographically proportionate mapping while maintaining its established position on national boundaries and territorial representation.

Cabinet Reshuffle Likely This Month

Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Cabinet is likely to undergo expansion and a reshuffle in the fourth week of September, with the Congress leadership considering filling three existing ministerial vacancies and reallocating portfolios, according to party sources. TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud is among the names being discussed for induction into the Cabinet. His two-year term as Pradesh Congress Committee chief is scheduled to end on September 15. The Congress high command is also expected to begin discussions on his succe-

sor, with Minister Ponnampallabharathi reportedly being considered for the post. Mahabubabad MP Balam Naidu could emerge as another contender if the party opts for a Lambada leader as PCC chief. Ramachandra Naik and Panel Speaker Balu Naik are also being mentioned for possible Cabinet representation from the community. Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar is another prominent name in the discussions. He had reportedly sought a ministerial position when Congress formed the government but was appointed Speaker due to the political circumstances at the time.



Government advisor and senior Congress leader Sudarshan Reddy is also among those seeking Cabinet induction. Women leaders are also in contention. MLC Vijayashanti could be considered, particularly if the party seeks to replace Konda Surekha with another BC woman. Nalamada Padmavathi Reddy is also reportedly lobbying for a ministerial berth. Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy has openly sought a Cabinet position, citing commitments made before the elections. However, his brother Komatireddy Venkat Reddy is already a minister, making the decision politically sensitive. Other aspirants reportedly

include Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malreddy Ranga Reddy and Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas. Lobbying has also intensified amid speculation about a possible ministerial removal. The Congress high command is expected to consult Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy after the Assembly session before finalising the changes. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Uttam Kumar Reddy and Mahesh Kumar Goud are also expected to be called to Delhi for discussions. The final composition is likely to depend on regional balance, caste representation, gender considerations and the party's political strategy.

Seemantham Held for 100 Women

Kapra, September 6 | TPN Bureau

A mass Seemantham ceremony was organised for 100 pregnant women at Oxford Grammar School in Cherlapally to mark the birthday celebrations of school chairman Gaddam Yadagiri. Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply and Women & Child Welfare Seethakka attended the programme as the chief guest and extended her blessings to the expectant mothers. The event was organised with the objective of supporting women belonging to economically weaker and socially disadvantaged sections. The traditional ceremony was conducted in a festive atmosphere, with the minister interacting with the participants and offering them her best wishes for safe deliveries and healthy babies. Addressing the gathering, Seethakka stressed the importance of proper nutrition during pregnancy. She advised expectant mothers to avoid fast food, adulterated food products and other unhealthy items. Instead, she encouraged them to consume



some freshly prepared home-cooked meals, seasonal fruits, dry fruits, eggs and other nutritious foods. The minister said a mother's nutritional intake plays an important role in the healthy development of the unborn child. She also advised pregnant women to remain physically active through light

walking and other activities, subject to medical advice. Maintaining mental well-being and avoiding unnecessary stress were equally important, she added. Seethakka highlighted the role of Anganwadi centres in providing essential nutritional support and services to preg-

nant women, young mothers and children. She appealed to eligible families to make full use of the facilities and welfare programmes available through the centres. The programme was attended by Child Protection Committee member Saritha, UPHC doctor Priyanka, Cherlapally Circle Inspector Sudhakar, local public representatives, Anganwadi workers and other officials. Several public representatives, community leaders and well-wishers also conveyed birthday greetings to Gaddam Yadagiri. They appreciated his efforts to remain connected with the public and described his approachable nature and willingness to support people in need as an example of social responsibility. The organisers said the ceremony reflected the importance of community support for pregnant women, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. They expressed hope that Yadagiri would continue undertaking welfare and service-oriented programmes in the future.

Rs 11.72 Crore CSR Funds for Manthani Road



Warangal, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavaya called for stronger cooperation among South Asian countries to tackle climate change, stressing that environmental challenges do not stop at national borders and therefore require coordinated regional solutions. Kavaya was among the parliamentarians participating in the South Asian Parliamentary Dialogue on Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development in Thimphu, Bhutan. The two-day dialogue, held on September 5 and 6, brought together lawmakers and experts from across the region to discuss climate resilience, environmental conservation, energy transition and sustainable development. Addressing the gathering, Kavaya said climate change was already affecting communities through extreme temperatures, irregular rainfall, floods, droughts and water shortages. She noted that these developments were placing pressure on agriculture, livelihoods, public health and economies. She stressed the importance of regional cooperation in expanding renewable and clean energy, conserving water, protecting biodiversity and developing environmentally sustainable infrastructure. She also called for a balance between economic growth and environmental protection, with special attention to farmers, women, young people, economically weaker sections and other communities most vulnerable to climate-related disruptions.

Kavaya emphasised the need to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture, improve water management and establish effective early-warning mechanisms for natural disasters. She said South Asian countries could benefit from sharing experiences and successful practices in renewable energy, green development and environmental conservation. The MP also advocated greater parliamentary dialogue to develop joint approaches and coordinated action plans for challenges shared across the region. She said governments must protect natural resources while pursuing economic development. "Development does not mean destroying nature. True sustainable development lies in achieving progress while protecting the environment," Kavaya said. The Bhutan dialogue also focused on areas including climate finance, renewable energy, water security, disaster preparedness, biodiversity conservation and resilient infrastructure. Bhutanese leaders stressed that stronger parliamentary cooperation could help South Asian nations present a collective voice on global climate issues. Kavaya said decisions taken today would shape the quality of life available to future generations and called for sustained cooperation to build a greener, safer and more resilient South Asia. Dr. Kadiyam Kavaya represents the Warangal constituency in the 18th Lok Sabha and serves on parliamentary committees dealing with health and family welfare and the empowerment of women.

Telangana Plans Silicon Photonics Push



Manthani, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is preparing a strategic roadmap to expand its footprint in silicon photonics and other emerging technologies, with IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu holding discussions with NITI Aayog member Dr. V.K. Saraswat at the State Secretariat on Sunday. The meeting focused on the proposed Telangana Silicon Photonics Mission and the development of a phased strategy to build a comprehensive ecosystem covering research, chip design, manufacturing, packaging, testing and supply-chain capabilities. The discussions also examined the future roadmap for the Photonics Valley Corporation and the possibility of aligning Telangana's initiatives with India Semiconductor Mission 2.0. Sridhar Babu said the State government was working to establish Telangana as a leading destination for next-generation technologies, particularly advanced photonic packaging and co-packaged optics. He said a detailed action plan was being prepared in consultation with industry representatives, research institutions and technical experts. The minister stressed the importance of connecting research and innovation with commercial applications. He said stronger collaboration between companies, universities and research organisations would help translate scientific developments into market-ready technologies and strengthen the State's position in the global photonics ecosystem. The meeting also covered the proposed Centre of Excellence in

Quantum Computing. Sridhar Babu invited Saraswat to collaborate with the initiative and requested him to head the proposed advisory council for photonics and quantum computing. Saraswat expressed his willingness to support Telangana's efforts in emerging technology sectors and assured cooperation in research, innovation, skill development and partnerships between industry and academia. The discussions build on Saraswat's earlier association with Telangana's silicon photonics efforts. According to his official NITI Aayog profile, he initiated a programme for developing silicon photonics technology through the establishment of the Photonics Valley Corporation in Telangana, in collaboration with Photonics Inc., USA. The initiative was envisioned as a potential driver for next-generation networks, including 5G and supercomputing. The Telangana IT, Electronics and Communications Department lists Photonics Valley Corporation among its associated organisations, with A.S. Ramesh serving as its chief executive. ITC & Joint Secretary Anudeep Durishetty, Photonics Valley Corporation CEO A.S. Ramesh and other officials participated in the meeting. The latest initiative reflects Telangana's broader push to expand beyond conventional IT services into semiconductors, photonics, quantum computing and advanced electronics, with the government seeking to strengthen research, manufacturing and high-skilled employment opportunities in these sectors.

Uttam Lays Road Foundation



Garidepally, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy laid the foundation stone for a BT road project costing Rs 7.10 crore in Garidepally Mandal of Suryapet district on Saturday, as part of a review of ongoing development works in the area. The proposed road will connect Gaddipally village with Bolishetti Gudem and is expected to improve connectivity for residents of the surrounding villages. The project is aimed at strengthening local road infrastructure and facilitating smoother movement for commuters, farmers and other sections of the rural population. During his visit, Uttam Kumar Reddy also inspected the construction works of the Young India Integrated Residential School in Gaddipally. The minister expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of construction and questioned officials over the delay in completing the project. He instructed the officials concerned to accelerate the works and ensure that the school is completed within the stipulated timeframe. He stressed the need for close monitoring of construction activity and directed the departments involved to address any issues causing delays.

The Young India Integrated Residential Schools programme is a major initiative of the Telangana government aimed at providing quality residential education and modern infrastructure to students, particularly those from disadvantaged sections. The government has been developing such institutions across Assembly constituencies as part of its broader education reforms. Recent reports indicate that construction of Young India Integrated Residential Schools has been progressing at multiple locations across Telangana. According to officials cited by The New Indian Express, administrative approval has been granted for the first batch of 86 schools, with construction activity under way at several sites. The Gaddipally institution has previously been identified as an important model for the programme. Reports have noted that the school is intended to provide modern educational and extracurricular facilities to students from different social backgrounds. Uttam Kumar Reddy's inspection focused on ensuring that both the road project and educational infrastructure works move forward without further delay. He directed officials to maintain construction quality while expediting the projects for the benefit of local residents.

Ahimsa Stambh Unveiled in Miyapur

Miyapur, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday unveiled an Ahimsa Stambh (Pillar of Non-violence) at Vaishali Nagar in Miyapur, Hyderabad, highlighting the Jain philosophy of peace, harmony and peaceful coexistence. The monument, established near Manjeera Pipeline Road under the aegis of the Jain Mahila Parishad, was described by the organisers as South India's first Ahimsa Stambh. The inauguration was attended by Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy and Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi, along with members of the Jain community, organisers, trustees and devotees. Speaking at the event, Kishan Reddy said the monument represented more than a physical structure and would help carry the message of non-violence and mutual respect to future generations. He highlighted the teachings associated with Bhagwan Mahavir and the Jain principle "Parasparopagraho Jivanam," which emphasises the interdependence of all living beings. The minister said the relevance of non-violence remained significant at a time when conflicts and violence continued in different parts of the



world. He stressed that ahimsa should be reflected not only in actions but also in speech, behaviour and thoughts. Kishan Reddy appreciated the role of Jain women in spearheading the initiative and said the contribution of the Jain community and other communities had been important to Hyderabad's social, cultural and economic development. He also called for preserving India's cultural traditions while pursuing technological advancement and development. He urged young people to embrace modern technology while remaining connected to Indian values and encouraged families to pass cultural traditions and ethical values to the next generation. Kishan Reddy also called for social unity and said harmony among communities would remain important to India's development journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Caste Survey Model Gains National Push

Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud said the scientific caste survey conducted under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had emerged as a model for the country, with socio-economic details of about 3.55 crore people collected through the exercise. Addressing a media conference at Gandhi Bhavan along with Congress Working Committee member Koppula Raju and Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, Goud said accurate caste data was essential to ensure a fair share of opportunities and welfare benefits for Backward Classes (BCs). He announced that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) had launched a 100-day campaign to promote the survey model nationally. Goud said the survey involved consultations with OBC community organisations and identified 134 OBC communities. He argued that the exercise offered a more structured approach to documenting social and economic conditions than earlier efforts. He also called for improvements in the digital methodology proposed for future caste enumeration, suggesting a drop-down system in which broad categories such as SC, ST, OBC and EWS would be selected before entering a verified caste name. Koppula Raju said the Congress would demand the removal of the 50 per cent ceiling on reservations, arguing that comprehensive caste data would provide



a stronger basis for assessing representation and social backwardness. He said Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi had been pressing the Centre for a nationwide caste census. Ponnamp Prabhakar said the 100-day campaign would be implemented across the state and urged BJP leaders from Telangana to persuade the Centre to undertake a nationwide caste enumeration based on the Telangana experience. He specifically called upon Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar and BJP MPs to take up the issue with the central leadership. The Telangana government has previously made the findings of its Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste (SEEEMP) survey public. The exercise covered around 1.12 crore families and 3.55 crore people, with more than one lakh enumerators and 76,000 data-entry operators involved. The state's official survey report says 242 caste groups were analysed, while 135 were identified as more backward than the overall state average under its Composite Backwardness Index.

PNGRB-EESL Pact to Accelerate Smart PNG Metering Across India

Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is expected to give a major technology boost to India's City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector through the large-scale deployment of smart domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) meters. The initiative will introduce advanced metering systems featuring digital monitoring, tamper alerts, leak detection, remote operations and cybersecurity safeguards. These technologies are expected to improve billing transparency, consumer convenience and safety while strengthening the security of India's expanding gas distribution infrastructure. Energy efficiency expert and former Director General of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Dr Ajay Mathur, welcomed the partnership as a time-

ly step towards a consumer-centric, technology-enabled and future-ready CGD ecosystem. He congratulated PNGRB Secretary Anjan Kumar Mishra and EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit for the initiative, stating that smart PNG metering would contribute to energy efficiency, transparency, energy security and cybersecurity. Under the agreement, PNGRB will provide regulatory guidance and support standardisation, conformity assessment, certification and stakeholder coordination. EESL will contribute its expertise in demand aggregation, technology assessment, procurement strategies and large-scale implementation. The partnership comes as India rapidly expands its natural gas infrastructure. PNGRB has authorised 307 geographical areas, covering the entire mainland, while more than 33,500 km of natural gas pipelines have been authorised, of which around 25,000 km are operational. With PNG connections increasing across urban



and semi-urban areas, smart meters are expected to address challenges associated with manual meter reading, billing accuracy, revenue assurance and safety monitoring. For consumers, the new-generation meters can provide accurate billing, digital access to consumption data and better control over energy expenditure. Advanced safety features may also enable abnormal-condition detection, tamper alerts, remote monitoring and automatic shut-off, helping reduce risks associated with gas leakage and unusual consumption patterns.

sumption data and better control over energy expenditure. Advanced safety features may also enable abnormal-condition detection, tamper alerts, remote monitoring and automatic shut-off, helping reduce risks associated with gas leakage and unusual consumption patterns.

Cybersecurity will remain a critical component as household gas metering becomes increasingly connected. Secure communication, protected data exchange and safeguards against unauthorised access will help ensure that digital gas infrastructure remains resilient and trustworthy. For CGD companies, smart metering can reduce manual intervention, improve collection efficiency, minimise billing losses and support demand forecasting and network planning. Dixit said EESL's experience in smart utility infrastructure would provide a strong foundation for the programme. The company has installed and manages more than 44.5 lakh smart electricity meters across several States and Union Territories. The initiative is expected to benefit stakeholders across India, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, while supporting the country's transition towards a smarter, safer and more gas-based energy economy.

Economic Self-Reliance: The Ultimate Goal

Not an Alternative to Hyderabad... A Second Economic Engine for Telangana

Over the past twelve years, Warangal has laid the essential foundations to evolve into a potent regional growth center. It possesses premier educational institutions, tertiary healthcare infrastructure, designated industrial land parcels, an expansive agricultural base, Kakatiya-era heritage tourism potential, and strategic road-rail connectivity. The revival and development of the Mamnoon Airport has emerged as another catalyst poised to unlock fresh economic frontiers. However, for a region to emerge as a dynamic growth center, these components cannot operate in silos; they must be integrated into a cohesive economic ecosystem. Warangal's future trajectory is not about eclipsing Hyderabad-it is about reducing systemic over-reliance on the capital and evolving into a self-reliant economic engine that powers Eastern Telangana.

