



Rs 1.10 Lakh Crore Defence Push

New Delhi, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved capital acquisition proposals worth approximately Rs 1.10 lakh crore to strengthen the operational capabilities of the Indian armed forces and accelerate domestic defence manufacturing. The approvals, granted as an Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), cover requirements of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Significantly, around 98 percent of the approved procurement is planned from Indian industry, reinforcing the government's focus on self-reliance in defence production. For the Indian Army, the DAC cleared procurement of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) reconnaissance vehicles, high-mobility vehicles, self-propelled mechanical mine layers, Advanced Light Helicopters, trawl tanks and Sarvatra Bridge Systems. The equipment is intended to improve surveillance, mobility, logistics and operational effectiveness across difficult terrains. For the Indian Navy, approval was given for Arudhra radars to replace existing air-route surveillance radars at naval air stations. The council also approved the design, development and subsequent procurement of indigenous Marine Gas Turbines for warship propulsion, aimed at reducing dependence on foreign suppliers. The Indian Air Force received approvals for equipment designed to enhance the combat capabilities of fighter aircraft, transport planes and helicopters. The package also includes Ground-Based Multi-Purpose Jammers to counter adversary radar systems and the Defence Forces Secure Access Card system, which will replace paper-based identity documents with interoperable RFID-enabled smart cards. The Ministry of Defence said the large share of domestic procurement is expected to strengthen India's defence industrial ecosystem and support indigenous technological capabilities. The decision is also aligned with the broader Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, with Indian manufacturers expected to play a central role in supplying advanced military systems and equipment to the armed forces.

Tension Erupts Between Police and BRS Leaders in Telangana Assembly



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Tension prevailed inside and outside the Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday as the first day of the session witnessed protests, arrests and heated exchanges involving BRS legislators, police and the ruling party. The situation turned tense when police stopped BRS MLAs and MLCs wearing black T-shirts carrying slogans against the government from entering the Assembly premises. A scuffle reportedly broke out between the police and BRS leaders during the confrontation. BRS MLA Sunita Lakshma Reddy became emotional and broke down in tears, alleging that police personnel had behaved inappropriately with her. Another BRS MLA, Sabitha Indra Reddy, also alleged that police officials had acted aggressively towards her. BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao claimed that he suffered injuries in an alleged police assault. However, Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu countered the allegation, accusing KTR of attacking police personnel. As police continued to prevent entry in black T-shirts, BRS leaders, including former minister T. Harish Rao, attempted to enter the premises after removing their shirts. Amid the escalating situation, police took several BRS representatives into custody and later released them at Telangana Bhavan. The controversy intensified following remarks allegedly made by BRS MLC Tata Madhu against Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar during the confrontation. The Assembly held a special discussion on the issue later in the afternoon. Chief Minister

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New Central Hall Inaugurated

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister and Leader of the House A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated the newly developed Central Hall at the Telangana Legislative Assembly complex on Sunday, marking another addition to the facilities available for legislators. The Central Hall has been named in honour of former Assembly Speaker Duddilla Sripada Rao, recognising his contribution to parliamentary democracy and public life. The inauguration was attended by Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. Several other ministers, government whips, Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly also participated in the programme. During the event, dignitaries paid floral tributes to the portrait of the late Sripada Rao and recalled his services to the legislature and the people.



The ceremony highlighted the importance of remembering leaders who played a significant role in strengthening democratic institutions. Following the inauguration, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy joined the legislators and other dignitaries for breakfast at the newly developed facility. The Central Hall is expected to provide an additional space within the

Assembly complex for legislators and official engagements. Its naming after Sripada Rao also serves as a tribute to his association with the Telangana legislature and his public service. The inauguration brought together members from across the political spectrum, including ministers, legislators and Assembly officials. The event concluded with interactions

among the participating leaders and members over breakfast. The government's decision to dedicate the facility to Sripada Rao reflects its recognition of his contribution to legislative affairs and public life. The newly inaugurated hall is expected to become an important facility for activities connected with the functioning of the Legislative Assembly complex.

KTR, BRS Leaders Injured in Assembly Gate Scuffle



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

A protest by BRS MLAs and MLCs wearing black T-shirts with slogans criticising the Congress government turned tense on Monday when police stopped them from entering the Telangana Legislative Assembly. The BRS legislators had gathered at Gun Park before marching towards the Assembly. The black T-shirts carried messages alleging that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its promises during its 1,000-day rule. Addressing the gathering, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao alleged that the Congress had come to power by making numerous promises but had failed to fulfil them even after 1,000 days. He said the BRS would highlight the government's alleged failures on behalf of the people. As the BRS leaders reached the Assembly's main gate, police prevented them from entering in the black T-shirts, citing rules regarding the messages printed on them. The confrontation escalated when the leaders questioned the police and attempted to move past the barricades. A scuffle followed, during which KTR, former ministers T. Harish Rao and G. Jagadish Reddy, and MLAs Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunita Lakshma



Reddy were among those reportedly injured. KTR suffered injuries to his hand and forehead, while Jagadish Reddy reportedly sustained a leg injury after falling during the confrontation. Harish Rao and several other BRS leaders removed their black T-shirts and staged a protest in their vests, but tensions continued. Police subsequently detained KTR, Harish Rao and other BRS leaders and shifted them to Telangana Bhavan. Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunita Lakshma Reddy accused police of behaving aggressively with women legislators. Sunita became emotional and alleged that police had treated her in an inhumane manner. The incident also triggered controversy over remarks made by BRS MLC Tata Madhu, including comments directed at the

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Tata Madhu Denies Remarks Against Telangana Speaker



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

BRS MLC Tata Madhu has clarified his remarks made during the confrontation between BRS leaders and police at the Telangana Assembly gates, denying allegations that he made inappropriate comments against Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. Tata Madhu said he had not made any objectionable remarks against the Speaker and alleged that a deliberate campaign was being carried out against him by misrepresenting his statements. The BRS leader said he had immense respect for the office and dignity of the Assembly Speaker. He maintained that his comments during the tense situation at the Assembly gates were being portrayed out of context. The clarification came after his alleged remarks during the protest by BRS MLAs and MLCs triggered controversy on the first day of the Assembly session. The issue subsequently became a subject of discussion in the House, with several leaders condemning the reported comments and demanding action. Tata Madhu reiterated that he respected the constitutional position of the Speaker and had no intention of making derogatory remarks against Gaddam Prasad Kumar. He said the allegations against him were part of an attempt to create controversy around the BRS protest.

Revanth Reddy Hails Malla Reddy's Farmers' Struggle



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid rich tributes to veteran farmer leader and All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) National Vice-President Sarampalli Malla Reddy, describing him as an exceptional leader who devoted nearly six decades to championing the concerns of farmers, agricultural labourers and tenant farmers. Revanth Reddy attended a memorial meeting organised in memory of Malla Reddy at Ravindra Bharati and offered floral tributes to his portrait. He recalled the veteran leader's extensive work, which began at the grassroots in remote rural areas and eventually reached the national level. The Chief Minister said Malla Reddy possessed an unparalleled understanding of agriculture and farmers' problems. His approach covered the entire agricultural cycle, from soil fertility, irrigation, seeds and investment to cultivation, remunerative prices and marketing. Revanth Reddy described him as a "walking encyclopedia" on agriculture and said his death was an irreparable loss to the farming community. He observed that while many people pursued positions, recognition and personal advancement, Malla Reddy remained committed to ensuring that his work benefited farmers and agricultural workers. His lifelong objective, he said, was to secure better conditions for those dependent on agriculture. The Chief Minister also highlighted the historical role played by Left movements in raising issues concerning disadvantaged sections. He said struggles led by Communist organisations had influenced governments to introduce measures such as minimum wage legislation for agricultural labourers and land reforms based on the principle that land should belong to those who cultivate it.

Referring to land reforms, Revanth Reddy said ceiling legislation facilitated the distribution of surplus and Podu lands among Dalits, tribal communities and other eligible beneficiaries. He also referred to the issuance of land titles covering 24.56 lakh acres. He recalled that demands raised by Left parties for housing for poor families contributed to the introduction and expansion of the Indiramma housing programme. Similarly, farmers' demands for remunerative crop prices led to the appointment of the Swaminathan Commission and the strengthening of the Minimum Support Price system. The Chief Minister also cited the Employment Guarantee Act and food-security measures as examples of policies that emerged amid sustained demands for employment and relief for vulnerable communities. Revanth Reddy said his government was studying the concerns raised in Malla Reddy's writings on agriculture and working towards addressing them. He noted that a clear understanding of a problem was essential for developing effective solutions. He further expressed concern over voter deletions during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, particularly in remote rural and tribal areas. He stressed the need for vigilance to ensure that genuine voters were not removed from electoral rolls due to errors or migration-related issues. Responding to a proposal to honour Malla Reddy's legacy, the Chief Minister said the government would discuss in the Cabinet an appropriate way to commemorate his contribution to farmers and agricultural labourers. Minister Mohammed Azharuddin, several MLAs, CPM leaders Prakash Karat and John Wesley, and other prominent leaders attended the memorial meeting.

Major Temple Reconstruction Begins



Dharmapuri, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday performed Bhoomi Puja for the reconstruction and comprehensive development of the historic Ugra Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Dharmapuri, marking the beginning of works linked to preparations for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu. Bhatti, accompanied by Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar, laid the foundation stone for the works at 2.58 am in accordance with traditional rituals. He later offered prayers to Lord Ugra Narasimha and received Vedic blessings

from temple priests. The Telangana government has proposed developing the prominent pilgrimage centre with an overall investment of Rs 200 crore. Bhatti said Rs 117 crore had already been sanctioned and another Rs 80 crore approved for the broader development programme. Works estimated at Rs 10 crore have now been taken up as part of the initiative. Speaking at the programme, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government was committed to transforming Dharmapuri into a major spiritual and tourism destination while preserving its religious significance. He said the development

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Revanth Demands Action Against MLC

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday strongly condemned alleged derogatory remarks made by BRS MLC Tata Madhusudan against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, describing the episode as a serious assault on the dignity of the House and a "dark day" for Telangana. The Chief Minister raised the issue in the Assembly while responding to concerns expressed by Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and other members. Revanth Reddy said the language allegedly used against the Speaker was unacceptable and demanded that BRS president and Leader of the Opposition K. Chandrashekar Rao apologise to the House. The Speaker is Gaddam Prasad Kumar, according to the official Telangana government portal. Revanth Reddy further urged Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy to take stringent

action against the MLC, including disqualification. He argued that remarks directed at the Speaker and his family members went beyond an individual political dispute and affected the dignity of the entire legislature. "This is not an issue concerning one individual," the Chief Minister said, stressing that all legislators should condemn such conduct by keeping political differences aside. He maintained that the Speaker's office represents the institution of the legislature and therefore deserves respect from every member. The Chief Minister also said the alleged remarks had caused deep hurt to Telangana society and warned that allowing such behaviour to go unchecked could create an unhealthy precedent. He called for a strong institutional response to ensure that abusive or personally insulting language does not become acceptable in legislative discourse. The controversy emerged amid heightened political tensions on the opening



day of the Assembly session. Reports said BRS leaders were involved in a

confrontation with police outside the Assembly during a protest, while the

ruling Congress raised the issue of the alleged remarks against the Speaker inside the House. BRS MLC Tata Madhusudan, however, disputed the Chief Minister's interpretation, stating that his criticism was directed at police officials rather than the Assembly Speaker. The New Indian Express reported that Madhusudan also said he had not intended to target the Speaker. The dispute has triggered a broader debate over legislative decorum and the standards expected from elected representatives. Revanth Reddy said every member had a responsibility to protect the dignity of constitutional institutions and ensure that political disagreements did not descend into personal attacks. The Chief Minister's demand for an apology from K. Chandrashekar Rao and disciplinary action against the MLC is now likely to intensify the political confrontation between the Congress government and the BRS during the Assembly sessions.

Rural Students to Get Modern School Facilities

Station Ghanpur, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Former Deputy Chief Minister and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari on Monday expressed gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for allocating a Telangana Public School to the constituency, describing the decision as a major boost to education in the region. The government has selected the existing Government School at Narayanagiri in Dharmasagar mandal, which falls under the Station Ghanpur constituency, for development as a Telangana Public School. Srihari welcomed the move and thanked the Chief Minister on behalf of students, parents and residents of the constituency. The development was also reported locally on September 7. According to Srihari, the school will be upgraded with modern, corporate-



standard facilities at an estimated cost of around Rs 10 crore. The proposed model is expected to provide education from the pre-primary level through intermediate on a single campus, enabling students to pursue their education

without having to shift institutions at different stages. He said the initiative would particularly benefit children from economically weaker families and those belonging to SC, ST, BC and other margin-

alised communities. By bringing improved infrastructure and quality education to a government institution, the programme could help rural students access facilities comparable to those available in private

schools. The Telangana government has been promoting public education through initiatives aimed at improving quality, equity and holistic development. The School Education Department states that providing qual-

ity education and equal opportunities is among its key priorities.

The Telangana Public School model has already been showcased by the government. In June, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inaugurated a Telangana Public School at Arutla in Rangareddy district, offering English-medium education from pre-primary to intermediate on one campus along with modern classrooms, laboratories, digital learning facilities and sports infrastructure. Srihari said the allocation of a similar institution to Station Ghanpur would strengthen the constituency's education infrastructure and provide children from rural backgrounds with greater access to quality schooling. He reiterated his special appreciation to Revanth Reddy for selecting the constituency and said the project would mark an important step towards improving educational opportunities for local students.

Revanth Demands Action Over Speaker Row

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Legislative Assembly witnessed a heated confrontation on Monday over alleged objectionable remarks made by BRS MLC Tata Madhusudan, popularly known as Tata Madhu, during protests outside the House involving the party's legislators. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy strongly condemned the remarks and described the episode as a "dark day" for Telangana. He demanded an apology from BRS president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and called for action against Tata Madhu, including his removal from the Legislative Council. Revanth questioned the BJP's response to the controversy and accused the party of attempting to protect what he described as its "secret allies." He said democratic decisions should follow discussion and consultation, asserting that the government was prepared to debate issues raised by the Opposition. The Chief Minister said the dignity of the Speaker's chair was a matter concerning the entire legislature and not an issue that should be viewed through partisan politics. He questioned why the alleged remarks against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar were not being treated as a matter requiring immediate condemnation.

Revanth also linked the controversy to the social background of the Speaker and accused the BRS leadership of failing to uphold its earlier commitments to Dalits. He cited KCR's past promises relating to making a Dalit the Chief Minister and providing three acres of land to Dalit families. He further alleged that the previous government had removed a Dalit Deputy Chief Minister. The Chief Minister accused KCR of encouraging the conduct of BRS leaders and said the alleged language used against the Speaker was unacceptable in a democratic and civilised society. He urged all political parties to condemn the incident irrespective of their political affiliations. Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar later said the remarks had deeply hurt him and stressed that the dignity of the constitutional office must be protected. Reports said he became emotional while the issue was discussed in the House. However, Tata Madhu rejected the allegation that he had targeted the Speaker. He maintained that his remarks were directed at the police during the confrontation outside the Assembly and said he respected the Speaker. The controversy added to the tense atmosphere surrounding the opening day of the Assembly session, which also witnessed protests and clashes involving Opposition parties.

Ganga Teppotsavam Held in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Gangaputra community celebrated the traditional Ganga Teppotsavam in Hyderabad with a colourful procession and a series of religious and cultural programmes, highlighting the community's long-standing association with the city's water bodies and fishing traditions. The festivities featured a grand procession from the Edugullu, or Seven Temples, at Khairatabad to the Gangamma Temple near Hussain Sagar. Participants carried out traditional rituals and offerings, while Potharajus and Joginis performed during the pro-

cession. Displays of traditional fishing nets and Bonam offerings added to the festive atmosphere. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the procession. Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar also participated in the celebrations. Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav and MLAs Danam Nagender, Talasa ni Srinivas Yadav and Naveen Yadav were among the other leaders who attended the programme. A community gathering of Gangaputras was organ-

ised at the HMDA grounds near IMAX, where speakers highlighted the cultural significance of the annual celebration and the community's traditional occupations. Malku Mahendar Babu, president of the Ganga Teppotsavam Committee, appealed to the Telangana government to accord official state-festival status to the Ganga Teppotsavam. He said such recognition would help preserve the community's cultural traditions and give the festival a wider platform. The festival has previously drawn thousands of devotees and cultural enthusiasts, with celebrations including a Shobha Yatra from Khairatabad



towards Hussain Sagar and Gangamma Bonalu rituals. Reports have also highlighted the participation of community members in traditional attire and reli-

gious ceremonies. The organisers said the event was intended not only as a religious celebration but also as an occasion to showcase the heritage, customs and tra-

ditional practices of the Gangaputra community. The demand for official recognition is now expected to add a new dimension to discussions surrounding the festival's future.

Seethakka Demands Apology From KCR

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister D. Anasuya, popularly known as Seethakka, on Monday strongly condemned the alleged remarks made by BRS MLC Tata Madhusudan against Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. The minister became emotional while speaking about the controversy and was visibly moved as she defended the dignity of the Speaker's office. Seethakka alleged that the conduct of some BRS MLAs and MLCs had crossed the limits of parliamentary decorum. Referring to Tata Madhu and MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy, she criticised what she described as objectionable and disrespectful comments against the Speaker. The minister demanded that appropriate legal action be considered, including provisions under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, depending on the findings of the competent authorities. She also sought an apology from BRS presi-

dent and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Seethakka questioned KCR's absence from the Assembly and alleged that the BRS leadership had failed to instil proper parliamentary conduct among its members. She accused the opposition party of displaying political arrogance and criticised what she described as a feudal mindset. The minister also raised allegations concerning the treatment of Dalits during the previous BRS government and accused the opposition of focusing on political theatrics rather than public issues. She demanded that BRS leaders apologise to the Speaker and called for Tata Madhu's membership to be cancelled. The remarks triggered a political confrontation in the Assembly, with ruling-party leaders demanding action against the BRS MLC. The controversy remains disputed, however, as Tata Madhu has denied targeting the Speaker and maintained that he respects both Gaddam Prasad Kumar and the constitutional office.

