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Narayana Holds Talks
On Amaravati's Iconic
Government Buildings



London, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana is leading an official delegation in London to review the final designs and construction aspects of Amaravati's iconic government buildings. The delegation, which arrived in London on Sunday night, visited the office of Foster + Partners, the architectural firm designing the proposed structures. Narayana held discussions with representatives of Foster + Partners, Hafeez Contractors and L&T on construction progress and design requirements.

The discussions focused on the facade designs of the proposed Assembly building, High Court and Secretariat towers. The minister reviewed construction progress and discussed execution plans for various stages with architects, consultants and construction agencies.

A key focus was the proposed sphere-shaped tower atop the Amaravati Assembly building. Participants discussed its design, construction methodology and the use of advanced technology to build the structure at considerable height. The possibility of developing the tower as a tourist attraction offering panoramic views of the Amaravati capital region was also explored.

L&T representatives made a detailed presentation on the proposed tower, explaining its design, construction methodology and advanced technologies planned for the project. Narayana also reviewed the facade designs of the Assembly, High Court and Secretariat towers and discussed modifications required in line with ongoing construction. He stressed coordination among architects, consultants and construction agencies to ensure that design and execution remain aligned. CRDA Commissioner Vijayarama Raju, Additional Commissioner Abhishek Kumar and chief engineers accompanied the minister.

102 Thalli-Bidda
Express To Get
Advanced Vehicles



Harshitha Vipparla

Amaravati: The State government is revamping the '102 Thalli-Bidda Express' service with advanced vehicles equipped with modern safety and health features to ensure safer transportation of mothers and newborns. The initiative, implemented under the directions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, has been described as a first-of-its-kind effort in the country. Minister for Medical and Health Satyakumar Yadav will launch the new vehicles in Narasaraopet on Tuesday, August 11. The government is procuring 500 vehicles, with 300 to be introduced in the first phase and the remaining 200 deployed later based on district requirements. The free service provides drop-back transportation for women who deliver at government hospitals, allowing two attendants to accompany the mother. Special pick-up and drop-back

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Amaravati's New Gateway

Seed Access Road Set To
Become Amaravati's New Spine

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati: The coalition government has accelerated the pace of Amaravati's development, completing and dedicating key infrastructure and public assets to the people. The inauguration of APCRDA buildings on October 13, 2025 marked an important step in reviving the capital city's planned infrastructure. The 21.77-km Seed Access Road now adds another major link to this emerging network, strengthening connectivity across the core capital region.

A Strategic Road Through The Capital The Sub-Arterial E3 Road, officially known as the Seed Access Road, begins at Dondapadu and passes through Rayapudi, Venkatapalem, Penumaka, Undavalli and Tadepalli before merging with NH-16 near Manipal Hospitals. With a 60-metre Right of Way, the road has been developed in three phases.

E3 Phase-1 covers 14.35 km, Phase-2 extends 3.92 km and Phase-3 covers 3.50 km. Phases 1 and 2 feature a nine-lane carriageway, central Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS), two service roads, dedicated cycle tracks, pedestrian walkways and green belts.

The corridor also incorporates stormwater drains, water supply and reuse pipelines, ICT and gas networks, power lines and sewerage systems. Two 2.65-metre medians have been provided on either side of the BRTS corridor. A continuous BRTS connection from Dondapadu to Undavalli, adjoining the Karakatta Road near ISKCON Temple, has already been opened to the public.

The Final Link To NH-16

E3 Phase-3 is designed to create a crucial connection between Amaravati and NH-



Seed Access Road – Phase-wise Reach		
S. No.	Reach	Length
1	E3 Phase 1	14.35 Km
2	E3 Phase 2	3.92 Km
3	E3 Phase 3	3.50 Km
–	Total	21.77 Km

16. The connectivity package includes a 280-metre major steel bridge, a 360-metre four-lane road and a 110-metre steel bridge across the Buckingham Canal.

The Phase-3 corridor will continue as a nine-lane at-grade road for 270 metres before rising into a six-lane elevated corridor towards NH-16. Together, these components are intended to improve access between Amaravati's internal road network and the regional highway system.

Final Preparations Under Review

With Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu scheduled to inaugurate the Seed Access Road and MLA-MLC housing complexes on August 13, senior officials

inspected the Steel Bridge area on Monday.

The team included ADC Chairperson and Managing Director D. Lakshmi Parthasarathi, Guntur District Collector and Magistrate C.M. Saikanth Varma, Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal, Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava and APCRDA Additional Commissioner Kollabathula Karthik. Officials from the Chief Minister's security wing and Guntur district administration also participated.

ADC Chief Engineer T. Moses Kumar briefed the officials on the arrangements. The team inspected Buckingham Canal beautification works, preparations at the adjoining meeting venue and final construction works on the Guntur Channel and Kondaveeti Vagu.

The Seed Access Road is more than a major transport corridor. As Amaravati's infrastructure takes shape, it is emerging as a mobility backbone connecting villages, neighbourhoods and future administrative and institutional zones with the wider regional highway network.

Craft Wood Banks Aim To Secure
The Future Of Traditional Artisans

ARN Mahesh

In the workshops of Kondapalli and Etikoppaka, traditional woodcraft has supported generations of livelihoods, but artisans have long struggled to secure essential raw materials such as Poniki and Ankudu wood. The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department's Craft Wood Banks initiative seeks to address the problem through a structured, state-backed supply system. Under the direction of Deputy Chief Minister and Forest and Environment Minister Pawan Kalyan, wood banks are being established to ensure a steady and affordable supply of timber while maintaining ecological balance. The first phase covers six artisan clusters-Kondapalli, Etikoppaka, Shettigunta, Madhavamala, Udayagiri and Bobbili. Existing government infrastructure, including Forest Beat Officer and Forest Range Officer quarters, is being converted into storage and distribution centres.

Tellaponiki wood is being sourced for Kondapalli toy makers, while Ankudu wood will be supplied to Etikoppaka lacquerware artisans. Shettigunta has been stocked with teak and non-teak varieties, the Madhavamala red sandalwood deposit is being revived, and jackfruit and rosewood are being arranged for veena makers



ers in Bobbili. A central wood bank near Dowleswaram in Rajamahendravaram will streamline distribution, with additional facilities planned at Kapavaram and Tirupati. Bamboo will be supplied in Rajamahen dravaram and teak in Kapavaram.

The initiative follows a no-profit model, with timber supplied at cost after accounting for procurement, transport and handling. By eliminating intermediaries, the government expects to reduce production costs and improve artisan incomes.

"For years, we depended on middlemen and uncertain supplies. Sometimes we had orders but no wood to work with," Kondapalli artisan M Venkateswarlu told True Point. He said demand for Poniki wood was high and hoped the system would bring stability to artisans.

Etikoppaka craftsman Ramulu said reliable access to the required wood would allow artisans to focus on quality and pre-



serve their lacquerware tradition.

During a review, Pawan Kalyan stressed transparency, uniform infrastructure and proper records at all wood banks. Officials were also directed to scientifically assess timber demand and cultivate scarce species such as Ankudu and Tellaponiki in Forest Department nurseries.

The initiative seeks to link forest conservation with artisan livelihoods and strengthen the future of Andhra Pradesh's traditional crafts.



Land Reforms, Welfare and Law and
Order Top Naidu's Agenda,Says CM

Kaikaluru, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the coalition government was committed to resolving land-related grievances, strengthening revenue records and protecting law and order, making it clear that nobody would be spared for violating rules, including those belonging to the ruling alliance.

Participating in the distribution of 'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku' Pattadar Passbooks at Kalidindi in the Kaikaluru Assembly constituency, Naidu said the land re-survey would be completed by 2027 and Pattadar Passbooks bearing the official State emblem would be issued to farmers and landowners. He handed over a passbook to a woman farmer, Nallajarla Durga Bhavani.

He said Revenue Records Reforms 2026 were introduced to cleanse and streamline land records and address long-pending revenue problems. The government, he said, was digitising old records, including 1-B, Adangal, DKT, ARC, Inam and Ceiling records, while making link documents available online.

The Chief Minister said blockchain technology, QR codes and other security features similar to those used for currency had been incorporated into the new passbooks to prevent tampering. So far, 32.22 lakh passbooks had been distributed, while the re-survey of 9,365 villages and distribution of 68.64 lakh passbooks would be completed over the next seven months. Land-related problems covering nearly 41,000 acres had been resolved, benefiting more than 1.27 lakh farmers, industries and members of the public, he

said. Another 1.36 lakh acres had been freed from freehold restrictions. Nearly nine lakh people had also benefited from auto-mutation.

Naidu said the re-survey was being conducted in the presence of farmers, with e-KYC and Gram Sabhas ensuring transparency in passbook distribution. He recalled that lands allotted to Second World War ex-servicemen, which had been placed under Section 22-A, were cleared and pattas issued.

The Chief Minister said the government had sanctioned Rs.36 crore to Kaikaluru to address drinking water problems in the Kolleru region. Subsidised power at Rs.1.50 per unit was being extended to aquaculture farmers irrespective of zones, imposing an annual burden of Rs.1,150 crore on the government. The benefit would now cover 12,500 farmers in non-aquaculture zones.

He said the government had also provided a Rs.10 per kg subsidy on tobacco and taken up efforts with the Centre to facilitate loans of Rs.50,000 per barn.

Strongly criticising the opposition, Naidu alleged that it was attempting to create disturbances through conspiracies. At the same time, he stressed that the coalition government would enforce the law impartially. "Nobody will be spared if they violate the rules, even if they belong to the ruling party," he said, citing the suspension of a TDP leader following inappropriate behaviour towards a woman in Guntur. A case had been registered and an inquiry was underway, he added.

Later, Naidu distributed tractors to farmers and visited stalls set up at the venue.

Lokesh Steps In To Rescue Telugu
Students Stranded In Bangkok

Amaravati, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Minister Nara Lokesh has stepped in to assist Telugu students stranded in Bangkok after they reportedly travelled to Thailand seeking employment and found themselves in distress.

Several Telugu youths appealed for help through social media, stating that they were facing difficulties in Bangkok and that attempts were being made to move them to Myanmar, reportedly in connection with fraudulent overseas employment networks. The matter drew the attention of Lokesh, who assured the youths of government assistance and safe return. "I understand your distress and concern. I will take up the matter with the concerned authorities to ensure that all necessary assistance is provided for their safe return," Lokesh said in a post on X. He also directed his office to coordinate with the concerned authorities and



facilitate rescue efforts. The government is coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Embassy in Bangkok and APNRTS to assist affected Telugu youths and expedite their return. Lokesh's intervention has provided reassurance to the stranded youths and their families, with efforts underway to ensure their safe return to India.

'Vande Mataram' To Be Sung
From Red Fort For First Time

New Delhi, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

India will celebrate its 80th Independence Day on August 15, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the national celebrations from the historic Red Fort. This year's programme will centre on '150 Years of Vande Mataram' and 'Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047'. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Monday that, for the first time, Vande Mataram would be sung from the Red Fort ramparts as the Prime Minister arrives. Modi will then unfurl the National Flag and address the nation. Around 2,500 NCC cadets and My Bharat volunteers will form the words 'Vande Mataram' on Gyanpath to mark 150 years of the national song. An Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopter will carry a commemorative banner and shower flower petals over the gathering. The celebrations will highlight the contribution of India's youth towards Viksit Bharat@2047. Nineteen medal-winning students from the 2026 International Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematical Olympiads have been invited as special guests. Around 5,000 achievers from diverse fields, including youth innovators, entre-



preneurs, farmers, artisans, women entrepreneurs, scientists, sanitation workers, metro employees and beneficiaries of government schemes, will attend. Military bands from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, NCC and Central forces are performing at 343 locations nationwide from August 8 to 15. For public convenience, 25 cloak rooms, 200 volunteers and wheelchair assistance will be available. Metro services will begin at 4 am on August 15, with free travel for invitees. The celebrations will conclude with a cleanliness campaign by NCC cadets and My Bharat volunteers, reinforcing the message of Swachh Bharat.

Akividu Ramalayam Construction
To Be Completed By Vijayadasami

Akividu, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Speaker Kanumuru Raghurama Krishna Raju on Monday inspected the ongoing reconstruction of the Ramalayam at Peddapeta in Akividu and reviewed arrangements for completing the temple within the proposed schedule. The temple project had earlier been caught in a legal dispute over the site and the nature of the existing religious structure. The matter reached the Andhra Pradesh High Court and subsequently the Supreme Court.



Pawan Kalyan Condemns Mockery of Sacred Govinda Chants

Amaravati, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan has condemned the alleged use of sacred devotional chants and hymns associated with Lord Venkateswara for political parody, saying such acts hurt the sentiments of devotees. In a statement issued by the Jana Sena Party, Pawan Kalyan said the sacred names of Lord Venkateswara of Tirumala, along with devotional songs traditionally sung with reverence, should not be used for political purposes or turned into parodies. Reacting to an incident reported in Nellore city, he alleged that a political party without even the status of the principal opposition had used the sacred "Govinda"

chants as a parody for political purposes. He said the conduct of those involved was offensive to devotees and could undermine religious sentiments. Pawan Kalyan directed Jana Sena Party leaders to pursue the matter through legal channels, alleging that such actions could be part of attempts to provoke religious discord. He appealed to political parties and the public to refrain from using religious chants, mantras, stotras and devotional songs associated with faith in a manner intended to ridicule or insult religious beliefs. The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that religious expressions should be treated with respect and urged all sections of society to avoid actions that could hurt the sentiments of devotees or disturb communal harmony.

K.S. Viswanathan Urges Citizens to Share 'Ane Nenu' Vision for India's Development



Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Information and Public Relations Department Director K.S. Viswanathan has urged citizens across Andhra Pradesh to actively participate in the state government's 'Ane Nenu' (I, for One) campaign, aimed at encouraging public participation in the country's development. As India prepares to complete 100 years of Independence in 2047, Viswanathan called upon people to share their aspirations for the future of themselves, their communities, their state and the nation. He appealed to citizens to use social media platforms to express their vision for how they would like to see India develop by 2047. Citizens have also been encouraged to explain how they intend to contribute personally to the development of their respective

regions, Andhra Pradesh and the country. Under the campaign, participants are requested to share their commitments and aspirations through social media posts under the heading "Ane Nenu". The initiative seeks to create a sense of ownership among citizens and encourage them to become active partners in the nation-building process. Viswanathan said the campaign provides an opportunity for people from all sections of society to articulate their hopes and commitments for India's future. He appealed to citizens to voluntarily share their views through their social media accounts before Independence Day. The initiative is intended to build public awareness and encourage collective participation in shaping India's development journey towards 2047, when the country will mark the centenary of its Independence.

Minister Warns Tobacco Traders Over MSP



Amaravati, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has warned tobacco traders and companies of strict action if they fail to purchase tobacco from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP) agreed upon earlier. The minister, along with Ministers K. Atchannaidu and D.B.V. Swamy held a meeting with tobacco traders and farmers at the Tobacco Board in Guntur on Monday. The ministers expressed strong displeasure over the functioning of traders, purchasing companies and Tobacco Board officials. Gottipati said tobacco farmers had suffered losses this year and urged traders to support them, particularly after earning significant profits over the past four years. He alleged that traders were violating agreements reached earlier in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Union ministers regarding MSP. He said the Centre and state governments had fixed prices for four tobacco grades this year and questioned why traders and companies were not purchasing produce at the prescribed rates. He also held Tobacco Board officials responsible for ensuring implementation of earlier MSP agreements. The minister directed traders and companies to purchase tobacco only at the prescribed MSP and warned that government action would follow if farmers were denied fair prices. Gottipati said the state government was providing an incentive of Rs.10 per kg of tobacco, while the Centre was offering interest-free loans of up to Rs.50,000 per farmer for two years. He assured farmers that the coalition government would continue supporting them and maintain pressure on traders and tobacco companies until they receive the MSP.

Naidu Slams YSRCP Over Mega DSC Protests

Kaikalindi, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched a strong attack on the YSRCP and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing the Opposition of attempting to disrupt the Mega DSC recruitment process through repeated legal challenges and protests. Addressing a public gathering at Kalidindi village and mandal in Kaikaluru Assembly Constituency, Eluru district, Naidu said he and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had promised before the elections to provide jobs to edu-



cated unemployed youth and conduct a Mega DSC. He said the government acted on the

promise soon after assuming office and completed the recruitment process within the stipulated timeframe. "They made 350 attempts in courts to halt the Mega DSC, but we did it," Naidu said, alleging that repeated litigation was aimed at delaying recruitment. He recalled meeting selected candidates and their families, who had spoken about preparing for the examinations for five to seven years while making considerable personal and financial sacrifices. Naidu said the newly appointed teachers were now working in schools and contributing to quality education. He questioned the need to revive the

controversy a year after the appointments were completed. Referring to recent protests, including those near Konda Reddy Buruju in Kurnool, the Chief Minister alleged that the demonstrations were politically motivated. He questioned the participation of some Mega DSC appointees in protests and criticised what he described as attempts to create disturbances on public roads. Naidu also questioned the Opposition's demand for Education Minister Nara Lokesh's resignation and urged people to decide whether such protest politics should be encouraged.

TDP MPs Brief Amit Shah On Amaravati Vision

New Delhi, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MPs met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his office in New Delhi on Monday and discussed the vision, development and future significance of Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh. The delegation comprised Lok Sabha MPs Lavu Sri Krishna

Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Byreddy Shabari, B.K. Parthasarathi and Tenneti Krishna Prasad, along with Rajya Sabha MPs Sana Sathish and Chintakayala Vijay and other party MPs. The MPs presented Shah with a specially prepared book highlighting Amaravati's vision, ongoing development works and its significance for Andhra Pradesh's future. The book provides an overview of the capital's development

plans and potential as a modern city. During the cordial interaction, the MPs explained the vision behind Amaravati's development and briefed the Union Home Minister on the progress and future priorities associated with the capital. Shah appreciated the initiative of the TDP MPs in preparing and presenting the book on Amaravati's significance. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the delegation



to highlight the state's development priorities. The TDP MPs said they

would continue efforts to strengthen support for Amaravati's development and

advance the interests of Andhra Pradesh at the national level.

