

US-India Trade Deal “90% There”: US Official

New York: The US-India trade deal is close to completion and could take bilateral relations to a new level, a senior US State Department official has said.

The two countries were “90 per cent-plus there”, with only a few final issues being worked out, the official said. “I hope you’re going to see something very soon on that,” the official said, adding that trade had long been a sticking point in the relationship.

“And that’s really going to just unleash another level of US-India relations, something that ... we haven’t been able to get there in decades when it comes to trade,” the official said.

Asked about secretary of state Marco Rubio’s



planned visit to India in October, the official described it as part of the continuing attention to the bilateral partnership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit the US for the G20 summit in Florida in December, and the official said there could be major announcements connected with the visit.

On the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), the official said it remained a major priority for the US and India, but developments in the Middle East had delayed progress. The two countries were ready to move ahead, the official said, adding that greater regional stability could put the project back on track.

The official said work was under way to map shipping and road routes, while Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the UAE and Israel still had to work out their parts of the corridor.

Election Commission denies rift within poll panel, clarifies on Form 6, SIR decisions

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday sought to quell reports of differences within the poll panel, with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi holding a full commission meeting at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi.

In a detailed press note accompanied by a photograph of the three commissioners, the EC addressed allegations concerning its internal functioning, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, voter enrolment and its technology systems.

The statement came days after The Indian Express reported on September 23 that Sandhu and Joshi had raised objections to several decisions and orders linked to



the SIR exercise. The reports triggered a wider political controversy, with Opposition parties questioning the functioning of the Commission and demanding greater transparency. The EC maintained that the June 24, 2025, order launching the SIR across states and Union Territories was approved unanimously by all three

commissioners. It said subsequent schedules related to the exercise were also issued with unanimous approval. The Commission further noted that the Supreme Court had upheld the original SIR order.

On Form 6, used for enrolment of new voters, the EC addressed concerns over a declaration introduced during the SIR process requiring applicants to establish their linkage with the previous SIR through their parents’ names. The Commission said the declaration had been upheld by the Supreme Court. Outside the SIR exercise, it clarified, forms prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, would continue to be used. The Commission also responded to questions surrounding 97 voters in Goa who had initially been left out of the electoral rolls. It said the Chief Electoral Officer, Goa, had directed Booth Level Officers to conduct house-to-house visits and collect the necessary forms. Of the 97 voters, 81 had already submitted Form 6 for inclusion.

On ECINET, concerns

had been raised about access to electoral-roll databases and the functioning of the portal. The EC said field officials receive role-based access in accordance with their statutory powers. It announced a review of ECINET by a committee headed by a Senior Deputy Election Commissioner and including an independent expert from an IIT or IIIT.

The Commission also clarified that a letter sent to the Cabinet Secretary concerned the redistribution of work involving an officer on deputation related to the officer’s functioning, rather than any policy concerning the EC or its IT division.

As part of measures to strengthen internal procedures, the EC said agendas for Commission meetings would be circulated in advance and minutes issued thereafter. It also stated that directions issued by commissioners to officials would be complied with meticulously. The EC further extended SIR deadlines in Delhi and Maharashtra, while reiterating that its major decisions had been taken collectively and unanimously.

Revanth Seeks Bharat Ratna for Manmohan

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday urged the Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna, the country’s highest civilian award, posthumously on former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh and establish a memorial with a knowledge centre in his name in New Delhi.

Revanth Reddy made the demand after unveiling a statue of Dr Singh at Wipro Junction in the Financial District here on the former prime minister’s birth anniversary. He said Dr Singh, then the finance minister, had pulled India out of the severe economic crisis of the early 1990s through landmark economic reforms and laid the foundation for the country’s subsequent growth.

Revanth Reddy said the liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation policies that Dr Singh introduced during that period had opened up the Indian economy to global investments and helped transform Hyderabad into a major IT and financial services hub. He said several global companies, including Google and Microsoft, had established operations in the Financial District.

The Chief Minister said the Financial District now contributed nearly 49 per cent of Telangana’s GDP, while Telangana accounted for about five per cent of the country’s GDP. Installing Dr Singh’s statue in the heart of the Financial District was therefore an appropriate tribute to his contribution.



Revanth Reddy said Dr Singh’s contribution extended beyond economic reforms, recalling legislation and programmes enacted during his tenure as Prime Minister, including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Right to Information Act and Right to Education Act. The RTI Act, enacted in 2005, created a statutory framework for citizens to seek information from public authorities.

He also credited Dr Singh and then UPA chairper-

son Sonia Gandhi with facilitating the creation of Telangana state. Revanth Reddy said the statue incorporated a reference to Dr Singh’s signature on the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 creating Telangana state and recalled the then-Prime Minister’s role in fulfilling the decades-old aspiration for a separate state.

“Some issues should be decided by rising above politics,” Revanth Reddy said, questioning why there should be any objection to conferring the country’s highest civilian honour on Dr Singh. He said political considerations should not come in the way of honouring leaders who have made significant contributions to the nation.

Revanth Reddy described Dr Singh as a person of simplicity, gentleness, honesty and lofty ideals, saying his life was an open book and that he remained accessible to all.

He said the Centre’s failure to establish a memorial for Dr Singh in Delhi was unfortunate, and urged it to set up a memorial incorporating a knowledge centre to preserve and disseminate his vast knowledge and contribution to public life.

Kadapa Wrestling... Internal rift within Kadapa TDP

Chennamsetty Murali levels allegations against MLA Madhavi Reddy
Allegation that veteran TDP workers are being sidelined

Criticism that leaders joining from outside are being prioritized
The challenge of securing victories for their candidates in the corporation elections

Kadapa is a district that has been the epicenter of the YSR family’s political influence for decades. Consequently, the TDP’s performance in the Kadapa Assembly constituency during the 2024 elections became a significant political development for the party. TDP candidate Reddeppagari Madhavi Reddy won the Kadapa Assembly seat by a margin of 90,988 votes. Now, as local body elections in Kadapa approach, the emergence of internal discord within the TDP has become a topic of discussion. In an audio clip released by TDP leader Chennamsetty Murali, he leveled serious allegations against MLA Madhavi Reddy, claiming she is favoring individuals from other parties over veteran workers who have long served the party. Furthermore, the challenge of ensuring victory for their

respective candidates in the corporation elections has sparked a new debate within Kadapa TDP politics. However, the response from the MLA’s faction regarding Murali’s allegations will also be crucial to understanding this dispute. Why has this dispute surfaced now? This is the central question in Kadapa politics. Ticket distribution for local body elections is not merely about selecting candidates; it is also a process that determines an individual’s standing and importance within the party. A candidate must be se-



lected for each division of the corporation. Who should receive the ticket? Should it go to a veteran party worker? Should it be given to a leader who joined the party shortly before the election? Or should a strong local figure be considered?

Ultimately, these local elections are shaping up to be a crucial organizational test for the Kadapa TDP. While winning an assembly seat in 2024 was a significant political milestone, leading the party cohesively at the corporation level presents a fresh challenge. On one hand, as the ruling party, we must showcase our development initiatives and governance record. On the other, we need to coordinate a diverse

group comprising ticket aspirants, veteran cadres, and newly joined leaders. If internal rifts spill out into the public domain, it would provide the opposition with political ammunition. Consequently, the real battle in Kadapa is no longer just TDP versus YSRCP. Another critical question is the extent to which the TDP will set its house in order before entering the electoral fray. How will the party leadership respond to the challenge posed by Chennamsetty Murali? How will the Madhavi Reddy faction address this discontent? Will these differences become more pronounced during candidate selection, or will the party find an internal resolution before the elections? These are the questions that now hold the key to understanding Kadapa’s politics.

REALITY CHECK FOR PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Supreme Court's order seeking greater financial transparency from private universities was long overdue and brings renewed focus on regulation, student interests and accountability

The growing demand for higher education cannot be met by government-funded institutions alone. The private sector has an equally important role to play in expanding educational opportunities for the country's youth. However, unbridled commercialisation of the education sector by profit-driven private players is a major cause for concern. More often than not, they impose exorbitant fees that are not matched by infrastructure and amenities and resort to misleading self-promotion. While the contribution of the private sector to promoting and expanding higher education cannot be overlooked, what is needed is a proper balance between regulation and responsibility. The Supreme Court's latest order directing private universities across the country to disclose their financial records is a welcome development. The landmark order ruled that no private university should be allowed to run as a profit-making institution and sought details of how universities generate, manage and use their financial resources. The audited financial records covering the last five years, utilisation of funds, fee structures, surplus investments and payments made to persons not directly involved in educational functions are among the details that have to be presented before the apex court. It has also directed the Centre and State governments to collect detailed information about admissions, fees, use of surplus funds, staff recruitment and grievance-redressal systems of private universities and colleges. With this unprecedented order, the stage is set not only for intense scrutiny of the financial management by private universities but also the conduct of regulators. It's a reality check that was long overdue.