Seethakka Targets BRS, BJP

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Panchayat Raj and Women and Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka on Monday criticised the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing the Opposition parties of creating political disturbances instead of using the Assembly to raise issues concerning the people. Speaking to the media during the ongoing Assembly session, Seethakka questioned the absence of BRS chief and Leader of Opposition K. Chandrashekar Rao from the House. Referring to the BRS Legislature Party meeting held at KCR's Erravelli

farmhouse, she asked whether even future legislature party meetings would continue to be conducted there. Reports said KCR had decided to skip the Assembly session and lead a protest after its conclusion. Seethakka said the Assembly was an important forum for discussing public concerns and framed it as a place where elected representatives should participate in legislative debate. She questioned the Opposition's decision to protest outside the House when the government was prepared to discuss issues. The minister alleged that both the BRS and BJP were more interested in political publicity and creating disruptions than constructive debate. She

described the parties as having turned into "drama companies," alleging that one was staging protests outside the Assembly while the other was creating disturbances inside it. Her remarks came amid heightened tensions on the opening day of the Assembly session. BRS leaders, including K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao, were detained following a confrontation with police outside the Assembly. The Opposition leaders were protesting against the Congress government while wearing black T-shirts. Seethakka also criticised the BRS over its record while in power, alleging that the party had imposed strict rules governing Assembly proceedings but was now disre-



garding similar norms. She urged both Opposition parties to end what she described as

political theatrics and participate in Assembly proceedings, arguing that genuine public grievances

should be raised through debate and legislative scrutiny rather than protests and disruptions.

BJP Protest Disrupts Assembly

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Legislative Assembly witnessed disruptions on Monday after BJP MLAs demanded an immediate discussion and a judicial inquiry into lands placed under the prohibited category of Section 22-A of the Registration Act. Soon after the monsoon session began, Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar initiated a Question Hour. BJP members, however, entered the Well displaying placards and raising slogans seeking an inquiry by a sitting judge into alleged irregularities involving 22-A lands. The Speaker appealed to the members to cooperate with the proceedings and said the issue could be considered after a decision by the Business Advisory Committee (BAC). Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu also urged the BJP members to allow Question Hour to continue. He said the government was prepared to hold a short-duration discussion on the 22-A issue and that the matter could be taken up with priority following the BAC's decision. BJP MLAs, led by A. Maheshwar

Reddy, continued their protest and demanded a judicial probe into the inclusion of private properties in the prohibited list. Despite repeated appeals from the Speaker and the government, the members continued sloganeering, creating disorder in the House. The Speaker subsequently directed marshals to remove the placards and adjourned the Assembly for 15 minutes. The confrontation also triggered a political exchange between the ruling Congress and the BJP. Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy accused the BJP of politicising the issue and questioned its position on the investigation into alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram irrigation project. He claimed that the state government had sought a CBI inquiry and asked why such an investigation had not proceeded. The 22-A controversy has emerged as a significant political and public issue, with affected landowners seeking clarity over properties included in the prohibited category. The government has indicated its willingness to discuss the matter in the Assembly.

Basara Prepares for Pushkarams

Basara, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is gearing up for the 2027 Godavari Pushkarams with an emphasis on pilgrim safety, infrastructure and the promotion of the state's spiritual and cultural heritage. Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said the government was making preparations well ahead of the festival, which is expected to draw large numbers of devotees. During his visit to Basara on Sunday, Jupally laid foundation stones for development works at the Sri Gnana Saraswati Temple and expansion of the Godavari Pushkar ghat. According to reports, the temple-related works are estimated at Rs 354 crore, while Rs 20 crore has been earmarked for ghat expansion. Addressing a review meeting, the minister said the gov-



ernment's priority would be ensuring convenient and safe pilgrimage for devotees. The expanded ghats are intended to accommodate increased crowds during the Pushkarams. Facilities planned at the site include dedicated changing rooms for women, continuous sanitation arrangements and round-the-clock free medical services. Jupally said development was being taken up well in advance of the festival in accordance with Chief

Minister A. Revanth Reddy's directions. He also stated that infrastructure projects worth about Rs 1,000 crore were being developed at 12 locations along the Godavari, including Basara. The Basara temple redevelopment is part of a broader effort to improve facilities at the prominent pilgrimage centre. The Telangana government had earlier launched major renovation works at the Sri Gnana Saraswati Temple, with the project

aimed at improving the shrine and amenities for devotees. The minister said the government intended to present Telangana's religious and cultural heritage on a wider platform through the Pushkarams. The state administration is simultaneously focusing on basic amenities, crowd management and infrastructure so that pilgrims can participate in the festival in a secure and comfortable environment.

Uttam Targets KCR Over Irrigation

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday launched a sharp attack on former Chief Minister and BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao, questioning his proposed political activities and blaming the previous government for problems in the state's irrigation sector. Speaking to the media informally at the Assembly, Uttam reportedly questioned how KCR could undertake a padyatra or visit the Kaleshwaram project site after the problems faced by the project. He also said people would react with amusement if the former Chief Minister took up a foot march.

His remarks came amid renewed political debate over irrigation projects and the state's water situation. Uttam attributed Telangana's current water difficulties to two factors-KCR and the El Niño weather phenomenon-while accusing the former BRS government of mishandling irrigation projects. He alleged that the irrigation department had been weakened during the previous administration and questioned why the Kaleshwaram project had failed to deliver the expected benefits despite the huge expenditure involved. The minister also questioned KCR's criticism of the Congress government, saying that objections were being raised when similar



language was being used against him. Uttam further asked who was responsible for delays in completing the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project. The Kaleshwaram project has remained a major political flashpoint between the Congress and BRS. The Telangana government has repeatedly

raised concerns over the condition and performance of the project, while BRS leaders have defended their record and accused the Congress government of failing to utilise available water. The government has also proposed restoration measures based on technical assessments. In recent remarks, Uttam said irrigation

projects should ultimately be evaluated by the water supplied to farmers and the extent of assured irrigation created, rather than simply by the money spent on them. He has also said the government would focus on completing pending projects and protecting Telangana's share of Krishna and Godavari waters.

North Telangana-The Distance Travelled

From Godavari Waters to Coal Mines... A Changing Development Landscape

North Telangana is a region rich in natural resources. The Godavari, extensive agricultural lands, coal mines, power plants and large industries have given the region a distinctive economic foundation. Since 2014, changes have been visible in irrigation, industrial investment, roads, power infrastructure and agriculture-based economic activity. At the same time, the region faces challenges related to its dependence on coal, environmental concerns, employment and the need to diversify into new industries. From the agricultural strength of Nizamabad to the industrial belt of Mancherial-Peddapalli, and from the forest regions of Nirmal-Adilabad to the coalfields of Bhupalpally, North Telangana is far from being a uniform economic zone. How far has the region travelled over the past 12 years? That is the focus of this chapter.

Godavari: The Lifeline of North Telangana

To understand North Telangana's economy, one must begin with the Godavari. The river is more than a source of water. Agriculture, drinking water, power generation, industry, transport and urbanisation have all developed around it. Projects such as Sriramsagar, Nizamsagar, Yellampalli and Kaleshwaram have played an important role in the region's irrigation infrastructure. According to government figures, the Kaleshwaram project was designed to provide irrigation benefits over 37.09 lakh acres, including new and stabilised ayacut. The extent to which these projects have delivered their intended benefits is a separate question. But the expansion of infrastructure for storing, transporting and supplying water has influenced the agricultural economy of North Telangana. Nizamabad, Jagtial, Kamareddy, Nirmal, Peddapalli and Mancherial continue to depend significantly on agriculture. Paddy, turmeric, maize and cotton are among the major crops supporting the region's agricultural markets. However, higher agricultural production is only the first step. The real test is whether processing, storage, packaging, marketing and branding have expanded enough to add value to farm output. In other words, North Telangana has clearly travelled some distance in increasing agricultural production. The next challenge is to convert that production into greater economic value.

Coal: Another Economic Lifeline

Alongside the Godavari, North Telangana possesses another major natural resource beneath the ground-coal. The coalfields of Mancherial, Peddapalli and Bhupalpally have supported economic activity for decades.

Chennu Peddiraju



Senior Journalist

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) remains a key institution in this economy. SCCL produced 69.01 million tonnes of coal in 2024-25, while its total sales value, including taxes, stood at around Rs 35,764 crore. Coal mining is not simply about extracting a mineral. It generates direct employment in mines and supports transport, contract services, small businesses and the development of mining towns. When coal moves into power generation, another economic chain begins. Mining, transportation, power, industry and employment-this interconnected chain has given North Telangana a distinct economic character.

Ramagundam-Peddapalli: From Coal to Industry

The Peddapalli-Ramagundam belt occupies a significant place on North Telangana's industrial map. Its industrial base, built around coal, power and fertilisers, has gradually expanded the region beyond being merely a mining zone. The revival of Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) and the presence of major power institutions such as NTPC have added new dimensions to the industrial economy. RFCL produced 11.95 lakh tonnes of urea in 2024-25 and dispatched 11.94 lakh tonnes. Yet large industries alone do not guarantee broad-based industrialisation. How many ancillary MSMEs have developed around them? How much employment has been generated for local youth? How much has the local business ecosystem expanded? These

are the questions that ultimately determine the depth of industrial development.

Nizamabad-Kamareddy: From Agricultural Markets to Economic Centres

Nizamabad is one of North Telangana's major agricultural economic centres. Turmeric, paddy and maize have given the region a distinctive identity. Agricultural markets, warehouses,



transportation and processing activities connect the rural economy with urban commerce. Kamareddy, too, has the potential to leverage both its agricultural economy and its strategic location between Hyderabad and Nizamabad. The larger question, however, remains: Does the economic strength of an agricultural district lie in the value of raw produce, or in the value added to it? The answer will determine the region's future economic trajectory. Nirmal and Adilabad represent another dimension of North Telangana. Agriculture, forests, handicrafts, livestock and mineral resources contribute to their economic identity. Nirmal handicrafts and the forest-based livelihoods of Adilabad add further diversity to the region.

Transport: The Bridge Between Resources and Markets

Natural resources have little economic value if they cannot efficiently reach markets. A good harvest can fail to generate adequate returns if transportation is poor. Similarly, industries become less attractive to investors when raw materials and finished products cannot move efficiently. This makes national and state highways, rail connectivity and regional transport networks critical to North Telangana's economy. Connectivity with Hyderabad, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and other parts of Telangana has also expanded the region's potential market. But the real measure is not merely the existence of roads and railways. It is how effectively they connect economic activity with markets. Towns such as Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad and Peddapalli have also emerged as regional centres for education and healthcare. The expansion of medical colleges, teaching hospitals and higher education institutions has reduced dependence on Hyderabad for some essential services.

North Telangana After 12 Years

Looking back over the past 12 years, North Telangana has several strong foundations for development: Godavari waters, irrigation projects, coal reserves, power generation, major industries, agricultural production, growing urban markets and improving connectivity. But the larger question remains: Have these strengths been fully integrated into a single, interconnected economic ecosystem? If Godavari waters, coal, agriculture, industry and human resources can be brought together into a stronger economic chain, how much further can North Telangana travel? That question points towards the next stage of the region's development-and the destination that still remains to be reached.



BJP Targets Congress Over Protests



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Monday accused the Congress government in Telangana of suppressing democratic dissent and using police action to prevent opposition leaders and activists from raising public issues. Reacting to the detention and arrest of BJP leaders who attempted to march towards the Telangana Legislative Assembly, Reddy alleged that the government was resorting to barricades, arrests and lathi-charges instead of addressing public grievances. The BJP leader said the protesters were demanding the immediate release of Rs 15,000 crore in pending fee reimbursement and scholarship dues, which he said were crucial for nearly 40 lakh economically disadvantaged students. He also highlighted the party's demand for an inquiry into alleged irregularities involving private lands included in the controversial '22-A' list. Reddy strongly condemned the alleged detention of BJP State president N.

Ramchander Rao near the Assembly, stating that he had taken up the students' concerns on behalf of the party. He further alleged that several BJP leaders and BJYM activists were detained at different locations to prevent them from participating in the protest. Questioning the government's response, Reddy asked why peaceful demonstrations were being denied permission and why police were deployed when opposition leaders approached the Assembly to raise public concerns. He alleged that preventing BJP representatives from questioning the government inside the House while detaining party workers outside amounted to an attack on democratic values. The Union Minister also accused the Congress government of failing to honour promises made to students and unemployed youth before coming to power. He said public grievances could not be silenced through police action or blocked by barricades. Reddy called upon Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to immediately clear the outstanding fee reimbursement and scholarship payments. He also demanded a comprehensive judicial inquiry into alleged irregularities surrounding lands placed under the '22-A' category and sought justice for affected landowners. The BJP, Reddy asserted, would continue its agitation despite arrests and police restrictions. He said the party would persist with its campaign until the students' financial dues were released and justice was delivered to those affected by the disputed land listings. Reddy maintained that attempts to suppress protests would only strengthen the BJP's resolve to raise public issues and hold the government accountable.

Kavitha Raises Law and Order Concerns



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Rakshana Sena president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Director General of Police C.V. Anand over the police response to derogatory social media comments allegedly directed at her. Addressing reporters at the TRS office, Kavitha questioned whether the DGP had secured his position through merit or recommendation, while demanding stronger action against the constable accused of making objectionable remarks. She said merely suspending the constable was inadequate and sought his arrest to send a strong message against online abuse targeting women. Kavitha warned that failure to take action could lead her to raise the issue

on international platforms and damage the government's reputation. She also urged the DGP to examine relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Information Technology laws dealing with online offences and defamatory or obscene content. She questioned the level of protection available to ordinary women, saying that even her long public career had not prevented her from facing such alleged abuse. Kavitha also referred to the DGP's reported remarks on the rise in crime and illegal cannabis trafficking in the State, questioning the government's handling of law-and-order concerns. Kavitha also criticised both the Congress government and BRS, accusing them of engaging in political exchanges instead of concentrating on public problems. She said issues such as fee reimbursement, Rythu Bharosa and law and order required greater attention. Separately, Kavitha visited the family of a young nurse from Bhadradi Kothagudem district who died in Hyderabad following an alleged sexual assault and murder. She expressed concern over what she described as gaps in the investigation and sought a transparent and humane inquiry. Kavitha alleged that important details, including the hospital's identity, were absent from the police report and FIR. She demanded that the hospital premises be secured and called for the case to be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), saying an independent probe was necessary to establish the facts.

Major Temple Reconstruction Begins

Continue

programme would improve facilities for devotees and strengthen infrastructure around the temple. Bhatti also highlighted preparations for the Godavari Pushkaralu, saying nine major development projects worth Rs 58.55 crore had been initiated. These include new bathing ghats estimated at Rs 22.16 crore to facilitate pilgrims and an electrical substation at Thimmapur costing Rs 2.48 crore. The Deputy Chief Minister said the government planned to develop important temples located along the Godavari river corridor from Basara to Bhadrachalam. He added that extensive arrangements were being made to conduct the Pushkaralu on a grand scale. According to Bhatti, the government has earmarked about Rs 1,000 crore for Pushkaralu-related preparations. The planned works are aimed at improving pilgrim amenities, strengthening basic infrastructure and enhancing the religious tourism potential of major Godavari pilgrimage centres. The Dharmapuri temple development is expected to be an important component of the wider programme, combining heritage conservation with improved facilities for devotees and visitors.

Tension Erupts Between Police and BRS Leaders in Telangana Assembly

A. Revanth Reddy, ministers and legislators from the Congress, BJP, AIMIM and CPI condemned the remarks and demanded action against Tata Madhu. Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar became visibly emotional during the debate and broke down in tears while responding to the issue. Meanwhile, BJP MLAs, who had been demanding a discussion on Section 22A and prohibited lands since the beginning of the session, staged a walkout in the evening after their demand was not taken up.

KTR, BRS Leaders Injured in Assembly Gate Scuffle

Assembly Speaker. However, Khairatabad Zone DCP Shilpavalli said police stopped the BRS leaders following instructions from the Speaker because the T-shirts contained objectionable wording. She denied any improper behaviour by police and said CCTV and video footage from the incident would be reviewed.

KTR Condemns Police Action

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) strongly criticised the Telangana government and police over the treatment of party women legislators during a confrontation outside the Legislative Assembly on Monday. He alleged that the police action against senior leaders, particularly former ministers P. Sabitha Indra Reddy and V. Sunitha Laxma Reddy, was excessive and undignified. Similar allegations were reported by multiple news organisations, while police maintained that the BRS legislators were stopped over the protest slogans displayed on their black T-shirts. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, KTR said BRS legislators had gone to the Assembly to raise public issues and register their dissent over what the party described as the Congress government's failure to fulfil its promises after 1,000 days in office. He argued that opposition parties have a legitimate role in expressing disagreement in legislative institutions. KTR alleged that Sunitha Laxma Reddy was pulled by her saree during the confrontation and came dangerously close to the iron barricades. He said he was disturbed by the possibility of her suffering a serious injury. News reports also carried allegations from Sunitha that police personnel pulled her saree during the scuffle. He further alleged that Sabitha Indra Reddy was handled roughly by male police personnel, including an allegation that her hair was pulled. A video showing a security official apparently pulling Sabitha's hair circulated widely and triggered a political controversy. The allegations have been disputed by authorities, with police saying the circumstances surrounding the incident could be examined through available footage. KTR questioned the government's approach to political dissent, saying the women leaders involved were experienced politicians who had served as ministers and legislators for many years. He highlighted their political careers and said their treatment



during the protest was unacceptable. He also invoked the phrase "Dushasana Sabha" while describing the incident, alleging that the atmosphere outside the Assembly had undermined the dignity associated with the legislature. His remarks echoed criticism from other BRS leaders, who termed the episode a "black day" and demanded accountability for the police action. The confrontation occurred after BRS legislators arrived at the Assembly wearing black T-shirts carrying slogans criticising the Congress government's performance during its 1,000 days in office. Police stopped the legislators from entering the premises, leading to a scuffle and the detention of KTR, former minister T. Harish Rao and several others. KTR said the incident raised broader questions about democratic dissent, the treatment of elected representatives and the functioning of legislative institutions. The BRS subsequently called for protests across Telangana against what it described as police high-handedness. The controversy also reached the Telangana High Court, which directed the Director General of Police to initiate action regarding the alleged manhandling of BRS women legislators. The episode has intensified the confrontation between the ruling Congress and opposition BRS on the opening day of the Assembly session, with both sides trading allegations over political conduct, protest rights and the treatment of elected representatives.