AP Emerging As AI-Driven Tax Administration Leader

Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The State is emerging as a leader in Artificial Intelligence-driven tax administration, with senior GST Council officials appreciating Andhra Pradesh's technology-enabled initiatives for revenue monitoring, compliance and taxpayer services. Pankaj Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary, GST Council Secretariat, and D.P. Mishra, Joint Secretary, GST Council Secretariat, visited Andhra Pradesh on Monday to study AI-based systems implemented by the Commercial

Taxes Department (CTD). Chief Commissioner of State Tax (CCST), Andhra Pradesh, Babu A, along with senior officials, briefed the delegation on AI-enabled dashboards covering registrations, returns, revenue, profession tax, arrears, audits, inspections and scrutiny. The officials witnessed demonstrations of Revenue and E-Way Bill dashboards, including systems using e-way bill data to estimate SGST cash payments and IGST settlement. The department also explained its use of GST data as a proxy for Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and its AI-based now-



casting methodology. Live demonstrations of AI-integrated return scrutiny, audit and

inspection workflows were conducted. The Legal AI module, integrated with the Andhra

Pradesh Online Legal Case Management System (APOL-CMS), was also showcased for

case tracking and legal processes. Babu A said the initiatives aimed to make tax administration transparent, efficient, data-driven and taxpayer-friendly while enabling early identification of risks and non-compliance. Pankaj Kumar Singh appreciated the State's efforts and said they could serve as a reference for other States. D.P. Mishra also complimented the department's technology integration. Babu A requested the GST Council Secretariat to provide the required GST data API for seamless integration and real-time revenue reporting.

Tribal Culture And Education Get Equal Focus



Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The State government is according equal importance to preserving tribal culture and promoting education and employment opportunities for tribal communities, Tribal Welfare Department Secretary M. Mallikarjuna Naik said on Monday. Speaking at the second-day celebrations of World Tribal Day-2026 at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada, Naik said protecting tribal traditions, arts, music and dance forms while providing modern education was essential for the community's overall development. The Tribal Welfare Department and Tribal Cultural Research and Training Mission organised a Tribal Dance Festival and Art Exhibition, featuring traditional performances by artists from across Andhra Pradesh. Naik appreciated efforts that helped Dhimsa dance secure a Guinness World Record and said similar recognition could be achieved for other tribal art

forms. A comprehensive database of tribal artists would be prepared, while traditional musical instruments would also be collected and preserved. He said educational facilities in Gurukulam institutions and Ashram schools were being strengthened. Mission Director Dr. Mandarani said programmes in education, healthcare, infrastructure and employment were being implemented with Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs support. Primers, dictionaries and e-learning modules were being developed in six tribal languages with the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru. Gurukul Secretary Gauthami said education was key to improving tribal students' future, with support from IIT Madras and Physics Wallah for higher education preparation. Tribal Welfare Director S. Bhargavi stressed preserving Dhimsa, Kommukoya, Savara art, Chenchu dance, Tappetagullu and Lambadi traditions for future generations.

Erukala Committee Seeks Probe Into Principal's ST Certificate

Chirala, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The All India Erukala Rights Struggle Committee has urged Bapatla District Collector Vinod Kumar to take action against Vidudala Sridevi, Principal of Chirala Women's Degree College, alleging that she secured the post using a fake ST (Lambadi) caste certificate. Committee National President N. Mohan Kumar Dharma, district leader Devara Vasantha Rao and

others met the Collector at the District Collectorate on Monday and submitted a representation seeking an inquiry. The committee leaders alleged that Sridevi belonged to the OC category and had obtained the Principal's post by allegedly using a fraudulent ST certificate, thereby depriving tribal candidates of their rights. They demanded a comprehensive inquiry, removal of her name from the ST list, recovery of salary allegedly paid from the government exchequer and legal action. Responding to the representation, District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar assured the delegation that the caste certificate would be thoroughly investigated and appropriate legal action would be taken if the allegations were proved.

APSPDCL Crosses 50,000 Rooftop Solar Connections



Tirupati, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) has crossed a major milestone by connecting 50,000 rooftop solar systems to the power grid under its initiative for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) households. APSPDCL is the first of the State's three power distribution companies to cross the 50,000-service mark under the programme. Andhra Pradesh has also secured fourth position nationally in

rooftop solar installations. The initiative is being implemented under the Centre's PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. APSPDCL is targeting installations with a combined capacity of 415 MW across 2.07 lakh SC and ST households in nine districts, including Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool and Anantapur. According to Utility Led Aggregation data on the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy portal, solar systems with a total capacity of 203.95 MW have already been

installed across 1.01 lakh households. APSPDCL is accelerating the remaining installations and aims to complete them by the end of August. The process includes obtaining consumer consent, installing systems, conducting inspections and connecting them to the grid. APSPDCL CMD Siva Sankar Lotheti congratulated officials, staff and solar agencies on achieving the milestone. He said installations in the remaining 1.06 lakh households would be completed within the stipulated timeframe.



APSCHE Focuses On Improving Higher Education

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) has reiterated its focus on improving higher education standards and strengthening the academic ecosystem across the State. According to an official communication issued by APSCHE Secretary, the council is taking steps to promote continuous improvement in higher education institutions and create better academic opportunities and learning environments for students. APSCHE will work with institutions and stakeholders to improve academic quality and address evolving educational requirements. The council stressed the need for sustained efforts to strengthen the higher education system and provide students with improved learning opportunities across Andhra Pradesh.

Naidu Urges TDP Cadres To Prepare For 2029 Victory

Kalidindi, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

TDP chief and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu called on party cadres to develop leadership qualities and work with the determination to ensure victory in every election. Addressing TDP cadres from the Kaikaluru constituency at Kalidindi in Eluru district, he said there should be no situation in which the party faces defeat. Chandrababu Naidu said those expressing doubts about the party's prospects

in the 2029 elections should be sidelined and announced that a new TDP in-charge for Kaikaluru would be appointed soon. He urged cadres to welcome leadership changes and work collectively with the sole objective of winning the upcoming local body elections. He criticised YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, referring to the party as the "Axe Party", and alleged that it was attempting to create chaos and destruction. He said mere displays of strength



would not translate into votes. "The alliance's victory in the upcoming elections is certain. Party workers must work efficiently to ensure we secure even more votes in 2029 than in the past," Chandrababu said. He observed that some workers were active while in opposition but slowed down after coming to power, and called for sustained efforts to remain in power. He said the Polavaram project would be completed by 2027 and water supplied to Kaikaluru. He also said he

would devote more time to party workers than officials. Chandrababu urged cadres to participate actively in government scheme distribution, particularly pensions, and maintain close contact with the public. Unit and cluster in-charges should resolve public issues and coordinate with alliance partners, he said. He announced that meetings with party workers would be held across all 175 constituencies and said the three alliance parties would continue working together in 2029.

TG Bharat Alleges Planned Murder of TDP Leader Intiyaz



Kurnool, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Industries Minister TG Bharat has alleged that TDP activist Intiyaz Basha was murdered as part of a planned attack and accused YSRCP-linked groups of resorting to violence and political killings in Kurnool. Addressing a media conference at his office in Kurnool, the minister alleged that Intiyaz had faced threats from YSRCP supporters after he filed his nomination as an independent candidate during the previous elections. According to Bharat, he was later associated with the TDP and had raised concerns over alleged encroachments and illegal activities along the Handri River. The minister claimed that Intiyaz was targeted after questioning alleged irregularities and accused YSRCP groups of being involved in three murders reported in Kurnool over the past two years. He

also questioned why intelligence agencies had failed to act despite alleged social media posts appearing about a week before the killing that indirectly threatened Intiyaz. Bharat urged the police to take the incident seriously and ensure a thorough investigation. He also alleged that YSRCP leaders had previously held provocative rallies near his office despite his request to police to regulate protest routes. The minister said he would meet Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and brief him about the situation in Kurnool. He warned that the government would not remain a silent spectator if political violence continued. Recalling the TDP government's efforts to curb factionalism in Kurnool between 1994 and 2004, Bharat said strict measures would be taken if necessary to restore peace and law and order in the district.

Btech Ravi Questions YSRCP DSC Rally Participation

Pulivendula, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

TDP Pulivendula in-charge B.Tech Ravi alleged that only YSRCP workers and college students participated in the party's rally over the DSC recruitment issue and claimed that no students who actually appeared for the DSC examination were present. Addressing a press conference at the local TDP office, Ravi questioned the purpose of the rally and alleged that YSRCP leaders were using college students for political mobilisation. He expressed concern over the

alleged practice of draping YSRCP scarves around minor students during such programmes. Ravi further alleged that some YSRCP leaders had threatened college managements, warning that their institutions would not be allowed to function if students failed to attend the rally. Questioning the tactics, Ravi asked why such pressure was being used in a programme led by YSRCP MP Avinash Reddy. He said genuine concerns of DSC candidates should be addressed without involving students who were not connected with the recruitment process.

Polanna Hits Out At YSRCP Over Mega DSC Allegations

Anantapur, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

TDP state secretary Vadde Cement Polanna criticised the YSRCP for making what he termed baseless allegations against the coalition government over the Mega DSC teacher recruitment process. He challenged the opposition to produce evidence and urged it to raise genuine concerns through the Assembly and proper inquiry channels. Polanna said the coalition government had prioritised Mega DSC recruitment after assuming office and initiated steps to fill 16,347

teacher posts. He said appointments were made based on eligibility and merit, employing thousands of youth. He questioned the YSRCP's objections and said the opposition should support successful candidates instead of dragging them into political controversies. He also criticised former Anantapur MP Anantha Venkatarami Reddy, saying allegations should be supported by credible evidence. Polanna urged YSRCP leaders to verify facts before making public statements and warned against politicising the future of unemployed youth.

Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy Detained Over DSC Protest

Tadipatri, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and YSRCP Anantapur district president Anantha Venkatarami Reddy were detained by police at Muchukota on Monday while travelling to Tadipatri to participate in a statewide protest over alleged irregularities in the DSC recruitment process. The YSRCP had organised protest rallies across the state, with former MLA Kethireddy Pedda Reddy calling for a programme in Tadipatri. Police intercepted the two leaders and shifted them to Anantapur. YSRCP leaders staged a sit-in at Muchukota, protesting the detentions. (Meanwhile, police imposed restrictions in Tadipatri amid competing YSRCP and TDP programmes. Kethireddy Pedda Reddy had called for the DSC protest, while former MLA JC Prabhakar Reddy organised the TDP's 'Intintiki TDP' programme. Police

warned Kethireddy Pedda Reddy to return home after he stepped out. **Visakhapatnam** Heavy police deployment was made at Jagadamba Junction as the YSRCP planned a rally over the DSC issue. Police said permission had not been granted for the rally proposed by former MLA Vasupalli Ganesh and detained YSRCP leaders. **Nellore** The YSRCP organised a constituency-level peaceful protest demanding a CBI inquiry into alleged irregularities and corruption in DSC teacher recruitment and seeking the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. The protest was led by Chunduri Ravi Babu following directions from Boochepalli Siva Prasad Reddy and the YSRCP central office. Party leaders and supporters marched from Nellore bus stand centre to the YSR statue, raising slogans over the recruitment process.

Jakkampudi Raja Demands CBI Probe into DSC Allegations



Rajamahendravaram, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP state youth wing president and former Rajanagaram MLA Jakkampudi Raja criticised the coalition government for allegedly preventing the party's protests demanding a CBI inquiry into alleged irregularities in the DSC recruitment process. Speaking during a protest in Rajamahendravaram, Raja questioned why the government was allegedly reluctant to face a CBI investigation. He claimed police attempted to place him under house arrest to stop him from attending the programme. Following the information, YSRCP leaders and workers gathered at his residence in Prakash Nagar and staged a road protest.

Raja alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was trying to protect his son and Minister Nara Lokesh from allegations related to the DSC recruitment process. He recalled that former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had expressed confidence in a CBI probe when allegations were made against his son Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Raja also alleged that the coalition government had accumulated Rs.9,000 crore in fee reimbursement dues and claimed unemployed youth were awaiting Rs.3,000 monthly assistance. YSRCP Amalapuram parliamentary constituency observer Jakkampudi Vijayalakshmi said the party respected police restrictions to maintain peace but warned of intensified protests if students' and youth's concerns were ignored.

Sajjala Demands CBI Probe Into Mega DSC-2025 Irregularities



Tadepalli, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy on Monday alleged that the Andhra Pradesh government was using police action to suppress questions over alleged irregularities in Mega DSC-2025 and demanded an independent CBI probe. Sajjala said affected candidates had raised concerns, approached courts and submitted evidence before the YSRCP took up the issue. He claimed nearly 10 programmes held over the past 70-75 days had received increasing pub-

lic support. Questioning the examination process, he sought clarity on SCERT's role in question-paper preparation and alleged that confidential digital functions were assigned to outsourced personnel. He also raised questions over SCERT outsourcing employee Purama Naveen, who allegedly secured top ranks in two categories before being removed from the merit list. Sajjala demanded transparency in publishing merit-cum-roster lists and questioned why candidates selected under the 1:1 ratio and cleared during certificate verification were allegedly denied appointments. He also raised allegations concerning the Sports Quota, sports certificates, website changes and alleged monetary negotiations. Sajjala criticised arrests, house arrests, notices and cases against protesters and said the YSRCP would continue its agitation until Education Minister Nara Lokesh resigns, a CBI probe is ordered, dues are cleared and the promised Rs.3,000 monthly unemployment allowance is implemented.

Balineni Renews Corruption Charges Against Damacharla

Ongole, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and Jana Sena leader Balineni Srinivasa Reddy has renewed his allegations of corruption against TDP MLA Damacharla Janardhan, intensifying the ongoing political war of words in Ongole. Balineni alleged that Janardhan had claimed he would have sent him to jail had he not joined the Jana Sena. Questioning the statement, Balineni said an inquiry should be conducted by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu into allegations involving both leaders. He alleged that cases were filed against his followers to harass them and claimed that Rs 8.5 crore had gone missing from the Ongole Municipality. He demanded that Janardhan explain what happened to the money. Balineni said he was ready to take an oath at Kanipakam temple over the allegations levelled against Janardhan. He also questioned whether Janardhan could have won the Ongole Assembly seat without Jana Sena support. Challenging Janardhan, Balineni said he was ready to contest the election as an independent candidate and asked whether the TDP MLA was prepared to face him without alliance support.

Police Seek Four-Day Custody Of Seediri Appalaraju

Kasibugga, August 10 | TPN Bureau

Kasibugga police on Monday filed a petition in the Palasa Junior Civil Judge Court seeking four days' custody of YSRCP leader and former minister Seediri Appalaraju in connection with a road accident case. Appalaraju, listed as Accused No. 3 (A3), was arrested on July 22 and is currently lodged as a remand prisoner in Ampolu Jail in Srikakulam district. Police had earlier sought his custody, and the court permitted one day of interrogation, which was conducted on August 4. Citing the need for further information in the investigation, police have now sought four more days of custody. Meanwhile, senior advocate Vadisha Balakrishna filed a third bail petition on behalf of Appalaraju in the Sompeta Additional District Judge Court. He was remanded on July 23. The first bail petition filed on July 24 was rejected, while the second, filed on August 3, was dismissed on Friday.

102 Thalli-Bidda Express To Get Advanced Vehicles

Continue

services are also available for high-risk pregnant women and those with severe anaemia requiring blood transfusions. During 2025-26, the service facilitated 2,05,914 trips, including 1,65,093 post-delivery trips and 40,821 trips for high-risk pregnant women. The government has proposed Rs.37.40 crore for the service in 2026-27. Operations have been entrusted to Vidyaveda Foundation and M/s Srinivasa Tours and Travels (VVF-STT Consortium). **Advanced Safety And Health Features** The air-conditioned SUV/MUV-style vehicles have six airbags, rear seat belts, footrests, handrails, reverse sensors, child-lock sliding doors, ABS, EBD, ESP, speed alerts and fire-safety equipment. Climate control will help maintain a suitable environment for newborns. An emergency SOS button will connect passengers to the 102 call centre, while live GPS tracking will enable real-time monitoring and coordination with nearby health facilities. AIS-140-compliant GPS/VLTD systems use GPS and NavIC navigation, dual-SIM 4G connectivity, offline data storage and backup power. Vehicles will also have charging points, sanitiser, tissues, dustbins and first-aid kits. An integrated audio system will guide postpartum and newborn care, breastfeeding, nutrition, vaccination and danger signs. The IT system integrates driver-app mapping, call-centre connectivity and RCH verification for efficient dispatch and journey monitoring. The toll-free 102 service is available across the State.

AP Tourism Targets Global Market, Pushkaralu 2027 In Focus

Continue

2027, scheduled from June 26 to July 7, 2027. Durgesh said the 12-yearly event should showcase not only spirituality but also the culture, traditions, handicrafts and culinary heritage of the Godavari region. He invited operators to design spiritual circuits covering the Pancharama Kshetrams, river cruise experiences, village and nature tourism and tours featuring GI-tagged products. He said ghat development, accommodation expansion, riverfront beautification, digital services and other infrastructure were being strengthened. Durgesh invited IATO members to the annual convention being jointly organised by the AP Tourism Department and IATO in Visakhapatnam from September 10 to 13, describing it as an opportunity for tourism professionals to explore investment and partnership prospects in the State. He assured the travel industry of government support through destination familiarisation visits, promotional assistance, product development and facilitation of amenities. IATO representatives Ravi Gosain, Rajnish Kaista, Rajiv Mehra, Sanjay Razdan, Sunil Mishra and Deepak Bhatnagar, among others, participated in the meeting.