From Textile Park to a Textile Economy

Spanning over 1,200 acres, the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park represents one of the single largest industrial levers capable of reshaping Warangal's economic landscape. Its foundational vision is built upon an integrated value chain. Farm-to-Fiber, Fiber-to-Fashion, and Fashion-to-Foreign. Attracting isolated industrial units to the park is merely the first step. For this vision to mature into an authentic regional economic system, the entire downstream value chain-raw cotton, ginning, spinning, weaving, garmenting, and branded apparel manufacturing-must take root across the Warangal belt. This vertical integration will unlock multifaceted employment across the entire pipeline: from farmers and factory personnel to transport operators and service providers. The goal is not just an industrial park, but an end-to-end textile ecosystem.

From an Airport to an Economic Gateway

The revival of Mamnoon Airport must not be viewed merely as a local air-transit project. When commercial air connectivity reaches a region, its impact goes far beyond passenger footfall. It provides seamless, rapid access for institutional investors, industrialists, specialized medical practitioners, academic researchers, tourists, and corporate delegates.



Chennu Peddiraju

Senior Journalist

Mamnoon Airport must function as an economic gateway rather than just a transit stop. Anchoring logistics hubs, modern warehousing, hospitality networks, and corporate services around the airport perimeter will radiate economic benefits across the entire growth region.

Academic Institutions: Seeds of a Knowledge Economy

NIT Warangal, Kakatiya University, and premier medical colleges provide Warangal with a rare competitive edge. In 2021-22 alone, NIT Warangal accommodated 4,130 undergraduate and 1,967

paramedical training will transform Warangal into a dedicated Health Economy Cluster. Beyond delivering quality regional patient care, this cluster creates extensive direct and indirect employment across medical administration, pharmacology, diagnostics, and auxiliary hospitality. Healthcare ceases to be merely a public service-it matures into a dynamic economic sector.

Kakatiya Heritage: Unlocking the Tourism Multiplier

Warangal's historic legacy must be viewed as an economic asset rather than a

crop production into a regional agro-processing industry. Value addition ensures that the financial margin generated by agricultural yield remains close to the primary producer rather than shifting entirely to urban trading hubs, establishing an enduring rural-urban economic linkage.

A Synergistic Four-District Economic Orbit

Evaluating Warangal, Hanumakonda, Jangaon, and Mahabubabad as a single growth region does not require identical economic footprints across each district. Instead, their respective structural strengths can be leveraged. Warangal-Hanumakonda: Serves as the core hub for knowledge services, advanced healthcare, administrative governance, and regional commerce. Jangaon: Positioned along the Hyderabad-Warangal corridor, serving as an ideal node for logistics, warehousing, industrial manufacturing, and agro-trade. Mahabubabad: Harnesses agriculture, forest produce, livestock, mineral resources, and freight networks through localized value-addition industries. Through this specialization, Warangal transcends its single-city identity to anchor a balanced, four-district economic orbit.

Decentralization: Shifting Opportunities, Not Just Offices

Hyderabad will always retain its central primacy within Telangana's macro-economy, and displacing it is neither feasible nor necessary. However, balanced statewide development requires eliminating the compulsion for citizens to travel to the capital for every advanced service-whether for higher education, super-specialty healthcare, quality employment, enterprise capital, or specialized trade. Building Warangal into a self-sustaining regional pole will relieve urban congestion in Hyderabad while injecting fresh economic momentum across Eastern Telangana. True decentralization does not mean merely relocating government secretariats; it means decentralizing economic opportunity. Textile manufacturing requires cotton; industry requires skilled talent; talent requires academic centers; investment requires air and highway transit; tourism requires infrastructure; and communities require robust healthcare. Only when every link in this economic chain connects seamlessly will the Warangal Growth Region realize its full potential-evolving from a regional hub into an enduring economic powerhouse for Eastern Telangana.

India Eyes Second Metro Spot Continue

with only five in 2014. The Centre has been supporting metro projects as part of its broader strategy to strengthen public transport, reduce congestion and provide cleaner mobility options in rapidly growing cities. Official data shows that nearly 23.7 lakh crore has been invested in metro expansion over the past 12 years, while the pace of commissioning has increased considerably. Manohar Lal had earlier stated that India was moving towards becoming the second-largest metro network globally. In December 2024, he said around 993 km of metro lines were operational in 23 cities, with another 997 km under construction in 28 cities. Recent developments have added further momentum. On September 5, 2026, Manohar Lal inaugurated the Indore Metro Priority Corridor-II, adding another 11 km and 11 stations to the city's operational network. The government's continuing focus on metro and Regional Rapid Transit Systems is aimed at creating integrated, sustainable and efficient urban mobility networks. With multiple corridors progressing across major cities, India's metro expansion is expected to remain a key component of the country's urban infrastructure growth.

Bhatti Pushes EHS Implementation Continue

The official Telangana EHS portal lists network hospitals, treatment procedures, claims and pre-authorisation services, while the scheme is designed to provide cashless health care to government employees, pensioners and eligible dependent family members.

Health Cards to Be Expedited

Bhatti instructed officials to speed up the issuance of EHS health cards to eligible beneficiaries. He warned that employee welfare measures should not be treated casually and called for regular reviews to identify and remove implementation bottlenecks. He also emphasised coordination among government departments, hospitals and employee unions to ensure smooth functioning of the scheme. The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that protecting the health and welfare of employees and their dependents was a responsibility of the government. He directed officials to work with urgency and ensure that the expansion of the hospital network translates into accessible and reliable healthcare for beneficiaries. The government's renewed focus comes amid employee demands for effective implementation of EHS, along with other long-pending service-related issues.

BJP Plans Assembly Protest Over Fee Dues



Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

The BJP has condemned the police decision to deny permission for a student protest scheduled at Indira Park Dharna Chowk on September 7, demanding the release of Rs 15,000 crore in pending fee reimbursements and scholarships in Telangana. BJP State General Secretaries Dr. N. Gautham Rao, Vemula Ashok and Virender Goud, along with BJYM State President Ganesh Kunde, addressed a press conference at the party's state office in Nampally on Sunday and criticised the government's decision. Dr. Gautham Rao said the future of thousands of economically disadvantaged students was being affected by delays in releasing fee reimbursement funds. He said the BJYM had collected representations and signatures from around five lakh students from various colleges and prepared a report highlighting their grievances. He recalled that BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao had undertaken a two-day hunger strike over the issue. Rao alleged that BJP leaders were prevented

from submitting student representations to the Chief Secretary and accused the government of suppressing opposition voices. Vemula Ashok said the BJP had applied for permission several days in advance to conduct a peaceful demonstration but received a rejection letter from the Domalguda police citing law-and-order concerns. He said the party would take the rejection to students and the public and continue supporting their demands. Virender Goud alleged that the government was restricting democratic protests and using police machinery against the opposition. He criticised the denial of permission while alleging that Congress activists had recently been allowed to march towards the BJP state office. BJYM State President Ganesh Kunde said students and youth would not withdraw from the agitation. BJP leaders called upon students and parents to participate in large numbers and announced plans to march towards the Assembly if permission for the Dharna Chowk protest was not granted. The leaders warned that preventive arrests or attempts to obstruct the programme would intensify the agitation.

BJP Warns Against Vote Deletions

Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao on Sunday warned that his party would not tolerate any alleged attempt to remove the names of BJP supporters from electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. He also launched a sharp attack on the Congress government over what he described as the deterioration of Telangana's education system. Several youth leaders from the OBC and Munnuru Kapu communities, including former BRS activists, joined the BJP at the party's state office. Ramchander Rao welcomed the new entrants and said the growing support among youth reflected confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and welfare-oriented governance. On SIR, Ramchander Rao rejected Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's criticism of the process and alleged that official machinery was being misused to target BJP-supporting voters. He expressed particular concern over alleged deletions in the Secunderabad Parliamentary constituency and claimed that voters who had migrated from neighbouring states were also being targeted. He urged Booth Level Officers to perform their constitutional duties impartially and warned that any violations would be reported to the Election Commission of India with supporting evidence and pursued legally. Ramchander Rao also criticised the gov-



ernment's education policies, claiming that Telangana allocated only nine per cent of its budget to education against a national average of 14.5 per cent. He held the Chief Minister, who also handles the education portfolio, responsible for the alleged decline in the sector. He highlighted delays in teacher salaries and promotions, pension difficulties among retired teachers, pending fee reimbursement, vacancies in universities and schools, and concerns over polytechnic education. He demanded that the government release a white paper detailing the industries established and jobs created through its investment initiatives. Ramchander Rao said the BJP would protect students' interests and strengthen technical education. He promised that if the BJP came to power, it would substantially increase the education budget, transparently fill vacancies in educational institutions and give top priority to research. He said the party would comprehensively strengthen the education sector by making it a key priority of its governance agenda.

KCR Accuses Congress of Governance Failure

Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

BRS chief and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) accused the Congress government of failing to deliver on its promises and alleged that the state had witnessed a decline during its 1,000 days in office. Addressing a meeting of the BRS Legislature Party (BRS LP), KCR directed party MLAs and MLCs to attend the upcoming Assembly and Legislative Council sessions regularly and participate actively in debates. He asked legislators to raise issues affecting the public and question the government's decisions and performance. KCR also called on BRS legislators to highlight what the party described as failures of both the Congress and BJP. He urged them to remain united and use the legislative proceedings to bring public concerns to the government's attention. Criticising Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, KCR alleged that the Chief Minister frequently resorts to personal and abusive remarks rather than concentrating on administration. He described the Congress government's 1,000-day tenure as an "utter failure" and questioned its claims of development. The BRS chief further alleged that the government had failed across several sectors and accused it of misusing power and resources. He claimed that growing pub-



lic dissatisfaction would eventually affect the Congress politically. KCR also questioned the functioning of the Assembly Speaker, alleging that opposition members were not being treated fairly during proceedings. He criticised the manner in which debates involving BRS legislators were being conducted. Responding to repeated calls for him to attend the Assembly and debate directly with the Chief Minister, KCR questioned the usefulness of such an exchange, citing what he alleged was Revanth Reddy's repeated use of offensive language. He urged BRS legislators to maintain coordination, participate vigorously in the forthcoming session and hold the government accountable on issues concerning the people.

Rathod Backs Auto Drivers' Protest

Mahabubabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Satyavathi Rathod expressed solidarity with auto-rickshaw drivers protesting at Peddathanda in Kuravi Mandal, demanding that the Congress government implement promises made during the elections. Rathod visited the protest site, interacted with the drivers and listened to their grievances. In a gesture of support, she drove an auto-rickshaw herself and joined the protesters. She later offered special prayers and took a vow at the Bodrai, the village deity shrine at Peddathanda, seeking divine intervention for the government to address public concerns. Rathod prayed for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to change his approach and urged him to resolve people's problems without causing injustice to any section of society. She expressed hope that the Chief Minister would take steps to fulfil the commitments made to the public during the election campaign. Criticising the



Congress government, Rathod alleged that it had failed to implement its promise of providing annual financial assistance of Rs 12,000 to auto-rickshaw drivers. She

said the assistance was intended to provide financial relief to drivers and their families but had not been implemented despite the government completing 1,000 days in office. She accused the ruling party of making assurances during elections and subsequently failing to act on them. The former minister also alleged that the concerns of auto-rickshaw drivers had been repeatedly neglected and demanded immediate action. Rathod called upon the government to honour its commitment and provide financial support to the families dependent on auto-rickshaw driving. She questioned when the Congress government would implement its election promises, pointing out that 1,000 days had already passed and only about 800 days remained in its term. She demanded that the government give the people a clear timeline for fulfilling its commitments. Former ZP Chairperson Angoth Bindu, Boda Srinivas, Ramdas, Siri Naik, Ramzan and others participated in the program and extended their support to the protesting drivers.

BRS Seeks Month-Long Assembly Session

Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

BRS senior leader T. Harish Rao said the party would urge the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) to extend the Telangana Legislative Assembly session for at least one month, arguing that adequate time was necessary to discuss issues affecting different sections of society. Speaking to the media, Harish Rao said BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao had briefed the party's MLAs and MLCs on the issues to be raised during the session. He said the legislators would question the Congress government on what the BRS described as failures in governance and implementation of key promises. Harish Rao alleged that the government had failed students, employees, unemployed youth, farmers, women, tribal communities and weaker sections. Irrigation would be among the major issues raised by the party, particularly the utilisation of water under the Kaleshwaram project and the progress of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. He claimed that about 80 per cent of the Palamuru Lift Irrigation Scheme works had been completed during the previous BRS government. According to Harish Rao, completing the remaining works under the third package could help fill reservoirs with nearly 50-60 TMC of water. He alleged that delays in the project were affecting farmers and demanded accountability from the government. The BRS would also raise the Section 22-A issue, with Harish Rao claiming that several property owners and farmers were facing difficulties because their properties and agricultural lands had



been included in prohibited lists. Other issues on the party's agenda include power shortages, Rythu Bandhu payments, crop loan waivers, drought conditions and the demand to withdraw GO 97 relating to polytechnic students. Harish Rao said the BRS would also demand immediate settlement of PRC and DA arrears owed to government employees and question the functioning of the Employees' Health Scheme (EHS). He alleged that delays in fee reimbursement were affecting nearly 30 lakh students and could have consequences for their education and future employment. He warned that the BRS would continue pressing the issue even if disagreements led to disruptions in the House. Harish Rao further announced that after the Assembly session, KCR would lead a large-scale public mobilisation over the alleged neglect of Kaleshwaram and Palamuru-Rangareddy projects, with the party planning to bring lakhs of people together to highlight farmers' concerns and what it described as Telangana's interests.

BRS Holds Auto Rally

Kukatpally, September 6 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) organised a massive auto-rickshaw rally from Suchitra Crossroads to the Gandhi statue in Jeedimetla village on the fifth day of its week-long statewide protest against what it described as 1,000 days of Congress rule. The rally was held in response to the call given by BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and was led by BRS Legislature Party Whip and MLA K.P. Vivekananda Goud. BRS leaders, party cadres, auto-rickshaw drivers, union representatives and local supporters participated in large numbers. The protesters accused the Congress government of failing to address basic civic problems and alleged that its electoral promises to auto-rickshaw drivers had not been fulfilled. The rally also highlighted issues including drinking water shortages, non-functional streetlights, law-and-order concerns and rising bus fares. BRS leaders said



the problems faced by ordinary residents had worsened under the present government and demanded immediate action to address them. They warned that the party would intensify its agitation if public grievances continued to remain unresolved. Senior BRS leader Varala Vinod Kumar of Saibaba Nagar Division 292, along with division leaders, public representatives and activists, took part in the demonstration. The rally generated considerable political discussion in the Quthbullapur constituency, with BRS leaders using the event to criticise the Congress government's performance and reaffirm their commitment to raising issues affecting residents.

Damaged Pole Raises Safety Concerns

Quthbullapur, September 6 | TPN Bureau

A damaged electricity pole and dangerously sagging power lines have raised serious safety concerns among residents of Suraram Marathi Basti, particularly as the affected stretch is regularly used by school-children. The incident occurred on Saturday in a narrow lane connecting Suraram Marathi Basti, under the D. Pochampally section, with KVM School. According to residents, a mini-truck collided with an electricity pole, causing it to snap and leaving the power lines hanging dangerously low. Residents said the damaged infrastructure has created a potential hazard for pedestrians and motorists using the route. The concern is especially serious because several students travel through the lane while going to and returning from KVM School. Locals questioned who would be responsible if the sagging wires resulted in an accident



involving a child or another passerby. They urged the electricity department to treat the issue as an emergency and restore the damaged infrastructure without further delay. Residents said they had already informed the concerned officials about the situation. However, they maintained that immediate preventive action was necessary to eliminate the danger before an accident occurs. Residents appealed to electricity officials to secure the loose wires, replace the broken pole and ensure the route is made safe at the earliest. They stressed that authorities should act proactively rather than wait for a mishap to occur.

