

# THE CAPITAL

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## IN BRIEF



Balayya pays tributes to Akkineni on centenary celebrations

**Hyderabad:** Actor Balakrishna posted an interesting tribute on the centenary of legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR), expressing pride in remembering him. Balakrishna emphasized that commemorating ANR's centenary is a matter of pride. (Cont.on P2)



High Court to hear YSRCP leader Subba Reddy's plea on Tirupati laddu issue on Sept 25

**Amaravati:** The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday agreed to hear a petition filed by senior YSRCP leader Y V Subba Reddy on September 25 over the Tirupati laddu (consecrated sweet) controversy raging in the country. Subba Reddy sought to file a (Cont.on P2)



Former MLA Adusumilli Jaya Prakash passes away

**Vijayawada:** Former MLA Adusumilli Jaya Prakash, who served as the TDP MLA for Vijayawada from 1983 to 1985, has passed away today due to an illness at AIG Hospital in Hyderabad. His sudden demise was attributed to a severe lung infection. (Cont.on P2)



## SC refuses to transfer trial in 2015 cash-for-vote case involving Telangana CM

**New Delhi, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** The Supreme Court on Friday refused to transfer the trial in the 2015 cash-for-vote case, involving Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and others, from Telangana to Bhopal. The apex court directed Reddy not to interfere in any way with the functioning of prosecution in the case. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan directed that the Director General of the anti-corruption bureau (ACB) would not report to the Telangana CM with regard to the prosecution (Cont.on P3)



## CM Chandrababu orders report on Tirupati laddu quality issues

**Amaravati, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed the executive officer of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to provide a detailed report by this evening regarding the quality issues and use of impure materials in the preparation of Tirupati Laddu during the previous YSRCP government. This move comes as CM Chandrababu expressed serious concerns over the alleged lapses in the sanctity and quality of the sacred prasadam. During a high-level review meeting held at the State Secretariat, CM Chandrababu, accompanied by chief secretary Nirab Kumar Prasad and several ministers, including Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, Nimmala



## Centre seeks probe in AP CM's allegations on use of animal fat in Tirupati laddu

**New Delhi, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Food Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday called for an investigation into allegations made by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu regarding the use of animal fat in Tirupati laddus, a claim that has sparked concern among devotees. "Whatever the Andhra Chief Minister has said is a matter of serious concern. A detailed enquiry is required and the culprit should be punished," Joshi told reporters on the sidelines of a global food regulators summit here. During an NDA legislative party meeting (Cont.on P2)



## CM Naidu's diversion politics with Tirupathi Laddu issue : YS Jagan

**Amaravati, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has sharply criticized Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of manipulating the sentiments of devotees amid allegations concerning the adulteration of ghee used in the revered Tirumala Laddu Prasad. In a media briefing on Friday, Jagan questioned why the alleged adulteration had only come to light 100 days after the Telugu Desam Party came to power. He posited that Naidu is orchestrating controversy to divert attention from the short (Cont.on P3)

## TTD in turmoil: Outrage over ghee scandal rocks devotees



- TTD comes under scrutiny for its procurement processes
- Raising concerns over sourcing of pure Desi cow ghee at remarkably low prices

**Varaprasadarao K Vijayawada, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has plunged into a storm of controversy, facing fierce backlash over alarming allegations concerning the ghee used in the revered Tirupati Laddu Prasad. Amidst a flurry of accusations of adulteration, the TTD's procurement practices have come under intense scrutiny, particularly regarding the (Cont.on P2)



## Mission Rayalaseema to foster development in region : Nara Lokesh

**Chittoor, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Minister for Human Resource Development and Information Technology, Nara Lokesh said that State government has launched "Mission Rayalaseema," aimed at developing the Rayalaseema region and creating local job opportunities. Lokesh inaugurated a Kidney Dialysis Center at Bangurapalayam on Friday. Following the inauguration, Lokesh inspected the center, engaged with patients, and opened a 30-bed hospital along with a Blood Donation Camp on the premises. He also participated in planting saplings with-in. (Cont.on P2)

## Congress being run by 'tukde tukde' gang, urban Naxals: PM



**Wardha, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lashed out at the Congress, saying the party is being run by the "tukde tukde" gang and urban Naxals. "The Congress which you see today is not the party with which a great man like Mahatma Gandhi was associated," Modi said, addressing a public meeting at Wardha in Maharashtra on completion of one year of the PM Vishwakarma scheme. "The ghost of hatred has entered the Congress," Modi said. "In today's Congress the soul of patriotism has breathed its last," he (Cont.on P2)



## Secondary agri can boost rural economy; ICAR should focus on converting waste to wealth: Murmu

**Ranchi, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** President Droupadi Murmu on Friday asserted that secondary agriculture could significantly enhance the rural economy, urging the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to focus on converting waste into wealth. "Secondary agriculture has the potential to boost the rural economy. ICAR should work towards this goal to boost farmers' income," she said while addressing the centenary celebrations of the ICAR-National Institute of Secondary Agriculture (NISA) here as the chief guest. Highlighting the export potential of Indian lac, which is in high... (Cont.on P2)

## Voters split on whether Harris or Trump would do better job on economy: AP-NORC poll



**Washington, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Going into November's election, neither Kamala Harris nor Donald Trump has a decisive edge with the public on the economy, turning an issue that was once a clear strength for Trump into the equivalent of a political jump ball. About 4 in 10 registered voters say Republican Trump would do a better job handling the economy, while a similar number say that about the Democratic vice president, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. About 1 in 10 voters don't trust either candidate, and a similar share has equal faith in them. The finding is a warning sign for Trump, who has tried to link Harris to President Joe Biden's economic track record. The new poll suggests that Harris may be escaping some of the president's baggage on the issue, undercutting what was previously one of Trump's major advantages. The economy has long been a weak issue for Biden: A separate AP-NORC poll conducted in late June, before Biden's disastrous debate with Trump, found that about 6 in 10 Americans (Cont.on P3)



**Balayya pays..**

(From Page 1) considering his significant contributions to Telugu cinema. He highlighted ANR's enduring roles and invaluable services to the industry, acknowledging him as an inspiration for every actor. Balakrishna urged everyone to express gratitude and pay tribute to ANR for his immense impact on the Telugu film industry. He also noted ANR's journey from theater to cinema as an inspiration to all, and encouraged others to remember his achievements, hard work, and perseverance

**Congress being run ..**

(From Page 1) added. Modi also spoke of the "anti-India agendas" of the Congress leaders in their speeches abroad, without naming that party's leader Rahul Gandhi, who is facing flak from the ruling dispensation for his remark in the US on scrapping the reservation system.

