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TGNPDCL CMD Calls for Uninterrupted Power Supply

State Bureau Chief M.A. Samad Nizamabad September 11, 2026 : TGNPDCL CMD Karnati Varun Reddy, has directed power utility officials to strengthen field-level monitoring and coordinated efforts to ensure quality, reliable and uninterrupted power supply to consumers across Nizamabad Circle. During his field-level review at the 132/33 kV Pochampad Substation, the CMD assessed the prevailing power supply situation and reviewed the functioning of the electrical network. He sought detailed information from officials on substation load conditions, feeder performance, supply status and measures being implemented to minimise power interruptions. The CMD instructed officials to continuously monitor feeders and substations and manage the power system efficiently in accordance with changing demand. He stressed that any interruption should be attended to immediately and power supply restored at the earliest to minimise inconvenience to consumers. Varun Reddy also emphasised preventive maintenance of electrical equipment and strict adherence to safety standards. He called for effective load management and proactive measures to ensure system stability, particularly during periods of increased power demand. Stressing the importance of inter-departmental coordination, the CMD directed officials of the Operations and TRANSCO wings to work in close coordination.



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tion. Better communication between the two wings, he said, would help identify technical issues quickly, improve response time and enhance the quality of services provided to consumers. "He further advised field officials to remain vigilant, undertake regular inspections and address potential technical problems before they develop into major supply interruptions. Safety of both employees and consumers, he emphasised, must remain a priority in all field operations. "SE/

Operations/Nizamabad Rajeshwar Rao, DE/Operations/Armoor, ADE/Operations/Perkit, TRANSCO DE/O&M, ADE / Lines, along with Section Officers and staff of the Perkit Sub-Division, participated in the review. The CMD's field-level review focused on strengthening the electricity distribution network, improving operational efficiency and ensuring dependable power supply to consumers through effective monitoring, preventive maintenance and coordinated action.

Timor-Leste Visit Opens New Frontiers for Diplomatic and Economic Cooperation

State Bureau Chief M.A.Samad Hyderabad September 11, 2026 : DILI, TIMOR-LESTE : A high-level delegation visit to Timor-Leste has laid the foundation for enhanced cooperation across diplomatic, governmental, trade, industry, agriculture, commerce and social development sectors, with a strong emphasis on forging sustainable partnerships and creating new opportunities of mutual benefit. "Describing the visit as a privilege and a deeply enriching experience, the delegation undertook a series of high-level engagements with the political leadership, government authorities, business institutions and social organisations of Timor-Leste. "The delegation was warmly received by the Ambassador of Timor-Leste and his spouse, reflecting the cordiality and goodwill that characterised the visit. The programme subsequently featured significant meetings with the President of Timor-Leste, Vice Prime Minister I and Vice Prime Minister II, the Minister for Industry, the Minister for Agriculture and the Director of Trade. "The high-level discussions

provided an important platform for exchanging views on areas of common interest and exploring avenues for strengthening cooperation. Particular attention was given to the potential for expanding trade and investment linkages, promoting industrial partnerships, supporting agricultural cooperation and facilitating greater engagement between institutions and business communities. The delegation also held constructive interactions with the Timor-Leste Association and the Chamber of Commerce. These engagements highlighted the considerable potential for private-sector collaboration, business-to-business partnerships and new commercial opportunities. The discussions also underscored the importance of establishing stronger institutional networks to facilitate future cooperation. "As part of the broader engagement, the delegation also interacted with the Chairman of MCH and representatives of Irmas Alma Disabled Home. The interaction with the social welfare institution provided an opportunity to gain valuable insights into initiatives aimed at



supporting persons with disabilities and promoting an inclusive society. The visit therefore extended beyond conventional diplomatic and commercial engagement, encompassing social development and people-to-people relations as important components of long-term cooperation. The delegation noted that Timor-Leste's growing economic and institutional landscape presents significant possibilities for future partnerships. The series of meetings provided an encouraging platform for identifying common priorities, exchanging expertise and developing practical initiatives that can translate into meaningful outcomes. The visit concluded on a highly positive note, marked by mutual respect, constructive dialogue and a shared commitment to strengthening

ing cooperation. The warm hospitality extended by the leadership, government representatives, diplomatic community, business organisations and social institutions of Timor-Leste was deeply appreciated. The successful engagement is expected to serve as a catalyst for further dialogue and collaboration, opening new frontiers in economic partnership, trade, investment, institutional cooperation and people-to-people relations between Timor-Leste and international partners. "The delegation expressed confidence that the goodwill generated during the visit would provide a strong foundation for continued engagement and the development of mutually beneficial opportunities in the years ahead.

Arrangements Being Made For The Telangana Global Summit 2026, Scheduled To Be Held From December 7 to 9, 2026-Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju

Dayyala Rakesh Bhanu State Bureau Chief Hyderabad September 11: Arrangements Being Made For The Telangana Global Summit 2026, Scheduled To Be Held From December 7 to 9, 2026 Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said, today reviewed the , at the Secretariat. He directed all the departments and committees concerned to ensure meticulous planning and advance coordination for the successful conduct of the prestigious global event. During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need for early and comprehensive engagement with all delegates and invitees. He instructed the officials to send invitations well in advance and establish contact with the delegates sufficiently ahead of the summit so that their travel, accommodation, transportation, security and other requirements could be planned and arranged smoothly. " Chief Secretary also directed the officials to prepare a holistic action plan for the Advisory Board and Sectoral Executive Board of the Global Summit. He further directed the officials to organise a curtain-raiser event in New Delhi by the end of this month to create wider



national and international visibility for the Telangana Global Summit 2026. The event should highlight Telangana's investment opportunities, growth story, key sectors and the vision of the State for the summit, he said. Chief Secretary reviewed in detail the preparations being undertaken by the Venue Committee, Media Committee and Hospitality Committee. He took stock of the progress made by each committee and sought timelines for completing the various preparatory activities. "Reviewing the arrangements of the Venue Committee, Chief Secretary directed the officials to ensure that all infrastructure and logistical requirements at the summit venue are planned

ed comprehensively, keeping in view the participation of national and international delegates. The Media Committee was directed to prepare a comprehensive communication and publicity strategy for the summit. He emphasized the importance of extensive media outreach and effective dissemination of information about the summit and its outcomes. The Hospitality Committee was asked to ensure proper arrangements for delegates, including reception, accommodation, transportation and other hospitality requirements. The Chief Secretary directed the officials to complete the tendering process by next week so that there would be sufficient time for execution,

testing and finalisation of all arrangements well ahead of the summit. He called upon the officials to work in close coordination and adopt a time-bound approach, with regular monitoring of the progress of preparations. He emphasised that the Telangana Global Summit 2026 should be organised to the highest standards and serve as a major platform to showcase Telangana as a preferred global destination for investments, innovation, partnerships and economic growth. Special Chief Secretary Energy Navin Mittal, Special Chief Secretary Tourism Vani Prasad and representatives of the concerned committees participated in the review meeting.

The High-level Conference Featured Highly Productive Deliberations Focused On Strengthening Transparency Frameworks

NATIONAL Bureau Chief Hyderabad September 11: 2nd day of national conference on RTI had the distinguished speakers sri Heeralal samaria ex central CIC Anil chandra Punetha ex cic uttkahand and Shakeel Ahmed ex Tamilnadu CIC. "The Telangana State Information Commission successfully hosted the Board of Governors and the Annual General Body meetings of the National Federation of Information Commissions in India (NFICI). The joint event, coordinated alongside the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), took place at the ASCI Campus in Hyderabad Presided over by NFICI President and Central Chief Information Commissioner (CCIC) Sri Raj Kumar Goyal. The Annual General Body meeting saw participation from 13 State Chief Information



mation Commissioners. The high-level conference featured highly productive deliberations focused on strengthening transparency frameworks. Marking the occasion, Telangana CIC Dr. G. Chandrasekhar Reddy presented commemorative mementoes to his visiting counterparts from across the nation. In a key administrative highlight, the general body unanimously elected Dr. Chandrasekhar Reddy as the new Vice President of NFICI.



SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

NEPAL, A VICTIM OF FRAGILE ECOLOGY

Nepal's devastating floods, triggered by glacial collapse, present a poignant irony. The tiny Himalayan nation has been paying a disproportionate price for global warming, though it has not contributed significantly to the crisis. It is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters because of its fragile ecology, while the climate change crisis, caused by greenhouse gas emissions and human activities, has further worsened the situation. This is despite the fact that Nepal produces less than 0.1% of global emissions. The August 26 floods have left a trail of death and destruction, with the search still on for missing persons and the death toll rising by the day. It is estimated that the country, already reeling under an economic crisis and political instability, would need \$4-5 billion for reconstruction. This is equivalent to one-tenth of a national economy that depends on remittances and tourism. Without help from countries like India and China, it cannot recover from the catastrophe. Climate change is altering the geology of glaciers, permafrost, and glacial lakes across the Himalayas, creating potential ticking time bombs. The latest tragedy has underscored the need for international cooperation to handle crises of such magnitude. India, China and other countries, along with international universities, research institutions and hazard-monitoring agencies, should become permanent partners. In an eloquent write-up, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor explained how the Nepal floods came as a devastating reminder of the fragile, interconnected ecological reality of Himalayan Asia and called for establishing an institutionalised tripartite mechanism among India, Nepal and China dedicated exclusively to ecological protection, real-time hydrological information-sharing, and joint climate adaptation efforts.

