



BUZZ POINTS



Higher Appeal Limits Cut Tax Disputes by 16,690 Crore

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President Murmu Begins Three-Day Odisha Visit

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Prashant Kishor Wins Bankipur Seat as BJP Retains Gujarat

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Abhijeet Dipke Challenges PM Narendra Modi to Reveal Degree Amid Education Funding Row

Fake Health Department Recruitment Scam Triggers CID Complaint

Mangalagiri, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

The Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department has warned job seekers against fraudulent recruitment activities being carried out in its name and lodged a complaint with the CID over fake appointment letters and recruitment documents. Acting on the instructions of Health Secretary and Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Veerapandian, Chief Administrative Officer D. Prakash Rao filed a complaint with CID Director General Ravi Shankar Ayyanar at the DGP's office on Monday. Officials said fraudsters were creating fake recruitment advertisements, interview call letters and appointment orders by illegally using government emblems, seals of the Central and State governments, the National Health Mission (NHM) name and the address of the Health Commissioner's office in



Mangalagiri.

The department stated that fake job notifications were being circulated through WhatsApp, email, Telegram and Facebook, with fraudsters collecting money from candidates in the name of processing fees, registration charges and certificate verification. Officials clarified that recruitments under the State Medical and Health Department are conducted only through the Andhra Pradesh Medical Services Recruitment Board (APMSRB) and District Selection Committees headed by District Collectors. Job aspirants were advised to verify recruitment details only through official sources and not to trust individuals demanding money for employment opportunities. The department also urged candidates to report suspicious messages, fake appointment letters or fraudulent activities to the police or Medical and Health Department officials immediately.

Great Green Wall To Cover 8,888 Hectares Across State

ARN Mahesh

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government has prepared an action plan to expand the 'Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh' across 8,888 hectares this year as part of a major initiative to protect the coastline, control erosion and strengthen climate resilience. The project aims to create a five-kilometre-wide green barrier along the state's 1,053-kilometre coastline through mangrove restoration, shelterbelt plantations, palmyra groves, village forests, community forests and agroforestry.

Under the initiative, the government has planned palmyra plantations across 5,000 hectares, native species plantations over 1,993 hectares under the Green Climate Fund and



shelterbelt plantations across 727 hectares. Another seven million saplings are being prepared under the VB G Ramji scheme for plantation in coastal districts covering nearly 2,500 hectares. The project has already brought national recognition to Andhra Pradesh, with the state securing second place in the country in mangrove forest expansion over the last two years. Mangrove development was taken up across 740 hectares during 2024-25 and 1,930 hectares during 2025-26.

The meeting will focus on strengthening international cooperation in asset recovery, combating cross-border corruption, and improving transparency and accountability in governance. Key areas of discussion include cooperation in tracing fugitive offenders, information sharing t

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment Pawan Kalyan said climate change has increased extreme weather events and stressed the importance of strengthening coastal protection systems.

Hyderabad to Host BRICS Anti-Corruption Meet

Hyderabad, August 3 | TPN Bureau

India will host the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the second meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery in Hyderabad on August 4 and 5 under India's BRICS Presidency 2026.

The meeting is being organised by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India, in line with the theme of India's



BRICS Presidency, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The event will be inaugurated by Rachna Shah, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training.

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Representatives from BRICS member countries, senior policymakers, experts, practitioners, and officials from anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies are expected to participate in the discussions.

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Vijayawada, Aug 4 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Andhra Pradesh State President PVN Madhav urged the state government to transform temples into cultural training centres to preserve Indian traditions and traditional arts for future generations.

Responding to representations from artists during the 'Janata Varadhi' programme held at the BJP state office, PVN Madhav said temples should not remain only places



of worship but also become centres of cultural education



PM Modi Hails India's Commonwealth Games Performance

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Indian contingent for its impressive performance at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, where the country secured 39 medals, including 13 gold medals. In a post on X, Modi praised the athletes for displaying exceptional skill, determination and dedication

throughout the Games. He said their hard work and achievements would continue to inspire youngsters across the country. The Prime Minister extended his best wishes to the entire Indian contingent for their future endeavours and expressed hope that they would continue bringing greater glory to the nation.

AP Partners with Moscow for Smart Mobility Solutions

Moscow, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

The State Government has joined hands with the Government of Moscow, Russian Federation, to transform Visakhapatnam's urban mobility system through technology-driven, sustainable and efficient transport solutions.

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Government of Moscow during the 5th International Transport Summit held in Moscow. The agreement was signed by GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg and Maksim Liksutov, Deputy Mayor of Moscow and Head of the De-



partment of Transport and Road Infrastructure Development. Visakhapatnam MP M. Sriharat attended the signing ceremony.

The partnership follows the official visit of Minister for Education, Information Technology and Electronics Nara Lokesh to Russia in

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APJUDA Temporarily Postpones Junior Doctors' Strike for One Week

Amaravati, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (APJUDA) has temporarily postponed its proposed strike over the demand for revision of junior doctors' stipends for one week following discussions with Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, Health Secretary and Director of Medical Education (DME).

APJUDA representatives met Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, DME and other officials on Monday to discuss the long-pending issues con-



cerning junior doctors. The association said the discussions were held in a positive and constructive manner, with authorities seeking one week's time to take the matter forward.

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161 Of 162 Oxygen Plants In Government Hospitals Non-Functional In State

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati: As many as 161 out of 162 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants established in Andhra Pradesh government hospitals after the COVID-19 pandemic have become non-functional due to maintenance issues, shortage of technical staff and operational challenges, raising concerns over the utilisation of critical medical infrastructure.

The issue came to light during a review meeting chaired by Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav with senior officials at the Health Department office in Mangalagiri APIIC Towers on Monday. The Minister directed officials to conduct a comprehensive assessment of oxygen procurement, consumption patterns and the status of oxygen generation facilities across government hospitals.

With COVID-19 cases witnessing a rise in some parts of the state, health experts questioned why the oxygen plants established during the pandemic period were not properly maintained and restored for use. They said dependence on external oxygen suppliers to meet hospital requirements could increase the financial burden on the government. Ex-



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perts suggested that making the PSA plants fully operational, as they are useful for regular day-to-day hospital requirements, would help reduce recurring oxygen procurement costs and ensure better preparedness during future health emergencies.

However, during the review the Minister Satya Kumar told officials, "Steps should be taken to ensure oxygen procurement is based on actual requirements and wastage is prevented. The objective is to bring oxygen procurement costs closer to pre-COVID levels while ensuring uninterrupted availability for patients."

He ordered a detailed audit of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) procurement

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PVN Madhav Seeks Cultural Training Hubs in Temples

and training.

He said various artists, including Bhajana troupes, Kolatam groups, Harikatha artists, folk performers, Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam artistes, Andhra dance performers, Burrakatha, Yakshaganam, Tholubommala, Veedhi Bhagavatam, Chekka Bhajana, Dappu, Dhimsa, Oggu Katha, Garaga dance artists, Nagaswaram and Mangala Vadyam performers, Vedic chanters and singers of Annamacharya, Tyagaraja and Ramadasu Keertanas, had sub-

mitted their grievances.

PVN Madhav said he submitted a representation to the state government suggesting the establishment of free cultural training centres in temples under the Endowments Department. He proposed conducting daily training programmes and appointing local artists as part-time trainers with suitable remuneration. He also suggested providing certificates and performance opportunities during temple festivals. He further demanded a transparent

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Pawan Kalyan Congratulates Team India for Commonwealth Games Success

Amaravati, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan congratulated Indian athletes for their impressive performance at the Commonwealth Games 2026, stating that the country's 39-medal achievement reflected the determination, discipline and fighting spirit of sportspersons. In a post on X, Pawan Kalyan said every medal won by Indian athletes was the result of years of sacrifice, hard work and commitment towards representing the nation with pride. He acknowledged the contributions of coaches, families, support staff, and everyone else behind the success. He said Team India displayed resilience, sportsmanship and

excellence throughout the competition, with every athlete carrying the hopes and aspirations of more than 140 crore Indians on the global stage. Pawan Kalyan stated that the achievements of Indian sportspersons are shaping a new era in sports and inspiring young Indians to pursue their dreams with dedication and confidence. He extended congratulations to medal winners, participants, coaches, support staff and families whose efforts contributed to the success. He expressed hope that the Commonwealth Games campaign would serve as a stepping stone to greater achievements in international sports and inspire future generations to represent the Tricolour with pride.

Narayana Reviews Amaravati Works, Discusses Land Pooling with Farmers

Guntur, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Municipal Administration Ponguru Narayana said officials and contracting agencies are responsible for completing Amaravati construction works within the prescribed timelines. He reviewed the progress of capital city projects with CRDA engineers and contracting agencies at the Secretariat's Block-2 conference hall.

The meeting was attended by Abhishek Kumar, Managing Director of Amaravati Growth and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (AGICL), Gopalakrishna Reddy, Engineer-in-Chief of CRDA, and AGICL Chief Engineers. The Minister reviewed the progress of iconic structures, including the Assembly, High Court, GAD Tower and four HOD Towers. Officials informed him that works were progressing without interruption despite the monsoon.

Narayana said the first phase of Amaravati construction would be completed by August 2028 as announced by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

Later, Narayana and Tadikonda MLA Tenali Sravan Kumar met farmers from Tadikonda, Motadaka and Kantheru villages at the Collectorate to discuss land pooling for the Amaravati railway line, railway station and Inner Ring Road projects.

District Collector Sai Kanth Varma, CRDA Additional Commissioners Bhargav Teja and Karthik, Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava, DRO Khajavali and other officials participated.

Narayana explained the benefits of land pooling and assured protection of farmers' interests. Farmers from Tadikonda and Motadaka expressed willingness to participate, while Kantheru farmers sought more time for consultation.

MLA Sravan Kumar said further decisions would be taken based on farmers' opinions. Narayana said airport land acquisition would be discussed in the Cabinet meeting on the 21st and added that the Seed Access Road and steel bridge would be completed within a week if weather permits.

Two Love Letters Surface in Trainee Officer Uday Case

Hyderabad, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

Fresh details have emerged in the case involving trainee IPS officer Uday Krishna Reddy, who was arrested over allegations of harassing a fellow female trainee officer. Police investigating the case said additional evidence regarding his behaviour and personal relationships has been gathered. The probe, led by Lavanya Naik Jadhav, DCP of the city's Women's Safety Wing, included searches at Uday Krishna Reddy's room in Ashok Nagar. Police said they seized a laptop, mobile phone, knife and two love letters written in different handwriting. According to investigators, the letters revealed a connection between Uday and a married woman from

Andhra Pradesh. Police said the woman, who married in 2014 and had been living separately since 2023, became acquainted with Uday during this period.

Officials stated that the woman joined an IAS coaching centre in Ashok Nagar after leaving her job on Uday's suggestion. Police said Uday later proposed a live-in relationship, which she declined as her divorce process was incomplete.

Investigators said the woman distanced herself from Uday after meeting the victim trainee officer and learning about the allegations against him. Police have recorded statements from around 20 people and are preparing to seek custody of Uday Krishna Reddy for further questioning.

Sahasra Ghatabhishekam Celebrated at Kotappakonda Temple

Narasaraopet, August 3 | TPN Bureau

The annual 'Sahasra Ghatabhishekam' ritual of Lord Trikoteswara Swamy was celebrated with grandeur at the Sri Trikoteswara Swamy Temple in Kotappakonda, Palnadu district, on Monday. Thousands of devotees participated in the spiritual event and offered prayers amid the chanting of Vedic mantras and auspicious musical performances.

Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravinda Babu attended the celebrations as the chief guest. Temple priests and Vedic scholars welcomed him with Poorna Kumbham and temple honours. The MLA performed special prayers to Lord Trikoteswara Swamy and participated in the Sahasra Ghatabhishekam ritual.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Aravinda Babu said the government was committed to the development of temples and improving facilities for devotees.



The Sahasra Ghatabhishekam is considered an important Shaiva ritual in which the deity is ceremonially bathed with sacred water from a thousand vessels amid Vedic chants, Rudra Parayanam and Shiva Panchakshari mantra recitation. Devotees believe the ritual brings peace, prosperity, health and spiritual well-being.

Following the Abhishekam,

temple priests performed Mahanivedyam and Harathi, after which Teertha-Prasadam was distributed among devotees. The celebrations concluded successfully with devotees participating in large numbers.

Temple Executive Officer Chandrasekhar, chief priest, local public representatives, temple officials, TDP leaders and activists, and devotees participated in the event.

Atchannaidu Slams Jagan Over Tobacco Farmers' Welfare

Amaravati, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Sunday strongly criticized former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that the previous YSRCP government failed to support tobacco farmers during times of distress and therefore had no moral right to speak about farmers' welfare now.

The minister said tobacco growers faced severe financial hardships during the YSRCP regime, while the government remained largely inactive. He claimed that the previous administration purchased only 12.93 million kilograms of tobacco through AP Markfed and failed to provide long-term relief or effective market intervention for farmers.

Atchannaidu stated that the coalition government took immediate steps after assuming office to address the concerns of tobacco farmers. He said the government purchased nearly 25 million kilograms of HD Burley tobacco worth around



270 crore last year, benefiting thousands of growers. He also highlighted a 10-per-kilogram incentive for low and off-style FCV tobacco and said the state government was extending financial assistance of nearly 100 crore. Plans are also underway to procure around 100 million kilograms of tobacco.

The minister further announced that discussions with the Union Agriculture Ministry and insurance companies

had resulted in extending the deadline for crop insurance registration and premium payment under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMF-BY) for Kharif 2026 until August 15.

He urged all eligible farmers to enroll in crop insurance and assured them that the coalition government remains committed to providing both market support and financial security.

Alliance Government Delivered Good Governance: Minister TG Bharat

Kurnool, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Food Processing TG Bharat said the Alliance government has delivered good governance to the people during its two-year tenure. He participated in the 'Intintiki Telugu Desam' door-to-door programme in Kurnool city on Monday and interacted with residents in the 3rd Ward Sagu Mandi area.

TG Bharat explained the welfare schemes and development initiatives implemented by the government and said efforts are being made under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu



Naidu's leadership to develop Andhra Pradesh. He highlighted steps taken to attract industries and create employment opportunities for youth through domestic and international investments.

The Minister said Kurnool has attracted investments exceeding 10,000 crore, with Reliance expected to begin opera-

tions soon and Jairaj Steel planning expansion with an additional investment of 6,000 crore. He added that infrastructure facilities are being improved across city wards.

He said the government has implemented welfare schemes despite financial challenges and cited the 'Thalliki Vandanam' scheme, under which financial assistance is provided to all children in a family.

TG Bharat urged people not to believe false propaganda by YSRCP leaders and sought continued support for the Alliance government. TDP leaders, booth in-charges and others participated in the programme.

APCRDA Grievance Day Receives 16 Petitions from Capital Region Residents

Amaravati, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) conducted its weekly Grievance Day programme at its headquarters in Rayapudi on Monday to address issues raised by capital region farmers, farm labourers and residents.

During the programme, farmers and villagers submitted petitions to Additional Commissioners Kollabathula Karthik and T. Rahul Kumar Reddy. The Additional Com-

missioners assured the petitioners that grievances falling under APCRDA jurisdiction would be resolved at the earliest, while matters requiring Government approval would be addressed as per Government policy.

Officials informed that the Citizen Grievance Centre (CGC) at APCRDA headquarters receives petitions from citizens on all working days during office hours. The weekly Grievance Day is conducted every Monday from 10 am to 1 pm. A total of 16 grievances

were received during Monday's programme.

APCRDA has also established a dedicated Help Desk at its headquarters to resolve NPCI and bank linkage issues of capital region farmers. The Help Desk assisted farmers in completing NPCI linkage procedures, enabling direct credit of annual annuity payments into their bank accounts.

The programme was attended by APCRDA Grievance Redressal Management (GRM) Nodal Officer P. Jayashree and other APCRDA officials.



WB, ADB Teams Review Safety Measures at Amaravati Capital City Projects

Amaravati, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

A delegation from the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) visited Amaravati Capital City on Monday as part of a three-day visit to review environmental and social safeguard measures, labour safety practices and construction standards.

The visit began with a review meeting at the APCRDA Headquarters, Rayapudi, with officials of the Environmental and Social Management Unit (ESMU). During the meeting, the WB and ADB team examined safety practices followed at labour camps established by contractors involved in various capital city projects.

Discussions focused on implementation of environmental and social safeguards, occupational health and safety standards, and compliance with safety protocols across Amaravati Capital City. The team provided recommendations on strengthening safeguard measures and explained

the roles and responsibilities of APCRDA, ADCL, PgMC and PMC in ensuring effective implementation.

Director, Social Development Wing, Velugoti Ramulu, Chief Strategy Officer Adu-sumilli Uma and other APCRDA officials participated in the meeting.

Later, the delegation inspected various project sites across Amaravati Capital City and reviewed safety arrangements being followed during construction activities. The team suggested further improvements to officials and representatives of contracting agencies. The delegation also reviewed training programmes for construction workers and stressed the importance of using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). It advised officials and contractors to implement effective traffic management and safety measures for heavy construction vehicles operating near project sites to ensure the safety of residents and road users.



Health Activists Submit Memorandum to Minister, Seek Public Healthcare Reforms

Vijayawada, Aug 2 | TPN Bureau

Praja Arogya Vedika submitted a memorandum to Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar Yadav urging the Andhra Pradesh government to take immediate policy and administrative measures to strengthen the public healthcare system.

The memorandum was submitted following a State-level round table conference on "Healthcare Privatization – Consequences and Solutions" held at MBVK Bhavan in Vijayawada on August 2. The conference was attended by doctors, public health experts, medical and health workers, activists, representatives of people's organisations, trade unions and civil society groups. After detailed deliberations, participants unanimously adopted a nine-point resolution highlighting key reforms needed in the healthcare sector. They demanded enactment of a Right to Health Act to ensure affordable, equitable and quality healthcare as

a legal entitlement. The resolution also called for withdrawal of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in government medical colleges, teaching hospitals and district hospitals. The forum urged the government to increase public health expenditure, complete all pending government medical colleges on priority and strengthen healthcare infrastructure from primary to tertiary levels. It also stressed filling all vacant posts of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff through regular recruitment. Participants sought provision of free and quality healthcare services, including medicines, diagnostics and emergency care, in government hospitals. They also called for strengthening preventive health programmes and proposed a special health action plan for tribal areas. The forum reiterated that public health is the responsibility of the State and urged the Minister to take prompt action on the recommendations.