**BJP MLA Munirathna arrested in rape, sexual harassment case**

**Bengaluru:** BJP MLA N Munirathna was arrested on Friday in connection with a case of rape, sexual harassment and criminal intimidation registered against him, police said. Along with him, six others have also been booked in the case following the complaint of a 40-year-old woman who alleged that the incident took place at a private resort within the Kaggalipura police station's jurisdiction, they said. Munirathna's arrest came a day after a special court for people's representatives granted conditional bail to the MLA who was arrested on various charges, including using casteist slurs. The court had, after hearing arguments on his bail plea, allowed his application on the condition of furnishing a Rs two lakh bond and two sureties, and issued specific instructions prohibiting him from tampering with evidence or obstructing the investigation. The 60-year-old was arrested soon after he stepped out of Parappana Agrahara Prison, where he had been lodged for three days in connection with an SC/ST atrocity case.



**Ramana Dikshitulu says already informed the authorities on Tirupati Laddu**

**Tirumala, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** The former chief priest of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Ramana Dikshitulu has called for a thorough investigation into allegations of adulteration in the ghee used for the preparation of the sacred Tirupati Laddu the matter and urged the Andhra Pradesh government to take corrective actions to preserve the sanctity of the temple offerings. Dikshitulu highlighted that if given the opportunity, he would bring about necessary reforms within the temple's priesthood and administrative systems, which he claimed were riddled with corruption. "If the Chief Minister gives me a chance, I will bring to his



attention the atrocities happening in Tirumala," he stated, adding that he would be willing to return to the temple service if the false cases against him were dropped. Ramana Dikshitulu said, "A tasteful and proper offering should be made to God. The

adulteration of the offering is painful," he remarked, referring to the reports of fatty substances being found in the ghee used for preparing the laddus. He lamented that the traditional offerings to Swami were not being conducted with the due reverence, and

that this deviation from the age-old practices was deeply distressing. He claimed that he had repeatedly brought these issues to the attention of the TTD chairman and executive officer (EO) over the years, but to no avail. "I have been fighting alone for the past few years. In the last five years, a great sin has occurred in Tirumala. Mischief has been done due to the presence of fatty substances in the ghee," Dikshitulu said. "The CM should give an opportunity to those who have mastery over Agama to serve Swami," he urged. He emphasized the need for experienced and dedicated personnel in the temple's decision-making process.

**Telangana Cong MLA announces land as reward on Union Minister Bittu's head**

**Hyderabad, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** A ruling Congress MLA in Telangana found himself in a row over his reported comments that he would give his property to anyone who "brings the head of" Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu. Vedma Bojju, MLA from Khanapur (ST), who held a protest against the minister's comments on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, said he is ready to give away his land to whoever beheads Bittu. "Ravneet Singh Bittu should take back his comments. If he doesn't take it back, I am also announcing as Khanapur MLA. I will

hand over one acre and 38 guntas of land earned by my father to whoever brings his head. That is the assets (we have). I am announcing (giving away) the property of me and my father," he told TV channels. Attacking the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha over the statements about the condition of Sikhs in India, the Minister of State for Railways on Sunday said if those "manufacturing bombs" were supporting him, he is the "number one terrorist".



**Mission Rayalaseema to foster.**

(From Page 1) the hospital grounds. During a subsequent 'Praja Darbar,' Lokesh outlined plans to establish schools and universities to enhance educational opportunities for children in the area. He confirmed that the government would soon provide subsidized drip irrigation equipment to farmers. Emphasizing accountability, Lokesh reiterated that all promises made during the Yuvagalam Padayatra have been fulfilled and vowed to work towards the comprehensive development of Chittoor district while addressing its financial burdens.

The minister also challenged former TTD chairman YV Subbareddy, questioning his commitment to the quality of the Tirupati Laddu amid allegations of animal fat being used in its preparation. Lokesh expressed his outrage over reports of adulterated ghee, condemning the politicization of religious offerings and asserting that such actions have compromised the temple's integrity. Additionally, he announced an increase in social pensions to Rs. 4,000 and noted that the state is actively attracting investments and industries. He confirmed the repeal of the Land Titling Act, reinforcing the government's commitment to progressive reforms in the region.

**Suits BJP to allow polarising conspiracy theories in election season: Cong on Tirupati laddu row**

**New Delhi, Sep 20 (The Capital News):**The Congress on Friday said if claims of "desecration" of the Tirupati laddu are right, a full-fledged enquiry must identify the guilty, but if they are wrong or motivated, millions of Tirupati devotees will not forgive those playing with their faith. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's claim that animal fat was used in Tirupati laddus during the previous government has triggered a massive political row, with the YSRCP accusing Naidu of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains and the TDP circulating a lab report to back its claim. During an NDA legislative party meeting on Wednesday, Naidu claimed that the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government did not even



spare the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirupati and used substandard ingredients and animal fat to make laddus. In a post on X, the Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara said, "If the claims of desecration of the Tirupati Laddus are right, of course a full fledged enquiry must identify the guilty and strictest possible punishment

must be meted out BUT, if the claims are wrong or motivated then, millions of devotees of Tirupati will not forgive those playing with their faith." "Until then, it suits the BJP to allow polarising conspiracy theories to fly thick in the air in election season," he said. TDP spokesperson Anam Venkata Ramana Reddy claimed at a press conference that a Gujarat-based

livestock laboratory has confirmed adulteration in ghee samples provided by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the famous Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple. He displayed the purported lab report, which confirmed the presence of "beef tallow", lard and fish oil in the ghee samples. The sample receipt date was July 9, 2024, and the lab report was dated July 16. Reacting to the development, Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh noted that the lab report clearly established that beef fat, fish oil and lard were used to make laddus. Senior YSRCP leader and another former TTD chairman B Karunakar Reddy charged that Naidu was making sacrilegious allegations over the Tirupati laddus for political mileage.