Arguing that designing such an institutional framework requires a clear-eyed assessment of the region's historical track record regarding ecological transparency, he rightly pointed out that cooperation between upper-riparian and lower-riparian states in the Himalaya has historically been uneven, reactive, and constrained by national security secrecy. Both India and Nepal have repeatedly voiced dissatisfaction with the quality, frequency, and timeliness of hydrological and geological data shared by China. The mounting toll of the floods is a grim reminder of the region's precarity. It underscores how a disturbance in higher altitudes can swiftly become a downstream catastrophe. Landslides, avalanches, and erratic rainfall can trigger cascading events. Several studies, including Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, have documented the retreat of glaciers in the rapidly warming Himalaya. The meltwater accumulates in glacial lakes, which can suddenly burst, sending enormous volumes of water and debris down narrow valleys. Over the years, Beijing's approach to sharing hydrological data during the monsoon season has been governed largely by transactional, bilateral MoUs rather than automatic, open-data commitments. Lower-riparian nations have often been left in the dark during critical moments. Even existing bilateral mechanisms between India and Nepal have frequently suffered from inadequate instrumentation in remote high-altitude zones, and a lack of an integrated early-warning architecture.

India's Nuclear Arsenal Estimated at 190 Warheads: Report

Washington: India's nuclear arsenal is estimated at 190 warheads, which includes 30 additional warheads for new missiles under production, according to a US nonprofit policy think tank. The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) derived the estimates from analyses of a combination of open sources, state-originating data and commercial satellite imagery. "Based on available public information about its nuclear-capable delivery force structure and strategy, we estimate that India may have produced around 190 nuclear warheads," according to the article titled 'India's Nuclear Weapons - 2026' penned by FAS Nuclear Information Project Director Hans Kristensen.

India's nuclear arsenal includes over 160 warheads for operational launchers as well as additional warheads for new missiles in production, it said. The article, published on Wednesday, noted that India continued to modernise its nuclear arsenal, with several new weapon systems fielded in recent years and several more under development to complement or replace existing nuclear-capable aircraft, land-based delivery systems, and sea-based systems.



"We estimate that India may have produced enough military plutonium for 140 to 225 nuclear warheads and might have assembled up to 190. With more weapon systems in development, the country's warhead stockpile will likely increase further," it said. India adopted the no-first-use doctrine after the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998 and continues to adhere to the policy. "India is committed to maintaining credible minimum deterrence and a posture of 'no first use' of nuclear weapons," the government told Parliament recently.

The FAS article said as of the beginning of 2026, the International Panel on Fissile Materials estimated India to have produced approximately 730 kg (plus/minus about 170 kg) of weapon-grade plutonium. "Assuming approximately four kilogramme of plutonium per warhead, this would theoretically be sufficient for producing anywhere between 140 and 225 nuclear warheads," it said. However, it said the calculation comes with some caveats due to several uncertainties, such as the warhead designs India has produced.

India's 1998 nuclear tests reliably validated a fission design, but the country's progress on boosted fission and thermonuclear weapon designs remains highly uncertain, the article said. "Regardless of the warhead designs, it is unlikely that India has used all its plutonium to produce warheads, and it may have kept some in reserve," the author noted. The article stated that the size of India's nuclear stockpile also depends on the number and types of launchers that can deliver them, as it is unlikely that it would produce significantly more warheads than these systems can launch.

Musi Riverfront project faces protest as residents raise displacement concerns

Hyderabad: Opposing the Musi Riverfront Development Project proposed by the Telangana Congress government, hundreds of residents and activists staged a protest at Dharna Chowk here on Thursday. Protesters lamented that the project threatens to displace local communities and claim their properties.

The Telangana government has proposed the Musi Riverfront Development project, aiming to concretise the river's ecosystem and forcibly displace thousands of families.

Musi Jan Andolan, a city-based non-party people's platform, which organised the protest, demanded the government publish the detailed project report in vernacular languages. It wanted consultations with stakeholders and revocation of the GO 291 on conducting a social impact assessment.

Further, the group demanded a halt to all construction, including roads along Musi River's banks and bridges, under the project. It sought the establishment of a Musi River Basin Authority and an audit of funds previously spent on restoring the river.



Musi Jan Andolan released a pamphlet detailing the impact of the project in three languages during the event, which was attended by residents from Narsingi, Nagole and villages downstream.

Environmentalists Dr. Baburao and Dr. Donthi Narasimha Reddy explained the project's environmental implications. LB Nagar BRS MLA D Sudheer Reddy also attended and expressed solidarity with people affected by the Musi project.

DGP Urges Cops to Stay Away From Online Betting, Seek Help Over Debts

Hyderabad: Director-General of Police C. V. Anand on Thursday urged the state's 93,000 police personnel to stay away from online betting and gaming and never consider suicide as a solution to financial or personal problems. In a message on the World Suicide Prevention Day, the DGP said incidents of police personnel taking their own lives after becoming trapped in online betting and debts were a matter of concern. Anand said two police personnel died by suicide in the past four months, adding that it was particularly distressing as both were young or middle-aged constables.

According to inquiries into the incidents, large debts, incurred through online betting, were found to be a major reason. Some personnel had sold land, while others borrowed from friends and colleagues or took loans at high interest, he said. Anand also added that the pressure from lenders to repay money pushed some personnel into severe mental distress. Concealing financial problems and debt details even from spouses and family members further aggravates the situation.

Anand urged police personnel facing financial difficulties to openly discuss them with family members and seek assistance from senior officers rather than suffering silently.



"Addictions should be avoided and family should be prioritised," the DGP said, urging police personnel to stay away not only from betting and online gaming but also alcohol, drugs, ganja and other harmful addictions. He said the department was paying special attention to problems faced by its personnel and encouraged them to approach authorities whenever they needed help.

Appealing to personnel not to leave their families and children behind in distress, Anand urged them to think about those dependent on them and choose to live courageously while seeking support during difficult times.



Harish Rao urges Telangana government to lift Krishna, Godavari waters to save crops

BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao urged the Telangana government to lift available Krishna and Godavari waters at full capacity to protect standing crops. He accused the Congress government of underutilising irrigation projects, pumps and power-generation capacity.

Hyderabad: Hitting out the Congress government for its callousness in lifting Krishna and Godavari River water, BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao pressed for immediately lifting the available waters to save standing crops in Telangana. In view of the El Nino crisis, he wanted the government to operate all irrigation projects and lift schemes at full capacity.

He also demanded that the government take measures to stop diversion of Krishna River waters in Andhra Pradesh, seek an Apex Council meeting if necessary, release water into the Nagarjuna Sagar canal and divert it to the parched fields of erstwhile Nalgonda district. He emphasised the need to switch on all pumps of the Palamuru projects to safeguard irrigation and drinking water needs of erstwhile Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao said the Revanth Reddy government was allowing water to flow downstream but was failing to take it to farmers. He said only two of the five motors at the Ellur pump house of the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme were being operated, that too intermittently for an average 11 hours a day. Against the required 1,600 cusecs, only 700 cusecs was being lifted despite a capacity of 4,000 cusecs. He demanded operation of all five motors round the clock.

At the Bhima project, only one of three motors was operating, while just one of four motors at Nettampadu project and one of three at Koilsagar project were being run. Harish Rao questioned why water was not being lifted at Bhima project and instead, allowed to water diversion through Veligonda and Pothireddypadu by the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

He said Palamuru Package-3 could be completed within a month if works were taken up seriously and the government would be able provide water to five to six lakh acres. He alleged that the project was kept pending for last three years to deny credit to the previous BRS regime.

The former Irrigation Minister slammed the Congress government, citing Telangana recording its lowest utilisation of Krishna River waters after Telangana State formation. While only 28.49 per cent utilised in 2024-25 and 25.77 per cent in 2025-26, there is no change for the current year as well. He said Andhra Pradesh had drawn 35 TMCft from Srisailem project against Telangana's utilisation of only seven TMCft.

He pointed out that Kalwakurthy, Bhima, Nettampadu and Koilsagar projects were completed by the BRS government at a cost of Rs 4,000 crore and were providing irrigation to 6.5 lakh acres.

Kalwakurthy's irrigation coverage, rose from 13,000 acres over three decades to 3.07 lakh acres under the BRS government. However, he said the Congress was underutilising all the pumps and putting farmers cultivating crops under these projects at risk. Geographic Reference

Harish Rao pointed to farmers staging protests for irrigation and drinking water across the State, including in the Chief Minister's Kodangal constituency and in Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's constituency. He also demanded that the government prevent crop losses and address the reported six-lakh-acre crop holiday.

He alleged that power-generation capacity was also being underutilised. He said the 800-MW KTPS plant and 540-MW BTPS Units 3 and 4 were shut, while Yadadri plant was generating only 2,000 MW against its 4,000-MW capacity. He demanded adequate power for irrigation, saying farmers needed electricity for pumps and water for fields rather than government presentations.

EHS in Name Only: Illness Becomes a Financial Burden Government Employees in Warangal District Lack Effective Health Security

P. Jayanth, Reporter Karimabad September 11: Government employees in Warangal district are expressing concern regarding the Employees' Health Scheme (EHS), which is intended to provide them with health security. Many employees are distressed that if they fall suddenly ill and require hospitalization, a lack of timely treatment under the EHS forces them to pay for medical care out of their own pockets. "While the government states that the objective of the EHS is to provide cashless medical treatment to government employees, the staff harbor doubts about the scheme's implementation at the ground level. They question the utility of the EHS if they are ultimately required to spend their own money for medical care during emergencies. Although the official website indicates that a wellness center has been established in Warangal to provide EHS services, employees are urging authorities to resolve the difficulties encountered while seeking treatment at hospitals. They are questioning whether the EHS remains merely a scheme on paper and whether employees truly receive cashless medical care during emergencies.