BRS Rally Highlights Auto Drivers' Issues

Medchal, September 6 | TPN Bureau

BRS leaders, along with auto-rickshaw drivers, organised a rally across the Kistapur-Pudur divisions in Medchal, demanding that the Congress government fulfil its promises to the auto-rickshaw community. The rally, featuring around 80 auto-rickshaws, was led by BRTU Medchal District President Sambu Prabhakar. Addressing the gathering, BRS leaders alleged that the Congress government had failed to implement assurances made to auto drivers during the elections despite completing nearly 1,000 days in office. Sambu Prabhakar said auto drivers continued to face financial difficulties and other challenges, while the government had allegedly failed to take concrete steps to improve their livelihoods. He demanded immediate action on the commitments made to the community. Former Medchal District Library Chairman Bhaskar Yadav, former Medchal municipal co-opted member Akiti Naveen Reddy and former councillors Tudum Ganesh and others participated in the rally. BRS leaders Sandeep Goud, Nagaraju, Sushanth Reddy, Venkatesh, Rajkumar, Raghupathi Reddy, Shailender, Mahesh, Sai, Shankar and Satish Goud were among those present. Representatives of the TPSKUV Shiv Sena Auto Union, including Satyanarayana Goud, Raju, Sridhar, Srikanth, Srinivas Goud and Mahesh, also participated and voiced their support for the demands.

Cockfighting Den Busted

Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

The Adibatla police raided an illegal cockfighting den behind the Manuguda RTO office and arrested 22 people involved in betting activities. The operation was conducted based on information received by the Task Force team under the Shamshabad Zone, with support from Adibatla police. According to officials, the betting was being organized at an old poultry farm, where participants from Andhra Pradesh and other areas had assembled for cockfighting and card games. Police seized Rs 3.60 lakh in cash from the spot. The raid also led to the seizure of 31 fighting cocks, collectively valued at around Rs 9.30 lakh. In addition, officials confiscated 148 blades allegedly intended to be attached to the birds' legs during the fights. Police also recovered 20 mobile phones, three cars and three two-wheelers from those present at the location. The seized vehicles and other material are being examined as part of the investigation. Officials said the main organizer of the cockfighting event and the landowner where the activity was allegedly conducted were not present during the raid and are currently absconding. Efforts are underway to trace and apprehend them. The police are continuing their investigation to identify other individuals linked to the betting operation and determine the extent of the network. Authorities reiterated that organized cockfighting and associated gambling activities are illegal and warned that strict action would be taken against those facilitating or participating in such events.

BJP Foot March Highlights Civic Issues

Quthbullapur, September 6 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organised a protest padayatra in Nizampet Circle, highlighting what it described as government and official negligence in addressing basic civic problems faced by residents. Led by Division President Bikshapathi Yadav, the foot march began at the Sri Dakshinamukha Abhayanjaneya Swamy Temple in Bandari Layout and proceeded towards Nizampet Main Road. BJP leaders and activists raised demands for immediate road repairs, drainage improvements, mosquito-control

measures and adequate supply of Manjira drinking water. The protesters criticised the authorities for allegedly prioritising property tax collection while failing to provide essential infrastructure and public amenities. They said deteriorating roads, drainage problems and drinking water shortages were causing difficulties for residents across several colonies. BJP State Vice-President Kolli Madhavi, who attended the programme as chief guest, expressed concern over what she termed the lack of response from the government, officials and local public representatives. She said residents deserved better civic facilities and called for greater political focus on development.

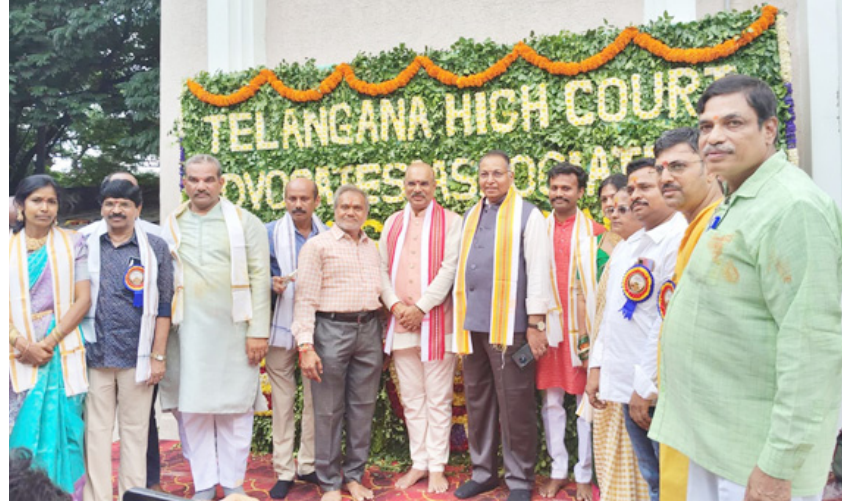


As part of the protest, BJP leaders adopted a symbolic

Grand Bonalu Celebrations at High Court

Hyderabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Bonalu celebrations were held with grandeur at the Telangana High Court premises, with judges, lawyers, judicial officers and court staff participating in special prayers and traditional festivities. High Court Judges Surepalli Nanda, G. Srinivasa Rao, Ramakrishna Reddy and Mohiuddin performed special prayers to the Goddess. They prayed for the health, happiness and well-being of the people of Telangana, members of the legal fraternity, judicial officers and High Court staff.



They also sought blessings for abundant agricultural yields across the state. State Bar Council member Ponnamp Ashok Goud and Supreme Court advocate Pitta Srinivasa Reddy were among those who participated in the rituals. High Court Bar Association President Surender Reddy, Vice-President DL Pandu, Secretaries Shrawan Kumar and Niranjan Reddy, Joint Secretary Krishna Keerthana, the Treasurer and other executive committee members also attended the celebrations. The High Court premises witnessed a vibrant festive atmosphere as thousands of

lawyers and judicial officers took part in the celebrations. Traditional drum beats, devotional dances and participants dressed in Goddess-inspired attire added colour and fervour to the occasion. The premises echoed with devotional music and spiritual fervour throughout the celebrations. Later, organisers served a feast comprising both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes to the participants. Supreme Court advocate Pitta Srinivasa Reddy appreciated the High Court Bar Association for organising the Bonalu celebrations and making arrangements for the participants.

BRS Leader Urges CM to Stop Attacks

Mallapur, September 6 | TPN Bureau

BRS Mallapur Division leader Shrawan Kumar has criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for his remarks against former Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), urging him to focus on governance instead of making personal comments against political opponents. Addressing a press conference in Mallapur on Sunday, Shrawan Kumar said personal attacks by a Chief

Minister were inappropriate and uncalled for. He also objected to Revanth Reddy's demand for KCR's resignation, stating that the previous BRS government had undertaken several development and welfare initiatives. Shrawan Kumar cited the development of the Yadadri temple, Kaleshwaram project, Basti Dawakhana and Aarogya scheme, along with welfare measures for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, single women, toddy tappers and other sections of society. He challenged the Congress government to present its own performance record



before criticising the previous administration. He demanded that the Chief Minister explain to the public how many of the Six Guarantees promised by the Congress during the elections had been implemented. Shrawan Kumar said the ruling party

must be accountable for its performance and commitments during its 1,000-day tenure. Referring to criticism of KCR's alleged "farmhouse governance", he advised the Chief Minister to exercise restraint and avoid personal remarks against KCR and KTR. Shrawan Kumar warned that continued remarks against the BRS leaders would lead to direct protests by party cadres. Under the leadership of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, he said BRS leaders and activists from all 16 divisions of the constituency would mobilise for demonstrations if necessary.

UN Recognises Fight Against Child Marriage

Medchal, September 6 | TPN Bureau

The United Nations' decision to recognise November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child and Forced Marriage has been welcomed as a historic step by the Sadhana Organization. Dr. Aaluri Kameswari, Director of the organisation, said the global recognition would strengthen efforts to prevent child and forced marriages and create greater awareness about

their harmful impact on children and society. She said the Sadhana Organization has been conducting awareness programmes in schools, villages and gram panchayats across Medchal-Malkajgiri district to prevent child marriages. The organisation also identifies children at risk, intervenes to stop proposed marriages and helps economically disadvantaged families access government welfare schemes. According to Kameswari, efforts are also being made to bring school

dropouts back into the education system, as continued education can play an important role in preventing early marriage. The campaign for a dedicated international day was initiated by child-rights advocate Bhuwan Ribhu, founder of a child protection organisation. The United Nations approved the resolution on September 4, with Sierra Leone submitting it with the support of around 67 countries. Representatives of the Sadhana Organization said partner organisations

working across India have made significant contributions towards preventing child marriages. They claimed that collective efforts have helped prevent more than 5.5 lakh child marriages so far. The organisation welcomed the UN recognition and said the international observance would help strengthen coordinated efforts among governments, civil society organisations and communities to protect children and ensure their right to education and a secure future.



BRS Holds Auto-Rickshaw Rally

Nacharam, September 6 | TPN Bureau

The BRS organised a massive auto-rickshaw rally in the Uppal constituency on Sunday, demanding immediate action on drinking water shortages, inadequate street lighting, traffic congestion and healthcare concerns. A large number of auto-rickshaw drivers, BRS leaders and party activists participated in the rally, which proceeded from Mallapur Elephant Crossroads to Nacharam. Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest and extended his support to the participants. Addressing the gathering, Lakshma Reddy urged authorities to take steps to resolve the drinking water crisis in the constituency and install streetlights in areas where they are required. He also called for a permanent solution to the growing traffic congestion, stating that temporary measures would not adequately address the problem. The MLA further demanded the establishment of Basti Dawakhana in localities to make basic healthcare services more accessible to poor and middle-class families. He also stressed the need to strengthen the police system to ensure effective maintenance of law and



order. BRS leaders used the rally to highlight the difficulties faced by auto-rickshaw drivers and demanded that the government provide concrete assurances regarding their livelihoods and welfare. The leaders said the BRS would continue to raise public issues and press the government for

timely solutions. They maintained that problems related to civic amenities and the livelihoods of auto drivers required immediate attention. Former corporators, auto-rickshaw drivers, BRS leaders, activists and local residents participated in the rally in large numbers.

Fortuner Set Ablaze Over Plot Dispute



Quthbullapur, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Bachupally police arrested a 47-year-old man for allegedly setting a Toyota Fortuner on fire following a dispute related to the purchase and sale of real estate plots. The incident occurred on the night of September 3 at GPR Venture, where an unidentified person allegedly poured petrol on a parked Toyota Fortuner bearing registration number TS08HX3339 and set it ablaze. Two doors and a rear tyre of the vehicle were damaged in the fire. Following a complaint, Bachupally police registered a case and launched

an investigation. Using technical evidence, investigators identified a dispute between the vehicle owner and Addula Ashok Reddy, 47, concerning a real estate plot transaction. Police said the accused allegedly set the vehicle on fire with the intention of intimidating the complainant. According to investigators, Ashok Reddy arrived at GPR Venture in a BYD car bearing registration number TG08G3015 while carrying petrol. After allegedly setting the Fortuner on fire, he drove away and later parked the BYD vehicle at Ameenpur before fleeing to his native village.

Bachupally police, with assistance from the Special Operations Team (SOT), tracked the accused using technical evidence and arrested him on September 5. The BYD car allegedly used in the offence was seized, and the accused was subsequently remanded to judicial custody. Quthbullapur Zone DCP N. Koti Reddy, IPS, said the investigation established that the incident stemmed from a real estate dispute. He clarified that there was no political angle to the case. Police said further investigation would continue as part of the case proceedings.

Ramappa Temple Revives Jalabhishekam

Venkatapur, September 6 | TPN Bureau

A centuries-old ritual has resumed at the UNESCO-recognised Ramappa Temple in Venkatapur Mandal of Mulugu district, with the full-scale daily Jalabhishekam to Lord Rudreshwara restarting after an estimated 300-year interruption. The ritual had reportedly been affected after the temple's traditional Somasutra, the channel used to drain water from the sanctum sanctorum, became blocked following an earthquake believed to have occurred in the 17th century. The obstruction prevented devotees and priests from conducting the complete ritual ablation of the presiding deity. The restoration of the



Somasutra was undertaken using modern conservation techniques while prioritising the protection of the historic temple structure. Specialists monitored the internal condition of the channel through 3D mapping, endoscopic equipment and GoPro cameras. According to those involved in the restoration, obstructions were removed gradually using a specialised "soft drilling" method. The approach was intended to clear the

blocked passage without causing structural damage to the heritage monument. The restoration work was carried out under the supervision of the

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Hyderabad Circle, with officials from the Endowments Department also present. The successful restoration has enabled the temple to resume the traditional full-scale Jalabhishekam for Lord Rudreshwara. The development marks an important milestone in the conservation of one of Telangana's prominent heritage monuments and restores a significant religious practice associated with the historic temple. INTACH Convener Professor Panduranga Rao, ASI DE Krishna Chaitanya, Joint Warangal District CAs Mallesh and Krishna Vamsi, and Ramappa Temple Executive Officer Immedi Bhaskar were among those present during the restoration activities.

Godavari Harathi Held



Bhadrachalam, September 6 | TPN Bureau

A special Godavari Harathi was performed on Sunday along the banks of

the river at the sacred Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy temple in Bhadrachalam, drawing a large number of devotees. The programme was held on the auspicious occasion of Shravana Bahula Dashami, which is traditionally considered significant for offering prayers to Mother Godavari.

Bonalu Celebrated with Fervour

Nalgonda, September 6 | TPN Bureau

The Bonalu festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Kurampalli village of Kangan Mandal in Nalgonda district on the last Sunday of the holy month of Shravana.

As part of the celebrations, devotees offered prayers and special offerings to the village deities, followed by a traditional procession through the main streets. Women dressed in festive attire carried Bonalu pots containing cooked rice mixed with jaggery and curd and offered them to the village goddesses.

The offerings were presented to Bodrai, Muthyalamma, Pochamma and Maremma amid devotional fervour. The procession created a vibrant atmosphere in the village, with women participating enthusiastically and residents joining the celebrations.

Village Sarpanch Koresu Pentaiah, Deputy Sarpanch Seelam Lakshma



Reddy, ward members and village elders took part in the festivities. They worked with residents to ensure that the traditional festival was conducted in a grand manner.

The celebrations reflected the strong cultural and religious traditions of the village, with devotees seeking the blessings of the goddesses for the well-being and prosperity of their families and the community.

Residents and devotees participated in large numbers, turning the occasion into a colourful and spiritually charged celebration.

Shree Marks Major Retail Debut

Quthbullapur, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Women's ethnic wear brand 'Shree' has entered the retail market in Telangana with the inauguration of its first store at TNR North City Mall in Suchitra, Hyderabad. Femina Miss India Telangana 2026 Ramya Kailasa inaugurated the store along with Shree co-founders Sandeep Kapoor and Sheetal Kapoor. The brand, which has already gained popularity among customers through online sales, is now planning a major offline expansion across the state. Company representatives said Shree aims to establish 20 to 25 stores in Telangana within the next two years. The expansion is also expected to generate local employment opportunities and encourage talent in tailoring and handicrafts.

Co-founder Sheetal Kapoor said the brand focuses on comfortable designs suited to women's everyday needs, workplaces and



special occasions. The new store offers a wide range of ethnic and contemporary wear, including sarees, kurtas, kurta sets, kurtis, tunics, co-ord sets, wide-leg pants and leggings. According to the company, Shree has reached more than 2.5 million families across India and sold over 7.5 million garments. The brand's products are available through its official website and leading e-commerce platforms. The launch event was attended by company representatives, customers and well-wishers, who welcomed the brand's entry into the local retail market.