**TTD in turmoil: Outrage over**

(From Page 1) suspiciously low prices at which they've been sourcing pure Desi cow ghee. Reports indicate that the TTD has been acquiring ghee at prices ranging between Rs 300 and Rs 400 per kilogram. This figure is strikingly below the market rate for pure Desi cow ghee, which fluctuates between Rs 900 and Rs 3,000 per kilogram. Experts highlight the challenges in producing genuine ghee at such low prices, noting that approximately 30-35 liters of cow milk are needed to yield just 1 kg of ghee. Considering the

cost of milk alone hovers between Rs 900 and Rs 1,000, supplying pure cow ghee at Rs 300-400 raises red flags regarding its authenticity. According to reports, nearly one tonne of besan flour, 10 tonnes of sugar, and substantial quantities of other ingredients, including around 500-600 liters of cow ghee, are required daily for the iconic Tirupati Laddoo, an offering that has been cherished for over 300 years. Prasadam laddoo at the Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanam (TTD), which manages the famous Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple, remain fresh for 15 days because of their advanced packaging techniques The

controversy gained momentum when a Gujarat-based laboratory confirmed the presence of various animal fats, including lard, tallow, and fish oil, in ghee samples from the TTD. This revelation has ignited outrage among devotees and political leaders alike. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has placed blame on the previous YSR Congress Party government, accusing them of permitting such practices during their tenure. Political figures, including Janasena chief K Pawan Kalyan, have vowed to pursue stringent action against those responsible for the adulteration, stressing the necessity of maintaining the purity of

the prasadam, which holds deep religious significance for millions. In a bid to address the mounting criticism, the TTD has blacklisted the former supplier. Additionally, an internal investigation has been launched to scrutinize the procurement process for any lapses. The ongoing controversy has significantly impacted the sentiments of devotees who regard the Tirupati Laddu Prasadam as a sacred offering. Many have voiced their disappointment and are calling for transparency and accountability from the TTD. As investigations proceed, the TTD is tasked with regaining the trust of millions of devotees.

**MLA Adusumilli Jaya Prakash passes away**

(From Page 1) The mortal remains of Adusumilli will arrive in Vijayawada this evening, and his funeral is scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Tributes have poured in from various quarters in Hyderabad, reflecting the impact he had during his political career.



**CM Chandrababu orders report.**

(From Page 1) Dharmika Parishads to ensure the preservation of the temple's traditions and the beliefs of its devotees. "We will take all necessary steps to protect the sanctity of Tirumala and uphold the faith of the devotees," CM Chandrababu asserted, reiterating his commitment to maintaining the revered traditions of the temple.

**Secondary agri can boost rural economy; Murmu**

(From Page 1) demand in the cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries, the President noted that Jharkhand accounts for 55 per cent of the country's total lac production. "Jharkhand's lac production is a vital source of income for the tribal community, which is mainly produced by them," she emphasised. She posted on X, "I have special attachment to Jharkhand. Coming to Jharkhand, the holy land of Dharti Aaba (father) Bhagwan Birsa Munda is like a pilgrimage to me. I get a lot of love from the people here. As a Governor, I have done public service here for many years." She recalled that during her tenure as governor, raw lac produced by farmers was sold for Rs 100-200 per kg, while processed lac could fetch up to Rs 3,000 per kg. She empha-

sised the potential for establishing more lac processing units to enhance farmers' income. In addition to its applications in cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, Murmu said lac could also be used as a coating for fruits, vegetables, and spices to extend their shelf life. She highlighted the importance of providing skill development training for tribal communities and farmers, commending the institute in Ranchi for its advancements in technology, automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence. The President suggested promoting Self Help Groups (SHGs) involved in this sector. The event was attended by Governor Santosh Gangwar, Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Sanjay Seth.

**High Court to hear YSRCP**

(From Page 1) lunch motion petition today for unearthing the truth surrounding alleged use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus during the previous YSRCP regime. However, the Court said it will hear the petition on Wednesday, said Subba Reddy's arguing counsel P Sudhakar Reddy. "Let this (animal fat allegation) be investigated by a sitting judge of the High Court or let the High Court constitute a committee or let it be done by the CBI," he told PTI. Sudhakar Reddy, who had worked as the additional advocate general in the YSRCP regime, noted that a person (Naidu) holding the chief minister's chair should not make allegations without verifying as they will hurt the sentiments of crores of Hindu devotees. During an

NDA legislative party meeting on Wednesday, TDP supremo and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu claimed that the previous YSRCP government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara temple and used substandard ingredients and animal fat for making laddus. Calling it an attempt to gain political mileage by invoking Gods, Sudhakar Reddy said the ruling TDP supremo is resorting to 'political mudslinging'. The former additional advocate general claimed that CM Naidu is using Gods to save his falling public perception. "When you make an allegation, we want the truth to come out... you cannot use Gods as your planks for mudslinging. The truth should not come out from an investigating agency working under him (Naidu). Because he has already cast the die..." said Sudhakar Reddy.

**Centre seeks probe in..**

(From Page 1) on Wednesday, Naidu claimed that the previous Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirupati and used substandard ingredients and animal fat for making laddus. TDP spokesperson Anam Venkata Ramana Reddy in a press conference on Thursday in Amaravati claimed that the adulteration has been confirmed by a Gujarat-based livestock laboratory, on the ghee samples provided by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the famous Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple. He displayed the purported lab report which apparently confirmed the presence of "beef tallow", "lard" and "fish oil" in the given ghee sample. The sample receipt date was July 9, 2024 and the lab report was dated July 16. However, there was no official confirmation on the lab report from either the Andhra Pradesh government or the TTD. YSRCP leaders have denied the allegations. Health Minister J P Nadda, also present at the event, said he would address the issue during a press conference later in the day.



# Where does PM stand between Gandhi and Godse: Cong on PM's Maharashtra visit

**New Delhi, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** With Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting Maharashtra's Wardha, the Congress on Friday posed questions to him asking where does the PM stand between Mahatma Gandhi and Nathuram Godse. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh posed three questions to the prime minister as he headed to Wardha. "What is the BJP doing to prevent farmer suicides? Why has the BJP let down Adivasis in Forest Rights Act implementation? Where does the PM stand between Gandhi and Godse?" Ramesh said on X. Elaborating on what he said were "jumla details", Ramesh said that on an average day in

Maharashtra, seven farmers take their own lives. This heartbreaking statistic comes from the state's Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, who reported that 2,366 farmers died by suicide between January and October last year, he said. "The reasons are evident: 60% of districts faced drought conditions last year but no help arrived from the government. When crops were damaged by unseasonal rains in more than half of the state, farmers were extended loan waivers, but 6.56 lakh farmers were deprived of this relief due to software glitches," he said. In the face of this state-sponsored callousness, the Congress has consistently guaranteed farmers MSP as per the Swaminathan Committee's recom-



mendation, a farm loan waiver with a Permanent Commission set up to implement it smoothly, and settlement of all crop insurance claims within 30 days, Ramesh said. What is the BJP's vision to support Maharashtra's and India's farmers, he asked. He further said that in 2006, the Congress had passed the revolutionary Forest Rights Act (FRA) which granted