Crisis at Kaloji University's Exam Wing: Staff Shortage Medical Students' Future

P. Jayanth Reporter karimabad September 11: The chaotic situation within the Controller of Examinations (COE) wing of Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) has become a nightmare for students. Officials are facing widespread criticism for their indifferent attitude toward the severe difficulties students have been facing for the past four or five days regarding the issuance of certificates. Although regulations mandate the presence of a Deputy Registrar (DR), Assistant Registrar (AR), superintendents, and assistants, the entire certificate issuance process is currently being managed by just a single superintendent. "Even though four months have passed since the completion of their MBBS and BDS internships, students have not yet received their original certificates via post. They lament that despite paying the required fees in advance, they are forced to endure this endless wait. The university's negligence has created a situation where, if the three-month deadline is exceeded, students must navigate the legal system to submit an affidavit an additional mental and financial burden. Critics point out that this crisis arose after a senior employee with deep expertise in the department was recently transferred without a replacement being appointed. With certificates not arriving on time, medical students risk losing opportunities to apply for higher education and jobs. Students are urging the university administration to finally respond by allocating adequate staff to the examination section and issuing the pending original certificates without delay.

Press Note Fraud Involving Fake Gold Pledge Documents Two Accused Arrested Inspector Macha Shivakumar



Bureau Chief Warangal September 10 "Hanamkonda police have arrested two individuals for defrauding a gold finance company of ₹59.30 lakhs by creating fake gold pledge documents and deceiving the company into believing gold had been pledged when, in reality, no such pledge existed. The arrested individuals are Elimi Santhosh (37) and Ranjith. Investigations revealed that they conspired to create a fake receipt from the 'Sriman Co-operative Credit Union,' falsely claiming that approximately 640 grams of gold belonging to Ranjith had been pledged there. Believing the document to be genuine, the gold finance company transferred ₹59.30 lakhs via RTGS. It was later discovered that the funds were diverted for other purposes. Police are investigating whether others were involved in the fraud and if the accused had defrauded other financial institutions in a similar manner. Police officials advised gold finance companies, banks, and the public not to rely solely on pledge documents but to physically verify the existence of the pledged gold before proceeding with financial transactions.

Liberation Day Must Be Observed Officially: BJP Leader Pratapa Ramakrishna

Kusam Raju Bureau Chief Vemulawada September 11: BJP leader Pratapa Ramakrishna has demanded that the government officially observe Telangana Liberation Day. A meeting of key party workers was held at the local Padmashali Bhavan in Vemulawada under the auspices of the BJP town unit. Speaking on the occasion, Pratapa Ramakrishna alleged that the Congress and BRS parties were colluding to mislead the public. He criticized both parties for engaging in "deceptive theatrics" by failing to officially observe Liberation Day on September 17. He expressed confidence



ence that, in the near future, the public would reflect on the situation and extend their support to the BJP. He asserted that a BJP government would be formed in the state within two years, at which point Telangana Liberation Day would be celebrated officially and on a grand scale. Subsequently, a representation was submitted to the Tahsildar, urging the authorities to take steps to officially observe September 17. Town President Rapalli Sridhar, along with Regula Srikanth, Pinninti Hanumanlu, Gudise Manoj, Billa Krishna, Katakam Srinivas, Javvaji Rajashekhar, Saikrishna, Annam Narasayya, Rakesh, and others, participated in the program.

Celebrate Ganesh Festival with Devotion

State Bureau Chief M.A. Samad Nizamabad September 11, 2026: Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta called upon Ganesh festival organisers and the youth to celebrate the festivities with devotion, discipline and in accordance with Hindu traditions. "As part of the Sri Dhanpal Lakshmi Bai Vitthal Gupta Charitable Trust, assistance was distributed to Ganesh festival organisers at the Trust office in Marwadi Gally on Friday. A large number of organisers gathered to receive the support. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA urged the youth of Nizamabad to follow the path of devotion and ensure that Ganesh celebrations are conducted

peacefully, without giving scope for any untoward incidents. He assured that his charitable trust would continue extending support to Ganesh festival committees every year. "Gupta said that the Trust had provided assistance to 725 Ganesh mandaps last year, and assured that support would once again be extended to organisers approaching the Trust this year, with the blessings of Lord Ganesha. "He said Lord Ganesha was not merely associated with a festival, but was also regarded as a symbol of culture, Sanatana Dharma and social unity. Worshipping Lord Ganesha is traditionally believed to remove obstacles and bring prosperity and auspicious-



ness, he said. "Recalling the history of public Ganesh celebrations, the MLA said that although worship of Lord Ganesha in individual homes had been a longstanding tradition, Bal Gangadhar Tilak encouraged community celebrations, providing people an opportunity to come together and strengthen social unity. "He appealed to festival organisers to maintain peace, discipline and communal harmony throughout the celebrations and cooperate with the authorities in ensuring smooth conduct of the festivities. "The Trust will continue distributing assistance to Ganesh festival organisers on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, he said. "A BJP corporator and other representatives were present at the programme.

MP Arvind Demands Firm Action Over Alleged Misconduct

State Bureau Chief M.A. Samad Jagtial / Nizamabad September 11, 2026: MP Dharmapuri Arvind has strongly condemned allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards an Anganwadi teacher in Jagtial and made it clear that there can be no compromise on the dignity, safety and self-respect of women employees. "The allegations involve BJP Jagtial town president Kokku Gangadhar. Reacting strongly to the reported incident, MP Arvind said that any alleged misconduct against a woman employee was unacceptable and that the BJP would not defend or justify such behaviour. Expressing his regret over the incident, Arvind personally telephoned the affected Anganwadi teacher, enquired about her well-being and conveyed his apology over the devel-

opments. He assured her that she would not be left alone and that he would extend all possible support in ensuring that the matter receives appropriate attention. The MP also appreciated the Anganwadi workers who stood by their colleague and brought the alleged incident to the notice of higher authorities. He said employees must be able to perform their responsibilities in an atmosphere of dignity, freedom and security, without fear, intimidation or harassment. Arvind also expressed serious concern over allegations that an Anganwadi supervisor was threatened in connection with the matter. He assured the affected employees that the allegations would be taken up with the concerned authorities and that appropriate action would



be sought against anyone found responsible, in accordance with the law and established rules. In keeping with his assurance, MP Arvind brought the matter to the attention of BJP State President Ramchander Rao and district in-charge Srinivas, urging the party leadership to examine the issue and ini-

tiate stringent disciplinary action at the organisational level if the allegations are established. The MP reiterated that political position or party affiliation cannot place anyone above the law. The dignity and safety of women employees must remain non-negotiable, he said, stressing that any complaint involving alleged misconduct sho-

uld be dealt with fairly, promptly and in accordance with due process. The affected Anganwadi teacher expressed gratitude to MP Arvind for personally contacting her, expressing regret and assuring her of support. She thanked the MP for standing by her and for taking the matter seriously.

"Seek A New Beginning, Not Death: Suicide Prevention Is A Social Responsibility" Dr. Parikipandla Ashok Chairman

Rakam Radhika Bureau Chief Warangal September 10: Seek a new beginning, not death suicide prevention is a social responsibility" Dr. Parikipandla Ashok, Chairman said of the Suicide Prevention Committee. Dr. Parikipandla Ashok, Chairman of the Suicide Prevention Committee, urged people to embrace life rather than resort to suicide. He emphasized that one should face hardships with courage, move forward by overcoming failures, and abandon thoughts of drastic acts; a person who proceeds with self-confidence becomes truly fulfilled. Dr. Ashok participated as the chief guest at a program held

on Thursday at SRR Thota, Karimabad, organized by the Suicide Prevention Committee to mark World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10). Presided over by Dr. Adepu Rajendra Prasad, head of the Bharati Charitable Trust, the event highlighted the commendable work of the Arogya Mitra' voluntary organization, which has tirelessly worked to prevent suicides in Telangana for 20 years and saved 28 lives so far. Dr. Ashok also praised the initiative to conduct special awareness seminars for police personnel across every district in the state following directives from the Telangana DGP in response to the recent

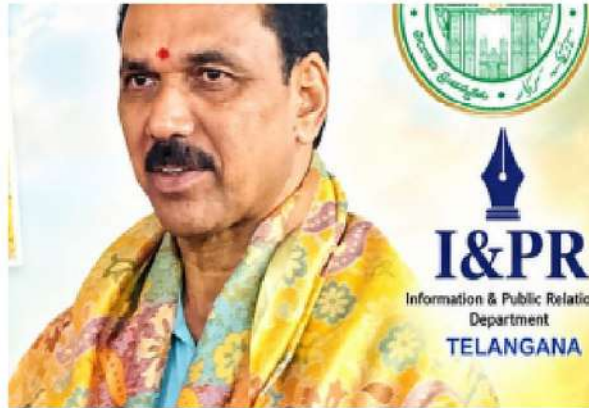


spate of suicides within the police force. He stressed that society should offer solace and instill mental courage in individuals contemplating suicide, bridging the emotional void caused by the feeling of isolation. He noted that a person in distress often considers suicide only when they feel all other avenues are closed; offering reassurance and support during that critical moment can help them overcome the crisis. Speaking at the event, Dr. Adepu Rajendra Prasad, a senior physician and founder of the Bharati Charitable Trust, stated that everyone bears the responsibility of taking suicide prevention initiatives down to the village level. Participants in the program included A. Sudhakar (a retired Executive Engineer and member of the suicide prevention committee) and Arogya Mitra representatives Mallipeddi Krishna Sastry, Sundar Naik, and Venkanna, among others.

Congratulations to Mr. DS Jagan on his promotion to the Position of Additional Director of the Telangana State Department of Information and Public Relations (I&PR)

Nathari Venkatesh, State Bureau Chief, Hyderabad September 11: He has risen through the ranks while working with dedication in the media sector not only in the erstwhile Warangal district but across the Telugu states. Born in the remote village of Uggam palli in Mahabubabad district, Mr. Jagan fulfilled his parents' aspirations for their children to excel in education and reach high positions. Rising from a remote village lacking basic amenities,

he became an educated professional and secured a government job. Through out his career, he has earned special recognition for the efficient discharge of his duties within the I&PR department. He has been a close friend and a family-like figure to the media fraternity, journalists, and artists from the cultural wing. Mr. Jagan is known for being a people's person who speaks his mind directly without causing offense. He is also distinguished by his impartial



execution of duties regarding policy matters, making no distinction between "his own people" and others. Having known him for twenty-five years since he began working as a journalist in 1986, it is truly commendable to see him reach the position of Additional Director. Congratulations to Jagan.sir

100 Mini-Buses Will Be Added to RTC's Fleet To Increase Connectivity in City: Ponnampati

Hyderabad: The TGSRTC will get about 100-mini buses in the capital region, with 50 to be allocated to the Old City and the remaining to connect with MMTS and Metro Rail stations. The buses will be replacing older vehicles.