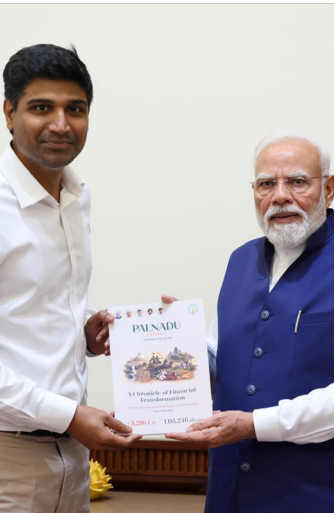
Sri-Krishna Devarayalu Submits Credit Outreach Report PM Modi

New Delhi, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

MP Lavu Sri-Krishna Devarayalu held a courtesy meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and submitted a comprehensive report on the success of the 'Credit Outreach Program' implemented in Palnadu district.

During the meeting, MP Lavu Sri-Krishna Devarayalu informed the Prime Minister that loans amounting to 3,216 crore were extended to 1,03,246 beneficiaries under the initiative. He stated that agricultural loans worth 2,286 crore were sanctioned to 83,365 farmers, significantly supporting the rural economy.

The MP explained that the programme also provided extensive financial assistance to women, youth, MSMEs, artisans, and self-help groups, helping boost livelihoods and entrepreneurship in the region. MP Lavu Sri-Krishna Devarayalu said Prime Minister



Narendra Modi appreciated the Palnadu rural economic development model and its impact on inclusive growth. The Prime Minister assured full support from the Centre for such initiatives and reaffirmed commitment towards achieving the goal of 'Viksit Bharat'.

LOST OF PASSPORT
I, CHOWLURU NARASIMHA TEJAS, S/o. CHOWLURU RAJA RAJESWARI,
R/O. 13-15-488, Pipeline road, Vidya Nagar, Hindupur, Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh
I Have lost my passport on 02-08-2026 while i am coming from my house situated at old Sridevi Hotel, Polimera road, Chirala to Chirala Xerox center at Tahsildar Office, Chirala for taking Xerox of my passport. Passport No. C7085300 issued by Hyderabad. So if any person who traced the Passport contact.
CHOWLURU NARASIMHA TEJAS
Cell:9000077344

A Global Model for Rural Development Through Service



Another remarkable chapter in Rayalaseema's development story began in Anantapur district. It was neither a government project nor the result of industrial investment. What started as a small humanitarian initiative by a foreign social worker gradually evolved into a rural development movement that has transformed the lives of millions. That movement is the Rural Development Trust (RDT). In 1969, Spanish humanitarian Vincente Ferrer chose the drought-prone land of Anantapur as his field of service. His vision was unique: instead of addressing drought, poverty, social backwardness, disability, women's empowerment, education, healthcare and agriculture as separate issues, he sought to tackle them through an integrated development approach. More than five decades later, RDT has earned recognition as one of India's most credible and successful rural development models.

Today, RDT's activities extend beyond Anantapur to thousands of villages across Sri Sathya Sai, Kurnool and Nandyal districts. Millions of people have benefited directly from its programmes in education, healthcare, livelihoods, women's empowerment, rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, housing, drinking water and agricultural development. RDT has demonstrated that rural development is not merely about constructing roads or buildings; it is about

enhancing human capabilities. Its distinguishing feature is not charity but partnership. By encouraging villagers to become active participants in their own development, strengthening women's self-help groups, promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities and introducing modern agricultural practices, the organisation has created lasting social transformation.

In healthcare, RDT has expanded access through rural health services, maternal and child care, mobile medical units and rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities. In education, it has supported government schools, promoted inclusive education, provided skill development programmes and offered employment-oriented training for rural youth, thereby laying a strong foundation for long-term social progress. Agriculture has been another major focus area. Through water conservation, check dams, watershed development, livestock improvement and farmer training programmes, RDT has strengthened the rural economy's ability to withstand recurring droughts. The philosophy is simple yet powerful: when a village's water problem is solved, farm incomes rise; higher incomes improve children's education, family health and the overall village economy. This creates a powerful social multiplier effect.

RDT's work has received international recognition. Several organisations, particularly from Spain, have partnered with the Trust over the years. Volunteers and development



experts from around the world have viewed Anantapur's villages as a living laboratory of sustainable rural development. This international collaboration has given Rayalaseema a distinct global identity. In Rayalaseema's development journey, Tirupati added economic value to faith, while Puttaparthi transformed faith into humanitarian service. RDT, in turn, added developmental value to service itself. Rather than functioning as an alternative to government programmes, it has complemented public initiatives by strengthening community participation and empowering rural society.

For this reason, RDT should not be seen merely as a non-governmental organisation. It is better understood as a development university that has converted service into enduring social capital. It represents a unique chapter in Rayalaseema's human development journey. The organisation's greatest strength lies in the way it has worked alongside government programmes while making local communities equal partners in development. Villages were not treated as passive beneficiaries but as active stakeholders. Consequently, RDT's impact is visible not

only in the infrastructure it has helped create but also in transformed villages, improved living standards and renewed self-confidence among rural communities.

Any meaningful discussion of Rayalaseema's development must therefore acknowledge not only major projects, industries and investments but also the invaluable contribution of voluntary organisations like RDT. The Trust has demonstrated that human development cannot be achieved through government expenditure alone; it also requires active participation from society. The greatest lesson RDT has offered Rayalaseema is clear: development is not merely the creation of physical infrastructure—it is a social investment that enhances human potential. And it is this investment that has the power to transform a region permanently.

Education: The Beacon Lighting Rayalaseema's FutureThe development of a region cannot be measured solely by its roads, industries or investments. The true benchmark lies in how effectively its education system prepares future generations. Viewed from this perspective, Rayalaseema

has made remarkable progress in education over the past few decades. Once known primarily for drought, migration and backwardness, the region has today emerged as an important centre for higher education, with a growing concentration of universities, national institutions, medical colleges and technical institutes. This transformation did not happen by chance. It is the result of the combined efforts of governments, spiritual institutions, voluntary organisations and society at large.

Rayalaseema is now home to 12-14 major universities and premier institutions, including IIT Tirupati, IISER Tirupati, IIITDM Kurnool, the Central University of Andhra Pradesh, JNTU Anantapur, Sri Venkateswara University, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Yogi Vemana University, Rayalaseema University and Dravidian University. Together, these institutions provide quality higher education to thousands of students every year. Their contribution extends far beyond producing graduates. They promote research, innovation, skill development, entrepreneurship and start-up culture while supporting the growth of local industries. The establishment of a university also stimulates a wider economic ecosystem. Hostels, transport services, bookstores, restaurants, housing and numerous small businesses emerge around educational campuses, creating what may be described as a knowledge-based multiplier economy.

AP Partners with Moscow for Smart Mobility Solutions

continued

June 2026, during which he held discussions with Moscow's transport leadership on strengthening cooperation in urban mobility, connectivity, transport infrastructure and technology.

Under the MoC, GVMC and the Government of Moscow will explore cooperation in intelligent transport systems, integrated digital ticketing, artificial intelligence-based traffic management, sustainable mobility solutions, autonomous transportation technologies, transport data initiatives, energy storage systems, technology transfer and capacity-building programmes.

Moscow's advanced urban transport ecosystem will serve as a reference model for Visakhapatnam's future mobility planning. Moscow has developed one of the world's most integrated public transport networks, combining metro services, buses, trams, electric buses, Moscow Central Circle and Moscow Central Diame-ters. The city's smart transport initiatives, including the Troika integrated ticketing system, digital passenger platforms, AI-enabled traffic monitoring, computer vision-based solutions and centralised traffic management systems, are among the areas Andhra Pradesh aims to study and adapt according to Visakhapatnam's requirements.

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana said the agreement reflects the govern-

ment's commitment to developing Visakhapatnam as a globally competitive and future-ready city.

"Visakhapatnam is emerging as a major growth centre for Andhra Pradesh and as a hub for industry, technology, tourism and innovation. A modern and integrated transportation network will be essential to support this growth. The cooperation with Moscow will enable us to study proven international practices and adopt appropriate solutions for Visakhapatnam," he said.

Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, S. Suresh Kumar, said the partnership would facilitate continuous knowledge exchange and provide GVMC access to advanced expertise in urban mobility and digital transformation.

Visakhapatnam MP M. Sriharat said the agreement, concluded under the guidance of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, would help bring global best practices and advanced technologies from Moscow to Visakhapatnam.

The Andhra Pradesh Government and GVMC will identify priority areas and prepare specific projects under the co-operation framework. The initiative is expected to strengthen multimodal transport integration, passenger information systems, digital payments, traffic management and low-emission mobility solutions, helping Visakhapatnam emerge as a clean, connected and technology-enabled global city.

Avinash Alleges Sand, Liquor and Rice Mafias

Vijayawada, August 3 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders on Monday submitted a memorandum to NTR District Collector alleging sand, liquor, rice and land mafias in Vijayawada and demanded immediate action against those responsible. The delegation was led by NTR District YSRCP President Devineni Avinash and former Vijayawada MLA Malladi Vishnu.

Speaking to the media, Avinash alleged that TDP leaders were encroaching upon government and municipal lands and selling them illegally. He urged authorities to identify those involved and initiate strict action.

He claimed that illegal activities related to sand, liquor and

PDS rice were increasing, alleging that only transporters were being booked while key operators were escaping action. He warned that YSRCP would intensify protests if the alleged mafias were not curbed.

Malladi Vishnu alleged that PDS rice meant for poor beneficiaries was being diverted from Vijayawada to Kakinada and sought an inquiry. He also alleged illegal sale of government lands and claimed JN-NURM houses were allotted to TDP workers and sold illegally.

The leaders gave authorities 15 days to respond, warning of a Collectorate siege if no action was taken. They also sought verification of alleged duplicate votes in electoral rolls

Karunakar Reddy Seeks Probe Into TTD Tender Norms

Tirupati, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy on Monday demanded an independent inquiry into the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) decision to relax eligibility norms for companies bidding to supply medicines and medical equipment to TTD-run hospitals.

Addressing the media, he alleged that reducing the tender eligibility criteria could encourage corruption and compromise healthcare quality. He

said the TTD Governing Board lowered the minimum turnover requirement for bidders from 100 crore to 25 crore, while in some categories it was reduced to 15 crore.

Karunakar Reddy alleged that the decision was taken following instructions from Education Minister Nara Lokesh despite objections from a Board member representing a reputed pharmaceutical company.

He claimed that relaxed norms could lead to procurement of substandard medi-

cines and medical equipment, including life-saving drugs. He also questioned the transparency of recommendations made by a committee headed by Dr. Jagadish.

The former chairman said the revised norms differed from procurement standards followed by institutions like AIIMS and rejected the argument that the changes were aimed at increasing bidder participation. He urged a transparent inquiry, stating that patient safety should remain the priority.



Simhadri Ramesh Babu Warns of Hunger Strike Over Irrigation Water

Vijayawada, August 3 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Farmers' Wing Regional Working President and former MLA Simhadri Ramesh Babu on Monday warned that he would launch a one-day hunger strike at Puligadda on August 6 if irrigation water is not released to farmers in Krishna district. He also announced a padayatra from Avanigadda to Prakasam Barrage if the government fails to respond.

Simhadri, along with YSRCP coordinators Perni Kittu, Up-pala Ramu, Devabhaktuni Chakravarthi, senior leader Dukkkipati Shashibhushan, and farmers' wing leaders, met Water Resources Department

Superintending Engineer J. Gunakana Rao in Vijayawada and submitted a representation.

The delegation alleged that farmers had already invested heavily in cultivation and urged the government to release irrigation water immediately. They accused the state government of neglecting farmers despite improving water availability.

Speaking on the occasion, Perni Kittu criticised the government for celebrating farmer welfare programmes while failing to provide irrigation water, warning that farmers would intensify their agitation if their demands were ignored.

BJP Rebuts CPI Ramakrishna's Remarks on PM Modi's Appreciation

Amaravati, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Andhra Pradesh Chief Official Spokesperson Valluru Jayaprakash Narayana strongly rebutted CPI leader Ramakrishna's comments against Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport.

Jayaprakash Narayana said acknowledging the support extended by the Central Government for Andhra Pradesh's development was not political sycophancy but a reflection of responsibility towards the state's interests. He highlighted the Centre's support in projects including Amaravati capital development, Polavaram national project, national highways, rail-

ways, ports, airports, industrial investments, educational institutions and welfare schemes. He questioned why Communist leaders remained silent when national institutions and constitutional authorities were allegedly insulted, stating that their criticism reflected double standards. The BJP spokesperson said communist parties had lost public trust due to opposition to development, investments and reforms. He asserted that 21st-century India was progressing through development, nationalism, democracy and technology. Jayaprakash Narayana said political parties should welcome initiatives benefiting Andhra Pradesh and work in the spirit of cooperative federalism. He urged Communist leaders to support constructive politics and contribute to the development of the state and the nation.

Hyderabad to Host BRICS Anti-Corruption Meet

continued

through the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery, and addressing corruption risks linked to FinTech, digital assets and emerging digital financial systems. A side event

titled "Ethical Governance through Innovation and Tech-Driven Systems" will also be held on August 5 to discuss technology-based solutions for transparent governance, digital public procurement and

citizen engagement. The meeting is expected to further strengthen cooperation among BRICS nations in preventing corruption and promoting technology-driven governance.

Great Green Wall To Cover 8,888 Hectares Across State

continued

He said the Great Green Wall would act as a natural shield against disasters and called for greater public participation in developing palmyra groves and community forests. Pawan Kalyan reviewed the progress of the project with senior Forest Department officials on Monday and directed them to complete the targets for 2026-27 within two months by consid-

ering favourable weather conditions. During the review, he enquired about division-wise targets, sapling plantation progress and mangrove cultivation plans. He congratulated Forest Department officials and environmental experts for their contribution towards achieving national recognition. He directed officials to undertake mangrove restoration over 305 hectares under MISHTI-II during November

and December and complete all plantation activities within the stipulated time. He also stressed that implementation should consider local environmental conditions, rainfall patterns and geographical features. The Deputy Chief Minister said all departments are being coordinated through the AP Greening and Climate Change Mitigation Society to achieve the objectives of the Great Green Wall project.

161 Of 162 Oxygen Plants In Government Hospitals Non-Functional In State

continued

by comparing demand and supply levels and directed officials to submit recommendations within two weeks. He also instructed officials to identify gaps and prepare corrective measures through a two-month pilot study in eight government hospitals, with a final report to be submitted by October 15. Officials informed the Minister that 162 PSA plants were established after COVID-19 with Central assistance at a cost of 105 crore.

However, only one plant is currently functional, while the remaining 161 plants require repairs or operational support. The Minister sought details on repair costs, feasibility and future utilisation of these facilities. Officials also informed that LMO worth 95.43 crore was procured for teaching hospitals during 2020-21 and 2021-22, compared with 60.51 crore spent in the four years before COVID-19. The expenditure later increased to 180.82 crore between 2022 and 2026. The Minister directed officials to

monitor oxygen supply at ward and ICU levels and establish an effective tracking system to prevent wastage. PATH will conduct the assessment study in selected hospitals, including those in Anantapur, Guntur, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. Health and Medical Department Secretary Veerapandian, DME Vishnuvardhan, ADME Radhika Reddy, DME Joint Director Ganapathi Rao, DSH Joint Commissioner Dr. Sujatha and other officials attended the meeting.

APJUDA Temporarily Postpones Junior Doctors' Strike for One Week

continued

Respecting the request of the Health Minister, Health Secretary and DME, APJUDA decided to postpone the strike that was planned as per the earlier notice. The association clarified that the decision was only a postponement and not a withdrawal of its demands. In a statement, APJUDA said it remains committed to securing a fair revision of stipends for junior doctors and

will continue its efforts through dialogue and necessary action. The association stated that further decisions regarding the strike will be announced after reviewing the progress of discussions with the authorities. APJUDA thanked junior doctors across the state for their continued support and urged members to rely only on official communication from the association.

PVN Madhav Seeks Cultural Training Hubs in Temples

continued

selection system for artists participating in cultural programmes of TTD Brahmotsavams, major temples and Endowments Department temples. He proposed creating a digital database of traditional artists after district-level verification and selecting performers only from the regis-

tered list.

PVN Madhav said details of selection criteria, remuneration and performance schedules should be made public and a grievance mechanism should be created for artists. He urged the government to formulate a comprehensive policy to protect Sanatana Dharma, Indian culture and traditional arts.

Many Join TDP Inspired by Development Works: MLA Somireddy



Manubolu, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy said people are joining the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) attracted by the development and welfare initiatives being implemented by the Alliance Government. Twenty YSRCP families from Kommalapudi village in Manubolu mandal joined the TDP at an event held at the party office in Vedayapalem, Nellore. The programme was organized under the leadership of Mannemalla Bhaskar Reddy, where Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy welcomed the new members by presenting party

scarves. Speaking on the occasion, Somireddy said welfare benefits have increased, and development activities are progressing in villages. He said the "Two Years of Trust - Development and Welfare" programme is receiving a strong response from people. He expressed confidence that the alliance parties would achieve victory in the upcoming local body elections and assured new members of respect and participation in development activities. Gundala Rajaratnam, Ravi, Danam, Ingilela Rajayya, Darla Venkateswarlu and Gumma Ramayya were among those who joined TDP.