Adivasi and forest-dwelling communities legal rights to manage their own forests, and economically benefit from forest produce they collect. The BJP government, however, has obstructed the implementation of the FRA, depriving millions of Adivasis of its benefits, he alleged. "Only 52% (2,06,620 claims) of the 4,01,046 individual claims filed have been granted, and land titles distributed

cover only 23.5% (11,769 sq. km) of the 50,045 sq. km eligible for community rights," he said. Why has the BJP government in Maharashtra "failed" to provide Adivasi communities with their rights, Ramesh asked. The Congress leader pointed out that Wardha is the city where Mahatma Gandhi once lived and alleged that the Mahatma's ideals are under "concerted

assault today, by the PM's own party". "Some of his leaders have abused and ridiculed the Mahatma, and others have said they are unable to choose between Godse and Gandhi. Gandhian institutions across the country from the Akhil Bharat Sarva Sewa Sangh in Varanasi to the Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat have faced demolition and takeover by the RSS and its affiliates," he alleged. Affiliates of the Sarva Sewa Sangh in Varanasi are currently on a 100-day fast to protest the Government's "bludgeoning of this hallowed institution", he said. "Does the non-biological PM have any defense of his party's actions? Where does he stand in choosing between Gandhi and Godse?" he said.



## Shah to flag off BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra'

**Ranchi, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Union Home Minister Amit Shah is on Friday scheduled to flag off BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra' under which a series of rallies would be taken out in Jharkhand to oust the current JMM-led dispensation from power. The 'Parivartan Yatra' was planned ahead of the assembly elections due later this year. Shah is scheduled to visit Sahibganj district's Bhognadih, the birthplace of Sido and Kanu who led the Santhal revolt in 1855, a party leader said. "He will flag off the BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra' for the Santhal Pargana division from Police Line Ground and address a public rally there," said Rajya Sabha MP Deepak Prakash, who is also

the coordinator of the programme. Later, Shah will visit Jharkhandi Dham in Giridih district and launch the programme for the party's Dhanbad division and also address a public meeting there, he said. With an eye on the assembly elections, the opposition BJP would launch six 'Parivartan' processions to reach out to the people and "expose the failures" of the JMM-led government in the state. The yatras will cover 5,400 km across 81 assembly segments in 24 districts before concluding on October 2. Around 50 national and state-level leaders of the BJP, including chief ministers, are expected to participate in such rallies.

## J&K was dubbed as disputed because of NC:Kishan Reddy

**Jammu, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Union minister G Kishan Reddy blamed the National Conference on Friday for the imposition of Article 370 of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir earlier and alleged that the region was labelled as "disputed" because of the regional party. He also accused the NC of playing a key role in the widespread corruption and rise of cross-border terrorism that India is combating currently. "Because of the NC, Jammu and Kashmir was termed disputed. It was the NC that brought Article 370 into existence and enforced it here," Reddy told reporters while campaigning for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates



fielded from the Reasi district in the ongoing Assembly polls in the Union Territory. Describing Article 370 as the root cause of various issues in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union minister said, "Article 370 deprived people of their rights and perpetuated a dynastic rule in the region." On August 5, 2019, the BJP-led Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370, which had bestowed special rights on Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcat-

ed the erstwhile state into Union territories. Taking a dig at the NC, Reddy said, "Had a party like the National Conference not been in power, Jammu and Kashmir would have progressed at par with other states in India." He also accused the NC of promoting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Reddy claimed that since the abrogation of Article 370, peace has returned to Jammu and Kashmir, with significant development initiatives underway. He

appealed to people to vote for the BJP in the ongoing polls to continue the journey towards peace, progress and prosperity in the region. Reddy said prior to the abrogation of Article 370, terror activities were rampant in the region. "But today, most of those activities have been eradicated," he added. Stressing the importance of the first Assembly polls in the Union Territory after the abrogation of Article 370, he said, "This is a critical election. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have a significant responsibility. I believe they will make the right decision after considering all aspects. No one in Jammu and Kashmir wants Article 370 to return."

## Rahul Gandhi in Karnal to meet family of youth injured in accident abroad

**Chandigarh, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday reached a village in Haryana's Karnal district to meet with the family of a young man who was injured in an accident abroad. According to the family, Gandhi had met the injured youth, Amit, during his recent US visit. When contacted, local Congress leaders in Karnal said there was no prior intimation of Gandhi's visit and they came to know about it only after he reached Ghogripur village. Gandhi's sudden visit to Haryana to meet the family comes at a time when the assembly polls are a fortnight away. In the October 5 Haryana polls, the Congress, which is eyeing to wrest



power from the ruling BJP, has made farmers and unemployment key poll issues. Speaking to media persons in the village, Amit's brother Ajit said Gandhi reached their home around 6 am. A few families from the neighbourhood also joined, he said. "My younger brother currently lives in the US. We are from a poor family. Amit suffered an accident a few months back. At present, he is in terrible shape, he is unable to eat properly and is going through a lot of prob-

lems. Rahul-ji had met him in the US and told him he would visit his family," Ajit added. He said Amit went to the US in search of a livelihood and the family sold a small piece of land and mortgaged their home to finance him. Ajit said Gandhi assured them of help in this difficult hour. "We told him that Amit had gone abroad over a year ago to earn a livelihood. Rahul-ji also talked about agriculture and asked about unemployment. There were a few more families pres-

ent," he said. Amit's mother Bhimmat said Gandhi was at their home for nearly 90 minutes and they served him tea. "During this, we also spoke to Amit over a video call," she said. Some villagers said many youngsters from the village have gone abroad for a livelihood. In the past too, Rahul Gandhi has made impromptu visits to Haryana. Over a year ago, the Congress leader made a stop at Madina village in Sonapat district, interacted with the people and spent time with farmers working on agricultural farms. He had also taken part in paddy sowing, drove a tractor and ate food brought by women labourers working in the fields.

## CM Naidu's diversion politics with..

**(From Page 1)**  
comings of his administration. "The adulteration of ghee occurred during Chandrababu's tenure as Chief Minister," he stated, casting doubt on the motives behind the timing of the allegations. Jagan further claimed that these accusations are part of a diversionary tactic employed by Naidu, who he alleges is making false claims against the YSRCP. "What is the point of spreading such lies in such an important matter? Is it correct to play with the sentiments of devotees?" he questioned, highlighting the moral implications of the ongoing controversy. The former

Chief Minister defended the sourcing of ghee for the prasadam, asserting that it is obtained from TTD and certified by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories. He underscored that the same production process for making laddoos has been in place for decades, suggesting that the allegations lack a basis in fact.