So far, the RTC has purchased 2,932 buses and was phasing out buses that have exceeded 15 years of service. Another 340 diesel buses had been retrofitted as electric buses and 2,200 electric buses will be introduced in Hyderabad under the PM E-Drive scheme. The



minister said bus services suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic were being restored based on requirements.

During Question Hour in the Assembly on Thursday, transport minister Ponnampati Prabhakar said CCTV cameras had been installed as a security measure in the RTC's premium buses and electric buses. On the Mahalakshmi scheme for free travel for women, the minister said the RTC had issued over 347 crore zero tickets, saving families a total of Rs 12,171 crore.

Everyone should work together to build a drug-free society with the participation of the people. Hanmakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai

YAMSANI SAI Bureau Chief Warangal September 11: The Sanghamitra program against narcotics was launched in Hanmakonda district with the participation of the police and the people. "Today, as part of the Sanghamitra program, first of all, a drug awareness program was organized in partnership with women's groups (resource persons, office bearers, and MEPMA) to create awareness among the people about the harms caused by drug use. The police department and. Awareness was created through the Sanghamitra program with the aim of everyone working towards building a drug-free society with the participation of the people. We are taking steps to create widespread awareness on the issue of drugs through the "Sanghamitra" program in Hanmakonda. We want every member of the Resource Persons, Office Bearers, and MEPMA groups to be a partner in this program and take the message of awareness on every issue against narcotics to every home and every doorstep. Sanghamitra should be a strong bridge in creating awareness among the people with the participation of the police and the people and making Hanmakonda



district a safer district. RP Volunteers and MEPMA members to create anti-drug awareness among 1.60 lakh members. The "Sanghamitra" program was organized on Friday at Kaloji Kala Kshetra in Hanmakonda to create widespread awareness among the youth and women on the ills caused by the use of drugs and marijuana. The main objective of this program is to create anti-drug awareness among 1.60 lakh members through 1,000 members from various groups and through them to convey the anti-drug message to every family in the district. "If resource persons, office bearers, and members of the MEPMA group think, the eradication of marijuana is possible. Members of women's groups should play a key

role in creating awareness against drugs in every village and every family. Every mother should think about the future of her child and ensure that her child stays away from drugs. If there are changes in the behavior of the child, they should talk to them without neglecting them. If every mother takes responsibility, the eradication of marijuana drugs is definitely possible. If anyone knows information related to the use, sale, or supply of drugs, marijuana, or other intoxicants, they should immediately inform the police department. Provide the information to the police without any fear. We will keep the details of those who provide information completely confidential. We will also provide appropriate rewards to those who provide valuable information. Every village Samayak

member should work as a 'Sangham Mitra' and spread the anti-drug message to every family in her area. This message should reach 1.60 lakh members through you and through them to every family. Instead of distancing a person addicted to drugs, they should be provided with counseling and medical help and family support. If help is provided at the right time, they can be brought back to normal life. It is the responsibility of all of us to protect our youth. Everyone should come forward responsibly and cooperate with the police department. Say NO to drugs – say YES to life. With the aim of eradicating drugs, we have started the 'Sanghamitra' program with the intention of

spreading the message of anti-drug awareness to every family. All people should be a part of building a drug-free society and cooperate with the police department. "Hanmakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai said that women's self-help groups and town level federations should play a key role in building a free society. He said that women's groups and town level federations have a very strong network in the district. He said that if a small message is sent through women's groups, it has the potential to reach thousands of women and thus millions of families. He said that while there are a large number of women members in urban areas, almost one lakh women in rural areas are members of various groups. He said that mothers should be the first to recognize changes in the youth, and when the youth are addicted to drugs or alcohol, many changes are seen in their behavior. He suggested that mothers and family members should recognize behavioral changes in young men or women who used to be with everyone in the past, such as suddenly being alone, talking too much or not telling their family members about things related to them. Chil-

dren should be aware of what they spend money on when they ask for money. Central Zone DCP Dara Kavitha gave a power point presentation, stating that the role of women is very crucial in stopping the drug epidemic and protecting the youth from the effects of drugs. Reminding the women of the responsibility under the Sangha Mitra program, she explained the characteristics of people addicted to drugs, how to talk to them, and how to get out of that problem. Similarly, if there are suspicious places and people in the villages, information should be provided to the police. People affected by drugs were reminded that there is a

chance for de-addiction through ATIF. In the program, a person who was addicted to drugs in the past and later completely gave them up and returned to normal life shared his experiences. "Drugs gave me a few hours of intoxication... but they gave my family many days of tears. No young person should come to my situation. Don't even try drugs." Drugs Awareness Skit: "To create awareness about the ill effects of drugs, the students of Tribal Welfare College explained the problems faced by youth and families due to drugs through a presentation. Awareness through special videos: In the program, videos of CM speeches, vid-

eos of messages, awareness videos of Telangana Narcotics Bureau Director and videos of anti-drug messages of other celebrities were shown. Through these, we created awareness about the ills caused by drugs, their impact on the youth and everyone's responsibility in eradicating drugs. In this program, Hanmakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai, Trainee Special Deputy Collector Rohit Neta, District In-charge Additional Collector Seshadri, DRDA Mena Srinu, MEPMA PD Rajeshwar, ACP Narasimha Rao, Prashanth Reddy along with Inspectors, S. I and other officers participated.



Sircilla District To Procure 2.40 Lakh Metric Tonnes Of Paddy

KARIMNAGAR: Sircilla collector Garima Agarwal on Thursday reviewed with officials the amount of paddy expected to be harvested by farmers of the district during the Kharif season.



In this regard, along with additional collector Gaddam Nagesh, she held a meeting at the Integrated District Officials Complex (IDOC) auditorium in Sircilla on Thursday. Agricultural officials informed that about 2.40 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, both fine and normal varieties, are likely to arrive in markets of the district this season.

Accordingly, the collector asked officials to prepare plans for purchasing 2.40 lakh metric tonnes of paddy by establishing 236 paddy procurement centres throughout the district. As per details available, 136 procurement centres will be opened at IKPs, 96 at PACS, seven at MEPMA and one at the DCMS.

Garima Agarwal asked officials to arrange adequate lorries and tractors to transport the crop. She wanted GPS equipment fixed to all vehicles to track their movement.

Funds for Gram Panchayats Made Easier, Assembly Passes Bill

Hyderabad: The Assembly on Thursday passed the Telangana Panchayat Raj (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2026, paving the way for making funds from the Central and state governments easily accessible to gram panchayats by ensuring that the money was directly deposited in the nearest nationalized or cooperative bank or the post office.

Panchayat raj minister Danasari 'Seethakka' Anasuya, who piloted the Bill, said the amendment passed on Thursday would improve service delivery in gram panchayats with funds made available to them directly instead of passing through the



treasury. She also said the funds could henceforth be used by gram panchayats based on their needs once a resolution for the same was passed by the grama sabha. She said the amendment passed by the Assembly would set right the wrongs on funds availability to gram panchayats which was ignored by the previous government.

She also said that the government would soon take a decision on cheque powers for deputy sarpanches, adding that the state was still waiting for '619 crore from the Centre for gram panchayats.

Responding to requests from several members on forest clearance hurdles for laying of roads to forest villages and hamlets, the minister said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had already instructed that preparations be made so a meeting can be held with the Union forest and environment minister to discuss the issue.

BRS to take Assembly battle to public, Rights Commissions

BRS, after suspension of all its MLAs from the Assembly, has decided to escalate its protest by approaching NHRC and NCW over alleged mistreatment of women legislators, staging a mock Assembly at Telangana Bhavan, and protesting land allotment to a company linked to CM Revanth Reddy's brother.



Hyderabad: The BRS has decided to take its Assembly battle directly to the people after all its MLAs were suspended from the House. The party decided to escalate the humiliation and attack on its women MLAs to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and National Commission for Women (NCW). The party decided to take up more than 20 subjects which the BRS planned to raise in the Assembly, including the Congress government's alleged failures in 1,000 days, the Six Guarantees, more than 420 election promises and 13 declarations. During a breakfast meeting held at working president KT Rama Rao's residence on Thursday, BRS MLAs, MLCs and senior leaders discussed the next course of action following the three-day Assembly developments and suspension of the party legislators. The party also decided to conduct a mock Assembly at Telangana Bhavan on Friday to highlight discrimination against the BRS in the Legislature and the issues that were not allowed

to be raised in the House. The BRS decided to approach the National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women, over the ill-treatment of its women MLAs during the Assembly protest. The women legislators are likely to head to New Delhi this week. It also decided to issue a privilege notice against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for misleading the House using a fake post on social media. Party leaders are also considering taking some issues to national-level commissions. Immediately after the meeting, Rama Rao and BRS MLAs left for the Tukuguda-Raviryal area to inspect government land allotted to Tesseract Advanced Systems, a company linked to Revanth Reddy's brother Kondal Reddy. Staging a protest, the BRS alleged that land worth around Rs 200 crore was allotted to the company for Rs 7 crore and questioned the basis of the allotment.

