



Goa Governor Ashok Gajapathi Raju presents a statue of Simhachalam Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their meeting in New Delhi and invites him to visit the Simhadri Appanna temple.

Over 200 Shahzad Bhatti Network Operatives Arrested Ahead of Independence Day



New Delhi, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said security agencies had dismantled the Pakistan-based, ISI-backed Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) and arrested more than 200 operatives ahead of Independence Day, thereby foiling plans for subversive activities. In a post on X, Shah said coordinated operations had been conducted across 14 states and described the action as an example of India's firm approach to combating terrorism. Security agencies had seized IEDs, grenades bearing markings from Pakistani arms factories, pistols, ammunition and CCTV cameras allegedly used for surveillance. The crackdown followed investigations into the activities of Pakistan-based gangster-terrorist Shahzad Bhatti, who was allegedly attempting to influence and recruit youth into anti-national activities through social media platforms. The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) had also conducted a statewide operation during which 112 individuals were questioned over suspected links with Bhatti. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had been investigating several cases linked



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Is Lokesh's Coronation Closer Than It Appears?

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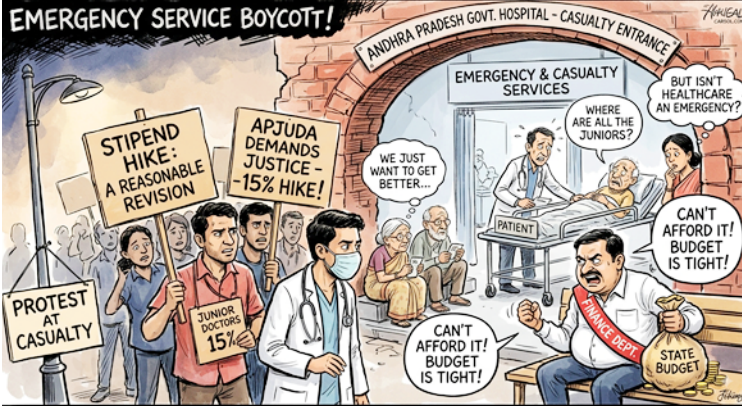
In Andhra Pradesh politics, the question of succession is increasingly shifting from who to when. While N. Chandrababu Naidu remains firmly at the helm of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the State government, speculation is growing around TDP National Working President Nara Lokesh and the possibility of an earlier-than-expected elevation as Chief Minister. Lokesh has emerged as a powerful figure within both the party and government. His interactions with TDP ministers, organisational responsibilities and enthusiastic reception during constituency tours have strengthened his position. TDP cadres increasingly see him as the party's future Chief Minister, although the prevailing political assessment has been that the transition would follow the 2029 Assembly elections. Fresh speculation now suggests that the TDP leadership could consider a change after the local body elec-



tions, expected in October. Some political circles are even claiming that an auspicious date has been identified for Lokesh's elevation. However, there is no official confirmation from the TDP leadership, leaving the "coronation" talk firmly in the realm of speculation. The timing has added to the intrigue. By December, the alliance government will complete two and a half

years in office, reaching the halfway point of its five-year term. The TDP-led alliance won 164 of the 175 Assembly seats in 2024, with the TDP alone securing 135. Jana Sena Party won 21 and BJP eight. The numbers give the TDP a commanding position, though the views of its alliance partners remain an important consideration. The speculation gained fresh

attention after Kapu Nadu leader Dasari Ramu claimed that the TDP was considering Lokesh's elevation. He argued that the party wanted to avoid leadership-transition mistakes elsewhere, citing KCR's delay in elevating KTR in Telangana and the UPA government's failure to make Rahul Gandhi Prime Minister. Lokesh's growing national profile has also fuelled the discussion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has acknowledged his work on several occasions, while their interaction during the recent inauguration of Bhogapuram Airport drew political attention. Yet, any leadership transition would depend on several factors, including Chandrababu Naidu's political plans, alliance dynamics, the outcome of local body elections and the TDP's broader electoral strategy. For now, Lokesh's "coronation" remains unconfirmed. But the intensity of the discussion shows that succession has firmly entered Andhra Pradesh's political conversation.



Junior Doctors' Strike Puts Emergency Care Under Strain as Talks Remain Elusive

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati : Junior doctors across Andhra Pradesh intensified their agitation on Monday by boycotting emergency medical services, sharpening the dispute over their demand for a 15 per cent stipend hike and raising concerns over emergency departments, casualty wards and other critical services in government teaching hospitals. The impact was visible at several hospitals, where patients and attendants reported difficulties in accessing timely medical care amid a shortage of doctors. With junior doctors staying away from emergency duties, hospitals depended on senior medical personnel and alternative arrangements to keep critical services functioning. The doctors, however, remained on hospital premises and continued their peaceful agitation at designated locations, including one opposite the casualty ward. APJUDA said the move followed the failure to resolve its demand and alleged that the government had not called them for fresh talks after the emergency-services boycott was announced.

"We are not against patients and understand the responsibility we carry. Our demand is for a reasonable revision considering the workload and responsibilities handled by junior doctors. The government has not called us for talks even after we announced the boycott. We are ready for discussions and want the issue resolved at the earliest," said Dr SK Lukhman Ali, General Secretary, APJUDA, told True Point.

The agitation has received support from several doctors' associations. Dr Amarnath of the Health Reforms Doctors Association (HRDA) visited the protest site and expressed solidarity. The Indian Medical Association (IMA), Government Doctors Association of AP

(GDAAP) and Dr I. Babji Shyam Kumar Association have also extended support to APJUDA's demands.