## SC refuses to transfer trial in ..

**(From Page 1)**  
of the case. The counsel appearing for Reddy told the court that the plea seeking transfer of trial in the case was filed with a "political motive". The apex court, which had earlier voiced strong displeasure over Reddy's comments on the top court granting bail to rival Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha in cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, said it was expected that all the three wings of the Constitution showed mutual respect for functioning of each other. The bench took note of an affidavit filed by Reddy, who tendered apology to the court, and said it did not wish to proceed further on the issue. "Though we do not wish to proceed further in the matter, we may only put on caution all the constitutional functionaries --- the legislature, the executive and the judiciary -- to dis-

charge their constitutional duties in the spheres earmarked for them by the Constitution," the bench said. It said no doubt that a right to fair criticism of the verdict was always welcomed but one should not transgress the limits. The apex court passed the order while hearing a plea filed by BRS MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy and three others who had sought transfer of the trial in the case from Telangana to Bhopal. On May 31, 2015, Revanth Reddy, then with the Telugu Desam Party, was apprehended by the ACB while allegedly paying a Rs 50 lakh bribe to Elvis Stephenson, a nominated MLA, for supporting TDP nominee Vem Narendar Reddy in the legislative council elections. Apart from Revanth Reddy, the ACB had arrested some others. All of them were later granted bail.

## Voters split on whether Harris or Trump ..

**(From Page 1)**  
disapproved of his handling of the economy. Earlier this year, Americans were much more likely to say that Trump's presidency helped the country on cost of living and job creation, compared to Biden's. The new poll found that the economy is one of the most important issues for about 8 in 10 voters as they consider which candidate to support, dwarfing other top issues like health care and crime. The aftermath of inflation's spike in 2022 to a four-decade high has pervaded this year's presidential contest. Shoppers are upset over their grocery bills. Higher interest rates are financially squeezing the buyers of homes and motor vehicles. All that has appeared to matter more to the public than the low 4.2% unemployment rate and stock market gains. According to the AP-NORC poll, only about one-third of voters say the state of the national economy is somewhat or very good, although they're more optimistic about their own situation, with about 6 in 10 voters saying their household's finances are somewhat or very good. Both of those numbers have remained steady over the course of the year, despite falling inflation. The candidates have clashing ideas about how best to straighten out the economy, giving voters a stark choice that might hint at how partisan identity increasingly informs views of the economy and policy. But neither campaign has fully explained how its plans would be implemented. Harris insists her plans

would be fully funded and not add to the deficit, while Trump's team assumes — in defiance of most economic models — that growth will be high enough to offset the cost. Mark Carrough, 33, who works on medical records in Philadelphia, plans to vote for Harris and says he believes that the taxes on imports proposed by Trump would hurt most consumers. "The tariffs would be horrible for the economy," he said. Richard Tunnell, 32, of Huntsville, Texas, plans to vote for Trump, just as he did in 2020. He's not sure if the Republican has an advantage over Harris on the economy, but he noted that Trump has been a great businessman who remains one of the "richest men on the planet" even after filing for bankruptcy multiple times. "I believe this country needs someone to reach their hand in it and work it like a game of Monopoly and that person is Donald Trump," said Tunnell, a military veteran on disability. Chantelle Breaux, 38, a stay-at-home parent from Lafayette, Louisiana, feels neither candidate has much to offer on the economy. She doesn't plan to vote — unless a candidate more to her liking enters the race. "Kamala wants to put a Band-Aid where major surgery needs to be done on this economy," said Breaux. "Trump wants to run the country as if it's a business, but it isn't a business that is going to support all of the people." Former President Trump suggests growth would come from tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy leading to more investment,

while a universal tariff of as much as 20% would direct that investment to building U.S. factories. Harris has campaigned on more benefits for the middle class to be funded by higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy, saying that would help to contain costs and deliver growth. Her team has warned that Trump's tariffs would lead to higher prices and worsen underlying inflation challenges. The economy is one of many issues shaping public sentiment as the campaigns seek to turn out their voters. More than half of voters said health care was a top concern, while roughly half said that about crime, immigration, abortion policy and gun policy. Only about one-third called climate change one of the most important issues for their vote, and about one-quarter said that about the war between Israel and Hamas. Trump and Harris are evenly matched in the poll on who would better handle crime and the war in Gaza. But the issues soon splinter in ways that reflect the distinct priorities of Republicans and Democrats. Trump has an advantage over Harris on whom voters trust to better handle immigration. This issue was a problem for Biden, as well: Illegal immigration and crossings at the U.S. border with Mexico have been a challenge during much of his administration. Republicans are more likely to care about immigration, the issue where Trump has a clear upper hand.





Minister for HRD Nara Lokesh inaugurating dialysis centre at Bangarupalyam in Chittoor district on Friday as part of fulfilling his first promise given during Yuvagalam paadayatra



The Deputy Chief Ministers and their daughter Adya viewed the works of art displayed by the Lepakshi organization



TDP leaders explaining to the public in G Konduru mandal in NTR district over its good governance in 100 days



BJP OBC Morcha leaders addressing the media at BJP office on Friday

Ministry of Civil Aviation office building for cleanliness and planted saplings under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative as a part of the #SwachhtaHiSeva campaign



Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president YS Sharmila addressing the media at Andhra Ratna Bhavan on Friday



## PHOTO FEATURE

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# Harris focusing on personal stories as she campaigns on abortion rights

Washington, Sep 20 (The Capital News): For the first time since she ascended to the top of the Democratic ticket, Vice President Kamala Harris is set to give a speech focused squarely on abortion rights and she'll do so in Georgia, where news reports have documented women's deaths in the face of the state's six-week ban. "It is a time of mourning, but it's also a time where great action can come out of this," said Park Cannon, a Georgia state lawmaker and a doula who provides guidance and support to pregnant woman during labor. ProPublica reported this week that two Georgia women died after they did not get proper medical treatment for complications from taking abortion pills to end their pregnancies. Harris, who will be in the Atlanta area on Friday to address the issue, on Thursday night heard from the mother and sisters of one of the women who died. During a livestreamed campaign event hosted by Oprah Winfrey and attended by Harris, Shanette Williams, the mother of Amber Thurman, tearfully told viewers that "people around the world need to know that this was preventable." Williams said she initially did not want to go public about her daughter's 2022 death but ultimately

decided it was important for people to understand her daughter "was not a statistic. She was loved." Harris told the family, "I'm just so sorry. The courage you all have shown is extraordinary." The vice president added: "This story is a story that is, sadly, not the only story of what has been happening since these bans have taken place." Dozens of pregnant patients have faced delayed care or been turned away from hospitals amid medical emergencies over the last two years, a violation of federal law, since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. Violations occurred in states with and without abortion bans. But an AP analysis earlier this year found an immediate spike in some states with abortion bans, including Texas, following the ruling.