BJP Vows to Intensify Student Agitation



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Monday accused the Congress and BRS of engaging in a "match-fixing" drama in the Assembly to divert attention from major public issues, particularly Rs 15,000 crore in pending fee reimbursement and scholarship dues and disputes involving private lands listed under the controversial '22-A' category. Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office in Hyderabad, Rao said the party had been raising the fee reimbursement issue for several months but alleged that the Congress government had failed to respond to students' concerns. He said the BJP's youth wing had collected representations carrying signatures of nearly eight lakh students and sought an appointment with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to submit them. Rao alleged that the delegation was earlier stopped at the Secretariat gate while attempting to meet the Chief Secretary. He also claimed that police initially agreed to permit a Student Maha Sabha at Indira Park but later withdrew permission, citing "pressure from above." The BJP leader condemned the police action during the party's attempt to lay

siege to the Assembly, alleging that more than 1,000 BJP leaders and workers were detained across Telangana and that preventive house arrests were conducted in several districts. He further alleged that some party workers and leaders suffered injuries during police action, while some were hospitalized. Rao questioned why the government was allegedly preventing peaceful programmes and said students and political parties had a democratic right to raise public grievances. He accused the Congress and BRS of deliberately creating disturbances in the Assembly to prevent discussion on fee reimbursement and '22-A' land issues. He said the BJP respected the constitutional position of the Assembly Speaker and condemned inappropriate remarks made against the Speaker. At the same time, he alleged that BJP legislators were not being given adequate opportunity to raise public concerns. On the land issue, Rao claimed that private properties had been brought under the '22-A' prohibited list during the previous BRS government through Dharani and alleged that many such disputes remained unresolved despite the introduction of Bhu Bhārathi by the Congress government. Rao said the BJP would continue its campaign both inside and outside the Assembly. BJP MLAs, led by legislative party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, would raise public issues in the House, while party workers would intensify protests outside. He announced that the BJP planned to submit a representation to the Governor and approach District Collectors across Telangana. Rao said the party would continue its agitation until the fee reimbursement dues were released and genuine '22-A' land grievances were addressed.

BJP Leaders Held at Assembly

Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Several BJP leaders were arrested at the Telangana Legislative Assembly gate on Monday while attempting to intensify the party's protest over pending fee reimbursement dues and other public issues. The detained leaders were reportedly shifted to Kulsumpura Police Station. The arrests came amid heightened political activity around the ongoing Assembly session, with opposition parties stepping up protests against the Congress government. The BJP has been demanding the release of long-pending fee reimbursement and scholarship dues, which it says are affecting thousands of students across Telangana.



Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar condemned the arrests and demanded the unconditional release of the detained BJP

leaders. He accused the state government of attempting to suppress the party's democratic agitation instead of addressing the concerns being raised by students and their families. Sanjay said the BJP would not withdraw from the campaign and vowed to continue the agitation until the government fulfilled its commitments, including clearing the pending fee reimbursement amounts.

The party has repeatedly raised the issue in recent weeks, with BJP leaders staging protests and attempting to approach government offices with representations from students. Bandi Sanjay further declared that the BJP would continue its political campaign against the Congress government and would not rest until what the party described as unfulfilled promises were addressed. The BJP has indicated that its agitation will continue both inside and outside the Assembly, keeping student welfare and fee reimbursement at the centre of its campaign. The developments are expected to intensify the political confrontation between the ruling Congress and opposition parties during the ongoing session.

Government School Gets Rs 12 Crore Upgrade



Medchal, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has sanctioned Rs 12 crore for the development of the Government Boys' School in Medchal town under the Telangana Public School (TGPS) scheme, Telangana State Council of Higher Education Admissions and Fee Regulatory Committee member Reddangari Naveen Reddy said on Monday. Welcoming the government's decision, Naveen Reddy said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was taking steps to strengthen the education system and improve the quality of learning in government institutions. He said the government's focus was on providing students with better educational opportunities and building a strong foundation

for their future. Naveen Reddy said the newly sanctioned funds would help upgrade infrastructure at the Medchal Government Boys' School and create a more conducive environment for students. He said strengthening government schools was essential to ensuring that children from economically weaker, rural and socially disadvantaged communities could access quality education. He explained that the Telangana Public School initiative seeks to provide modern educational facilities and standards comparable with leading private institutions, while ensuring that such opportunities remain accessible to students irrespective of their economic background. According to Naveen Reddy, investment in school infrastructure would improve the overall learning environment and encourage more families to choose government institutions for their children's education. He expressed confidence that the measures being undertaken by the government would contribute to long-term improvements in the education sector. On behalf of the people of Medchal, Naveen Reddy thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for sanctioning the Rs 12 crore development package. He said the funding would give a significant boost to the school and benefit students in the region.

Cricket Selections Draw 170 Players



Quthbullapur, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Zonal-level cricket selections for the Under-14 and Under-17 boys' teams were held at the Karthikeya Cricket Grounds in Bowrampet, providing young players from across the Quthbullapur zone an opportunity to showcase their cricketing abilities. A total of 170 players representing various schools participated in the selection trials. The youngsters competed for limited places in the zonal teams, displaying their skills in batting, bowling and fielding before the selectors. The selections were conducted under the supervision of P. Nagaraj Goud, Quthbullapur SGF Zonal Secretary. Players were assessed on their overall cricketing talent and performance during the trials. Those who impressed the selectors were shortlisted for the next stage of competi-

tions. Physical Education Directors Vinod, Vijay, Ramesh, Suresh and Sunil were present during the event and assisted with the smooth conduct of the selection process. The trials witnessed enthusiastic participation from the young cricketers, with players striving to make an impression and secure a place in the Quthbullapur zone teams. The organizers appreciated the efforts of the participating students and physical education staff. They expressed confidence that the selected players would continue to develop their skills and perform strongly in upcoming competitions. The zonal selections are expected to provide the young cricketers with valuable exposure and an opportunity to compete at higher levels while bringing recognition to the Quthbullapur zone.

Parking Worsens Traffic



Quthbullapur, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Traffic congestion near the Suraram signal in Quthbullapur is worsening, with ongoing underground drainage works and haphazard parking creating additional difficulties for motorists and pedestrians on the busy Narsapur-Balanagar main road. The road witnesses heavy traffic throughout the day, with hundreds of vehicles using the route. However, reduced road space due to drainage works has made traffic movement increasingly difficult. The situation is reportedly aggravated by vehicles being parked along road margins and on footpaths. Particular concern has been raised over parking near the Quthbullapur Registration Office. Some motorists visiting the office are reportedly leaving their vehicles on pedestrian footpaths, leaving little or no space for people to walk. As a result, pedestrians are being forced to move onto the main carriageway, exposing them to the risk of accidents while further affecting traffic flow. Residents say the problem becomes more noticeable during busy hours, when even

vehicles waiting briefly at the Suraram signal contribute to growing queues. The combination of road works and indiscriminate parking has effectively reduced the available space for moving traffic. Motorists say congestion could become more severe if parking violations continue unchecked while drainage works remain underway. Local residents have urged traffic police to take strict action against vehicles parked on footpaths and along restricted road margins. They have also sought temporary traffic-management measures around the signal and the Registration Office to regulate vehicle movement. Pedestrians and motorists believe that keeping footpaths clear, preventing roadside parking and managing traffic during peak hours could provide immediate relief. They said coordinated measures are particularly necessary until the drainage project is completed and normal road space is restored. Residents hope authorities will address the issue promptly to improve pedestrian safety and ease congestion at one of the busy junctions along the Narsapur-Balanagar route.

YouTuber Held at Airport

Shamshabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

YouTuber Nandana was taken into custody by Shamshabad Airport police after she was identified at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport while a lookout notice was reportedly in force against her. According to police, Nandana was detained at the airport and subsequently handed over by RGIA police to the Ibrahimpatnam police for further investigation. She and her husband are facing allegations of collecting substantial amounts of money from people by promising to arrange jobs in London. The matter came to police attention after several individuals reportedly approached authorities with complaints alleging that they had paid money in connection with overseas employment opportunities. Based on the complaints and cases registered in connection with the allegations, police initiated an investigation. Officials said the lookout notice helped authorities identify Nandana when she arrived at the airport. Following her detention, the case was transferred to the concerned



Ibrahimpatnam police for further legal proceedings. Police are examining the complaints, financial transactions and other evidence related to the alleged job scam. Investigators are also expected to question the accused and verify the claims made by the complainants. Authorities said further action would be taken based on the findings of the investigation and the cases already registered. Police are continuing efforts to establish the full circumstances surrounding the alleged collection of money and the promises of employment in London.

Congress Workers Protest Against BRS



Jagadgirigutta, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Political tensions surrounding the ongoing Telangana Assembly session spilled into Jagadgirigutta in Quthbullapur constituency on Monday, as Congress workers staged a protest against the BRS over recent controversies involving its leaders. The protesters objected to allegations that BRS leaders had manhandled police personnel during a confrontation outside the Assembly and used objectionable language against Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. Congress leaders said such conduct was unacceptable and demanded accountability from the opposition party. Following directions from PCC SC Department chairman Mahesh Kumar and Kavvampalli Satyanarayana, Congress workers organised a demonstration at Bhudevi Hills in Jagadgirigutta. During the protest, they burnt effigies representing BRS leaders K. Chandrashekar Rao, K. T. Rama Rao, T. Harish Rao and BRS MLC Tata Madhu. The demonstration was led by

Parliamentary Constituency in-charge Dr Gaddam Srinivas and State/District Vice-Chairman Kavvali Chandrayya. Addressing the gathering, Congress leaders strongly criticised the BRS leadership and accused the party of undermining democratic and constitutional institutions. They said disagreements between political parties should be expressed through democratic forums rather than through alleged confrontations with police or remarks that could undermine the dignity of the Speaker's office. The protest briefly heightened political activity in the locality before concluding peacefully. Congress workers reiterated their demand that the alleged incidents involving BRS leaders be properly examined and that appropriate action be taken if violations are established. Solomon Raju, Arun Kumar, Shaik Sharif, Gaddam Prasad, Sravan Kumar, Kausalya, Madhavi Reddy, Lalitha, Yuvaraj, Somesh, Rahesh, Dhanush, Bhuni, Sunny, Manish and other local Congress leaders and workers participated in the demonstration.

DGP Orders Tight Security for Ganesh Festivities



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Director-General of Police C.V. Anand has directed police officials to make comprehensive security arrangements for the peaceful conduct of Ganesh festivities across the State. During a video conference with senior officers and Station House Officers on Monday, Anand reviewed preparations for the celebrations scheduled from September 14 to September 25, including the final-day immersion of Ganesh idols. The DGP said a dedicated online portal had been introduced to collect and monitor information on Ganesh pandals. Details including locations, organisers, committee members and vehicles planned for idol immersion should be updated on the platform. SHOs have been given individual logins to monitor activities and arrangements at the pandals. Anand instructed Commissioners, DCPs and SPs to personally inspect pandals and record their observations. Particular attention should be given to electrical safety and traffic management, with police coordinating with electricity, fire and other relevant departments.

He urged organisers to deploy volunteers and install CCTV cameras besides making suitable arrangements for regulating queues. Officials were asked to gather advance information on immersion routes, roads and bridges, including their load-bearing capacity, to ensure safe movement during the immersion on September 25. The DGP directed officers to use geo-tagging and the event application to record pandal locations and security measures. Bomb disposal teams and dog squads should also be deployed at appropriate locations. Verification and geo-tagging details should be uploaded on the TG-COP platform. Anand stressed coordination among police stations and directed senior officers to hold meetings with Ganesh Utsav committees and peace committees. Police personnel assigned to bandobast duties should receive proper briefings. He also ordered officials to monitor social media closely and respond promptly to developments that could affect public order. Senior police officials, including DG Technical Services V.V. Srinivasa Rao and other senior officers, participated in the meeting.

Police Warn Against Forced Extortion

Quthbullapur, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Jeedimetla police have warned against forced extortion and intimidation during shop inaugurations, housewarming ceremonies, festivals and other celebratory events, stating that legal action will be taken against those who violate the law. The warning followed an extortion complaint registered at Jeedimetla police station after two transgender individuals allegedly visited the inauguration of a salon in Balaji Layout, Gajulararamam. According to police, they demanded money from the salon owner and allegedly threatened to return with other members of their community and create a disturbance if the demand was not met. Following the incident, Jeedimetla police organised a meeting and counselling session with members of the transgender community at the police station. During the interaction, officers explained that demanding money through threats, coercion or intimidation was unlawful and could cause inconvenience to members of the public. Police urged community members to avoid creating disturbances at public or private celebrations, including business openings, housewarming ceremonies and festivals. They stressed that participation in such events should not involve forcing organisers or individuals to make payments. Jeedimetla Station House Officer K. Ravikumar



warned that repeated incidents would invite strict legal action. He said there would be no exemption for anyone found engaging in unlawful extortion, intimidation or activities that disturb public peace. Police also advised members of the community to approach authorities through lawful channels if they faced grievances rather than resorting to threats or coercive methods. The counselling session was aimed at creating awareness about legal boundaries while maintaining cordial relations between the transgender community, business owners and residents. Police officials said preventing such incidents would help ensure that celebrations and public events take place peacefully without fear or disruption. Residents and business owners have welcomed the police warning and called for continued awareness programmes to prevent disputes and maintain public order in the Jeedimetla area.

Police Crack Five Cases

Quthbullapur, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Jagadgirigutta police have solved five criminal cases within two days, arresting the accused and recovering stolen cash, gold, mobile phones and high-value batteries in a swift investigation. In a fraud and IT Act case, police arrested Kaminreddi Shiva Mohan Reddy, a former SSB constable. Investigators said the accused developed an online betting habit and allegedly used relationships with people to gain their confidence before committing fraud. In the case under investigation, he reportedly obtained around Rs 9 lakh in cash and 3.5 tolas of gold from a victim by claiming that the money was required for family and medical expenses. Police found that the gold had been pledged at Canara Bank in Kamtham. He was also reportedly facing earlier cases in Markapuram and Giddalur. Police separately cracked a series of nighttime burglaries reported in Asbestos Colony over



the previous 15 days. Garikapati Venkatesh was arrested and allegedly identified as the suspect behind thefts at three houses. Stolen property included a

mobile phone, silver articles, three grams of gold and Rs 60,000 cash. Police recovered the mobile phone and gold. In another case, Thota Guruvappa was

arrested for allegedly stealing four large batteries from an electric vehicle charging station in Jagadgirigutta. Each battery was valued at around Rs 2.5 lakh, putting the total value of the recovered property at Rs 10 lakh. Police traced the accused to Giddalur, where he was arrested, and recovered the batteries after finding that they had allegedly been sold to a scrap dealer. The rapid investigations were carried out under the directions of the Quthbullapur DCP and supervision of the ACP. Police teams used technological tools and investigative methods to trace the suspects and recover the stolen property. CI Suresh, Detective Inspector Narendra Reddy, ASI Ramkumar, PCs Naresh Goud and Ramesh, and WPC Suma played key roles in the investigations. Senior police officials appreciated the team's performance and rewarded the personnel involved for their prompt action and successful detection of the five cases.

Rural Students to Get Modern School Facilities

Station Ghanpur, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Former Deputy Chief Minister and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari on Monday expressed gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for allocating a Telangana Public School to the constituency, describing the decision as a major boost to education in the region. The government has selected the existing Government School at Narayanagiri in Dharmasagar mandal, which falls under the Station Ghanpur constituency, for development as a Telangana Public School. Srihari welcomed the move and thanked the Chief Minister on behalf of students, parents and residents of the constituency. The development was also reported locally on September 7. According to Srihari, the school will be upgraded with modern, corporate-standard facilities at an estimated cost of around Rs 10 crore. The proposed model is expected to provide education from the pre-primary level through intermediate on a single campus, enabling students



to pursue their education without having to shift institutions at different stages. He said the initiative would particularly benefit children from economically weaker families and those belonging to SC, ST, BC and other marginalised communities. By bringing improved infra-

structure and quality education to a government institution, the programme could help rural students access facilities comparable to those available in private schools. The Telangana government has been promoting public education through initiatives aimed at improving quality,

equity and holistic development. The School Education Department states that providing quality education and equal opportunities is among its key priorities. The Telangana Public School model has already been showcased by the government. In June, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inaugurated a Telangana Public School at Arutla in Rangareddy district, offering English-medium education from pre-primary to intermediate on one campus along with modern classrooms, laboratories, digital learning facilities and sports infrastructure. Srihari said the allocation of a similar institution to Station Ghanpur would strengthen the constituency's education infrastructure and provide children from rural backgrounds with greater access to quality schooling. He reiterated his special appreciation to Revanth Reddy for selecting the constituency and said the project would mark an important step towards improving educational opportunities for local students.