The top court's observation that private universities must serve the larger public purpose of education and not operate for profit hits the nail on the head. Robust regulatory oversight to check any exploitation of students is essential. Over the years, a highly competitive private sector has relied on exaggerations and half-truths to attract students. With minimal focus on impactful academic research, there is often misrepresentation of the facilities available and placement statistics. If the lack of faculty development is problematic, more worrying is the reliance on under-qualified and overworked staff. Ultimately, students bear the brunt as their interests are compromised. There are over 470 private universities in the country, apart from several 'Deemed to be Universities' that operate under private management. Within a span of 10 years, enrollment in private universities nearly tripled to over 34.6 lakh students, moving their market share from 20 per cent to one-third of all higher education students in India. The University Grants Commission (UGC) regulates private universities primarily through the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations to ensure educational quality and transparency. Unlike public universities, private entities receive minimal state or central research grants and have to depend heavily on tuition fees to fund research labs. Navigating overlapping compliance checklists between the UGC, AICTE, and state-level councils is a major challenge for private universities.

Modi Joins Bhajan Clubbing Event In Delhi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday participated in "Bhajan Clubbing", a modern trend where youngsters gather in concert-like settings to sing, clap and dance to Hindu devotional songs.

Prime Minister Modi attended the event on the 110th birthday anniversary of Sangh Parivar ideologue Deendayal Upadhyay at a park opposite the BJP headquarters in the national capital.

Sharing video of event on X, the Prime Minister said, "Bhajan Clubbing in Delhi. Spectacular!."

Seated in front row, Modi was seen clapping and playing a tambourine-like instrument to a Bhajan dedicated to Lord Ram. Most of the audi-



ence, and singers, were youngsters, who could be seen clapping to the tunes.

Bhajan clubbing is a modern, cultural trend where youngsters gather in high-energy, concert-style settings for the performance of traditional devotional songs.

The attendees, including many representing the Gen Z, chant, sing along, clap and dance to traditional spiritual lyrics set to modern, high-energy acoustic or electronic rhythms.

Held in a club-like atmosphere minus the alcohol, Bhajan clubbing is catching on in many Indian cities and abroad.

I.N.D.I.A. Bloc Sept. 30 Meet On SIR, EC



NEW DELHI: Opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc parties are set to meet in New Delhi on September 30 to discuss their concerns over the Election Commission and the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, besides other issues. The development comes after TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee spoke to leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

The parties have been in touch with each other on the issue and are discussing a joint response, sources said. They indicated that a discussion on coordinated protests is also likely.

Trinamul Congress national joint secretary Derek O'Brien said the demand for CEC Gyanesh Kumar's removal would remain central to the opposition campaign. Other demands, including changes in the CEC selection process and opposition to the SIR, would also be pursued.

"First, GK (Gyanesh Kumar) has to GO. Certain other demands have been raised as well. Those demands are very much in place, including how a CEC is selected and how SIR was a fraud. We will work unitedly, purposefully and swiftly," O'Brien said.

Former West Bengal chief minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said she has conveyed to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that the Opposition parties should sit together. "A meeting of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc will most likely be held in Delhi's Constitution Club on September 30," she said.

Banerjee also spoke to CPM general secretary M.A. Baby, who had reached out to the I.N.D.I.A. bloc and other Opposition leaders seeking a wider mobilisation over the Election Commission issue.

The Congress Working Committee is scheduled to meet on September 29 to discuss its strategy on the issue.

The developments have also brought West Bengal's bitter political rivals, the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC and the CPM, on the same page on the Election Commission issue.

The Left parties are seeking broader cooperation beyond the I.N.D.I.A. bloc. After a meeting of Left parties, Baby said letters had been sent to non-NDA parties seeking their cooperation.

The outreach included parties such as the Biju Janata Dal, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) and the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), besides I.N.D.I.A. bloc constituents.

"This is a situation that demands larger co-operation between Opposition parties," Baby said.

n being asked about CJP, he said the party had played an important role in forcing former education minister Dharmendra Pradhan to resign and had emerged as a socio-political force, particularly among young people.

He said political parties should not assume that only recognised parties represented in Parliament or state Assemblies could shape the future.

Baby also called for Opposition parties, civil society groups and citizens to come together over concerns surrounding the electoral process.

Opposition parties are also working on a fresh notice for Kumar's removal, which is likely to be submitted in both Houses of Parliament after being vetted by legal experts. This would be the opposition's third such attempt.

The latest mobilisation follows a news report that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections on 14 occasions over decisions and orders related to the SIR exercise.

Telangana TET 2026: 15,749 in-service teachers qualify, another special exam in November

Of the 22,477 in-service government and local body school teachers who appeared for the special TG TET 2026, 15,749 qualified. School Education director E Naveen Nicolas said another special TET would be held in November, subject to applications.



TELANGANA TEACHER ELIGIBILITY TEST (TGTET In - service Teachers - 2026)

Department of School Education, Telangana, Hyderabad.



Hyderabad: Nearly 7,000 in-service government and local body school teachers failed to crack the special Telangana Teacher Eligibility Test (TG TET) 2026.

A total of 22,477 appeared and 15,749 passed the special TET that was exclusively conducted for the in-service teachers on September 8 and 9, and results declared by School Education director Dr. E Naveen Nicolas here on Saturday.

A total of 4,942 teachers appeared for the TET paper – I and 3,398 qualified. As many as 6,720 out of 9,131 teachers who took the paper II (Mathematics and Science) were declared qualified. Similarly, 8,404 teachers sat for paper – II and 5,631 qualified. The Paper I and Paper II are conducted to determine teaching eligibility for Classes I to V and Classes VI to VIII respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nicolas said another special TET for the in-service teachers would be re-

leased in the month of October.

"Depending on the number of applications, the exam will be conducted in the month of November and results will be quickly released," he said.

The State government is holding special TETs as the Supreme Court mandated that all in-service teachers, except those with less than five years of service, clear the TET by August 2028, to retain their jobs. However, teachers with less than five years of service must pass the TET to become eligible for promotion. Since the court judgment, the government conducted one special and two regular TETs.

A regular TET notification would be issued in the month of November and exams were being planned in the month of January, 2027, he added. Both DED and BED graduates, and in-service teachers can apply for the regular TET.

Anitha Reviews Local Body Poll Preparations With Alliance Leaders

State home minister Vangalapudi Anitha met leaders of the TD, Jana Sena and BJP at her residence in Nakkapalli on Friday to review preparations for the forthcoming local body elections.

Anitha called for greater coordination among the three alliance partners and urged leaders to work together to ensure NDA candidates' victory. She asked party leaders and workers to remain accessible to the public and focus on resolving local issues.

She announced that coordination committees would be formed at the constituency level, along with three-member committees in villages, to strengthen cooperation among the alliance partners. She stressed that alliance cadres must remain united and support the selected candidate, irrespective of which party the candidate represents.

Anitha said youth and women would be given priority in the local body elections and appealed to party



workers to actively support the alliance's campaign.

On local administration and governance, she directed leaders to address public grievances promptly. She also said there should be no scope for irregularities in the Payakaraopeta constituency.

Leaders and representatives of all three NDA alliance partners attended the meeting.

Revanth Reddy Hails Manmohan Singh as Architect of Modern India

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday remembered former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on his birth anniversary and hailed him as an architect of modern India.

On the occasion, Revanth Reddy is scheduled to unveil Dr Manmohan Singh's statue at Wipro Circle in Gachibowli, in the heart of Hyderabad's IT corridor and said the growth around the area was linked to the economic reforms he initiated in 1991.

In a message shared on X, "A grateful state honours a humble, visionary son of India," Revanth Reddy said.

The Chief Minister also recalled Dr Manmohan Singh's role during the process of Telangana state formation, saying that the statehood dream was achieved during his tenure as Prime Minister.

"Dr Manmohan Singh Ji, from Chief Economic Adviser, Governor of RBI, to Finance Minister and then finally, Prime Minister of India, he is an architect of Modern India," Revanth Reddy said.

Revanth Reddy remembered Dr. Manmohan Singh as an economist of global stature, a statesman of integrity and a dedicated public servant whose vision and leadership made a lasting contribution to India's development. He said, "As Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh spearheaded landmark economic reforms that marked a turning point in India's economic journey. As Prime Minister, he remained committed to economic growth, national development, public welfare and inclusive progress."

"His humility, wisdom and unwavering dedication to public service continue to inspire generations. His transformative contribution to India's economic progress and his service to the nation will remain an enduring legacy," the Chief Minister added.