Apollo Healthcare Academy Launches Faculty Development Program

Chittoor, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Apollo Healthcare Academy launched a five-day Faculty Development Program (FDP) at the Apollo Knowledge Centre, The Apollo University, aimed at improving teaching standards and preparing faculty for the changing needs of the healthcare sector. Sivaramakrishnan Venkateswaran, CEO, Apollo Knowledge, said the global healthcare sector is facing a shortage of skilled professionals and stressed the need to develop a competent healthcare workforce. He noted that skill development has become crucial as healthcare services are expanding beyond hospitals into homes and the ageing population continues to increase worldwide. Former Vice-Chancellor Dr. H. Vinod Bhat said healthcare professionals from India are in high demand globally and



highlighted the role of faculty in preparing skilled professionals. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Nitin M. Nagarkar emphasized continuous learning and modern teaching methods. Lead Resource Person Dr. Pratima Khandelwal stressed the importance of improving teaching skills. The FDP covers Outcome-Based Education, Artificial Intelligence-enabled teaching, assessment methods, communication skills and other modern teaching practices. The program was attended by Apollo Leadership Team members, faculty and senior officials.

Collector Stresses Speedy Grievance Redressal

Nellore, August 3 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Himanshu Shukla directed officials to ensure speedy and transparent resolution of public grievances, particularly those submitted by elderly people and persons with disabilities. Addressing officials at the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme held at Thikkana Hall in the Collectorate on Monday, he said officials should respond responsibly to people visiting from remote areas with hopes of resolving their issues. Along with Joint Collector Mogili Venkateswarlu and other officials, the Collector received petitions from the public. He instructed departments to conduct field inquiries, resolve com-



plaints within the stipulated time and avoid delays beyond the Service Level Agreement (SLA). He also directed officials to display Citizen Feedback QR Codes at government offices and service centres. Arrangements at PGRS centres, including drinking water, meals, queues and medical facilities, were reviewed.

CPI Observes 40th Death Anniversary of Eddula Eswar Reddy

Kadapa, August 3 | TPN Bureau

CPI District Secretary Gali Chandra said comprehensive development of Kadapa district and achieving social justice would be the true tribute to Communist leader Eddula Eswar Reddy. Addressing the 40th death anniversary meeting held at Eddula Eswar Reddy Memorial Island Park, Gali Chandra said securing funds and water allocations for irrigation projects, implementing the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, and establishing industries are essential for the district's progress. He recalled Eswar Reddy's contribution during the freedom struggle and his efforts for land rights, livelihood, and securing Krishna River waters for drought-hit regions. He said Eswar Reddy played a key role in bringing development projects, including the ICL Cement plant, All India Radio station, airport and railway connectivity to Kadapa. Gali Chandra said Eswar Reddy, who was elected four times as MP and once as MLC, worked for public welfare without seeking personal benefits. He demanded completion of irrigation projects, establishment of the Kadapa steel plant under SAIL, improved education and healthcare facilities, and social justice for all sections. CPI City Secretary N. Venkata Siva presided over the programme. Former CPI District Secretary Krishnamurthy and other leaders participated.

State-of-the-Art Boxing Training Centre Opens in Tirupati

Tirupati, August 3 | TPN Bureau

SAAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu inaugurated the newly constructed "ARESQED" state-of-the-art boxing training centre in Tirupati along with TDP constituency in-charge J.B. Srinivasulu. Speaking on the occasion, Animini Ravi Naidu said the international-standard facility would greatly benefit young athletes and provide better opportunities to develop their skills. He stated that such modern infrastructure would help talented boxers compete at state, national and international levels. He highlighted the government's commitment towards sports development and providing quality training facilities for athletes across the state. ARESQED founders Nara Uday, Sunil Chowdary, Pawan Chowdary and Madhu, along with alliance leaders and athletes, participated in the inauguration programme.

JB Srinivas Leads Welfare Scheme Awareness Drive

Tirupati, August 3 | TPN Bureau

TDP Tirupati constituency in-charge JB Srinivas said it is their responsibility to ensure that welfare schemes introduced by the Alliance Government reach every household. As part of the "Two Years of Trust - Development and Welfare" campaign, a door-to-door programme was conducted in Bhavani Nagar under the 35th Division on Monday. JB Srinivas interacted with residents and explained government welfare initiatives. He said the government is focusing on development while ensuring every family benefits from at least one welfare scheme. As part of the programme, JB Srinivas handed over a water tank and motor worth ₹20,000 to Adarana Old Age Home. He assured continuous support to the facility whenever required. Cluster In-charge RC Munikrishna, Temple Chairman Mahesh Yadav, Unit In-charge Lakshmi and other TDP leaders participated.

Vemireddy Urges Centre to Expedite ESI Hospital Construction

Nellore, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Nellore Lok Sabha Member Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy urged Union Minister for Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya to expedite the construction of a 100-bed ESI hospital and staff quarters at Nellore district head-quarters. Submitting a representation in New Delhi along with Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Vemireddy said land for the hospital and an additional one-acre site for staff quarters have already been allocated and approved by officials. He said the hospital would provide quality healthcare services to thousands of workers from the unorganized sector and their families. Responding positively, Mansukh Mandaviya directed the Director General of the ESI Corporation to immediately invite tenders for the construction works. Udayagiri Fort Restoration Awaits Funding Nellore MP Vemireddy



Prabhakar Reddy also raised the issue of pending conservation works at Udayagiri Fort and Ranganayakula Temple in Parliament. Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat informed that the removal and resetting of approach steps to Udayagiri Hill Fort and restoration of ancient flooring inside Ranganayakula Temple have been identified under

the National Culture Fund (NCF). The projects, estimated at ₹7.25 crore, have been displayed on the NCF website to attract CSR support and donations. However, no donor has confirmed financial assistance so far. The works will commence after funds are received, and the final scope will be decided based on technical assessment by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Collector Stresses Quality Redressal of Public Grievances

Kurnool, August 3 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. A. Siri directed officials to ensure transparent, quality and timely solutions to public grievances, stressing that PGRS complaints must be treated with top priority. Addressing the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) meeting at Sunayana Auditorium in the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector reviewed petitions related to general issues and SC/ST community grievances. She instructed officials to conduct immediate field inspections after receiving complaints and provide clear endorsements to petitioners. If issues cannot be resolved immediately, reasons should be explained properly. Dr. Siri directed departments to reduce re-opened and improper redressal cases, identify recurring grievances and resolve repeated complaints with-



in a week. Officials were asked to submit action reports by Friday on grievance status and resolutions. Joint Collector Nurul Qamar, DRO Venkatanarayamma and other officials attended the meeting.

Alliance Government Pushing Development: MLA Vijayasree

Sullurpeta, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Sullurpeta MLA Dr. Nelavala Vijayasree said development and welfare programmes are progressing rapidly under the Alliance government. As part of the "Two Years of Trust - Development and Welfare" programme, she conducted a door-to-door campaign in Perimitipadu village of Sullurpeta rural mandal on Monday. (She interacted with residents, enquired about their issues and explained government welfare schemes and development initiatives. Later, the MLA performed bhoomi puja for a CC road at Nagarajapuram in Sullurpeta municipality, taken up at a cost of ₹28.33 lakh. She said 28 development works



worth ₹9 crore have been undertaken in the municipality since 2024, with 16 works worth ₹5.78 crore completed. The remaining works will be completed soon, she added. Municipal officials, public representatives and Alliance leaders participated.

APSPDCL to Hold Video Conference with Industrial Consumers

Tirupati, August 3 | TPN Bureau

APSPDCL CMD Sivashankar Lotheti announced that a video conference will be held on August 5 from 11 AM to 12 PM to address issues faced by industrial electricity consumers across nine districts. The conference will discuss power supply interruptions, system defects, voltage fluctuations, billing issues, solar net metering, open access and electrical safety concerns. Industrial consumers can register by calling 89777 79471. Meanwhile, the 'Dial Your APSPDCL CMD' programme was conducted at the

corporate office in Tirupati on Monday. Sivashankar Lotheti said 57 consumers submitted electricity-related grievances and assured prompt action through field-level officials. Consumers can also register complaints through toll-free numbers 1912 and 1800 425 155333 or the WhatsApp number 9133331912. C. Rachel Vani, Principal of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukulam, Sullurpeta, thanked APSPDCL for replacing old electricity poles and lines at the institution. Senior APSPDCL officials participated in the programme.

Narayana on Wheels Completes 100 Days of Free Medical Service

Nellore, August 3 | TPN Bureau

The "Narayana Netra Jyothi" and "Danta Suraksha" free medical camps conducted through the "Narayana on Wheels" mobile clinic completed 100 days of service in Nellore. A cake-cutting ceremony was held at Janardhan Reddy Colony in the 54th Division to mark the occasion. Leaders and medical officials participated in the programme. The mobile clinic was launched by Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Dr. Ponguru Narayana with an investment of ₹5.3 crore to provide free healthcare services to poor people at their doorsteps. Officials said over 11,000 people received eye screenings, 6,500 were provided spectacles and more than 200 underwent free surgeries under Netra Jyothi. The Danta Suraksha programme provided dental services to thousands. Medical Officer Dr. Sudha and other leaders appreciated the initiative aimed at improving public health. Party leaders and medical staff participated in the event.

Affordable Fine Rice Sales Begin in Chittoor

Chittoor, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jaganmohan said the Alliance Government aims to provide quality rice at affordable prices to poor families. He inaugurated the sale of fine-quality rice at reduced prices at Chittoor Rythu Bazar on Monday. He appreciated Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar for taking steps to reduce the financial burden on people. He said rice is being supplied at up to ₹5.10 less per kilogram compared to market prices. CHUDA Chairperson Katari Hemalatha said the government is selling rice through 130 Rythu Bazaars and 500 special counters at rice mills across the state. BPT Super Fine rice is available at ₹5.52 per kg. MLA Jaganmohan also inspected stalls and Araku Coffee products, encouraging people to support tribal cooperative products. Officials, leaders and citizens participated.

MLA Kotamreddy Highlights Development and Welfare Works



Nellore Rural, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy said the Alliance government led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is focusing on development and welfare. He participated in the 'Two Years of Trust - Development and Welfare' door-to-door campaign held in Vaddipalem (17th Division) on Monday. Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy said the government has fulfilled most of its pre-election promises and gained public trust through various welfare schemes. He stated that Nellore Rural constituency witnessed development works worth Rs. 850 crore in the last two years across different sectors. He said the implementation of the 'Super Six' schemes has benefited all sections of society. During the campaign, the MLA visited households, distributed pamphlets on welfare schemes, and collected public grievances. He assured residents that their issues would be taken up with officials for resolution. TDP leaders, activists, Cluster In-charge Sabir Khan, Division President Utukuru Dattatreya and residents participated in the program.

NDA Government Focuses on Job Creation: MLA Arani



Tirupati, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu said the NDA Alliance government is giving priority to creating employment opportunities for youth in government and private sectors. Addressing a job fair organised by the Skill Development Department, Employment Exchange and APSSDC (SIDAP) at SVCC Degree College on Monday, he said Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and Nara Lokesh are working to attract industries and multinational companies to Andhra Pradesh. A total of 217 candidates attended interviews with 13 companies, of whom 113 were selected. The MLA handed over appointment letters to selected candidates. He said job fairs are being conducted every three months to support unemployed youth. The government is committed to creating 20 lakh jobs and has already filled 16,000 teacher posts through Mega DSC and 6,000 police posts, he added. Officials and educational institution representatives participated.

TUDA Plans Model Township at Shettipalli



Tirupati, August 3 | TPN Bureau

TUDA Chairman 'Dollars' Diwakar Reddy said the Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) is speeding up plans to develop a model township across 223.63 acres at Shettipalli as per the directions of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh. Hyderabad-based NCP E Pvt Ltd has been assigned the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) along with drone and geo-satellite surveys for the project. The firm has already started field-level work. The township will include concrete roads, underground drainage, a wastewater treatment plant, an electrical substation, drinking water facilities, Govinda Dhamam and parks. A 100-foot master plan road from Mangalam Road to Shettipalli with lighting, greenery and a walking track is also planned. TUDA will submit estimates after completion of the DPR and begin works after government approval. TUDA Secretary Dr. N.V. Srikanth Babu, SE Ravindrayya, JPO Vasudeva Naidu and survey firm representatives participated.

Collector Launches Low-Price Quality Rice Sales

Tirupati, August 3 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar said quality rice is being supplied at affordable prices across the state from August 1, with sales available at 28 centres in Tirupati district. He inaugurated the government's low-price rice sales programme at Tirupati Rythu Bazaar along with MLA Arani Srinivasulu, TUDA Chairman Diwakar Reddy and other officials. The Collector said steamed BPT rice, priced at ₹65-₹70 per kg in the market, is being sold at ₹52, while raw BPT rice is available at ₹50. The initiative is being implemented through 115 Rythu Bazaars and 500 special outlets statewide. The Collector said the scheme aims to support people amid rainfall deficit concerns and rising rice prices. Each rice cardholder will receive 26 kg rice in a single bag. MLA Arani Srinivasulu said the NDA Alliance Government is committed to public welfare and providing essential commodities at affordable prices. Officials and public representatives participated in the programme.



Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu Calls for Tough Action Against Drug Peddlers

Narsipatnam, August 3 | TPN Bureau

An awareness programme on the dangers of ganja and drug abuse was organised by the Anakapalli District Police at Star Homes in Narsipatnam on Monday. Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu attended as the chief guest, while actor Brahmaji, Anakapalli SP Tuhin Sinha, and Narsipatnam DSP Srinivas were also present.

Addressing the gathering, the Speaker praised the police for creating awareness but stressed that lectures alone would not eliminate the drug

MP Launches Godavari Drinking Water Project Under AMRUT 2.0

Eluru, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar said the coalition government is focusing on development and farmer welfare while launching major infrastructure initiatives in the district.

The MP, along with Eluru MLA Badeti Chanti, laid the foundation stone for a 5-lakh-litre overhead water storage tank at Chodimella in Ward 27 under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme. The project, aimed at supplying protected Godavari drinking water to villages merged into Eluru municipal limits, will be constructed at a cost of 1.65 crore. Putta Mahesh Kumar announced 57 lakh from MPLADS funds for road and borewell works in Chodimella. He also stated that 12 railway overbridges worth 1,300 crore are being developed across the Eluru parliamentary

Krishna Delta Farmers Seek Irrigation Water Release

Eluru, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Krishna Delta farmers staged a protest at the Eluru Collectorate on Monday, demanding immediate release of irrigation water. The agitation was organised by Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham.

Farmers were stopped by police while trying to enter the Collectorate and later staged a sit-in near the main gate. A delegation submitted a memorandum to Eluru Collector K. Vetriselvi through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS). Rythu Sangham State Assistant Secretary K. Srinivas demanded diversion of Pattiseema water, supply through



Ponangi Puntha canal, full water release to Tadipudi ayacut and modernisation of the Godavari Main Canal. Farmers warned of intensifying protests if their irrigation demands were not addressed. Collector Vetriselvi assured necessary action.

MLA Chanti Launches Subsidised Rice Counter

Eluru, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MLA and TDP District President Badeti Chanti on Monday inaugurated a special subsidised rice counter at Sri Potti Sriramulu Rythu Bazaar in Pattebad, Eluru, to provide affordable rice to consumers amid rising prices.

The initiative, organised with the support of the District Rice Millers Association, offers steam rice at 52 per kg and raw rice at 50 per kg. Consumers can purchase rice by producing their ration card or

Aadhaar card. Speaking at the event, Badeti Chanti said the coalition government was implementing measures to reduce the financial burden on poor families and appreciated the coordination between the Rice Millers Association and Civil Supplies Department. Later, the MLA interacted with farmers and traders at the market and assured them that their concerns would be addressed. Officials from the Civil Supplies Department and Rice Millers Association attended the programme.

Durgesh Directs Completion Of Drinking Water Project By 2027

Nidadavole, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh inspected the ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission works in Peravali mandal and said the coalition government aims to supply treated Godavari drinking water to every household before the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu. Reviewing the construction of overhead balancing reservoirs, the Minister said the project would provide safe drinking water to around 15 villages through a modern water treatment system being established at Vijjeswaram. He directed officials and contractors to complete the works by March 2027 without compromising quality. Durgesh said the project is being implement-



ed with support from the Central Government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Earlier, the Minister visited Ujjiniwari Veedhi in Nidadavole town after residents

complained about an overflowing drainage problem. He instructed officials to take immediate action, resulting in a temporary solution, and assured residents that permanent measures would be implemented soon.

Mega Job Mela in Dharmavaram on August 28: Minister Satya Kumar

Amaravati, Aug 3 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Health, Medical, Family Welfare, and Medical Education and Dharmavaram MLA Satya Kumar Yadav urged unemployed youth to utilise the mega job mela scheduled to be held on August 28 at CNB Kalyana Mandapam in Dharmavaram. The Minister released the poster for the job fair in Amaravati on Monday, organised by the State Skill Development Corporation in association with Samskruthi Seva Samstha. He said the objective of the programme

was to bring companies directly to Dharmavaram and provide employment opportunities without forcing youth to travel to cities in search of jobs. He stated that more than 90 multinational companies will participate in the job mela, where on-the-spot interviews will be conducted. Selected candidates will receive job opportunities with salaries ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 per month based on qualifications. Satya Kumar Yadav said candidates aged 18 to 35 years with qualifications including 10th class, Intermediate, ITI, Diploma, B.Pharm-

acy, D.Pharmacy, Nursing, Degree, B.Tech and PG are eligible. He advised candidates to bring qualification certificates, Aadhaar card and passport-size photographs. He encouraged youth to register through the government portal or QR code and make use of the opportunity. Manohar, Executive Director of Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation, Dinakar Reddy, Imran, Director of Samana College of Design Studies, Onteru Srinivasulu, Secretary of Samskruthi Seva Samiti, and others participated.

Rajamahendravaram Needs International Stadium: Visweswara Reddy

Rajamahendravaram, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Rajamahendri Educational Institutions Chairman T.K. Visweswara Reddy expressed concern over the absence of an international-standard stadium in Rajamahendravaram, saying it was unfortunate that the city still lacked such a facility despite repeated promises by successive public representatives. Addressing a press conference

on Monday, he alleged that leaders had made assurances about constructing a stadium for years without delivering results. He said that if given an opportunity in the future, he would work towards establishing an international cricket stadium for the city.

Visweswara Reddy also highlighted the activities of the Rajamahendri Sports Academy, which has been promoting

sports since 2023 through cricket, athletics, karate, volleyball, and shuttle events. He announced affordable Sunday coaching in rifle shooting, archery, horse riding, and skating at Rajamahendri International School, adding that experienced national-level coaches would train participants and outstanding performers would be encouraged to compete at state and national levels.