Poet Receives Nannaya Kavi Award



Sathupalli, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Poet and retired teacher Mandapati Satyanarayana Reddy of the Sathupalli region has been honoured with the prestigious Nannaya Kavi National Award for his contribution to Telugu literature. The award was presented at a programme held on Sunday at the Potti Sriramulu district headquarters in Nellore. Representatives of the M.V. Rao Foundation, Muppavarapu Leela Mohan Krishna and M. Vijayalakshmi, presented the honour to the noted poet. Satyanarayana Reddy

earned recognition for his unique literary work, Sarva Seesa Mahabharata, in which he rendered the entire Mahabharata in 2,140 Seesa verses. Seesa is a traditional Telugu poetic metre known for its distinctive rhythmic structure. The organisers said the national award was conferred in appreciation of the poet's innovative effort to present the complete epic exclusively through Seesa verses. His work was described as a notable achievement in Telugu poetic literature. Members of the literary and retired employees' communities congratulated the poet on the recognition. Ramakrishna, Vasu, Madhusudana Raju, Kesava Reddy and Prakasa Rao conveyed their greetings on behalf of the Srujana Sahiti Samakhyha and the Telangana State Government Retired Employees Association. The award marks another significant recognition for Satyanarayana Reddy's sustained contribution to Telugu literature and his efforts to preserve traditional poetic forms.

CITU Seeks Board Representation



Gajwel, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

CITU Siddipet district president Sandaboyina Yellayya has demanded that the Central Government provide representation to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) in the newly announced Minimum Wages Advisory Board. A protest with placards was organised by CITU at Ambedkar Crossroads in Gajwel town on Monday. Addressing the gathering, Yellayya alleged that the Centre was undermining democratic principles by excluding CITU, which represents the interests of workers, from the advisory body. He questioned the composition of the newly announced board, alleging that details of its membership had not been made public. According to Yellayya, such advisory bodies traditionally include representatives of the government, employers and workers. He alleged that major trade unions, including CITU, AITUC and INTUC, had been left out while unions considered closer to the government were given representation.

Yellayya alleged that the exclusion was linked to CITU's opposition to policies that it believes adversely affect workers. He said the union had been campaigning among employees against the four labour codes and what it described as measures that could weaken workers' rights and protections. The CITU leader urged workers to remain united and prepare for future struggles to safeguard their interests. He said representation of recognised trade unions was essential for ensuring that workers' concerns were heard while framing policies related to minimum wages and employment conditions. CITU district assistant secretary Chandra Reddy and several district leaders, including Sudhakar, Kanaraju, Parashuramulu, Bhupathi Raju, Yadagiri, Praveen, Bandla Srinu, Ravi, Shravan, Rajender Reddy, Murali, Anjaneyulu and Ramesh, participated in the protest. The union's demand comes amid continuing debate over the implementation of India's labour codes and the mechanisms for determining minimum wages. CITU has consistently opposed provisions it says could weaken labour protections and has called for greater participation of central trade unions in labour-policy discussions. Yellayya said the organisation would continue mobilising workers and pressing the Centre to ensure representation for major trade unions in wage-related policymaking.

BJP Protest Over Fee Dues



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The BJP's attempt to lay siege to the Telangana Assembly over pending fee reimbursement dues triggered tension in Hyderabad on Monday, with police detaining several party and Yuva Morcha leaders at different locations. As the Assembly session was underway, BJP activists and leaders gathered near the Assembly premises as part of their protest. Police intercepted the protesters as a precautionary measure and detained several of them. BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao was arrested and taken to Golconda Police Station. Speaking from the police station, Ramchander Rao criticised the govern-

ment's handling of the issue and said the party was protesting to safeguard the interests of students. He claimed that permission for a student demonstration at Dharna Chowk had been denied by the DCP, prompting the BJP to plan the Assembly protest. Ramchander Rao said the party had been pursuing the release of pending fee reimbursement amounts for a long time and had collected signatures from nearly eight lakh students. He alleged that the BJP sought an appointment with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to submit the signatures but was not given one. He said that several BJP leaders were injured during the arrests and that some were receiving treatment in hospitals. According to him, around 600 people had been detained, with about 55 protesters lodged at Golconda Police Station at the time of his statement. Calling the government's approach repressive, Ramchander Rao questioned the denial of permission for protests. He said the BJP would continue its agitation until the pending fee reimbursement dues were cleared and accused the Congress government of suppressing democratic protests.

Collector Reviews Health Services



Hanamkonda, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Hanamkonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai reviewed the functioning of the Medical and Health Department and directed officials to strengthen maternal and child healthcare services across the district. During a review meeting at the District Collectorate on Monday, the Collector examined key areas including registration of pregnant women, deliveries in government hospitals and Caesarean sections being performed at private hospitals. Bajpai instructed medical officers and health staff to ensure that pregnant women receive monthly health check-ups through government hospitals and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). She stressed the importance of improving maternal healthcare and encouraging normal deliveries wherever medically appropriate. The Collector also directed officials to closely monitor Caesarean delivery rates in private hospitals and conduct regular audits. Hospitals reporting unusually high num-

bers of C-section deliveries should be inspected frequently, she said, while measures must be taken to promote safe normal deliveries. She called for heightened surveillance against seasonal diseases and stressed the importance of providing timely medical services to prevent outbreaks. Officials were also instructed to strengthen immunisation activities and expand screening for non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Bajpai directed health teams to organise extensive screening camps at the field level, involving staff from hospitals and health centres. She emphasised that more medical and health camps should be conducted to improve access to services for people in rural and remote areas. The Collector said Hanamkonda should set an example in delivering effective healthcare services and urged officials to work with greater coordination and commitment. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Appayya, DIO Dr. Krishna Rao and other senior medical and health officials attended the meeting.

AAI Team Inspects Airport Sites



Kothagudem, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The proposed greenfield airport in Bhadradi Kothagudem district moved a step closer to technical evaluation with a multidisciplinary team from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) conducting field inspections on Monday. Led by AAI Member Bharat Reddy, the team examined several locations identified for the project, assessing land availability, terrain, runway suitability, flight approach funnels, night-landing facilities and aviation safety requirements. The inspection is part of a two-day technical visit to the district. The proposed sites include Seethampet and Sujathanagar in Sujathanagar mandal, Dummugudem, Chaparalapalli in Mulakalapalli mandal, Palvancha/Dammampet in Dammampet mandal and Penagadapa in Chunchupalli mandal. The team also held discussions with Khammam MP Ramasahayam Raghurami Reddy and District Collector Ankit at the Singareni Guest House. Officials discussed developing the airport with future requirements in mind, includ-

ing operations by ATR-72 aircraft as well as larger Airbus A320 and A321 planes. Technical experts are examining the feasibility of a 2,500-metre to 2,700-metre runway, along with land requirements, expansion possibilities, night operations and safety infrastructure. A nearby electrified coal transport railway line is also being studied because it could potentially fall within the aircraft approach funnel. Officials are exploring a Railway Department No Objection Certificate and technical solutions such as shielding, if required. The district administration has provided survey numbers, land records, revenue maps, coordinates, site boundaries, approach-road details and other technical information for verification. Raghurami Reddy said the airport could boost industrial, commercial and tourism activity while improving connectivity. Collector Ankit said all departments were coordinating with the AAI team. A technical feasibility report will be submitted to the government after completion of the assessment.

Sabitha Questions Police Action



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and BRS MLA Sabitha Indira Reddy strongly criticised the alleged police action against BRS women legislators outside the Telangana Assembly on Monday, questioning the manner in which protesters were prevented from entering the premises. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, Sabitha alleged that the personnel involved in the incident behaved aggressively and questioned whether some of those who confronted the BRS leaders were actually police personnel or people acting in police attire. She claimed that she was grabbed by the throat and hair and dragged during the confrontation. Sabitha also alleged that BRS MLA Sunitha Laxma Reddy's saree was pulled during the incident and accused the government of using excessive force against women legislators. She said the situation could have become more serious had BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao was

not present. The former minister criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's government, alleging that those who questioned its policies were being subjected to intimidation. She referred to student protests and claimed that young protesters had also faced police action. Sabitha questioned what she described as inconsistent standards for political protests, referring to instances in which opposition leaders had worn T-shirts carrying political images in Parliament. She also criticised Minister Seethakka for describing the BRS protest as "drama". Sabitha said the BRS legislators had sought to raise issues concerning the government's performance and its promises but were stopped at the Assembly gates. The BRS leader alleged that the police acted under political pressure and accused the government of failing to uphold democratic values. The ruling Congress has maintained its own position on the Assembly protest and security arrangements.

Collector Pushes Indiramma Housing

Nirmal, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra has directed officials to ensure that every eligible beneficiary in the district receives an Indiramma house, stressing the need for transparent identification and timely construction. The Collector issued the directions during a review meeting conducted through video conference with Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs) from

across the district on Monday. The meeting, held from the Collectorate, focused on the progress of Indiramma housing works and the identification of beneficiaries. Mishra reviewed the number of applications received from each mandal and instructed officials to scrutinise every application carefully before finalising eligible beneficiaries. He directed the MPDOs to ensure that the details of verified beneficiaries were promptly forwarded through their offi-

cial logins to the concerned higher authorities. The Collector also stressed the importance of accelerating construction of houses that have already been sanctioned and taken up. He asked officials to take necessary initiatives to remove delays and complete ongoing works as quickly as possible. Mishra further directed field-level officials to immediately bring technical difficulties encountered during construction to his notice so that appropriate solutions could

be worked out without delay. Emphasising the importance of timely implementation, he said officials must work in coordination to ensure that Indiramma housing projects are completed within the prescribed timeframe and that genuine beneficiaries receive the intended benefits. Additional Collector B. Venkateshwarlu, Housing Project Director Srinivas Reddy and other officials and staff participated in the review meeting.

Karimnagar, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The Satavahana Lions Club has received 16 awards for its outstanding service activities during the 2025-26 Lionistic Service Year, marking a significant achievement for the club. The awards were presented at a service appreciation programme organised by Lions International District 320G Area Leader Lion Deepak Battarjee and District Governor S. Kodandaram presented the honours to club office-bearers and members for their dedicated contributions. Past President Lion Dasari Tirupati Reddy said the recognition reflected the commitment of members who had worked consistently for community wel-

fare. President-Secretary-Treasurer Lion D. Tirupati Reddy, Lion G. Chandrasekhar and Lion P. Surenderappa were among those honoured for their services. The club also received the Best Lions Quest Banner for the first time following the successful completion of a youth training programme led by Lion Capt. Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy. He was additionally recognised with the Melvin Jones Badge and a Best Quest Training Banner award. Senior Lions, including K. Rajender Reddy, P. Prasad Rao, B. Narsingarao and others, received special honours for their distinguished service. Members completing 24 years with the club were also congratulated.

Editorial

Political Domination
Overshadows
People's Problems

The opening day of the Telangana Assembly Sessions once again exposed the growing gap between political competition and the real problems faced by the people. Instead of using the Assembly as a platform to discuss public issues and find practical solutions, both the Opposition and the ruling party appeared more interested in gaining political advantage.

The Opposition seems determined to create tension and confront the police, while the ruling party is attempting to target Opposition leaders and expose their alleged conduct in the name of political values and accountability. In this political battle, both sides appear to be competing for dominance rather than demonstrating seriousness about governance.

Every confrontation is being treated as an opportunity to score political points. Every controversy is being converted into a weapon against the other side. The Opposition wants to portray the government as authoritarian, while the ruling party seeks to project the Opposition as irresponsible and disruptive. This cycle may benefit political parties in the short term, but it does little to benefit ordinary citizens.

The real concern is that the Assembly is gradually becoming an arena for political championship rather than a forum for addressing people's grievances. Issues relating to employment, development, welfare, infrastructure, education, healthcare and the economy require serious debate and constructive solutions. Instead, political energy is being consumed by accusations, counter-accusations and confrontations.

Both sides must recognise that people did not elect their representatives merely to witness political battles. They expect their representatives to debate issues, question policies, provide alternatives and ensure that governance improves.

The coming elections may be influencing the strategies of both the ruling party and the Opposition. However, electoral calculations cannot permanently replace public responsibility. Political parties may gain temporary mileage from confrontation, but people ultimately judge governments and Opposition leaders by their performance. Telangana needs politics that delivers solutions, not politics that thrives on tension. The Assembly must return to its real purpose: representing the people and resolving their problems.

-Editor

A 20-Seat Public Mood...
A Signal for Pawan's Role in 2029?

Jana Sena's Independent Litmus Test in Local Body Polls



Chennu Peddiraju

Senior Journalist

Political Stature
Pawan Kalyan's evolving profile is another factor to consider. He is no longer just the president of Jana Sena; he is the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh holding major ministerial portfolios. He has also established a distinct profile within the national NDA. On his recent birthday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Pawan Kalyan as a widely respected public figure and commended his role in driving good governance under the NDA in Andhra Pradesh. While this does not indicate an imminent chief ministerial role, it reflects a political stature that extends beyond state boundaries into national NDA circles. Where Does Chandrababu Naidu Stand?

Political analysis requires nuance here: pointing out Pawan's political rise does not imply an erosion of Chandrababu Naidu's standing. The two leaders possess distinct political strengths. Mainly Chandrababu Naidu has Decades of administrative experience, a statewide organizational network built over four decades, and extensive political capital. Where as Pawan Kalyan Personal mass appeal, strong youth support, a central role in forging the 2024 alliance, and his executive responsibilities in government. Viewing the 2029 elections through a "Chandrababu vs. Pawan" lens is an oversimplification. The real question is how each party expands its independent organizational base while preserving coalition unity. Between now and 2029, the political ground can shift along several axes. Before the readers many questions poses. How effectively will the government

deliver on its commitments? How will public perception of the coalition evolve? To what extent can the YSRCP rebuild its grassroots machinery? How will the leadership succession dynamic evolve within the TDP? How much ground strength will Jana Sena demonstrate in local elections? How far can the BJP expand its independent footprint in the state? Without clarity on these factors, determining the leadership landscape for 2029 remains speculative.

Where the Story Truly Begins
The projected 20 Lok Sabha seats reflect the enduring strength of the coalition. Simultaneously, Jana Sena's proactive posture ahead of local elections introduces an independent test of strength. Taken together, the central question surrounding Pawan Kalyan's political trajectory is not "Will he become Chief Minister tomorrow?" Rather, it is: "How much will his political leverage within the coalition expand by 2029?" Local body elections are poised to provide the first answers. If Jana Sena delivers on its expectations, Pawan Kalyan's role in future political discussions will naturally draw greater focus. This neither guarantees a chief ministerial bid nor implies an immediate alternative to Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. What it will measure is whether Jana Sena is successfully transitioning from a junior coalition partner into an increasingly consequential political force in its own right. For now, political focus remains on the upcoming local body polls-where the opening chapter of the 2029 narrative will likely be written.

The 2029 Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh are still a long way off, yet the maneuvers of political parties already point in that direction. In particular, the Jana Sena Party (JSP), a partner in the ruling coalition, is crafting fresh plans for its political expansion. At this juncture, the latest India Today-CVoter Mood of the Nation (MOTN) survey projected that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would secure 20 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh. The survey projected: TDP-JSP combine: 18-19 seats, BJP: 1-3 seats, YSRCP: 4-5 seats. These figures estimate outcomes if parliamentary elections were held today-they are not a direct projection of the 2029 Assembly election results. Nevertheless, a buzz has emerged on social media claiming that, according to the survey, the public wants Pawan Kalyan to become Chief Minister in 2029.

What Is the Real Signal from the Survey?

The primary takeaway for Andhra Pradesh is the substantial public goodwill the ruling NDA coalition continues to enjoy. In 2024, the TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP joined forces to prevent a split in the anti-incumbency vote, handing the YSRCP a heavy defeat. Two years into governance, a projection of 20 Lok Sabha seats for the alliance is a notable political indicator. However, this raises a pertinent question: should this 20-seat projection be seen solely as the strength of the Telugu Desam Party, or does Jana Sena hold a significant political stake in it? This question brings Jana Sena's upcoming strategic moves into sharp focus.

Pawan's 2024 Decision vs. Jana Sena's 2026 Strategy
Pawan Kalyan's political decision ahead of the 2024 elections was clear: forge an alliance with the TDP and the BJP. He consistently maintained that the coalition was essential for govern-

mental stability. A few months after forming the government, he openly praised Chandrababu Naidu's leadership on the floor of the Assembly, stating that Naidu should continue as Chief Minister for another decade. In 2025, he reaffirmed his commitment to alliance unity, expressing confidence that the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance could endure for 15 to 20 years. Viewing Jana Sena's current 2026 strategy as an attempt to find an alternative to Chandrababu Naidu would be premature. The objective is different: strengthening Jana Sena's independent organizational footprint while remaining an integral part of the coalition.

Local Body Polls: The Real Litmus Test

This is why the upcoming local body elections are becoming pivotal. In the 2024 Assembly elections, Jana Sena contested 21 seats. The party now believes the same seat-sharing ratio should not automatically apply to local body elections. Instead, it is advancing the idea of contesting wherever the party possesses ground strength. Reports indicate that party chief Pawan Kalyan has instructed Jana Sena MLAs not to confine them-

selves to their assembly segments, but to assess organizational strength across broader regions. The party appears to be preparing to pitch for a more substantial share of seats in local elections. This marks a meaningful shift: local elections will reveal where voters back Jana Sena on its own merits rather than purely as part of the broader coalition vote.

A Test of Jana Sena's Independent Strength

Attributing Jana Sena's 2024 success entirely to its stand-alone strength is as premature as reducing it solely to the alliance. The synergy of the TDP, JSP, and BJP was evident in the final tally. Now, the party faces a different challenge: how far can it build its grassroots organizational machinery while leveraging the alliance? If Jana Sena contests a wider slate of local body seats and secures substantial victories, its political bargaining power within the coalition will naturally increase by 2029. Conversely, subpar results would signal that its organizational structure still has ground to cover. Local elections are therefore an acid test of Jana Sena's institutional capacity. Pawan's Expanding

Degrees Are Increasing...

Why Are Jobs Declining?