Telangana higher education reforms need effective implementation: TGCHE chief

Hyderabad: Telangana Council of Higher Education Chairman Prof. V Balakista Reddy on Thursday stressed the need to modernise institutional infrastructure, raise educational standards and ensure the effective implementation of higher education reforms. He participated in the three-day 15th national conference on the "Status of Higher Education" organised by the All India University Employees' Confederation (AIUEC) on the Osmania University (OU) campus here. Organised by the



OU NGO's Association, OU Staff Association and OU Technical Staff Association, the summit brought together nearly 400 national delegates and more than 1,000 participants from university staff bodies across India. OU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram highlighted the indispensable role of universities in nation-building. He commended the host service associations and non-teaching workforce for maintaining operational excellence and driving the day-to-day functioning of the university. TGCHE Secretary Sriram Venkatesh

called for active inter-departmental synergy and workforce adaptability in response to evolving administrative policies. Arts College Principal Prof. Kasseem urged a substantial increase in budgetary allocations for the education sector to ensure sustainable development and adequate resources. The conference will continue through September 12, featuring specialised technical sessions on policy changes, administrative reforms, research expansion and employee service matters.

Srinivas Yadav asks Revanth to step down, make Speaker CM

Hyderabad: BRS deputy leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav demanded that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy step down and make Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar the new Chief Minister to prove his commitment to Dalits. He also appealed to Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge to take action in this regard, assuring complete cooperation from the BRS. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, Srinivas Yadav stated that the Congress government had failed to implement its electoral promises to Dalits and discontinued initiatives such as Dalit Bandhu introduced by the K Chandrashekhara Rao government. However, he said Congress leaders, including the Chief Minister, poured out their love for the Dalits by repeatedly referring to the Speaker as a Dalit to target the BRS. "The BRS has never referred to Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar's caste and has always respected him for his position and character," he said, alleging that the Congress was repeatedly highlighting his caste to claim credit for his elevation to the post rather than his calibre and service to the people of Telangana. Referring to the September 7 incident at the Assembly gates, the former Minister questioned the deployment of a large number of police personnel. He alleged that BRS legislators were injured in the scuffle where women legislators P Sabitha Indra Reddy and V Sunitha Laxma Reddy were dragged by their throats and sarees. He said the incident occurred outside the Assembly and questioned the Speaker's jurisdiction in the matter. Srinivas Yadav also questioned the cases of sexual harassment registered against BRS legislators who were going to the Assembly. He said he had been an MLA since 1994 but had never witnessed such cases being filed against legislators for attending the Assembly. "If such cases are registered against MLAs, who will come to the Assembly?" he ridiculed.



Revanth Reddy says flash survey finds no hostility towards Telangana government

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has claimed that a flash survey found no hostility towards the government following three days of Assembly activity. He accused the BRS of disrupting proceedings and urged Congress MLAs to actively participate in discussions.

Hyderabad: In the aftermath of three days of intense activity both inside and outside the Assembly, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has claimed that he conducted a flash survey which showed there was no hostility towards the government. "In fact, the people have found fault with the BRS party," the Chief Minister is learnt to have said at the Congress Legislative Party meeting held here on Thursday. He said the Congress government had delivered good



governance during its first 1,000 days in the State. Track Congressional Bills However, the BRS had hatched a conspiracy to disrupt the proceedings of the House to cover up its failures, he alleged. "We have to counter the opposition's ploys effectively. I appreciate all those who suc-

cessfully exposed the BRS conspiracies before the people," Revanth Reddy said. He appealed to Congress MLAs to attend the Assembly and participate in the discussions. Meanwhile, government employees met the Chief Minister and urged him to address their long-pend-

ing issues. During the meeting, he is learnt to have told the employees that the next Assembly elections would be held in 2028 or 2029. "I will be appearing for exams then and you can pass me or fail," the Chief Minister is believed to have told the employees. He further appealed to them to give the government two years' breathing time and assured them that all their long-pending issues would be addressed by then. He had made a similar appeal to government teachers as well.

Suspense Over: Chinese President Xi to Visit India for BRICS Summit

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit India this week to attend the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the foreign ministry announced on Thursday. This will be Xi's first visit to India in nearly seven years.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Xi will attend the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi from September 12 to 13, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said. During his visit, Xi is expected to meet Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the summit, according to sources here. The visit is expected to be a high-profile diplomatic engagement with implications for the ongoing efforts to stabilise bilateral ties between the two Asian powers as well as for BRICS cooperation amid a volatile global situation, particularly the West Asia conflict and the Russia-Ukraine war. As the current chair of the influential grouping, India will host the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12 and 13 in New Delhi. Xi last visited India in 2019 for an informal summit with Modi in Mamallapuram near Chennai. He had earlier visited Goa in 2016 to attend the BRICS summit and made his first visit to India in September 2014, when he held extensive talks with Modi. The 2014 visit came during the first terms of both leaders. Xi's forthcoming visit is significant, as it comes amid efforts by India and China to normalise relations af-



ter a prolonged freeze following the 2020 Eastern Ladakh standoff. Ahead of Xi's visit, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held extensive talks in Beijing last month on the boundary issue, maintaining peace and tranquility along the border and steps to improve bilateral relations. During the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks held in Beijing on August 25, the two sides reached an eight-point consensus and agreed to advance discussions on an "Early and Substantial Harvest" of boundary delimitation and border management. Against the backdrop of these substantive discussions on the boundary and wider bilateral issues, a Modi-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit is expected to be closely watched for indications of the future course of India-China relations. The New Delhi BRICS summit will bring together the world's major emerging economies -- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, with multilateral cooperation expected to remain at the core of the grouping's agenda. BRICS has evolved

into a key platform for emerging economies to advocate for greater representation in global governance, reform international financial institutions, strengthen trade and investment links, and advance sustainable development goals. According to Chinese officials, Xi's participation underscores Beijing's continued commitment to the BRICS framework and its role in shaping a more inclusive global order. The discussions are expected to cover a wide range of shared interests, including expanding intra-BRICS trade, strengthening payment systems, boosting cooperation in science and technology, addressing climate change, and coordinating positions on major international issues. BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025. Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last year.

It emerged as an influential grouping as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade. In a media statement, the Ministry of External Affairs had said India's BRICS chairship is guided by the theme: 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability', reflecting Prime Minister Modi's vision of a people-centric approach rooted in the spirit of 'Humanity First'. India is a founding member of the BRICS and has previously held its chairship three times, in 2012, 2016 and 2021. India assumed its fourth BRICS chairship on January 1. The year 2026 also marks a milestone as BRICS completes 20 years since its establishment. Over the years, BRICS has steadily evolved into a comprehensive framework for cooperation across the three foundational pillars of political and security, economy and finance, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Rice Milling Halt Until Millers' Issues Are Resolved

Rice millers to stop milling indefinitely from September 10, 2026



Nirmal District : Nirmal District Rice mills Association Meeting at Maruthi in Hotel,

In accordance with the decision of the Telangana State Rice Millers' Association, rice millers in Nirmal district have announced an indefinite suspension of rice milling and production activities from September 10, 2026, demanding the resolution of their problems. The Nirmal District Rice Millers' Association submitted a representation to the District Collector in this regard.

The association stated that rice mills across Telangana had been extending full cooperation to the government and the Civil Supplies Department for several years by undertaking Custom Milled Rice (CMR) milling and delivering rice. However, millers are currently facing several technical, financial and operational difficulties.

The major issues include inspections conducted in the name of Physical Verification, delays in CMR delivery, lack of space at the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the OTR/Recovery system, losses caused by Sortex machines, boiler losses, labour, transportation and electricity costs. The association stated that these issues were causing severe financial losses to millers. Telangana rice millers have also reportedly demanded an end to surprise raids, a fair CMR system and a milling charge of ₹150 per quintal.

OTR, Recovery and operational losses

The association stated that losses occur during milling because of broken rice, Sortex rejects and moisture content. Such losses may generally be as high as 20 percent, it said.

Therefore, the millers requested the authorities to fix OTR and Recovery norms according to actual field conditions instead of imposing an excessive recovery burden. They also requested that test milling be conducted for each variety of paddy and that the actual recovery be fixed after considering rice output, broken rice and Sortex rejection.

Rice loss due to Sortex

The association stated that discoloured, blackened, damaged and other low-quality grains have to be removed through Sortex machines to maintain rice quality. This results in some rice loss, which is beyond the control of the millers.

The millers requested that the actual loss caused during Sortex processing be taken into account while calculating recovery.

FCI space and CMR delivery

The association stated that even after millers prepare rice for delivery, the rice often remains stored at the mills because of a lack of space at FCI or the non-availability of placement and delivery facilities.

It requested that millers should not be held responsible when delivery is delayed due to the absence of space at FCI. No penalty or other action should be taken against them in such cases, it said.

Full boiled-rice quota for Rabi

The association stated that the nature of Rabi-season paddy, weather conditions and high temperatures make it difficult to mill the paddy into raw rice. Raw-rice milling may result in higher quantities of broken rice and quality-related problems, causing heavy losses to millers.

Therefore, the association requested that 100 percent boiled-rice quota be allotted for all Rabi-season paddy. It appealed to the authorities not to assign a raw-rice quota during the Rabi season and to allocate a complete boiled-rice quota based on the quality of the paddy.

Losses caused by delivery delays

The association stated that delays in FCI placement or rice delivery force paddy and rice to remain stored in mills for long periods. This may lead to deterioration in quality, discolouration and pest infestation.

It requested that millers should not be held responsible for losses caused by delayed placement or delivery.

Driage and other expenses

The association stated that millers bear expenses related to driage, handling, labour, transportation, electricity, machine maintenance and other operations. Electricity, labour, transport and other costs have increased considerably, it said.

In particular, electricity expenses are very high in boiled-rice mills and may amount to approximately ₹30,000 per ACK annually. The association requested that milling charges and other payments be reviewed after considering the actual expenses incurred by millers.