Silent Work of Doordarshan's News Network Comes Under Scrutiny

Continue

against existing stringer guidelines, investigating complaints and VIP references from Members of Parliament, and examining allegations that certain candidates were selected despite not attending interviews and that 21 experienced senior journalists from the earlier stringers' panel were not selected. The committee was also directed to interact with the RNU Head, Doordarshan officials, complainants and aggrieved candidates and submit its report to the Director General, DD News within 10 working days after completion of the inquiry. In a notice dated July 30, Kishore Sutradhar invited complainants to submit evidence and appear before the committee. Hearings were scheduled at RNU, Vijayawada, on August 3, with email submissions also permitted. The affected reporters have alleged that the prescribed five-member selection committee's interview assessments were not properly reflected in the final empanelment. They have also raised allegations regarding the appointment of allegedly ineligible candidates and financial irregularities, though these claims remain unverified. "We have served Doordarshan for decades and only want the selection process to be examined fairly under the prescribed rules," an affected senior reporter said. Another complainant said the inquiry had raised hope that "the facts will come out and experienced journalists will get justice through a transparent process." The complainants said the matter had also been brought to the attention of Members of Parliament, Union Ministers and Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw. They are now awaiting the committee's findings and corrective measures.

Akividu Ramalayam Construction To Be Completed By Vijayadasami

Continue

The Supreme Court on July 27 cleared the way for construction, upholding the District Collector's No Objection Certificate. Raghurama Krishna Raju said installation and assembly of the prepared stone-carved structures would begin from August 16. He expressed confidence that the temple would be completed by October 20, Vijayadasami. As part of the expansion of the temple premises, nine cents of adjoining land on the eastern side was purchased on Monday for Rs.37 lakh. He said the additional land would facilitate further development of the temple complex. The temple is being constructed in traditional stone architecture and is expected to emerge as a prominent spiritual centre for devotees in the region. Raghurama Krishna Raju said efforts were being made to complete the project within the announced timeframe and sought the continued cooperation of devotees and the local community.

Manohar Calls for Stronger Jana Sena Presence in Local Polls



Kallidindi, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena Party Political Affairs Committee Chairman and Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendra Manohar said party president and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan was committed to the welfare and political advancement of Jana Sena workers and would ensure due recognition for the sacrifices of party workers and women activists. Manohar met Jana Sena leaders from the Kolleru region at Kallidindi in the Kaikaluru Assembly constituency after participating in the coalition government's 'Mee Bhoomi - Mee Hakku' programme. He interacted with local leaders and discussed their concerns and party activities. He said Pawan Kalyan was preparing plans to politically advance those who had worked with dedication for the party. He urged cadres to prepare for the

upcoming local body elections and strengthen the party at the grassroots level. Recalling the coordination demonstrated during the 2024 Assembly elections, Manohar called for a similar planned approach in the local polls while adhering to coalition principles. Highlighting rural development, he said roads, drainage works and Jal Jeevan Mission projects were receiving appreciation. He said farmers were receiving payments for paddy purchases within 24 hours, adding that the coalition government had cleared Rs.1,600 crore in pending payments left by the previous government. He urged leaders to explain welfare and development initiatives to people and work collectively for victory in the local elections. MLC Jayamangala Venkata ramana, MLA Patamatla Dharmaraju and former West Godavari district president Kotikala Pudi Govindarao were present.

Kesineni Sivanath Raises KCC Credit Issues In Lok Sabha

New Delhi, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath on Monday raised issues concerning Kisan Credit Card (KCC) implementation, farmers' access to credit and digital issuance of KCCs through the Jan Samarth portal in the Lok Sabha.

Responding to his questions, Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the Centre had increased the KCC loan limit from Rs.3 lakh to Rs.5 lakh under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS). The enhancement, announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, aims to provide farmers greater access to affordable credit for agricultural activities. The Minister said KCC issuance through the Jan Samarth portal had been launched in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, while it was being implemented on a pilot basis in Uttar Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh was not among the States where Jan



Samarth-based KCC issuance had been launched. The Centre also informed the House that Rs.89,905.25 crore had been disbursed under MISS, including interest subvention and the Prompt Repayment Incentive, during the last five financial years. The annual allocations were Rs.21,476.93 crore in 2021-22, Rs.17,997.88 crore in 2022-23, Rs.14,251.92 crore in 2023-24, Rs.17,811.72 crore in 2024-25 and Rs.18,366.80 crore in 2025-26. Kesineni Sivanath's intervention highlighted the availability of KCC credit, digital access to farm loans and financial incentives for timely repayment.

Kaarunya Helping Hands Foundation Launches Free JEE, NEET Coaching



Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Kaarunya Helping Hands Foundation has launched "Vidya Vijayam," an initiative to provide free coaching for JEE, NEET, and APJRC entrance exams to students from government schools and rural areas. The programme is supported by Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao and former Corporator Nellibandla Balaswami. It aims to help meritorious students from economically weaker backgrounds access quality coaching without financial burden.

Farmers, Workers Stage Jail Bharo

Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Farmers' and workers' organisations staged a Jail Bharo protest in Vijayawada on Monday, urging the Centre not to enter free trade agreements (FTAs) that they said could harm domestic agriculture and labour interests. As part of a nationwide call, protesters gathered at Lenin Centre and marched to Governorpet Police Station, raising slogans against proposed FTAs with the United States, United Kingdom and New Zealand. They argued such agreements would weaken local farming and worsen the crisis faced by farmers. The protest took place under heavy police security. After police indicated no immediate arrests, demonstrators chose to court arrest voluntarily as part of the programme. A public meeting followed, led by CITU district secretary K. Durga Rao and AITUC city president K.R. Anjaneyulu. Leaders including Vadde Sobhanad reeswara Rao, S. Venkata Subbiah and N.C.H. Sri were criticised the Narendra Modi government's policies as pro-corporate. They also opposed the four labour codes, warning of increased worker exploitation. Protesters demanded withdrawal of such policies, cautioning that continued implementation could intensify public opposition.



Fathavulla Challenges YSRCP Leaders To Open Debate On DSC



Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

State TDP Minority Wing general secretary Muhammad Fathavulla on Monday criticised former YSRCP minister Vellampalli Srinivas over his remarks against Education Minister Nara Lokesh and challenged YSRCP leaders to an open debate on the DSC recruitment issue. Addressing a press conference at the Vijayawada MP's camp office, Fathavulla alleged that Vellampalli was spreading false information about Lokesh and cautioned YSRCP leaders against making unverified allegations.

He said YSRCP leaders should come forward for a public debate if they were confident about their stand on DSC recruitment. Fathavulla said arrangements had been made for Vellampalli Srinivas, Devineni Avinash and Malladi Vishnu to participate, while Lokesh was ready to join, including through an online platform. Dismissing claims that police obstructed the YSRCP rally, Fathavulla alleged that Vellampalli changed its route after TDP leaders opposed it and claimed the rally drew limited public participation. Questioning the "Gen Z War" slogan, he said such programmes should involve youth and students.

Five-Year-Old Pranavi Waits for a Chance to Heal

Uday Gopi Naik Banavath

Vijayawada: For five-year-old Pranavi, childhood has been far removed from the world of play, school and carefree laughter. Since birth, she has been battling severe health complications and has spent nearly five years confined to a bed. Today, she is unable to eat normally and depends entirely on a feeding tube for nutrition. Her mother, Chaitanya, is now making an emotional appeal to donors and well-wishers to help continue her daughter's treatment, which doctors have advised could improve her ability to swallow and lead to a better quality of life. According to the family, Pranavi suffered severe birth asphyxia and Stage-3 hypoxic-

ischaemic encephalopathy (HIE) soon after birth. Despite undergoing treatment over the years, her condition reportedly deteriorated, leaving her with severe difficulty in swallowing. With hopes of finding a better treatment option, the family recently took Pranavi to a hospital in Kochi, Kerala, where doctors advised continued therapy and medication. The recommended treatment includes VitalStim electrical stimulation therapy for the throat, along with other therapies aimed at improving swallowing function.

For her family, the treatment offers a ray of hope. However, the estimated cost of around Rs 5 lakh has become a major financial burden. The family says it does not have the resources



to meet the expenses and fears that a lack of funds could interrupt Pranavi's treatment. "My daughter has already spent most of her life fighting illness.

We want to give her every possible chance to improve. We are unable to bear the treatment expenses on our own. I request donors to come forward and help us continue her treatment," Chaitanya said in an emotional appeal. The family is seeking assistance from individuals, char-



itable organisations and philanthropists who can help Pranavi continue the recommended treatment. For those willing to support the child, the family can be contacted directly for verified banking and treatment details at 9848422477. For Pranavi's family, every contribution is more than financial assistance—it represents hope that their little girl may one day be able to eat, communicate and experience life beyond her bed.

93 Complaints Received at NTR Police Grievance Forum



Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

As many as 93 complaints were received during the Public Grievance Redressal Forum held at the NTR District Police Commissioner's Office in Vijayawada on Monday. Conducted every Monday from 10 am to 1 pm, the programme

provides citizens a platform to present grievances directly to police.

The August 10 session was held under the directions of Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, with DCP A.B.T.S. Udayarani interacting with complainants. The DCP heard each case and directed officials to take action as per the law. Of the complaints, 40 related to land, property and financial disputes. Four involved family issues, while 10 were cheating and fraud cases. Eight complaints concerned offences against women, three involved assaults, and five were theft-related. The remaining 23 petitions covered various issues. Police staff from multiple departments assisted in processing complaints.

Authorities reiterated their commitment to ensuring accessible grievance redressal and timely resolution of genuine cases.



Guntur, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The 24-year-old daughter of Vijayawada Traffic DCP Shireen

Vijayawada Traffic DCP's Daughter Dies in Guntur Road Accident

Begum, Shaik Asifa, died in a road accident near Etukuru on the outskirts of Guntur on Sunday. Four others travelling with her sustained serious injuries. According to Nallapadu police, Asifa and her friends had set out in a car from Tadepalli for Chirala to spend their holiday at the beach. The group included Undi Ruthvik, a

gym operator, Avinash, Sudheer, Asifa and Vamsi. The accident occurred when a lorry travelling ahead of their car suddenly applied the brakes on the national highway near Etukuru. Avinash, who was driving the car, reportedly could not control the vehicle, which rammed into the rear of the lorry before hitting a

roadside divider. The airbags in the front of the car deployed, but Asifa, who was seated in the rear, suffered severe head injuries.

Highway patrol personnel rushed the injured to a nearby private hospital, where doctors declared Asifa dead on arrival. Nallapadu police inspected the accident site and shifted the lorry

Aadhaar Camps To Be Held Across NTR District From August 11

Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha on Monday announced special Aadhaar service camps from August 11 to 14 and August 17 to 29 at selected Swarna Gram and Swarna Ward offices, government schools and colleges. Services will include new enrolment and updates to names, addresses, dates of birth, mobile numbers and biometrics. Mandatory biometric updates for children aged 5-15 will also be provided. He urged students and parents to utilise the camps locally.

Dr. Lakshminisha also appealed to citizens to participate in the "Partners in Nation Building - #AneNenu" campaign from August 10 to 15 by sharing 30-second videos using the prescribed



hashtags. Officials were directed to encourage participation in the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign from August 13 to 15. Collector seeks Permanent Solutions To Grievances At The Public Grievance Redressal System meeting, held with Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, the Collector reviewed complaints and received 178 petitions. He directed officials to identify root causes, conduct field inspections and provide permanent solutions, warning of action for delays or unsatisfactory disposal. Officials were also asked to create awareness among farmers about fertiliser availability, crop rotation, intercropping and government agricultural schemes.

City to Become Pothole-Free, Cleaner City Says VMC Chief

Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyana Chandra directed officials to intensify efforts to make the city pothole-free, clean and greener while ensuring strict compliance with fire safety norms.

During a field inspection on Monday, Dhyana Chandra visited Netaji Bridge, Krishnalanka, Bandar Road and other areas and reviewed road conditions, sanitation and greenery. He ordered immediate repairs to potholes on major roads, service roads and bridge approaches and instructed staff to remove fallen branches, leaves and accumulated waste.

At Netaji Bridge, he directed officials to undertake extensive plantation and ensure

regular maintenance without obstructing traffic or pedestrians. At Krishnalanka, he reviewed sanitation and ordered measures to address waterlogging and prevent mosquito breeding. He also inspected the Anna Canteen near APSRM School and stressed cleanliness.

Fire Safety Checks Meanwhile, the VMC Fire Department ordered Nalini Gastro Hospital in Patamata to restore non-functional fire-fighting equipment within three days. Regional Fire Officer C.H. Ratna Babu conducted a surprise inspection and found some equipment defective. The hospital was warned that failure to comply could lead to recommendations for cancellation of permissions. Station Fire Officer Nares and other personnel participated.



Final Days for Ashada Sare Offerings at Durga Temple

Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The annual Ashada Sare offering programme at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam on Indrakeeladri will conclude on Wednesday, August 12, 2026. Temple authorities urged devotees wishing to offer sarees, turmeric, kumkum and bangles to Goddess Kanaka Durga to utilise the final two days. Devotees offering sarees must first register at special counters in Kanaka Durga Nagar and obtain an authorisation certificate. A separate queue has been arranged through the Rs 100 Bhavani Anugraha Darshan route. Mobile phones, cameras,



electronic devices, luggage bags and footwear will not be allowed inside queue lines. Prohibited items and footwear can be deposited free of cost at designated counters. After the offering, devotees will receive the Sare Offering Blessing on the sixth floor of

the Maha Mandapam.

Sarva Darshan will be available from 4 am to 10 pm daily. With heavy crowds expected, devotees have been advised to reach the foothills between 5 am and 6 am to reduce waiting time and cooperate with temple staff.

Aster Ramesh Hospitals Saves Professor After 33 Cardiac Arrests

Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

A timely emergency stent angioplasty at Aster Ramesh Hospitals saved the life of Vignan University Dean and UMK University, Malaysia, Visiting Professor or Dirisala Vijay Ram after he suffered 33 episodes of cardiac arrest following a massive heart attack. Vijay Ram developed chest pain and a burning sensation on July 30, initially mistaking it for gastric trouble. He reached the hospital around 11 pm and suffered cardiac arrest within two minutes. Angiography revealed a 100% blockage in the LAD artery.



Interventional Cardiologists Dr. Potluri Archana Ratna and Dr. Madhu Krishna led the emergency procedure. An Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump was inserted and stent angioplasty was completed within 19 minutes of his arrival. He suffered 33 episodes of ventricular fibrillation during the procedure, requiring DC shocks

each time. His condition stabilised, the IABP was removed within 48 hours and he walked independently by the fourth day. Chief Cardiologist Dr. Pothineni Ramesh Babu urged people not to dismiss chest pain as gastric trouble and stressed that "Time is Muscle" during heart attacks.

KL University Team Wins AI Build 2026 Hackathon

Vaddeswaram, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The two-day AI Build 2026 Hackathon, jointly organised by 42 Learn, KL University and ASSOCHAM, concluded at KL University, Vaddeswaram, with participation from engineering students across Andhra Pradesh. More than 75 engineering colleges participated, with 1,000 final-year students shortlisted after initial screening. Participants developed solutions to real-world industry challenges using Artificial

Intelligence, Agentic AI, Generative AI and emerging technologies. KL University won first place with M. She Shma, Syed Mastan Vali and L. Sravya. DNR Coll of Engineering and Technology, Bhimavaram, and Vignan's Nirula Institute of Technology and Science for Women, Guntur, jointly secured second place. IIITDM Kurnool and Nadimpalli Satyanarayana Raju Institute of Technology, Visakhapatnam, shared third place. The jury comprised professionals from SuperMoney, Flipkart,

Bazaarvoice, Northern Trust, Brillio and Razorpay and assessed the projects for technical capabilities, creativity, analytical skills and industry relevance.

42 Learn President Koganti Rajasekhara said the event highlighted Andhra Pradesh's engineering talent and connected students with industry challenges, mentors and career opportunities. KL University Vice-Chancellor Dr. G. Parthasaradhi Varma and other representatives presented prizes to the winners.



MORAMPUDI FLYOVER SERVICE ROADS SET FOR FRESH WORKS

CH Raju

Rajamahendravaram: For motorists approaching the Morampudi flyover, the long-awaited repair of its battered service roads is finally moving from promise to execution. After months of inconvenience caused by unfinished and damaged stretches, works are set to begin on Tuesday, offering hope of smoother and safer movement for commuters and residents.

The service roads remained a weak link even after the Morampudi flyover was completed following the formation of the coalition government. With the earlier contractor failing to take up the works despite repeated follow-up, commuters continued to face poorly maintained stretches, particularly during peak traffic. The issue had become a persistent concern for residents and motorists, prompting Rajahmundry Rural MLA Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary to repeatedly take up



the matter with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The latest tender process is now expected to pave the way for the long-pending works. Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary said NHAI

had completed the fresh tender process for the service roads at an estimated cost of Rs 3.44 crore, with works scheduled to commence on Tuesday. He said he had personally inspected the damaged roads

and repeatedly urged NHAI officials to address the issue.

The MLA also took up the matter with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, seeking cancellation of the earlier tender and initiation of a fresh process. He said the new tender process was a breakthrough and assured residents that he would monitor the works and coordinate with officials for their speedy completion.

According to NHAI officials, fresh tenders have also been completed for other infrastructure works in the region. Rs 87.05 crore has been sanctioned for the Vemagiri flyover, while Rs 0.84 crore has been sanctioned for solar highway lighting from Bommuru through Burrilanka and Kadiyapulanka to Pottilanka.

With the Morampudi service road works finally set to begin, commuters are hopeful that the project will ease traffic movement and address a major infrastructure gap around the flyover.