Higher education in India has expanded rapidly over the past few decades. What was once accessible only to a limited section of society has now reached even rural areas. By 2023, the share of graduates among young people aged 20-29 had increased from just 4 per cent in 1983 to 28 per cent. This represents a remarkable expansion of educational opportunities. However, at the same time, the number of graduates in this age group had reached 63 million, of whom around 11 million were unemployed. This is where the real problem lies. India is educating an increasing number of young people, but its economy has not created employment opportunities at the same pace for those who are becoming more educated. The State of Working India 2026, released by

Azim Premji University, also highlights this contradiction. The number of graduates has increased much faster than the availability of graduate-level employment. At the same time, people with degrees continue to earn higher average incomes, indicating that the value of education itself has not disappeared. The deeper problem lies in the transition from education to employment. In other words, the degree still has value, but the pathway from a degree to a suitable job has become increasingly weak. One major reason is the widening gap between the education system and the labour market. Students often pursue degrees primarily to obtain formal qualifications, while employers increasingly demand practical skills, work experience, communication abilities and tech-

nological competence. As a result, there are young people who possess degrees but lack the skills required for available jobs, while others possess the necessary skills but cannot find suitable employment. However, attributing unemployment entirely to a lack of skills would present only half the reality. According to the Institute for Human Development and ILO report, the Indian economy is not creating enough well-paying, white-collar jobs to match the growing number of highly educated young people. The problem is particularly severe among young people from economically disadvantaged and socially marginalised communities. This is one of the reasons why millions of young Indians continue to compete for government jobs. The huge num-

ber of applications received for even a single government vacancy is not merely a reflection of an obsession with government employment. It reflects the search for stable income, job security and social dignity. Although the private sector offers employment opportunities, not all of them provide the kind of jobs young people aspire to. Low wages, contractual employment, lack of job security and long working hours remain significant concerns. Therefore, the important question is not simply whether jobs exist, but what kind of jobs are available? Another important dimension is the situation of rural youth. Students in urban areas generally have greater access to coaching, internships, networking opportunities and pri-

vate training. In rural areas, however, many young people lack proper guidance on what to pursue after graduation, which skills to acquire and where employment opportunities exist. As a result, a large number of them spend several years preparing for competitive examinations.

Social inequality further deepens this problem. According to the ILO report, in 2022, unemployment among graduates or those with higher education was 35 per cent among SC youth and 33.4 per cent among ST youth, compared with 28.7 per cent among OBC youth and 26.5 per cent among the General Category. This clearly shows that obtaining a degree alone does not guarantee equal access to employment opportunities. Meanwhile, technological changes such as artificial intelligence and automation are likely to transform the nature of employment even further. Some traditional jobs may decline, some may undergo significant changes, while new categories of employment may emerge. The era in which a single degree could guarantee one stable career for an entire lifetime is therefore likely to become even less relevant. But the solution cannot simply be to ask every young person to collect more certificates and qualifications.

What is needed is a stronger connection between education and the labour market, greater opportunities for apprenticeships and internships within industries, stronger small and medium-sized enterprises, and economic policies

that actively create new and productive employment opportunities. The real problem facing India is not that there are 'too many degrees'. The problem is that quality employment is not growing at the same pace as the number of degree holders. An educated young population is one of India's greatest assets. But if the country fails to provide productive, dignified employment that matches their skills and aspirations, the same demographic advantage can turn into a major socio-economic challenge.

If India is to convert its demographic dividend into an economic dividend, narrowing the gap between education and employment must become an urgent priority. Therefore, it is not enough to question young people by asking, "What skills do you have?" The country must also ask, "How many jobs have been created that match those skills?" The expansion of colleges may be a sign of educational progress.

The rise in the number of degrees may reflect the expansion of access to higher education. But if young people continue to spend years searching for employment after earning those degrees, the problem cannot be viewed merely as a failure of the youth. It is a larger failure involving the education system, the economy and the labour market. India must not merely create more degrees. It must create enough quality jobs that give those degrees real economic value. That is the real measure of development.

Basada Sampath Yadav

Education Expert
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51,979 Tip-Offs Help Punjab Cops Arrest Over 25,000

Punjab's anti-drug campaign, Yudh Nashean Virudh, has received a major boost from citizen participation, with 51,979 tip-offs helping enforcement agencies arrest 25,339 people between March 1, 2025, and September 3, 2026. The tip-offs were received through the Safe Punjab Helpline (97791-00200), which allows citizens to provide information about suspected drug peddling and related activities. The figures show the growing role of public-generated intelligence in supporting the state's anti-narcotics enforcement efforts. According to the data, 59,293 FIRs have been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act during the campaign period. Of these, more than 25,000 arrests were linked to information received through citizen tip-offs. The crackdown has also targeted



major players in the drug trade. As many as 696 "big fish" were arrested with more than 2 kg of heroin each, indicating that enforcement agencies have focused on individuals allegedly handling large quantities rather than limiting action to street-level peddlers. The scale of recoveries further underlines the extent of the operation. Authorities seized 3,757 kg of

heroin, 964 kg of opium, 45 tonnes of poppy husk, 1,288 kg of ganja and 71 kg of methamphetamine, commonly known as ICE. In addition, 62 lakh tablets and capsules were recovered under the NDPS Act. The campaign also resulted in the seizure of Rs 22 crore in drug money. A total of 2,675 cases involving commercial quantities of drugs were registered.

Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said citizen tip-offs had provided additional strength to the Anti-Narcotics Task Force and expressed confidence that public participation would increase further. Nilabh Kishore, ADGP, Anti-Narcotics Task Force, Punjab, said the figures reflected an approach combining enforcement action with citizen-generated intelligence. The campaign has also focused on helping people struggling with addiction. Police facilitated the admission of 42,498 persons into de-addiction centres, while another 1,55,970 persons were taken to Outpatient Opioid Assisted Treatment (OOAT) clinics. Separately, 11,239 individuals received immunity under Section 64A of the NDPS Act after voluntarily undergoing treatment, highlighting the campaign's dual focus on disrupting drug networks and encouraging rehabilitation.

Rahul Gandhi Calls Punjab Protester, Police Personnel Face Action



Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has spoken to Mohanjit Singh Sheron, who is undergoing treatment at Civil Hospital, Sangrur, following allegations of police assault. The phone call has brought the controversy into the national political spotlight as the Congress stepped up its criticism of the Punjab government. Rahul Gandhi spoke to Sheron during a visit by Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring to the hospital. Warring facilitated the conversation between the Congress leader and Sheron, who was allegedly beaten after being detained by police during Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's event in Sangrur. The Punjab government has meanwhile initiated action against police personnel in connection with the incident. DSP Harwinder Singh has been transferred, while Inspector Partek Jindal, SI Baljit Singh and ASI Harpreet Singh have been sent to the Sangrur Police Lines with immediate effect. The controversy began after Sheron was allegedly detained when he was seen around 200 to 230 metres from the Chief Minister's Lok Milni event. He was reportedly holding a black flag and raising slogans against the government.

According to the police, security personnel and officials removed Sheron from the spot and took him for verification. Police claimed that eight FIRs had previously been registered against him under serious criminal sections. Police said preventive action was subsequently initiated and Sheron was arrested around 10:30 pm before being kept at Cheema Police Station. Officials have relied on a medical examination conducted before his production before the SDM, which recorded "no fresh injury marks present on examination." Police also claimed that two drug tests conducted the following morning returned positive results. However, after Sheron was handed over to his family following intervention by the village panchayat, he was taken to Civil Hospital, Sangrur. Doctors there recorded 10 injuries in his medico-legal report (MLR), creating a discrepancy between the initial medical examination and the subsequent report. Police officials have highlighted the difference between the two medical records. The complete medical record and other relevant documents have now been placed under the supervision of police headquarters for further examination. Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema has condemned the incident and said allegations of assault are being investigated. Rahul Gandhi's direct conversation with Sheron and the government's disciplinary action against police personnel have added political weight to the controversy. The incident has now emerged as a fresh flashpoint between the ruling AAP government and the opposition Congress in Punjab, with questions continuing over Sheron's detention, the alleged assault and the conflicting medical findings.

PM Modi Takes 'Naraaz Fufa' Swipe at Opposition

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday took a sharp swipe at the opposition while contrasting the challenges faced by India in 2013 with the country's present economic and social position. Addressing the centenary celebrations of Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), he also spoke directly to students about entrepreneurship, innovation and India's future. Referring to his Independence Day address from the Red Fort on August 15, Modi said he had administered "homoeopathic pills" to his critics by using the term "Dimagi Naxals". He said the remarks had prompted opponents to reveal their "true colours". The Prime Minister divided people into two categories, saying one group positively transforms society's strength into national strength, while another behaves like a "Naraaz Fufa", or angry uncle, who questions every major initiative. Modi cited criticism surrounding projects and initiatives including the world's largest statue, bullet



trains, UPI, semiconductor chips and the new Parliament building. He also referred to the memorial for army personnel who died for the country, saying critics repeatedly questioned the need for such projects. Looking back at the situation before 2014, Modi referred to

the 2013 Kedarnath disaster, the 2008 banking crisis and the Mumbai terror attack. He said his government had also faced major challenges, including COVID, the Russia-Ukraine war and the Iran conflict, but India had emerged stronger. The Prime Minister high-

lighted India's expanding global trade links, saying free trade agreements had been signed with nearly 40 countries over the last decade. He said opening new markets would create additional opportunities for the country's youth. Modi expressed confidence that India would become a developed nation through the efforts of its 1.4 billion citizens. He said India would emerge as a global hub for research and innovation and predicted that the country would have its own space station and host the Olympics. Addressing students, he contrasted campus life at SRCC with opportunities outside college. He said young Indians now aspire to build startups, unicorns and space ventures, ambitions that were less common before 2013. He urged students to think beyond existing achievements and asked why global companies could not be Indian. Modi concluded by calling for greater self-reliance and collective determination to build a developed India.

Mohan Bhagwat's UK Visit to Address Hindutva Misconceptions

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's ongoing visit to the United Kingdom is aimed at addressing misconceptions about Hindutva and Bharat and strengthening civilisational dialogue with Western academics, public figures and the Indian diaspora. RSS Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar said. Bhagwat arrived in the UK for a visit from September 2 to 7 as part of the RSS centenary celebrations. Ambekar said the tour would provide an opportunity to explain the organisation's understanding of Hindutva and its cultural perspective on Bharat. "There are a lot of misconceptions," Ambekar said, explaining that Bharat should not be viewed merely as a political nation-state but as a cultural concept. He added that Hindutva was not a religion or a fixed ideological concept, but one that respects and accepts the truth and practices of different religious traditions. Ambekar said Bhagwat would meet prominent public figures, organisations and members of the Indian diaspora during his UK engagements. He had already visited the Shri Swami Narayan tem-



ple in Willesden, while other meetings were expected to focus on dialogue, collaboration and strengthening long-term relations between the UK and India. The visit is being undertaken at the invitation of the organisation Integral. Ambekar said people-to-people engagement was necessary alongside government-level diplomatic relations and that cultural and civilisational dialogue could

contribute to greater mutual understanding. "We believe that apart from the diplomatic dialogues at the government level, there is a need for people-to-people dialogue; there is a need for civilisational and cultural relations at large," Ambekar said. Bhagwat's UK visit follows engagements in North America. On August 29 in New York, Ambekar

addressed a multi-faith leaders' meeting organised at the invitation of American Hindus for Engagement and Dialogue (AHEAD). The meeting was attended by 175 participants representing different denominations and religions. He also addressed the 'Universal Oneness' conference at Madison Square Garden, which brought together more than 6,000 delegates from 853 cities and 39 US states, representing 250 organisations. Around 250 university students from across the United States also participated. The interfaith meeting adopted a five-point "Call for Action" resolution. Bhagwat later travelled to Toronto at the invitation of Canadian Hindus for Outreach, Relations and Dialogue (CHORD), where he addressed the 'Hindu Vishwa Bandhu' conference. More than 2,000 delegates representing 175 organisations from all ten Canadian provinces attended. The RSS was established during India's freedom struggle by Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, who believed a strong and cohesive society was essential for sustaining independence.

Yogi to Review Varanasi Flood Situation Today



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is scheduled to visit Varanasi on Saturday to assess the flood situation and review relief measures being implemented for affected residents. According to reports, Yogi Adityanath will arrive in Varanasi at around 5:00 PM. Before reaching the city, he will conduct an aerial survey of flood-affected areas to assess the situation on the ground and review the extent of inundation. The Chief Minister will travel to Varanasi from Azamgarh and hold a meeting with officials and public representatives at the Police Lines 'Safe House'. The meeting is expected to last around 20 minutes and will focus on the flood situation, relief operations and measures being taken for affected people. Following the review meeting, Yogi Adityanath will visit a flood relief camp at a college, where he is expected to distribute relief materials among people affected by the floods. Later, the Chief Minister will offer prayers at the Kaal Bhairav and Vishwanath temples before leaving for Lucknow at around 7:30 PM. The visit comes as several parts of Uttar Pradesh continue to face the impact of rising river levels and flooding. In Varanasi, there has been some relief for residents as the water level of the Ganga River has started receding. However, several areas of Moradabad's Mundha Pande region have been inundated following a rise in the water level of the Kosi River. Roads have been submerged, disrupting normal movement, while residents are using boats provided by the administration to travel through affected areas. Earlier on Thursday, Yogi Adityanath assured flood-affected families in Farrukhabad that his government was committed to finding a permanent solution to the recurring flood problem. Addressing a gathering in Farrukhabad, the Chief Minister said the government was taking steps to protect both people and livestock in flood-affected villages. He directed the administration to ensure adequate fodder, vaccinations and medicines for cattle. "We are making every effort to ensure that in areas where floodwaters have entered villages, livestock is not harmed. Complete arrangements are being made on a war footing across every area to provide fodder, vaccinations, and essential medicines for cattle," Yogi Adityanath said. His Varanasi visit is expected to provide an opportunity to assess relief operations directly and issue further instructions to officials on flood management.

India's First Sentient Corporate Campus to Rise in Pune

India's first "sentient" corporate campus will be established at the Bajaj Finserv Campus in Koregaon Park Annexe, Pune, with the project designed to combine artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), sustainability and employee-focused facilities. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis laid the foundation stone for the project on Friday. Speaking at the ceremony, Fadnavis said the Bajaj Finserv Campus would be not only the largest corporate campus but also among the country's most intelligent and sustainable workplace ecosystems. Built with AI and IoT at its core, the campus will be designed to sense its environment and the needs of its occupants and proactively adapt to changing conditions in real time. According to company sources, AI and IoT systems will enable the campus to respond to variations in weather, occupancy and environmental conditions.



Sensors and analytics will be used to optimise energy and water consumption while monitoring crowd density and movement. IoT-enabled predictive maintenance systems will monitor critical infrastructure, while automation and robotics will support day-to-day campus operations. The campus will feature an eco-efficient design intended to maximise natural breeze and daylight and reduce cooling requirements. It will operate on renewable energy and target 80 per cent water recycling, along with rainwater harvesting and zero-waste operations.

A biophilic design will bring nature into the workplace through extensive green areas, including rare Ayurvedic gardens, Miyawaki forests and replanted native forests. Native species from Maharashtra will be incorporated to promote biodiversity and strengthen the campus ecosystem. The workplace will also have floor- and cluster-level monitoring of air quality and temperature. An integrated employee application will provide access to campus facilities and services, including navigation, parking and bookings. Healthcare and wellness will form another key component of the

campus. An integrated medical centre will provide telemedicine and emergency response services, supported by dedicated wellness facilities for employees. Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman & Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv, said the campus would be developed in accordance with global LEED and IGBC standards. "Built to global LEED and IGBC standards, the Campus will combine eco-efficient and biophilic designs with AI-driven systems and operate entirely on renewable energy," Bajaj said. He added that the campus would demonstrate India's growing technological and financial capabilities while reflecting the country's move towards a technology-ready and environmentally responsible future. The project is expected to establish a new model for corporate workplaces by integrating intelligent infrastructure, sustainability, biodiversity, digital services and employee wellbeing into a single ecosystem.



DNA Testing Gives Nepal Families Hope for Missing Relatives

DNA testing has emerged as a crucial final hope for families searching for relatives who remain missing after devastating floods in Nepal, with authorities struggling to identify hundreds of bodies recovered from floodwaters and debris. The disaster, which struck on August 26, has killed at least 1,287 people in Nepal, while 5,083 remain missing, according to disaster authorities. The scale of destruction and the condition of many recovered bodies have made conventional identification extremely difficult. Police have so far collected 2,272 DNA samples, including 1,260 from bodies and 1,012 from relatives of missing people, as authorities work to establish identities. Officials said 1,030 bodies had been buried after DNA samples and other identification procedures were completed. The figure includes 222 women, 355 men and 453 bodies whose sex could not be determined.

For families, the testing process represents more than forensic identification. It could bring an end to days or weeks of uncertainty and allow relatives to perform final rites for loved ones. One such family is that of Raj Kumar Diyali, 33, who disappeared along with his 30-year-old wife Shriti and their four-year-old son Siraj after the Bhotekoshi River flood struck Syaphrubesi in Rasuwa district. Raj Kumar's relatives searched along the river as far as Chitwan and Nawalpur. Five days after the flood, his nephew Avinash discovered a severed human hand in Nawalpur and sent a photograph to Amrit Diyali, Raj Kumar's relative. Amrit said the hand closely resembled his brother's. He subsequently sent a sample from the remains to the National Forensic Science Laboratory in Kathmandu for DNA testing. The sample is reportedly 182nd in line for examination. "We have stopped hoping for any-



thing else," Amrit told The Kathmandu Post, expressing the family's desire for certainty even if the remains are confirmed to belong to Raj Kumar. The floods began in the Bhotekoshi River area of Rasuwa near Nepal's northern border with China before causing widespread destruction downstream. To make identification easier, Nepal Police has opened a DNA sample collection centre in Bidur, Nuwakot, enabling relatives of missing people to provide samples without travelling to Kathmandu. Deputy Inspector General of Nepal Police Hospital Dr Damodar Poudel said samples from close blood relatives, including parents, children and siblings, are particularly useful for comparison with DNA recovered from unidentified bodies. Authorities have also uploaded details of 1,270 unidentified bodies on the Nepal Police website, allowing families to check whether their missing relatives are among those recovered.