MSD inaugurates expanded Hyderabad Tech Center

~Expanded Center enhances MSD's global technology network and digital capabilities that support innovative health solutions worldwide

~Shri D. Sridhar Babu, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce and Legislative Affairs, commemorated the opening of the new office

HYDERABAD, September 11, 2026 – MSD (tradename of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J., USA) today announced the opening of its expanded Hyderabad Tech Center, a new facility supporting enterprise digital technology capabilities across artificial intelligence, data, digital platforms, cybersecurity, cloud, automation and software engineering and more.

The Center was inaugurated by Shri D. Sridhar Babu, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce and Legislative Affairs, joined by Abhishek Narayan Singh, senior vice president, Digital Human Health, MSD. Building on MSD's long-standing presence in India, the expanded office enhances the company's global technology network and brings together technology talent focused on developing scalable digital solutions that help advance MSD's purpose of saving and improving lives.

Since its launch in 2025, the Hyderabad Tech Center has grown in scale and scope as an important part of MSD's global technology network. The expanded facility adds capacity for Hyderabad-based teams to contribute to enterprise technology solutions, collaborate with colleagues globally and help



advance the digital capabilities that support MSD's work to deliver innovative solutions for human and animal health around the world. Together with strategic partnerships that support manufacturing excellence and reliable access to medicines, the inauguration reflects the breadth of capabilities being developed across India to support MSD's efforts to improve health outcomes for patients.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri D. Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce, and Legislative Affairs, Government of Telangana, said, "Today, we are proud to welcome MSD to the growing life sciences ecosystem. Telangana has built a truly end-to-end life sciences ecosystem of more than 2,000 companies. Hyderabad has emerged as a global life

sciences capital and is home to one of the largest concentrations of USFDA-approved facilities outside the United States. Over the last two years, we have built on this strong foundation to accelerate discovery, innovation, advanced R&D and global capability creation. Through our Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy 2026–30, we are bringing discovery, manufacturing, clinical research and technology together, giving Hyderabad a unique global advantage. We will soon reach 100 GCCs this year, building on the 75+ established last year and creating 4 lakh direct and indirect high-value opportunities across Telangana."

"The inauguration of our Hyderabad Tech Center reflects MSD's long-term commitment to building world-class digital capabilities that drive our shared purpose," said Abhishek Narayan Singh. "Hyderabad's vibrant technology ecosystem, deep digital expertise and strong talent pool make it an ideal location for MSD, and we are grateful for the support and engagement of the Telangana government. This Tech Center strengthens our ability to bring together talent, technology and global collaboration to support scalable solutions that contribute to MSD's purpose."

Federal Bank and Paisabazaar jointly launch Paisaback Credit Card; this festive season maximise savings with 7.5 % cashback on grocery spends

Hyderabad, Sep 11, 2026: Paisabazaar, India's leading fintech platform, in partnership with Federal Bank, today announced the launch of the Federal Bank Paisabazaar Paisaback Credit Card - a cashback credit card designed to offer enhanced rewards on one of the most frequent and essential household expenses – grocery shopping.

The card was launched by Paisabazaar, Federal Bank and NPCI at the Global Fintech Festival in Mumbai. The Paisaback Credit Card offers 7.5% cashback on eligible online and offline grocery purchases, across leading supermarkets such as Reliance Fresh, DMart, Star Bazaar and Nature's Basket, as well as quick-commerce platforms including Blinkit, Zepto, Swiggy Instamart and BigBasket.

The credit card would be available on the RuPay network, and offers 1% cashback on eligible POS and e-commerce transactions and 0.5% cashback on eligible UPI transactions above Rs. 2,000. Cashback is credited as Cash Points directly to the customer's account, which can be redeemed conveniently.

The card comes with a joining and annual fee of Rs. 500, which is waived on annual spends of Rs. 1.5 lakh or more.



Santosh Agarwal, CEO, Paisabazaar, said: "Credit card rewards are most valuable when they translate into meaningful savings on expenses

consumers make every month. Grocery spending is a significant and recurring expense for households, but card rewards around it have been traditionally limited. The Paisaback Credit Card makes everyday shopping more rewarding, while additional cashback on other purchases and UPI transactions enhances the value further. Our partnership with Federal Bank brings together our understanding of consumer spending behaviour to co-create a product that's built around how consumers actually spend."

Saugata Basu, Senior Vice President and Head, Retail – Cards and Personal Loans, Federal Bank, said: "At Federal Bank, we believe the most impactful financial products are those that seamlessly fit into customers' everyday lives. The Paisaback Credit Card has been crafted to reward customers where they spend most often, particularly on essential categories such as groceries, while extending value across a broader range of everyday transactions. In partnership with Paisabazaar, we are bringing customers a proposition that is built around convenience, relevance, and meaningful savings. We believe this product will redefine how customers perceive value from their everyday spending."

Small Cities, Big Leap: India's First Digital Credit & Inclusion Index Finds Tier-2 Cities Leading the Charge

- **Tier-2 cities lead digital credit and inclusion, with an average score of 58.64, ahead of Tier-1 and Tier-3 cities**
- **94.4% of respondents are aware of digital credit instruments, trust in digital borrowing trails digital payments by 17 points—even on the same app.**
- **Formal employment narrows the gender gap on digital inclusion: salaried women score 62.0 versus 60.2 for salaried men**

MUMBAI, September 11, 2026: Pahlé India Foundation, in collaboration with Amazon Pay, today launched the Digital Credit & Inclusion Index (DCII) 2026—India's first composite benchmark providing a comprehensive view of the country's digital credit journey. Based on a primary survey of more than 5,000 respondents across 100 cities in 20 states, the DCII addresses a critical gap in India's financial inclusion landscape by examining who accesses digital credit, how easily and frequently they use it, why they borrow, whether they trust it, and whether its use contributes to stronger financial outcomes, going beyond existing benchmarks that largely track payment adoption or aggregate loan volumes.

In its inaugural edition, India achieves a national DCII score of 55.85 out of 100, placing the country in the "Emerging and Served" category (51–75). The score reflects a maturing ecosystem where payment infrastructure and digital loan awareness are well established. Access is the strongest pillar at 61.24, followed closely by Adoption at 57.17. Impact which is the measure of whether digital credit is making households more financially secure lags at 49.16. This shows



that India has made significant progress in expanding access to digital credit. The next opportunity is to deepen trust and adoption, help consumers borrow more purposefully, build confidence in digital credit on par with digital payments, and translate access into measurable financial resilience and savings out-

come.

Rajiv Kumar, Chairman, Pahlé India Foundation: "Financial inclusion must be measured by outcomes, not just access and usage. The DCII tracks this, whether digital credit is strengthening financial resilience across cities, genders and income groups. Developed with Amazon Pay and tracked annually, we hope the index helps policymakers and financial institutions identify gaps and direct efforts where they matter most."

Vikas Bansal, CEO, Amazon Pay India: "India's world-class digital payment infrastructure has transformed how millions transact. The next step is to make digital credit equally accessible, trusted and relevant. The finding that Tier-2 cities lead digital credit inclusion signals where the next wave of growth could emerge. With 75% of our customers based in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, insights from the DCII will help us build more relevant credit and savings experiences in these markets while addressing untapped opportunities in Tier-1 cities. As India advances towards Viksit Bharat 2047, the DCII will help track how digital credit translates into real financial progress."

Veeranari Chakali Ailamma's Death Anniversary Observed at Collectorate

Nirmal District Correspondent : A death anniversary programme of Veeranari Chakali Ailamma was held on Thursday at the conference hall of the Collectorate. Additional Collector B. Venkateshwarlu attended the programme.

At the beginning of the event, the Additional Collector, along with other officials, garlanded Ailamma's portrait and paid tributes. The participants also observed a two-minute silence.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector recalled Ailamma's struggles and explained her role in the Telangana Armed Peasant Struggle. He said that she fought against landlords and feudal lords during



those days and wrote a remarkable chapter in the history of the Telangana movement. He described Chakali Ailamma as a courageous woman who worked for the eradication of bonded labour.

He called upon everyone to move forward with the spirit of Chakali Ailamma's movement. He also said that the present generation should learn about the history of courageous women like Chakali Ailamma.

ED of the SC Corporation Shankar, CPO Ganga Reddy, officials and staff from various departments, among others, attended the death anniversary programme.

Ayyanna Patrudu To Attend Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference In Cape Town



VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu will participate in the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Cape Town, South Africa, from September 13 to 18.

He will represent the Andhra Pradesh Legislature at the forum, where presiding officers and parliamentary representatives from Commonwealth countries will deliberate on parliamentary democracy, legislative functioning, good governance and strengthening democratic institutions.

The conference will provide an opportunity for the Speaker to exchange views and experiences with presiding officers and legislators from different Commonwealth jurisdictions and showcase the parliamentary traditions, practices and functioning of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature.

AP Legislature secretary-general Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara will also participate in the conference of secretaries, an integral part of the CPC. His participation will facilitate exchanges on legislative procedures, parliamentary administration and institutional practices.

According to the tour programme, Ayyanna Patrudu will leave Visakhapatnam on Thursday for Cape Town to attend the conference and associated parliamentary engagements. He is scheduled to return to India on September 20.

The participation of the Speaker and secretary-general will strengthen institutional and parliamentary linkages between the Andhra Pradesh Legislature and parliamentary institutions across the Commonwealth.

A final headline polish could also make it tighter for the print desk.

Visakhapatnam: MLA Flags Drinking Water Crisis in Madhurawada, Bheemili



Visakhapatnam: Bheemili MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao has urged Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation officials to act swiftly to resolve the drinking water shortage in the Madhurawada and Bheemili zones.

Chairing a review meeting at his camp office on Thursday, he stressed that officials must prioritize drawing of water from the Tatapudi reservoir to meet the residents' immediate needs.

He said he has already spoken to Municipal Administration minister P. Narayana about the urgency of supplying Tatapudi water to these areas.