Delayed IBD Diagnosis Raises Health Concerns, Says Gastroenterologist

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The growing incidence of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) in India is emerging as a serious health concern, with delayed diagnosis often leading to complications, gastroenterologist Dr Gopi Srikanth said.

Speaking at a press conference in Rajamahendravaram, Dr Srikanth, former faculty member at AIIMS Delhi and Consultant Gastroenterologist at Yashoda Hospitals, Hitech City, Hyderabad, said recurring diarrhoea and blood in stools were often mistaken for piles or infections.

Citing Global Burden of Disease findings, he said India records an estimated 31,800 new IBD cases annually, with

around 2.34 cases per lakh population. The number of patients has nearly doubled since 1990 and currently stands at about 2.7 lakh.

IBD mainly includes ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease and can affect people of all age groups. Genetic factors, immune abnormalities and gut bacteria interactions contribute to the condition. Spicy food and severe stress may worsen symptoms, while smoking can aggravate Crohn's disease complications.

Dr Srikanth advised people to seek medical attention if diarrhoea persists for over a week or is accompanied by blood or mucus in stools, abdominal pain, unexplained weight loss, anaemia or persistent fatigue.

He said untreated IBD could cause nutri-



tional deficiencies, intestinal narrowing, fistulas and abscesses, sometimes requiring emergency surgery. Severe pain, vomiting, high fever or inability to pass

gas requires immediate medical care. Yashoda Hospitals marketing representative S.V. Ramakrishna attended the press conference.

Farmers, Trade Unions Protest Against Centre's Policies

Eluru, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Farmers, agricultural workers and trade union activists staged a protest in Eluru on Sunday against what they termed anti-farmer and anti-worker policies of the Narendra Modi-led Central government. Raising the slogan "Quit Corporates," they alleged that corporate interests were being prioritised over farmers and workers. The protest was organised following a call by the

Samyukta Kisan Morcha and the joint platform of central trade unions. Protesters blocked traffic at Fire Station Centre despite the scorching heat. Police, led by Two Town Circle Inspector Ashok Kumar, detained several leaders and activists under Section 151 and shifted them to the Two Town Police Station before releasing them.

Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham district secretary K. Srinivas, CITU district general secretary

D.N.V.D. Prasad, AIKMS district secretary Porandla Srinivas and AITUC district general secretary Reddy Srinivasa Dange demanded a legal guarantee for minimum support price, farm loan waivers, repeal of the four labour codes and higher minimum wages.

They also sought 200 days of MGNREGA work annually at Rs 700 per day, a monthly social security pension of Rs 10,000, withdrawal of proposed electricity, seed and NFSA amendment



bills, Rs 25 lakh compensation for families of farmers who died by suicide, and reduction in fertiliser, fuel and cooking gas prices.

Jana Sena's Reddy Appalanaidu Warns Jagan Over Remarks on Teachers



Eluru, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena Party Eluru constituency in-

charge and APSRTC Vijayawada Zone-II Chairman Reddy Appalanaidu on Monday warned YSRCP president Y.S.

Jagan Mohan Reddy against making remarks that allegedly undermine the hard work and self-respect of teachers.

Addressing a press conference at the Jana Sena office in Eluru, Appalanaidu said the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Education Minister Nara Lokesh was advancing development and welfare.

On the 2025 Mega DSC recruitment, he said the examination and selection process was transparent and free from irregularities. He alleged that claims of malpractice were unfair to unemployed youth who had worked hard to secure government jobs.

Appalanaidu criticised YSRCP protests over DSC recruitment, claiming genuine aspirants were not participating. He alleged that Jagan Reddy had not conducted a single DSC recruitment drive during the previous five-year YSRCP government.

He further alleged that attempts were made to obstruct recruitment through court cases, but Nara Lokesh overcame the hurdles, creating opportunities for around 16,000 families.

Appalanaidu said protests were permitted within the law but warned against unlawful activities. Urging Jagan Reddy to stop remarks against teachers, he said, "Khabardar Jagan Reddy," if such comments continued. Several Jana Sena leaders and activists attended the meeting.

Karanam Venkatesh Slams Coalition Government Over DSC Irregularities



Venkatesh alleged irregularities in the recently announced DSC recruitment, particularly in the allocation of sports quota posts. He demanded an immediate CBI inquiry and sought the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, holding him morally responsible for the alleged lapses.

Chirala, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) organised a protest rally in Chirala, Bapatla district, on Monday, alleging that the coalition government had failed to fulfil its election promises and was pushing the State into a difficult situation.

YSRCP Chirala constituency in-charge Karanam Venkatesh led the protest and criticised the government. Party leaders and workers first paid floral tributes to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Dr B.R. Ambedkar and former Chief Minister Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy before taking out the rally and holding a protest meeting.

He also demanded immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues and alleged that the government had failed to implement its promise of a Rs 3,000 monthly unemployment allowance for jobless youth.

Venkatesh further alleged that the government had failed to provide Rs 25,000 annually to handloom-weaving families. With two years of the coalition government completed, he demanded Rs 75,000 for each eligible family, including arrears.

He alleged that welfare schemes were implemented transparently under the previous YSRCP government and said the party would continue its agitation for weaker sections, poor families, students and unemployed youth.

MLA Assures Strict Action in Priyanka Death Case



Rajamahendravaram, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram Jana Sena MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna expressed shock over the death of PG medical student Dr Priyanka following a road accident in Rajamahendravaram and assured that those responsible would face strict action, irrespective of their influence.

Addressing a press conference at the Jana Sena party office, Balaramakrishna said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan were closely monitoring the case and had directed police to take stringent action. He conveyed condolences to Priyanka's family on behalf of the Jana Sena Party and the coalition government.

Priyanka, who sustained critical injuries in an accident near a multiplex/IMAX

theatre, was treated on a ventilator at KIMS Hospital in Hyderabad before succumbing to her injuries. Balaramakrishna said a murder case had been registered against the accused following her death. The Chief Minister had announced Rs 20 lakh financial assistance to the family.

The MLA criticised the multiplex management, alleging negligence in traffic and security arrangements. He said the common route for incoming and outgoing vehicles had contributed to traffic problems and accidents. Notices would be issued to the management and safety regulations strictly enforced, he said.

Balaramakrishna ruled out political pressure or attempts to divert the investigation and said anyone found responsible would face action. Jana Sena leaders Anu Sri Satyanarayana and Y. Srinivas also demanded strict legal action.

KV Building In Nuzvid To Be Built By NPCC

Delhi, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The permanent building of the Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) being established in Nuzvid will be constructed by the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), Union Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The minister was responding to a question raised by Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar on admissions and infrastructure development at the KV in Nuzvid. He said the school had commenced operations from the 2026-27 academic year and currently had around 250 students enrolled.

Jayant Chaudhary said the school was functioning from temporary premises during the current academic year. The Andhra Pradesh government had allotted seven acres of land for the permanent campus in February 2026. The building will be constructed on the allotted land under NPCC supervision and is expected to be completed at the earliest.

Putta Mahesh Kumar urged the Union



Education Ministry to expedite the construction and ensure timely completion of the permanent campus. He said the facility would provide better educational infrastructure for students in Nuzvid and surrounding areas.

The MP welcomed the Centre's decision to entrust the project to NPCC and sought close monitoring to ensure that students get access to proper facilities at the earliest. The permanent KV is expected to strengthen access to quality central government school education in the region.

Pilli Suryaprakash Demands Probe into DSC Irregularities

Ramachandrapuram, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau



The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) organised a protest rally in Ramachandrapuram on Monday, demanding a comprehensive inquiry into alleged irregularities in DSC teacher recruitment and the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues for students.

The protest, held following a call by YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was led by Ramachandrapuram constituency YSRCP in-charge Pilli Suryaprakash. Party leaders, activists, unemployed youth and students participated in the rally from the YSRCP office to Rajagopal Centre. Protesters raised slogans demanding an impartial inquiry into the DSC recruitment process and sought the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, alleging that the government had failed to address concerns raised by DSC aspirants and ensure justice for eligible candidates.

Speaking to the media, Pilli Suryaprakash demanded a comprehensive investigation into the allegations and strict action against those found responsible. He alleged that the government was playing with the future of students and unemployed youth and stressed the need for transparency in teacher recruitment.

Suryaprakash also demanded the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement funds. He said the YSRCP would continue its agitation in support of students, unemployed youth and DSC aspirants until their grievances were resolved.

\$78.13 Lakh Development Works Launched

Narsipatnam, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau



Development works worth Rs 78.13 lakh were launched in Narsipatnam on Monday, with Chintakayala Padmavathi, wife of Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, inaugurating projects in Wards 3 and 4. In Ward 3, Padmavathi inaugurated works worth Rs 43.30 lakh, including CC roads, drainage channels and culverts, sanctioned through VMRDA, 15th Finance Commission and DMFT funds. She paid floral tributes to Dr B.R. Ambedkar before launching the works.

Speaking on the occasion, Padmavathi thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Speaker Ayyanna Patrudu and coalition leaders for prioritising development. She said around Rs 80 lakh had been sanctioned for Wards 3 and 4 over the past two years, including nearly Rs 43 lakh for Ward 3.

In Ward 4, works worth Rs 34.83 lakh, covering CC roads and drainage infrastructure, were inaugurated.

Padmavathi said development works worth around Rs 32 crore had been taken up across Narsipatnam during the last two years. She highlighted the drinking

water project for which Ayyanna Patrudu secured Rs 185 crore to provide tap connections to every household. She said drinking water, roads, drainage and sanitation remained priorities and urged residents to bring pending issues to the authorities.

Former municipal chairperson Adilakshmi, local leaders, ward in-charges, coalition workers and residents attended to vacate their villages. During the PGRS programme at the Collectorate, residents of Gottipadia, Sunkesula and nearby villages said the government plans to fill Nallamala Sagar with Krishna water through the Srisailem Project by August 27. They said the remaining Rs 600 crore compensation should first be paid before evacuation and requested adequate time for rehabilitation and relocation.

MLA Orders Speedy Completion of Bridge Works

P. Gannavaram, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau



P. Gannavaram MLA Giddi Satyanarayana directed officials to accelerate construction of the high-level bridge across the Vainateya River near Uddumudilanka and complete it by March. He inspected the works along with Panchayat Raj Department Engineer-in-Chief Balu Naik, engineering officials and representatives of the contracting agency. The MLA stressed the need to speed up construction without compromising quality, noting that the bridge would provide much-needed relief to island residents who face severe connectivity problems during Godavari floods.

The project is being built at an estimated cost of Rs 71.43 crore with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank funding. The 320-metre bridge will have 10 vents, each with a 32.40-metre span. It also includes a minor bridge, box culverts, approach roads, protection walls and road safety structures. Officials informed Satyanarayana that the minor bridge superstructure had been completed. Of the 90-metre ramp, 35 metres was completed, while

work on the remaining 55 metres would begin after canal closure. Three box culverts on the A1 side had reached the superstructure stage, while 140 metres of the 245-metre approach road had been completed. The MLA said the project would benefit around 3,825 people in Burugulanka, Ganti Pedapudilanka, Arigelaripeta and Uddumudilanka. He thanked Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for securing funds and approvals for the long-pending project.

Editorial

From Faction Formula to Global Strategy

In parts of Rayalaseema, factional politics once followed a ruthless but calculated formula: weaken the opponent not through direct confrontation, but by targeting economic roots-land, assets, and income. The idea was simple: damage wealth, and you damage power, pride, and influence. A similar doctrine now appears to echo in global geopolitics. Recent signals from U.S. President Donald Trump suggest a calibrated shift in dealing with Iran-not through immediate military escalation, but through sustained economic pressure. He has emphasized imposing "economic pain" while keeping military engagement limited, indicating a strategy that relies on financial strain to achieve political outcomes. This approach aligns with ongoing sanctions aimed at restricting Iran's oil revenues, a key pillar of its economy.

This is not new to American policy. The United States has long used economic pressure as a strategic tool. Decades-long sanctions on Iran have targeted its banking systems and oil exports. Similarly, sweeping restrictions were imposed on Russia following the Ukraine conflict, while countries like Cuba and North Korea have faced prolonged economic embargoes. These measures aim to weaken national economies, trigger inflation, and create internal pressure on governments.

Research and global experience show that such sanctions can significantly disrupt economies, affecting growth, employment, and currency stability. However, their political effectiveness remains a subject of debate.

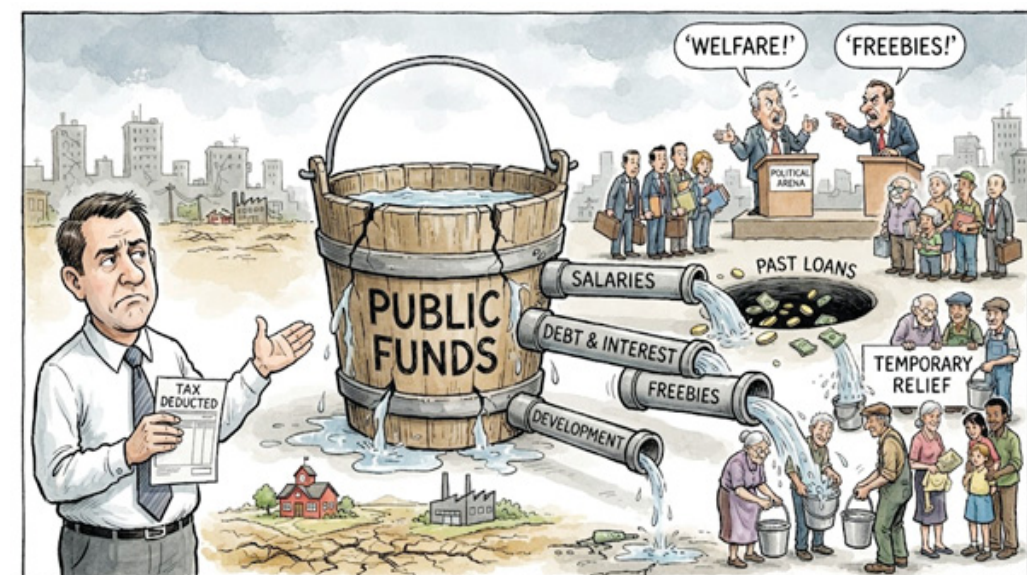
The emerging approach toward Iran reflects a familiar logic: weaken the adversary's financial foundation to reduce its ability to project power. It mirrors, on a global scale, the factional belief that power collapses when economic strength erodes.

Yet, history offers a caution. Economic warfare, like factional strategies, rarely produces clean outcomes. It can prolong tensions, deepen divisions, and often places the greatest burden on ordinary citizens rather than political leadership.

Editor

Vote for What... Freebies vs. Genuine Welfare

Is Public Money Meant Only for Today's Relief-or Also for Tomorrow's Economic Strength?



How much of a state's monthly revenue goes towards public welfare? How much is spent on running the government? How much is consumed by the burden of past debts? And how much is ultimately left for development? These questions are no longer confined to discussions among economists. There is now a wider debate over government freebies, welfare schemes, their financial burden, the pressure they place on taxpayers, and the long-term fiscal sustainability of states. At an earlier India Today Conclave, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed concern over the state's financial situation. He has reiterated similar concerns recently. According to the figures available to him, he said the state receives around RS18,500 crore a month, of which approximately 76,500 crore goes towards salaries, another 76,500 crore towards debt and interest payments, leaving only about 75,000 crore for welfare and development. Rather than viewing these figures merely as a political statement, they need

to be examined as part of a larger challenge confronting a state's financial system.

Does Free Mean Welfare?

There is nothing wrong with the government providing financial assistance to poor families. Supporting farmers with investment assistance, providing pensions to the elderly, ensuring education for disadvantaged students, and offering healthcare protection to vulnerable families are all legitimate responsibilities of the state. But can every free scheme be placed in the same category and called welfare? Or should there be a distinction between schemes that provide immediate relief and investments that enhance productivity and economic capacity over the long term? That is at the heart of the debate over "Freebies vs. Genuine Welfare."

The Supreme Court, while examining the issue in 2022, also recognised that governments have a constitutional responsibility to undertake welfare measures for the poor, while pointing to the need to consider the financial sustain-

ability of states as well.

The Question Being Asked by the Middle Class

Another section of society cannot be ignored in this debate: the middle class and lower-middle class. Although many in this group may not directly benefit from government welfare schemes, they contribute significantly to government revenues through taxes. For salaried employees in particular, tax is deducted at source. They do not have the option of deciding to pay tax after receiving their income; the tax reaches the government before the income reaches their hands. This is why a growing question is being heard among this section: "We are paying taxes. In return, to what extent are we receiving quality education, healthcare, transportation, infrastructure, security and employment opportunities?" This is not merely a question about the tax burden. It is a question about the social contract between taxpayers and the government. At the same time, there are allegations and perceptions in society that

some individuals or businesses earning substantial incomes evade taxes. Ultimately, what matters is whether every taxpayer fulfils their legal tax obligations fairly and fully.

Not Just Telangana-Andhra Pradesh Faces the Same Question

This is not a problem confined to Telangana. Andhra Pradesh faces a similar political and economic reality. Once a government introduces a welfare scheme, it is not easy for a subsequent government to discontinue it completely. Once a scheme becomes part of the lives of millions of families, removing it is no longer merely an economic decision; it becomes a social and political decision as well. As a result, even when governments change, there is considerable pressure to continue welfare programmes. This is not a problem belonging to any one political party. It is a larger question about how welfare politics operates in a democracy.