Harris was the administration's chief spokesperson on abortion rights when President Joe Biden was running for reelection, headlining rallies across the nation, and she is the highest-ranking U.S. official to make a public visit to an abortion clinic. Since becoming the nominee, though, she's broadened her focus to a wider range of issues. Harris' campaign is hoping that reproductive rights will be a strong motivator for Democrats in the November election.



Republican nominee Donald Trump, meanwhile, continues to take credit for appointing three of the conservative Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn *Roe*. About half of voters say abortion is one of the most important issues as they consider their vote – but it's more important to women who are registered voters than to male voters, according to a new AP-NORC poll. About 6 in 10 women voters say abortion policy is one of the most important issues to their vote in the upcoming election, compared to about 4 in 10 male voters. The gender gap doesn't stop there.

About 6 in 10 women voters trust Harris more than Trump to handle abortion, while about 2 in 10 women have more trust in Trump. Half of male voters, by contrast, trust Harris more than Trump on abortion, while about one-third trust Trump more than Harris.

Democrats point to a series of electoral wins when abortion rights have been on the ballot, and advocates believe Harris is a strong messenger. During the Sept. 10 presidential debate she gave a forceful answer on how the bans have affected even women who never intended to end pregnancies. Harris has a long history of fighting for reproductive health issues, especially Black maternal health. Since taking over the top of the ticket, others have toured the nation talking about reproductive rights, including her husband, Doug Emhoff. In Georgia, Thurman had waited more than 20 hours at the hospital for a routine medical procedure known as a D&C to clear out remaining tissue after taking abortion pills, even as she developed sepsis. Family members told ProPublica that the other woman who died was afraid to seek help for the pain she was experiencing after taking abortion pills. She

also had a lethal combination of painkillers in her system. Dr. Nisha Verma, an OB-GYN in Georgia, said the six-week ban has caused a "massive environment of fear and confusion and uncertainty" for the medical community. "Medicine is a gray area," she said. Laws, though "are a blunt instrument." She said Republican legislators who are now blaming hospitals and doctors are seeing the ramifications of the laws playing out in real time. "The law is preventing us from being able to provide evidence-based care without having to think about the risk of criminal prosecution," she said. Harris lays the blame on Trump, saying in a statement that, "This is exactly what we feared when *Roe* was struck down." During the presidential debate earlier this month, Trump leaned heavily on his catchall response to questions on abortion rights, saying the issue should be left up to the states. He said he would not sign a national abortion ban. But he has also repeatedly declined to say whether he would veto such a ban if he were elected again. Harris was making a campaign stop later Friday in Wisconsin following her visit to Georgia. Trump had no public events scheduled for Friday.

## New York Philharmonic musicians agree to 30% raise over 3-year contract



New York, Sep 20 (The Capital News): The New York Philharmonic and its musicians' union settled on a collective bargaining agreement Thursday that includes a 30 per cent raise over three years. The deal with Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians calls for raises of about 15 per cent in 2024-25, and 7.5 per cent each in 2025-26 and 2026-27. Base pay will rise to USD 205,000 by the deal's final season. Ratification of the new deal is expected to take place Friday, and the

contract will run from Saturday through September 20, 2027. A four-year contract that included pandemic-related pay cuts through August 2023 was due to expire this week. The philharmonic is in the first of two seasons without a music director. Jaap van Zweden left at the end of the 2023-24 season and Gustavo Dudamel starts in 2026-27. The philharmonic also is searching for a CEO following the abrupt departure of Gary Ginstling in July after one year.

## Indian national fined for defecating at entrance of a shopping mall

Singapore, Sep 20 (The Capital News): A 37-year-old construction worker from India was fined SGD400 on Thursday for defecating on Oct 30 last year at the entrance of 'The Shoppes' mall at Marina Bay Sands, a casino resort. Appearing in court, Ramu Chinnarasala pleaded guilty to one charge under the Environmental Public Health (Public Cleansing) Regulations, reported TODAY newspaper. An image of him committing the act went viral on Facebook last October, garnering more than 1,500 likes, 1,700 comments and 4,700 shares in about two days. Before that, Ramu had drunk three bottles of hard liquor and was gambling inside the Marina Bay Sands casino, according to TODAY report. At about 5 am, he left the casino. He wanted to relieve himself but could not go to the toilet because he was still heavily intoxicated. So, outside a restaurant near the entrance of Marina Bay Sands at 7.01 am, Ramu took off his pants, squatted and defecated on the floor. He then left the building and slept on one of the stone benches outside Marina Bay Sands until about 11 am, before returning to his dormitory in Kranji. Deputy Public Prosecutor (DPP) Adelle Tai said that a security officer at Marina Bay Sands saw a post containing a video of Ramu defecating later that day and made a police report. The prosecution told the court that Ramu had left Singapore on Oct 31 last year and returned "sometime later." On June 4 this year, he tried to enter the same casino and was detected as an "undesirable guest." A police report was made and he was arrested. In response, District Judge Christopher Goh Eng Chiang said, according to TODAY: "Do you know how to get the lowest fine? Don't do this in public." "Better still, don't get yourself so drunk that this happens. I want you to know if this happens again — I hope not — the fine will be higher than today," the Judge said. DPP Kiera Yu called for a fine of SGD 400 to SGD

500, noting that Ramu had defecated in public for about 10 minutes. "The offender did not make any attempts to clean up after himself, nor did he inform any cleaners of the act." "If not for the fact that his offence was filmed by a member of the public and subsequently discovered by the MBS security team, the offender's faeces would be left in the open for an extended period of time, in a public



shopping mall with heavy foot traffic," DPP Yu added. She also said that the damage to public cleanliness was "significant." Any person found guilty of defecating in a public place that is not a sanitary convenience for such purpose can be fined up to SGD 1,000 for the first offence, and to a further fine of up to SGD 100 for every day the offence continues after conviction.