Hon'ble XII Additional Sessions Judge, Nampally, Hyd. Convicted 5 years For POCSO act cases,

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF : V. Manikanta S/o. V. Shyam, Age 27 years Occ: Pvt Employee, R/o. Ramnagar, Musheerabad, Hyderabad, has convicted the accused vide in Cr.No. 236/2023, U/s 354, 354A, 354D, 509, 506 IPC and Sec 7 r/w 8 & 11 r/w 12 of POCSO Act of Musheerabad Police Station. In the said case, accused is convicted for Simple Imprisonment for 05 (Five Years) years and to pay a fine of 9,000 /-.*



On 04-06-2023 at about 11:30 AM, the mother of the victim girl (age 11 years) lodged a complaint stating that, for the past few days, the accused (Manikanta), who is their neighbor, had been behaving inappropriately with the victim. He used to talk to her in an improper manner, pull her hair, and tease her by pulling her hands and legs. He also used to come close to her and make inappropriate comments about her clothes, asking why she was wearing shorts and saying that she should remove her clothes and roam around without them. He also used to touch her cheeks. Hence, a police complaint was filed at MUSHEERABAD Police Station and forwarded to Bharosa for recording of 180 BNS statement.

The Bharosa team provided a range of counselling techniques to assist the victim and her family. Additionally, they offered moral and emotional support through consistent follow-up sessions and involvement in workshops. The family was exceedingly happy to hear about the conviction.

The concerted efforts by the Investigating Officer, Sri Ch.Prasadh Reddy and Sri. G.Raj Gopal Reddy Inspector of Police MUSHEERABAD PS Hyd, P J Ramakrishna, Spl Additional Public Prosecutor, Sri. A. Ram Reddy, Public Prosecutor and Smt. T. Kalpana & Smt. AR. Hima Menon Legal Counselors, Other Bharosa Team, Court Duty Officer by name Smt. K. Shiva Jyothi WPC 31046 PS Musheerabad and Sri. B. Sudharshan HC 9398 PS Abids Summons Duty Sri G. Srikanth PC 9937 contributed immensely during the course of trial which ended in Conviction.

The concerted efforts of Police Officers and Officers at Bharosa Centre were closely monitored by Smt. Dr. Lavanya NJP, DCP, Women Safety, Smt. Prasanna Lakshmi, ACP, Women Safety, Hyderabad apart from P. Padma, Inspector Bharosa.

Sri. V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, CP Sir Hyderabad, appreciated the efforts of all the stake holders for their efforts and coordination.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER (CDPO), METPALLY, JAGTIAL DIST IN ACB NET

AMEER HUSSAIN,, CRIME BEURO CHIEF : On 26.09.2026, the Accused Officer (AO) Smt. Daroju Padma, CDPO, Metpally, Jagtial District, was caught red-handed by the ACB Karimnagar Unit while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs.63,000/- from the complainant for showing official favour, i.e., for not making adverse remarks during inspection of Anganwadi Centres under Metpally Urban Mandal, The AO had demanded illegal gratification at the rate of Rs.1,000/- per month from each of the 21 Anganwadi Centres. Accordingly, the bribe amount for three months worked out to Rs.63,000/- (Rs.3,000/-* 21 Centres).

During the trap proceedings, the AO directly accepted the bribe amount of Rs.63,000/- from the complainant outside her office premises. The fainted bribe amount was recovered from the possession of the AO. Thus, the AO demanded and accepted illegal gratification for showing official favour by misusing her official position.

Therefore, the AD is being arrested and produced before the Hon'ble Special Judge for SPE & ACB Cases, Karimnagar, for judicial remand. The case is under investigation. The details of the complainant are withheld for security reasons.

CELL PHONE NUMBER-1064 (TOLL FREE NUMBER):

In case of demand of bribe by any Public Servant, the public are requested to contact Toll Free Number of ACB i.e.. 1064 for taking action as per Law, ACB Telangana can also be contacted through social media platforms whatsapp (9440446106), facebook (Telangana ACB), X/formerly twitter (@Telangana ACB). The name and details of the victim/complainant will be kept secret.



Borabanda Police Executed PD Act Orders Against Illegal Belt Shop Operator Smt. Vemula Sarala

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF : Today, i.e., on 26.09.2026, as per the orders of Sri VC Sajjanar IPS, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, Borabanda Police executed PD Act orders against illegal belt shop operator Smt. Vemula Sarala of Borabanda.

On 26.09.2026, Borabanda Police executed PD orders against Smt. Vemula Sarala, W/o V. Srinivasulu, aged about 45 years, Occupation: Housewife, R/o Banjara Nagar, Borabanda, Hyderabad under the provisions of the Telangana Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act (PD Act). Vemula Sarala has been running an illegal belt shop within the limits of Borabanda Police Station for the past few years and she was involved in several cases relating to the illegal sale of liquor. Considering her continued involvement in such unlawful activities, these orders were executed. **WARNING TO ILLEGAL BELT SHOPS / UNAUTHORIZED LIQUOR SALE:**

It has come to the notice of PS Borabanda Police that some persons are running illegal belt shops and selling liquor unauthorizedly in the limits of PS Borabanda, without valid license, in violation of the Excise Act. All such persons running belt shops are hereby strictly warned to STOP illegal sale of liquor immediately.

If any person is found running a belt shop / selling liquor illegally, stringent legal action will be taken against them as per law: Case will be registered under the Telangana Excise Act.

PD Act will be invoked against habitual offenders. Persons giving shelter / place for belt shop will also be made accused.

Public are requested to inform about belt shops / illegal liquor sale to PS Borabanda on Dial 112. Informant details will be kept strictly confidential.



Kasba High School Building to Be Used as BC Boys' Hostel District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District : Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to expedite the necessary arrangements to utilize the Kasba High School building in Nirmal town as a BC Boys' Welfare Hostel.

On Saturday evening, the Collector inspected the Kasba High School building. He instructed officials to convert the vacant building into a hostel for BC students and make it available to them at the earliest. He directed them to undertake the necessary modifications and repairs and



provide suitable facilities for the students.

The Collector also instructed officials to keep the

surroundings of the hostel clean and pleasant and ensure that all essential basic amenities are provided to the students. He stated that the availability of the hostel would greatly benefit BC students.

DEO Bhojanna, BC and Minority Welfare Officers Srinivas and Dayanand, Assistant BC Welfare Officer Satyanarayana, Tahsildar Raju, officials and staff accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

Bharat Hyundai Delivers 50 Hyundai PRIME SD Fleet Vehicles to Victory Luxury Limousine Logistics.

Hyderabad, September 26, 2026: Bharat Hyundai, Gowlidoddi, Hyderabad, proudly delivered 50 Hyundai PRIME SD fleet vehicles to Victory Luxury Limousine Logistics Private Limited, marking a significant milestone in their business association.

With several multinational and technology companies increasingly focusing on efficient and responsible employee transportation solutions, the demand for reliable fleet vehicles continues to grow. As part of this evolving trend, Victory Luxury Limousine Logistics Private Limited has chosen Hyundai PRIME SD fleet vehicles through Bharat Hyundai to support its employee transportation requirements, with a focus on operational efficiency and environmental considerations.



The special delivery event was held at Bharat Hyundai, Gowlidoddi, in the presence of distinguished guests, management representatives, employees, financiers, customers, and influencers.

Mr. Jahingir Haadi, Managing Director, Victory Luxury Limousine Logistics Private Limited, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, South Regional 2 Manager & Mr. Manoj Batham, South Regional 2 Service Head, attended as the Guest of Honour.

The event was also attended by Mr. Shayan

Krishna Garu, CEO; and Mr. M. Srikanth Garu, General Manager, along with Bharat Hyundai employees, financiers, customers, and influencers.

The delivery of 50 Hyundai PRIME SD fleet vehicles reflects the trust and confidence placed by Victory Luxury Limousine Logistics Private Limited in Hyundai and Bharat Hyundai for its fleet requirements. Bharat Hyundai expressed its gratitude for the association and assured continued support and customer service.

The occasion concluded with the celebration of this important milestone and a commitment to building a strong, long-term business relationship between Victory Luxury Limousine Logistics Private Limited and Bharat Hyundai.

Bharat Hyundai – Gowlidoddi Sy. No. 58/1, Plot No. 3, 4, 5 & 6, Gowlidoddi, Gopanapalli, Financial District, Gachibowli, Hyderabad – 500032.

Grand Vinayaka Immersion Celebrations Held in Sangareddy

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent : September 26, 2026: Vinayaka immersion celebrations in Sangareddy a grand scale in Sangareddy town under the leadership of TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy, with large numbers of devotees participating in the festivities.

Jagga Reddy personally monitored the processions carrying Ganesh idols from various parts of the town. Moving on foot and travelling in an auto through the procession routes, he reviewed arrangements and coordinated with police and municipal officials to ensure smooth immersion and minimise inconvenience to devotees and disruption to traffic.

Jagga Reddy participated in the celebrations along with his wife Nirmala jagga reddy, daughter Jaya Chaitanya Reddy, son Bharat Sai Reddy and other family members. He interacted with devotees and actively took part in the festivities.