Every Free Scheme Must Have a Purpose

Whenever a government introduces a scheme, it should be able to answer four fundamental questions: Who is the scheme intended to benefit? What problem is it designed to solve? How will its effectiveness be measured? And is it financially sustainable in the long run? Only when these questions have clear answers can such programmes genuinely be considered schemes that strengthen the system rather than merely provide temporary relief. Whether in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh or any other state, providing relief to people

is a responsibility of government. But maintaining the financial strength of the state is equally important. The government must protect the poor, keep the tax burden on the middle class fair, prevent tax evasion, improve the efficiency of public expenditure, direct borrowing towards productive sectors and increase investment in education, healthcare, skills, industries, irrigation and infrastructure. Only then can welfare become a foundation for future development. Otherwise, today's relief in the name of freebies could end up consuming tomorrow's development resources.

In the End, There Is Only One Question

What should a government give its people? Freebies? Welfare? Or the opportunity to become economically self-reliant? The answer does not lie in choosing just one of these. There must be social protection where it is necessary. There must be targeted welfare where it is justified. At the same time, there must be productive investments that increase the state's future revenues and economic capacity. Because the greatest welfare a government can provide is not merely depositing money into people's accounts today. It is creating the capacity in their hands to earn tomorrow, so that they do not have to depend on that money in the future. That is also what can sustain the state's economic future. Freebies may need limits. Welfare must have a purpose. Development investment must have a vision for the future. That is the true meaning of public money.

Re-engineering Classroom Dynamics for Tribal Students

A Success Story of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy



Zilla Parishad school in Hiwali has set an example for building a 21st-century student in the remote tribal village of Hiwali in Trimbakeshwar Taluka of Nashik District, Maharashtra. One of the most remarkable features of the school is that it remains active throughout the year. Learning continues 365 days a year, ensuring that students receive continuous academic support, personality development, and opportunities to explore their talents. The school has become a best home for many tribal children, offering them a safe, engaging, and inspiring environment every day. These practical abilities go beyond the curriculum to help young children handle everyday challenges and prepare for the real world. Mr. Keshav Gavit, an educational practitioner, is the backbone of designing and implementing these innovative teaching-learning strategies to develop cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal abilities, along with critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication that allow individuals to solve unstructured problems and continuously adapt to an ever-changing landscape.

How it is different from routine:

The school, through vision, dedication, and innovative teaching practices, has been transformed into a unique centre of learning where education extends far beyond the classroom. His mission is to provide quality education while equipping tribal children with practical life skills, confidence, and values that prepare them for a successful future. Mr. Keshav Gavit, an in-house educational innovator, firmly believes that education should develop both the mind and the hands. Along with academic excellence, students must actively participate in various agricultural and vocational activities. The school has established a model



of organic farming to teach sustainable agricultural practices and environmental conservation. Students cultivate organic vegetables, gaining first-hand experience in healthy food production and responsible farming.

Harvesting Independence

The campus also includes a fruit orchard, where students learn about horticulture, plant care, seasonal cultivation, and biodiversity. They understand the importance of trees, nutrition, and environmental protection through practical experience beyond their curriculum and textbooks.

The school maintains a vermicompost unit, where students learn how biodegradable waste is converted into nutrient-rich organic manure using earthworms. This activity teaches scientific thinking, waste management, and eco-friendly agricultural practices. The school also provides practical exposure to poultry farming, helping students understand bird management, nutrition, hygiene, and small-scale entrepreneurship, along with fish farming (aquaculture), including techniques of



pond management, fish breeding, and sustainable food production.

Abstract academic concepts:

Another unique initiative at this school is cattle rearing, where students learn about animal care, dairy management, and the importance of livestock in rural livelihoods. These experiences help inculcate responsibility and compassion while promoting experiential learning. Recognizing the importance of traditional healthcare, the school has developed a medicinal plant garden. Students identify and learn about various medicinal herbs, their uses, and their importance in traditional and modern healthcare systems. This initiative helps preserve indigenous knowledge while encouraging respect for nature.

Narrative Pedagogy:

Students develop strong mathematical abilities by mastering multiplication tables, improve their language and creative writing skills, learn important provisions of the Constitution of India, and actively participate in debates, storytelling, public speaking, and cultural programmes through various plays and games. These activities strengthen communication skills, confidence, leadership, and critical thinking to nurture 21st-century students.

Techno-pedagogy

Technology, innovation, and activity-based learning are integral parts of Mr. Gavit's educational philosophy, which has created this laboratory of experience in the region and has been popularised across the country. Students are motivated to think independently and become lifelong learners rather than merely memorizing textbook content as part of their learning journey. The school's achievements have earned appreciation from education experts, government officials, and the media.

Beyond the Classroom

The school works closely with parents and the local community to strengthen children's educational journey. His belief that education is a shared responsibility has significantly improved school attendance, parental involvement, and students' overall development. It proves that a school can become much more than a place for academic learning.

Key Insights:

The school is transforming tribal education through innovative and experiential teaching and learning processes. These strategies are very important for addressing students from diverse backgrounds, especially in tribal geographies. It provides significant scope for gaining knowledge beyond the curriculum and sets an example for teachers to focus on continuous professional development, innovation, and child-centric pedagogy. Combined with compassion, sustainability, and practical learning, it has the power to transform individuals, communities, and future generations.

How a Newspaper Report Paved Way For Amaravati's Seed Access Road

At a time when concerns are often raised about declining journalistic standards and the waning responsiveness of governments to media



reports, an episode from the early years of Amaravati's development offers a compelling counterpoint. This is the story of how a report published in Deccan Chronicle in 2015 contributed to the conceptualisation of what is now known as the Seed Access Road - the principal arterial link to Andhra Pradesh's capital city.

In July 2015, the Government of Singapore unveiled the Amaravati Master Plan. Notably, the blueprint did not include what today is the Seed Access Road. Instead, it proposed the "Amaravati Gateway" near Ibrahimpatnam in the then Krishna district as the primary access point to the capital.

On July 24, 2015, while serving as Principal Correspondent of Deccan Chronicle, I authored a report titled "No East Entrance for Amaravati Capital." The article underscored the absence of a major eastern approach road and argued for the strategic necessity of such a link.

The report pointed out that the Chennai-Howrah National Highway lay to the east of the proposed capital region and emphasised that direct connectivity between this highway and Amaravati would significantly improve access from Vijayawada and Guntur. It further noted that such infrastructure would not only ease movement but also accelerate the region's development. In the longer term, the report envisioned Amaravati, Vijayawada and Guntur evolving into an integrated metropolitan cluster, akin to the Hyderabad-Secunderabad model. The article also examined the issue from a Vastu perspective - a subject of considerable public interest at the time, given Amaravati's positioning along the northward-flowing Krishna River. To lend depth to this aspect, expert opinions were sought from H.V. Subrahmanya Sharma of Sri Gayatri Prabhava Jyotishya Kendram and Karuparti Nagamalleswara Rao, known for

his association with actor and MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna. Both highlighted the significance of an eastern access route, which was reflected in the report.

The government's response was swift. Within four days of the report's publication, a review was initiated with subject experts. Three days later - just a week after the article appeared - the government announced plans to establish a major eastern road connectivity to Amaravati. At the time, the development was reported as a routine follow-up story. However, in retrospect, it remains one of the most professionally fulfilling moments in a 25-year career in journalism.

Today, while the Seed Access Road is yet to achieve full connectivity with the Chennai-Howrah National Highway, its first phase - extending up to the Madras Grand Trunk Road near Prakasam Barrage - has been completed and is scheduled for inauguration on the 13th of this month.

This milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on the journey of an idea - from a newspaper column to a tangible infrastructure project. It underscores the enduring relevance of journalism when it informs, influences and, ultimately, contributes to the public good. I remain grateful to Ms. A.T. Jayanthi, then Editor of Deccan Chronicle, for her encouragement and for providing the space to pursue impactful stories. I also acknowledge Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, whose responsiveness to issues highlighted in the media has, on several occasions, translated into administrative action. Some of the most meaningful moments in journalism arise not merely from publication, but from seeing ideas take shape on the ground. For me, this is one such moment.

(The author is a well-known journalist in Andhra Pradesh, who has served with various national English dailies and is currently serving as the General Secretary of the Amaravati Journalists' Housing Society.)

Tribunals Moving Towards Genuine Autonomy



N. Venkataraman
Additional Solicitor
General of India

A Long-Running Constitutional DebateFew areas of public law have undergone as much scrutiny as India's tribunal system. From the S.P. Sampath Kumar judgment in 1987 to the series of rulings involving the Madras Bar Association, the Supreme Court has repeatedly examined the structure, functioning and independence of tribunals. Several laws have subsequently required reconsideration. The recurring litigation points to a fundamental problem that successive reforms have struggled to resolve. The Tribunals Reforms Bill is significant because it appears to address this structural weakness rather than merely its symptoms.### Lessons From Abroad and IndiaIndia is not alone in confronting questions of tribunal independence. In the United Kingdom, Sir Andrew Leggatt's 2001 review found that more than 700 tribunals were being administered by government departments whose decisions they were required to adjudicate. He identified this dependence as the central weakness and recommended separating tribunals from their parent departments and placing their administration under a unified service. The reforms that followed were structural, addressing institutional dependence rather than simply changing tenure or qualifications.India's tribunal system has also produced notable successes. The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, established in 1941, remains an important example of specialised adjudication. The system was later expanded through Articles 323A and 323B of the Constitution and the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, partly to reduce the burden on High Courts. Yet the courts have repeatedly highlighted the continuing dependence of tribunals on the executive.### Why Earlier Reforms Fell ShortPrevious reform attempts largely focused on questions such as whether tenure should be three, four or five years, whether there should be a minimum age requirement, or whether selection panels should recommend one candidate or two. While these issues matter, they do not resolve the fundamental question of independence. Independence cannot be reduced to arithmetic. Tenure, age and selection procedures are only symptoms of a larger institutional problem.

Addressing the Root CauseA tribunal can function independently only when it has adequate autonomy over administration, appointments, supervision, discipline, infrastructure, staffing and finances. The proposed National Tribunals Commission seeks to provide such an institutional framework through legislation rather than executive orders. The Commission will have responsibility for selection, oversight, discipline and assessment of tribunal requirements, supported by a permanent professional secretariat. This institutional design could provide tribunals with greater stability and administrative independence.

Judicial Primacy With Institutional BalanceThe Bill retains judicial primacy at crucial stages. The Commission is to be chaired by a retired Supreme Court judge or a High Court Chief Justice and have a judicial majority. Selection, oversight, discipline and performance mechanisms would operate under judicial leadership, reflecting the principle recognised in the R. Gandhi case that the executive, being a frequent litigant, should not dominate the appointment of those adjudicating disputes involving it. At the same time, equidistance from both the executive and judiciary is essential.

The Bill therefore creates a balance among the Commission, executive and professional secretariat, avoiding both executive dependence and excessive judicial control over administration. A Model Beyond TribunalsThe proposed framework reflects lessons from other jurisdictions, including Canada, which consolidated support services for federal tribunals while protecting judicial independence. The success of the Bill should ultimately be measured not by whether it merely survives legal challenges, but by whether it removes the structural causes that repeatedly produced them. If implemented effectively, the framework could bring greater transparency, accountability, faster filling of vacancies and better facilities for litigants. More importantly, it could offer a useful institutional model for future public recruitment and adjudicatory systems.

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Parliament Passes Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026



Parliament has passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026, with both Houses approving legislation aimed at replacing the colonial-era Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891, with a modern legal framework suited to India's digital banking system.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on Monday, after the Lok Sabha had approved it on August 5. The legislation seeks to modernise rules governing the use of bankers' books and records as evidence in legal proceedings.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Bill provides a technology-neutral legal framework for bankers' books and formally recognises electronic and digital banking records as evidence.

The Bill retains existing provisions allowing certified copies of bank records to be used in court without requiring the original records to be produced. However, it specifically recognises electronic or digital records as admissible and legally enforceable evidence, subject to safeguards.

Under the proposed framework, an electronic or digital copy must accurately represent the relevant entry or information and be a true copy or appropriately derived from the original record. The Bill also requires safeguards against unauthorised alterations, data tampering or other events that could affect the integrity and accuracy of records.

The legislation retains protections for bank officers. An officer generally cannot be compelled to produce a banker's book in proceedings where the bank is not a party, or appear as a witness to prove transactions or accounts recorded in such books. Courts can order production or appearance for a specified special cause.

The Bill defines such circumstances, including doubts over the accuracy or genuineness of records, interruptions in regular record-keeping processes, or failure by a bank to comply with a court order for inspection.

Sitharaman said the legislation would strengthen statutory protection for bank officers and reflect the rapid digitisation of India's economy and financial transactions.

Another provision allows the Centre to extend the law to other financial-sector entities through notification, subject to specified conditions, exceptions or modifications. The legislation currently covers banking entities, post office savings banks and money order offices.

Assam-Arunachal Border Tension Leaves 18 Injured, Four Critical



Fresh tension erupted along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border on Monday morning after unidentified men from the Arunachal side allegedly opened fire during a confrontation over a land dispute, leaving at least 18 Assamese villagers injured. Four of the injured were reported to be in critical condition.

The incident took place at Mingmang Basti in Assam's Dhemaji district and reportedly stemmed from a dispute over alleged encroachment in the border area. Security sources said the confrontation escalated into firing, triggering panic among residents and prompting authorities to rush reinforcements to the area.

The injured were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment. Four critically injured persons were shifted to Dibrugarh Medical College and Hospital for further medical care, according to security sources.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the chief secretaries of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh were holding discussions, while the directors general of police of both states were coordinating efforts to bring the situation under control.

"Assam Police reinforcements have reached the location. We need to de-escalate the situation. At the same time, I have directed the Assam Police that under no circumstances should Assam lose even an inch of its land," Sarma said. Some of those injured have been identified as Durgeshwar Patir, also reported as Durgheswar Patir; Rohit Doley, also reported as Rohit Dole; Nagaraj Doley; Bigneshwar Patir, also reported as Biggeshwar Patir; Pame Pegu; Sanjay Tayung; Utpal Doley; and Jan Doley, also reported as Jaan Doley. The latest confrontation comes against the backdrop of decades-old boundary disagreements between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The two neighbouring states have been attempting to resolve their differences through dialogue, regional committees and demarcation exercises. However, several areas along the inter-state boundary continue to remain sensitive.

Authorities on both sides are expected to investigate the circumstances surrounding the firing and take measures to prevent the situation from escalating further. The border area remained tense but was under close monitoring as of Monday afternoon.

Arunachal Pradesh Home Minister Mama Natung had said on July 28 that the state government was committed to resolving all pending inter-state boundary disputes through regional committees. He had also urged people living along the Assam-Arunachal border to maintain peace and harmony. Referring to recent tension in the Tarasso area, Natung said boundary disputes in five districts had already been resolved, while discussions were continuing to settle disputes in the remaining districts.

The fresh violence has renewed concerns over the need for sustained coordination between the two state governments and security agencies to maintain peace in border communities and prevent local land disputes from developing into wider confrontations.

Parliament Logjam Continues as Modi, Shah Skip Lok Sabha

The Parliament logjam continued on Monday as the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day amid persistent protests by opposition MPs demanding statements from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah over alleged police brutality against protesting students.

The Opposition has been pressing for Amit Shah to address the House over the police crackdown on students protesting against the alleged NEET paper leak across the country. Opposition members have also been demanding a discussion on the alleged theft of donations from the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The Lok Sabha was eventually adjourned until 11 am on Tuesday after repeated disruptions. Opposition MPs continued their protests, alleging that the government

was avoiding accountability by not allowing a discussion on the issues they had raised. In the Rajya Sabha, Opposition members staged a walkout after the Chair disallowed their attempts to raise issues including the alleged theft of Ram Temple donations and the use of pellet guns against protesters. The Opposition had demanded the presence of the Prime Minister and Home Minister in Parliament and sought statements on the issues. The disruption has continued since the Monsoon session began on July 20. For the 16th consecutive day, the Lok Sabha failed to complete Question Hour because of persistent sloganeering by opposition members.

Amid the continuing impasse, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla made an "emotional appeal" to floor leaders of political parties, urging them to cooperate and allow Parliament to function without disruption. At a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, Birla stressed that important Bills should be discussed in the House so that members could express their views on proposed legislation. He also appealed to political parties to uphold parliamentary traditions and ensure constructive deliberations. According to sources, the Speaker emphasised the importance of meaningful participation, constructive discussion and adherence to the highest parliamentary traditions. He urged all parties to cooperate in ensuring the smooth and orderly functioning of the House so that matters affecting the public could be discussed comprehensively.



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With the session entering another day of disruption, attention is now focused on whether discussions between the government and Opposition can break the deadlock and allow normal legislative business to resume.

Amit Shah Ready for Detailed Discussion on Student Protests: Rijiju

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said the government is ready for a full and detailed discussion on the student movement and related activities, while urging Opposition members not to disrupt the Home Minister's response in Parliament. Rijiju accused the Opposition of repeatedly stalling parliamentary proceedings and said the government's position was clear on holding a comprehensive debate. He urged lawmakers to listen to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's response without creating

disturbances. "The offer made by the government is very clear that it is ready to have a full and detailed discussion on students' movement and activities related to it," Rijiju said. He added that once the discussion begins, Parliament should allow a "threadbare discussion" on the matter. His remarks came after Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi criticised Amit Shah over alleged police action during the July 20 student protests. Gandhi alleged that pellet guns, nail-studded batons and tear gas shells were used



against students and demanded a Supreme Court-

monitored investigation. The Lok Sabha witnessed repeated disruptions on Monday as Opposition MPs sought a government response over the alleged police action at Jantar Mantar and alleged theft of Ram Temple donations. Four Bills, including the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, and National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, were introduced amid protests.

Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadav criticised the government over the alleged Ayodhya donation issue and questioned provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) Amendment Bill. CPI(M) MP John Brittas said the Opposition had sought clarification over the student protest incident and alleged that the government was attempting to pass Bills without addressing Opposition concerns. He also demanded a full discussion on the alleged Ayodhya donation issue and criticised the FCRA provisions.