Nagaiah Paul Appointed Convener

Chilakanagar, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Marapaka Nagaiah Paul has been appointed as the Convener of the Dalit Christians' Rights Forum for Chilakanagar Division. Forum President Buchigari Bhaskar Paul formally handed over the appointment letter to Nagaiah Paul at a programme held in the division. As part of his new responsibilities, Nagaiah Paul will oversee activities concerning New Ramnagar Colony and Kummurikunta areas. Forum leaders expressed confidence that he would work actively to safeguard the rights and interests of Dalit Christians and address issues affecting the community.

The leaders said the appointment reflected the forum's efforts to strengthen its organisational presence at the division level and ensure greater engagement with local communities. They also expressed hope that the newly appointed convener would work in coordination with community representatives and pastors to identify concerns and take them to the



appropriate authorities. Representatives of the Chilakanagar Pastors' Welfare Association attended the programme and extended their wishes to Nagaiah Paul on his appointment. Those present included Pastor James Raju, Pastor Peter Paul, Pastor Arogyam, Pastor Murali, G. Ganesh, David, G. Krishna and Barnabas. The participants congratulated the new convener and expressed hope that his efforts would contribute to strengthening community welfare initiatives and promoting awareness of the rights of Dalit Christians in the areas entrusted to him. The programme concluded with leaders reiterating their commitment to working collectively on issues concerning the community and strengthening the forum's activities across Chilakanagar Division.

Elderly Man Held for Cannabis Cultivation

Asifabad, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Police arrested a 68-year-old man for allegedly cultivating cannabis plants illegally at his residence in Gudem village of Chintalmanepalli Mandal in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. Acting on credible information, police conducted a raid at the premises and reportedly found nine cannabis plants growing in the backyard. The seized plants were estimated to be worth around \$60,000, according to police. The accused was identified as Kumbhari Shankar, son of Ramulu. Following the seizure, police registered a case and launched an investigation into the alleged illegal cultivation. Koutala Circle Inspector Santosh Kumar and Chintalmanepalli Sub-Inspector Kamalakhar participated in the operation along with other police personnel. Police said the accused was subsequently produced before the court and remanded to custody. CI Santosh Kumar warned that strict legal action would be taken against individuals involved in the illegal cultivation, sale, transportation or consumption of cannabis. He said the police were maintaining vigilance to prevent the spread of narcotic-related activities in the region. The officer appealed to residents to remain alert and immediately inform the nearest police station or police officials if they come across information concerning the cultivation or distribution of cannabis and other prohibited substances. Police said public cooperation was important in identifying illegal activities at an early stage and preventing their expansion. The investigation into the case is continuing, with authorities expected to examine how the cannabis plants were cultivated and whether the accused had any links to a wider network involved in the illegal trade. The raid forms part of ongoing enforcement efforts by police to curb narcotics-related activities and prevent the cultivation and circulation of cannabis in rural areas of the district.

Women Secure Foxconn Jobs

Manthani, September 6 | TPN Bureau

A new employment opportunity has emerged for young women from economically disadvantaged families in the Manthani constituency of Peddapalli district, with several candidates securing jobs at multinational electronics manufacturer Foxconn.

The employment initiative was facilitated through the efforts of State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. Young women from Muttharam, Ramagiri, Kataram, Palimela, Mahadevpur, Maham uttharam, Kamanpur and

Manthani mandals were provided specialised skill training to improve their employment prospects. After successfully completing the training, the candidates were selected for employment at Foxconn's facility in Hyderabad. Minister Sridhar Babu personally handed over appointment letters to the selected candidates during a programme in Hyderabad on Saturday. Speaking at the event, Sridhar Babu said the government was focused on creating opportunities that could strengthen the economic position of families in rural and remote areas. He said

empowering young women with skills and stable employment would help build confidence and promote financial independence. The minister emphasised that the government's objective was to ensure that every household had opportunities for economic progress and that young women could build independent careers through access to quality training and employment.

The selected candidates and their parents expressed their appreciation to Sridhar Babu for supporting the initiative. They said the training and subsequent job opportunities had opened new possibilities for young women who otherwise faced limited employment options in their villages. The initiative is expected to encourage more



women from rural communities to pursue skill development and seek employment in the organised sector. It also highlights the potential of industry-linked training programmes to connect young people from remote areas with opportunities in major companies.

industry-linked training programmes to connect young people from remote areas with opportunities in major companies.

CPM Questions Political Protests

Karimnagar, September 6 | TPN Bureau

CPM City Secretary Gudikandula Satyam questioned the political priorities of both the ruling Congress and opposition BRS, saying their repeated demands for each other's resignations were doing little to address public concerns.

Satyam said it was ironic that the Congress government and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy were protesting against BRS leader K. Chandrashekar Rao, while KCR, instead of participating actively in Assembly proceedings, was leading programmes seeking Revanth Reddy's resignation. He argued that neither leader stepping down would solve the problems faced by ordinary people. He said the BRS, as the principal opposition party, should focus on holding the government accountable, pressing for implementation of election promises and raising issues affecting citizens. Instead, he alleged, the party was diverting public attention through political campaigns. Satyam also expressed concern over the slow pace of development in Karimnagar despite its selection under the Smart City programme. He pointed to the prolonged



delay in completing a railway overbridge project for which foundation stones had been laid by Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay Kumar nearly four years ago. He said the unfinished project continued to cause severe traffic congestion, particularly when railway gates were closed. Ambulances carrying patients were reportedly getting trapped, while motorists often waited for long periods before traffic was restored. Satyam also highlighted drinking water shortages despite the presence of the Lower Manair Dam nearby. He said inadequate roads and drainage systems were causing widespread waterlogging even after light rainfall. He demanded immediate action to resolve Karimnagar's civic and infrastructure problems.

Mahankali Bonalu Celebrated

Chennur, September 6 | TPN Bureau

The Mahankali Ammavari Bonalu Jataara was celebrated with religious fervour and grandeur in Chennur town, drawing devotees from across the town and neighbouring villages.

Devotees thronged the local Mahankali temple to offer Bonalu, perform special prayers and fulfil their vows. The celebrations were marked by traditional music, devotional dances and colourful processions featuring Shiva-Shaktis and Potharajus.

As part of the festivities, the head priest carried the idol of Goddess Mahankali in a procession that began at the Hanuman temple near the Old Bus Stand and culminated at the Mahankali temple. The festival is traditionally observed on

the last Sunday of the Shravana month. Women participated in large numbers, carrying decorated Bonalu offerings consisting of cooked rice and other traditional preparations to the Goddess. Shiva-Shaktis joined the procession carrying the offerings, while Potharajus, dressed in traditional attire, performed rituals and carried Patnams before the deity.

Devotees prayed for the health, prosperity and well-being of their families and the wider community. The sounds of Dappu drums, devotional activities and processions created a festive atmosphere throughout the town. The celebrations reflected the deep-rooted religious traditions and community spirit associated with the annual Mahankali Bonalu Jataara in Chennur.

Maitri Dental Hospital Opens Branch



Quthbullapur, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Maitri Dental Hospital has opened its second branch in Quthbullapur, aiming to make modern dental care more accessible and encourage people to address oral health problems at an early stage.

Quthbullapur MLA K.P. Vivekananda attended the inauguration as the chief guest and formally opened the new facility. The branch has been established under the leadership of dental specialist Dr. Maitri Reddy.

Dr. Maitri Reddy said the hospital would focus on providing quality dental treatment to people from all sections of society while creating greater awareness about oral health. She said the facility follows the principle of "awareness before treat-

ment" and aims to identify and address dental problems before they become serious.

The new branch offers a range of services, including dental consultations, teeth cleaning, root canal treatment, dental implants, orthodontic care and pediatric dentistry.

The organisers said the facility was equipped to provide comprehensive dental services closer to residents of Quthbullapur and surrounding areas. Doctors, public representatives, local residents, prominent personalities and hospital staff attended the inauguration. Participants congratulated Dr. Maitri Reddy and the hospital management on the launch of the new branch and wished the facility success in providing accessible dental care to the community.

Wild Boar Hunters Held



Bodhan, September 6 | TPN Bureau

Bodhan Rural Police detained three people allegedly involved in hunting wild boars and other wildlife using crude bombs in agricultural fields on the outskirts of Penta Khurd in Nizamabad district.

According to Bodhan Rural Circle Inspector Vijay Babu, the arrests followed credible information about illegal hunting activities in the area. Rural Sub-Inspector Rajashekhara conducted surveillance and apprehended Maisayya, Dattu and Gangadhar, all reportedly residents of Rakasipet in Bodhan town.

Police alleged that the suspects were using crude explosive devices planted in crop fields to hunt wild animals. Officers seized the explosives found in their possession and registered a case following directions from Bodhan Assistant Commissioner of Police Srinivas.

CI Vijay Babu warned that the use of crude bombs in agricultural areas could pose a serious danger to farmers, agricul-

tural workers and members of the public. He said such explosive devices could cause injuries or fatalities if people accidentally came into contact with them.

The police also cautioned against hunting wildlife and forest animals, stating that strict legal action would be initiated against those involved in such activities. Officials said the investigation would continue to establish the circumstances surrounding the alleged hunting operation and identify whether others were involved.

The police urged farmers and local residents to immediately inform authorities if they notice suspicious activities or explosives in agricultural fields.

The operation reflects the police department's efforts to curb illegal wildlife hunting and prevent the use of dangerous explosive devices in rural areas. Authorities reiterated that individuals involved in wildlife hunting would face legal consequences and appealed to the public to cooperate with enforcement agencies in preventing such incidents.

A sigh from the heart of a poet



1. I have a song in my veins, Still looking for a singer. I have a lyre, devoid of strings, searching for a musician.
2. have a story of melancholy yet to find a listener I'm choking with a deluge of words, Struggling to become poetry!
3. My world is full of hope Nevertheless, plethora of doubts flow in and out.... Im still to find an address That can promise me of veracity.
4. have a heart, full of emptiness waiting to be filled in with compassion all the shards of Time arranged for a tale of past yet to knead them into a story of sublime
5. I have letters and words as my confrères yet to culminate into words of consolation words of consolation....



Dr. Srinivas Vasudev,
Academic Director,
Krishnaveni Talent School, Hyderabad
Ph: 9991991363

Moonlight on the Waves of Women's Tears



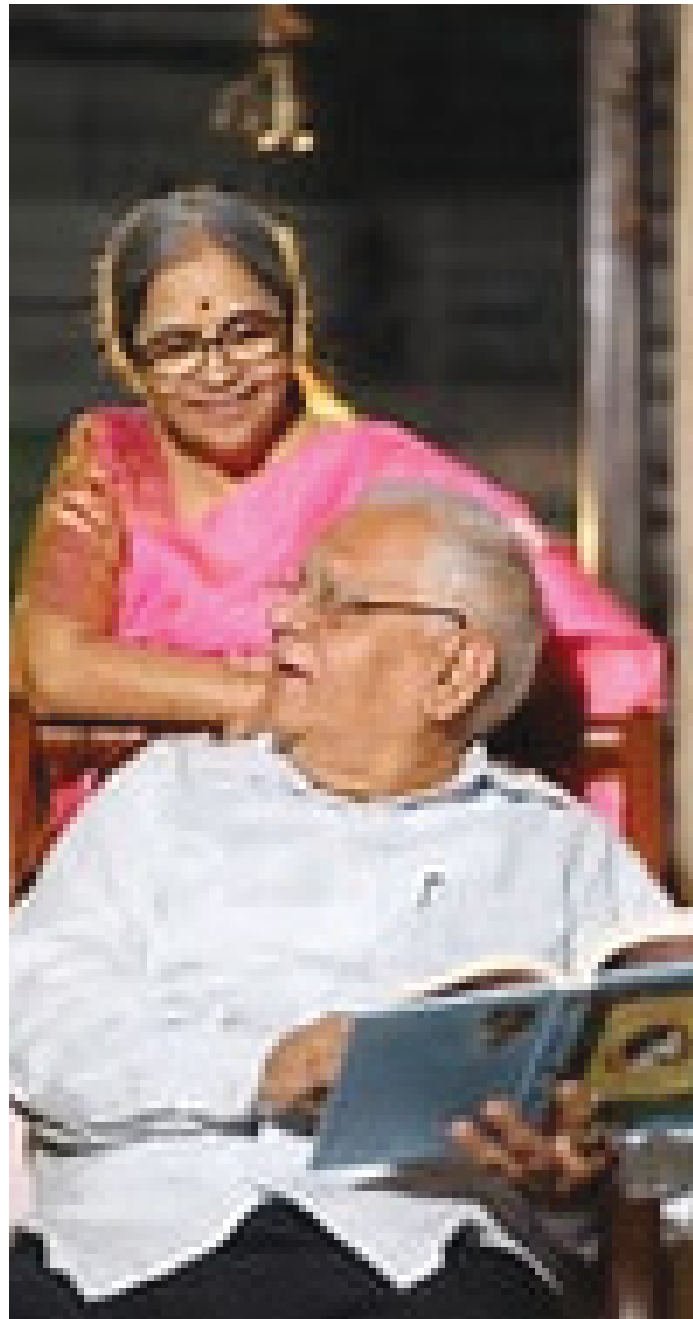
A good writer does more than to record what has happened. A good writer gives meaning to events, examines them, interprets them, and reveals what lies beneath them. That is why a single drop of a tear can become a story, an entire era can take the shape of a novel, and an individual memory can be transformed into a society's collective memory. This is one of the miracles of great literature. Human life tells countless stories every day. Every age contains the raw material for innumerable novels. All that a creative writer needs are eyes that can see, a heart that can listen, and the artistic ability to give form to what has been experienced. In a sense, experience is the writer's clay, imagination the water, structure the wheel, and language the hands. Only when all these elements come together can the clay become an enduring work of art. In the same way, experience becomes literature, and an age becomes a novel that survives its time. In the world of Telugu literature, the name Volga immediately evokes feminism. Through works such as Swachha and Vimukta, she laid a strong intellectual foundation for the feminist movement in Telugu literature. Her stories, novels, essays, plays, film writings and translations together created a wide literary landscape of women's consciousness and emancipation. Yet Volga did not express her ideas only through the written word. She also explored their visual possibilities. Having received training in filmmaking at the Film and Television

Institute of India, Pune, she transformed that experience into the novel Kanneeti Keratala Vennela (Moonlight on the Waves of Tears). In this novel, introspection is more important than plot, the growth of personality more significant than events, and self-discovery more profound than romantic love. It is therefore not merely a feminist novel, but a modern Telugu novel that invites reflection on art, life, freedom and human relationships. Volga drew upon her experiences at the Poona film institute to shape the novel. The lectures she heard and the films she watched became part of its imaginative texture, while cinema itself becomes an important subject and narrative device. At its heart, the novel can be understood as the story of a human journey in which sorrow is transformed into creative energy. By taking meaningful cinema as one of its central concerns, Volga portrays a woman not as someone confined to the roles imposed by family relationships, but as a thinking individual someone capable of appreciating art and of shaping her own life. A look at Volga's major writings shows her to be a writer who transformed the woman's voice in Telugu literature from a mere expression of suffering into a quest for identity, freedom and philosophical self-understanding. Her writings may broadly be viewed as having evolved through three phases. The first focuses on the oppression women experience within the family structure. The second

explores women's search for identity and their right to make their own choices. The third turns towards feminist reinterpretations of mythological figures and deeper philosophical inquiry into women's lives. Yet, throughout these phases, one powerful idea remains at the centre of her work: a woman is an individual in her own right. Volga took her pen name from the great Volga River in Russia. Just as the river continues to flow across boundaries and obstacles, she believed that women's freedom too must overcome every form of bondage. Born in Andhra Pradesh in the 1950s, Volga pursued higher education in Telugu literature and worked as a teacher before moving into literature, the women's movement, television and cinema. The Asmit? Resource Centre for Women, which she helped establish, became an important platform for women's awareness and empowerment in the Telugu-speaking states. Her engagement with women's lives, rights and social concerns extended beyond literature into activism and social movements. The language of Volga's writing is at once simple and philosophical. It is emotionally restrained rather than melodramatic, and often carries a strong symbolic resonance. Her writing derives its power not from rhetorical excess but from the clarity and depth of the questions it raises. Among her major works are the novels Sahaja, Swachha, Manavi, Kanneeti Keratala Vennela and Aakaashamlo Sagam. Her short-story collections, including Raajakeeya Kathalu and Prayogam, draw extensively upon women lived experiences. She has also written feminist literary criticism, essays on the women's movement and social analysis. Her translations include important works of world feminist literature as well as books relating to women's studies. Among her mythological reinterpretations, Vimukta stands as a landmark. In this work, Volga revisits mythological women such as Sita, Urmila, Ahalya, Shurpanakha and Renuka from a radically different perspective. The women of the Ramayana, in her interpretation, are not merely figures defined by male authority or confined to patriarchal roles. They possess their own consciousness, desires, questions and agency. Vimukta therefore occupies an important place in the feminist reinterpretation of mythology in Telugu literature. Volga received several national and state-level literary honours for her contribution to literature



Varala Anand



and women's empowerment. Among them are the Sahitya Akademi Award, literary honours from Telugu University, national recognitions for women's empowerment, and numerous awards from literary and social organizations. In the history of Telugu literature, Volga is not merely a writer, she represents a way of thinking. Her literature teaches us to see a woman not as an object of pity, but as an individual entitled to dignity, freedom and equal rights. From the women of mythology to the complexities of modern urban life, her writing has illuminated

women's experiences from new and challenging perspectives. Her enduring contribution lies in the way she has made literature an instrument of social transformation. Her works continue to speak to women's consciousness not as slogans from a bygone movement, but as living questions about identity, freedom, choice and the right to create one's own life. And perhaps that is what the title Moonlight on the Waves of Women's Tears ultimately suggests: tears are not always signs of defeat. Under the right light, even sorrow can become a source of vision, creativity and freedom.