Expressing concern that drinking water supply has not improved despite Godavari water reaching Visakhapatnam, Ganta directed officials to expedite work on sanctioned projects, meet timelines, and use local labour for construction. Officials informed the MLA that a ₹550-crore project under implementation would ensure supply of drinking water to Madhurawada on a long-term solution. They explained that the situation has worsened due to declining groundwater levels following inadequate rainfall.

Officials also presented designs for a ₹4 crore project to improve water supply in Ward 4.

Those who attended the review meeting included GVMC Water Supply superintending engineer Pallam Raju, executive engineer Sudhakar and zonal commissioner Ayyappa Naidu.

secretariat, the Chief Minister called on the collectors to remain public servants, stressing that leadership begins with taking ownership. "Let's remain public servants, avoiding ego... We need results, not reviews," said Naidu, during the two-day conference scheduled on September 10 and 11. According to the CM, several structural changes were ushered in over the past 27 months in the southern state. He said the results of these initiatives were now visible. The CM directed the IAS officers to shift from reactive governance to proactive governance, underscoring that pending files amounted to

GST Data To Give AP's Real-time Economic Growth Picture

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh is developing a real-time economic monitoring system using GST and commercial tax data to track sectoral activities and estimate Gross Value Added (GVA) figures, Commercial Taxes department chief commissioner A. Babu said on Thursday.

Addressing the 8th Collectors' Conference, he explained that the GST-based assessment shows manufacturing activity has grown 19.6 per cent year-on-year till July, against about 18 per cent in the first quarter, with manufacturing GVA estimated at ₹1.75 lakh crore.

This estimate is closely aligned with the Planning department's First Advance Estimates, with a variation of only 0.6



percentage points, Babu underlined.

He revealed that an AI-based system uses GST data from manufacturing units, along with e-way bill information, to account for movement of goods into and out of the state. District-wise heat maps enable collectors to drill down to individual units and assess their contribution.

The chief commissioner said as GST returns are generally filed between the 18th and 20th of each month, the system could provide an early indication of economic activity in the preceding month, paving the way for monthly forecasting.

A similar methodology for construction, based on 65 HSN categories in-

cluding cement, iron and steel, has estimated GVA at ₹1.25 lakh crore, against ₹1.29 lakh crore by the Planning Department.

Babu said the system is being extended to trade, hotels, restaurants, real estate, communication, and broadcasting, while mining and electricity would be covered in the next phase.

He underlined that the initiative will strengthen the MSME database, as of the 20.08 lakh identified MSMEs, 2.42 lakh are GST-linked. He revealed that the department plans to combine GST, electricity consumption, and NIC-code data to track unregistered units and identify inactive businesses for possible revival.

The Long History Behind Tirumala Brahmotsavams

Tirupati: As Tirumala prepares for the annual Brahmotsavams from September 15 to 23, the nine-day festival carries a history of more than a millennium. The processions, Vahana Sevass and rituals seen today are the result of centuries of additions and changes under different rulers, temple administrators and devotees.

According to Puranic accounts, Brahma conducted the first festival after Lord Srinivasa manifested on Venkatachala, giving it the name Brahmotsavam. Historical records, however, show that the festival evolved over centuries.

Inscriptions engraved on the Tirumala temple walls are among the most telling evidence, recording donations of land, jewellery and other offerings, as well as the establishment of new festivals.

One of the earliest landmarks is associated with Pallava queen Samavai Sri Perundevi. In 966 CE, she presented a one-foot silver Bhoga Srinivasa Murthy idol to the Tirumala temple and donated ornaments and land for the festivals. Her inscription on the northern wall of the first Prakaram records Brahmotsavam celebrations in the Purattasi and Margazhi months, providing evidence of the festival tradition in the 10th Century.

The festival calendar expanded during the Chola and Yadavaraya periods. Panguni Brahmotsavam is associated with Vira Narasimha Yadavaraya, who ruled from



1209 to 1263. In 1254, a Chittirai Brahmotsavam was added during the reign of Chola ruler Vijaya Gandagopala Deva, while an Aadi Brahmotsavam was established around 1300-1330 under the Yadavaraya feudatories.

By the time the Vijayanagara Empire emerged, five Brahmotsavams were being conducted annually. During the Vijayanagara period, the festival calendar expanded substantially under successive rulers of the Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva and Aravidu dynasties.

Another important development came around 1339, when Malayappa Swamy, along with Sridevi and Bhudevi, came to be used as the Utsava Murtis. Today, the tradition of taking the Utsava deities in a procession on different vahanams remains central to the Brahmotsavams.

The inscriptions also show the continuing changes in the festival tradition. A Maasi Brahmotsavam was established in 1387 during the reign of Harihara II, while an Aippasi Brahmotsavam was added in 1429 during the reign of Devaraya II. The emperor Sri Krishnadevaraya later

added the Thai Brahmotsavam in 1513.

Historical records show that between 1539 and 1616, as many as ten annual Brahmotsavams were held, while another historical compilation notes that five inscriptions between 1558 and 1638 refer to 11 Brahmotsavams being conducted in a year. Most of those years, however, saw ten festivals annually.

Krishnadevaraya's contributions occupy an important place in this history. Inscriptions record his first visit to Tirumala on February 10, 1513. The same year, he established a new Brahmotsavam in Thai, marking the month of his birth. His contributions also included jewellery, gold and other offerings to the temple.

After Krishnadevaraya, the tradition continued under Achyutaraya. The first reference to the Kartikai Brahmotsavam appears in 1533, while an inscription from 1534 records a donation for the festival. In 1539, Tallapaka Pedda Tirumalayyengar was

associated with the establishment of the Aani Brahmotsavam, further increasing the number of annual Brahmotsavams.

Records show that between 1539 and 1616, as many as ten annual Brahmotsavams were recorded. Another historical compilation notes that five inscriptions between 1558 and 1638 refer to 11 Brahmotsavams being conducted in a year, though most of those years had ten festivals annually.

The history of the festival also reflects changes in temple administration. A Mackenzie Survey record of 1803 referred to 28 festivals at Tirumala, although studies cite discrepancies in the record. In 1843, the temple administration passed on to the Mahants of Hathiramji Mutt and this continued under them until 1933, when the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams was established and the temple administration was brought into an institutional system.

With the growth of pilgrim numbers, the Brahmotsavams became a large institutional festival requiring arrangements for accommodation, transport, security, medical services, sanitation, Annaprasadam and pilgrim information. The nine-day festival is the result of centuries of tradition, royal patronage, donations and changes in temple administration.

As Malayappa Swamy takes to the Mada streets this September, the age-old tradition will continue in Tirumala in its present form.

Results More Important than Reviews, Naidu to Collectors

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday said results mattered more than reviews and directed officials to submit action taken report on the issues deliberated at the previous collectors conference. Addressing the eighth district collectors conference at the

secretariat, the Chief Minister called on the collectors to remain public servants, stressing that leadership begins with taking ownership. "Let's remain public servants, avoiding ego... We need results, not reviews," said Naidu, during the two-day conference scheduled on September 10 and 11. According to the CM, several structural changes were ushered in over the past 27 months in the southern state. He said the results of these initiatives were now visible. The CM directed the IAS officers to shift from reactive governance to proactive governance, underscoring that pending files amounted to

pending development. Likewise, he said pending complaints also indicate pending justice to people.



A vision without execution is only an aspiration, he said, adding that times have changed where not only delivering work is important but also countering 'fake propaganda'. Amid alleged fake propaganda, the TDP supreme directed officials to take lead to counter misinformation. Further, he instructed the collectors to refrain from submitting re-

ports which mislead the government and instead present facts. Naidu also called for healthy competition among government departments as well as among districts. Let's share the best practices and implement best policies, said Naidu, adding 'let us move from intention to implementation'.

Vijay Sethupathi-starrer Baththa unveils soulful first single ‘Magale’

THE FIRST SINGLE FROM VIJAY SETHUPATHI-STARRER ‘BATHTHA’, TITLED ‘MAGALE’, HAS BEEN RELEASED. COMPOSED AND SUNG BY SAI ABHYANKKAR WITH LYRICS BY KARTHIK NETHA, THE SOULFUL SONG CELEBRATES THE BOND BETWEEN A FATHER AND DAUGHTER WHILE RECREATING THE 1980S AESTHETIC

Chennai: The makers of director Balaji Tharaneetharan’s eagerly awaited Tamil film ‘Baththa’, featuring Vijay Sethupathi and Lijomol Jose in the lead roles, have released the first single from the film, ‘Magale’, much to the delight of fans and film buffs.

Composed and sung by Sai Abhyankkar, the song has lyrics by acclaimed lyricist Karthik Netha. Music director Sai Abhyankkar takes a refreshingly different musical route with ‘Magale’, a mellifluous number that gently tugs at the heartstrings of listeners.

The tender and soothing melody is distinctly different from the usual style the composer is known for. With the visual and musical aesthetics of the 1980s once again finding favour with audiences, the video song of ‘Magale’ beautifully recreates that era.

The vintage studio setting, period recording techniques and carefully recreated ambience add a distinct charm to the video. Another highlight is Sai



Abhyankkar appearing as both the composer and singer, adding an interesting visual dimension to the song. The song is a heartfelt musical tribute to the bond between a fa-

ther and daughter. ‘Magale’ celebrates the warmth and unconditional love of a father. Sai Abhyankkar’s gentle composition and soulful vocals blend beautifully with Karthik Netha’s evocative writing, turning ‘Magale’ into a soothing listening experience.

His departure from his signature high-energy style to explore a delicate melodic space has emerged as one of the song’s most refreshing aspects.

Starring Vijay Sethupathi and Lijomol Jose in the lead roles, ‘Baththa’ has been directed by Balaji Tharaneetharan, who is best known for delivering the superhit film ‘Naduvula Konjam Pakkatha Kaanom’, and presented by well-known director Atlee.

On the technical front, ‘Baththa’ has music by Sai Abhyankkar and cinematography by Selvakumar S.K. R. Kalaivanan has handled the editing, while T Muthuraj has served as the production designer.