The immersion proceedings, which began on Friday evening, were personally monitored by Jagga Reddy at Kindi Bazar Lake until 6 a.m. on Saturday. He coordinated with officials and organisers to ensure that the idols arriving from different areas were immersed in an orderly manner.

Laddu Auction Fetches 21 Lakh

Jagga Reddy participated in the laddu auction organised by the Chaitanya Yuvajana Sangham and secured the laddu for Rupees 21 lakh on behalf of the people of Sangareddy Assembly constituency. He said he had acquired the laddu



in the auction representing the people of the constituency.

Devotional songs performed by popular singer Jangi Reddy were a special attraction during the celebrations. Cultural performances and band troupes also entertained devotees. The main streets of the town witnessed a festive atmosphere as the Vinayaka immersion celebrations concluded peacefully.

Grand Celebration of Chakali Iamma's 131st Birth Anniversary

Nirmal District : The 131st birth anniversary of Chakali Iamma was celebrated grandly in Nirmal district following the directions of the Telangana State unit of Bhim Army Blue Panther. On the occasion, floral tributes were paid to the portrait of Chakali Iamma.

Telangana State President Kamble Suryakanth, Nirmal District President Dr. Duthipala Rajeshwar, General Secretary Patharla Raju, Official Spokesperson Amarjeet Singh, members Putti Poshetty and Dondi Pranav, Today Freedom Nirmal District Correspondent Maraju Gangadhar, along with other committee members, garlanded the portrait of Chakali Iamma and paid their respects.

Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that Chakali Iamma would remain in history as a courageous woman who fought for social justice and self-respect. They said there was a need to convey her fighting spirit and ideals to the younger generation.

They stated that Iamma's struggle against social inequality and discrimination continues to inspire everyone. They called upon people to follow her ideals and work for the rights and welfare of weaker and marginalized sections of society.

Bhim Army Blue Panther leaders, activists, youth and others participated in the programme.



Victim's Family Thanks Police for Swift Justice

Vemulawada, September 26: In connection with a murder case registered at Vemulawada Town Police Station, the Hon'ble Court, after an efficient investigation by the police, has sentenced the accused Korepu Rajkumar to life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs. 10,000/-. Following the verdict, the victim's family members have expressed their gratitude to the police department.

The family members met Vemulawada Town Inspector Sri Veeraprasad in a courteous manner and conveyed their thanks to the District SP and police officials for their sincere efforts in investigating the case and ensuring justice for their family. On this occasion, the family members stated that the prompt investigation and initiative shown by the Vemulawada Town Police, from the registration of the case to filing of the charge sheet, helped them get justice.



BRS alleges discrimination against SC sarpanch for opposing illegal sand mining

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has alleged that Scheduled Caste (SC) public representatives were being discriminated against and humiliated in the Revanth Reddy government for opposing illegal sand mining.

BRS State General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar on Saturday came to the support of K a s h a m m a , sarpanch of Jajala village in Vangur mandal, which falls in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's home mandal. Kashamma has been opposing alleged illegal sand mining in the region. As a result, she was being denied bill payments and was not receiving cooperation for village development, he alleged.

Praveen Kumar accused Congress MLA from Achampet Chikkudu Vamshi Krishna of mentally harassing the woman sarpanch by refusing to clear her bills. He also condemned the alleged remarks made by the MLA, claiming that he had threatened to "skin alive" an SC sarpanch.

Kashamma was fighting to bring water to her village and demanding a halt to the



sand trade, Praveen Kumar said. He alleged that she had obstructed sand mining operations by the Chief Minister's associates on the outskirts of Jajala, Ulpara and Pothareddypalli villages in Vangur mandal, following which her bills were not being cleared.

The BRS leader visited the sand reaches in the Dundubi stream. BRS leaders alleged that excavators were being used in the stream in violation of regulations and that sand was being stockpiled. They also alleged that sand trade was continuing without way-bills. "The sand-laden lorries operate day and night right in front of the Chief Minister's residence in Kondareddypalli, yet no official takes any action," Praveen Kumar said.

The BRS General Secretary also alleged that MLC Balmoori Venkat was harassing NSUI State president Venkata Swamy, who

belongs to the Dalit community.

He further alleged that while the Revanth Reddy government had promised to make women millionaires, a woman entrepreneur, Sobha Reddy, was being harassed and pressured to visit a guest house after she sought a contract.

"Why is Revanth Reddy, who keeps referring to the Speaker by his Dalit identity, not calling on Kashamma, a Dalit woman representative?" Praveen Kumar asked.

The BRS leader also alleged that a committee constituted under GO 134 to investigate land issues was intended to harass BRS leaders for questioning the State government. "If the Congress government is transparent, a probe should be conducted into the land holdings of Revanth Reddy, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and other Congress leaders under GO 134," Praveen Kumar demanded.

Hyderabad's Ganesh immersion concludes on Saturday afternoon; 1.2 lakh idols immersed

Hyderabad: The main Ganesh idol immersion procession which spilled over to the second day concluded peacefully at Hussain Sagar on Saturday around 2 pm. The last few vehicles carrying idols were seen at the lakeshore late in the afternoon.



Hundreds of towering idols, which accumulated overnight from Friday into Saturday morning, stood in long, vibrant queues stretching across key central corridors. A sudden morning surge saw between 500 and 800 idols along the city's main roads cleared and immersed between 6 am and 2 pm on Saturday.

The barricades put up on the roads leading towards the water bodies were removed to restore vehicular traffic in the afternoon.

Simultaneously, the GHMC sanitation teams were deployed along with mechanical sweeping units to clear festival debris along the main procession routes.

According to official estimates, about 1.2 lakh Ganesh idols were immersed on Friday and Saturday.

Tonnes of waste, including garlands, puja material, decorative items, coloured paper and broken coconuts, were floating on Hussain Sagar Lake. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has deployed floating trash collectors and an amphibious excavator to remove the waste. Meanwhile, the GHMC which took up cleaning and sanitation initiatives post immersion, in a press release said around 4,527 metric tonnes of waste was cleared in the last two days. According to the civic body, this year's festivities saw a surge in waste collection, with 4,527 metric tons generated compared to the 3,266 metric tonnes during last year's festivities.

Sanitation workers were seen working round the clock to clear debris and restore the city's water bodies and streets. Around 6,000 sweepers and 770 sanitation workers were deployed at immersion points and about 42 mini-tippers and 10 JCBs were operated, besides GHMC's regular fleet.



Workers removed discarded floral garlands, dried leaves, broken coconuts and puja offerings. Disposable meal plates, water bottles, plastic cups, snack wrappers and promotional flex banners were also cleaned along Tank Bund and NTR Marg.

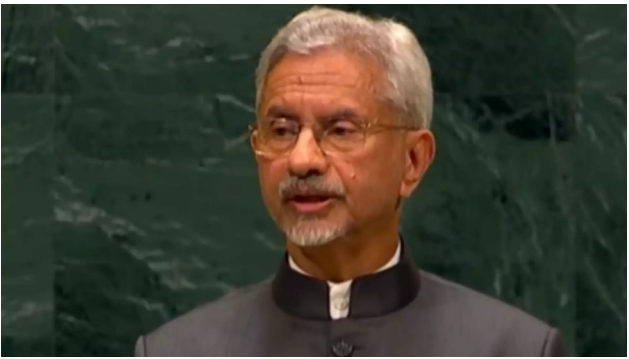
India Will Defend Itself Against Terror, Asserts Jaishankar

New Delhi: External affairs minister S. Jaishankar told the UN General Assembly on Saturday that India would continue to defend itself against terrorism, accusing Pakistan, without naming it, of trying to normalise the scourge and escape its consequences.

"Yesterday, a serial practitioner of terrorism misrepresented facts before this Assembly," Jaishankar said in India's address to the General Debate, a day after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke at the UN. He said arguments had been made to normalise terrorism and claim immunity from its consequences. "That will not stand."

Jaishankar said friendship and goodwill could not coexist with terrorism and that understandings based on them would be called into question. "It is for the perpetrator of terrorism to mend its ways," he said. Governments involved in state-sponsored, cross-border terrorism must be held accountable, he added, calling for an undiluted zero-tolerance approach and action against terror financing.

Turning to the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, Jaishankar warned of their impact on food, fuel, fertiliser and financial security, particularly in the Global South. He condemned attacks



on commercial shipping and seafarers as "simply unacceptable" and referred to India's initiative with Liberia and other countries to strengthen international cooperation to protect them.

India supported efforts to end the conflicts and was "willing to do everything possible" to advance peace and safeguard food and energy security, he said. Referring to the Russia-Ukraine war, now in its fifth year, he recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that "endless war must give way now to an end to war".

Jaishankar warned that the world was "living on the edge of an abyss" and said the countries bearing the greatest costs of global conflicts often had the least say in decisions about them. He also raised threats to the Global South's right to industrialise and spoke of India's efforts to build capacity in African countries.