Bapatla MLA Vegesana Narendra Varma Leads ‘Intintiki TDP’ Campaign

Bapatla, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla MLA Vegesana Narendra Varma on Monday launched the “2 Years of Trust – Welfare and Development” campaign at Yetravaripalem village in Karlapalem mandal under the coalition government’s ‘Intintiki Telugu Desam’ outreach programme.

During the campaign, the

MLA visited households, interacted with residents, and distributed pamphlets explaining the welfare schemes implemented by the coalition government over the past two years and the development works carried out in the Bapatla constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Narendra Varma said the government has remained committed to public welfare and constituency de-

velopment since assuming office. He stated that welfare benefits had reached eligible families as promised and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to further development. Mandal TDP president Yetra Redanka Reddy, ZPTC member Pitla Venugopal Reddy, coalition leaders, party workers, and residents participated in the programme.

Minister Kandula Durgesh Launches Nidadavole–Vijayawada RTC Express Service

Nidadavole, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Monday inaugurated a new RTC Express bus service connecting Nidadavole and Vijayawada, aimed at improving public transport and benefiting women under the Stree Shakti free bus travel scheme.

The new service will operate via Ernagudem, Nallajerla, Bhimadole, Eluru, Hanuman Junction, and Gannavaram before reaching Vijayawada. The Minister flagged off the bus and travelled on its inaugural trip with local leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Durgesh said the service was introduced following requests



from residents, particularly women commuters. He added that the coalition government remains committed to providing safe, convenient, and affordable transport facilities for women, persons with disabilities, and transgender persons.

The Minister directed RTC

officials to maintain buses in good condition and ensure passenger safety. He also said the government would examine the feasibility of introducing more express services to major cities, including Visakhapatnam, based on public demand



Five BSNL 4G towers sanctioned for Srikakulam

Srikakulam, August 3 | TPN Bureau

The Union Ministry of Telecommunications has approved the installation of five new BSNL 4G mobile towers in the Srikakulam parliamentary constituency under the Digital Bharat Nidhi scheme.

The approval follows a request by Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu. The towers will be installed at Althi-Chidiguda,

Arli, Mokasa Avalangi, Penubarthi and Singupuram to improve mobile connectivity.

Rammohan Naidu directed officials to expedite land allocation and other administrative clearances for the project. He also thanked the Union Ministry of Telecommunications and Minister of State Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar for their support in sanctioning the towers.

Ravi Kumar Pushes Speedy Completion Of Drinking Water Scheme

Addanki, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Monday reviewed the progress of the 101.96-crore protected drinking water scheme for Addanki and directed officials to complete the works within the stipulated timeline to ensure a permanent solution to the town’s water requirements.

During a review meeting with Public Health officials at his camp office in Puttavari-palem, the Minister examined the progress of key components of the project, including construction of water storage tanks with a combined capacity of 5.1 million litres, an 83-km water supply pipeline and a 15-km feeder channel. He instructed officials to speed up the works and ensure quality standards are maintained. Ravi Kumar also reviewed the construction of the 12-million-litre-per-day water treatment plant and directed officials to complete it on priority. He further ordered the development of the town’s lake with an estimated cost of 5.10 crore, including beautification works and a walking track. Later, the Minister participated in the



Telugu Desam Party’s “Intintiki Telugu Desam” outreach programme at Cheruvukommupalem village. He interacted with residents, distributed pamphlets highlighting the coalition government’s development and welfare initiatives and assured people of continued focus on public welfare. During the visit, Ravi Kumar inaugurated a 1-crore BT road connecting Jarlapalem and Cheruvukommupalem and a 30-lakh causeway aimed at improving rural connectivity. He also visited the Anganwadi centre, distributed nutrition kits to lactating mothers and reviewed the quality of services provided to women and children. The Minister later conducted a public grievance programme, received petitions from residents and directed officials to resolve their issues promptly.

Ailing Landowner on Oxygen Support Seeks Justice at Spandana

Ongole, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Ailing landowner Ravi Poornachandra Rao of Pamidipadu village in Naguluppapadu mandal attended the Spandana public grievance programme in a wheelchair while on oxygen support, seeking justice over an alleged land encroachment. He alleged that 75 cents of his land had been encroached upon and claimed that repeated complaints to mandal-level officials had not yielded any action. Despite his health condition, he personally approached the District Collector and submitted a representation seeking intervention and a fair inquiry. Meanwhile, the Centre of Indian Trade Un-

ions (CITU) submitted a representation to the Collector demanding immediate release of pending paid holidays and service weightage increment dues for contract and outsourcing employees in the power sector. Responding to the appeal, the Collector assured that necessary steps would be taken to clear the pending dues within 15 days. CITU District Vice-President G.V. Konda Reddy and District Secretary G. Ramesh said thousands of electricity contract workers in Prakasam district were facing financial difficulties due to delayed payments. They welcomed the Collector’s assurance and hoped for early settlement of the issue.

Bapatla Police Conduct Shakti App Awareness Session

Chirala, August 3 | TPN Bureau

Under the directions of Bapatla Superintendent of Police B. Umamaheshwar, the district Shakti Team conducted an awareness programme on the Shakti App for employees of Flux Tech Solutions at KK Complex in Chirala on Monday. The session, chaired by company manager V. Chandrasekhar, fo-

cused on women’s safety and the effective use of the Shakti App. Constable K. Subba Rao explained how women can use the app’s SOS feature or dial 112 to seek immediate police assistance in cases of eve-teasing, harassment, or inappropriate behaviour at the workplace or in public. Employees were encouraged to report incidents without fear and make use of the safety services provided by the police.

Editorial

A Political Gift or a Calculated Strategy?

The outcome of the Bankipur Assembly by-election in Bihar has triggered an interesting political debate. A question is now being raised in political circles: Was the Bankipur seat a political gift from the BJP to Prashant Kishor? While there is no concrete evidence to support such a claim, the developments surrounding the bypoll have certainly fueled speculation.

Bankipur has traditionally been regarded as a stronghold of the BJP. The party's current Bihar president, Nitin Nabin, had represented this constituency continuously, making it one of the safest seats for the BJP. Against this backdrop, Prashant Kishor's decision to contest the bypoll came as a surprise to many political observers.

Interestingly, Prashant Kishor did not contest the previous Bihar Assembly elections, even though his party had fielded candidates across the state. His sudden decision to enter the electoral fray through the Bankipur bypoll immediately after the election notification has naturally raised several questions. What gave him the confidence to choose a constituency that has long been identified with the BJP? Was it merely political optimism, or was there a deeper electoral calculation behind the move?

These questions have led to speculation about the possibility of an understanding between the BJP and Prashant Kishor. Some political analysts believe there could have been a strategic arrangement in which the BJP adopted a less aggressive approach in Bankipur, expecting political benefits in return during future electoral battles. Such an understanding, if it existed, could be aimed at weakening the opposition rather than strengthening either side individually.

However, politics often thrives on perception as much as reality. Until credible evidence emerges, any suggestion of a secret pact remains speculative. Nevertheless, the Bankipur bypoll has undoubtedly added a new dimension to Bihar's political landscape, leaving voters and observers eager to see whether future political developments validate these suspicions or prove them unfounded.

Editor

E20 Petrol Transition in India: Know the Facts, Figures, and Consumer Concerns

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Ram Kamal

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Social Engineer

The recent implementation of E20 petrol, a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% pure petrol—has sparked significant debate across India. As the central government accelerates its nationwide roll-out, consumers and experts alike are raising questions regarding its true benefits, vehicle compatibility, and long-term consequences. A new wave of protest is gathering momentum, threatening to bring unrest back to Delhi. Why rush the implementation now, only to inevitably backtrack and cut a sorry figure?

The Economic Paradox: Macro Gains vs. Micro Losses:

From a macroeconomic perspective, the shift to E20 offers substantial benefits for the nation. By replacing 20% of standard fuel with domestically produced ethanol, India secures massive forex savings and reduces its heavy reliance on imported crude oil. This bolsters the country's energy security, buffering the economy against global market shocks, wars, and the steady depreciation of the Indian Rupee against the dollar.

However, at the microeconomic level, the everyday consumer currently bears the brunt. NITI Aayog had initially recommended that blended petrol should be sold at a lower price or with a tax differential to benefit the public. Yet, the government has ignored this recommendation. E20 is sold at the same price as pure petrol,

offering zero financial relief to the buyer. Compounding this financial loss is the issue of fuel efficiency: studies indicate that E20 petrol yields 6% to 7% less mileage than pure petrol. Essentially, consumers are paying the same price for a fuel that takes them less distance, resulting in a direct financial loss.

Environmental and Agricultural Realities

Proponents argue that E20 burns cleaner, potentially lowering carbon emissions. However, because vehicles must burn a higher volume of E20 fuel to achieve the same mileage as pure petrol, the net reduction in total carbon emissions remains highly debatable.

On the agricultural front, ethanol production utilizes surplus crops like sugarcane and maize, providing an alternative income stream for farmers without threatening food security. Yet, ethanol production is highly water-intensive; it is estimated that producing just one liter of ethanol requires up to 10,000 liters of water. The extensive use of fertilizers for these crops poses additional environmental concerns that have yet to be thoroughly addressed.

The Compatibility Crisis and Engine Health

A major point of contention is vehicle compatibility. While vehicles manufactured in India from 2023 onwards are officially E20



compliant, older vehicles are not. Shockingly, it is estimated that only about 20% of petrol vehicles manufactured in the last 15 years are fully designed to handle E20 fuel.

Because ethanol is a hygroscopic substance, meaning it naturally attracts moisture. If we leave E20 fuel idle can lead to water accumulation and severe internal corrosion. This moisture threatens vital engine components, including fuel lines, gaskets, O-rings, injectors, fuel pumps, and elastomers. The long-term damage this could inflict on non-compliant vehicles remains a massive worry for vehicle owners.

A Rushed Rollout?

Globally, transitioning to higher ethanol blends has been a slow, methodical process. Brazil took roughly 50 years to successfully

transition to its current E30 standard. Similarly, the United States provided a 25-to-50-year transition window, allowing older vehicles the choice to continue using pure petrol while newer ones adapted to E15. In stark contrast, India is attempting to mandate this shift in a matter of months, abruptly stripping consumers of their choice.

The Way Forward

To prevent widespread public backlash and protect consumer investments, the central government must take corrective steps:

Provide Consumer Choice: Petrol stations should feature dedicated pumps for both pure petrol and E20, allowing owners of older vehicles to safely refuel. After all prices is same.

Price Adjustments

E20 must be sold at a discount-

ed rate to offset the guaranteed loss in mileage. Now to compensate the 6 to 7% loss per liter, consumer have to buy more Liters for their travel.

Manufacturer Assurances
The government must coordinate with automakers and insurance companies to guarantee warranties and engine protection against ethanol-induced corrosion.

Subsidized Spares

If corrosion occurs due to the government's policy shift, affected spare parts should be offered at discounted rates. Ultimately, clear communication and a longer transition window are essential. Without providing citizens with choices and transparent re-assurances, the E20 mandate risks becoming yet another well-intentioned policy marred by rushed implementation.

1/70 Act Under Threat: Adivasi Identity and Rights at a Crossroads



Foster Care Idea Finds Wider Acceptance
The Opinion article "Be The Change: Bring Change Through Foster Care" by BVS Kumar, published in True Point on August 1, 2026, has struck a chord with readers by highlighting foster care as a compassionate alternative to adoption. The write-up emphasised that thousands of children in care institutions could benefit from family-based support systems, a concern echoed in national child welfare discussions. Advocate D S Reddy appreciated the detailed explanation of legal procedures and the role of CARA, while underscoring India's strong family system, in which parents play a foundational role in shaping responsible citizens. He noted that while adoption remains a preferred choice, foster care offers a practical and humane pathway, especially given procedural delays in formal adoption. Other readers too welcomed the perspective. Thota Kumar termed it a "nice article," while PVR Kamaluddin described it as "excellent," reflecting genuine appreciation. The feedback collectively indicates a growing awareness about foster care as a meaningful solution—one that not only provides abandoned children with a nurturing environment but also strengthens society's shared responsibility towards their future.

- True Point Team

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Vaba Yogi

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National Convener,
Adivasi Welfare Parishad
8333935666

The growing uncertainty surrounding the Tribal Land Protection Act 1/70 has reignited a critical debate on the survival, dignity, and constitutional rights of Adivasi communities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. At stake is not merely a piece of legislation, but the very foundation of Adivasi identity—land, forest, and autonomy—hard fought through decades of resistance and sacrifice.

Historically, Adivasis have endured immense hardship to protect their lands. From the uprisings in Naxalbari and Srikakulam to struggles across the Godavari valley and Danakaranya, their resistance has been rooted in survival. The martyrdom of Koranna and Mangana during the Srikakulam armed tribal-peasant struggle (1968–70) forced the then united Andhra Pradesh government to enact the Land Transfer Regulation Act 1/70, aimed at preventing the transfer of tribal lands to non-tribals. This law was a recognition of systemic injustice and an attempt to restore balance.

However, decades later, the reality is starkly different. Poor implementation of the 1/70 Act has resulted in large-scale alienation of tribal lands. Government data suggests that nearly 49.5% of Adivasi land is no longer in their possession. In districts like the erstwhile East and West Godavari, significant tracts of tribal land remain under the control of non-tribal communities such as Kamma, Kapu, and Reddy groups, forcing Adivasis into agricultural labour on lands they once owned. The crisis has deepened with

over 1,600 non-tribals approaching the Supreme Court seeking repeal of the 1/70 Act. The Court has admitted the petitions and issued notices to both Telugu states, placing the future of tribal land protections in a precarious position. This situation demands urgent intervention. Governments must act decisively and file implead petitions, lest history repeat itself—as seen when G.O. No. 3, which mandated 100% reservation for Adivasis in Agency area employment, was struck down due to administrative inaction.

Adding to the concern is the inadequate implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. While the Act provides for individual land titles up to 10 acres, its execution has been largely symbolic. Adivasis, who traditionally practice Podu cultivation, are increasingly facing restrictions under the 2025 forest regulations. Forest officials have been granted sweeping powers, often resulting in harassment and even physical assaults, as witnessed in Manubothula Gudem in Ashwapuram mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district.

Simultaneously, there are growing allegations of forest lands being diverted for commercial purposes, including tourism projects and mining ventures. The push to allocate these lands to domestic and multinational corporations for mineral extraction reflects a troubling trend where the State appears to act as a facilitator for private interests. This not only threatens Adivasi livelihoods but also risks irreversible ecological damage.

Large-scale projects have further compounded displace-



ment. The Polavaram project alone has uprooted 300 Adivasi villages, disrupting their cultural and social fabric. Similarly, proposals like the pumped-storage hydro project under G.O. No. 51 dated May 30, 2025, in Alluri Sitarama Raju and Manyam (Parvathipuram) districts triggered massive protests, forcing the government to temporarily withdraw. Such developments highlight the tension between development and displacement, where Adivasis are often the worst affected.

Mining interests in the Eastern Ghats—rich in bauxite deposits spread across 20,000 acres—have also been a flashpoint. Past attempts, including those linked to the Jindal company in S. Kota, to amend protections under the 1/70 Act and

the Fifth Schedule were met with strong resistance. These forests are not just mineral reserves but ecological lifelines, sustaining rivers and supporting agriculture in downstream regions.

Policy decisions like the cancellation of G.O. No. 3, weakening of the PESA Act, and proposals for eco-sensitive and wildlife zones—though well-intentioned—have often led to displacement without adequate safeguards. Relocating Adivasis from forests to plains in the name of conservation or development undermines their way of life and threatens their cultural continuity.

The unfinished recommendations of the Dilip Singh Bhuria Commission, which proposed inclusion of 805 villages into Scheduled Areas, remain

pending without Presidential approval. This administrative delay further excludes many Adivasi communities from legal protections.

Statements by political leaders such as Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, advocating amendments to the 1/70 Act, have intensified concerns among tribal communities. Such moves, if pursued without broad consultation, risk igniting widespread unrest.

The broader context of globalization, liberalization, and privatization has only heightened these vulnerabilities. As corporate interests expand into resource-rich tribal regions, the balance between development and justice becomes increasingly fragile.

The need of the hour is clear. Governments must reaffirm

their commitment to constitutional safeguards under the Fifth Schedule, ensure strict enforcement of the 1/70 Act, and implement the Forest Rights Act in both letter and spirit. Transparent dialogue, legal protection, and community participation are essential to prevent further marginalization.

Safeguarding Adivasi land, water, and forest resources is not just a policy issue—it is a moral imperative. The protection of the 1/70 Act is central to preserving the identity and existence of Adivasi communities.

Failure to act decisively will not only erode trust but may also trigger large-scale movements. The time to act is now—before irreversible damage is done.

Higher Appeal Limits Cut Tax Disputes by ₹16,690 Crore

The Union government's decision to increase the monetary thresholds for filing departmental appeals in income tax cases has significantly reduced disputed tax demands by an estimated 16,690 crore, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed Parliament. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Nirmala Sitharaman said the revised monetary limits for filing appeals before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), High Courts and the Supreme Court have resulted in a substantial decline in litigation involving tax disputes. The revised limits came into effect from September 17, 2024, with the objective of reducing unnecessary legal proceedings and allowing tax authorities to focus on cases involving higher revenue.