At the Border of Belief and Reality

Pradeep Jilwane's Kaakar-Kissa: A Novel of Changing Villages, Changing Beliefs and Human Vulnerability



Every village has a boundary drawn upon the land every society carries boundaries drawn within the mind. Dr. Pradeep Jilwane's Hindi novel Kaakar-Kissa inhabits the uneasy space between the two. Rooted in Madhya Pradesh and alive with the earthy cadence of the Nimadi dialect, the novel brings together rural transformation, belief, exploitation, caste, love and human vulnerability in a narrative regional in texture yet contemporary in significance. In Nimadi, "Kaakar" refers to the recognised boundary of a village or region. In Jilwane's imagination, however, geography becomes metaphor. The Kaakar marks the uncertain threshold between village and town, tradition and modernity, faith and deception, belonging and displacement. As expanding towns absorb neighbouring villages, communities on their edges find themselves suspended between two worlds unable to preserve the old untouched, yet unable to embrace the new without losing something of themselves. One of the novel's most striking choices is to place parrot astrology at the heart of its

narrative. The familiar roadside astrologer, seated near a courthouse with a parrot and fortune cards, is an easily overlooked figure of everyday Indian life. Jilwane transforms this marginal presence into a revealing lens through which to examine anxiety, hope, helplessness and the human urge to negotiate the uncertainty of tomorrow. Yet Kaakar-Kissa does more than document a fading folk practice. It traces its mutation under the pressures of modern life. Traditional parrot astrology may be struggling for survival, but belief itself does not disappear. It changes its costume. This transformation finds its sharpest expression in the protagonist Omprakash's Navagraha Jyotish Anusandhan Kendra, Khargone. What once occupied the pavement acquires the vocabulary of research, professionalism, publicity and commerce. Astrology moves into organised establishments, newspapers and television channels. The irony is telling modernity does not always destroy superstition sometimes it simply repackages and markets it. The novel's varied

characters broaden this social canvas. The troubled tribal character Soumya stands alongside educated professionals, businessmen and advocates such as Guptaaji and Brijmohan Mahajan. Through these contrasting lives, Jilwane suggests that uncertainty recognises few social boundaries. Education and economic position may differ, but the longing for reassurance remains profoundly human. Beneath this world of prediction runs a darker current society's tendency to invent convenient explanations for misfortune. Omprakash's expulsion from the village becomes especially significant. He is blamed for ominous happenings not through evidence, but through collective fear. The episode raises a disturbing question what happens when suspicion acquires the authority of truth? When fear replaces reason, prejudice can easily disguise itself as judgment. Kaakar-Kissa is therefore also a narrative of resistance. It confronts exploitation, caste divisions and attitudes that diminish

human dignity. Its characters do not merely suffer they question, endure and resist. An engaging love story runs through this shifting landscape, bringing emotional warmth while allowing love, livelihood, caste, aspiration and identity to intersect naturally with changing village life. Jilwane's use of Nimadi cultural texture lends authenticity without imprisoning the novel within regionalism. The local becomes a doorway to the universal. Through one landscape and its people, he opens questions that resonate across contemporary Indian society. A poet, fiction writer, researcher, editor and translator, Dr. Pradeep Jilwane has consistently engaged with regional culture and social change in works such as Aathva Rang@Pahad-Gatha and Parathan Samay. Kaakar-Kissa deepens that literary

Dr. Peruka Raju



National Poet
7810032847

engagement. Perhaps the novel's greatest strength lies in its refusal to romanticise either tradition or modernity. It looks beneath the apparent innocence of rural life while questioning the polished promises of progress. Neither world escapes scrutiny. With its unconventional theme, regional rootedness and social questioning, Kaakar-Kissa occupies a distinctive space in contemporary Hindi fiction. Its Kaakar finally becomes more than a village boundary: it is the fragile line between inheritance and change, faith and reason, belonging and displacement between the world we receive and the world we choose to create. **Book Details**
Author: Dr. Pradeep Jilwane,
Publisher: Setu Publications
Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
Price: 295
Contact: 9755980001

Shah Sets 2029 Drug-Free India Target

3New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Centre has prepared a roadmap to make India drug-free by 2029, stressing that a drug-free young population would play a crucial role in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India, or Viksit Bharat, by 2047. Addressing a press conference in Goa after chairing a high-level meeting on narcotics, Shah said the government was committed to eliminating the drug menace with the same determination with which it had tackled terrorism and Naxalism. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and senior officials from the Union Home Ministry and state government attended the meeting. Shah said the Centre had adopted a coordinated, nationwide strategy covering the entire narcotics chain, including trafficking, financing, enforcement, rehabilitation and prevention. The government aims to dismantle 100 national and international drug networks and bring back 100 fugitives to India by March 2029. It also plans to establish end-to-end visi-



bility of the drug supply chain by March 2027 and destroy at least 75 clandestine drug laboratories during 2026. Highlighting efforts to bring wanted criminals back from abroad, Shah said 274 wanted or absconding criminals had been brought to India from 36 countries between July 2019 and July 2026. During the last three years, 401 Red Corner Notices were issued, including 182 up to July this year. More than

1,400 Central and state agencies have also been connected through Interpol to facilitate faster information sharing. The minister said assets worth Rs.17,874 crore belonging to fugitives had been attached between 2019 and 2026, while Rs.18,762 crore had been recovered or restored. Shah said the fight against narcotics had been elevated to a national security priority under the Modi government. He pointed

to improvements in internal security, including the decline of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, reduced separatist sentiment after the abrogation of Article 370, and the decline of Left-Wing Extremism. He said the government would apply the same approach to narcotics that it used against Naxalism. A four-tier National Coordination Committee for Countering Drug Trafficking (NCCORD) mechanism was established in 2019, while Anti-Narcotics Task Forces have been constituted in all states and Union Territories. Shah said the anti-drug campaign also integrates awareness, treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and livelihood opportunities. The government has introduced the 1933 MANAS helpline to assist people struggling with drug addiction. The three-year roadmap rests on four pillars: intelligence- and operation-based enforcement, control of synthetic drugs, demand reduction and harm reduction, and strengthening capacity and coordination.

IIT Mandi Probes Controversial Gita Poster

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi has ordered an inquiry into a controversial Bhagavad Gita-themed poster displayed on its campus that described the role of Shudras as to "serve higher classes", triggering criticism over caste discrimination. IIT Mandi Director Laxmidhar Behera said the poster was part of a student-led event and had not been endorsed by the institute. He said an inquiry committee had been constituted to examine the matter and ensure that the campus was not used for any activity violating social harmony. In an email to the IIT Mandi community, Behera said he was "shocked" to learn about the poster displayed during Janmashtami celebrations on September 4. He stressed that the institute strongly condemned caste-based discrimination and remained committed to equality, social justice, scientific temper and constitutional values.



"I have personally fought against caste-based discrimination in any form in every forum," Behera said, adding that the inquiry committee included faculty members and representatives from different social categories, including Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. The controversy centres on a poster titled "Bhagavad Gita - The Timeless Wisdom", displayed out-

side the institute's auditorium. It classified society into Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras and listed their respective roles. While Brahmanas were described as responsible for spreading God's message, Kshatriyas for protecting society and spirituality, and Vaishyas for driving the economy and supporting others, Shudras were described as being required to "serve higher classes". The poster also quoted a Bhagavad Gita verse referring to four divisions of human society being created according to the three modes of material nature and the work associated with them. Behera told PTI that he had been away from the campus and returned only on Saturday. He said he learned about the controversy on Sunday morning and had not personally seen the poster. "I don't want to take a side here and let the panel decide," he said. Behera has a longstanding association with the Bhagavad Gita and

teaches a three-credit Gita course at IIT Mandi. His official profile says he has taught the "universal principles of peace through Bhagavad Gita" to young people for 27 years. He is also known as HG Lila Purushottam Das and is the founder of the proposed Bhaktivedanta University, described on its website as an ISKCON initiative. Defending ISKCON's position, Behera said the organisation opposed caste discrimination and maintained that occupational duties should be based on "guna and karma". The director has previously faced controversy over his views, including remarks linking natural disasters in Himachal Pradesh to cruelty towards animals and claims about removing "evil spirits" through chanting holy mantras. The inquiry is expected to determine how the poster was prepared, approved and displayed during the campus celebrations.

Guilty Won't Be Spared: Delhi CM

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday assured that those responsible for the collapse of a residential building in South-West Delhi's Satya Niketan area would face strict action, as rescue teams continued searching the debris. Gupta visited the site to oversee the rescue operation and said 11 people had been rescued so far. She said the immediate priority was to save those still trapped and assess the condition of the rescued victims. "Whoever is responsible for this, whether it is the building owner or an official, will not be spared," Gupta said while leaving for the hospital to check on the rescued victims. Explaining the preliminary cause of the collapse, the Chief Minister said the building was old and reno-



vation and excavation work was being carried out when a pillar reportedly shifted, causing the entire structure to collapse.

The building was being used as a paying guest accommodation, with children inside at the time of the incident. Gupta said all agencies

were working continuously at the site and assured that there would be no shortage of resources during the rescue operation. Meanwhile, authorities confirmed that two people were killed in the collapse. The AIIMS Trauma Centre said seven victims were brought to the hospital, of whom two were declared dead on arrival. Another person was taken to Safdarjung Hospital. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and local authorities continued search and rescue operations to determine whether anyone else remained trapped beneath the rubble. Gupta said accountability would be fixed after the rescue operation and reiterated that no person responsible for the tragedy would be spared.

Man Dies After Being Pushed From Train

Mathura: A 22-year-old man died after he was allegedly pushed from a moving passenger train following a dispute over sitting on its footrest near Raya railway station in Uttar Pradesh, the Government Railway Police (GRP) said on Sunday. The incident occurred on Saturday when the victim, identified as Jatin, a resident of Hathras district, was travelling with his family on the Kasganj-Mathura passenger train. The family had boarded the train at Hathras station. According to the GRP, when the train was passing through Raya station, Jatin got into an argument with a passenger identified as Gajendra over sitting on the footrest. The argument allegedly escalated into a physical altercation, during which Gajendra pushed Jatin from the moving train with the alleged intention of killing him, police said. Jatin fell from the train and suffered serious injuries. He later died from his injuries. Following the incident, GRP personnel arrested Gajendra and reg-



istered a case under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at GRP Mathura. Police said the victim's body was sent for postmortem examination.

After the procedure was completed, the body was handed over to his family. The GRP is investigating the circumstances

surrounding the altercation and the alleged push. Further details about the incident are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses.

Delhi Building Collapse Raises Safety Questions



New Delhi: The collapse of a nearly 50-year-old building in Delhi, which killed at least three people and injured several others, has raised serious questions over construction practices, building safety and the conversion of residential properties into student accommodation. The building, reportedly known as Hostel Daze, had remained in a dilapidated condition for years before its owner, Hari Ram Bansal, began renovating it in an apparent attempt to convert the property into a paying-guest facility. Located near Delhi University, the property was considered commercially attractive because of the large student population in the area. The renovation continued for several months and the building began housing tenants, mostly students, in August. However, construction work had reportedly not been completed when the structure collapsed. Workers were allegedly carrying out work in the basement at the time of the incident. Six people were rescued from the debris, including two labourers, while another worker was among those killed. Locals said a wall was being removed in the basement as part of the ongoing construction. The collapse also occurred after two consecutive days of rain in the national capital. Water had reportedly accumulated in the basement, with residents saying waterlogging is a recurring problem in the area. Despite the conditions, construction workers continued working in the basement. "Labourers were working in the basement even during the rain. Waterlogging is common in the basements of buildings here, and they could also be trapped," a local resident told the agency. Residents also alleged that several properties in the locality have been converted into paying-guest facilities or hostels despite being originally designed as residential buildings. Priyanka, a resident who has lived in the area for more than two decades, said many homeowners had shifted elsewhere after converting their properties into student accommodation. She alleged that some buildings were being extended to five or six floors and operated as boys' PGs, with owners collecting rent online while rarely visiting the properties. Another resident claimed Bansal had moved to Gurugram around two decades ago but continued visiting the property. He said construction work, including the removal of a wall in the basement, was underway before the collapse. The incident has intensified concerns over unauthorised construction, structural alterations, basement work and the commercial use of residential buildings in densely populated areas near educational institutions. Authorities have registered a case against the owner and initiated action following the tragedy. However, the incident has prompted questions over whether stricter inspections and enforcement could have prevented the collapse and the loss of lives.

Sena UBT Backs DJ Ban



Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) has backed calls for a blanket ban on high-decibel DJ systems across Maharashtra, with Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Sabha urging the state government to take an immediate decision on the issue following an attack on Pune-based environmental activist Vidyanand Bapat. Bapat has been campaigning against excessive noise pollution caused by powerful DJ systems during Ganesh Chaturthi processions and has called for a "high-decibel DJ-free Ganesh festival". The attack on the activist has intensified the political debate over noise levels during public celebrations. Raut said Bapat had received public support for his campaign and questioned the need for prolonged consultations before taking a decision. He urged Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to act instead of seeking consensus through public dialogue. Fadnavis had on Friday advocated a ban on DJs and appealed to people to celebrate festivals in a traditional manner. He also called for dialogue and discussion to build consensus on the issue. Raut said the government could decide on the use of DJs within a day and implement uniform rules across the state. He pointed to restrictions imposed by police in Nagpur and action against excessive noise in Mumbai, asking why Pune and other parts of Maharashtra should follow different rules. "The Cabinet should take a decision and implement it across the State," Raut said. He distinguished between traditional Maharashtrian music and modern high-powered DJ systems. Instruments such as taal, chiplya, lezim and dhol-tasha, he said, are part of the state's cultural heritage and are not the focus of the campaign. The concern, he stressed, is the excessive volume generated by DJs and its impact on residents. Raut said loud music during Navratri celebrations also continued in some areas until the early hours, causing significant disturbance. He claimed many residents were hesitant to object because their concerns could be portrayed as opposition to religion. The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader also defended Bapat against criticism and allegations that he was a "Dimagi Naxalawadi" or intellectual Naxalite for raising the issue. Raut said citizens should not be attacked or vilified for speaking about pollution and public health. He also argued that Pune had a long history of social reform and that the campaign against excessive noise should not be viewed through a political lens. Asked whether Shiv Sena (UBT) was supporting the protests in Pune, Raut said the issue should not be reduced to party politics. He described the campaign against excessive noise pollution and high-powered DJs as a people's movement. The controversy has put pressure on the Maharashtra government to consider whether a uniform statewide policy should be introduced to regulate or prohibit high-decibel DJ systems during public festivals.