## Raja Krishnamoorthi campaigns for Kamala Harris in Michigan

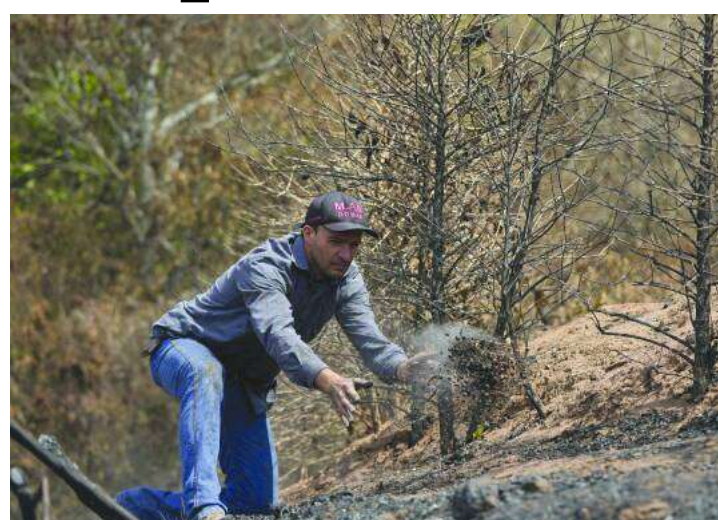
Washington, Sep 20 (The Capital News): Indian origin Congress man Raja Krishnamoorthi campaigned for Democrat presidential nominee Kamala Harris in Michigan, a key battleground, where the small Indian American community stands to make a big difference in a very close race. Krishnamoorthi, who represents the eighth Congressional District of Illinois, spent the weekend in state capital Detroit, where he served as a campaign surrogate to boost the Harris-Walz ticket and drive South Asian turnout in one of the key swing states. In partnership with the AAPI Victory Fund, Krishnamoorthi attend-

ed various places of worship, including a Hindu Temple, and headlined a South Asian American Town Hall alongside Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin, candidate for the US Senate in Michigan. The events drew attendance from hundreds of local Democrats eager to participate in the November election. "The enthusiasm in our community for the first ever South Asian President of the United States is very real," Krishnamoorthi said. "I will continue to travel across the country, and across the state of Illinois, to do everything I can to help elect Kamala Harris to be our next President of the United States."

## Brazil drought punishes coffee farms, threatens to push prices even higher

Caconde (Brazil), Sep 20 (The Capital News): Silvio Almeida's coffee plantation sits at an ideal altitude on a Brazilian hillside, whose clay-rich soil does well at retaining moisture from rainfall and a nearby reservoir. Lately, though, water is scarce on Almeida's modest farm in Caconde, a town in one of Sao Paulo state's key growing regions. He can't get his coffee to grow the way it should. In Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer, Almeida and other farmers have started grappling with the nation's worst drought in more than seven decades and above-average temperatures. Almeida expected to harvest 120 sacks of coffee beans this harvest season, but instead managed just 100. "Given the conditions here, the 2025 crop is already affected," he told The Associated Press, pointing to a part of his plantation where flower buds died before blooming. "I won't say it's doomed, because with God anything is possible. But based on the situation, it's already com-

promised." Brazil's harvest season that ends this month was virtually flat from last year, and exports surged, but the ongoing drought is already complicating the start of the 2025/2026 season, according to a report Monday by the Center for Advanced Studies on Applied Economics at the University of Sao Paulo's agribusiness school. At the same time, Vietnam, the world's second-biggest coffee producer, is experiencing heat and drought, affecting its crops. Potential supply shortages in both countries have started driving up global coffee prices, according to the report. The market is closely monitoring how Brazilian coffee plants endure these adverse climate conditions, which can cause flowers to stop blooming, fail to turn into cherries or produce lower-quality beans, said Felipe Serigati, who coordinates the master's program in agribusiness at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a university in Sao Paulo. "It could result in a smaller coffee har-



vest," Serigati said. "Since the market tends to anticipate these movements, we've already seen the price of arabica coffee in New York and robusta (coffee) in Europe trading at higher levels." Coffee prices haven't reached the record highs the world saw in the late 1970s, after a severe frost wiped out 70% of Brazil's coffee plants. But they have been soaring in recent years. In August, the International Coffee Organization's Composite Indicator Price — which combines the price of several types of green coffee beans —

averaged \$2.38 per pound, up nearly 55% from the same month a year ago. In part, prices are rising because of higher demand, particularly in Asia. But weather is also driving increases. Drought, frost and fire have damaged as much as one-fifth of arabica coffee producers' growing areas in Brazil, said Billy Roberts, a senior economist for food and beverage at Colorado-based CoBank. "It's not looking like it will get that much better in the near term. They will need consistent rainfall to recover," he said. Uncontrolled,

manmade wildfires across Brazil have lately been ravaging protected areas and farms. One of them ripped through Caconde last week.

Almeida, who is also a math teacher at a local public school, helped calculate the damage for a regional association. So far, he estimates the blazes affected 519 hectares (1,282 acres). Half was native Atlantic Forest, 30% pasture and 15% coffee plantations. On Almeida's own land, 2,000 of his 15,000 plants were torched. His neighbor, João Rodrigues Martins, lost everything. Martins, 71, had 2,500 coffee plants on a small plot, now completely blackened by soot. The coffee he sells to a local cooperative is his livelihood and also pays for his son's medical treatment. For smallholders, seeing years of cultivation reduced to ash is tough to reckon with. Last week, Martins ran through fire to save his bee boxes. Today, he is finding the strength to continue forward. "Faith is a boat that helps us navigate life," he said.



## Chess Olympiad: Indian men beat Iran to inch closer to gold; women shocked by Poland



**Budapest, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** The Indian men's team scored yet another thumping 3.5-0.5 points victory over Iran to stake claim for the gold medal in the Open section but the women suffered a shock 1.5-2.5 points defeat at the hands of Poland in the eighth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad currently underway here. With their eighth victory in as many matches, the Indian men took their tally to 16 points and stretched their lead to a massive two points over nearest rivals Hungary and Uzbekistan with just three rounds left in the biggest chess event on the planet. World number four Arjun Erigaisi started the rampage with black pieces and crashed through the defences of Bardiya Daneshvar who proved no match for the Indian. World Championship challenger D Gukesh then put it across Parham Maghsoodloo with black pieces, swindling the Iranian towards the end of the first time-control. R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Amin Tabatabaei to

make sure of an Indian victory and Vidit Gujrathi added to the team's tally as he outclassed Idani Pouya in all departments of the game to give another huge victory to the team. For Arjun, this was another step towards the 2800-rating mark as he took his personal tally to a remarkable 7.5 points from eight games. In live ratings, Arjun is now at 2793 points, and if he does cross the 2800 mark, he will be the 16th player in history -- and only the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand -- to do so. Taking a cue from Arjun, Gukesh made sure he kept closing in, and his victory took him to 2785 rating points. This is the first time ever that there are two Indians in top-five of the world rankings. Arjun created early complications again, going for the reverse Benoni with his black pieces. Daneshvar fell for some tactical tricks in the middle game and could not recover. Gukesh also won with black and it was another Queen pawn game wherein the Indian chose to play the Dubov variation in the Tarrasch defense.