According to the Finance Minister, the Income Tax Department withdrew 443 cases and decided not to file appeals in 11,390 cases before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal after the revised thresholds were introduced. As a result, the estimated reduction in disputed tax demand at the tribunal level stood at 3,662.82 crore. At the High Court level, the government withdrew 4,791 cases and did not file appeals in another 5,565 cases. These decisions led to an estimated reduction of 9,218.71 crore in disputed tax demand, making it the largest share of the overall reduction achieved through the revised policy. The Finance Minister further informed the Lok Sabha that before the Supreme Court, 744 cases were withdrawn while appeals were not filed in 534 cases. This resulted in an estimated reduction of 3,807.15 crore in disputed tax demand. Combining the figures from all three judicial forums, the total estimated reduction in disputed tax demand reached 16,690 crore. The government believes that the higher monetary thresholds have helped reduce the burden of tax litigation while enabling the judiciary and tax administration to concentrate on cases involving significant financial implications. The revised appeal policy is part of the government's broader effort to simplify the tax administration system, improve the ease of doing business and minimise prolonged legal disputes. By limiting appeals in cases involving relatively smaller tax demands, the Centre aims to ensure faster resolution of tax matters and more efficient use of administrative and judicial resources. The Finance Ministry has maintained that reducing unnecessary litigation remains a key priority in creating a transparent, taxpayer-friendly and efficient tax administration framework.



Abhijeet Dipke Challenges PM Narendra Modi to Reveal Degree Amid Education Funding Row

Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke has responded strongly to questions about the funding of his higher education abroad, stating that his studies were supported through a scholarship and an education loan. He also challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to publicly produce his educational degree, saying he would disclose his own scholarship and loan documents if the Prime Minister did the same. The remarks came after Surat-based RTI activist Amit Tiwari sought an inquiry into the finances of Dipke's father, Bhagwan Dipke, a retired government employee. The activist questioned how Abhijeet Dipke was able to pursue higher education overseas and called for an investigation into the family's financial resources. Reacting through a video posted on X, Dipke dismissed the allegations and defended the legitimacy of his education. Speaking in Hindi, he said he was fully prepared to reveal his scholarship letter, education loan documents and other relevant records. However, he asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would also make his degree certificate public. Dipke said he had nothing to hide and challenged the government to conduct any investigation it considered necessary. He alleged that whenever individuals raise their voice against the



government, central investigative agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are used to target them. He stated that if the government decided to investigate him, it should also make the Prime Minister's educational qualifications public. He further said he did not understand why some people questioned the ability of a student from an ordinary family to study at a reputed international university. According to Dipke, educational achievement should be encouraged rather than viewed with suspicion. Abhijeet Dipke earned a Master of Science degree in Public Relations from the College of Communication at Boston University. He returned to India in June and subsequently led a nationwide campaign against the NEET-UG paper leak. Under the banner of the Cockroach Janata Party, the movement brought together students and youth from different parts of the country to demand reforms in the examination system and the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister. The protest continued in Delhi for 36 days and concluded with the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan, making the agitation one of the most prominent student-led movements in recent months.



President Murmu Begins Three-Day Odisha Visit

President Droupadi Murmu began a three-day visit to Odisha on Monday, during which she will participate in a series of educational, cultural and religious programmes across Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Ganjam district. The visit includes the inauguration of a university, temple visits and interactions with students and the public.

President Murmu arrived at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar on Monday afternoon and received a warm welcome from Odisha Governor Haribabu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other senior officials. Elaborate security arrangements were made at the airport and along the routes of her visit to ensure the smooth conduct of the



programme. On the first day of her visit, the President is scheduled to travel to Cuttack to inaugurate Jagadguru Kripalu University. The inauguration marks the formal opening of the new educational institution, which is expected to contribute to higher education and academic development in the state. The event will be attended by government representatives, educationists and other distinguished guests. The second day of the visit will feature a train journey from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur, highlighting the President's planned engagements in southern Odisha. After reaching Berhampur, President Murmu will visit the Maa Kandhuni Devi Temple and the Shiva Temple at Taptapani in Ganjam district, where she is scheduled to offer prayers. In addition to the religious visits, the President's itinerary includes participation in educational and cultural programmes aimed at encouraging academic excellence and preserving Odisha's rich cultural heritage. Officials said the visit reflects the importance attached to promoting education, culture and public engagement across different regions of the state. President Murmu, who hails from Rairangpur in Odisha, regularly visits her home state to attend

official functions and interact with people. Her visits are often marked by programmes that focus on education, social development and cultural preservation while providing opportunities to connect with citizens from different sections of society. The three-day tour is expected to conclude after the President completes her scheduled engagements across the four locations. State authorities have made extensive arrangements for the visit, with security personnel and administrative officials coordinating closely to ensure the successful conduct of all events. The visit is being seen as another important occasion highlighting the President's continued engagement with her home state and its developmental and cultural initiatives.

Parliamentary Panel Backs Corporate Law Reforms

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has recommended the adoption of the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, with several clause-wise changes aimed at simplifying business regulations, strengthening corporate governance and improving India's regulatory framework. The committee submitted its report in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha after extensive consultations with government departments, regulators, industry representatives, legal experts and professional bodies.

The proposed legislation seeks to amend the Companies Act, 2013, and the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act, 2008. According to the committee, the reforms are intended to reduce compliance burdens for businesses while ensuring greater transparency, investor protection and effective regulatory oversight. The recommendations are part of the government's broader effort to modernise corporate laws and make India a more business-friendly destination.



The committee, chaired by BJP MP Sudheer Gupta, stated that the proposed amendments strike a balance between simplifying legal procedures and maintaining necessary safeguards for companies and investors. It observed that the reforms would help businesses operate more efficiently while preserving accountability and corporate responsibility.

One of the major recommendations is the further decriminalisation of procedural and technical defaults under corporate law. Instead of criminal prosecution for certain violations, the Bill proposes civil penalties, a move expected to reduce litigation and improve the ease of doing business. The committee believes this approach will allow regulatory authorities to focus on more serious offences while encouraging voluntary compliance among businesses.

The Bill also proposes changes to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework by introducing relaxations for companies in specific areas. In addition, it seeks to strengthen

the role of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) in ensuring higher standards of financial reporting, transparency and corporate accountability.

Another important provision in the proposed legislation is the introduction of a legal framework that would allow specified trusts to convert into Limited Liability Partnerships. According to the committee, this measure is expected to provide greater operational flexibility while supporting the growth of organisations seeking a more efficient business structure.

The parliamentary panel concluded that the proposed reforms align India's corporate legal framework with international best practices while supporting economic growth and investment. It expressed confidence that the amendments would reduce procedural hurdles, improve regulatory efficiency and create a more transparent and competitive business environment, benefiting both companies and investors in the long term.

The recently concluded Assembly by-elections produced mixed results for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which retained the Manjalpur constituency in Gujarat but lost the Datia seat in Madhya Pradesh. Meanwhile, Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor secured a landmark victory in Bihar's Bankipur Assembly constituency, ending the BJP's long-standing dominance in the seat. Bankipur, formerly known as Patna West, had been a BJP stronghold since 1995 and was considered one of the party's safest constituencies in Bihar. Prashant Kishor's victory marks a significant political breakthrough for the Jan Suraj Party and is being viewed as an important development in the state's political landscape. Supporters of the party celebrated the result, describing it as a mandate for political change and an endorsement of the party's campaign.

In Gujarat, the BJP managed to retain the Manjalpur Assembly seat in Vadodra district. Party candidate Satish Govindbhai Patel defeated Congress candidate and former minister Bhikhabhai Rabari by a margin of 30,630 votes. According to the Election Commission, Patel secured 55,481 votes, while Rabari received 24,851 votes after the completion of all 20 rounds of counting.

Although the BJP retained the constituency comfortably,



Mohan Bhagwat to Address Youth Conference

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat will interact with members of Generation Z and Generation Alpha during a special session organised by the International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) as part of its 15th anniversary celebrations. The event will be held at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) and will mark the inauguration of IIMUN's Annual Championship Conference.

The conference is expected to bring together more than 2,000 students between the ages of 15 and 19 from over 100 cities across the country. Participants representing schools and colleges will take part in discussions and debates on a wide range of national and international issues. Organisers describe the gathering as one of India's largest youth-led conferences focused on leadership, civic engagement and public affairs.

Rishabh Shah, Founder of IIMUN, said the event aims to encourage meaningful interaction between experienced leaders and young people. He said leadership is not only about guiding the next generation but also about listening to its ideas and aspirations. According to him, such dialogue is especially important at a significant stage in India's development, and he expressed gratitude to Mohan Bhagwat for accepting the invitation to address the gathering.

The inaugural session will revolve around the theme, "The Role of Youth in Uniting the World, the Indian Way." Organisers said the conference will provide students with an opportunity to discuss public policy, diplomacy, governance and global challenges while developing leadership and communication skills.

Every year, IIMUN conducts 108 conferences along with thousands of civic engagement programmes and community initiatives led by young volunteers aged between 15 and 24 years. These programmes are designed for students aged 11 to 19 and seek to encourage active participation in social and public issues.

Founded in 2011 by Rishabh Shah, IIMUN has grown into a global youth platform promoting leadership, public affairs and the idea of Bharat. Over the past 15 years, many of its former participants and organisers have gone on to become elected representatives, civil servants, lawyers, authors, actors and business leaders.

The organisation's Advisory Board includes leaders from diverse fields such as Ajay Piramal, Deepak Parekh, Nadir Godrej, Shashi Tharoor, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Karan Johar, former Chiefs of the Armed Forces and P.T. Usha. According to the organisation, its programmes now extend across 275 cities in India and 40 countries, reaching more than 7.5 crore young people through partnerships with over 1.5 lakh schools and colleges.

Prashant Kishor Wins Bankipur Seat as BJP Retains Gujarat

its victory margin was significantly lower than in the 2022 Assembly elections, when the party had won the seat by more than one lakh votes. Following his victory, Satish Govindbhai Patel thanked the voters for continuing to place their trust in the BJP and credited the result to the party's development agenda and public support.

Bhikhabhai Rabari, however, alleged that government machinery had been misused during the election process, claiming it had influenced the outcome in favour of the ruling party. The BJP rejected the allegations and maintained that the victory reflected the confidence of the electorate.

In Madhya Pradesh, the Congress succeeded in wresting the Datia Assembly seat from the BJP, adding to the significance of the bypoll results. The outcome is expected to boost the morale of the Congress while raising fresh political questions for the BJP in states where it has traditionally enjoyed strong support. Overall, the bypoll results highlighted varying electoral trends across different states. While the BJP retained its hold in Gujarat, the victories of the Congress in Datia and Prashant Kishor in Bankipur indicated changing political dynamics and signalled that regional contests continue to play an important role in shaping India's political landscape.

Iran Raises Pressure Over Hormuz to Strengthen Negotiating Position

Iran is pursuing a strategy aimed at increasing pressure on the United States by raising the economic and security costs of the ongoing conflict rather than seeking a direct military victory. According to Gulf officials and international analysts, Tehran believes that prolonged disruption to global trade and energy routes could eventually force Washington to accept Iran's demands over the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The conflict between the United States and Iran has continued for six months after military strikes launched in February. While diplomatic efforts have taken place intermittently, both sides remain far apart on key issues, particularly the future control and administration of



the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil shipping routes. Analysts say Iran is following a strategy of calibrated escalation by gradually expanding pressure without triggering a full-scale

regional war. Michael Knights of the Washington Institute said Iran has consistently introduced new methods of escalation, including different targets, weapons and geographic areas, to maintain

pressure. He noted that Iran's biggest advantage lies in its ability to disrupt regional stability and the global economy rather than directly defeating the United States or Israel. Iran has also signalled that disruptions could extend beyond the Strait of Hormuz to other important maritime routes, including the Red Sea, while Saudi Arabia's energy infrastructure remains a potential concern. Gulf sources believe Iranian leaders expect President Donald Trump to avoid a prolonged Middle East conflict and eventually agree to negotiations under terms more favourable to Tehran. Although Trump recently announced that talks with Iran would resume, Tehran denied that any negotiations are cur-

rently taking place. A senior Iranian source indicated that Tehran believes previous concessions only resulted in greater pressure from Washington and that stronger leverage is necessary before meaningful negotiations can begin. Michael Singh of the Washington Institute said Iran believes it still holds the initiative, while former US diplomat Alan Eyre said Tehran's objective is to deter further military strikes and end economic restrictions. As both countries continue to match each other's actions, experts warn that the prolonged confrontation carries the risk of escalating into a wider regional conflict with significant consequences for global trade and energy markets.



Maryland Governor Praises Telugu Community's Contribution

Maryland Governor Wes Moore has praised the Telugu community for its significant contribution to the state's growth, describing it as a driving force behind Maryland's success in technology, healthcare, business and education. Speaking at the valedictory session of the 19th American Telugu Association (ATA) conference in Baltimore, Governor Moore acknowledged the achievements of Telugu professionals and entrepreneurs, saying their dedication and innovation have played a key role in strengthening Maryland's economy and global reputation. The three-day conference attracted thousands of Telugu community members from across the United States.

litical history and reflected its growing diversity and inclusiveness. The conference also featured Virginia Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi, another Hyderabad-born leader who moved to the United States with her family at the age of four. Addressing the gathering, she highlighted the achievements of the Indian-American community and encouraged greater participation in public service and leadership.

"The Telugu community is at the forefront of Maryland's strength as a technology, medical, business and academic powerhouse," Moore said while addressing the gathering. He noted that the community's contributions have helped shape the state's progress across multiple sectors and continue to inspire future generations.

Several prominent leaders from Telangana attended the event, underlining the close ties between the Telugu diaspora and their home state. The delegation included Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy, Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, and MLAs T. Rammohan Reddy, Yennem Srinivas Reddy and Manohar Reddy. Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao also participated in the conference.

Governor Moore also recognised the leadership of Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Katragadda Miller, who was born in Hyderabad before moving to the United States. Moore and Miller created history in the 2022 elections by becoming Maryland's first elected Black Governor and the state's first woman of colour to serve as Lieutenant Governor. Their victory marked a significant milestone in the state's po-

The American Telugu Association conference served as a platform to celebrate Telugu culture, promote networking among professionals, and strengthen cultural and economic ties between India and the United States. Participants also discussed opportunities for collaboration in education, business, healthcare, technology and investment, reflecting the growing influence of the Telugu community in the US and its continuing contribution to strengthening bilateral relations.

Sheikh Hasina Likely to Make First Public Appearance Since Ouster

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to make her first public appearance since being ousted from office nearly two years ago. The 78-year-old leader is scheduled to address an event at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia in New Delhi on Wednesday, where she is expected to speak about the political situation in Bangladesh and her plans to return home. Hasina has been living in India since August 2024 after a student-led uprising forced her government from power. The event, to be held at the Sir Mark Tully Auditorium, will also feature speeches by her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and former Bangladesh Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel.



During recent interviews, Hasina reiterated her determination to return to Bangladesh despite the risks. She acknowledged that she could face arrest, imprisonment or even death upon her return but said she wanted to go back because her supporters were calling for her return.

moved from power in August 2024 following violent student-led protests. An interim administration later dissolved her Awami League party under anti-terrorism legislation. In November 2025, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal sentenced Hasina to death in absentia after convicting her of crimes against humanity linked to the crackdown on the protests. She has consistently rejected the charges, describing them as politically motivated.

Bangladesh Law Minister M. Asaduzzaman recently stated that Hasina would likely be arrested immediately if she returned to the country. He said the government would act in accordance with the law, noting that she would not be allowed to surrender directly before a court before being taken into custody. He also remarked that issues related to her revoked passport would be her responsibility.

Her expected appearance in New Delhi comes as attention remains focused on whether she will proceed with her plans to return to Bangladesh, where she faces legal proceedings and possible immediate arrest. The event is also expected to provide insight into her political future and the next steps for her supporters.

Trump's Iran Strike Pauses Followed by Renewed Military Action

US President Donald Trump's repeated announcements of pausing military strikes against Iran have been followed by renewed attacks, highlighting a pattern that has defined the conflict between Washington and Tehran over the past five months.

On Saturday, Trump announced that the United States would suspend planned strikes to allow fresh negotiations aimed at ending the conflict and reopening shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. However, similar declarations in recent months have repeatedly been followed by renewed military action after diplomatic efforts failed.

The conflict began on February 28 when the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran. Since then, Trump has alternated between issuing strong military threats and announcing temporary pauses in

hostilities, only for fighting to resume days or even hours later. One of the earliest pauses came when Trump announced a two-week ceasefire shortly before a deadline he had set for Iran to comply with US demands. He later extended the ceasefire indefinitely, saying mediators had requested more time for negotiations. However, the truce collapsed after US forces resumed strikes on Iranian tankers.

In another instance, Trump postponed planned attacks after claiming there was a strong possibility of a diplomatic breakthrough. Yet negotiations soon stalled, leading to fresh US military operations. On another occasion, after threatening severe action against Iran's oil and gas infrastructure, Trump reversed course within hours, citing progress in talks. The two countries also signed a preliminary

memorandum of understanding to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz while beginning negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. However, Trump warned that military action could resume if the agreement failed to produce results. More recently, Trump again suspended planned strikes after saying Middle East allies had reached the framework of a possible peace agreement. Iran responded cautiously, stating that it remained fully prepared for any military escalation despite the announcement.

Israel Insists Hamas Must Fully Disarm Before Gaza Withdrawal

Israel has expressed serious security concerns over the proposed Hamas disarmament agreement, insisting that its forces will not withdraw from Gaza until the militant group completely surrenders its weapons. The remarks come days after US President Donald Trump announced a new ceasefire framework aimed at ending the nearly three-year

conflict. Doron Spielman, spokesperson for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, said Israel believes Hamas is using the ceasefire period to rebuild its military capabilities rather than genuinely disarming. He stressed that Israel would not redeploy its troops from Gaza unless Hamas fully relinquishes its weapons. The US-backed agreement



Pakistan Tightens Digital News Curbs Amid PoJK Unrest

Pakistan has reportedly intensified digital censorship by restricting access to several local, regional and international news platforms as unrest continues in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The reported restrictions come amid growing protests, allegations of security crackdowns and increasing public discontent in the region, although Pakistani authorities have not officially confirmed the move.



According to reports, access to several news websites has been blocked, while international broadcaster Al Jazeera English has also become inaccessible in parts of the country. The restrictions are said to target platforms carrying reports on demonstrations, security operations and the evolving political situation in PoJK.

Digital rights groups have expressed concern that the restrictions further limit freedom of expression in Pakistan, where traditional television and print media are already under significant pressure. Reports also indicate that YouTube warned several content creators that their channels could face removal if they failed to comply with court directives. Meanwhile, tensions in PoJK continue to escalate. The Joint Awami Action Committee has released videos that it claims show security personnel assaulting unarmed civilians during protests in Muzaffarabad. The committee also alleged that an individual in civilian clothes fired at demonstrators while standing alongside security forces.