Zelensky Proposes Ceasefire Ahead of US Envoys' Russia, Ukraine Visits

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky has proposed a temporary ceasefire with Russia as US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff prepare to visit Moscow and Kyiv for talks aimed at finding a possible settlement to the Russia-Ukraine war. Zelensky confirmed that Witkoff and Kushner will travel to Moscow on Saturday and Kyiv on Sunday. The proposed pause in hostilities is intended to ensure the safety of the US representatives and provide the necessary conditions for negotiations and logistical arrangements. "There will be no air strikes from our side," Zelensky said, calling on Russia to mirror the move by suspending its air attacks for the duration needed to conduct the negotiations. Zelensky said Ukrainian diplomats had held discussions to prepare for the American delegation's visit to Kyiv. During those preparations, it was decided that normal operations in Russian airspace should continue so the envoys could arrive safely. "Russia must mirror



this by ensuring silence without its air strikes for the time needed to hold these negotiations and resolve the logistical issues associated with this American visit," Zelensky said. His proposal came hours after Russia carried out a daytime airstrike on Kyiv. Zelensky said the attack targeted

the headquarters of Ukraine's intelligence service and the office of its intelligence chief. The Ukrainian president said Kyiv was focused on engaging with the American envoys rather than Russia itself and wanted practical proposals that could help end the conflict, which has continued for

four-and-a-half years. "We'll see what proposals Steve and Jared have and what Moscow will say to them," Zelensky wrote. Russia has intensified daytime air attacks on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities in recent days, with civilian areas repeatedly coming under attack. Before the Friday strike on Kyiv, Russia launched a major overnight attack on the Odesa region that killed one person and injured at least five others, including a child. Over night attacks elsewhere also killed two police officials in Dnipro, according to the report. A US official confirmed the planned visits earlier in the day. The trip will mark the first visit by the Trump administration's envoys to Kyiv for negotiations over a settlement. The proposed ceasefire could provide a brief window for direct diplomatic efforts, although its success will depend on whether Russia accepts Zelensky's call to halt airstrikes during the US delegation's mission.

US Strikes Three Iranian Oil Tankers After Naval Attacks



US forces struck three Iranian crude oil tankers after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched ballistic missile attacks against two US Navy warships operating in regional waters, the US Central Command said. In a post on X, the US Central Command said an aircraft carrier and a guided-missile destroyer successfully avoided what it described as "multiple unprovoked Iranian attacks". No US personnel were injured in the incidents, according to the command. Following the attempted attacks, US forces destroyed two IRGC-linked crude oil tankers, M/T Downy and M/T Stark 1. The vessels were targeted off the coast of Kharg Island and near Jask. A third tanker, which was not carrying a cargo, was also disabled in the Gulf of Oman. The US Central Command said the three vessels were part of what it described as a multibillion-dollar shadow network that finances the IRGC and its proxies. The strikes represent a significant escalation in the confrontation between Washington and Tehran, with oil infrastructure and shipping becoming increasingly central to the conflict. Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of the US Central Command, said the US military would continue to defend its forces and warned that Iran's oil fleet could face further action. "Let the message to the IRGC be clear: If you shoot at two of our ships, we will impose an even higher economic cost - taking out three of yours," Cooper said. "We will not hesitate to defend American forces, and if necessary, destroy Iran's limited and exposed oil fleet," he added. Iran earlier accused the US of attacking an Iranian tanker near Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf, semi-official Iranian news agency Tasnim reported. Local sources quoted by Tasnim said there were no casualties and that the tanker's crew was being evacuated. US President Donald Trump had on August 31 posted a brief message on social media accompanied by an AI-generated video, saying Kharg Island was being "blown to smithereens". Kharg Island is strategically important to Iran's oil industry. Iran is the third-largest producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and has historically depended heavily on the island as a key transit point for crude exports. Before the outbreak of the US-Iran war, Kharg Island handled around 90 per cent of Iran's crude oil exports, making any military action around the facility potentially significant for the country's energy revenues and global oil markets. The latest strikes underscore the growing risks to Iranian oil shipments and regional maritime security as tensions between the US and Iran continue to intensify.

Sri Lanka Arrests Ex-President's Son Over \$800,000 Airbus Bribe

Sri Lankan anti-graft authorities have arrested lawmaker Namal Rajapaksa, son of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, over allegations that he received \$800,000 in connection with a major Airbus aircraft deal. The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) arrested Namal Rajapaksa after questioning him about the \$2.3 billion transaction involving Sri Lankan Airlines. Colombo Chief Magistrate Asanga Bodaragama ordered the 40-year-old politician to remain in custody for two weeks while investigators continue their probe. CIABOC told the court that Rajapaksa received \$800,000 from money allegedly paid by European aircraft manufacturer Airbus to Sri Lankan politicians and officials to secure the deal. A Sri Lankan businessman is alleged to have arranged the transfer through two Singapore bank accounts. Rajapaksa's lawyer Nishantha Dayananda sought bail, but the court rejected the request. The investigation has also focused on former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was questioned by CIABOC in May over allegations that he received kickbacks linked to the aircraft purchase. The Rajapaksa family has denied receiving bribes and has described the corruption allegations as politically motivated. Former Sri Lankan Airlines chief executive Kapila Chandrasena told investigators in March that he had handed nearly \$500,000 in kickbacks to the senior Rajapaksa. Chandrasena was found dead at a relative's home in May, shortly before he was due to be rearrested. The cause of death has not been established. A joint investigation by US, British and French authorities had previously found that Airbus agreed to pay about \$16 million in bribes in Sri Lanka. Around \$1.7 million was allegedly routed to Chandrasena before the scandal emerged. The payments were connected to the purchase of 10 Airbus aircraft, a transaction that required cabinet approval during Mahinda Rajapaksa's presidency from 2005 to 2015. Court submissions stated that Chandrasena initially told investigators he had paid Mahinda Rajapaksa 60 million rupees, equivalent to about \$461,000 at the time, in three instalments in 2013. He later withdrew the allegation, saying it had been made under pressure. The corruption case comes as Sri Lankan Airlines continues to face severe financial difficulties. The national carrier has accumulated losses estimated at nearly \$2 billion, while repeated efforts to privatise the debt-laden airline have failed.



Jaishankar to Address UN General Assembly on September 26

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is scheduled to address the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 26, according to a revised provisional list of speakers released by the UN. The 81st session of the UN General Assembly will begin on September 8, with world leaders set to address the 193-member organisation during the General Debate from September 22 to 28. Jaishankar is scheduled to speak during the afternoon session on September 26. Jaishankar also addressed world leaders from the UN lectern last year, and his upcoming appearance is expected to provide India with an opportunity to outline its position on major international developments and global challenges. Brazil will traditionally be the first country to speak when the General Debate opens on September 22, followed by the United States. US President Donald Trump is scheduled to address world leaders from the iconic UN General Assembly podium on September 22. It will be his second address to the UN session



during his second term in the White House. The 81st session will be presided over by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, who was elected in June to lead the 193-member UN organisation. The annual high-level gathering is considered the busiest diplomatic period at the United Nations Headquarters, bringing together heads of state, government leaders

and senior officials for discussions on pressing international issues. This year's session comes amid continuing geopolitical conflicts across several regions. The months-long US-Israel war against Iran has had a major impact on countries of the Global South and least developed nations, particularly through rising food and fuel costs linked to continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.

Several high-level meetings are also scheduled during the General Assembly session. These include a commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, a meeting on climate action and a just transition, and a high-level meeting addressing existential threats posed by sea-level rise. The agenda will also include discussions on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, along with a plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Heads of government from Bangladesh and Nepal are scheduled to address the General Debate on September 24, followed by Pakistan on September 25. The session will also mark the final high-level General Assembly gathering for current UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, whose second five-year term ends in December. The selection process for the next UN chief is underway, with attention focused on whether the 80-year-old organisation will appoint a woman to the top post for the first time in its history.

USS Abraham Lincoln Returns With Heavy Rust After 286 Days at Sea

The USS Abraham Lincoln has arrived at a Thai port after an unusually long deployment, drawing attention to extensive rust covering the nearly 1,100-foot aircraft carrier. The warship docked at Laem Chabang on the Gulf of Thailand, south of Bangkok, on Wednesday after spending 286 days at sea, according to the US Navy. The carrier left San Diego last November and spent months conducting combat and blockade operations against Iran in the Middle East. Its heavily corroded hull has highlighted the physical toll of an extended deployment, although naval experts say such rust is not unexpected for a ship that remains at sea for prolonged periods. Carl Schuster, a former US Navy captain, told CNN that rust along the waterline is common on vessels that have spent more than 60 days continuously operating at sea. He explained that crews cannot carry out extensive hull maintenance while a carrier is deployed, particularly during combat operations. Removing the corrosion requires



workers to reach the waterline, sand away the rust, apply two coats of rust-preventative primer and then add two coats of naval grey paint. Schuster estimated that the Lincoln could require about 30 days of preservation work to remove all the rust. Some urgent repairs could begin

during the carrier's stay in Thailand, although the short port visit means only high-priority maintenance is expected. Schuster said the bow and forward hull would likely receive attention first because those areas experience greater exposure to corrosive salt water and the stresses created by

rough seas. The Lincoln's visit to Laem Chabang is expected to last several days and provides the crew with its first significant rest-and-relaxation break following the demanding deployment. However, the ship's condition is not the only concern associated with its prolonged time at sea. Reports have also pointed to low morale among some crew members, with supply shortages reportedly contributing to dissatisfaction. At least one incident involving a crew member going overboard has also been reported. The developments illustrate the challenges faced by naval personnel and equipment during extended operations far from home ports. While surface corrosion is largely a maintenance issue, prolonged deployments can also place considerable pressure on crews, logistics and operational readiness. For the USS Abraham Lincoln, the Thailand stop therefore represents both a much-needed break for its sailors and an opportunity to begin addressing the physical effects of nearly 10 months at sea.

EU-India Agri-Food Trade Set to Double by 2032

India and the European Union are poised to significantly expand their agri-food trade, with bilateral commerce in the sector expected to double to 10 billion by 2032, driven by changing consumer preferences, rising demand for healthy and premium foods and the anticipated India-EU Free Trade Agreement. Industry leaders and trade officials said India's food processing sector is undergoing rapid transformation, with the level of agricultural produce being processed expected to rise from the current 16-17 per cent to 25-30 per cent by 2030. Government efforts to formalise the sector and strengthen infrastructure are expected to support this expansion. "The Indian food processing industry is valued at over US\$500 billion (estimated), with immense potential to convert India's strong agricultural production into value-added products, improve quality and shelf life, and expand exports," said J.P. Dongre, deputy agricultural marketing advisor &



director at Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MOFPI). Dongre said MOFPI is supporting micro, small, medium and large entrepreneurs through financial assistance for modern machinery, packaging infrastructure and cold-chain facilities. He was speaking on the sidelines of a precursor event for Anuga Select India and Anuga FoodTec India 2026. The co-located trade fairs will be

held from September 29 to October 1, 2026, at the BEC in Mumbai. The events are positioned as a major B2B marketplace connecting manufacturers, global suppliers, importers, distributors, HoReCa leaders and technology providers across agrifoods, dairy, beverages, fine foods and food processing. India's food processing level has increased sharply from 3-4 per cent a decade ago to 16-17 per cent

currently. Dongre said the expected rise to 25-30 per cent by 2030 could bring India closer to processing levels seen in leading European countries. Raghav Jadli, president of All India Food Producers Association, said Anuga FoodTec India provides opportunities beyond product promotion, including joint ventures, technology partnerships and stronger import-export cooperation. "EU-India bilateral trade in agri-food products currently stands at around 5 billion, accounting for only about 4 per cent of total bilateral trade of approximately 125 billion," said Pawel Stachowiak, Counsellor Trade & Economic Affair - European Union. Volker Klima, Head of Agriculture & Food Division, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, New Delhi, said Germany would reinforce its presence through a dedicated pavilion featuring at least 12 companies from the food, beverages, confectionery and processing sectors.

NSE Gets Sebi Nod for Mega IPO



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has cleared the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), paving the way for one of the country's biggest initial public offerings (IPOs). The proposed issue is expected to raise around Rs 30,000-31,000 crore through an offer for sale (OFS) by existing shareholders. The NSE IPO is set to become the second-largest public offering in India, behind the proposed Jio Platforms IPO, which recently received Sebi approval and is expected to raise around Rs 37,000-38,000 crore through fresh equity issuance. Sebi's approval for NSE came a day after the Supreme Court accepted settlement terms reached between Sebi and NSE concerning past regulatory lapses in the co-location and dark fibre cases. The settlement removes a major regulatory hurdle that had delayed the exchange's listing plans for several years. NSE had filed its DRHP with Sebi for the second time in June 2026. Its first draft offer documents were submitted in December 2016 for an IPO of around Rs 10,000 crore through an OFS. However, regulatory scrutiny linked to the co-location issue kept the listing process on hold for nearly a decade. The shareholders proposing to sell shares include State Bank of India, MS Strategic (Mauritius), Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Aranda Investments (Mauritius), Bank of Baroda, Stock Holding Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India, The New India Assurance Company, National Insurance and United India Insurance Company. NSE's largest public shareholder, Life Insurance Corporation of India, will not sell any shares through the proposed IPO. NSE is expected to become the third Indian stock exchange to be listed, after Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). NSE began operations on June 30, 1994, while BSE, established on July 9, 1875, is Asia's oldest stock exchange. Market expert and Graded Financial Services founder Thakur Ajit Singh said the IPO could have an impact extending beyond the exchange sector. He said NSE's unlisted-market valuation of around Rs 4.88 lakh crore, or \$58 billion, could create new valuation benchmarks for market infrastructure institutions, depositories, asset management companies and retail brokerage platforms. As of March 31, 2026, NSE was India's largest exchange by total cash-market and equity-derivatives turnover and ranked third globally by the number of cash-equity trades, according to the World Federation of Exchanges. Its listing will add NSE to an expanding group of listed Indian market infrastructure institutions, including CDSL, NSDL, BSE and MCX.

Scapia, Axis Bank Launch Travel-Focused Credit Card

Scapia and Axis Bank have launched the Scapia Axis Bank Credit Card, targeting India's growing community of new-generation travellers with a combination of digital payments, travel rewards and booking services through a single platform. The card integrates payments, rewards and travel on the Scapia app, allowing customers to manage spending, book journeys and redeem rewards. Eligible everyday spends and UPI transactions can earn rewards, which can be redeemed for flights, hotel stays, experiences, shopping and other travel-related offerings. Available on both Mastercard and RuPay networks, the card is designed to provide a digital experience covering everything from everyday payments to travel bookings. The partnership combines Axis Bank's capabilities in cards and payments with Scapia's travel-focused platform. Anil Goteti, Founder and CEO, Scapia, said the partnership marked a new chapter for the company as more young Indians travel domestically and internationally. He said Scapia was built around the idea of giving travellers an



integrated platform to spend, book trips, shop for travel and earn rewards. According to Goteti, Scapia users have already travelled to more than 175 countries. Arnika Dixit, Group Head - Cards, Payments and Wealth Management, Axis Bank, said the partnership reflected a focus on simple, digital-first products aligned with changing travel habits. She said combining Axis Bank's payment capabilities with

Scapia's travel ecosystem would create a more connected experience, offering greater convenience, flexibility and value throughout the customer journey. Cardholders can earn up to 10 per cent rewards on eligible everyday spending and up to 20 per cent rewards in the form of Scapia Coins on eligible travel bookings. The coins can be redeemed for flights, stays, visas, experiences and other offerings available

through the Scapia platform.. For international travellers, the card offers zero forex markup and Smart Forex features intended to provide greater visibility and control over overseas spending. Airport benefits include access to lounges, dining and premium retail, while onboarding and card management are handled digitally through the app. Gautam Aggarwal, President, India & South Asia, Mastercard, said travel had become a major segment of India's consumer economy and that travellers increasingly expected secure, seamless and globally accepted payment options. Sohini Rajola, Executive Director Growth, NPCI, said RuPay's integration with UPI had expanded digital payment convenience and that the partnership would combine travel benefits with the network's broad acceptance. For Scapia, the launch marks its third banking collaboration and an important step towards reaching more Indian travellers. For Axis Bank, it strengthens its co-branded card strategy and presence in travel and digital-first segments.

Govt Rejects 'No Takers' Claim on Coal Gasification Scheme



The government has rejected reports claiming that its Rs 37,500-crore Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects has failed to attract applications, calling such conclusions premature with the first-round application deadline still approaching. The Ministry of Coal clarified that applications can be submitted until September 7, 2026, and the actual response to the scheme cannot be assessed conclusively until the application window closes. In a statement, the Ministry of Coal said reports suggesting that the scheme had received no applications did not reflect the current status of the application process. It stressed that the number of applications received in the first round could only be determined after the deadline. The Union Cabinet approved the Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects on May 13, 2026, with a total financial outlay of Rs 37,500 crore. The initiative aims to accelerate coal and lignite gasification in India and encourage the conversion of domestic coal and lignite into higher-value products such as syngas, methanol, ammonia and urea. The government expects the scheme to reduce dependence on imported feedstock while strengthening India's energy and economic security. Following the Cabinet approval, the Ministry of Coal conducted outreach programmes and stakeholder engagements to attract potential project developers. Roadshows were organised in New Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai, involving representatives from State Governments, public and private sector companies, technology providers, investors, financial institutions and other stakeholders. The Ministry said Talcher Fertilisers Limited (TFL) and NTPC Limited had already submitted their respective applications through the online portal. It said this demonstrated that claims that the scheme had "no takers" were factually incorrect. The large scale and technical complexity of coal and lignite gasification projects require considerable preparation before applications can be submitted. Prospective applicants have to prepare Pre-Feasibility Reports, examine technology options, arrange coal, lignite and other feedstock, evaluate project economics and develop detailed project proposals. Officials therefore expect additional applications to be submitted as the September 7 deadline approaches. The clarification comes amid growing government efforts to promote domestic coal utilisation beyond conventional power generation. Through gasification, coal and lignite can serve as feedstock for industrial products, potentially opening new avenues for domestic manufacturing and reducing reliance on imported raw materials. With the application window yet to close, the Ministry maintained that any assessment of the scheme's response at this stage would be premature.