Earlier, India used its Right of Reply to reject Sharif's remarks on terrorism and Kashmir. Petal Gahlot, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the UN, called Pakistan's claims "falsehoods" and warned that continued terrorism would have consequences.

Gahlot described Pakistan's government as "a regime of the army, by the army, and for the army" and referred to the immunity granted to its mili-

tary leadership under the 27th Constitutional Amendment. She also recalled that Osama bin Laden had lived near Pakistan's premier military academy before US forces found and killed him.

Rejecting Sharif's remarks on Kashmir, Gahlot said Jammu and Kashmir was an integral and inalienable part of India. She drew attention to allegations of violence and denial of rights in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and criticised Pakistan's treatment of minorities.

"Reiterating falsehoods year after year does not make them true. Pakistan's terrorism, deceit and duplicity will neither benefit it nor the world," she said.

Sharif had credited US President Donald Trump with a "timely intervention" in the 2025 India-Pakistan conflict. He also said a "just and fair" solution to the Kashmir issue was needed to prevent another confrontation. India rejected his account.

Gahlot referred to Operation Sindoor, launched by India in May 2025 against what it described as terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after the Pahalgam attack killed 26 civilians. "Our right to defend ourselves against terrorism will be exercised. And continued terrorism by Pakistan will have consequences," she said.

Gen Z leads surge in voter enrolment; 4.40 lakh new applications filed in Telangana

Gen Z voters are driving a surge in enrolment during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Telangana, with 4.40 lakh new applications filed. Alongside, thousands of overseas Indians have registered, while objections and corrections are being processed ahead of the final roll publication on November 9.

Hyderabad: Young and eligible citizens, particularly the Gen Z, are filling out the Form-6, an application for enrolment of new electors, during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

A staggering 4.40 lakh new applications (Form 6 – enrolment of new electors), with most from the Gen Z, have been registered from the State with the Election Commission of India, seeking voter identity card. In addition to locals, 6,327 overseas Indians registered for the voter ID by filing Form 6A with the ECI.

Young electors who have attained 18 years of age on or before October 1, 2026, have been encouraged to apply through Form-6, along with the prescribed declaration. However, they also need to submit their parents' SIR 2002 details and link them accordingly.

Those young and eligible individuals who attain the age eligibility and apply on or before October 1, 2026, will be included in the final electoral list. However, the registration for voter identification cards is a year-long process where individuals who attain eligibility can register with the ECI.

"There is no fixed deadline for registration for young individuals. It is a yearlong process. However, if an individual wants to be included in the final electoral roll, they need to attain the eligibility and apply on or before October 1. The



electoral roll gets updated from time to time. We have received all Form-6As online," sources said.

According to Telangana Chief Electoral Office sources, so far, a staggering 32,000 applications were filed, objecting to proposed inclusion or seeking deletion of existing entry from the electoral list. "Such objections will be thoroughly verified before removing them from the list. Mere submission of Form-7 will not lead to voter name deletion," sources said.

Further, 3.75 lakh electors submitted Form-8, seeking corrections in their electoral details such as shifting of residence within or outside the constituency, changes in name, gender or age, replacement of EPIC without correction and marking of PWD elector.

Out of 3,38,26,448 electors in the State 2,64,87,213 submitted their enumeration forms,

and 73,39,235 voters were categorised under the absent, shifted, death or double (ASDD) vote. Among those who submitted enumeration forms, the SIR notices were generated for a total of 92,87,576 voters under categories – anomalies such as mismatch of name, spelling error or age, and no mapping with SIR 2002 list.

As per the SIR revised schedule, the individuals can raise claims and file objections on the draft electoral roll until October 7. The notice, disposal of claims and objections phase will conclude on November 5. The final electoral roll publication is scheduled for November 9.

Mamata Says INDIA Bloc Likely to Meet in Delhi on Sept 30 Amid SIR Row

Kolkata: Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said that an INDIA bloc meeting is likely to be held in Delhi to discuss EC-related issues and chart out the opposition's next course of action. Addressing a rally at Serampore in Hooghly district, the Mamata All India Trinamool Congress chief said she sent a message to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and told him that the opposition parties must sit together, amid protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

"I sent a message to Rahul Gandhi, and told him that we must sit together. A meeting of the INDIA bloc will most likely be held in Delhi's Constitution Club on September 30," she added. The proposed meeting comes amid efforts by op-



position parties to coordinate their response to the controversy surrounding the functioning of the Election Commission and the SIR exercise. Sources said Banerjee also spoke to Rahul Gandhi over the phone and urged him to convene an INDIA bloc meeting at the earliest. She also had a conversation with CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby. The discussions are expected to focus on the opposition's next course of action against Kumar, the Election Commission and the SIR exercise, the sources added.

4.5 Lakh Indiramma Houses Sanctioned In First Phase

JANGAON: The Telangana government's objective was to make the state free of thatched huts and Indiramma houses would be sanctioned in phases to every eligible poor family, revenue and housing minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

The minister participated in a programme at the Preston College ground in Jangaon on Saturday to distribute sanction letters for Indiramma houses. He announced financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each for 500 families identified as living in thatched houses in the Jangaon Assembly constituency.

Srinivas Reddy said 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses had been sanctioned across the state in the first phase, with financial assistance of ₹5 lakh for each house. Another 2.5 lakh houses had been sanctioned in the second phase, he said, adding that an additional 2,000 houses had been allocated to the Jangaon constituency.

Funds were being directly credited to beneficiaries' bank accounts every Monday based



on the stage of construction, he said.

The minister said financial assistance ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh would be provided to complete unfinished Indiramma houses, including those where only walls or slabs had been completed. He also announced immediate sanction of ₹2 crore to make incomplete double-bedroom houses in Jangaon fit for occupation. Officials were directed to hand them over to eligible beneficiaries by Dasara.

Jangaon MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy requested the government to immediately commence development works sanctioned at a cost of ₹18.90 crore in the municipality. He also sought funds to widen the Vadlakonda-Shamirpet bypass into a double-lane road and for repairs to the Chitakodur bridge and Gandiramaram pumping facilities.

Later, the minister handed over sanction letters for Indiramma houses to 500 beneficiaries.

Govt Committed To Development Of Shepherd Community: Minister

KARIMNAGAR: Animal husbandry minister Vakati Srihari said the state government was committed to the social, political and financial development of the shepherd community and would introduce more schemes for its welfare.

Srihari, along with transport minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, attended the general body meeting of the Karimnagar District Sheep Growers' Co-operative Association at Indira Bhavan here on Saturday.

On the occasion, Srihari released a poster marking the launch of the sheep insurance scheme.

Speaking at the meeting, the minister said shepherds faced difficulties when they took sheep to other areas for grazing for



several months. The insurance scheme would help them, he said.

Shepherds would have to pay a premium of ₹13 for each sheep and goat, while the government would contribute the remaining amount, he said.

Srihari said thousands of sheep from other states were brought to Hyderabad for sale every Saturday and called upon local shepherds to increase sheep rearing to meet the state's requirements.

The minister said he would take steps to waive the loans of shepherds. He said the State government would introduce more welfare schemes for the community and implement them with the help of vigilance to prevent irregularities.

Prabhakar said the government was committed to the development of weaker sections and caste artisans. He said there was a demand to provide pensions to caste artisans from the age of 55 and assured that he would propose the demand to the government.

Warangal to Be Developed as Sports Hub: Naini

HANAMKONDA: Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy said the government's objective was to develop Warangal as a sports hub, identify talented sportspersons at the grassroots level and provide them opportunities to compete at the international level.

He inaugurated the 12th Telangana State Athletic Championship and India Youth Under-18 selection trial camp, organised by the Warangal District Athletics Association, on Saturday. Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju, city police commissioner N. Shwetha and district library corporation chairman Aziz Khan, among others, attended.

Reddy said steps were being taken to comprehensively develop the stadium and transform it into a sports hub rather than limiting it to a playing field. Elected representatives had jointly brought the requirements for infrastructure and training facilities for sportspersons to the attention of



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who responded positively and initiated steps for sanctioning funds, he said.

He said sports helped promote discipline, confidence and a healthy lifestyle among youth. The government would encourage sports at the village level and provide talented athletes with training and opportunities, he said.

Reddy said the government, elected representatives and sports associations would work in coordination to promote sports in Warangal and Hanamkonda.

KTR urges graduates to use MLC vote wisely, target Congress government

Hyderabad: Referring to surveys that he said predict a strong victory for the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), party working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday urged graduates to make effective use of their vote in the upcoming MLC elections.

He urged graduates to use their vote as an opportunity to express their opinion on the Congress government in the State and the BJP-led Central government. Irrespective of the election, including those to the Graduates constituency or Zilla Parishad, people should ensure that they elect the right leader and party, he said.

"Any lethargy or negligence in electing the right leader will have adverse consequences. Repenting a wrong choice or decision later will be futile," Rama Rao said while addressing party workers at Telangana Bhavan after several Congress leaders from Inagurthy in Mahabubabad joined the BRS.