The latest developments follow earlier legal action against online platforms critical of the government. In June, Pakistan's National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency accused several YouTube channels of publishing content it described as provocative and derogatory toward state institutions. Based on the agency's report, a judicial magistrate court in Islamabad sought to block multiple YouTube channels, including those linked to the main opposition party, jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan and journalists known for criticising the government.

According to the Human Rights Council of Pakistan-

occupied Jammu & Kashmir, at least 80 people have died in the ongoing unrest, including civilians and police personnel. The Joint Awami Action Committee has appealed to the United Nations, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other international organisations to conduct an independent investigation into the reported violence. It has also urged the International Committee of the Red Cross to monitor the humanitarian situation and ensure assistance reaches affected civilians.

The developments come after the second phase of PoJK elections witnessed widespread disruptions, protests and logistical failures, raising fresh concerns over the credibility of the electoral process.

Deadly Protests Intensify in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir

Violence continues to escalate in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), where protests led by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) have resulted in more than 100 deaths over the past two months. The demonstrations, initially centred on rising living costs and basic public services, have evolved into a broader movement demanding civil rights and political accountability.



According to reports, at least 50 people have been killed within the past week alone as clashes between protesters and security forces intensified during the ongoing election period. The unrest has spread across several towns, including Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot.

Medical workers on the ground say a large number of the victims are young people. A doctor operating a temporary clinic near a protest site in Rawalakot told the BBC that most of those killed or seriously injured were between the ages of 15 and 35. The clinic has been providing emergency first aid to gunshot victims but lacks the facilities needed to treat severe injuries.

Residents have described the heavy human cost of the protests. A young protester said demonstrators had only demanded affordable flour, lower electricity prices and basic rights, questioning why secu-

rity forces responded with live ammunition. Families of those killed have also spoken of their loss, insisting that the victims were peaceful protesters rather than armed militants.

Former Pakistan Army soldier Ayub, whose son died during the crackdown, criticised the regional administration for calling in paramilitary forces. He said he had lived through previous periods of military

map, significant differences remain. Israeli officials have reportedly sought assurances that Hamas' weapons will be destroyed after confiscation and have opposed the involvement of Qatar and Turkey in monitoring the implementation of the agreement. Reports also suggest Israel wants to retain the freedom to conduct military operations in Gaza if

security threats persist. The White House has stated that Israel was consulted throughout the negotiations and that the agreement reflects commitments already made under the ceasefire reached last October. However, Israeli leaders remain cautious as national elections approach, with political pressure mounting over security issues.

Despite the proposed road-

rule but had never witnessed such severe action against civilians.



Zoho CEO Sridhar Vembu Shares Inspiring Story of Young Employee

Zoho CEO Sridhar Vembu has shared an emotional story about a young employee, challenging common stereotypes associated with Generation Z. His post on social media highlighted the dedication, responsibility and sacrifices made by a 19-year-old employee, drawing widespread appreciation from users online.

In his post, Vembu said he does not believe in judging people based on their age or generation. He noted that after interacting with people from different age groups over the years, he has found that values such as hard work, discipline and responsibility are not limited to any particular generation. Recounting his recent interaction with the employee, Vembu said the young woman told him that her biggest priority in life is to earn money so her parents can repay their loans and support her younger siblings. According to him, she works hard every day with the sole aim of improving her family's financial situation. Vembu further revealed that the employee lives a simple life to save as much money as possible. She buys only inexpensive clothes and even repairs her broken footwear instead of replacing it, ensuring that every



rupee is spent carefully. Moved by her dedication and selflessness, Vembu said he promised to visit her parents personally and tell them how proud they should be of their daughter. The Zoho CEO also shared another example to support his view that many young people value simplicity and financial responsibility. He said two employees, both around 25 years old, recently informed him that they had followed his advice to keep their weddings simple and avoid unnecessary expenses. According to Vembu, these examples show that qualities such as discipline, humility and responsible financial planning continue to exist among today's youth, contrary to the perception that Generation Z lacks commitment or work ethic. His post quickly went viral on social media, attracting nearly 70,000 views and sparking discussions about the challenges faced by

young professionals. Many users praised the employee's determination and appreciated Vembu for recognising her efforts and sharing her story. Some social media users described the incident as an inspiring reminder that many young people quietly shoulder significant family responsibilities. Others appreciated Vembu's leadership style and his willingness to acknowledge employees beyond their workplace performance. However, a few users linked the discussion to broader economic issues, arguing that rising debt and financial pressures have forced many families to depend on the earnings of younger members. Despite differing opinions, Vembu's post resonated with many people, highlighting that dedication, sacrifice and strong family values remain timeless qualities that can be found across every generation.

LinkedIn Post on Chandigarh Resignation Sparks Debate Online

A LinkedIn post by Jatin Gulati, Chief Operating Officer of Praper Media, has sparked a lively online discussion after he shared that one of his employees resigned, describing Chandigarh as "too boring" compared to Delhi. According to Gulati, the employee felt Chandigarh lacked the energy, fast-paced lifestyle and excitement associated with the national capital. While acknowledging that people have different preferences, Gulati said he did not believe the resignation was really about the city itself. Sharing the incident, Gulati said the experience made him observe what he described as a recurring pattern. He noted that some people move to a new place and actively explore its opportunities, while others expect the place to entertain them without making any effort to discover what it has to offer. He added that the same mindset is often seen in workplaces. According to Gulati, some employees remain focused on what they believe is missing, such as better clients,



improved processes or greater opportunities. Others, however, choose to make the best use of the resources and opportunities already available to them. Gulati said that no city, company or career is perfect, and people who succeed are usually those who learn to adapt and make the most of their surroundings. He concluded by saying that he did not think Chandigarh was the real reason behind the employee's resignation, but rather the individual's mindset. The post quickly attracted attention on LinkedIn, with users expressing mixed opinions. While some agreed with Gulati's per-

spective on adaptability and personal growth, others argued that the issue was simply a matter of personal preference. One user commented that the decision was not about mindset but about individual lifestyle choices. Another wrote that every city has something unique to offer if people are willing to explore it. A third user praised Chandigarh, saying the city has its own charm, peaceful environment and opportunities for growth. The discussion has highlighted differing views on work-life preferences, career choices and the role personal outlook plays when adapting to a new city.

Viral X Post on IIT Legacy Triggers Debate on Education and Social Mobility

A viral post on X has sparked a nationwide discussion about whether an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) degree should be viewed as a stepping stone for personal success or as a legacy passed on through generations. The debate began after X user Akash Sampurnanand Panday shared a remark that he said he heard during an IIT alumni gathering.

The post quoted a statement that read, "If you went to IIT, and then your son also had to go to IIT, you have failed." Panday explained that the comment suggested IIT should serve as a launchpad that helps families achieve upward social mobility rather than becoming a tradition that every generation must follow.

According to Panday, IIT graduates often use their education to create better opportunities for their children, who may later study at globally reputed institutions such as Stanford or Harvard instead of pursuing the same path through IITs. He contrasted this with universities like Harvard, where family legacy, alumni networks and inherited prestige often strengthen opportunities across generations. Panday argued that IITs have historically functioned as engines of merit-based social mo-



bility. He said the institutions have enabled talented students from middle-class families to improve their economic and social standing through hard work rather than inherited privilege. Describing IIT as an "escape ladder," he suggested that if the next generation still depends on the same ladder for advancement, the family's social progress may not have been complete. He also remarked that IIT could be one of the few elite institutions where legacy is viewed differently from universities that actively value family connections. The post quickly gained attention and generated mixed reactions from social media users. Many disagreed with the comparison, arguing that India should focus on building world-class universities and cities that future generations would proud-

ly choose instead of viewing foreign institutions as the ultimate destination. Others defended the IIT system, pointing out that admissions are based entirely on merit through the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), unlike some foreign universities where legacy admissions and family influence can play a role. They argued that the absence of legacy-based admissions is one of IITs' greatest strengths. Several users also noted that India has many excellent engineering colleges besides IITs and stressed that educational success should not be measured by a single institution. The discussion ultimately highlighted differing perspectives on education, merit, social mobility and the evolving role of India's premier engineering institutes in shaping future generations.

Little Girl's Friendship Day Surprise Wins Hearts Online

A heartwarming video of a little girl receiving friendship bands from her classmates after a disappointing experience the previous year has touched thousands of people on social media. The video, shared on Instagram by Arun Tomar, has gone viral, reminding viewers about the importance of kindness, friendship and thoughtful gestures.

The post begins with a clip recorded during last year's Friendship Day. In the video, Arun Tomar's daughter tells her father that although she had given friendship bands to all of her friends, no one had given one to her in return. Despite wearing a faint smile, the young girl appeared disappointed by the experience.

Comforting his daughter, Arun told her that not everyone expresses friendship in the same way. He reminded her that she had been eagerly waiting for Friendship Day for several days and encouraged her not to feel disheartened by what had happened.

The little girl then innocently replied that her father al-



ways tells her friends love each other. When he asked whether her friends did not love her, she immediately responded that they did love her but had simply forgotten to give her a friendship band.

The video included a caption explaining that although the child managed to remain calm while speaking to her father, she became emotional and cried after returning home. The touching moment resonated with many viewers who recalled similar childhood experiences of feeling left out.

The video then shifts to this year's Friendship Day, showing a completely different and joyful scene. The little girl excitedly rushes into the room to share happy news with her father. Smiling from ear to ear, she proudly displays her wrists filled with colourful friendship bands gifted by her classmates. She tells her father that even though Friendship Day was scheduled for the following day, all of her friends had already given her friendship bands. She happily reveals that she had not even taken any friend-

ship bands to distribute this time, yet every one of her friends surprised her with one.

As she enthusiastically points to each friendship band, she tells her father which friend had given it to her, reflecting her excitement and appreciation for the thoughtful gesture.

The emotional transformation from disappointment to happiness struck a chord with social media users. Many praised the children's kindness and said the story highlighted the value of empathy and inclusion. Others appreciated the father's supportive approach, noting that his comforting words and encouragement helped his daughter overcome her disappointment.

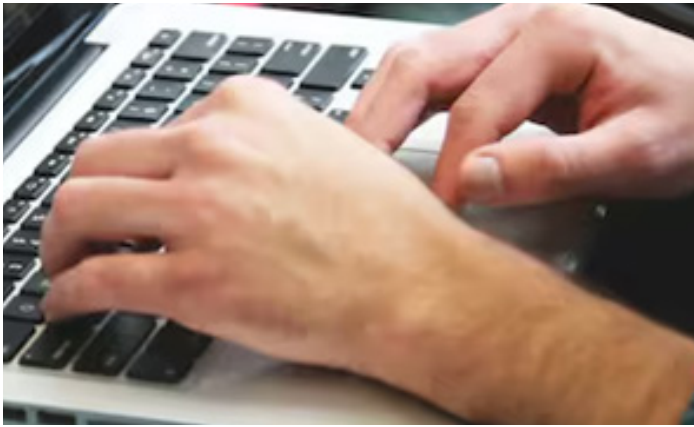
The viral video has become a reminder that small acts of kindness can leave a lasting impact. Many users said the story beautifully captured the innocence of childhood and showed how genuine friendships can heal emotional wounds and create cherished memories.

Pilot Reports Mysterious Disc-Shaped Object Near London Gatwick Airport

A commercial airline pilot reported spotting a mysterious disc-shaped object flying close to a passenger aircraft while approaching London Gatwick Airport, prompting an investigation by the UK Airprox Board, the independent body that examines near-miss incidents involving aircraft.

According to the official safety report, the incident involved an Airbus A319 that was descending and turning left towards the runway when the pilot noticed an unidentified object passing close to the aircraft's right wing. The object was travelling in the opposite direction at the same altitude and was estimated to be between 100 and 300 feet away.

The pilot described the object as resembling a "flying saucer" or an unusual drone. It reportedly had a distinct disc



shape with darker markings around its outer edge. Although the flight crew suspected it could have been a drone, they were unable to determine its exact identity.

The sighting occurred over the Sussex countryside near Hangcross, a village located

around seven miles south of Gatwick Airport. Despite the close proximity of the unidentified object, the pilot did not need to take emergency evasive action because the aircraft was already making a scheduled turn during its approach. No other pilots in the area

reported seeing the object. However, air traffic controllers issued a warning following the incident as part of standard safety procedures.

After reviewing the case, the UK Airprox Board concluded that there was insufficient evidence to identify the nature of the object. The board stated that the reported altitude and description did not allow investigators to determine whether it was a drone or another type of airborne object.

The board also concluded that although the incident reduced safety margins, there was no actual risk of collision. The investigation has highlighted the growing concern over unidentified objects operating near busy airports and the importance of maintaining strict aviation safety standards to protect passengers and crew.



Video Estimating Cost of Raising a Child in India Sparks Online Debate

A social media video estimating the cost of raising a child in India has sparked widespread discussion online. Content creator Vikhyat Singh claimed that parents may spend around 1.39 crore on a child by the time they turn 18, prompting users to debate the financial realities of parenthood.

In the Instagram video, Singh explained that he wanted to calculate the expenses involved in raising a child from pregnancy until adulthood. He said he personally does not want children and decided to estimate the costs parents are likely to incur over 18 years.

According to Singh, pregnancy-related expenses alone could total around 3 lakh, covering doctor consultations, medical tests, medicines, maternity clothing and delivery at a private hospital. He estimated that the first two years of a child's life could cost another 6 lakh, including diapers, baby food, vaccinations and other essential items. Singh identified education as the biggest expense, estimating parents could spend about 33 lakh on

play school, school fees, books, uniforms and educational trips. He also projected expenses of 15 lakh on food, 9 lakh on tuition, 5.4 lakh on healthcare, 9 lakh on entertainment, 7.2 lakh on clothing, 4 lakh on gadgets, 8 lakh on sports and extracurricular activities, 8 lakh on transport and 32.4 lakh on renting a larger home.

Based on these estimates, Singh calculated the total cost at approximately 1.39 crore. He added that the actual figure could exceed 2 crore because his calculation did not include college education, inflation or potential investment returns.

The video quickly went viral, drawing mixed reactions from social media users. While some agreed that raising a child has become increasingly expensive, many argued that financial costs cannot be compared with the emotional rewards of parenthood. Several users commented that the love, happiness and sense of purpose children bring to a family are beyond monetary value, making the investment worthwhile despite rising expenses.

Erling Haaland's Funny Reaction to Cat Lookalike Goes Viral

Manchester City and Norway football star Erling Haaland has won over social media users after reacting with humour to a viral post comparing him to a cat. The playful exchange quickly gained attention, with fans praising the striker for joining in on the joke instead of ignoring it.

The trend began after a picture of a light-furred cat with facial features resembling Haaland started circulating online. Although the image had been partially edited using artificial intelligence (AI), users found the resemblance amusing and nicknamed the feline "Erling Meowland."

The viral meme reached a new level when Haaland himself noticed the post. Responding in the comments, the footballer jokingly wrote, "Looking good @erling," referring to the cat as if it were his own social media account. His witty response delighted fans and quickly spread across multiple platforms.

Social media users flooded the comments section with humorous reactions. One fan called the feline "Catling Haaland," while another joked that the footballer's life had become a meme. Many others praised Haaland for his light-hearted attitude and willingness to engage with fans online.



Ardee Industries IPO Opens with 13% Grey Market Premium



The initial public offering (IPO) of Ardee Industries will open for public subscription on August 5 amid strong investor interest, with the grey market premium (GMP) indicating a potential listing gain of around 13 percent over the upper price band of ₹53 per share. While GMP is an unofficial market indicator and does not guarantee listing performance, it reflects positive sentiment ahead of the issue.

Ardee Industries has fixed the IPO price band at ₹50-53 per equity share. The company aims to raise ₹425.87 crore through the public issue, comprising a fresh issue worth ₹320 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of ₹105.87 crore by existing shareholders. The shares are proposed to be listed on both the BSE and NSE.

The IPO will remain open for subscription from August 5 to August 7. The basis of allotment is expected to be finalised on August 10, while refunds and credit of shares to successful applicants' demat accounts are likely on August 11. The tentative listing date on the stock exchanges is August 12.

Retail investors can bid for a minimum of one lot comprising 281 equity shares. At the upper end of the price band, the minimum investment required stands at ₹14,893. Investors can apply for additional lots in multiples of 281 shares, subject to the retail investment limit.

Pantomath Capital Advisors Private Limited is the book-running lead manager to the issue, while KFin Technologies Limited has been appointed as the registrar.

Ardee Industries operates in the lead recycling and non-ferrous metals sector, supplying recycled lead and related products to industries. The company plans to utilise the proceeds from the fresh issue for business expansion, capital expenditure and other general corporate purposes.

Market analysts note that the healthy grey market premium reflects optimism among investors. However, they caution that GMP is only an informal indicator based on unofficial market transactions and should not be considered a guarantee of listing gains. Investors are advised to evaluate the company's financial performance, business fundamentals, valuation and associated risks before making investment decisions.

Ethos Shares Hit 20% Upper Circuit After Strong Q1 Earnings



Shares of luxury watch retailer Ethos surged 20 percent during intraday trading after the company reported a strong financial performance for the first quarter of FY27. The stock touched its upper circuit limit of ₹3,090.40 on the NSE before giving up some gains due to profit booking. It eventually settled at ₹2,902.50, up 12.7 percent for the day, marking its biggest single-day gain on record.

The sharp rally came after Ethos announced a 47 percent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit for the June quarter. The company posted a net profit of ₹28 crore, compared to ₹19 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Revenue from operations also recorded robust growth, rising 34 percent to ₹462 crore from ₹346 crore a year earlier.

Commenting on the quarterly performance, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Pranav Saboo said the company had begun FY27 on a strong note, with consolidated revenue reaching ₹461.7 crore in the first quarter, reflecting a 33.3 percent year-on-year increase. He attributed the growth to sustained demand for luxury products in India, supported by the company's premium brand portfolio, strong execution and continued focus on delivering an enhanced customer experience.