Russia Defends India's Oil Purchases

New Delhi: Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov has defended New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian crude oil, saying India buys the commodity to meet its own energy requirements and support national development, rather than to help Moscow finance the war in Ukraine.

In an interview with DD News, Alipov said India's decision to purchase Russian oil was based on its national interests and the welfare of its people. He made the remarks amid growing Western pressure on countries continuing to import Russian energy.

The United States is considering measures that could impose steep secondary tariffs on major buyers of Russian oil and natural gas. A proposed US bill, the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, would give the US president discretionary authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on imports from the five largest buyers of Russian crude or natural gas.

The proposed legislation argues that revenues from energy exports strengthen Russia's economy and



help Moscow sustain its military operations in Ukraine. It also proposes sanctions against senior Russian military officials, state-owned banks and energy projects. Russia Criticises Western Pressure

Alipov criticised the use of sanctions and tariffs, saying Western countries had chosen "pressure tactics instead of honest cooperation". He questioned why countries opposing India's purchases could not offer New Delhi a more competitive alternative for crude

oil. He said Russia was prepared to supply India with as much oil as it needed and praised New Delhi for defending its national security and interests despite external pressure.

India Stands By Energy Security External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has also defended India's approach to Russian oil imports, arguing that restricting energy purchases would not by itself bring an end to the Ukraine conflict.

Speaking in Kyiv after meeting Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, Jaishankar said the conflict, now in its fifth year, could only be resolved through dialogue, diplomacy and negotiations.

He also highlighted the importance of energy security for India's 1.4 billion people and said the perspectives and concerns of both Ukraine and India needed to be respected.

The US and UK have backed the argument that reducing Russia's energy revenues would limit Moscow's ability to sustain the war.

Russia has remained India's largest crude oil supplier despite sustained Western pressure. However, Indian imports of Russian crude declined sharply in August after reaching record levels in June and July.

The issue continues to test India's diplomatic balancing act between maintaining energy security and managing relations with Western countries while preserving its longstanding ties with Russia.

Iran Claims Strike on US Vessel



Tehran: Iran on Sunday claimed it had struck an unmanned US vessel attempting to enter the Strait of Hormuz, escalating tensions amid renewed fighting between Tehran and Washington. The United States had not immediately confirmed the reported attack.

The claim came a day after the US military said its forces had struck three Iranian oil tankers following a missile attack on US Navy warships. The latest confrontation marks another escalation in a conflict that began with US and Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28. Although a ceasefire was announced in June, intermittent hostilities have continued as diplomatic efforts have stalled and both sides have sought to exert military and economic pressure on each other.

The United States and Iran resumed attacks last week following a month of relative calm. The Strait of Hormuz and Iranian communities along the strategic waterway have again become targets. At least five people were reportedly killed earlier in the week during a US bombardment of southern Iran.

The administration of US President Donald Trump appears to be pursuing a two-pronged strategy, combining military responses to attacks around the strait with financial measures targeting foreign institutions handling Iranian funds.

Iran, meanwhile, has indicated that it intends to withstand growing pressure despite decades of sanctions. Tehran has developed mechanisms to circumvent sanctions and continue selling oil, including through a shadow fleet of vessels that transport Iranian crude to international buyers. The Strait of Hormuz has emerged as a major source of leverage for Tehran. The strategically important waterway handles a substantial share of global oil and natural gas shipments and has traditionally been regarded as an international waterway.

Iran's nuclear programme remains another central issue in the conflict. The programme was expected to be addressed through negotiations, but diplomatic efforts collapsed shortly after the United States and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in mid-June.

Diplomats have said the United States, Britain, France and Germany are seeking to refer Iran to the UN Security Council over alleged failures to comply with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations.

With negotiations stalled and military tensions rising, the Strait of Hormuz has become a critical flashpoint, raising concerns over the security of global energy supplies and the possibility of further escalation between Iran and the United States.

US Strikes Three Iranian Oil Tankers



Cairo: US forces struck three Iranian oil tankers after American Navy warships came under ballistic missile attack, the US military said Saturday, warning that it could destroy Iran's "limited and exposed oil fleet" if necessary.

The strikes mark a sharp escalation in the conflict between Washington and Tehran, which has seen intermittent fighting since US and Israeli attacks on Iran began on February 28. The latest confrontation came after nearly a month of relative calm and amid the collapse of diplomatic negotiations.

The US military said an American aircraft carrier and a destroyer had evaded multiple "unprovoked Iranian attacks" while operating in the region. No US personnel were injured, it said. Two Iranian oil tankers were permanently disabled, while a third, which was unladen, was destroyed. The US described the vessels as part of a shadow network allegedly helping finance Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its regional armed groups.

Iran's joint military command warned that attacks on US warships would become more severe if Washington continued interfering with Iranian shipping, according to state media.

Iranian state television separately reported that US missiles struck a tanker near Kharg Island, a key oil-export terminal. The US said one tanker was hit off Kharg Island and another near Jask, east of the Strait of Hormuz. The third, unladen vessel was struck in the Gulf of Oman, with its crew ordered to abandon ship.

US Central Command chief Adm. Brad Cooper said Washington would continue defending its forces and would destroy Iran's exposed oil fleet if necessary. Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the strikes as a war crime and warned that responsibility for the consequences of continued US aggression and economic pressure would rest with Washington and its allies.

The latest attacks follow earlier US action against Iranian oil tankers. On May 8, the US military said it had used precision weapons against the smokestacks of two unladen Iranian tankers.

Tensions have also intensified around the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for global oil and natural gas shipments. Iran has increasingly used the strategic waterway as leverage, while US forces have helped guide commercial vessels through the area.

The Trump administration has combined military action with economic pressure, including measures targeting foreign financial institutions linked to Iran. US Vice President JD Vance said there was little prospect of renewed talks while Iran continued attacking ships.

Meanwhile, Iran's government has signalled a preference for a negotiated settlement, even as hard-line leaders have vowed to resist pressure. The country continues to rely partly on a shadow fleet to transport oil and circumvent sanctions.

The conflict's unresolved nuclear issue remains another major point of contention, with the US, Britain, France and Germany reportedly seeking UN Security Council action over Iran's nuclear obligations.

China Mudslide Kills Two, 10 Missing

Beijing: At least two people were killed and 10 others remained missing after a mudslide struck a village in eastern China's Jiangxi province following days of torrential rain brought by Tropical Cyclone Saudel, state media reported on Sunday.

The mudslide hit a section of a village in Suichuan County early Saturday, damaging around a dozen houses and triggering a large-scale rescue operation. Local authorities said rescuers immediately rushed to the affected area and moved residents to safer locations to prevent further casualties. According to an official statement, one person pulled from the debris was found dead, while two others were rescued alive and reported to be in stable condition.

Rescue teams continued searching through collapsed structures on Sunday morning and located one of the missing residents. The person was found dead beneath the rubble of collapsed houses, state broadcaster CCTV reported.



The disaster followed heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Saudel, which has affected several parts of southeastern China.

Saudel made two landfalls in Zhejiang province on August 28 before making a third landfall as a tropical storm in neighbouring

Fujian province on Thursday, according to China's official Xinhua news agency. Both Zhejiang and Fujian border Jiangxi. Fujian has also experienced severe flooding and widespread damage following days of heavy rain. Local authorities reported that several residents

remained unaccounted for, although the exact number was not immediately clear.

More than 100 houses collapsed in Huating Town in Putian city, Xinhua reported. A dike reportedly overtopped and breached on Thursday afternoon, sending floodwaters into nearby villages and trapping residents.

Authorities had evacuated around 600,000 people from high-risk offshore and onshore areas in Fujian by Friday night as a precaution.

Television footage showed several streets submerged under deep floodwater, with rescue teams using inflatable boats to reach affected residents and assist with evacuations.

Authorities in the affected provinces have continued rescue and relief operations while monitoring weather and flood conditions. The latest mudslide has renewed concerns over landslides and flooding in mountainous areas following prolonged periods of intense rainfall.

Iran Plans Multi-Front Attack on Israel

Jerusalem: Iran is reportedly coordinating a broader, multi-front assault against Israel involving its regional allies and armed groups, according to Israeli intelligence assessments cited by the Jerusalem Post.

The reported plan seeks to avoid the lack of coordination seen during the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack by synchronising operations involving Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, Hamas and pro-Iranian militias in Iraq and Syria.

According to the report, Iranian authorities are working to bring the various groups, often referred to as the "Axis of Resistance", into a coordinated campaign designed to put simultaneous military pressure on Israel from multiple directions.

The October 7 attack was initially launched by Hamas without a fully coordinated offensive involving Iran or Hezbollah. Documents recovered from Gaza reportedly indicated that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar had envisaged a wider regional conflict in which Hezbollah and Iran would eventually join the campaign against Israel.



However, US and Israeli assessments cited in the report said Iran and Hezbollah were not informed in advance about the precise details or timing of the October 7 assault. As a result, Hezbollah launched limited attacks from Lebanon rather than beginning a large-scale parallel offensive on the same day.

Israeli intelligence now believes Iran and its allied groups are attempting to address those coordination gaps. The reported strategy involves preparing simultane-

ous operations so that Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iraqi militias could launch attacks from multiple fronts at the outset of any future conflict.

The Israel Defence Forces have also identified renewed contacts between Hamas and Hezbollah, allegedly facilitated by Iran, aimed at increasing pressure on Israel from both the northern and southern fronts.

Senior commanders from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, particularly the Quds

Force, have reportedly held meetings and conference calls with commanders from Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iraqi militias to discuss expanding coordination.

The reported preparations come as Iran seeks to rebuild military capabilities damaged in earlier confrontations with Israel and the United States.

Beyond high-level discussions, intelligence assessments reportedly indicate closer operational and personal ties among the groups. Joint training activities have also been observed, while communication and coordination between different components of the network have increased.

If confirmed, the reported strategy would represent a significant shift from loosely connected regional attacks towards a more synchronised multi-front campaign. Such coordination could increase the risk of a wider regional conflict involving Israel and multiple Iran-aligned armed groups.

The assessments remain intelligence claims and do not establish that such an attack is imminent or that all the reported plans will ultimately be carried out.

Nepal Flood Death Toll Revised to 1,331

Kathmandu: The death toll from devastating floods and landslides across Nepal was revised to 1,331, as rescue and recovery operations continued in several affected areas, authorities said on Saturday.

The latest figure released by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDR-RMA) at 6 pm was lower than the 1,344 deaths reported in its noon update. Search teams continued efforts to locate missing people and rescue those trapped in difficult terrain.

Among the latest rescue efforts, a Chinese national was safely evacuated from an audit tunnel of the Upper Trishuli 1 Hydropower Project. A 64-year-old woman was also rescued from Betrawati in Nuwakot. Indian rescue personnel are assist-

ing the Nepal Army in operations inside the Chilime Tunnel, where large quantities of debris, water and mud have hampered access to deeper sections. The Indian Embassy in Nepal said Indian and Nepalese teams were jointly clearing the tunnel despite difficult conditions. Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava said debris, water and mud had accumulated to near the roof of parts of the tunnel.

He said the teams were working to clear enough space to bring heavy machinery into the tunnel. At the same time, efforts were underway to construct an access road from Syafrubesi to the tunnel entrance. The difficult terrain and narrow valley have limited the use of heavy helicopters, making the road essential for transporting excavators and other equipment.



India has also stepped up humanitarian assistance to Nepal following the catastrophic flooding. The Ministry of External Affairs said New Delhi had so far sent around 95 tonnes of relief material through seven aircraft, along with 54 specialised personnel supporting rescue and relief operations. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India would continue providing assistance based on requirements communicated by the Nepalese government.

SBI Plans 12,000 New Hires



Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) is set to expand its workforce and branch network significantly during the current financial year, with plans to recruit around 11,000-12,000 employees and open 200-250 new branches across the country. SBI Chairman C.S. Setty said the proposed hiring would primarily cover clerical and officer-level positions. The recruitment plan takes into account employee retirements as well as the bank's growing operational requirements. The move is expected to create thousands of new employment opportunities while strengthening SBI's ability to serve customers across its extensive network. Setty said SBI already has one of the largest banking networks in the country and is looking to further increase its physical presence. The proposed addition of up to 250 branches is aimed at expanding access to banking services and meeting rising demand in different parts of the country. As of March 2026, SBI's total employee strength had crossed 2.45 lakh. The bank had recruited 25,633 employees during the previous financial year, underlining the scale of its ongoing workforce expansion. The latest hiring plan comes as SBI continues to focus on strengthening its operations amid changes in the banking sector, including increasing digital adoption and growing demand for financial services. While digital banking has expanded rapidly, the bank continues to maintain a large branch network to cater to customers across urban, semi-urban and rural markets. Meanwhile, SBI and its subsidiary SBI Capital Markets Ltd are also set to participate in the proposed initial public offering (IPO) of the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The two entities are expected to jointly sell a 1% stake in the IPO, according to the information available. The NSE is reportedly planning an IPO with a proposed size of around Rs.30,000 crore. The listing is expected to be closely watched by investors given the exchange's prominent position in India's capital markets. With fresh recruitment and branch expansion planned alongside its participation in the NSE IPO, SBI is positioning itself for continued growth while strengthening both its workforce and nationwide banking infrastructure.

West Asia, Oil, US Inflation to Drive Markets



Mumbai: Indian stock markets are likely to remain volatile this week as investors track developments in the West Asia conflict, crude oil prices and key US inflation data, analysts said. Global monetary-policy expectations, foreign fund flows and movements in the rupee are also expected to influence market sentiment. The outlook for equities has become increasingly uncertain after stronger-than-expected US employment data pointed to resilient economic activity and raised questions about the pace of future interest-rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. Investors are now awaiting the latest US inflation reading for further clues about the central bank's policy direction. "This week is expected to remain highly sensitive to global monetary policy, crude oil prices and geopolitical developments," Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice President of Research at Religare Broking, said. He added that investors would closely monitor the rupee, foreign institutional investor flows and domestic liquidity. Crude oil prices are likely to remain a major concern for Indian markets. The Strait of Hormuz, a crucial global energy shipping route, has emerged as a key risk amid renewed tensions in West Asia. Any disruption to oil supplies through the strait could push crude prices higher and increase pressure on India's inflation, trade balance and corporate profitability. Brent crude surged more than 8% last week, while West Texas Intermediate gained over 9%, as renewed US-Iran hostilities and concerns over the security of the Strait of Hormuz increased the geopolitical risk premium in oil prices, according to Ponmudi R, Chief Executive Officer of Enrich Money. For India, sustained high crude prices could have broader economic implications because the country relies heavily on imports to meet its energy requirements. A prolonged rise in oil prices could also put pressure on the rupee and increase input costs for several industries. The US inflation report will be another major market trigger. A stronger-than-expected inflation reading could reduce expectations of near-term monetary easing and potentially push global bond yields higher. Conversely, softer inflation could strengthen expectations of a rate cut and improve risk appetite across emerging markets, including India. Indian equities closed the previous week on a weak note. The BSE Sensex declined 749.08 points, or 0.96%, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 277.95 points, or 1.14%. The Nifty extended its decline for a fourth consecutive week, marking its longest losing streak in five months. "Indian equity markets remained volatile and under pressure during the week," Ponmudi said, adding that intensifying US-Iran hostilities and the sharp rise in crude prices kept investor sentiment under pressure. Analysts expect markets to remain highly responsive to global developments in the coming sessions, with geopolitical risks, oil prices and US monetary-policy signals likely to determine the direction of Indian equities.