The film is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on October 1, 2026.

Suriya's next ‘Scene’ to release worldwide on November 6

Suriya’s upcoming film with director Jithu Madhavan has been titled ‘Scene’ and will release worldwide on November 6 for Deepavali. Suriya plays cop Inbaraj, with Nazriya Nazim, Naslen, John Vijay and Anandaraj also featuring in the film

Chennai: The makers of director Jithu Madhavan’s eagerly awaited next film, featuring actor Suriya in the lead, on Wednesday announced the title of the film as ‘Scene’ and said it would hit screens worldwide on November 6 for Deepavali this year.

Suriya, who took to X to share the title teaser released by the makers, wrote, “Hi Dear All, Here’s a glimpse into #Scene. In cinemas from 6th Nov 2026. #Deepavali2026.”

The teaser opens with a voice-over saying, “You guys keep showcasing his talent to hide and mask his despicable character.” It then shows Suriya arriving at a crime scene, dressed as a cop.

“Who killed whom?” he asks a constable, who replies, “You are here to find that out.”

A person is seen complaining, “He sits on a chair and shows attitude, leisurely smoking. Psycho!”

A jail warden is seen talking



about Suriya, who plays a character called Inbaraj. “When suspects see Inbaraj sir, they start behaving in an erratic fashion,” he says, before issuing a warning to prisoners and asking them to get back into their cells.

“No one should step outside. Inbaraj sir is coming.”

Suriya is then seen walking with his arm around the shoulder of a constable. He says, “Take a good look at my face. To you, I might be the only cop to have ever arrested you. But to me, you are one among the 900-odd criminals I’ve locked up in prison.”

For the unaware, the film went on floors with a traditional pooja in the city in December last year.

The film, which is being produced by Zhagaram Studios, was being tentatively referred to as ‘Suriya 47’ until now.

The film has been one of the most anticipated projects

of the year, with fans and audiences showing immense curiosity and excitement ever since the collaboration between Suriya and Jithu Madhavan was first announced.

Suriya plays the lead in the film, with Nazriya Nazim playing the female lead. Rising actor Naslen, who has gained attention with multiple successful outings, plays an important role in the film, which will also feature actors John Vijay and Anandaraj, among others.

The film boasts a strong technical team. Vineeth Augustian is the cinematographer, while music will be composed by Sushin Shyam. The production design is by Ashwini Kale and editing by Ajmal Sabu.

Chethan D Souza is the stunt choreographer for the project, which has triggered huge expectations.

Movie Review: ‘Sardar-2’



Actors: Karthi, Malavika Mohanan, Ashika Ranganath, S.J. Surya, Achyut Kumar, Nizhalgal Ravi, Yogi Babu, Ashish Vidyarthi and others
Music: Sam CS

Cinematography: George C. Williams

Producers: Lakshman Kumar- Ishaan Saxena

Written & Directed by: P.S. Mithran

For some time, Tamil star Karthi has been struggling for hits, and now he has come up with Sardar 2, a sequel to his superhit film Sardar. As the film hits cinemas in Tamil and Telugu today, let’s have a look at how it is doing.

STORY:

Vijay (Karthi) is an agent working in India’s intelligence division, RAW and has no good image there. He’s the son of former agent Sardar (Karthi), who was labelled a traitor and is dead as per the official records. Believing his father is alive, Vijay wants to save the country while also finding him. In this process, he runs after Black Dagger (SJ Surya) who poses an imminent threat to national security. So what is Black Dagger’s mission, what has Vijay done to prevent it, and what happened to Sardar, forms the rest of the story.

NARRATIVE-ANALYSIS:

Though Tamil director PS Mithran has crafted only three films so far, he has made quite an impression. His first film Irumuthirai (Abhimanyudu in Telugu) dealt with mobile privacy, which gave goosebumps to the audience. Though his second film Sakthi hasn’t done well, it got appreciated for its content. His third film ‘Sardar’ is a blockbuster where he discussed the water mafia. While crafting entertaining commercial films, he delivers an inherent message too. This time, he touched upon the point of bio-war. Though he crafted a story with many layers, he failed to express his point properly. A convincing presentation is missing from Mithran now. Though the story is good, lots of chaos and confusion induced by Mithran make Sardar 2 a tough watch.

First of all, the way the Sardar 2 story is complicatedly written makes it tough to tell the story in a single line. Despite writing such a layered story, it works only when the narrative is simple and understandable. Otherwise, the audience will miss out on the experience of getting entertained by that story. In Sardar 1, Mithran presented the story of a traditional dhoti-wearing spy quite well as he discusses the water mafia. Coming to Sardar 2, one gets a doubt if he’s able to connect the story well to his team first. On one side, he says excessive use of antibiotics is dangerous, and on the other side, he says people using antibiotics should be killed. On one side, he wants to destroy the country, as his village and family were lost, but on the other side, he wants to build an efficient new generation. When a village gets shattered in the process of saving the country, many wonder why he says the whole country should be destroyed.

At least if the villain’s role is shown more strongly and seriously presented, it would have been convincing. But then it turns out to be quite funny and crazy. SJ Surya’s over-the-top antics have completely killed the essence of the character. With the initial drive, Sardar 2 promises an intriguing thriller, as the director narrates the story from the first frame itself. The hero’s simple introduction, his efforts with the team to prevent the villain’s wrongdoings made the film interesting. At the same time, a flashback episode of Operation Doku also raised the curiosity bar.

However, Sardar 2 turns out to be silly after the hero and heroine climb a running aeroplane and do a lot of comical action stunts. With the entry of the villain, this turned out to be even sillier. If the role of the villain is just a selfish guy who wants to destroy the country, it would have worked. Here, the emotional touch given to that character, his backdrop and his behaviour have no coherence. His goal is never understood. Especially in the scene where he takes a class on antibiotics, interest in Sardar 2 will be lost. Sardar 2 never picks up, as the hero’s role appears quite passive. The climax episode of the hero saving the nation from the villain’s bioweapon attack reminds us of the bubble episode from Rajnikanth’s Lingaa. Sardar 2 stands as a prime example of how to kill a good story, as it starts intriguingly but ends boringly.

PERFORMANCES:

Karthi delivered his best when it comes to performance in two roles, as his efforts are visible. Especially in the role of Sardar, Karthi amazes when the sensitive side of it gets unravelled. However, in the old-age Sardar role, Karthi looks ordinary with bad makeup. As Vijay, he has impressed. Malavika Mohanan got a promising role in the movie and performed well. Ashika Ranganath is okayish. Both heroines are used to the story’s progression rather than romantic scenes. It’s appreciated that they are not used for song-and-dance routines. While SJ Surya is expected to be a big strength in the villain’s role, in the end, he became a headache. His loud acting as Black Dagger and the confused role written for him made it unbearable. Yogi Babu and Nizhalgal Ravi tried to bring some laughs, but failed. Other actors, including Asish Vidyarthi and Achyut Kumar, are okayish.

TECHNICALITIES:

The production values of Sardaar 2 are stunning, as the makers spent more by carving the film on a big scale. However, how useful that was for the film is questionable. Though Sam CS provided a background score for a thrilling narrative, sometimes it sounded routine. George C. Williams’ visuals are interesting. Writer and director PS Mithran’s efforts cannot be looked down upon, as he worked hard in terms of researching for the story, writing the script and carving it out as a film. However, only if a story is narrated in a way that is understandable does it work. Otherwise, the confusion in writing and conceiving scenes, unwanted crazy villainy and unconvincing scenes make his efforts go down the drain.

Finally: Sardar 2, clueless Agent!

Rating: 2/5

Priyanka Mohan excited to enter Mari Selvaraj’s world with Manjanathi

Chennai: Actress Priyanka Arul Mohan, who plays the female lead in director Mari Selvaraj’s next film, ‘Manjanathi’, has now penned a heartfelt post about the project, saying turning every page of Manjanathi felt like getting closer to a world filled with so much soul and emotion.

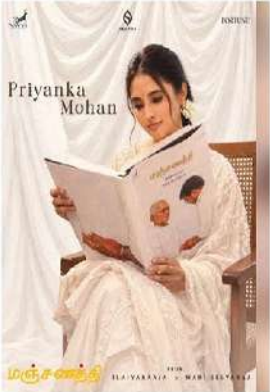
Taking to his Instagram page to pen a lengthy post on the new film, in which she plays the female lead, actress Priyanka Arul Mohan wrote, “Some films come with a feeling that stays

with you, even before you begin! Turning every page of Manjanathi felt like getting closer to a world filled with so much soul and emotion.”

Priyanka further went on to say, “I’m excited to be a part of this beautiful journey with @mariselvaraj84 sir. I’m truly looking forward to stepping into your world , and joining you on this journey. And to have the l e g e n d a r y @ilaiyaraaja_offl sir’s music breathe life into our story makes this journey even more special. Can’t

wait to begin this magical journey and bring Manjanathi to you all. #Manjanathi.”

It may be recalled that actor Kathir, who plays the male lead in the film, had penned an emotional post about the film as well. Actor Kathir, whose work in director Mari Selvaraj’s cult classic ‘Pariyaerum Perumal’ had come in for much appreciation, had disclosed that ‘Manjanathi’ had made him think about the fact that love doesn’t look or feel the same to



everyone in a way that he hadn’t thought before.

The film, which only recently went on the floors, has music by Ilaiyaraaja. Apart from Kathir and Priyanka

Mohan, the film will also feature actors Kayadu Lohar, Poornima Ravi, Vidhu, Kaaka Muttai Vignesh and Rahul (of ‘Vaazhai’ fame) in pivotal roles.

Cinematography for the film will be by Ezhil Arasu while editing will be by Selva R K. Art direction for the film is by Ramu Thangaraj. Stunts in the film are to be choreographed by Dhilip Subbarayan while dances in the film are to be choreographed by Sandy Master.