He said the Congress was elected to power but had deceived all sections of people, leaving them with no opportunity to correct their decision for five years.

Before the Assembly elections, the Congress promised the moon to people but had failed miserably to fulfil its electoral promises, he alleged. Staunch Congress leaders from Inagurthy had now left the party and were praying for BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao to return to power, he said.

"Despite two years remaining in the



Congress government's term, many leaders are quitting the party and joining the BRS. This spark, which ignited in Mahabubabad, should spread across Telangana," Rama Rao said.

The BRS working president said several organisations were conducting independent surveys after three years of Congress rule.

"Cutting across sections, people are categorically announcing that KCR will return as the Chief Minister in 2028," he said.

Rama Rao recalled that then TPCC president A Revanth Reddy had stated before the elections that people would trust fraudsters.

Taking a sarcastic jibe at the Chief Minister, Rama Rao said Revanth Reddy had fulfilled one promise by bringing back the "old days" of power outages, urea shortage and other problems in the State.

Despite criticism from Congress leaders, people had displayed their love and affection for BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao during the Ganesh festivities across the State, he claimed.

"It has been three years. As a responsible leader, K Chandrashekhara Rao allowed the ruling party to govern and fulfil its electoral promises, but it failed. During the Ganesh festivities, KCR's name reverberated across the State," Rama Rao added.

Congress, BJP Activists Clash at Ilamma Jayanti in Karimnagar

Karimnagar: Congress and BJP activists clashed during Chakali Ilamma Jayanti celebrations in Karimnagar on Saturday. Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Vakati Srihari garlanded the statue of Ilamma during celebrations marking her 131st birth anniversary at Pratima Multiplex on Collectorate Road. The ministers left the venue without speaking, following which BJP leaders raised objections. Congress leaders then entered into an argument with BJP activists. A jostling took place between the two groups. During the clash, a BJP worker



allegedly slapped a ruling party activist. Congress activists tried to retaliate but were stopped. Police intervened and brought the situation under control by dispersing the groups from the spot.

Warangal: Ilamma's Struggle Against Bonded Labour Remembered

Warangal: The 131st birth anniversary of Telangana armed struggle veteran Chakali Ilamma was observed across the erstwhile Warangal district on Saturday.

Public representatives, officials, political leaders and representatives of Rajaka associations paid floral tributes to her statues at several places in Warangal and Hanamkonda districts.

At New Shayampet in Hanamkonda, MLAs Naini Rajender Reddy, Revuri Prakash Reddy and Nagaraju, along with Hanamkonda collector Chahat Bajpai, Warangal collector Satya Sharada and GWMC commissioner Venkanna, paid tributes to Ilamma.

Naini said Ilamma's fight against the dominance of feu-



dal landlords, exploitation and bonded labour had become a symbol of Telangana's self-respect.

He called upon the youth to draw inspiration from her struggle for the rights of marginalised communities, social justice and equality.

In Warangal, BJP senior leader and former corporator Narlagiri Ramalingam led a programme at Chakali Ilamma crossroads, where BJP state leader Rao Amarendra Reddy paid tributes.

He said Ilamma's struggle for land, livelihood and self-respect had left an enduring mark on the people's movement.

Narlagiri Ramesh, Gabbeta Seenu, Kondra Shankar and Dalapathi were among those who participated.

AP Developing 23 Sector-Specific Clusters to Drive Industrial Growth: Lokesh

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh is developing 23 sector-specific industrial clusters covering electronics, automotive, green energy, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, steel, drones, aquaculture, and advanced manufacturing. “We want to create complete industrial ecosystems, rather than attracting individual companies,” declared IT and education minister N. Lokesh said on Friday.

Agriculture and horticulture are also being given priority under the cluster-based development strategy, he stated, while addressing the CII Partnership Summit 2026 roadshow in Ahmedabad. Lokesh invited Gujarat industrialists to partner with Andhra Pradesh and invest in emerging sectors.

At a pharma round-table jointly organised by CII and AP Economic Development Board (APEDB), the AP minister invited pharmaceutical companies to invest in the 2,000-acre Bulk Drug Park being developed at Nakkapalli in Anakapalli district, whose first phase has already been completed. He pointed to land availability, port connectivity, lower operating costs, a pharma ecosystem, government support, and investment incentives for companies coming up at the park.

Lokesh said four pharmaceutical clusters are being developed in Anakapalli-Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Nellore, and Vizianagaram regions. Visakhapatnam is also home to the Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ), while the state has six operational ports and



four Greenfield ports.

The minister disclosed that India's pharma market is projected to reach \$130 billion by 2030. With a value of \$11.05 billion, AP figures among India's top five pharma states.

He said AP wants to become a growth engine in building a developed India. He pointed out that 25.3 per cent of investments coming into the country had reached

Andhra Pradesh during the first nine months of 2025–26. “Speed of doing business” is the key strength of the state, he maintained, pointing out that AP is offering investors policy clarity, stability, reliable power, infrastructure, skilled manpower, and speedy government services.

“Attracting investment is only the first step. Grounding projects is the real test,” the minister emphasised. He cited the proposed \$15-billion Google AI hub and data centre in Visakhapatnam and the ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel Greenfield project as examples of speedy execution. The steel project, with an annual capacity of about 17 million metric tonnes and an investment of over \$12 billion, progressed from the first interaction with the company to foundation-laying within 17 months, he pointed out.

Lokesh said AP would treat investors as long-term partners in AP's development. The government's approach is built around three 'S' factors — speed, stability and service — and investors' problems are examined for systemic solutions. He cited electronics and defence projects as examples of the government's ecosystem approach. The minister asked Gujarat companies to use AP as a strategic gateway to eastern India and create new opportunities along with AP. He revealed that AP has set a target of becoming a \$2.4-trillion economy by 2047 from the present \$200 billion, with a 15 per cent growth rate.

State Slams Centre on Cuts on Palm Oil Imports

Hyderabad:Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao slammed the Central government over its decision to reduce duties on import of cooking oils, and said the decision hurt Telangana's oil palm farmers.

Reacting to the Centre's decision, Nageswara Rao had written to Prime Minister and Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Shivraj Singh Chauhan and Pralhad Joshi demanding that the Centre must first think about farmers in the country and not place the interests of importers above the farmers. Nageswara Rao also urged Chief Ministers A.



Revanth Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu to take up the matter with the Centre and ensure local oil palm farmers interests are not hurt.

He said Telangana was number one in the country growing oil palm in 1.19 lakh hectares with 88,621 farmers depending on this crop for their livelihoods. The Centre's decision does not make any sense as it, on the one hand, encourages oil palm cultivation and now has reduced import duties on both crude and processed oil palm.

Put Social Reforms Above Politics: PM

New Delhi: Urging BJP workers to focus on social reforms and positive changes rather than vote bank politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that over the past 12 years, the gap between cities and villages in India has significantly narrowed and infrastructure in villages has improved to a great extent.

Virtually interacting with participants of 'Seva Yatra', an ongoing motorcycle rally travelling from Varanasi to Vadnagar, he said that self-reliance among women has also increased in the country.

The Prime Minister said, "When we look at the life of Mahatma Gandhi, we see that alongside fighting against the British and leading the freedom movement, he was also a great social reformer. He always worked against the evils prevalent in society. Therefore, we political



workers too must continue working towards social reform and positive change, not look at vote banks. Those who serve society deserve to have their service respected."

He praised those who carried out the cleanliness work in Prayagraj, noting that their efforts made the 'Kumbh Mela' famous worldwide for sanitation and elevated India's honour. "So, I felt compelled to wash the feet of those who have enhanced India's honour so much, to seek their blessings," the Prime Minister said.

Modi said that the 'Seva Yatra' has played a very important role in his own life and there is hardly any district in the country that he has not

had the privilege of visiting.

"There are countless districts where I have had the opportunity to spend the night. Every journey and every experience gathered along the way continues to guide me like a guru even today. These journeys have taught me so much," he said.

Vadnagar in Gujarat is the birthplace of Modi, while Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is his Lok Sabha constituency since 2014. The two rallies — Vadnagar to Varanasi and Varanasi to Vadnagar— are passing through towns, districts, and villages to take the spirit of service directly to the grassroots.

Modi said Vadnagar gave him the values that shaped his life, and Kashi (Varanasi) has added countless colours of service to those values.

"I am glad that all of you, young friends, are also enriching this journey with the many colours of service," he said.

Gandhi Parivar Stands for Sacrifice: Revanth

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday said the political battle over the future of India was a fight between two “parivars” — the Gandhi Parivar and the Sangh Parivar — and declared that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would become Prime Minister.

Addressing a gathering at Nilambur in Kerala after receiving the Aryadan Muhammed Memorial Award 2026 for best public servant, Revanth Reddy said a “new breeze” had begun to blow from Kerala and would turn into a political storm across the country by the 2029 general elections.