Trump Venezuela Oil Deal Alarms US Energy Industry



US President Donald Trump's sweeping oil agreement with Venezuela has triggered unease among parts of the US energy industry, after the administration secured a 35% stake in a private company with long-term rights to develop Venezuelan oil fields. Trump has described the agreement as potentially "the greatest deal ever made," but some US oil executives believe the arrangement could disrupt ongoing commercial negotiations and place them at a disadvantage in accessing some of Venezuela's most promising oil assets. People familiar with the matter told Bloomberg that several industry leaders were surprised by the agreement. They requested anonymity to discuss the issue candidly, amid concerns about publicly challenging a deal strongly backed by Trump. Interest from US and international energy companies in rebuilding Venezuela's severely degraded oil industry had intensified in recent months. A ceremony in Caracas on Wednesday was attended by acting President Delcy Rodriguez, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright and executives from Chevron Corp., Eni SpA and GE Vernova Inc., which signed investment agreements. However, those agreements were overshadowed by Trump's announcement on his social media platform that the US government would take a 35% stake in North American Blue Energy Partners (NABEP), a private oil company led by investor Alejandro Betancourt. NABEP has secured 100-year rights to develop 17 Venezuelan oil fields. The arrangement was marshalled by the US State Department and the Pentagon and reportedly caught several energy companies off guard, including firms already involved in commercial discussions in Venezuela. The development highlights a difficult balancing act for the Trump administration. Washington wants to accelerate investment, increase oil production and generate revenue to help rebuild Venezuela. At the same time, major oil developers capable of increasing production of the country's heavy crude have remained cautious because of continuing political and economic risks following the capture of longtime President Nicolás Maduro. Supporters of the agreement argue that the arrangement could help bring Venezuelan crude back into global markets more quickly. Critics within the industry, however, worry that the government's involvement could create a powerful competitor to private US producers. Under the agreement, the US will hold a 35% stake in NABEP and receive the right to 20% of the company's production at cost. Kevin Book, managing director at Washington-based ClearView Energy Partners, said government ownership could create an incentive to protect the investment. "The question," Book said, is whether the arrangement will complement the broader oil industry or compete with it. Administration officials have attempted to reassure energy companies, arguing that the NABEP arrangement could provide greater security for private-sector investments in Venezuela.

Forex Reserves Hit Record \$740.80 Billion



India's foreign exchange reserves have climbed to a new record of \$740.80 billion, boosted by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) special foreign exchange measures and strong inflows through swap facilities. The reserves increased by \$11.475 billion during the week ended August 28, taking the total well above the previous record of \$728.494 billion recorded for the week ended February 27. The latest rise also marked the ninth consecutive week of growth in India's forex reserves. The increase comes after the RBI introduced special swap windows to attract dollar inflows and strengthen its ability to manage pressure on the rupee. During the West Asia war, the central bank had sold dollars to stabilise the currency after the rupee came under significant pressure. On June 8, the RBI announced the USD-INR Forex Swap facility covering Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) or FCNRR(B) deposits, external commercial borrowings (ECBs) and overseas foreign currency borrowings (OFCB) inflows. Radhika Rao, senior economist and executive director at DBS Bank, said the intervention approach appeared to be changing. She noted that the USD-INR exchange rate, which had remained relatively steady despite strong FCNR inflows, had recently moved sharply lower, testing below the 95 level and reaching the mid-94 range amid intervention dollar sales and broader movements in the US currency. India's forex reserves consist of foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Foreign currency assets, the largest component, rose by \$9.34 billion during the week to \$600.67 billion. Gold reserves increased by \$2.19 billion to \$116.41 billion. India's SDR holdings with the IMF stood at \$18.81 billion, declining by \$43 million during the week but remaining \$188 million higher than at the end of March. The country's reserve position with the IMF fell by \$11 million to \$4.914 billion, although it remained \$106 million above the end-March level. Meanwhile, the RBI also absorbed more than Rs 6.02 lakh crore from the banking system through two variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions as surplus liquidity remained exceptionally high. In one three-day VRRR auction, banks parked Rs 5.41 lakh crore with the RBI against a notified amount of Rs 7 lakh crore. The cut-off rate was 5.24 per cent. In another three-day auction with a notified amount of Rs 1.5 lakh crore, banks deposited Rs 60,419 crore with the central bank at the same rate.

Ocean Cleanup Chief Invites River Cleaner to Join Team

A 21-year-old student from Madhya Pradesh has received an unexpected job invitation after his efforts to clean a polluted river attracted the attention of Ocean Cleanup CEO Boyan Slat. Surendra Singh Chaudhary, popularly known on social media as "Bittu Tabahi", has been cleaning the Ajnar River in Biaora largely on his own. The BSc student began the cleanup campaign on January 26, 2026, taking on the task of removing waste and debris that had accumulated in the river. His efforts recently gained wider attention online after photographs showing the condition of the river before and after the cleanup were shared on social media. The

images highlighted the difference made by Chaudhary's persistent work and prompted a response from Slat. Reacting to a post featuring Chaudhary and his cleanup mission, Ocean Cleanup CEO Boyan Slat wrote a brief but striking message: "Come work for us."The invitation quickly added an unexpected dimension to Chaudhary's environmental mission. What began as an individual attempt to improve the condition of a local river has now attracted recognition from a global organisation known for tackling plastic pollution and cleaning waterways. Chaudhary has continued his work despite facing several challenges. His cleanup activities have exposed him



to health risks, including encounters with snakes. He



has also suffered infections in his limbs while working near a local temple.Despite those difficulties, Chaudhary

has continued removing waste from the river and documenting his efforts through photographs. His social media posts have helped bring attention to the condition of the Ajnar River and the importance of local participation in environmental cleanup efforts.The campaign has also received support from the local civic administration. Biaora Municipal Corporation Sub-Engineer Rupesh Kumar Netam said the municipality has been providing assistance to Chaudhary by supplying heavy machinery to remove accumulated waste. "There is a young man named Surendra Singh Chaudhary who regularly cleans the Ajnar River in Biaora, the municipi-

pality also provides him with support in this effort.Chaudhary's story has since become an example of how an individual initiative can attract institutional support and international attention. His work demonstrates that environmental action does not always begin with a large organisation or a major campaign.For now, Slat's invitation remains a remarkable recognition of Chaudhary's efforts. A student who started cleaning a polluted river largely by himself has found his work noticed far beyond Biaora, with a potential opportunity to work with one of the world's prominent environmental organisations now on the horizon.

Apple Begins Ternus Era With Major Product Wave



Apple is preparing to enter a new phase under Chief Executive Officer John Ternus, with the company set to unveil a major lineup of new devices and product categories over the coming years. The shift will begin with Apple's September 9 "Surprise and Shine" event, where Ternus is expected to take the stage to introduce the latest iPhones and Apple Watches. However, the upcoming event is being viewed as only the opening chapter of a much larger product cycle that could extend through 2026, 2027 and beyond. For much of the past 15 years, Apple has concentrated on improving established product lines and expanding services that generate recurring revenue. Apart from launches such as the Apple Watch and AirPods, the company has introduced relatively few entirely new device categories. That approach is now expected to change. Apple has reportedly been developing a pipeline of new products for around five years, with several fresh form factors and product areas in development. Ternus has already signalled his enthusiasm about the company's future. In a message to employees, he said he was excited about the major launch ahead as well as products already being developed and ideas that had yet to be imagined. Although Tim Cook was Apple's CEO when many of the products were conceived and developed, they are largely associated with Ternus' team. Cook's decision to allow Ternus to introduce the products has added significance to the leadership transition. Ternus formally took command on September 1, just days before the major product event. The timing has positioned the new CEO at the centre of Apple's next stage of innovation. One of the biggest products expected in the rollout is a foldable iPhone, internally referred to by some Apple employees as the iPhone Ultra. The device is expected to feature a large internal screen and a smaller external display, folding to roughly the size of a passport. Reported features include an A20 Pro chip, Apple's in-house C2 modem, Touch ID support, split-view multitasking and an advanced hinge designed to make the display crease less noticeable. The phone is expected to have regular and ultrawide-angle cameras but no telephoto lens, along with dark and light colour options. The foldable iPhone is also expected to carry a premium price of more than \$2,000. Apple's product plans and timelines could still change, with some projects potentially delayed or cancelled. The company, based in Cupertino, California, declined to comment on the reported product pipeline.

Founder Defends 'Disgusting' Website After Job Seeker's Criticism

A startup founder's unusual response to a job seeker's blunt criticism of his company website has sparked attention online, after he thanked her for the feedback but said the website was intentionally designed to attract a particular audience and repel others. The interaction began when a job seeker contacted Pritam Kudev, founder and CEO of men's beauty and personal care brand Mannlich, through LinkedIn. After exploring the company's website and products, she offered detailed feedback about what she believed could be improved. The job seeker said she "cringed hard" after visiting the website and described it as "very repelling and borderline disgusting." According to her, the site appeared to focus heavily on pictures of shirtless men and men applying products rather than presenting the products in a more carefully curated manner. She said she liked the concept of skincare for men but added that



she would not return to the website to purchase a product for her father. She suggested making the platform simpler, more gender-friendly and more welcoming to potential customers. The woman also identified herself as a developer and pointed out that the website appeared to be lagging. Since she was currently looking for work, she offered to help improve the website and said she

hoped her suggestions would be useful. Kudev responded by thanking her for the honest feedback. However, he explained that the website had been created for a specific type of consumer base. He said the intention was also to repel people who did not fit that target audience, adding that the company was glad the website had achieved that objective.

Kudev later shared a screenshot of the exchange on LinkedIn, bringing wider attention to the conversation. While posting it, he questioned the outreach approach being used by young job seekers and wrote, "Whoever is teaching these kids to use such templates for outreach. Where are your legs?" The exchange also highlighted the increasingly informal nature of recruitment outreach on professional networking platforms. While unsolicited feedback can be risky for job seekers, the episode showed how direct criticism can sometimes lead to an unexpected public conversation between a candidate and a company founder. Kudev also invited candidates interested in working with Mannlich to apply for opportunities in marketing, content and operations. He specifically asked people who were not "Repelled" by the website to share their portfolios, turning the unusual criticism into a broader recruitment appeal.

German Police Check Indian Tourists, Leave Former Cop Impressed

Former Delhi Police ACP Rajindar Pathania has recalled two experiences from a trip to Germany that gave him a different perspective on policing, public service and civic responsibility. After more than 38 years in the police service, Pathania said one particular encounter with German police left a lasting impression. His tour bus, carrying a group of Indian travellers, was stopped and surrounded by German police officers. The passengers were taken to a police station, where they were asked to get off the bus one by one. The officers checked their passports and visas and also searched their luggage. While the security procedure initially made Pathania concerned, it was the way the luggage inspection was handled that particularly caught his attention. According to Pathania, German police officers personally picked up the passengers' bags, carried them to the baggage scanner and returned them to the bus after the inspection was completed. For the former police officer, the incident demonstrated that enforcing the law does not necessarily have to come at the expense of dignity or respect. He said the experience made him reflect on the meaning of wearing a uniform and the responsibilities that come with exercising authority. Pathania said policing can involve strict enforcement while still being carried out with sensitivity and a sense of service. He wrote that the dignity of a uniform is not merely about authority, but also about using that authority with humanity.His second memorable



experience in Germany involved something far removed from a police station - the cleanliness of public spaces.Pathania said he was struck by the condition of roads and public areas, where he observed little unnecessary litter. He shared short videos from his trip to highlight the surroundings and questioned whether Germany's cleanliness could be attributed entirely to better government systems.While acknowledging the importance of administration, Pathania argued that citizens' attitudes and their sense of

responsibility were equally significant. Governments can build infrastructure, employ sanitation workers and conduct cleanliness campaigns, he said, but people themselves have a major role in keeping public spaces clean.He urged Indians to look beyond simply blaming authorities for sanitation problems and consider everyday behaviour. He raised questions about who throws rubbish on roads, dirties public walls and fails to treat shared spaces with the same care given to their homes.For Pathania, the two expe-

riences carried connected lessons. The first concerned how public servants should exercise authority, while the second focused on how citizens should use their freedom responsibly.He said travelling abroad should not only involve admiring another country's beauty and infrastructure. It can also provide lessons that travellers can bring home.Pathania concluded that a cleaner and better India requires responsibility from both public servants and citizens, with each playing a role in improving society.

Hybrid Work Wins After Pune Woman Says WFH 'Fried' Her Brain

A Pune woman's experience of working entirely from home for two weeks has sparked an online conversation about the benefits and drawbacks of remote work. Mohini Chavan said the temporary shift from her usual hybrid routine left her mentally exhausted and trapped in a repetitive daily cycle. Chavan shared her experience on Instagram, explaining that her organisation normally follows a hybrid working model but allows employees to work from home for two weeks during the year. While the arrangement can be particularly useful for employees who live away from their hometowns and

want to spend time with family, Chavan said the unchanged workload and lack of a change in surroundings made the experience difficult for her. "I don't know how people do permanent work from home, bro. Salute to them!" Chavan said while describing her experience. According to Chavan, working from home did not reduce her professional responsibilities. She continued to complete her regular workload, but the absence of an office environment meant that her days began to feel almost identical. She said that after spending two weeks mostly indoors, she felt mentally drained. "What I've



realised over these two weeks is that my brain is completely fried," she said, adding that she felt as though she had barely stepped outside during the entire period. The repetitive routine also extended into her weekends. Chavan said she went out for only one day, while the rest of the time followed the same pattern of working, eating and remaining at home. "Even during the weekend, I only went out for a day. Otherwise, every day has felt exactly the same," she said.For Chavan, the experience highlighted why she prefers a hybrid work arrangement rather than permanent remote employment. She said

going to the office provides a much-needed break from the home environment and offers opportunities for social interaction. Under her usual hybrid setup, Chavan gets to meet friends, have conversations, learn new things and experience a change in surroundings. She also said commuting and travelling occasionally help break the monotony of staying indoors."At least the hybrid system feels like the best balance to me," she said, explaining that spending two days in the office allows her to meet people, try different things, learn, talk and share experiences.Chavan's comments reflect a broader debate around

workplace flexibility, where remote work can offer convenience and time with family but may also create feelings of isolation and repetition for some employees.Her Instagram post carried the message, "Salute to permanent work from home employees," acknowledging those who have adapted to a fully remote lifestyle. For Chavan, however, the return to her hybrid routine appears to be something to look forward to. After two weeks of working from home, the office now represents more than just a workplace - it offers the social interaction and change of environment she says she missed.

Stuttgart Thrash Cologne to Bounce Back

Stuttgart produced a commanding response to their opening-day defeat against Bayern Munich, cruising past Cologne 4-1 in the Bundesliga. After suffering a heavy 5-1 loss to Bayern in their previous outing, Stuttgart dominated the contest and delivered the reaction they had been seeking. Stuttgart, who secured a return to the Champions League after finishing fourth last season, controlled proceedings for much of the match. Grischka Proemel said the team wanted to respond strongly following the Bayern defeat and was pleased with the performance. Cologne managed to keep Stuttgart at bay during the opening stages, but their resistance ended in the 39th minute when Bilal El Khannouss produced a brilliant individual effort. The former Leicester winger raced through the Cologne defence, nutmegging two players before sending a low strike into the bottom corner.



El Khannouss described the goal as "pure instinct", saying it was not something that could be trained and happened in the moment. He also expressed hope that it would be the first of many goals he scores during the season. Stuttgart continued to dominate after the break and doubled their advantage on the hour mark. El

Khannouss initiated the move down the flank before finding Germany defender Maximilian Mittelstaedt. The defender delivered a cut-back into the area, allowing Proemel to guide his shot into the net. Stuttgart striker Ermedin Demirovic then added another goal with 15 minutes remaining.

Demirovic charged into space down the right channel before finishing from a tight angle to put the hosts firmly in control. Cologne managed to pull one goal back through debutant Mikey Moore, who is on loan from Tottenham. Moore burst into the box and sent a square ball across the area, but the delivery ultimately resulted in an own goal from Stuttgart defender Ramon Hendriks. However, Stuttgart had the final say in spectacular fashion. In the final minute, Joshua Vagnoman produced a stunning long-range effort, crashing a looping clearance into the top corner from outside the box. The emphatic victory allowed Stuttgart to quickly move beyond their disappointing defeat to Bayern Munich and provided a major confidence boost as they look to build on last season's fourth-place Bundesliga finish and their return to Champions League football.

Raina Questions India Exile During Kohli-Kumble Era



Former India batter Suresh Raina has opened up about his exclusion from the national team during the Virat Kohli-Anil Kumble era, revealing that he sought answers from the captain and coaching staff but never received a concrete explanation. Raina, who retired from international cricket in 2020 at the age of 33, was left out of India's squad for the 2019 ODI World Cup in England. Reflecting on the period, he said he and Yuvraj Singh initially failed the Yo-Yo fitness test but later cleared it after returning to domestic cricket and scoring runs. Speaking to former India batter Aakash Chopra, Raina said he repeatedly questioned the team management about his absence. "I asked questions, I didn't get answers. So I asked questions, talked to people... captain and coaches," he said. Raina acknowledged that every captain has different preferences and that team combinations can change with leadership. He also admitted that he could have performed better during that phase and felt his experience, along with Yuvraj Singh's, could have been valuable for the 2019 World Cup campaign. "Every captain has his own team," Raina said, pointing out that different players received preference when the leadership changed. He added that another batter and wicketkeeper were chosen for the World Cup, while suggesting that circumstances had changed significantly by then. The former left-handed batter also indicated that his knee injury may have been used as a reason for his omission. Raina questioned why he and Yuvraj were not considered after proving their fitness and returning to domestic cricket. He recalled that the team had become one of the fittest sides during that period and said players were expected to meet demanding fitness standards. Raina also contrasted the Yo-Yo testing conducted under Gary Kirsten with the process used later. Despite the disappointment surrounding his international career, Raina said he has no regrets. His comments have now renewed attention on the selection decisions that shaped India's squad before the 2019 World Cup and ultimately contributed to the end of his international career.