Kerala Name Change Bill Among Four Introduced in Lok Sabha Amid Protests

Four Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday amid loud protests by Opposition members demanding the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the alleged police crackdown on students during protests on July 20. The House witnessed continued sloganeering, following which proceedings were adjourned until 2 pm. Earlier in the morning, the Lok Sabha was adjourned within seconds after Opposition members began protesting. The proceedings were later resumed at noon. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy introduced the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026. The Bill was opposed by RSP MP N K Premachandran, who alleged that its provisions were against the federal structure. The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill was introduced by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai. Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol introduced the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill. The Opposition continued to demand a response from the government over the alleged police action against protesting students and sought Amit Shah's presence



in the House. Earlier, when the House met in the morning, Premachandran, who was chairing the proceedings, adjourned them until noon following the protests. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who normally presides over the Question Hour, did not chair the proceedings on Monday morning. Sources said Birla was engaged in back-channel discussions with various political parties in an effort to ensure the smooth functioning of the House during the remaining days of the Monsoon Session. The session is scheduled to conclude on August 13. However, repeated disruptions have affected legislative business throughout the session. Six of the eight Bills passed by the Lok Sabha during the session have been cleared without debate. Monday marked the 16th consecutive day on which the House failed to complete Question Hour, scheduled between 11 am and noon, reflecting the continuing parliamentary deadlock.

Bengal BJP Chief Warns Action Over Extortion Using His Name

West Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya has warned of strict action against people allegedly trying to extort money by misusing the party's name, saying his own identity was recently used in an extortion attempt in New Town near Kolkata.

Speaking at a business forum, Bhattacharya said he was informed that someone was demanding money using his name. He said the phone number used in the alleged extortion attempt displayed his name and photograph, while the SIM card had reportedly been issued in his name. Bhattacharya said he asked the person who approached him to file a police complaint. According to him, the calls were traced to Jalpaiguri and Siliguri, and the accused was arrested from the Salkia area of Howrah seven days later. He asserted that no BJP worker should be involved in extortion and urged people who encounter such cases to approach him directly.

The warning comes as the BJP faces allegations of corruption and extortion at local levels, despite having been in power for only a few months. In what has been described as a damage-control effort, the party has suspended 25 workers and issued show-cause notices to another 300 people over alleged involvement in extortion cases. A BJP source said the issue was also discussed during a meeting with the party's central leadership in Kolkata this week. The party has claimed that many people allegedly involved in extortion cases were Trinamool Congress workers who



joined the BJP following its recent electoral victory. The allegation has added to the political dispute over responsibility for extortion-related activities.

Trinamool rebel MLA Ritabrata Banerjee, now the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, said political parties have a responsibility to act against workers involved in such activities. He said he would submit a list of BJP leaders allegedly involved in extortion cases to the state administration.

Trinamool MLA Kunal Ghosh also criticised the BJP over the allegations, claiming that the party was struggling to control extortion within its ranks shortly after coming to power.

Ghosh said warnings from leaders including Samik Bhattacharya and Jitendra Tiwari showed the extent of the problem within the BJP.



Indian Envoy Meets Bangladesh PM Amid Fresh Strain in Bilateral Ties

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman met Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Dinesh Trivedi on Monday amid renewed strain in relations between India and Bangladesh. The meeting was described as a courtesy call and marked Trivedi's first meeting with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister after taking charge as India's new High Commissioner in Dhaka. The extradition of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the return of the accused in the murder case of Osman Hadi were among the key issues discussed during the meeting. Rahman also stressed the need to create a suitable environment to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. According to a press release issued by the Prime Minister's Press Wing, Bangladesh expressed hope

that India would expedite the process of extraditing Sheikh Hasina. Dhaka has repeatedly sought her extradition and has raised the issue with New Delhi. The meeting came against the backdrop of growing tensions following a media press conference by Sheikh Hasina in New Delhi last week. The Bangladesh government had expressed "outrage" over the event and warned that such developments could affect bilateral relations. Dhaka has also maintained its demand for Hasina's extradition. The meeting took place ahead of the upcoming BRICS Summit in New Delhi, where India has invited Rahman. The summit is expected to provide an opportunity for the two countries to engage at the highest level and discuss issues affecting their bilateral relationship. As part of preparations for



the meeting, Trivedi held discussions with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on Sunday. The discussions focused on bilateral matters and the importance of maintaining communication between the two neighbouring countries. Before meeting Rahman, Trivedi told the media in

Dhaka that all bilateral issues needed to be resolved through dialogue. He said both countries had people-friendly leaders and expressed confidence that direct discussions between the two Prime Ministers could help resolve several outstanding problems. Trivedi also emphasised the

importance of continued engagement, saying that problems could be addressed when the two sides communicated with each other. He expressed an optimistic view of the relationship and said there was nothing negative in the situation. According to Dhaka Tribune, the meeting covered a range of important bilateral issues between Bangladesh and India. Trivedi also briefed Rahman about his experiences during his first two months in Dhaka. The meeting assumes significance as New Delhi and Dhaka attempt to manage differences over sensitive political and legal matters while keeping channels of communication open. Both sides are expected to continue discussions on outstanding issues as they work towards maintaining and strengthening bilateral relations.

Saudi Factory Fire Kills 16 Bangladeshi Migrant Workers



A major fire at a sofa manufacturing factory in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, killed 16 Bangladeshi migrant workers, officials in Dhaka said on Monday. The incident has prompted efforts by Bangladesh authorities to repatriate the bodies and provide assistance to the victims' families. The fire broke out on Sunday in the Musa Sanaia industrial area of Riyadh. The circumstances that led to the blaze were not immediately detailed.

Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is monitoring the situation, while officials from the Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh are coordinating with Saudi authorities to complete the necessary formalities for bringing the bodies back to Bangladesh.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury has instructed officials to expedite the repatriation process. He also directed authorities to ensure that the bereaved families receive the necessary government assistance and compensation.

The deaths have raised concerns over the safety of Bangladeshi migrant workers employed in Saudi Arabia, which hosts one of the largest Bangladeshi expatriate communities in the world. Around 3.5 million Bangladeshis are estimated to be living in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia remains the largest destination for Bangladeshi migrant workers, many of whom are employed in construction, manufacturing, services and other sectors. Their contribution is also significant to Bangladesh's economy through remittances sent to families back home.

Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia sent home more than \$2.7 billion in remittances last year, underlining the importance of the migrant workforce to the country's foreign exchange earnings and household incomes.

Bangladesh authorities are working with Saudi officials to complete the procedures for identifying and repatriating the deceased workers. Officials have also been directed to provide necessary support to the affected families during the process. The tragedy has caused grief among the families of the victims and highlighted the risks faced by migrant workers working in industrial facilities abroad. Further details regarding the cause of the fire and the identities of those killed are expected as authorities continue their investigation.

North Korean Hacking Group Builds AI Tools for Cyberattacks: Report



A North Korean-linked hacking group has developed tools using artificial intelligence that could help automate cyberattacks, analyse stolen information and create more convincing phishing campaigns, according to South Korean cybersecurity firm Genians. Genians said on Monday that it had identified evidence suggesting the group Kimsuky had established tools to run and manage artificial intelligence models locally. The tools identified included Ollama, GPT4All and Msty, along with retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) technology used to search and process documents.

According to Genians, the use of locally operated AI systems could allow the group's operators to analyse documents and other sensitive material without sending the information to external AI services. This could provide greater control over potentially stolen data and reduce the need to rely on third-party AI platforms.

The cybersecurity firm also identified AI agent development frameworks, speech-to-text software and Cursor, an AI-assisted coding tool, on infrastructure it linked to the campaign. Genians said the findings indicate that Kimsuky may be moving beyond the use of generative AI for creating phishing messages and other social-engineering material. The group appears to be developing capabilities to integrate existing AI models into malware development, data analysis and the automation of cyberattacks, the company said in its report. The firm also discovered finance- and cryptocurrency-themed decoy documents that appeared to have been generated using AI. The documents were designed to look like legitimate investment reports and other workplace materials, potentially making them more convincing to targeted recipients. Genians cautioned that its findings could not be independently verified. The report nevertheless highlights growing concerns about the use of artificial intelligence by state-linked cyber groups to enhance existing cyber capabilities. North Korea has for years been accused by US and South Korean authorities, as well as cybersecurity experts, of using state-linked cyber units for espionage, financial theft and revenue generation.

Kimsuky has previously been identified by US authorities as a North Korean cyber-espionage group. The US Treasury sanctioned Kimsuky in 2023, describing it as a cyber group controlled by the North Korean government and stating that it collected intelligence in support of Pyongyang's strategic objectives. The latest findings underscore concerns that increasingly accessible AI tools could enable established hacking groups to expand the scale and sophistication of their cyber operations.

Trump Signals Reduced Pressure on Iran as Talks Continue

US President Donald Trump has signaled that his administration is prepared to allow economic pressure to build on Iran while apparently backing away from ordering additional military strikes, even as Tehran continues to set tough conditions for negotiations.

Trump made the remarks on Sunday as his administration seeks an agreement with Iran to end the conflict that began on February 28. According to Axios, which spoke to Trump in a brief phone call, the US President said, "We are lowering it," indicating a possible shift away from immediate military escalation.

The comments came only a week after Trump issued another series of threats to take strong action against Iran. However, he subsequently stepped back from



those threats as efforts continued to secure a deal with Tehran.

Axios reported that Trump did not express frustration over Iran's continued delay in reaching an agreement to

reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has demanded that the United States first end its blockade of Iranian ports and lift oil sanctions, in line with a memorandum of understanding signed by the two

countries in June.

The Strait of Hormuz has remained blocked by Iran since the conflict began, contributing to a sharp increase in fuel prices and creating uncertainty in global markets. The disruption has also placed pressure on the Trump administration as the November midterm elections approach.

Trump said the United States was only "semi-negotiating" with Iran while closely monitoring the country's economic situation. He pointed to Iran's high inflation and lack of financial resources as factors that could increase pressure on Tehran. "We are only semi-negotiating with them. We are just watching Iran with its huge inflation and the fact they have no money," Trump was quoted as saying. The US President also high-

lighted the recent decline in oil prices, saying American consumers were experiencing less economic pain from the conflict. Lower energy prices could ease some of the domestic pressure associated with the disruption caused by the war.

Trump expressed confidence that the situation would eventually be resolved and compared the US approach to Iran to a chess game. His latest comments suggest Washington may continue relying on economic pressure and negotiations rather than immediately pursuing further military action.

Iran's conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz remain a major obstacle to reaching an agreement, while the Trump administration continues to weigh diplomatic and economic options.

China Issues Red Alert as Typhoon Dolphin Hits Eastern Coast

China's national observatory issued a red alert, the highest level in the country's typhoon warning system, as Typhoon Dolphin made landfall along the eastern coast on Sunday afternoon, bringing heavy rainfall and powerful winds. The typhoon made landfall along the coast from Sammen in Zhejiang Province to Fuding in Fujian Province, according to the National Meteorological Centre (NMC). Wang Haiping, NMC chief forecaster, said the highest-level alert was necessary because of the storm's heavy rainfall, wide impact area and prolonged duration. From Sunday to Wednesday, northern Fujian, Zhejiang, Shanghai, northern Jiangxi,

Jiangsu, Anhui, eastern Hubei, central and eastern Henan and southern Shandong are expected to receive heavy rainfall. Some areas of central-eastern Zhejiang and southern Anhui could experience severe torrential rain.

Wang warned coastal areas of East China and the East China Sea to prepare for gale-force winds. From Sunday to Tuesday, most parts of the East China Sea, Hangzhou Bay, Zhejiang's coastal areas and the Yangtze River Estuary are expected to experience winds of Force 9 to 12, with gusts reaching Force 11 to 14. Near the typhoon's centre, gusts could reach Force 15 to 16.



Authorities also warned of secondary disasters caused by prolonged rainfall, including mountain torrents, geo-

logical disasters and flash floods. Zhejiang, Anhui, Henan and Hebei face elevated risks, while several cities

could experience severe urban waterlogging.

The NMC said Dolphin would move north-westward and gradually weaken after landfall. Its remnant vortex is expected to turn northward after Wednesday. Wang stressed that the typhoon's landfall would not end its impact as the storm would continue moving inland. From Thursday to Sunday, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, northern Shandong and Liaoning are expected to receive heavy rainfall, with some areas facing severe downpours.

China's meteorological authority upgraded its emergency response for severe weather disasters from Level III to Level II.

Putin May Mobilise 5 Lakh Fighters Amid Escalating Russia-Ukraine War: Report

Russian President Vladimir Putin may be preparing to mobilise around five lakh additional fighters for the war in Ukraine, according to Ukrainian intelligence cited by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The reported mobilisation could take place after Russia's parliamentary elections in late September. Zelensky said Putin was not ready to end the war and was preparing for another mobilisation. He claimed Russia could announce the move after the September 21 elections to the State Duma. According to Zelensky, Putin may avoid openly announcing a large-scale mobilisation because he is concerned about public reaction inside Russia. He also warned that Russia would not be able to train such a large number of recruits quickly, potentially resulting in poorly trained personnel being sent to the battlefield and increased casualties.

The warning comes amid a significant escalation in long-range attacks by both Russia and Ukraine. The United Nations has said the two countries have intensified such attacks this year, contributing to a rise in civilian deaths.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan has separately warned that continued escalation could create circumstances in which Putin con-



siders Russia's nuclear capabilities as a "last option". Speaking on Anadolu's Editor's Desk programme, Fidan described the situation as dangerous and said Turkey had discussed the issue with Western partners.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has continued launching attacks deep inside Russian territory. A Ukrainian drone strike in Russia's Tatarstan region killed at least 13 people on Monday, according to reports, making it one of the deadliest Ukrainian attacks since the war began.

Russia also carried out strikes against Ukraine. Ukrainian officials said a Russian artillery attack killed five people in a village in the north-eastern Kharkiv region. Russia's Defence Ministry said it had shot down 456 Ukrainian drones overnight, without stating how many drones reached their intended targets. Ukraine's Air Force said Russia launched 126 drones during its overnight attack.

Pakistan Urges Muslim Nations to Join New Defence Alliance

Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has urged Muslim countries to set aside their differences and join a new defence agreement with Saudi Arabia and Turkey, describing the proposed grouping as an alliance that could operate along the lines of NATO. Speaking to Geo News, Asif said the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement should not remain an exclusive arrangement between the three countries. He argued that other Islamic nations should be allowed to join and work together despite bilateral disputes and differing interests.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signed the agreement on Friday. The pact builds on a defence agreement previously signed by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The central provision states that an attack on any one of the three countries would be treated as an attack on all three. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said the arrangement was technically similar to NATO's Article 5 mutual defence principle, although the details of implementation are yet to be finalised.

Turkey has said member states would consult each other to determine the nature and extent of support required if one of them came under attack. The three countries bring different military and economic strengths to the alliance. Pakistan is the Muslim world's only nuclear-armed country,



Saudi Arabia has substantial economic resources and regional influence, while Turkey has NATO's second-largest army and a growing domestic defence industry.

Fidan said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wanted the alliance to expand and identified Egypt as one potential candidate. He also stressed that the pact was not directed against Iran or any other country.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said the agreement was "purely defensive in nature" and remained open to other regional countries willing to uphold its principles and resolve disputes peacefully.

Dar added that the Makkah Accord would not replace or cancel existing bilateral or multilateral agreements involving the participating countries or other organisations.

Shiprocket IPO GMP Rises to 28% Ahead of August 12 Opening

Shiprocket's initial public offering (IPO) has generated strong interest in the grey market ahead of its issue opening on August 12, with the latest grey market premium (GMP) indicating a potential listing gain of nearly 28% over the upper end of the issue price band. The grey market activity has emerged as an important indicator of investor sentiment ahead of the public issue. Shiprocket shares are currently commanding a significant premium in the unofficial market, suggesting that investors are expecting the stock to make a strong debut on the exchanges. According to the latest GMP indications, the premium points to a potential listing gain of nearly 28% compared with the upper end of Shiprocket's IPO price band. However, grey market premiums are unofficial and can change before the listing. They should not be considered a guarantee of the actual listing price or returns. The IPO is scheduled to open for subscription on August 12. Investors are expected to

closely track the issue price, subscription levels, grey market movement and other key details as the opening date approaches. Shiprocket's strong GMP ahead of the issue has placed the IPO among the offerings attracting attention in the primary market. The premium indicates that market participants are currently showing positive expectations about the company's potential listing performance. The grey market is an unofficial market where shares of companies preparing to list can be traded before their formal stock market debut. The GMP generally reflects the difference between the expected listing price and the IPO issue price, although it can fluctuate depending on market sentiment, demand and other factors. A GMP of nearly 28% suggests that the market is currently anticipating a substantial premium at listing. However, investors should consider the company's financial performance, business prospects, IPO valuation and broader market conditions before making



investment decisions. With the Shiprocket IPO set to open on August 12, attention will now turn to the formal subscription process and investor response. Market participants will also watch whether the strong grey market premium is sustained as the issue opening approaches. The latest grey market indica-

tions provide an early view of market sentiment, but they do not represent an official price discovery mechanism. The actual listing price will ultimately depend on demand, market conditions and trading activity once Shiprocket shares are listed. The IPO's opening on August 12 is therefore expected to be

closely watched by investors, particularly after the company's shares recorded a strong grey market premium. The nearly 28% potential listing gain has added to the interest surrounding the public offering, although investors are advised to assess the issue independently rather than relying solely on GMP trends.

Sensex, Nifty End Flat in Rangebound Trade - Realty Stocks Shine



Indian benchmark indices ended almost flat after a volatile and rangebound trading session on August 10, as investors remained cautious and the market failed to sustain its intraday gains. The Sensex and Nifty swung between gains and losses during the session before closing near their previous levels.

The Sensex moved within a narrow range as buying interest in select sectors was offset by weakness in banking and other key segments. The Nifty also struggled to establish a clear direction, reflecting the cautious mood among investors.