He drew a parallel between Kerala's monsoon and its political trends, saying weather experts across the country looked to Kerala every year because the onset of the monsoon there helped predict rainfall patterns in Telangana, Karnataka, Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and eventually New Delhi.

Kerala is the bell-weather state,” he said, adding that political developments in Kerala had also coincided with changes at the Centre in several instances. In 1991, when the Congress' K. Karunakaran was Chief Minister of Kerala, P.V. Narasimha Rao became Prime Minister; in 1996,



when the Communists came to power in Kerala the Congress lost power in Delhi.

Revanth Reddy also referred to 2001, when Congress' A.K. Antony became Kerala Chief Minister, followed by the Congress-led government coming to power at the Centre in 2004. He contrasted this with the period after Left leader Pinarayi Vijayan became Chief Minister, when Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014.

“Now we see a new breeze, a new wind. In 2026, Congress won in Kerala again; that political breeze is blowing from Kerala and is becoming a storm,” he said.

The Chief Minister said the “winds of change” were

being felt across India and people were listening to the “goonj” of Rahul Gandhi's words of hope. He appealed to people to stand behind Rahul Gandhi to “save India from communal forces”.

Revanth Reddy said the Gandhi Parivar represented sacrifice, referring to the lives of Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and saying that Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi had sacrificed “post, power and position”. He accused the Sangh Parivar of seeking to divide India on the basis of religion, caste, region and language. He said he had no personal political ambition left and that his only remaining ambition was to see Rahul

Gandhi become Prime Minister.

Revanth Reddy alleged that the country's democratic foundations were under threat due to “vote ki chori, party ki chori, symbol ki chori and funds ki chori” by the BJP. Such developments amounted to “stealing the future of youth” and undermining the integrity of the vote, he said.

Calling upon Congress workers to turn the political momentum from Kerala into a nationwide movement, he said, “Congress wave has started from here. We have to make it a tsunami across India.”

The Chief Minister also underlined his personal connection with Kerala, saying he felt close to the state because the people of Kerala had elected Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi to Parliament.

Revanth Reddy described the Aryadan Muhammed award as an honour, saying he was the first person from outside Kerala to receive the prestigious award. The Aryadan Muhammed Foundation had selected him for the Best Public Servant Award in recognition of his leadership and welfare initiatives for farmers, backward classes and other communities in Telangana. The award carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a citation and a memento.

Rohit, Kohli lead the spotlight as India face West Indies

India begin their 2026-27 home season against the West Indies in the first ODI in Thiruvananthapuram, with veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli attracting the spotlight. The series also marks the start of India's preparations for next year's ODI World Cup

Thiruvananthapuram: With their on-field presence turning routine bilateral matches into marquee events, all eyes will understandably be on veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli when a depleted India begin their 2026-27 home international season against the West Indies in the first ODI at the Greenfield International Stadium here on Sunday.

The series marks the beginning of a long run of 50-over matches for captain Shubman Gill and his Indian team as they prepare for next year's 50-over World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. But while the team management grapples with the absence of players due to a combination of injuries and the Asian Games in Japan, the overarching public narrative continues to revolve around the two stalwarts — Rohit and Kohli.

Rohit, who emphatically quashed speculation surrounding his future with a blistering 138 against England at Lord's in July, will be under close scrutiny for his tactical role. Since the 2025 Champions Trophy, the former India captain has scored two centuries in 15 innings. However, eight scores below 30 and a noticeably tempered scoring rate during the field restrictions have



raised questions over his powerplay batting approach.

Kohli, on the other hand, arrives with his usual purpose and energy. The star top-order batter is just 51 runs short of becoming only the second player in cricket history, after Sachin Tendulkar, to breach the 15,000-run milestone in ODI cricket. Having registered eight fifty-plus scores in his last 12 outings, Kohli's current consistency gives India's batting line-up a solid look.

Beyond the two focal figures, India's broader tactical challenge lies in balancing a makeshift line-up. With premier fast-bowling all-rounders Hardik Pandya and Harshit Rana sidelined through injury rehabilitation, and spin-bowling options Axar Patel and Washington Sundar away on Asian Games commitments in Aichi-Nagoya, Nitish Kumar Reddy is virtually guaranteed a place in the playing XI.

Veteran left-arm spin-bowling all-

rounder Ravindra Jadeja will lead the spin contingent alongside left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav. Uncapped Jammu and Kashmir all-rounder Auqib Nabi has also earned a maiden call-up to bolster the squad's depth. However, with Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Gurnoor Brar also in the squad, he may have to wait for his opportunity, as may Naman Dhir.

For Shai Hope's West Indies side, which is coming off close series defeats to New Zealand and Sri Lanka, the series offers an opportunity to test themselves against an Indian team missing several key players. The West Indies are also set to play ODI World Cup qualifiers next year.

Attention will also be on 19-year-old wrist-spinner Vitel Lawes, who made his ODI debut against New Zealand in July and claimed eight wickets in five matches.

Key Details:

When: Sunday, September 26, 2 pm IST

Where: Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

Where to watch: The match will be telecast live on Star Sports Network channels. Live streaming will be available on the JioHotstar app and website.

Squads
India: Shubman Gill (captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KL Rahul (vice-captain), Dhruv Jurel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Mohammed Siraj, Auqib Nabi, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Naman Dhir.

West Indies: Shai Hope (captain), Jewel Andrew, John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Vitel Lawes, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Sherfane Rutherford and Jayden Seales.

SPORTS

Asian Games: Delhi HC Refuses to Direct Participation of Jiu-Jitsu Player



New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has refused to interfere with the Centre's decision not to send an Indian contingent to participate in the Asian Games in the men's 94 kg weight category of Jiu-Jitsu. Dismissing a petition by athlete Shubham Kumar on September 22, Justice Amit Mahajan asserted that the court cannot compel participation when the authorities have decided not to compete in the sporting event. Noting that the Games had already begun on September 19, the judge added that no effective relief can be granted to the petitioner at this juncture.

Kumar sought directions from the court to ensure his participation in the Jiu-Jitsu event of the 20th Asian Games, 2026 in his category.

His counsel contended that despite satisfying the eligibility, his candidature was not processed for participation in the Jiu-Jitsu event.

The Centre's counsel said an Indian contingent was not being sent for the petitioner's cat-

egory and that the petitioner's name was submitted beyond the cut-off date.

The court concluded that a decision to exclude an athlete from participation in a particular category is taken objectively by the authorities and subject experts, which cannot be interfered with.

It said no ground was made out to exercise its jurisdiction in the present case.

"This court cannot, in exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, direct the respondents to send an athlete for participation in an event when the respondents have categorically stated that no athlete is being sent for the concerned event and it also stands admitted that the names of the athletes had not be sent by the association before the cut off date i.e. 14.05.2026," it said.

"The courts also cannot substitute its own decision for that of the competent sporting authorities and compel participation," it added.

Asian Games 2026: PV Sindhu beats Chiu Pin-chian to reach round of 16

PV Sindhu defeated Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-chian 21-19, 21-14 to reach the women's singles round of 16 at the Asian Games. She will face Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki next, while Unnati Hooda and Ayush Shetty also advanced.

Ichinomiya: India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu marched into the round of 16 at the ongoing Asian Games after a strong 21-19, 21-14 win over Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-chian in the second round of the women's singles at the Ichinomiya City Municipal Gymnasium here on Saturday.

Sindhu, a two-time Asian Games medalist, made light work of Pin-chian despite trailing in the first game. She was trailing 10-11 at the break in the first game but came back to bid for a lead. She saw two game points go away in the first game, but eventually clinched the opener on her third game point for a 1-0 lead.

The Olympic double medalist then settled much more into the rhythm in the second game. She took an 11-7 lead into the second game break and did not



let the momentum slip away as she clinched the second game 21-14.

Sindhu will now be up against Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki in the round of 16, scheduled to take place later in the day. Sindhu-starrer India had lost to Japan in the Women's Team quarterfinals earlier at the ongoing Games.

Meanwhile, Sindhu will also look to bag a medal at the Asiad this time around after she returned empty-handed from the Hangzhou Games, where she was eliminated in the women's singles quarterfinals.

Earlier in the day, Unnati Hooda defeated Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching in the second round 21-14, 20-22, 21-9. She will face Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani in the round of 16 on Saturday, with the singles players scheduled to play twice in a single day.

Ayush Shetty outclassed Kazakhstan's Makhsut Tajibullayev in his second-round outing 21-7, 21-7 and will face Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in what will be a tough outing for the Indian shuttler.

Lakshya Sen was knocked out in the men's singles after his second-round defeat to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew 12-21, 21-15 and 14-21.