India Face Pakistan in Crucial Women's Asia Cup Clash

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has created history by becoming the first cricketer, male or female, to captain in 150 T20I matches as India take on Pakistan in a highly anticipated Group A clash of the Women's Asia Cup 2026. Pakistan captain Fatima Sana won the toss and elected to bat first, but her side endured a disastrous start. Pakistan were struggling at 32/4 after seven overs, with India's spinners causing major problems for the Pakistan batting line-up. India spinner Shree Charani led the attack with three wickets, putting Pakistan under severe pressure during the early stages of the innings. India's disciplined bowling ensured that Pakistan failed to build any meaningful partnership and were forced onto the defensive from the outset. The match carries significant importance for Pakistan, who are looking to secure their place in the semi-finals. Pakistan began their campaign with a victory over



Thailand and need another strong performance to strengthen their position in the group. India, meanwhile, have already booked their place in the semi-finals following emphatic victories over Thailand and Hong Kong in their opening two Group A matches. The clash against Pakistan therefore gives Harmanpreet

Kaur's side an opportunity to maintain their winning momentum while testing themselves against one of their biggest rivals. The match is also attracting considerable attention because of Smriti Mandhana's pursuit of another major record. The India superstar batter is 78 runs away from becoming the highest-ever

run-scorer in women's T20I cricket. Mandhana has consistently been among the leading performers in the shortest format and could further strengthen her place in the record books if she produces a substantial innings against Pakistan. Her battle with the Pakistan bowling attack is expected to be one of the major highlights of the contest. For Pakistan, the immediate priority is to recover from the early collapse and post a competitive total. With four wickets already down, their middle order faces a difficult task against an Indian bowling attack that has quickly gained control. India's strong start and Harmanpreet Kaur's landmark captaincy milestone have added further significance to an already high-profile encounter, while Pakistan must find a way back into the contest to keep their semi-final hopes alive.

Arshdeep Singh, Samreen Kaur Get Matching Tattoos

India pacer Arshdeep Singh and actor-model Samreen Kaur have taken their relationship into the spotlight after revealing matching tattoos featuring each other's handwriting and small red hearts. The development comes shortly after Arshdeep confirmed his relationship with Samreen through Instagram, ending weeks of speculation surrounding their reported romance. Samreen Kaur, born on September 7, 1999, in Jammu and Kashmir, is an actor, model and social media influencer. She completed her BCom (Honours) from Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune, before pursuing modelling and acting. Her career gained attention after she represented Jammu and Kashmir at the Femina Miss India 2018 pageant, where she emerged as a finalist. She subsequently worked on modelling assignments before entering films and digital projects. Samreen has appeared in the ZEE5 web series Nail Polish and fea-



tured in films including 83 and Sardar Ji 2. She has also appeared in music videos with singers such as Jubin Nautiyal, Badshah and Guru Randhawa. Songs including Baawla and Tujhe Bhoolna Toh Chaaha helped increase her popularity. The relationship rumours surrounding Arshdeep and Samreen gained momentum during IPL 2026. Speculation began after a viral Snapchat post appeared to

show the India cricketer holding hands with a woman whom fans believed was Samreen. Social media users subsequently compared tattoos, accessories and outfits visible in the images with photographs shared by Samreen online. Her repeated appearances at Punjab Kings matches further intensified the speculation. Samreen attended Punjab Kings' clash against Mumbai Indians at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium and

was later seen supporting the franchise during matches in Chandigarh. Her presence at several games, combined with paparazzi sightings outside stadiums, led to increased discussion about her reported relationship with Arshdeep. Before the cricketer publicly confirmed their relationship, fans had already attempted to connect the pair through their social media activity, public appearances and travel posts. The matching tattoos now add another personal detail to their much-discussed relationship. By choosing each other's handwriting for the designs, Arshdeep and Samreen appear to have given the tattoos a distinctly personal significance. Arshdeep has established himself as an important member of India's pace attack, while Samreen continues to build her profile across acting, modelling and social media. Their relationship has consequently attracted attention from both cricket and entertainment audiences.



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is set for a busy period of cricket, but the young batting sensation is currently not part of India's red-ball plans, according to a report. The 15-year-old is, however, expected to remain an important option for India in T20Is as he continues to make rapid progress across formats. Sooryavanshi will feature in

the Duleep Trophy final before joining India's plans for the upcoming T20I series against Afghanistan. He is then expected to represent the country at the Asian Games. From October, he could also be involved in assignments against the West Indies and New Zealand. While his immediate pathway appears focused heavily on white-

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Not Yet in India's Red-Ball Plans

ball cricket, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is closely monitoring his development. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said the board wants Sooryavanshi and other emerging players to receive the right guidance so they can build long and successful careers. The BCCI recently held a review meeting attended by Devajit Saikia, India Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, T20I captain Shreyas Iyer, head coach Gautam Gambhir, Centre of Excellence (CoE) head VVS Laxman and other senior BCCI officials at the board's headquarters in Mumbai. Saikia stressed that the BCCI is taking Sooryavanshi's progress seriously and does not want his early success to result in a short-lived international career. He said the board hopes the youngster can serve India for many years, similar to legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar

and other players who became icons of Indian cricket. Sooryavanshi has already achieved several milestones at an extraordinary age. Recently, at 15 years and 157 days, he became the youngest player to score a half-century in Duleep Trophy history, breaking a 57-year-old record. He also impressed during India's series against Zimbabwe, scoring 151 runs in three matches as India completed a 3-0 clean sweep. His performances earned him his maiden Player of the Series award. With a demanding schedule ahead, Sooryavanshi will have opportunities to continue developing his T20 credentials. However, the latest report indicates that India's national red-ball setup is not currently considering him, suggesting the BCCI intends to manage his transition carefully rather than rush him into Test cricket.

Yuki Bhambri Eyes Deep US Open Run With Michael Venus



India tennis player Yuki Bhambri will reunite with New Zealand's Michael Venus for the men's doubles at the US Open 2026, hoping to build on last year's breakthrough semifinal appearance and make an even deeper run. Bhambri enjoyed a memorable campaign at Flushing Meadows last year, reaching the last four and coming within one victory of a place in the final. The experience, he believes, has created a different mindset heading into this year's tournament. The Indian said the deep run has brought a "mental switch" as he prepares to return to the Grand Slam. He also recalled his strong memories from last year and expressed confidence ahead of the final Grand Slam of the season. Bhambri said his previous success in both singles and doubles, combined with his semifinal appearance, had made last year a breakthrough moment in his career. He added that he is excited to return to the tournament and compete again. The Delhi-born player also has a strong connection with New York, describing it as one of his favourite cities. Bhambri said the city's atmosphere, its scale and the support of Indian fans make playing at the US Open a particularly special experience. He recalled attending matches at Arthur Ashe Stadium simply to experience the energy generated by the crowd. According to Bhambri, the presence of a large Indian community adds another dimension to the tournament, with fans regularly turning up to support him and other Indian players. Bhambri and Venus will now begin their campaign together with ambitions of another extended run. However, their opening match presents a difficult challenge, as they will face two American players. The Indian stressed that the unpredictable nature of the doubles draw means the pair cannot afford to look beyond their first-round assignment. Several upsets have already highlighted the competitiveness of the tournament, making every match potentially difficult. Bhambri said the partnership will approach the tournament one match at a time while maintaining the ambition of going all the way. He acknowledged that the first-round opponents are tough but said he and Venus are looking forward to competing together again. With last year's semifinal run providing both confidence and motivation, Bhambri will look to combine that experience with his partnership with Venus as they chase a place in the latter stages of the US Open 2026.

Rajinikanth's Dharman Wraps Second Schedule

The makers of director Ashwath Marimuthu's eagerly awaited action entertainer Dharman have announced that the film's second schedule of shooting has been completed. The film features Tamil superstar Rajinikanth in the lead and is being produced by Raaj Kamal Films International, the production house of veteran actor and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan. Raaj Kamal Films International shared the update on its social media platforms along with a video clip, writing, "Dharman 2nd Schedule Wrapped. Swag Mode: ON." One of the scenes featured in the video shows Rajinikanth portraying a senior medical faculty member while lecturing junior doctors. The second schedule began on August 13, with the makers describing Rajinikanth's character as "The deadly doctor" while announcing the shoot. The project has generated considerable excitement among fans since its announcement, particularly because of Rajinikanth's unusual role as a doctor who takes on criminals. In June, the makers released a making video showcasing the process behind Rajinikanth's appearance in the film. Director Ashwath Marimuthu also shared a new poster featuring the superstar and revealed that the team had responded to audience interest regarding his hairstyle and look. Earlier, Raaj Kamal Films International released a glimpse video titled "THE OG SWAG" that offered a look at the making of the first look. The video showed accessories being arranged for Rajinikanth to choose from, while Ashwath demonstrated the exact pose he wanted the superstar to adopt. Kamal Haasan was also seen accompanying Rajinikanth, with the two legends of Tamil cinema exchanging pleasantries. While announcing the title, Kamal Haasan described the film with the phrase "Dharmame vellum!" meaning "Only Dharma will win", and referred to the project as Thalaivar173. The title poster showed Rajinikanth inside a hospital operation theatre, holding a scalpel, while appearing to stand over the body of a slain rowdy sheeter. Dharman has music by Anirudh, while Niketh Bommi is handling cinematography and Pradeep E Raghav is responsible for editing. National Award-winning duo Anbariv is choreographing the action sequences. The film is produced by Kamal Haasan and R Mahendran, with S Disney serving as co-producer. The latest schedule update has added to anticipation surrounding the project, particularly with Rajinikanth's character, action-driven storyline and the collaboration between the superstar and the production house led by Kamal Haasan.

Ram Gopal Varma Questions Teachers' Day

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma sparked debate on Teachers' Day with a provocative post explaining why he did not want to wish people a "Happy Teachers' Day". He argued that an individual who truly thinks independently would naturally resist being taught and that genuine



learning begins when students question what they are told. Taking to his X timeline, Ram Gopal Varma wrote a lengthy post challenging conventional ideas about education and teaching. He said blind learning was not education but "domestication" and argued that progress begins when a student realises that a teacher could be outdated or wrong. The director illustrated his argument with examples from history and popular culture. He referred to Albert Einstein, saying the scientist



disliked the rigid Prussian school system but went on to develop the theory of relativity while working as a clerk. He also cited filmmaker Steven Spielberg, who became one of the most prolific directors despite being refused admission to a film academy. Ram Gopal Varma argued that these individuals advanced because they refused to simply follow the syllabus imposed by teachers. According to him, true learning involves unlearning what a teacher forces a student to accept. He further claimed that while he had witnessed successful engineers, doctors and lawyers, he had never seen a successful teacher. He argued that people who become truly successful tend to retain their knowledge as something unique rather than turning it into a public service. The filmmaker also questioned the broader role of teachers in society. He said that when knowledge is offered publicly rather than treated as a personal advantage, it loses its uniqueness. He argued that teachers could produce followers rather than leaders by encouraging students to conform instead of developing independent thinking. He also brought parents into his argument, saying well-meaning parents send children to teachers who, in his view, can weaken their ability to think independently and turn them into a socially conditioned herd. To reinforce his views, Ram Gopal Varma quoted renowned personalities including George Bernard Shaw, who wrote, "He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches," and Oscar Wilde, who said, "Anyone who is incapable of learning takes to teaching." Concluding his post, the director maintained his position by stating that he therefore did not want to wish people a "Happy Teachers' Day", adding the hashtag #HappyTeachersDay. His remarks quickly drew attention for their unconventional and sharply critical take on education and the traditional teacher-student relationship.



Farah Khan Reveals AR Rahman Made Masakali for Om Shanti Om

Director and choreographer Farah Khan has revealed an interesting piece of Bollywood music history, saying Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman originally created the popular 'Masakali' track for her 2007 film 'Om Shanti Om', rather than Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's 'Delhi-6', where the song eventually appeared.

Farah made the revelation during a conversation with music director Vishal Dadlani at his farmhouse, featured in her YouTube vlogs. The two discussed their decades-long professional association and recalled how the music for 'Om Shanti Om' eventually came together.

Farah said she had initially approached AR Rahman to compose the music for 'Om Shanti Om', starring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone. Before Vishal-Shekar came on board, Rahman had already created 'Masakali', although Farah was unsure where the song would fit in the film.

"The first song which Rahman made for Om Shanti Om was Masakali! I don't know where I was going to put it but I love that song and love that word," Farah recalled during the vlog.

She also remembered telling Vishal that she planned to approach Rahman and, if the collaboration did not work out, she would consider Vishal and Shekhar for the project.

Vishal had hoped the arrangement with Rahman would work and suggested that he and Shekhar could assist him on the film. However, the duo ultimately composed the music for 'Om Shanti Om', delivering a soundtrack that became one of the film's major attractions.

During the conversation, Vishal jokingly observed that even if he and Shekhar had not worked on the film, 'Om Shanti Om' would still have had great music. Farah, however, credited the duo for making the film's music "epic".

Vishal described 'Om Shanti Om' as a rare example of traditional, large-scale Bollywood masala musical filmmaking.

He also recalled the elaborate visual treatment of songs such as 'Dhoom Tana', noting that audiences continue to discuss how such sequences were created before the widespread use of artificial intelligence.

"The big, masala music that was in 'Om Shanti Om', is the only one. This is the last one! The traditional masala Bollywood musical is this one," Vishal said.

The revelation adds an unexpected twist to the history of 'Masakali', which eventually became one of the most recognisable songs of 'Delhi-6', released in 2009.

The song featured Abhishek Bachchan and Sonam Kapoor and was composed by AR Rahman for Mehra's film. Its journey from an unused composition for 'Om Shanti Om' to a signature song of 'Delhi-6' highlights the unpredictable path that popular film music can sometimes take.



Nani Marks 18 Years in Cinema

Telugu star Nani has completed 18 years in the film industry as an actor and thanked his fans and audiences for their unwavering love and support. Reflecting on the milestone, Nani said he had never taken their affection for granted and assured them that he never would. Taking to his X timeline, Nani marked the completion of 18 years in cinema with a heartfelt message. "18 years. Officially an adult in cinema. Never took your love for granted. I won't ever," he wrote.

Nani began his acting journey with Ashta Chamma, directed by Mohana Krishna Indraganti, which released on September 5, 2008. Over the years, he has evolved from an actor into one of Telugu cinema's prominent heroes and has also established himself as a producer.

The actor is currently working on director Srikanth Odela's highly anticipated action entertainer The Paradise. Backed by SLV Cinemas, the film is scheduled to hit theatres on September 24. It was initially planned for release on March 26, 2026, before the makers postponed it first to August 21 and later to September 24.

The recently released teaser has heightened expectations around the film. It opens with a voiceover questioning who the place belongs to, followed by Nani's dramatic arrival through an acrobatic stunt. Sporting two plaits and covered in blood, he is shown walking slowly while sipping what appears to be a beverage.

Mohan Babu, who plays the antagonist, is seen addressing the people as "My beloved people of Paradise." The teaser then unfolds with intense action, violence and references to oppression and rebellion. A woman questions whether the government is meant for feudal lords or the people, while another voice calls upon the oppressed community to rise against tyranny.

The teaser concludes with Nani, drenched in blood and carrying a chain made of blades, seated on a pile of bodies while warding off the evil eye. The visuals suggest that The Paradise will be a dark and intense action thriller centred on rebellion against oppression.

The film is expected to release in eight languages: Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, English, Spanish, Bengali, Kannada and Malayalam.

Kamal Haasan Congratulates Bethlehem Kudumba Unit Team



Actor, producer and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan has congratulated the team of director Girish AD's Malayalam blockbuster 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit', starring Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju in the lead roles. Mythri Movie Makers, which is distributing the film in the Telugu states, shared a video of the core team meeting Kamal Haasan. The production house described the gathering as a special moment for the team following the film's strong performance and its Telugu release. The video shows Kamal Haasan warmly welcoming the team led by producer Fahadh Faasil. The members were seen interacting with the veteran actor before posing for photographs with him. 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit' has emerged as a

major box-office success, crossing the Rs 200-crore mark worldwide. The film, which released globally on August 21, has quickly developed into a blockbuster, adding to the growing popularity of Malayalam cinema beyond Kerala. The film's success has also prompted its makers to appeal to audiences to protect the theatrical experience. Bhavana Studios, the production house that distributed the film, recently asked viewers not to record or circulate snippets and key scenes from theatres on social media. Nivin Pauly shared the statement on his social media timelines with a request for public attention. Bhavana Studios thanked audiences for the strong response before urging them to avoid recording scenes and sharing them online so that viewers could experience the film's surprises on the big screen. The story of 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit' was written by Girish AD and Kiran Josey. Ajmal Sabu handled cinematography, while Vishnu Vijay composed the music. Akash Joseph Varghese served as the editor. The film's production began in September last year. Nivin Pauly had earlier described the project as something that would be "very special". Bhavana Studios is a production company partnered by director Dileesh Pothan, actor Fahadh Faasil and scenarist Syam Pushkaran. Its involvement in the film has further connected the project with prominent names from the Malayalam film industry. The meeting with Kamal Haasan comes as the film continues its theatrical run and expands its reach among Telugu-speaking audiences through Mythri Movie Makers. With its strong worldwide collections and growing audience response, 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit' has become one of the notable Malayalam successes of the year, while Kamal Haasan's appreciation has added another high-profile moment to the film's celebrations.