Sectoral performance remained mixed. Realty stocks emerged among the stronger performers, supported by buying interest in the sector. The performance indicated continued investor preference for selected real estate counters despite the broader market remaining subdued. On the other hand, PSU banks faced selling pressure and emerged as one of the major drags on the benchmark indices. Weakness in public sector banking stocks limited the market's ability to extend its early gains.

The broader market also witnessed mixed trends. The Nifty Midcap 100 gained 0.6%, indicating continued interest in several mid-sized companies. However, the Nifty Smallcap 100 declined 0.3%, reflecting profit-taking and cautious sentiment in smaller stocks.

The market remained volatile through the trading session, with investors closely monitoring sector-specific movements and broader market signals. The inability of the benchmark indices to hold their intraday gains resulted in a largely flat close.

Analysts and market participants are expected to remain watchful of domestic economic developments, corporate updates and global market cues in the coming sessions. The mixed performance across sectors and market-cap segments suggests that investors continue to adopt a selective approach rather than making broad-based purchases.

Overall, the session ended on a subdued note, with the Sensex and Nifty closing almost unchanged after fluctuating between positive and negative territory. Realty stocks provided support, while PSU banks weighed on the market, leaving investors cautious about the near-term direction of the benchmarks.

Wockhardt Reports Rs 107 Crore Profit in Q1



Pharmaceuticals company Wockhardt Ltd reported a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 107 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, marking a significant improvement from the loss recorded in the same period a year earlier.

The company attributed the strong quarterly performance mainly to robust revenue growth. Wockhardt Ltd had reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 108 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. The latest results therefore represent a substantial turnaround in the company's financial performance.

Consolidated revenue from operations during the first quarter stood at Rs 929 crore. The increase in revenue helped strengthen the company's overall financial position and contributed to the return to profitability during the quarter.

The results highlight an improvement in Wockhardt's operating performance as the pharmaceutical company continues to focus on expanding its business and strengthening revenues across its operations. The sharp year-on-year improvement in profitability is expected to draw attention from investors and market participants tracking the pharmaceutical sector.

The company's turnaround from a consolidated net loss of Rs 108 crore in the year-ago quarter to a consolidated PAT of Rs 107 crore in the latest quarter represents a positive change of Rs 215 crore on a year-on-year basis.

Wockhardt Ltd has operations in the pharmaceutical sector, and its quarterly performance is closely watched by investors because of the company's presence in domestic and international markets. The latest results indicate that the company has made considerable progress in improving its financial performance compared with the corresponding period last year.

Revenue from operations of Rs 929 crore during the quarter also reflects the company's stronger business performance. With profitability returning to positive territory, the company will now be expected to maintain the momentum in the coming quarters.

The pharmaceutical sector continues to remain an important part of India's healthcare and manufacturing ecosystem, with companies focusing on revenue growth, operational efficiency and expansion of their product portfolios. Wockhardt's latest quarterly numbers provide a positive indication of its current financial trajectory. The company's strong improvement in PAT, combined with consolidated revenue of Rs 929 crore, marks a notable quarter for Wockhardt Ltd. The results are likely to remain a key focus for investors as they assess the sustainability of the company's recovery and its performance in subsequent quarters.

Shivalik Bimetal Controls Stock Jumps 40% in Two Sessions



Shares of smallcap precision manufacturing firm Shivalik Bimetal Controls witnessed a sharp rally, jumping 40% in just two trading sessions following back-to-back upper circuits. The stock has emerged as one of the notable gainers in the smallcap segment, with its strong recent performance adding to substantial gains recorded during 2026. The stock settled at Rs 1,105.05 per share on the NSE, after

registering a significant rise during the latest trading sessions. The sharp movement came as the stock hit consecutive upper circuits, indicating strong buying interest among market participants. Shivalik Bimetal Controls has delivered an exceptional return so far this year. The company's stock has gained nearly 160% in 2026, highlighting the strong momentum in its shares. The latest two-ses-

sion rally has further accelerated its year-to-date performance and placed the stock firmly among the closely watched smallcap counters. The company has also generated substantial long-term returns for investors. Over the last five years, Shivalik Bimetal Controls shares have risen by more than 900%. The strong five-year performance reflects the significant appreciation the stock has recorded

over the period. The latest rally has come amid heightened activity in the company's shares, with back-to-back upper circuits driving the stock sharply higher. The movement has also attracted attention to the performance of smallcap companies operating in the precision manufacturing segment. Shivalik Bimetal Controls is engaged in precision manufacturing and has established a presence in specialised products and components. Its operations place the company within a segment that caters to industries requiring precision-engineered manufacturing capabilities. The stock's rapid rise, however, also highlights the volatility associated with smallcap shares. While the company has delivered substantial gains over both the short and long term, sharp movements in smallcap stocks can also lead to increased volatility and fluctuations in investor sentiment. The 40% gain recorded over two sessions represents a significant short-term movement compared with the stock's previous trading levels. The back-

to-back upper circuits indicate that buying demand remained strong during the period, allowing the stock to move sharply higher. With the stock trading at Rs 1,105.05 per share on the NSE, investors are likely to closely track its subsequent performance following the recent rally. Market participants may also monitor trading volumes, corporate developments and broader market conditions to assess whether the momentum can be sustained. The nearly 160% gain recorded by Shivalik Bimetal Controls in 2026 and more than 900% appreciation over five years underline the stock's strong historical performance. However, past returns do not guarantee future performance, and investors may need to consider the company's financial fundamentals, valuation and business outlook before taking investment decisions. The latest 40% jump in two sessions has nevertheless placed Shivalik Bimetal Controls firmly in focus among smallcap stocks, following a period of exceptionally strong gains.

Lalithaa Jewellery Mart to Open Rs 1,700 Crore IPO on August 17

Lalithaa Jewellery Mart is set to open its initial public offering (IPO) on August 17, with the company targeting a total issue size of Rs 1,700 crore. The jewellery retailer is expected to be listed on the stock exchanges on August 24, making the upcoming offering one of the closely watched IPOs in the retail jewellery segment. The proposed IPO will comprise a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 1,200 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of shares worth Rs 500 crore. Promoter and founder Kiran Kumar Jain will sell shares worth Rs 500 crore through the offer-for-sale component. The fresh issue will provide Lalithaa Jewellery Mart with Rs 1,200 crore in proceeds, while the OFS component will allow Kiran Kumar Jain to sell part of his existing holding in the company. The distinction between the two components is important for investors, as proceeds from the fresh issue will accrue to the company, whereas the money raised through the OFS will go to the selling shareholder. The company is expected to disclose the price band and other key details of the IPO ahead of the issue opening. Investors will be able to assess the offer based on the final price band, lot size, subscription schedule and other information provided in the IPO documents. The IPO is scheduled to open for subscription on August 17. Following the completion of the subscription process and allotment, the shares are expected to make their stock market debut on August 24. Lalithaa Jewellery Mart has built its business in the jewellery retail sector and the public issue is expected to provide investors with an opportunity to participate in the company's growth prospects. The IPO will also bring greater market visibility to the jewellery retailer following its proposed listing. The Rs 1,700-crore issue is structured



to balance the company's fund-raising requirements with an exit opportunity for its promoter and founder. Of the total issue size, Rs 1,200 crore will come from the fresh issue, accounting for the larger portion of the offering, while Rs 500 crore will be raised through the OFS by Kiran Kumar Jain. Investors are expected to closely track the company's valuation once the price band is announced. The pricing of the IPO will be a key factor in determining investor interest, particularly as the issue enters the market amid continued activity in the primary market. The August 17 opening will mark an important step for Lalithaa Jewellery Mart as it moves toward becoming a publicly listed company. The expected August 24 listing will provide investors with an opportunity to trade the company's shares on the stock exchanges. Further details, including the IPO price band and other issue-related information, are expected to be announced before the subscription window opens. Investors will be able to evaluate those details along with the company's business prospects and financial performance before deciding on participation in the public offering.

ABSL MF Launches Apex Equity Long-Short and Ex-Top 100 Long-Short Funds

Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund (ABSL MF) has launched two new equity-oriented long-short funds, the Apex Equity Long-Short Fund and the Ex-Top 100 Long-Short Fund, aimed at making equity investing more manageable during periods of sharp market movements.

The new strategies are designed to address different levels of market volatility and investment horizons. The Equity Long-Short Fund will seek to minimise drawdowns over a one-year period, while the Ex-Top 100 strategy will operate with a two-year horizon. The difference in the investment horizons reflects the varying risk characteristics of the markets targeted by the two strategies. The Ex-Top 100 strategy focuses on the mid- and small-cap universe, which generally experiences higher volatility compared with the broader large-cap segment.

Harish Krishnan of Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund said the products were designed around the need to make equity investing more manageable during periods of sharp market movements. The strategies are intended to provide investors with an approach that can potentially navigate changing market conditions while managing downside risks. Long-short strategies typically seek to use both long and short positions to respond to market opportunities and risks. By adopting such an approach, the funds aim to manage the impact of market declines while participating in opportunities that emerge across different segments of the equity market. The Equity Long-Short Fund has a one-year drawdown-minimisation objective, making its strategy focused on managing risks over a relatively shorter investment horizon. The Ex-Top 100 Long-Short Fund, meanwhile, has a two-year horizon, reflecting the higher volatility associated with mid- and small-cap stocks. The launch comes as investors continue to seek investment



strategies that can provide greater flexibility during uncertain or volatile market conditions. Sharp movements in equity markets can increase the risk of drawdowns, particularly for investors with concentrated exposure to equities. ABSL MF's latest offerings are positioned to address this challenge through long-short investment strategies. The two funds differ in their approach and time horizons, allowing investors to consider the strategy that best matches their risk tolerance and investment objectives. The launch also highlights the growing focus among mutual fund companies on strategies designed to manage downside risk while remaining invested in equities. With the mid- and small-cap segments witnessing higher volatility, the Ex-Top 100 strategy is particularly structured around a longer two-year horizon. (The Apex Equity Long-Short and Ex-Top 100 Long-Short funds add to ABSL MF's range of investment products and provide investors with alternative approaches to navigating equity markets. Harish Krishnan's comments underline the objective of making equity investing more manageable during periods of sharp market fluctuations.

Intex Expands Home Appliances Portfolio Across Multiple Categories

Intex Technologies, one of India's leading homegrown consumer electronics brand s, has announced the expansion of its Home Appliances portfolio as part of its strategy to strengthen its presence in the growing consumer durables market. Building on its established presence in air coolers, Intex is expanding into the fans segment with decorative, energy-efficient BLDC, exhaust and TPW (Table, Pedestal and Wall) models. The company is also entering the

water heater category with storage and instant geysers available in different capacities to meet varied household requirements. The company is further strengthening its presence in kitchen and everyday appliances by expanding its small domestic appliances portfolio. The range includes irons, mixer grinders, juicer mixer grinders, air fryers, electric kettles and cooktops. Across categories, Intex said its products have been developed with a focus on design,

functionality and reliability. The expansion is aimed at creating a comprehensive Home Appliances business catering to both seasonal and everyday household requirements. The move comes after strong growth in Intex's Consumer Durables business, which recorded 80 per cent year-on-year growth in FY26. The growth was driven by demand across Smart TVs, Air Conditioners and Washing Machines. Keshav Bansal, Director, Intex Technologies, said the



strong performance reflected growing consumer trust in the Intex brand. He said changing consumer aspirations had created an opportunity to build a broader home appliances portfolio offering quality, reliability and value at accessible price points. "Our expansion into fans, water heaters and small domestic appliances is a natural progression of this strategy and will enable us to serve a wider range of household needs," Bansal said. Intex said India's home appli-

ances market continues to grow due to rising household incomes, increasing appliance penetration beyond metropolitan cities and growing consumer preference for trusted brands offering multiple product categories. With demand increasing across Tier II and Tier III markets, the company sees further opportunities to expand its presence by leveraging its nationwide distribution network, retail partnerships and after-sales service capabilities.

Founder's Risk Pays Off as Taxi Driver Rises to Procurement Head

Hyderabad-based entrepreneur Sravanth Gajula has shared the story of how taking a chance on a Class 9 pass taxi driver as his company's first employee eventually turned into one of the most successful hiring decisions of his career. In a LinkedIn post, Gajula recalled hiring the taxi driver 10 years ago despite the candidate having no corporate experience, limited English skills and no conventional resume that would have attracted a traditional recruiter. Many people questioned the decision at the time, but Gajula said he saw qualities that mattered more - hunger to succeed and honesty. Instead of focusing only on formal qualifications, Gajula decided to give the man an opportunity and invest in his development. The company enrolled him in spoken English classes and assigned him meaningful and impactful responsibilities. Gajula said the employee was treated as someone with the potential to grow because the company genuinely believed in his



abilities. The approach eventually produced results beyond expectations. According to Gajula, after a decade with the company, the former taxi driver now heads procurement and manages responsibilities across India. Gajula said the journey demonstrated the value of giving people opportunities based on their potential rather than judging them solely by their educational qualifications or previous work experi-

ence. Reflecting on the experience, the founder said discussions around company culture, values and putting people first often remain theoretical unless leaders act on those principles. For him, putting people first meant identifying individuals whom others might overlook, investing in their development before they appeared fully ready and giving them opportunities to contribute meaningfully.

The former taxi driver's rise from his first job at the company to heading a key function has become an example of how opportunity and support can transform an employee's career. Gajula said the experience reinforced his belief that a founder or leader's responsibility goes beyond building products or growing a business. Leaders must also create an environment where employees can develop and take on greater responsibilities. He concluded that teams often become what their leaders believe they can become, urging founders and leaders to have greater confidence in their people and their potential. The story highlights how unconventional hiring decisions can sometimes produce exceptional results when employees are given the training, trust and responsibility needed to succeed. For Gajula, what began as a risky decision a decade ago ultimately became a long-term success story within his organisation.

Mysterious Well Movement in Gujarat Village Puzzles Residents



A mysterious well in Virpada village of Morbi taluka in Gujarat has once again attracted attention after its water was seen moving on its own, prompting residents to gather at the site and sparking speculation about the unusual phenomenon.

According to local residents, the movement resumed around 3 pm on Thursday. Similar activity had been witnessed two days earlier, when the water reportedly moved before gradually stopping. The repeated occurrence has led many villagers to closely watch the well and seek an explanation.

Some residents speculated that the phenomenon could be connected to seismic activity in the region. However, authorities have ruled out any indication of an earthquake-related event so far and urged people not to believe rumours.

Morbi Collector and District Magistrate Swapnil Khare said a team from Gandhinagar had been deployed to investigate the unusual activity. Khare said there was currently no indication of earthquake-related activity and appealed to the public not to rely on unverified claims. He also said speculation about a possible gas leak had emerged, but investigators had not yet collected water samples. The district administration cautioned that conclusions should not be drawn solely from videos circulating about the incident without a proper scientific assessment.

The unusual movement had reportedly subsided on Thursday, while investigation teams continued working to determine its exact cause. Officials said verified information would be shared after the investigation is completed.

The repeated movement has generated considerable curiosity among villagers, with many awaiting a scientific explanation for what has become a local mystery. Authorities have stressed that the situation is being examined and that people should avoid spreading unverified information until the findings are available.

Jeff Dean's AI Startup Pitch Deck Goes Viral

Google veteran Jeff Dean has attracted widespread attention after publicly sharing the pitch deck used to raise funding for his new artificial intelligence startup, Discovery Loop. Dean, who recently departed Google after a 27-year career, shared selected slides from the presentation on Wednesday. The deck quickly went viral on social media, with technology enthusiasts praising the extraordinary list of products, research projects and engineering achievements associated with Dean and his collaborators.

One slide highlighted products that members of the founding team helped build or worked on, including Google Search, Ads and Gmail. Dean also said the team had contributed to major artificial intelligence projects, including Gemini, AlphaFold and Google's first neural chatbot. "We created a pitch deck to tell a handful of VC firms about us and what we were up to," Dean said while sharing the slides. He also highlighted the achievements of people who had worked with members of the team and later founded successful companies.

The presentation drew enthusiastic reactions online, with users describing it as an unusually impressive pitch deck. One commenter called it an "insane flex," while another said achieving even one of the accomplishments listed would represent a major career success. Vinod Khosla, who backed Discovery Loop through Khosla Ventures, also praised the team. He said he was honoured to be selected to co-lead the funding round, describing the group's combined accomplishments and expertise as "almost unbelievably impressive."

Dean is launching Discovery Loop with several long-time collaborators, including Indian-origin technology veteran Sanjay Ghemawat, along with AI researchers Oriol Vinyals and Quoc Le.

The startup has been organised as a public benefit corporation and aims to apply AI to experimental workflows in science and engineering. Its founders want to develop AI systems capable of proposing, conducting and evaluating thousands of experiments simultaneously. The company's approach reflects a broader effort to use advanced AI not merely for generating content or answering questions, but for accelerating scientific discovery and engineering research.

Dean spent more than two decades at Google and became one of the company's most influential technology figures. His work included contributions to large-scale computing systems and artificial intelligence. The public release of the pitch deck has therefore attracted attention beyond the startup's fundraising effort, offering a glimpse into the technical background of a team whose members have played roles in some of the technology industry's most significant developments.