GST Council Meet Likely on Oct. 7

New Delhi: The 57th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is likely to be held on October 7 in New Delhi, with the earlier September 12 schedule postponed due to a clash with the BRICS Summit, sources said. The GST Council meeting was originally scheduled for September 12. However, the date coincides with the BRICS Summit, which is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on September 12 and 13. The overlap has raised logistical and security concerns amid preparations for the high-level international gathering. While October 7 has emerged as the likely new date for the GST Council meeting, the government is yet to formally notify it. The final schedule is expected to be confirmed following consultations with state governments. Preparatory meetings of GST officials have already been planned for October 5 and 6, according to an official communication. The meeting of officers is scheduled to begin at 3 pm on October 5, while



the second session will be held from 11 am on October 6. These discussions are expected to help finalise the agenda and proposals that may be placed before the Council. The GST Council is the apex constitutional body responsible for making recommendations on major aspects of the indirect tax regime. Its discussions cover issues such as GST rates, exemp-

tions, tax procedures and other matters concerning the implementation of the unified tax system. The upcoming 57th meeting is expected to attract significant attention from businesses, consumers and state governments, particularly over the issue of GST rate rationalisation. Various proposals concerning the existing rate structure have been under discussion as authorities examine

ways to simplify the tax system and address concerns related to different GST slabs. Any changes to GST rates or exemptions could have implications for businesses and consumers across sectors, making the Council's decisions closely watched by the industry. The postponement also highlights the logistical challenges involved in organising major government meetings alongside large international events in the national capital. The BRICS Summit is expected to bring senior leaders and delegations from participating countries to New Delhi, requiring extensive security and administrative arrangements. Sources said October 7 is currently the preferred date for the GST Council meeting, but the schedule will become official only after the government issues a formal notification. Until then, the October 7 date remains tentative, and an official confirmation from the authorities is awaited.

India Becomes Europe's Top Diesel Supplier

New Delhi: India has emerged as an increasingly important supplier of diesel to Europe, filling part of the gap created by sharply lower Russian exports and a recent decline in US shipments, according to energy data and analytics firm Vortexa. Around 200,000 barrels per day of diesel and gasoil transited the Babel-Mandeb shipping route in August on vessels bound for Europe, broadly matching year-earlier levels after flows through the strategic route nearly stalled in March and April. Indian refiners accounted for about 60% of these volumes, making India a crucial source of diesel for Europe's eastern supply routes. India's growing role comes at a time when the country has substantial refining capacity and exports significant quantities of petroleum products. India is the world's fourth-largest refining nation, with installed capacity of 258.1 million tonnes per annum. During 2025-26, the country exported 61.5 million tonnes of petroleum products, placing it among the world's major exporters of refined fuels. However, questions are emerging over whether Indian refiners can



sustain the increased supply to Europe. Crude and condensate inflows into India fell for a second consecutive month to around 3.8 million barrels per day in August, compared with 4.8 million barrels per day a year earlier, Vortexa data showed. Meanwhile, Russian diesel exports remain severely depressed. Russia's seaborne diesel and gasoil exports averaged only around 150,000 barrels per day during the first 25 days of August, down about 610,000 barrels per day from a year earlier and 81% below the five-year

seasonal average. Although Russia's diesel export restrictions were expected to ease from September 1, a quick recovery in exports may prove difficult. Ukrainian drone attacks have disrupted Russian refineries and export infrastructure, with 32 refinery attacks recorded during July and August, according to data cited by Vortexa. US supplies, another major source for Europe, have also started weakening. American diesel shipments to Europe reached nearly 540,000 barrels per day during the first

half of August but fell to about 350,000 barrels per day in the second half, a decline of roughly 35%. The Strait of Hormuz is providing limited additional relief. Clean-product tanker crossings have declined, while ship-to-ship transfers off Oman have largely involved crude rather than refined fuels. Europe is therefore becoming increasingly dependent on a smaller group of suppliers. With Russian exports constrained, US shipments declining and limited additional volumes available through the Hormuz route, Indian refiners are carrying a growing share of Europe's diesel supply burden. The timing could prove critical as Europe heads toward its peak winter diesel-demand period. Inventories are already low, while refineries in Europe and North America are preparing for autumn maintenance after operating at elevated rates. The increasingly concentrated supply chain leaves European fuel markets vulnerable to further refinery outages, shipping disruptions or tighter crude availability in India, potentially keeping diesel markets under pressure during the winter season.

Gold Loans Set for Rapid Growth



Mumbai: India's gold loan market is witnessing rapid expansion, emerging as one of the fastest-growing segments of retail credit as households increasingly use their gold holdings to raise funds. According to a Motilal Oswal report, the market is projected to grow at an annual rate of around 28% and cross the Rs.30 lakh crore mark by March 2028. The gold loan market stood at approximately Rs.18.6 lakh crore as of March 2026, making it the second-largest retail asset segment after housing loans. It has also surpassed the personal loan portfolio in size. The sector recorded around 50% growth during 2025-26, with a nearly 60% increase in gold prices playing a major role in boosting the value of outstanding loans. India's vast household gold holdings are providing a strong foundation for further expansion. Indian families are estimated to hold around 28,000 tonnes of gold, valued at approximately Rs.380-390 lakh crore. However, only about 8% of these holdings are currently estimated to have entered the organised lending market, highlighting the enormous untapped potential. Small businesses, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and borrowers in the informal sector are increasingly turning to

gold loans to meet working-capital requirements. Among retail loans taken by micro-finance customers, gold loans account for around 18%, indicating their growing importance as a source of quick liquidity. However, the industry faces concerns over the quality of growth. Existing customers account for a significant share of borrowing, rather than a substantial expansion in the overall borrower base. Major gold finance companies, including Muthoot Finance and Manappuram Finance, have indicated that their combined customer base has remained around 90 lakh, while their gold holdings have stayed at approximately 260-265 tonnes. The proportion of renewed or repeat loans increased from 75% in 2022 to 82% in 2025. This suggests that much of the portfolio expansion is being driven by existing borrowers and higher gold valuations rather than a significant increase in new customers. It also raises concerns about borrowers potentially becoming increasingly dependent on debt. The geographical spread of gold lending is another major trend. Once concentrated largely in southern India, the business is expanding rapidly across the country. While the national growth rate was around 50%,

Rajasthan recorded 78% growth, followed by Maharashtra at 61% and Uttar Pradesh at 58%. Regulators are also paying closer attention to the sector's rapid expansion. The Reserve Bank of India has tightened oversight of gold lending practices, including loan-to-value calculations, loan tenure, borrower eligibility and loan management. Greater regulatory alignment between banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) is aimed at preventing unhealthy competition and excessive risk-taking. Meanwhile, private banks and NBFCs are aggressively expanding their gold loan businesses. Bajaj Finance's gold loan portfolio grew at an annual rate of 86% over the past three years and reached around Rs.21,000 crore by the June 2026 quarter. The company is targeting Rs.30,000 crore by March 2027. With gold prices remaining a key driver and millions of tonnes of household gold still outside the organised lending system, the sector has significant growth potential. However, sustainable expansion will depend on attracting new borrowers while ensuring responsible lending and preventing excessive dependence on repeat loans.

India Crush Pakistan, Stay Unbeaten

Dubai: India continued their unbeaten run in the Women's Asia Cup, registering a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in their final Group A league match on Saturday. After winning the toss and opting to bat, Pakistan were completely undone by India's impressive spin attack and were bowled out for just 55 runs in 18.1 overs. Telugu spinner Sri Charani led the rout with outstanding figures of 3/7 in four overs, while Prema Rawat claimed 3/9 and Deepti Sharma took 2/5. Pakistan made a reasonable start and reached 27 before losing their first wicket, but their innings quickly collapsed. Opener Muneeba Ali scored 13 and Shawal Zulfiqar made 14, but no other Pakistan batter managed to make a significant contribution. Shafali Verma provided the initial breakthrough by bowling Muneeba, before Sri Charani took charge. She dismissed Shawal, Gull Feroza and Ayesha to leave Pakistan struggling. Rawat and Deepti then completed the demoli-



tion job, with Pakistan losing their final nine wickets for just 28 runs. India's chase also suffered an early wobble. Shafali started aggressively, smashing a six from the first ball, but was dismissed for 12 by Pakistan captain Fatima Sana.

Sana then removed Smriti Mandhana for nine and Pratika for four, leaving India at 29/3. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma steadied the innings and ensured there were no further setbacks. Harmanpreet

remained unbeaten on 18 off 18 balls, including a four and a six, while Deepti finished unbeaten on 12 as India reached 57/3 in 8.4 overs. Fatima Sana was Pakistan's stand-out bowler, finishing with 3/17, but her efforts were not enough to prevent another heavy defeat for the side. India had already secured a semi-final berth before the match, while Pakistan's qualification hopes remain uncertain. Pakistan, Thailand and Hong Kong are competing for the second semi-final spot from Group A. Pakistan, who defeated Thailand earlier in the tournament, will need to beat Hong Kong in their final league game to strengthen their chances. The victory also marked another milestone for Harmanpreet Kaur. She has now captained India in 150 T20 matches, becoming the first player in international T20 cricket-men's or women's to lead a team in as many matches. She has recorded 87 wins, 57 defeats, one tie and five matches without a result as captain.

Kishan Hits Century in Duleep Trophy Final

Chennai: East Zone made a strong start to the Duleep Trophy final against South Zone at the Chepauk Stadium on Sunday, reaching 385 for four at the end of the opening day's play. East Zone captain Ishan Kishan led the charge with an unbeaten century, scoring 111 not out off 135 balls, including 14 fours and a six. His composed knock put East Zone in a commanding position heading into the second day.



No. 3 batter Shikhar Mohan narrowly missed out on a century after making a valuable 85 off 120 deliveries. His innings featured nine boundaries and three sixes and helped East Zone maintain the momentum established by the openers. Earlier, openers Abhimanyu Easwaran and Vaibhav Suryavanshi provided East Zone with an excellent start. The pair added 100 runs for the opening wicket, putting pressure on the South Zone bowling attack. Easwaran scored 72 off 86 balls, hitting 10 fours and a six, while Suryavanshi contributed 44 from 37 deliveries, with five fours and a six. Easwaran was eventually dismissed run out, bringing an end to the opening partnership. South Zone then managed to make further inroads, but East Zone continued to score freely. Coming in at No. 6, Kumar Kushagra added to the team's strong position with an unbeaten 63 off 75 balls. His aggressive innings included four fours and five sixes, ensuring East Zone finished the day with a formidable total. For South Zone, Chama Milind was the most successful bowler, claiming two wickets, while Tripurana Vijay picked up one wicket. With Kishan and Kushagra still at the crease, East Zone will look to build an even bigger first-innings total on Monday. South Zone, meanwhile, will need early breakthroughs to prevent the opposition from establishing a decisive advantage in the final. The opening day's play belonged firmly to East Zone, with contributions throughout the batting order putting them in a commanding position in the title clash.

Wahab Backs Pakistan Despite Heavy Defeat



Colombo: India continued its dominant run in the Women's Asia Cup, thrashing arch-rivals Pakistan by bowling them out for just 55 runs before chasing down the modest target in only 8.4 overs on Saturday. Despite the comprehensive defeat, Pakistan coach Wahab Riaz remained confident about his team's chances of winning the tournament. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Riaz claimed that Pakistan still had what it takes to emerge as the best team in the Asia Cup. "I still believe Pakistan have the ability to win the Asia Cup because the conditions here suit us very well. We will discuss the mistakes we made against India and try to ensure they are not repeated," Riaz said. His comments, however, drew a sarcastic response from social media users following Pakistan's crushing defeat. Several fans questioned how Pakistan could be considered the strongest side after being dismissed for only 55 runs against India. One user mocked the claim, saying Pakistan might not need to win matches to lift the trophy if people like Mohsin Naqvi were available to take the trophy and leave with it. Another user sarcastically suggested that Riaz may have forgotten to check the scoreboard before speaking to the media. A Pakistan supporter also criticised Riaz's career in the country's cricket administration, pointing out that he had previously served as a selector and adviser before taking up the coaching role. The fan questioned how individuals associated with multiple positions continued to receive important responsibilities despite Pakistan's struggles. On the field, India have been outstanding in the tournament. With eight teams competing in the Asia Cup, the Indian side has won all three of its league-stage matches and secured a place in the semi-finals. Pakistan, meanwhile, have managed just one victory from their two league matches, defeating Thailand. Their final league-stage encounter will be against Hong Kong. The equation is straightforward for Pakistan: a victory against Hong Kong would secure their place in the semi-finals. However, their heavy loss to India has raised questions about their batting and overall preparation ahead of the knockout stage. India's emphatic victory has strengthened their position as one of the leading contenders for the title, while Pakistan will need a significant improvement if they are to challenge for the trophy.

Satwik-Chirag Win China Masters Title

Shenzhen: India's star men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the China Masters Super 750 title on Sunday, defeating China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in a thrilling final. The world No. 5 Indian duo overcame a slow start to register a 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 victory in a contest that lasted one hour and 10 minutes. Satwik and Chirag struggled to find their



rhythm in the opening game, allowing the Chinese pair to take control and win it comfortably 21-11. However, the Indian combination responded strongly in the second game, playing with greater aggression and precision to level the contest at one game apiece. The decider proved to be a closely fought battle, but Satwik and Chirag maintained their composure in the crucial stages. Their attacking play and improved control helped them secure the third game 21-17 and complete a memorable comeback victory. The triumph is particularly significant for the Indian pair, who had previously finished runners-up at the China Masters in 2023 and 2025. After falling short twice, Satwik and Chirag finally went one step further on their third attempt to lift the prestigious Super 750 trophy. The victory further underlines the consistency of the Indian duo on the international badminton circuit. Their ability to recover after losing the opening game was the key feature of the final, as they gradually took control and denied the home pair a chance to claim the title. For Satwik and Chirag, the China Masters crown adds another major achievement to their growing list of international successes and provides a significant boost to their confidence going forward.

Alcaraz Faces Dangerous Paul at US Open

New York: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz will face a stern test against 20th-seeded American Tommy Paul on Sunday as the Spaniard bids to reach the US Open quarter-finals. Alcaraz, seeded second, enters the fourth-round clash under intense scrutiny after returning to competitive tennis following a four-month absence caused by a wrist injury. Although the Spaniard admits he has yet to reach his best level, he believes his form and decision-making are steadily improving. Alcaraz holds a 6-2 head-to-head advantage over Paul, with the American's most recent victory coming in 2023. Their latest meeting ended in Alcaraz's favour in the Australian Open quarter-finals, where the Spaniard continued his run to the title. Despite his strong record against Paul, Alcaraz described the American as a dangerous opponent capable of challenging anyone on tour. "The way he plays, the way he hits the ball, it's really complicated to



dominate the ball and dominate the points," Alcaraz said, while expressing his excitement about another competitive encounter. Another highly anticipated men's fourth-round clash will see eighth-seeded American Ben Shelton take on Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas. Tsitsipas leads their head-to-head

record 1-0 and arrives in impressive form after defeating Arthur Fils and 18th seed Jiri Lehecka. The former top-five player has also rediscovered his fitness after back problems disrupted his 2025 season. He is working with a new coach after parting ways with his father, Apostolos.