Kapil, Ghanghas win 5-0 to enter Asian Games quarters

Indian boxers Kapil Pokhariya and Priya Ghanghas advanced to the Asian Games quarterfinals with unanimous victories, while Jadumani Singh was knocked out. Kapil defeated Iran's Sam Estaki 5-0, Ghanghas beat Oh Yeon-Ji 5-0 and Jadumani lost 0-3

Nagoya: Indian boxers Kapil Pokhariya (90kg) and Priya Ghanghas (60kg) advanced to the quarterfinals with impressive wins at the Asian Games here on Saturday, while Jadumani Singh (55kg) was knocked out.

Kapil, who hails from Uttarakhand, registered a 5-0 win over Iran's Sam Estaki to enter the last eight.

Ghanghas, who won gold at last month's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, secured a unanimous 5-0 win over 2018 Asian Games champion Oh



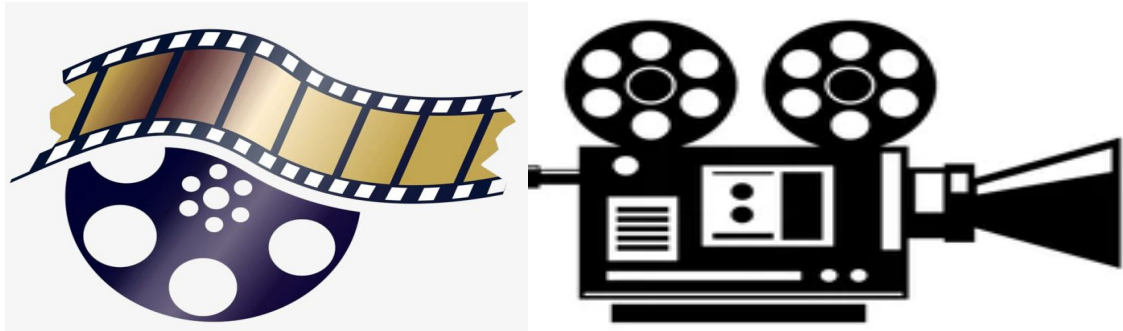
Yeon-Ji of South Korea, 36, to advance to the quarterfinals.

But Jadumani, a silver medalist at the Commonwealth Games, lost 0-3 to Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Carlo Paalam of the Philippines.

Pokhariya controlled the contest from the outset, taking a 4-1 lead in the opening round with cleaner punches despite Estaki's height advantage.

The Indian continued to hold the upper hand in the second round, earning another unanimous 5-0 verdict from the judges.

Estaki could not mount a serious challenge in the final round as Pokhariya remained composed to complete a comfortable win.



CINEMA

‘Kaaka’ moves into dubbing, post-production gathers pace

Chiranjeevi’s upcoming action entertainer ‘Kaaka’, directed by Bobby Kolli, has begun dubbing following a traditional pooja. Produced by KVN Productions, the film also stars Anaswara Rajan and Nivetha Pethuraj and is being planned for a Sankranti 2027 release

Hyderabad: The cast of director Bobby Kolli’s eagerly awaited action entertainer ‘Kaaka’, featuring Megastar Chiranjeevi in the lead, has begun dubbing for the film, according to industry sources.

Sources close to the film’s unit said the cast began dubbing after a traditional pooja. Other post-production activities are also being carried out simultaneously, they added.

It may be recalled that Chiranjeevi recently disclosed the name of the character he plays in the film. During a speech at a recent event, the Megastar revealed that he would be playing a character called Kadiri Kalidas.

Sources close to the unit said that while ‘Kaaka’ has been envisioned as a high-intensity action entertainer, it will also feature a strong emotional and family-oriented narrative, making the protagonist’s character arc one of its key attractions.

The unit began its most recent schedule on September 7.



KVN Productions, which is producing the film, announced the title a few days ago through a title teaser and revealed that the film would hit screens on January 13, 2027.

Taking to social media to share the title teaser, the production house wrote, “Meet Supervisor Satyam, C/O Ammaji Aqua Industries, Ravulapalem. Team #KAAKA wishes the one and only Megastar @Kchirutweets garu a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Title glimpse out now. January 13, 2027 – Sankranti release.”

The title teaser showed Chiranjeevi working at a shrimp farm called Ammaji Aqua Industries. His character is named Satyam and he works as a supervisor at the facility, where people from different regions of the country are employed.

The teaser showed an employee attempting to return a key to Chiranjeevi but dropping it into a pool full of shrimps. Chiranjeevi then retrieved the key using a giant electromagnet. Along with the key, several weapons also emerged from the pool. The key had a keychain that read, ‘I love dad’.

The film has generated considerable interest among fans and film buffs since it was first

announced, while the title teaser has added to the excitement.

Sources close to the unit said the first half of the film ends with a spectacular action sequence. They claimed that the interval fight sequence, which was shot recently, is set to be one of the major attractions of the film. The action block has been designed and executed on a grand scale and is expected to provide a powerful high point before the second half.

Sources also claimed that the initial output has given the team immense confidence, with the narrative maintaining a mix of intensity, entertainment, emotion and action.

Anaswara Rajan and Nivetha Pethuraj play pivotal roles in the film, which is being planned as a Sankranti 2027 release. With the shoot progressing smoothly and the first-half edit nearing completion, the production is moving towards the next phase.

This is the second time director Bobby has worked with Chiranjeevi. The two previously collaborated on the action entertainer ‘Waltair Veerayya’.

Sanjay Reminds Me of His Father Vijay, Says Chiranjeevi

Megastar Chiranjeevi attended the grand pre-release event of Sigma in Hyderabad as the chief guest and extended his support to debutant director Jason Sanjay, son of Tamil actor-turned-politician Vijay.

Recalling his first meeting with Sanjay, Chiranjeevi said the youngster reminded him of his father. “When he came to meet me, he reminded me of his father Vijay during 1993-94,” Chiranjeevi said. He also asked Sanjay whether he was more interested in acting or direction. “He said he was very much interested in writing and direction,” the megastar recalled.

Chiranjeevi also spoke about Sanjay’s family legacy in cinema. He pointed out that the youngster is carrying forward the creative legacy of his grandfather, S S Chandrasekar, who directed films such as Chattatniki Kallu Levu and Devantakudu, and his grandmother Shoba, who was involved in screenwriting.

“S S Chandrasekar was a very good director, while his wife Shoba garu penned scripts. Sanjay is taking forward the skills of his grandparents. He has inherited those genes and has turned director,” Chiranjeevi said.

The megastar further recalled Vijay’s journey in cinema and expressed his wishes for



Sanjay’s directorial career. “I have seen his father Vijay rise to meteoric heights as an actor, and I wish Sanjay also achieves his goals as a director. I think his debut film Sigma will pave the way for his dreams,” he added.

Jason Sanjay, meanwhile, said that his father is excited to watch the film but has chosen not to participate in its promotional campaign due to his responsibilities as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. Sanjay said he wanted the promotions to remain focused on the film and its team rather than on his father.



Deepika Pilli Stuns in Elegant Green Saree With Pink Floral Details

Deepika Pilli charms in her latest outdoor photoshoot, smiling brightly with eyes closed and arms outstretched amid lush greenery. She wears a light green saree adorned with pink rose motifs and gold detailing, paired with a vibrant pink sleeveless blouse. Pearl bangles, earrings, and a delicate necklace complete the fresh, elegant look. Captioned with , the images credit styling by @reshma_stylist, saree from @rang_by_shilpa, hair by @mounika_reddy_makeover, and photography by @absolutelyrahul.

Born on April 15, 1999, in Vijayawada (raised in Hyderabad), Deepika began as a social media influencer on TikTok, amassing millions of followers with dance and lip-sync videos. She entered television as a contestant on Dhee 13 Kings vs Queens (2021) and later hosted shows like Comedy Stars Dhamaka Season 2 and Comedy Stock Exchange.

Her film debut came with the Telugu comedy Wanted PanduGod (2022). She gained further recognition in Akkada Ammayi Ikkada Abbayi (2025) as Raja Kumari. With a growing presence in Telugu entertainment through hosting and acting, Deepika continues building her career with selective projects in film and digital platforms.

Manasa Varanasi comes on board for Sharwa-SV's George Krish!

Sharwanand is all set to entertain the audience in his upcoming family entertainer, George Krish. Srinu Vaitla is directing the film after a gap and he is joining hands with Sharwa for the first time too. Now, the makers have officially announced that the beautiful Manasa Varanasi will be playing the female lead opposite him. This refreshing pairing has already generated a lot of excitement among movie enthusiasts, promising a vibrant on-screen chemistry.

The movie team is now ramping up the promotional activities and preparing a massive surprise for the fans. A highly anticipated first booster update is officially arriving on September 24th. This early promotional drop is expected to give audiences an exciting glimpse into the world of this out-and-out family entertainer.

Director Sreenu Vaitla is collaborating with the actor for the very first time, bringing his signature style and grand scale to the project. The combination is already making waves, as fans are eager to see how the director presents this fresh lead pair in a festive backdrop.

George Krish is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on 14th. Backed by Anil Sunkara, the film is poised to be a major Sankranti special.