Techie Takes Rs.4 Lakh Pay Cut For Work-From-Home Job After Quitting Rs.33 Lakh Role

A tech professional has sparked a discussion online after choosing a Rs.4 lakh annual pay cut in exchange for a work-from-home opportunity and a better work-life balance. According to a post shared on X by Vanesh Mali, his friend was earning Rs.33 lakh per annum but decided to resign from his job without having another offer. The decision came after more than six months of frustration with a heavy workload and limited time to prepare for job interviews. The techie was also facing a two-month notice period, which made finding another position difficult because many companies preferred candidates who could join immediately. Eventually, he decided to take the risk and resign. After leaving his job, he reportedly took five days completely off to spend time with his family and

children. He then updated his resume and began applying for new opportunities in a more organised manner. His initial job search was not easy. He reportedly faced rejection from three companies before receiving an offer from the fourth. The new company offered him a Rs.29 lakh annual package, Rs.4 lakh less than his previous salary. However, the new role offered a major advantage: work from home, with office visits required only when necessary. He accepted the offer, believing that the new opportunity would provide a healthier and more comfortable working environment. Mali said his friend did not leave his previous company because of salary issues and did not accept the new job for financial gain. Instead, he wanted more personal time, family time and peace of

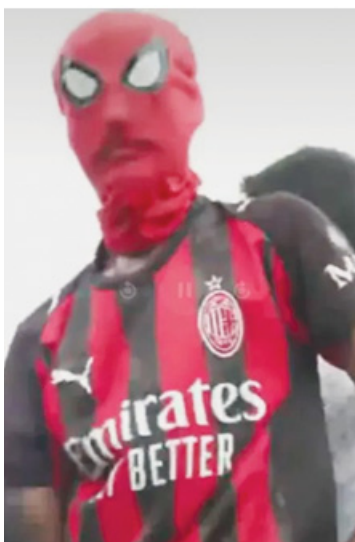


mind. The decision received considerable attention on social media. Several users praised him for prioritising well-being over a higher salary, while others pointed out that such a decision requires financial savings and confidence

in finding another job. The story has renewed a broader conversation about career choices, with many professionals increasingly considering flexibility, mental well-being and family time alongside salary when evaluating job opportunities.

Spider-Man Joins JPSC-JSSC Protest in Ranchi, Highlights Students' Demands

An unusual moment was witnessed during the ongoing JPSC-JSSC student protest in Ranchi on Monday when a man dressed as Spider-Man joined protesting aspirants during their march towards the Jharkhand Assembly. Amid slogans, barricades and heightened security, the costumed protester said he had come to Jharkhand because the students' voices were allegedly not reaching the state government. Referring humorously to the fictional superhero, he said the students' concerns had reached "Spider-Man sitting in America". The appearance added a lighter and unusual element to the protest while highlighting the students' larger complaint that their demands regarding recruitment examinations were not being adequately addressed. The agitation intensified when protesting aspirants breached barricades during their Assembly march. Ahead of the demonstration, student leaders had appealed to participants to remain united and maintain peace. Ranchi Police had made security arrangements for the march, while SP Paras Rana assured protesters that no action would be taken as long as the demonstration remained peaceful. The students are protesting alleged irregularities in JPSC and JSSC recruitment examinations and are demanding a CBI investigation. Their Assembly march followed a meeting between the Jharkhand government and a student delegation on Sunday. Jharkhand Minister Sudivya Kumar Sonu said the government had accepted 98 per cent of the students' demands. The government agreed to several measures,



including cancellation of the 14th JPSC examination and backlog recruitment examinations of 2023 and 2025. It also announced investigations by the CID and ED into alleged recruitment irregularities. However, protesters rejected the proposal, saying their main demand for a CBI inquiry had not been accepted. Student representatives also disputed the government's claim regarding the percentage of demands fulfilled. The protesters said only three of the 13 examinations they wanted cancelled were included in the government's proposal. They also expressed reservations about a CID probe and continued to demand an independent investigation. Against this backdrop, the Spider-Man appearance became a notable moment in the ongoing agitation, while his message echoed the protesters' demand for greater government attention to their concerns.

Google Employee Forgets Mouse at Work, Finds Easy Fix at Bengaluru Office

A Google employee in Bengaluru recently faced a small but inconvenient workplace problem after forgetting her computer mouse. However, what could have meant borrowing a device, visiting a store or waiting for a replacement was resolved within minutes through a vending machine inside the office. Neha Sharma shared her experience in an Instagram video, offering viewers a glimpse of a workplace facility at Google's Bengaluru office. According to Sharma, the vending machine allows employees to obtain essential work accessories, including computer mice, keyboards and earphones, free of charge. Sharma explained that her work involves spending long hours working across multiple screens, dashboards and numbers. On one particular day, she realised she had forgotten the mouse she depends on during her workday. She said Google's vending machines were stocked with several everyday work accessories, allowing her to pick up a replacement mouse without having to interrupt her work routine for long. After getting the device, she was able to return to her tasks. The video showed the vending machine inside the office and the range of accessories available to employees. Sharma highlighted the facility as an example of how workplace benefits can extend beyond commonly discussed corporate perks such as food and company stocks. In the caption accompanying her Instagram post, Sharma wrote that working at Google offers benefits beyond food and stocks, pointing to the vending machine as an example of a practical employee convenience.



The post attracted attention on social media, with users praising the idea of keeping commonly needed work equipment readily available inside the workplace. One user described the facility as the kind of workplace benefit that could genuinely make everyday work easier. Another said it was a thoughtful convenience for employees when minor problems arise during the workday. Other users similarly praised the setup, describing it as a practical corporate benefit that could save employees time. Much of the online reaction focused on the simplicity of the facility rather than its monetary value. Forgetting a mouse or suddenly needing a replacement keyboard may appear to be a minor issue, but such problems can interrupt productivity when employees have to leave the workplace or search for equipment. Having essential accessories available inside the office provides a quick solution and allows employees to resume their work with minimal disruption. Sharma's experience has therefore drawn attention not because of an elaborate corporate perk, but because of the convenience of having basic workplace necessities immediately accessible. The vending machine offers employees a simple way to deal with unexpected equipment-related problems during their workday.

Jemimah Rodrigues Says Team Win Is the Priority in Champions Trophy 2027

Indian batter Jemimah Rodrigues said her focus remains on helping the team win as India prepares for a busy international schedule, including the upcoming multi-format tour of South Africa and the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy in 2027. Rodrigues spoke about her recent experience in The Hundred 2026 on JioHotstar's 'Follow the Blues'. Her campaign with Southern Brave was cut short because of a hamstring injury, but she played an important role in helping the team qualify for the playoffs, recording two Player of the Match performances. Reflecting on her stint in The Hundred, Rodrigues said the tournament provided a challenging learning experience because of varying pitches and conditions. She noted that the surfaces this year were generally slower and required batters to adjust their approach. Rodrigues said that compared with previous editions, there were fewer high-scoring matches, with many games producing totals in the range of 120-130. She explained that even though The Hundred is a 100-ball format, players still need

to assess conditions carefully and determine what constitutes a competitive score. She also highlighted the importance of calculated risk-taking while chasing targets. According to Rodrigues, adapting to different conditions and changing her game accordingly was one of her biggest takeaways from the tournament. Looking ahead to India's multi-format tour of South Africa later this year, Rodrigues said she expects an exciting contest between two strong teams. She pointed out that India and South Africa have developed a significant rivalry after playing several matches against each other in recent times. Rodrigues said facing South Africa in their own conditions would be a major challenge and expressed confidence that the series would provide valuable competition for both teams. She is also looking forward to the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy in 2027, which will mark the first edition of the tournament in women's cricket. Rodrigues said the event would be particularly special because she will be part of the historic competition for the first time. The Indian batter said the team



has already experienced the feeling of success and now wants to reach the top again. She indicated that the desire to repeat that success is motivating the team as it prepares for the Champions Trophy. Despite the importance of the historic tournament, Rodrigues stressed that India's mindset would remain unchanged. She said the primary objective would continue to be putting the team first and making decisions that contribute to victories.

For Rodrigues, individual performances and achievements remain secondary to the larger goal of helping India succeed. Her comments underline the team-oriented approach she intends to carry into the South Africa tour and the 2027 Champions Trophy. With India facing a demanding international schedule, Rodrigues' experience in The Hundred, combined with her focus on adapting to conditions, could prove valuable as the team prepares for major challenges ahead.

Jannik Sinner Withdraws From Cincinnati Open With Knee Injury



World number one Jannik Sinner has withdrawn from the Cincinnati Open because of a right knee injury, dealing a setback to his preparations for the US Open later this month.

The tournament organisers confirmed Sinner's withdrawal on Sunday. The 24-year-old Italian, who won his fifth Grand Slam title at Wimbledon last month, had already pulled out of the Canadian Open, another important warm-up tournament ahead of the US Open. Sinner said he made the decision after consulting his doctors and team. He explained that his right knee had continued to trouble him despite working with his medical team and that he was not yet ready to compete.

"After consulting with my doctors and my team, I have to announce that I need to withdraw from the Masters 1000 tournament in Cincinnati," Sinner said. The Italian expressed disappointment at missing the Cincinnati event but said his priority was now to recover fully and prepare for the US Open. Sinner has enjoyed a strong run in Cincinnati in recent years. He won the tournament in 2024 and finished runner-up to seven-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz last year. His withdrawal further weakens the Cincinnati Open field, with Alcaraz also ruled out of the tournament because of a wrist injury.

The absence of the two leading players removes a major attraction from the event ahead of the final Grand Slam of the season. Sinner's decision is particularly significant because the Cincinnati Open is considered an important part of the hard-court preparation for the US Open. However, with the Grand Slam tournament beginning later this month, the Italian has opted to prioritise his recovery rather than risk aggravating the knee problem. The Cincinnati Open main draw is scheduled to begin on August 13, while the US Open main draw will get underway on August 30. Sinner will now have additional time to recover from the injury and assess his fitness before deciding whether he is ready to compete at Flushing Meadows. His absence from Cincinnati is expected to increase attention on his fitness in the coming weeks. The Italian said he was looking forward to returning to Cincinnati next year and would now concentrate on getting ready for the US Open. His immediate focus will be on rehabilitation and ensuring he reaches the final Grand Slam of the year in suitable physical condition.

With both Sinner and Alcaraz missing from Cincinnati, the tournament is set to provide opportunities for other leading players to make a deep run and strengthen their preparations ahead of the US Open.

Hardik Pandya at Centre of IPL Trade Buzz

Hardik Pandya has emerged as the biggest name in the IPL trade discussions ahead of the retention deadline. The Mumbai Indians captain is attracting interest from several franchises despite his recent struggles with the team. Pandya, regarded as India's leading fast-bowling all-rounder, returned to Mumbai Indians in 2024. However, MI have reached the playoffs only once in the last three seasons. In IPL 2026, the team finished second-last after winning just four of their 14 matches. According to reports, Kolkata Knight Riders and

Chennai Super Kings are among the teams showing strong interest in acquiring Pandya. Lucknow Super Giants and Rajasthan Royals have also reportedly been linked with the all-rounder. However, the trade talks have reportedly made little progress so far. Reports citing Mumbai Indians sources suggest Pandya may not be traded at all. At the same time, calls have reportedly been exchanged between franchises regarding a possible deal, leaving his future uncertain. Several possible trade combinations have also emerged. MI could report-



edly explore a deal involving Delhi Capitals all-rounder Axar Patel. A potential Pandya-for-Yashasvi Jaiswal swap with Rajasthan Royals and

a Pandya-for-Nicholas Pooran deal with LSG have also been discussed. Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin offered another perspec-

tive, suggesting that MI should seek Harshit Rana and Rinku Singh if they trade Pandya to KKR. Ashwin said KKR could become a much stronger team by acquiring Pandya, particularly if Cameron Green is unavailable due to his Ashes commitments. He argued that MI should therefore ensure they receive players who can strengthen their own squad. The trade decision could have major implications for the IPL. Pandya remains a valuable all-rounder despite his recent numbers, and whichever franchise acquires him could significantly alter its balance and title prospects.

Sarfraz Khan Returns to India Test Squad After Long Wait

Indian batter Sarfraz Khan has returned to India's Test squad for the upcoming two-match series against Sri Lanka, ending a long wait for another opportunity at the highest level. The series, which begins on August 15 in Galle, marks Sarfraz's comeback to the national side after his last Test appearance against New Zealand in November 2024. Sarfraz has been drafted into the squad as a replacement for Sai Sudharsan, who has been ruled out of the series due to injury. The recall comes after a strong domestic season and months of hard work on both his fitness and batting. The announcement was met with joy by Sarfraz's family, especially his

father and coach, Naushad Khan, who shared an emotional message celebrating his son's return. Quoting a motivational verse, Naushad said, "The sun may have risen after many nights, but destiny always supports hard work." His words reflected the perseverance and dedication that have defined Sarfraz's cricket journey. Sarfraz also shared a selfie on social media wearing India's training kit, revealing a noticeably leaner look after undergoing an intensive fitness transformation. Reports indicate that he has worked hard to improve his physical conditioning while continuing to perform consistently in domestic cricket. The Mumbai batter earned his place through impres-



sive performances across formats. In the Ranji Trophy, he scored 429 runs in seven matches at an average of 53.62, including a double century and a fifty. He also excelled in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, scoring 329 runs at a strike

rate above 200, while contributing 303 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Sarfraz further strengthened his case with useful performances in franchise and league cricket. He represented Chennai Super Kings in the IPL and later

featured in the Mumbai T20 League, where he continued to score runs at a rapid pace. India, led by Shubman Gill, will enter the Sri Lanka series looking to improve their position in the World Test Championship standings. The squad includes experienced players such as KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, and Mohammed Siraj. For Sarfraz, the Sri Lanka tour represents a fresh chance to establish himself in the Test team. After years of consistent domestic performances and a brief absence from the national setup, he now has an opportunity to prove his value once again on the international stage.

Gill Fit, Padikkal Impresses Ahead of Sri Lanka Test

India registered a convincing six-wicket victory over Sri Lanka XI in their three-day warm-up match, with several players making strong cases ahead of the first Test in Galle on August 15. However, the game also left the team management with a few selection decisions to make. Captain Shubman Gill eased concerns over his fitness after missing the first two days. He returned to bat on the third day and scored 44 off 54 balls, hitting seven boundaries. His fluent knock suggested he is ready to lead India in the opening Test. Devdutt Padikkal emerged as one of the biggest positives. With Sai Sudharsan ruled out of the series due to injury, India need a replacement at No. 3. Padikkal strengthened his claim by remaining unbeaten on 142 off 164 balls, including 18 fours. His composed innings could make him the favourite for the position. Rishabh Pant, however, endured a difficult outing. He scored only two runs in the first innings and 28 off 68 balls during the chase. His attempts to play aggressively did not produce the desired results, raising questions about his place in the playing XI. India's spin department delivered encouraging signs. Ravindra



Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Manav Suthar all picked up wickets in the first innings. Jadeja looked particularly sharp, while Kuldeep added variety to the attack. Saransh Jain was also given opportunities with the ball. The competition for the lower middle order remains interesting, with Dhruv Jurel and Sarfraz Khan providing options. Saransh Jain's all-round ability has further complicated the selection equation. With the Galle Test approaching, India have gained confidence from the warm-up victory, but the final combination remains undecided.

Scotland, Netherlands Criticise ICC World Cup Format Changes

Cricket Scotland and the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB) have criticised the International Cricket Council (ICC) over changes to the format of the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup, saying the decision was made less than 18 months before the tournament. The two Associate Member boards expressed disappointment over what they described as a lack of communication from the ICC. They said the revised structure could reduce opportunities for emerging cricket nations and undermine efforts to expand the sport globally. Under the new format, teams ranked 12th, 13th and 14th during the qualification process will compete in a new Super Series phase. The three teams will play a tri-series, with only the winner progressing to the second round. The next stage will feature 12 teams divided into two groups. In a joint statement, Cricket Scotland and KNCB described the lack of consultation as "disappointing and disrespectful". They argued that the changes represented a setback for Associate Member cricket and could affect the progress made by developing nations in recent years. The boards also questioned the timing of the decision, particular-



ly as the tournament is approaching. They said reducing meaningful opportunities for emerging teams sends the wrong message at a time when cricket is attempting to expand its global reach, attract new audiences and strengthen its position in international sport. Associate Members are ICC nations that do not hold Full Member status, which is reserved for the leading cricket-playing countries. The 2027 ODI World Cup will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. The criticism from Scotland and the Netherlands highlights continuing concerns among Associate nations about their representation and opportunities at major international tournaments.

Shami Reveals Shikhar Dhawan Was Team India's Funniest Player



Indian pacer Mohammed Shami has revealed that former India opener Shikhar Dhawan was one of the funniest players he shared the dressing room with. Shami recalled how Dhawan's cheerful personality often helped lift the mood among teammates, even after disappointing results. Shami and Dhawan played together for India for nearly a decade, with Dhawan making his mark as an opener and Shami leading the pace attack. Recalling Dhawan's unique way of keeping the dressing room lively, Shami said the former batter would sometimes laugh loudly after a defeat and even break into dance. "Shikhar is very funny. He does those things. Say we lost a match, everyone comes and sits in the change room. Shikhar wants to do something different. He will just laugh very loudly," Shami said in an interview shared by CricketNext. According to Shami, when asked why he was laughing after a loss, Dhawan would simply say that they had lost the match. Shami added that Dhawan could suddenly stand on a table and start dancing to Punjabi music. Shami said such moments created a positive atmosphere in the dressing room and helped players avoid becoming overly disappointed

after losses. "These things create that atmosphere in the dressing room. We also enjoy it because winning and losing keep happening. When you are playing the whole year, you will win and lose. All these things are there. But no one then goes into a very sad mood in the dressing room," he said. Shami also recalled his first experience of joining the Indian team. He admitted that he was nervous after seeing several established players whom he had previously admired. He said that during a team meeting before a match, he entered the room and realised that almost every player present was someone he had dreamed of playing alongside. Shami quietly took his seat, but Yuvraj Singh asked him to stand on a chair and introduce himself. The pacer said he became so nervous that he forgot what he wanted to say. Eventually, he managed only a brief introduction, giving his name and hometown. Shami's memories offer a glimpse into the camaraderie within the Indian dressing room and highlight how personalities such as Dhawan helped teammates handle the pressures and highs and lows of international cricket.