Shelton has been impressed by Tsitsipas' resurgence, describing his all-court game and athleticism as major strengths. The American has already played three four-set matches in New York, giving him plenty of experience ahead of the encounter. On the women's side, world No. 1 and two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka will meet American Taylor Townsend for the first time. Sabalenka expects a difficult atmosphere on Arthur Ashe Stadium and warned of Townsend's variety, particularly her willingness to move forward and attack at the net. Townsend, ranked 96th, has reached the fourth round for the second consecutive year and is chasing a maiden Grand Slam singles quarter-final. The 30-year-old, a three-time Grand Slam doubles champion, said she is prepared for the occasion. "I'm built for these moments," Townsend said, confident of embracing the challenge against the reigning champion.

Leclerc Crash Red-Flags Italian GP

Monza: The Italian Grand Prix at Monza was dramatically red-flagged after just two laps on Sunday when Ferrari star Charles Leclerc suffered a heavy crash at the Parabolica. Leclerc, a two-time winner at the historic Italian circuit, lost control of his Ferrari on the exit of the Parabolica at the end of the second lap. The Monegasque driver ran straight into the gravel before the car was thrown sideways into the barriers in a major impact. The crash brought the race to an immediate halt as marshals moved in to assess the scene and repair the damaged tyre barriers. Leclerc was able to climb out of the wrecked Ferrari on his own. He appeared winded after the impact but was otherwise reported to be unhurt. Before the red flag, Mercedes driver George Russell had moved into the lead after overtaking pole-sitter Pierre Gasly of Alpine. Red



Bull's Max Verstappen was running third, with Alpine's Franco Colapinto in fourth. Lewis Hamilton, who started the race from fourth on the grid, endured an eventful opening lap. The Mercedes driver was forced off the track by teammate Leclerc

at the first chicane and subsequently dropped positions. Hamilton was running eighth when the race was suspended. Championship leader Kimi Antonelli also made significant progress during the opening two laps. Starting from the back of the

grid after exceeding the permitted number of power-unit changes, the Mercedes driver quickly climbed through the field and had reached 12th place before the stoppage. The incident involving Leclerc overshadowed what had promised to be an intense opening phase at Monza, with the leading drivers closely grouped after the start. Race officials confirmed that the Grand Prix would resume only after the damaged tyre barrier had been repaired and the circuit was declared safe. The stoppage added another dramatic twist to the Italian round, with Ferrari's home race interrupted almost immediately and the remaining drivers facing a restart after the safety work was completed. The attention now shifted to the condition of Leclerc, the repair operation and the battle for the lead when racing resumed.

Tevez Set for Farewell Match in December

Buenos Aires: Argentina football legend Carlos Tevez could return to Boca Juniors' iconic La Bombonera in December for a farewell match, with global stars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo reportedly among the players invited. According to TyC Sports, Tevez is planning a special farewell game at Boca Juniors' home stadium, although an exact date has not yet been confirmed. The match could reportedly be staged on the weekend of December 12-13 or December 19-20. Tevez retired from competitive football in June 2022 after an illustrious career that included spells at Boca Juniors, Manchester United, Manchester City, Juventus and West Ham United. He enjoyed two spells with Boca, from 2001-04 and 2018-21, winning 11 trophies, including five Argentine Primera Division titles. The proposed farewell could reunite Tevez with several of the biggest names he played alongside during his career. He shared the Argentina dressing room with Messi and played alongside Ronaldo at Manchester United, raising the possibility of the two football superstars appearing at the same event.



Tevez has reportedly been in contact with Juan Roman Riquelme, his former Boca teammate and current club president. Riquelme is said to have offered La Bombonera as the venue for Tevez's final football farewell. The former striker is reportedly planning to select a team made up of friends and former teammates from his club and international career. The opposing side could feature other players who shared dressing rooms with him, poten-



tially adopting a "rest of the world" format. As many as 60 footballers associated with Tevez's decorated career are expected to attend the event. Messi is among the former Argentina teammates who could be invited, while Ronaldo could also receive an invitation because of their time together at Manchester United. If both accept, the farewell match could become a major football spectacle, bringing together two of

the sport's greatest modern icons alongside one of Argentina's most celebrated forwards. Tevez's most recent appearance at La Bombonera came in November last year, when he returned as coach of Talleres for a Clausura tournament Round of 16 match against Boca Juniors. Talleres lost that encounter, but Tevez could now return to the stadium under very different circumstances-as the central figure in his long-awaited farewell.

C Kalyan Elected Producer Council President

Hyderabad: The 2026 elections of the Telugu Film Producers Council have concluded with the Progressive Panel securing a strong victory in several key positions. C Kalyan was elected unopposed as the President, while Chalavadi Srinivasa Rao was elected Treasurer. Mohan Vadlapatla from the panel was elected as one of the Vice Presidents, while Damodara Prasad from the Progressive Panel secured the other Vice President post. Ammiraju and Tummalapalli Rama Satyanarayana were elected as Joint Secretaries from C Kalyan's panel. The Executive Committee results also saw the panel securing a majority. Twelve members from the panel were elected, including Padmini, Asian Sunil, Mohan Goud, Shivalenka Krishna Prasad, Danayya, Vamsi Nandipati, Palli Keshava Rao, Srinivasa Rao, Pullarao, Bapiraju, R.K. Goud and Nayeem. Three members from the Progressive Panel - Maitri Ravi, Niranjan Reddy and D.S. Rao - were also elected to the Executive Committee. The result for the Secretary post has been kept under wraps as the matter is currently before the court. Election Officer Durga Prasad will seal the result in a cover and submit it to the court. The result is expected to be opened and announced in the presence of the judge on September 8. Speaking after the election victory, newly elected President C Kalyan thanked the media, voters and supporters who travelled from different places to participate in the election. He said the panel received around 95 per cent support and promised to work for the welfare of producers. Kalyan said the Telugu film industry was doing well compared with other industries and appealed to everyone to cooperate with the newly elected body. He announced that a press conference would be organised soon to explain the panel's future plans. He also assured that special attention would be given to supporting small producers and thanked producer Bandla Ganesh for his support. Treasurer Chalavadi Srinivasa Rao also thanked the voters for their support and expressed gratitude to the Nandamuri family and Suniel Narang. He said the presence of experienced members in the panel would help the council work towards taking the Telugu film industry to greater heights. He reiterated that the panel would stand by small producers. Tummalapalli Prasanna Kumar congratulated all the winning candidates and thanked the media for supporting the election process. He said the victory of experienced and capable representatives would help the Producers Council work for the betterment of the film industry.



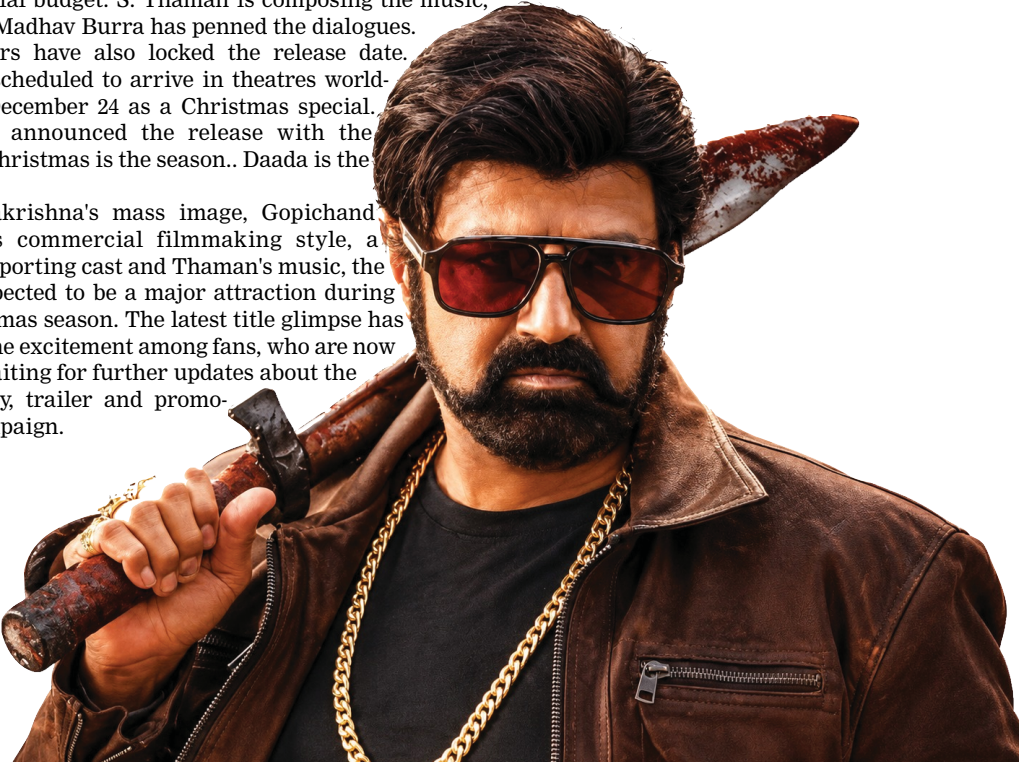
Suhas Turns Villain

Chennai: Young Telugu actor Suhas is set to make his debut as a villain in Tamil cinema with Mandadi, a pan-India action drama starring Tamil actor Soori in the lead role. The makers recently unveiled the film's trailer, which has generated strong interest with its intense action sequences and gripping storyline. Set against the backdrop of traditional boat races in the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu, Mandadi promises to be a high-voltage action drama. The trailer offers glimpses of the rivalry between Soori and Suhas, with Suhas appearing in a powerful negative role. The film is directed by Mathimaaran Pugazhendhi, who previously earned attention with Selfie. Popular filmmaker Vetrimaaran is associated with the project as its creative producer, adding further expectations to the film. Soori plays the protagonist, while Mahima Nambiar is the female lead. Veteran actor Satharaj and Ravindra Vijay are also part of the cast in important roles. The trailer stands out for its action-packed presentation, dramatic moments and striking visuals of boat-racing sequences. Music composer G.V. Prakash Kumar has scored the music, with his background score adding intensity to the trailer. The makers have revealed that both Soori and Suhas performed several risky action sequences in the sea without using body doubles. Their involvement in the demanding boat-racing and underwater action portions reportedly required considerable physical preparation and commitment. For Suhas, Mandadi marks an interesting new phase in his career. After establishing himself as a performer in Telugu films with his distinctive acting style, the actor is now stepping into Tamil cinema in a negative role. His confrontation with Soori is expected to be one of the major attractions of the film.



Daada Set for December Release

Hyderabad: Nandamuri Balakrishna's upcoming 111th film has received a powerful title. The highly anticipated project, directed by Gopichand Malineni, has been officially titled Daada. The title and a stylish glimpse were unveiled as a special birthday treat for Balakrishna's son, Nandamuri Mokshagna Teja. The title glimpse showcases Balakrishna in his trademark mass avatar and features a powerful dialogue that has already caught the attention of his fans. "To take aim at me, bullets need arrogance and guns need guts," the actor says in the glimpse, setting the tone for what promises to be an action-packed entertainer. The makers had earlier released an "Entry of an Era" glimpse, which generated considerable buzz among Nandamuri fans. With the latest title announcement, expectations surrounding the film have increased further. Daada marks the second collaboration between Balakrishna and Gopichand Malineni after their successful film Veera Simha Reddy. Their previous outing emerged as a major commercial success, and their reunion has made the new project one of the eagerly awaited films in Telugu cinema. The film features Kajal Aggarwal as the female lead, while Manchu Manoj is set to appear as the antagonist. The cast also includes prominent actors such as Samuthirakani, R. Sarathkumar and Abhimanyu Singh in important roles. Produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the Vriddhi Cinemas banner, the movie is being mounted on a grand scale with a substantial budget. S. Thaman is composing the music, while Sai Madhav Burra has penned the dialogues. The makers have also locked the release date. Daada is scheduled to arrive in theatres worldwide on December 24 as a Christmas special. The team announced the release with the tagline, "Christmas is the season.. Daada is the reason." With Balakrishna's mass image, Gopichand Malineni's commercial filmmaking style, a strong supporting cast and Thaman's music, the film is expected to be a major attraction during the Christmas season. The latest title glimpse has added to the excitement among fans, who are now eagerly waiting for further updates about the film's story, trailer and promotional campaign.



Tanushree Dutta's Cryptic Post

Mumbai: Actress Tanushree Dutta has shared a cryptic and strongly worded post on social media, apparently aimed at people she believes have caused difficulties in her personal and professional life.

The actress, known for films such as Aashiq Banaya Aapne and Dhol, took to Instagram to speak about karma, her struggles and her hopes of rebuilding her career. Without naming anyone, Dutta claimed that people who had allegedly worked against her would eventually face the consequences of their actions. Sharing her picture, the actress wrote about those who had "afflicted" her and taken her away from what she described as her natural path in life. She said she believed her professional and personal life would be rebuilt in a positive way and that she would witness the downfall of those she accused of causing her suffering.

Dutta further alleged that certain people had plotted against her, manipulated situations and targeted her. She expressed strong confidence that what she described as "karmic wheels" were now turning and warned that those responsible would eventually face difficult consequences.

The post comes weeks after Dutta made another social media statement alleging that her career was being deliberately affected by people she referred to as "enemy camp handlers." According to the actress, there were individuals willing to work with her, but opportunities were allegedly being blocked before they could reach her.

She had claimed that brands, events and projects were being misled or manipulated at the enquiry stage itself. Dutta also alleged that such actions were intended to further damage her professional prospects.

The actress has previously spoken publicly about her experiences in the Hindi film industry. She became one of the prominent voices during Bollywood's #MeToo movement in 2018 after making allegations of sexual misconduct against veteran actor Nana Patekar in connection with the shooting of the 2008 film Horn 'Ok' Pleassss. Patekar has denied the allegations.

Dutta's latest post has once again drawn attention online, with her followers discussing the message and the circumstances behind her comments. However, the actress did not identify the people she was referring to in the latest post.

Her comments also highlight her continuing desire to revive her career and return to the professional path she believes was disrupted.

Mohanlal's Operation Ganga

Chennai: Malayalam superstar Mohanlal's upcoming film with National Award-winning director Vishnu Mohan has been officially titled Operation Ganga. The film, earlier referred to by its tentative title L367, was announced with the tagline "A Nation's Promise."

The title refers to India's ambitious evacuation mission launched in 2022 to bring back Indian citizens, including thousands of students, stranded in Ukraine following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war. The film is set to explore one of India's challenging evacuation operations carried out across international borders.

Along with Mohanlal, the film features Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal, actress Bhagyashri Borse, and actors Parthiban and Adil Hussain in pivotal roles. Operation Ganga is directed by Vishnu Mohan, who is known for the devotional blockbuster Meppadiyan. With a subject based on a major real-life mission and a star-studded cast, the project has already generated considerable interest among movie audiences.

The film also brings together an impressive technical team. Cinematography is handled by Miroslaw Kuba Brozek, who has worked on the successful Pushpa franchise. Production design is by Rajeevan, known for his work in films such as GOAT, Meiyazhagan, Amaran and Kathananar.

Action sequences will be choreographed by Sea Young Oh, who has worked on films including Dhurandhar and Kill. Music composer Shashwat Sachdev, who recently gained attention following the success of the pan-Indian film Dhurandhar, is composing the music for Operation Ganga.

Shameer Mohammed is serving as the editor, while sound design is being handled by Bishwadeep Chatterjee, known for his work on films such as Dhurandhar, Uri: The Surgical Strike, 3 Idiots and Padmaavat.

K.V. Sanjit is overseeing the visual effects, while Melvy J, known as the costume director of Lokah, is responsible for costume design. Ronex Xavier is handling makeup.

The film is produced by Gokulam Gopalan under the banner of Sree Gokulam Movies. Baiju Gopalan and V.C. Praveen are the co-producers, while Krishnamoorthy serves as the executive producer.

With Mohanlal leading the cast and Vishnu Mohan directing a story inspired by a significant national mission, Operation Ganga is shaping up as an ambitious film with strong patriotic and international elements.