Ethos also continued expanding its retail footprint during the quarter. The company increased its boutique network to 103 stores across 34 cities, up from 94 boutiques in 30 cities at the end of the previous financial year. New stores were opened in Agra, Faridabad, Amritsar and Visakhapatnam, strengthening the company's presence in both existing and emerging luxury markets.

The latest quarterly results indicate a strong recovery from the March quarter, when the company reported revenue growth but a marginal decline in profit. The improved earnings and continued expansion strategy have boosted investor confidence, resulting in a sharp rise in the company's share price. Analysts said the company's healthy financial performance reflects growing demand for luxury watches and premium lifestyle products in India. Investors will now closely monitor whether Ethos can sustain its earnings momentum and successfully integrate its expanding retail network while maintaining profitability in the coming quarters.

Zepto's Unlisted Valuation Falls Below \$3.5 Billion After 23% Share Price Drop

Zepto's unlisted shares have declined sharply over the past five trading sessions, falling 23 percent in the grey market and indicating a valuation of less than \$3.5 billion. The decline follows the company's decision to postpone its planned initial public offering (IPO) and instead raise fresh capital through a pre-IPO funding round, reflecting cautious investor sentiment toward the quick-commerce startup.

Grey-market prices currently suggest a valuation below \$3.5 billion, significantly lower than the valuation the company had initially sought during discussions with institutional investors.

Earlier, Zepto was reportedly targeting a valuation of around \$4.5 billion for its proposed public issue, but investors were willing to value the company at around \$2.5-3 billion, resulting in a gap between buyer expectations and the company's asking price.

To strengthen its balance sheet before going public, Zepto has opted to raise nearly ₹1,000 crore through a pre-IPO funding round. Existing investors, including Glade Brook, General

Catalyst, Goodwater Capital and Nexus Venture Partners, are expected to participate in the fundraising. The company has also delayed its IPO by two to three quarters as it works to secure funding and improve market conditions before listing. Despite the decline in its implied valuation, Zepto has continued to report strong operational growth. The company's revenue from operations more than doubled to ₹22,623.58 crore in FY26 from ₹11,109.95 crore in the previous financial year, highlighting robust demand for its quick-commerce services. However, investors remain concerned about the company's high losses and the broader challenge of achieving sustainable profitability in the intensely competitive quick-commerce sector. Market experts said the fall in Zepto's unlisted share price reflects changing investor expectations rather than weakness in the company's business.

Parliamentary Panel Reviews Social Media Regulation, Summons Google, Meta Representatives



Representatives of major social media platforms, including Google, Meta, YouTube, X (formerly Twitter) and Snapchat, appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology to discuss the regulation of social and digital platforms. Senior officials from the Union Home Ministry and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) also attended the meeting, which focused on the role of digital platforms in public safety, accountability and governance.

The committee, headed by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, convened the meeting following recent concerns over Meta's temporary restriction of a Facebook post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The incident had prompted the Centre to summon Meta's global team for an explanation regarding the platform's algorithmic processes, possible algorithmic bias and their implications for public order. Among those present at the meeting were Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan and representatives from Google, Meta, YouTube, X

and Snapchat. The discussion centred on the subject of "Social and Digital Platforms and Their Regulation," with lawmakers seeking greater transparency and accountability from technology companies operating in India. The controversy began after Meta briefly removed or restricted a Facebook post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which he addressed the country's youth and assured strict action against paper leaks. Meta later stated that the content had been removed due to a technical error, apologised for the incident and restored the post on its platform. However, government sources said the explanation offered by the US-based company was found to be inadequate. According to officials, the issue extends beyond a technical glitch and raises concerns relating to national security, public order and the functioning of algorithms that influence the visibility of public content. The government had earlier summoned Meta's global rep-

resentatives to explain the incident and clarify how its algorithmic systems operate. Officials have stressed the need for greater transparency in content moderation and algorithm-driven decisions, particularly when they involve elected representatives or matters of public importance. Meanwhile, the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have registered cases against Meta India Head Arun Srinivas and certain Facebook and Instagram accounts over allegedly morphed and AI-generated posts targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Government sources also highlighted the broader impact of social media on society, citing studies that suggest excessive use of digital platforms can negatively affect the cognitive development and mental well-being of children and adults. Officials said that while digital platforms play a vital role in communication, companies must comply with Indian laws and regulations. They added that any violation of legal provisions would attract liability, reinforcing the government's commitment to ensuring responsible and accountable use of social media platforms in the country.

Sensex Jumps 544 Points, Nifty Reclaims 24,700

Indian equity markets extended their winning streak for the fourth consecutive session, with benchmark indices ending sharply higher amid broad-based buying across sectors. The BSE Sensex climbed 544 points, while the NSE Nifty reclaimed the 24,700 mark, reflecting improved investor sentiment and sustained buying interest. The rally was supported by gains in financial, information technology, automobile and healthcare stocks. Positive global cues, steady foreign institutional investor inflows and optimism over corporate earnings also contributed to the market's upward momentum. The BSE Sensex settled 544 points higher, while the NSE Nifty closed above the key 24,700 level after witnessing strong buying throughout the trading session. Broader markets also remained firm, with the BSE MidCap and SmallCap indices posting gains, indicating widespread participation from investors. Market breadth remained positive as advances outnumbered declines on both the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. Several sectors ended in the green, with banking, financial services, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and technology leading the gains. A major highlight of the day was the strong performance of individual stocks. More than 180 stocks touched their 52-week highs during the session, reflecting renewed investor confidence across multiple sectors. Among the prominent stocks that reached fresh one-year highs were Aditya Birla Capital, One 97 Communications (Paytm), Divi's Laboratories, Craftsman Automation, Schloss Bangalore (The Leela Palaces), Minda Corporation, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company and Redington. The broad participation across sectors indicated healthy market sentiment and strong buying interest beyond the benchmark indices. Analysts attributed the continued rally to encouraging corporate earnings, stable macroeconomic indicators and positive global market trends. Investors also



remained optimistic about India's economic growth prospects, supporting demand for equities. The four-day winning streak has helped benchmark indices recover key psychological levels, with the Nifty moving back above 24,700 and the Sensex registering another

strong session. The sustained rally has strengthened overall market confidence, although analysts advised investors to remain cautious about global developments and upcoming economic data that could influence market direction. With benchmark indices maintaining upward momen-

tum and a large number of stocks hitting fresh 52-week highs, market participants will closely watch domestic economic indicators, foreign investment flows and quarterly earnings announcements for further cues in the coming trading sessions.

ITC, Godfrey Phillips Shares Gain Up to 5% Despite Tax Hike Concerns

Shares of cigarette makers ITC and Godfrey Phillips rallied up to 5 percent, defying concerns over higher tobacco taxes, as stronger-than-expected first-quarter cigarette sales boosted investor confidence. Analysts said healthy demand eased fears that recent tax increases would drive consumers toward illicit cigarettes and indicated that leading companies still have room to increase prices without significantly affecting volumes. ITC shares rose more than 4 percent during the trading session, while Godfrey Phillips gained nearly 5 percent. The rally followed positive assessments from several brokerage firms, which said the impact of the government's recent tax hike on the organised cigarette industry appeared less severe than initially expected. Earlier this year, the government introduced a fresh excise duty along with the existing Goods and Services Tax (GST), raising concerns that higher cigarette prices would reduce legal sales and encourage consumers



to shift to cheaper, illicit products. The announcement had triggered a sharp decline in tobacco stocks and raised questions about the profitability of cigarette manufacturers.

However, ITC's latest quarterly performance has reassured investors. Although the company reported a decline in net profit due to the tax impact, cigarette sales volumes remained

stronger than market expectations. Analysts noted that resilient demand demonstrated the company's pricing power and the loyalty of its customer base. Brokerages including PhillipCapital, HSBC, Jefferies and Nomura believe the better-than-expected volume growth gives ITC additional flexibility to implement further price increases if required. According to analysts, gradual price hikes could help offset the impact of higher taxes while protecting market share and improving profitability over the coming quarters. The positive outlook for ITC also lifted sentiment toward other tobacco companies, with Godfrey Phillips benefiting from the broader optimism across the sector. Analysts described the gains as a reflection of improving confidence that organised cigarette manufacturers can successfully navigate the higher tax environment through calibrated pricing strategies and stable demand. Despite the recent rally, analysts cautioned that the tobacco sector continues to face regulatory and taxation risks. Investors will closely monitor future pricing decisions, sales trends and government policy changes to assess whether cigarette makers can sustain earnings growth while maintaining market share in an increasingly regulated industry.

Yen Rally Expected to Lift Asian Currencies

The recent surge in the Japanese yen is expected to provide strong support to several Asian currencies, with strategists forecasting that the South Korean won, Singapore dollar and Thai baht will benefit the most. Analysts believe the strengthening yen will improve sentiment across regional foreign exchange markets and encourage investors to increase exposure to Asian currencies. The yen has risen more than 4 percent against the US dollar over the past three trading sessions after Japan and the United States worked together to support the Japanese currency. The coordinated action, combined with growing expectations of tighter monetary policy by the Bank of Japan, has helped the yen recover from multi-year lows. Strategists at Goldman Sachs and Barclays said the appreciation of the yen is likely to spill over into other Asian currencies because they often move in tandem with Japan's currency during periods of market adjustment. According to their analysis, the South Korean won, Singapore dollar and Thai baht have historically shown the strongest positive correlation with the yen and are therefore expected to gain the most if the current rally continues.



The coordinated intervention by Japanese and US authorities has also altered investor expectations regarding future currency movements. Market participants are now anticipating additional measures if the yen comes under renewed pressure. The stronger yen has prompted traders to unwind positions that were based on expectations of continued weakness in the Japanese currency, creating additional demand for regional currencies. Currency strategists noted that Asian currencies could also receive support from improving regional economic fundamentals and steady capital inflows. A stronger yen generally reduces pressure on neighbouring economies to maintain weaker exchange rates, allowing their

currencies to appreciate without significantly affecting export competitiveness. This could encourage greater foreign investment into Asian equity and bond markets. However, analysts cautioned that the outlook remains dependent on developments in global financial markets and monetary policy decisions by major central banks. Any unexpected shift in US Federal Reserve interest rate expectations or renewed volatility in global markets could limit gains in Asian currencies despite the yen's recent strength. Investors are also closely watching the Bank of Japan, with speculation that it could raise interest rates in the coming months if inflation remains elevated. Such a move would further strengthen the yen and potentially provide additional support to other Asian currencies. At the same time, economists warned that sustained currency appreciation could pose challenges for export-driven economies, making central bank actions and policy signals crucial in determining the direction of regional foreign exchange markets in the weeks ahead..

India Finishes Fourth with 39 Medals at CWG 2026

India concluded its campaign at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow with 39 medals, including 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze, finishing fourth overall. Although it was India's lowest medal tally in 24 years, the performance came in a Games featuring only 10 sports, making the achievement significant.

The Glasgow Games were held under financial constraints, leading to the removal of traditional medal-winning sports such as shooting, wrestling, badminton, table tennis and hockey. These five disciplines had contributed 30 of India's 61 medals, including 13 golds, at the 2022 Birmingham Games.

Despite the reduced programme, India matched Scotland's total of 39 medals and secured fourth place on the basis of a higher silver-medal count, finishing behind Australia, England and Canada.



Boxing emerged as India's biggest success, with the team winning 10 medals, including seven golds. Women boxers Preeti Pawar, Jaismine Lamboria, Sakshi

Chaudhary, Priya Ghanghas and Arundhati Choudhary claimed gold medals, while Sachin Sivach and Ankush Panghal topped the men's events.

Judo also created history as Harsh Singh and Asmita Dey won India's first-ever Commonwealth Games gold medals in the sport. Yamini Mourya secured silver and Unnati Sharma won bronze.

In athletics, Neeraj Chopra claimed silver in the men's javelin throw, while Gulveer Singh won silver in the 10,000m and bronze in the 5,000m.

Tejaswin Shankar earned India's first Commonwealth Games decathlon medal with bronze.

Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won her third successive Commonwealth Games gold medal, leading India's eight-medal haul in the sport.

Para-athletes also impressed with seven medals, including golds won by Sharmila Dhankar, Dilip Mahadu Gavrit and Soman Rana, highlighting India's growing strength across multiple disciplines.

Morne Morkel Stuns Khatron Ke Khiladi Contestants

Former South Africa fast bowler and India's men's cricket team bowling coach Morne Morkel made a special appearance on the 15th season of the popular reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi, leaving contestants stunned with his express pace. Hosted by filmmaker Rohit Shetty, the latest season of the stunt-based reality show premiered on August 1 and was filmed in Cape Town, South Africa.

During the opening episode, Shetty introduced Morkel to the contestants, promising a challenge unlike anything seen before on the show. As part of the task, contestants were required to catch deliveries bowled by Morkel, testing their reflexes, courage and concentration. The former South African pacer consistently bowled at speeds between 140 and 150 kmph, mak-

ing the challenge even more difficult. His fiery pace and intimidating presence added excitement to the episode, surprising both contestants and viewers. Morkel is widely regarded as one of South Africa's finest fast bowlers. During his international career, he represented his country in 86 Test matches, 117 One-Day Internationals and 44 T20 Internationals, claiming a total of 544 wickets across all formats. He also enjoyed a successful Indian Premier League career, representing Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders. In 70 IPL matches, he picked up 77 wickets before taking up coaching responsibilities. The current season of Khatron Ke Khiladi features celebrity contestants including Gaurav Khanna, Avinash



Mishra, Farrhana Bhatt, Shagun Sharma, Avika Gor, Orhan Awatramani (Orry), Harsh Gujral, Jasmin Bhasin, Rubina Dilaik, Karan Wahi, Rithvik Dhanjani, Ruhaanika Dhawan and Vishal Aditya

Singh. Morkel's appearance brought together the worlds of cricket and entertainment, creating one of the most talked-about moments of the show's new season.

Bumrah Ruled Out, Auqib Nabi Gets Maiden India Test Call-Up



India's pace attack has suffered a major setback ahead of the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, with star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah ruled out due to injury. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed that Bumrah has not fully recovered from the left knee injury he sustained during the ODI series against England.

The Men's Selection Committee has named Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi as Bumrah's replacement. The 29-year-old receives his maiden call-up to the senior Indian team after impressive performances in domestic cricket and India A matches. Hailing from a remote village in Baramulla, Auqib Nabi becomes only

the third cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir to earn a senior India call-up after Parvez Rasool and Umran Malik. While Rasool and Malik represented India in limited-overs cricket, Nabi now has the opportunity to make his mark in the Test format. Nabi has been one of the standout performers in domestic cricket, claiming

104 wickets across the last two Ranji Trophy seasons. He picked up 60 wickets during the 2025-26 season and played a key role in helping Jammu and Kashmir win their maiden Ranji Trophy title. He also impressed during the recent India A tour of Sri Lanka, where he took six wickets in two first-class matches. According to the BCCI, Bumrah's knee swelling proved more serious than initially expected. The Sports Science team at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru decided against rushing the experienced pacer back into action, considering India's busy international schedule. Meanwhile, batter B Sai Sudharsan remains under observation and will participate in the series only after receiving fitness clearance following his recovery from a foot injury.

The two-match Test series between India and Sri Lanka begins on August 15 in Galle. The Indian squad will be led by Shubman Gill, with KL Rahul serving as vice-captain. The team also includes Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar, Dhruv Jurel and Auqib Nabi.

Babar Explains Abbas' Omission from Second Test

Pakistan captain Babar Azam has explained the decision to leave out experienced pacer Mohammad Abbas from the playing XI for the second and final Test against the West Indies, saying the team selection was based on the conditions in Port of Spain.

The decision came as a surprise because Abbas had been Pakistan's standout bowler in the opening Test, claiming a five-wicket haul despite his team's crushing 90-run defeat. However, Pakistan opted to make four changes, including handing Test debuts to Ubaid Shah and Awas Zafar.

Speaking at the toss after the West Indies elected to bat first, Babar said the team management had adjusted the combination to suit the pitch conditions.

"We have a couple of changes because of the conditions. Abdullah Shafique comes in for Shan, and we are making four changes, including two debutants. We need to play more competitive cricket, avoid losing wickets in clusters, build strong partnerships, and maintain discipline in bowling," Babar said.

When questioned about dropping Abbas despite his impressive performance in the first Test, Babar reiterated that the decision was purely based on the playing condi-

tions. "The conditions demanded a different combination, so we decided to include an extra spinner," he said.

The second Test also marked the debut of Ubaid Shah, the younger brother of Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah, along with Awas Zafar.

At the end of the opening day's play, the West Indies were well placed at 239 for five. Justin Greaves remained unbeaten on 64, while captain Roston Chase was not out on 36. Earlier, opener Brandon King provided a brisk start with 46 runs off 50 deliveries. For

Pakistan, Mohammad Ali claimed two wickets, while debutant Ubaid Shah, Ali Usman and Sajid Khan picked up one wicket each. Pakistan will now look to bounce



back in the second Test after losing the series opener, with the new-look bowling attack aiming to level the two-match series against the West Indies.

Member players has always been central to how we set the league up. That exposure accelerates their development and strengthens Associate cricket," he added. Several UAE players, including Muhammad Waseem, Khuzaima Tanveer, Junaid Siddique, Haider Ali, Ajay Kumar and Muhammad Rohid, have used the league as a platform to establish themselves in international cricket. White said the first player auction before Season 4 reflected the growing confidence franchises have in home-grown talent.

He noted that watching UAE players become match-winners for both their franchises and the national team has been one of the league's biggest achievements.

White also highlighted the player-friendly environment offered by the tournament, with teams based in one location, excellent facilities and the opportunity for players to stay with their families during the competition.

Season 5 of the DP World ILT20 will be held in a dedicated November-December window, allowing many of the world's top cricketers to participate while continuing to provide opportunities for UAE and Associate Member players. White expressed confidence that the upcoming edition would once again deliver high-quality cricket and further strengthen the game's growth in the region.