Maghsoodloo went for some unwarranted complications and was caught off-guard as the clock ticked away in the middle game. Soon, the Iranian parted with a piece for a handful of pawns but fell prey to an easy tactical stroke that ended the game. Vidit Gujrathi went for the Sozin variation against the Sicilian defense by Pouya and his attack was simply overwhelming, while Praggnanandhaa took things easy to ward off any serious counter play by Tabatabaei. In the women's section, the Indian team faltered for once as Grandmaster D Harika continued to struggle with her form on the top board, going down to Alina Kashlinskaya. This was Harika's third loss in the event. Polish Monika Socko defeated R Vaishali on the second board in a technical endgame where the latter made some unforced errors while Divya Deshmukh fought very hard to beat Aleksandra Maltsevskaya on the third board. It was left to Vantika Agrawal to equalise and it looked like she had a complete winning position on hand. However, in to the sixth hour of play, Vantika made an optical blunder under time pressure and had to be content with a draw in the end with Alicja Sliwicka. The Indian women's team was joined by Poland and Kazakhstan on 14 points apiece at the top of the table, while USA, Armenia and Ukraine are a point behind. In the next round, Indian men will take on Uzbekistan while the women are pitted against USA.

## Rajasthan Royals appoint Vikram Rathour as batting coach

**Jaipur, Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Rajasthan Royals on Friday announced the appointment of former India opener Vikram Rathour as their batting coach ahead of the IPL 2025. Rathour, 55, is the second high-profile appointment by the franchise for the upcoming season after they roped in Rahul Dravid as their chief coach. Rathour served as India's batting coach in the set-up under Dravid as they guided Rohit Sharma and Co to victory in the T20 World Cup earlier this year. "Rathour, a seasoned cricket professional, joins the Royals' coaching setup shortly after the franchise welcomed Rahul Dravid back as head coach," Rajasthan Royals said in a statement. "It will reignite a successful partnership that elevated India to the top of the rankings in all three formats during their stint together, and led the country to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 title earlier



this year." Rathour has played six Tests and seven ODIs and has 33 first-class centuries to his name. He was India's batting coach from 2019 till 2023, during which he guided players like Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, and KL Rahul through crucial phases of their development. "Having worked closely with Vikram for many years, I can confidently say that his technical expertise, calm demeanour, and deep understanding of Indian conditions make him a perfect fit

for the Royals," said Dravid. "Together, we've built a strong rapport, guiding India to key successes, and I'm thrilled to reunite with him. His ability to nurture young talent and elevate players' potential will be invaluable as we aim to further strengthen our squad and continue building a world-class team here at Rajasthan Royals," added the former India head coach. Rathour said he was looking forward to working again with Dravid and contributing to the Royals' success. "It's a privilege to be part of the Royals family. The opportunity to work again with Rahul, and now with a talented group of young cricketers, is hugely exciting," Rathour stated. "I look forward to contributing to the team's vision and working toward our goal of developing top-class players for the Royals and for India which can help in winning championships."

## Brest's first-ever European goal is scored at home but far from its own stadium

**Guingamp (France), Sep 20 (The Capital News):** Brest's first-ever goal in European competition was scored at home but far away from its own stadium on Thursday. Midfielder Hugo Magnetti's half-volley from 20 meters out flew into the bottom right corner in the 23rd minute against Sturm Graz in the revamped Champions League. "It's a childhood dream to play in this competition, I felt a lot of emotion," Magnetti said. "I feel very proud to have scored the first European goal for Brest, especially in the Champions League." Brest won 2-1 with forward Abdallah Sima showing good technique to spin and guide the ball home in the 56th, after an own goal drew the Austrian team level on the stroke of half-time. Quite how many fans in the stadium celebrating were



Brest fans is uncertain, since the match was not actually held in the quaint Brittany port city. That's because Brest's stadium did not meet UEFA's requirements and so the club's European home games were relocated to Guingamp's Stade de Roudourou — located roughly 114 kilometers (71 miles) away. With only 5,000 of Brest's 15,200 seats at Stade Francis-Le

Blé stadium meeting UEFA standards, European soccer's governing body approved the 19,000-seat Roudourou. Brest's European debut in any competition came after coach Eric Roy led his team to a remarkable third-place finish in the French league last season, despite a small budget. Another Austrian club awaits Brest with a trip to face Salzburg on Oct. 1.



## Vaani Kapoor's Dress Will Make Your Jaw Drop

**V**aani Kapoor, born on August 23, 1988, is a celebrated Indian actress known for her work in Hindi films. She holds a bachelor's degree in tourism studies and made her acting debut with Yash Raj Films' romantic comedy "Shuddh Desi Romance" (2013). Her performance in this film earned her the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut. Recently, Vaani Kapoor shared a stunning photo on Instagram that left her fans in awe. In the picture, she is seen wearing a sleek black dress that perfectly accentuates her figure. The striking red background enhances the elegance of her dress. The photo has garnered much attention, with fans praising her fashion sense and poise.

## Jr NTR Hints At Future Rom-Com



**J**r NTR is one of those actors who has extreme mass appeal among audiences. Right from his debut, NTR has been known for doing mass masala action films. Even now, audiences envision him in larger-than-life characters rather than guy-next-door roles. However, contrastingly, NTR would like to do a rom-com at least once in the future.

In a recent Tamil interview, NTR stated that he has done all kinds of roles but has yet to take on a proper full-fledged romantic comedy. He expressed his desire to work on a complete rom-com in the future and jokingly said that if Vetrimaaran approaches him with a rom-com script, he would consider doing it in Tamil. NTR added that he wants to do some-

thing like Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani, directed by Ayan Mukerji. As NTR expresses his desire, it remains to be seen if any new directors approach him with an out-and-out romantic comedy in the future. Currently, NTR is awaiting the release of his latest flick, Devara, which is set to hit the screens on September 27.

## Naga Chaitanya vs Chiru-Balayya-Venky



**A**kkineni Naga Chaitanya's most prestigious film, Thandel, directed by Chandu Mondeti, creates significant buzz among audiences. Geetha Arts is producing this film on a large scale.

Sai Pallavi plays the heroine, and the film marks Chay's third collaboration with Chandu Mondeti. Initially, Thandel was slated for a December 20 release, timed as a Christmas gift. However, with multiple

films entering the Christmas race, particularly Ram Charan's highly anticipated Game Changer, Thandel had to reconsider its release date. The film could either target a Sankranti release or wait until the summer. Despite stiff competition during the Sankranti season, the makers are leaning toward a January release, aiming to launch the film on January 13, just three days after Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara hits theaters on January 10. However, Sankranti might bring further competition with Venkatesh's upcoming film and a possible release from Balakrishna. This has left the Thandel team weighing their options. Despite the challenges, they are confident in the strength of the film's content. A formal confirmation on the same is awaited.