ILT20 Aims to Develop UAE Cricket : CEO David White



The DP World ILT20 has played a key role in developing cricket in the United Arab Emirates, and nurturing local talent remains the league's highest priority, according to CEO David White ahead of the tournament's fifth season. White said the league has established itself as a major sporting event in the

UAE, but its greatest success lies in helping local and Associate Member players improve by competing alongside some of the world's best cricketers. "It is pleasing to see the DP World ILT20 firmly established on the UAE sporting calendar. Our ambition has always been to contribute to the long-term develop-

ment of cricket in the UAE," White said. Every DP World ILT20 franchise is required to include UAE and Associate Member players in its squad. White said this policy ensures emerging players receive valuable opportunities instead of merely filling squad positions. "Creating opportunities for Associate

T Dilip Bids Emotional Farewell as India Fielding Coach



Former India fielding coach T Dilip has shared an emotional farewell message after ending his five-year stint with the Indian men's cricket team. His contract was not renewed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) following India's T20I tour of Zimbabwe, bringing an end to a successful tenure that began in November 2021. Subhadeep Ghosh has replaced Dilip as the new fielding coach and will join the Indian team for the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, beginning on August 15. In an emotional post on Instagram, Dilip reflected on his journey with the national team and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve Indian cricket. "Five years. It's difficult to find the right words for a journey that has meant so much. When I first walked into this setup, I came in with one simple intention-to give everything I had every single day. Fielding has always been my way of contributing to the game I love," he wrote. Dilip also recalled the popular fielding medal tradition introduced during his tenure, which became a dressing-room highlight, particularly during the 2023 ODI World Cup. He said the enthusiasm shown by players for the medal and the positive atmosphere it created would remain one of his fondest memories. During his tenure, India won two ICC Men's T20 World Cups in 2024 and 2026, the ICC Champions Trophy in 2025, and two Asia Cup titles in 2023 and 2025. The team also finished runners-up in the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup and the ICC World Test Championship. The Hyderabad-based coach thanked the BCCI, former head coach Rahul Dravid, current head coach Gautam Gambhir, and captains Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer for their trust and support. "As this chapter comes to a close, I'll always be grateful that, for five unforgettable years, I had the honour of wearing the India badge. Forever grateful. The journey continues," Dilip said.

Vinesh Phogat Says Wrestlers to Appeal Brij Bhushan Verdict



Olympian Vinesh Phogat and wrestler Bajrang Punia have expressed disappointment after a Delhi court acquitted former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the sexual harassment case filed by women wrestlers. The wrestlers confirmed they would challenge the verdict in a higher court.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ashwini Panwar of the Rouse Avenue Court acquitted Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and co-accused Vinod Tomar, former WFI assistant secretary, of all charges.

In a joint statement, Vinesh and Bajrang said the women wrestlers had shown immense courage in coming forward against a powerful individual. They alleged that Brij Bhushan used his influence to intimidate victims and discourage them from pursuing the case.

"We had to gather a lot of courage to take to the streets and get an FIR registered against a powerful politician. Using power and muscle power, Brij Bhushan intimidated many girls into withdrawing their names. However, several women wrestlers stood firm and continued fighting in court," the state-

ment said. The wrestlers also claimed that the state machinery worked to protect Brij Bhushan from the beginning of the case. Despite the trial court's decision, they said they remain determined to continue the legal battle.

Vinesh confirmed that the complainants have already instructed their lawyers to file an appeal against the verdict.

"The women wrestlers have instructed their lawyers to appeal against this verdict, and it will be filed as soon as possible. We have not lost hope, and the wrestlers will continue their fight," she said.

The case originated from protests held at Jantar Mantar in 2023 by leading wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, demanding action against Brij Bhushan over allegations of sexual harassment. Following the Supreme Court's intervention, Delhi Police registered two FIRs and filed a 1,500-page chargesheet under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code. While Brij Bhushan welcomed the acquittal, calling it an honourable verdict, the complainants are now preparing to move the High Court to challenge the ruling.

USA Cricketer Akhilesh Reddy Banned for Eight Years Over Corruption



United States cricketer Bodugum Akhilesh Reddy has been banned from all forms of cricket for eight years after being found guilty of breaching three provisions of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Anti-Corruption Code. The punishment relates to corruption during the 2025 Abu Dhabi T10 tournament in the United Arab Emirates. The ICC, which acted as the Designated Anti-Corruption Official for the tournament on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board, announced that Reddy's suspension has been backdated to November 21, 2025, the date on which he was provisionally suspended. According to the ICC, the Anti-Corruption Tribunal found Reddy guilty of attempting to influence the outcome of matches, encouraging another player to engage in corrupt activities, and obstructing the investigation by deleting messages and data from his mobile phone. The charges stem from an incident on November 19, 2025, before the opening match involving the Aspin Stallions. The tribunal found that Reddy approached a teammate, identified only as "Player A", and allegedly asked him to deliberately concede extra runs while bowling at the request of team management. The teammate refused the proposal and immediately reported the matter to the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit. Shortly afterwards, the player was dropped from the playing XI before the match. During the investigation, Reddy admitted to deleting WhatsApp messages and call logs exchanged with the teammate. He claimed the deletions were part of routine "data hygiene" on his phone. However, the tribunal rejected the explanation, ruling that he had intentionally destroyed evidence relevant to the investigation.

The decision was delivered by a three-member tribunal comprising Michael J. Beloff KC, Justice Kate O'Regan and Lloyd Mhishi following detailed hearings. Reddy, 26, made his international debut for the United States against the Cayman Islands in the North America T20 Cup. He has represented the USA in four T20 Internationals, claiming one wicket.

The ICC said the case underlines its continued commitment to protecting the integrity of cricket and taking strict action against corruption at all levels of the game.

Mamitha Baiju Calls Suriya Inspiring at Vishwanath & Sons Audio Launch

The audio launch of Vishwanath & Sons, starring Suriya and Mamitha Baiju, was held in Chennai with much fanfare ahead of the film's theatrical release on August 14. The event was attended by the cast and crew, with fans gathering in large numbers to celebrate the upcoming release directed by Venky Atluri.

During the event, actor Mamitha Baiju shared her excitement about working alongside Suriya for the first time. She described the opportunity as a dream come true and said she had always hoped to share screen space with the popular actor. According to Mamitha, she had earlier missed an opportunity to act with Suriya, making her role in Vishwanath & Sons even more special.

Speaking about her experience on the film's sets, Mamitha praised Suriya for his dedication, discipline and professionalism. She said his commitment to every role and his method of preparing for characters impressed her throughout the shooting schedule. Observing his work ethic, she added, became a valuable learning experience that would benefit her career in the years to come.

Mamitha said Suriya's passion for cinema and his ability to remain focused on every

aspect of his performance make him one of the industry's most respected actors. She noted that his humility and friendly nature created a comfortable working environment for the entire cast and crew. The actor also showered praise on Suriya's personality, calling him charming and good-looking. She remarked that everything he does has a unique appeal and that his presence naturally attracts attention.

Her comments drew loud cheers and applause from fans attending the audio launch, many of whom welcomed the on-screen pairing of Suriya and Mamitha. The event also featured the unveiling of the film's songs and interactions with the cast and crew, building excitement ahead of its release. Director Venky Atluri expressed confidence that the film would entertain audiences with its emotional story, engaging screenplay and strong performances.

Vishwanath & Sons marks another major release for Suriya, who has a strong fan following across South India. Expectations are high for the film, especially after the positive response to its promotional material and music. Mamitha Baiju, who has been gaining



popularity with her recent performances, is expected to play an important role in the film.

Her remarks about Suriya quickly went viral on social media, with fans appreciating the mutual respect shared by the lead actors. With just days left for its theatrical release on

Nithiin's Alias Rukmini Announced Under Nani's Banner



Actor Nani has officially announced the second film under his production house, Unanimous Productions, with Nithiin playing the lead role. Titled Alias Rukmini, the romantic drama will be directed by Murali Kanth Devasoth, who won appreciation for his work in Dhandoraa. The project was formally launched with a traditional pooja ceremony and has already generated excitement among movie lovers.

The makers unveiled the title through a creatively designed announcement glimpse that offered audiences a first look at the film's unique storytelling style. The video introduces the central character, Krishna, played by Nithiin, while also hinting at the emotional and romantic journey that forms the heart of the narrative.

The glimpse also showcases several fictional novel titles, including Vratham Venkanna, Garam Gopal and Aameku Aame Ante Istam. These titles provide subtle hints about Rukmini's personality and suggest that the film will combine romance, emotions and imaginative storytelling in a distinctive manner.

Produced by Deepthi Ganta under the Unanimous Productions banner, Alias Rukmini is described as a romantic drama with bold emotional themes. The makers believe the film will offer a fresh cinematic experience by blending heartfelt emotions with an unconventional narrative style.

The project brings together an experienced technical team. Acclaimed cinematographer Jomon T. John ISC will handle the visuals, while Vijai Bulganin has been roped in to compose the music. Avinash Kolla will serve as the production designer, and Srjana Adusumilli will oversee the editing.

The film is currently in the pre-production stage, with regular shooting expected to begin soon. More details regarding the female lead and supporting cast are likely to be announced in the coming weeks.

For Nithiin, Alias Rukmini marks another important project as he looks to deliver a strong comeback with a fresh and emotionally driven role. With Nani backing the film as producer and Murali Kanth Devasoth directing, expectations are already high. The title glimpse has received a positive response on social media, raising anticipation for further updates as the film moves into production.



The makers of Agadha have released the official trailer of the upcoming mystical horror thriller ahead of its theatrical release on August 14, creating excitement among horror film enthusiasts. Veteran producer MS Raju returns to the director's chair with the film, which promises a blend of supernatural mystery, horror and mythology.

Presented by Ajay KR and produced by Kasi Visalakshi Balusu under the Sri Adi Varaha Productions LLP banner, Agadha features story, screenplay and direction by MS Raju. The film is set to release in Telugu, Tamil,

Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi, aiming to reach audiences across India.

The newly launched trailer introduces viewers to a dark and mysterious world where supernatural forces drive the central conflict. The story begins with Mahadevi, played by Kamakshi Bhaskarla, investigating the mysterious suicide of a pregnant woman named Mahima, portrayed by Ulka Gupta. As Mahadevi searches for answers, she uncovers shocking secrets that point to the involvement of Agadha, an evil supernatural force responsible for the tragic events. As the

Agadha Trailer Unveils Supernatural Battle Between Good and Evil

investigation progresses, Mahadevi finds herself caught in a terrifying battle between divine powers and dark forces. The trailer suggests that the film revolves around the timeless struggle between good and evil, with mythological and spiritual elements adding depth to the horror narrative.

Kamakshi Bhaskarla appears to deliver an intense performance as the determined woman seeking the truth behind the mysterious incidents. Her character is shown confronting terrifying supernatural entities while attempting to stop the evil force from causing further destruction. Shraavan Reddy plays the film's primary antagonist and makes a strong impression in the trailer with his menacing screen presence.

His character appears to be closely connected to the dark supernatural force, setting the stage for an intense confrontation. The trailer features several frightening sequences filled with gore, violent visuals and supernatural imagery. While the horror elements are graphic and may not be suitable for sensitive viewers, they appear to support the film's

dark storyline rather than serving as mere visual spectacle. The production design, cinematography and sound design contribute significantly to the eerie atmosphere, creating a sense of suspense and fear throughout the trailer. The visual effects also hint at a large-scale supernatural drama with mystical elements woven into the narrative.

Apart from Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Ulka Gupta and Shraavan Reddy, the film also stars Jovika Vijay Kumar, Siju, Roshan and Shreya Rani Reddy in pivotal roles. The supporting cast is expected to play key parts in unfolding the mystery surrounding Agadha.

With its blend of mythology, horror, mystery and supernatural action, Agadha has generated considerable curiosity ahead of its release. The trailer has received a positive response on social media, with viewers praising its atmospheric visuals, gripping storyline and haunting background score. The film will hit theatres worldwide on August 14, where audiences can witness MS Raju's return to direction with an ambitious mystical horror entertainer.

Producer Confirms Fauzi Will Release on December 3

Rumours surrounding the release of Prabhas' upcoming film Fauzi have been laid to rest after producer Ravi Shankar confirmed that the pan-Indian romantic war action drama will arrive in theatres on December 3, 2026, as originally announced. The clarification has brought relief to fans who had been concerned about reports suggesting a possible postponement.

Over the past few days, speculation had spread across social media claiming that the big-budget entertainer might miss its scheduled release due to production-related delays. The rumours quickly gained traction, leading to uncertainty among moviegoers eagerly awaiting one of the most anticipated releases of the year.

Addressing the speculation, producer Ravi Shankar firmly dismissed the reports and assured fans that there has been no change in the release schedule. He confirmed that the film is progressing according to plan and will hit the big screen on December 3 as previously announced by the makers. The confirmation has been welcomed by Prabhas fans, who have been eagerly following every update related to the project.

With the release date now officially reaffirmed, attention has shifted to the film's promotional campaign, particularly its first musical update, which fans have been eagerly waiting for.

Fauzi is directed by Hanuma Raghavapudi, known for presenting emotional stories with strong characters and visually rich sto-



rytelling. The film marks his first collaboration with Prabhas and is expected to showcase the actor in a new role set against the backdrop of romance and war.

The project is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers on a massive scale and is reportedly being made with a budget exceeding 7700 crore, making it one of the

most expensive Indian films currently in production. The makers are aiming for a grand pan-Indian release across multiple languages. The film also marks the Telugu cinema debut of actor Imanvi, who has been cast opposite Prabhas as the female lead. The fresh pairing has already attracted attention, with audiences looking forward

to seeing the duo share screen space for the first time. Apart from Prabhas and Imanvi, Fauzi features an impressive ensemble cast that includes Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty and Jayaprada in pivotal roles. The presence of several experienced actors has further raised expectations for the film.

Music for Fauzi is being composed by Vishal Chandrasekhar, whose work in recent films has earned widespread appreciation. Fans are particularly excited about the soundtrack, with many expecting the first single to be released in the coming weeks as part of the promotional campaign.

As production continues smoothly, the makers are expected to begin extensive promotions closer to the release. With the release date now officially confirmed and rumours put to rest, anticipation for Fauzi continues to grow.

Given Prabhas' pan-Indian popularity, Hanuma Raghavapudi's direction and Mythri Movie Makers' grand production values, the film is expected to be one of the biggest theatrical attractions of 2026.

Vijay Sethupathi Explains Decision to Avoid Cameo Roles



Actor Vijay Sethupathi has revealed why he has decided to stop accepting cameo appearances in films, saying that guest roles often create confusion among audiences and lead to unrealistic expectations. The versatile actor explained that while he enjoys supporting good stories, the way cameo appearances are promoted has prompted him to rethink such roles.

Speaking about the issue, Vijay Sethupathi said that film-makers frequently market films featuring his guest appearances as though he is the lead actor. According to him, promotional campaigns sometimes give audiences the impression that he has a major role in the film, even when his screen time is limited.

The actor said this approach creates confusion among viewers who buy tickets expecting to see him throughout the film. When they realise that his role is only a brief appearance, it can lead to disappointment and affect the overall reception of the movie. He added that such misunderstandings are unfair to both audiences and the actual lead actors of those films.

Vijay Sethupathi also pointed out that repeated cameo appearances can influence audience expectations regarding his own career choices. He believes it is important for viewers to clearly understand the nature of his roles rather than being misled by promotional material.

To avoid such situations, the actor said he has decided not to accept cameo offers anymore and instead focus on full-fledged characters that allow him to contribute mean-

ingfully to the story. He noted that taking up substantial roles helps maintain clarity for audiences while allowing him to explore diverse characters as an actor.

However, Vijay Sethupathi made it clear that there are rare exceptions to this decision. He revealed that he agreed to appear in Jailer 2 despite his new policy because the film stars superstar Rajinikanth. The actor said working alongside Rajinikanth is always a special experience and that he simply could not refuse the opportunity.

His decision to be part of Jailer 2 has generated excitement among fans, who are eager to see the two acclaimed actors share screen space once again. Although Vijay Sethupathi has not disclosed details about his role, his presence is expected to add further star power to the highly anticipated sequel.

Apart from Jailer 2, Vijay Sethupathi remains busy with several major projects. He is currently working on a new film directed by acclaimed filmmaker Mani Ratnam, in which Sai Pallavi plays the female lead. The project has already created significant buzz among movie lovers due to the combination of the celebrated director and two popular actors.

Known for his versatility and willingness to experiment with different roles, Vijay Sethupathi continues to be one of the most respected performers in Indian cinema. While he has now decided to stay away from cameo appearances, his focus on full-length roles is expected to bring audiences more memorable performances in the years ahead.

Karthi, Mohan Raja Team Up for New Family Entertainer

Actor Karthi has officially joined hands with director Mohan Raja for a new commercial entertainer, marking the first collaboration between the two. The upcoming film will be produced by Prince Pictures and is expected to be a wholesome family entertainer blending humour, emotions and commercial appeal.

The makers announced the project through social media, creating excitement among fans of both Karthi and Mohan Raja. A special announcement poster confirmed that the film has entered the pre-production stage, while further details about the story have been kept under wraps.

According to the makers, the untitled project will feature a strong emotional narrative along with comedy and family-oriented entertainment, making it suitable for audiences of all age groups. The production team is currently working on script finalisation, casting and other pre-production activities before the film goes on floors.

The project is particularly significant for Mohan Raja as it will be his third film based on an original script. Earlier, the director earned critical and commercial acclaim for Thani Oruvan and Velaikkaran, both of which were based on his own stories. Known for balancing engaging storytelling with commercial elements, Mohan Raja is expected to bring the same approach to this film.

For Karthi, the movie adds another exciting project to his growing line-up. The actor has built a strong reputation for choosing versatile roles across action, drama, comedy and family entertainers, making his collaboration with Mohan Raja one of the most anticipated Tamil film announcements. Prince Pictures is expected to bankroll the film on a grand scale.

While the lead cast has been confirmed, the makers are yet to reveal details about the female lead, supporting actors and technical crew.



Pre-production work is progressing steadily, with regular shooting expected to commence towards the end of 2026. The title, first-look poster and additional cast and crew details are likely to be

announced in the coming months as the project moves into production. Fans are eagerly awaiting further updates on what promises to be a major commercial entertainer.