The government maintained that it had held several rounds of discussions since July 17, with the latest meeting on August 15. Officials said the Finance Department was not favourably inclined towards a 15 per cent hike in view of the State's financial position. A proposal for a structured annual increase for interns and PG students was under consideration. The government urged doctors to reconsider their demand and resume duties. To minimise disruption, Senior Residents working under DSH from Community Health Centres and Area Hospitals were deployed to the nearest medical colleges to attend emergencies and casualty services. Additional doctors were kept on standby, while arrangements were strengthened for ICUs, maternity services, operation theatres, NICUs, PICUs, dialysis units and trauma care. Despite these measures, patients faced difficulties at several locations, with reports of inadequate doctor availability and delays in emergency care. The absence of junior doctors also placed an additional burden on senior residents and specialists.

APJUDA cited rising patient footfall, expanded speciality and super-speciality services and increased responsibilities in ICUs, emergency medicine, critical care and medico-legal cases as reasons for seeking the hike.

At present, 9,501 MBBS and BDS interns, PG students, super-speciality students, MDS, DNB and other trainees receive stipends. The government spends around Rs.48.84 crore a month, or Rs.586.08 crore annually. MBBS and BDS interns receive Rs.25,906 a month, while first-year PG students receive Rs.60,823. A 15 per cent hike is estimated to add

Naidu Calls for Five-Point Plan to Counter El Niño Impact

Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has called for greater public awareness and effective water and crop management to minimise the impact of El Niño, which has caused rainfall deficiency and drought-like conditions in several parts of Andhra Pradesh. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, Naidu said the State was expected to receive 867 mm of rainfall between June and December 2026 but was likely to receive only around 557 mm. Some districts recorded deficits of up to 68 per cent in July, while shortages of around 35 per cent were expected in August and September. He said declining inflows had pushed water availability in major river basins to critical levels. Srisailem, which normally receives around 753 TMC, had received only 214 TMC this year, while inflows to Nagarjuna Sagar and the Godavari basin had also declined. Recalling Pattiseema's

importance, Naidu said around 500 TMC of Godavari water had been transferred to the Krishna Delta, benefiting more than 13 lakh acres of ayacut. Another 40 TMC was proposed to be transferred. He urged Krishna-region farmers to avoid paddy and opt for horticultural and drought-resilient crops, while prioritising drinking water in allocation. Naidu said El Niño was affecting agriculture and inflation, with paddy cultivation declining by 1.14 lakh hectares. Horticultural crops in Rayalaseema and banana, chilli, cashew and coconut cultivation elsewhere could also face difficulties. He directed MLAs to ensure eligible crops were covered under crop insurance before the August-end deadline. Enrolment rose from 19.50 lakh farmers last year to 35.17 lakh this year, with insurance covering 15.17 lakh hectares and crops worth Rs.13,983 crore. The government plans to establish 20,000 Gokulam sheds and ensure fodder availability. The five-point strategy



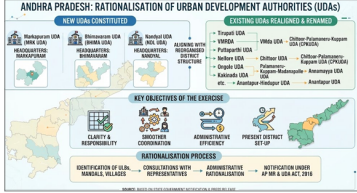
includes strengthening Raitanna Meekosam committees, comprehensive crop insurance, fodder seed sowing in high-risk areas, Jaladhara-2 measures and minimising farmers' difficulties while achieving State GSDP targets.

AP Reshapes Urban Development Map with New UDAs

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati: The state government has undertaken a comprehensive rationalisation of the jurisdictions of Urban Development Authorities (UDAs) to align the urban administrative framework with the reorganised district structure and ensure clearer jurisdictional responsibility and better coordination.

As part of the exercise, three new UDAs - Markapuram Urban Development Authority (MRK UDA), Bhimavaram Urban Development Authority (BHIMA UDA) and Nandyal Urban Development Authority (NDL UDA) - are being constituted with headquarters at Markapuram, Bhimavaram and Nandyal respectively. The move follows the reorganisation of Markapuram, West Godavari and Nandyal districts. The government has also realigned the jurisdictions of several existing UDAs through the inclusion or exclusion of Urban Local Bodies, Mandals and villages. The exercise cov-



ers major authorities including the Tirupati UDA, Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA), Puttaparthi UDA, Nellore UDA, Ongole UDA, Eluru UDA, Kurnool UDA, Kakinada UDA, Machilipatnam UDA, Kadapa UDA and Bapatla UDA.

The VMRDA development area has been reorganised to facilitate streamlined and coordinated urban administration and efficient management. Similarly, the Tirupati, Puttaparthi, Nellore and Ongole UDAs have been realigned in accordance with the respective reorganised district boundaries.

Certain authorities are also proposed to be renamed. The Chittoor Urban Development Authority is proposed to become the Chittoor-Palmaneru-Kuppam Urban Development Authority (CPKUDA). The existing Palmaneru-Kuppam-Madanapalle UDA is proposed to be reorganised as the Annamayya Urban Development Authority, while the Anantapur-Hindupur UDA is proposed to be renamed the Anantapur Urban Development Authority.

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana said the exercise was aimed primarily at making the UDA structure more practical and responsive to the present district set-up. He said wide consultations were held with public representatives and their views on administrative convenience, local linkages and jurisdictional alignment were considered. Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, S. Suresh Kumar, said the exercise

Free Spectacles Bring New Light to Crochet Lace Artisans



Narsapur, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Free spectacles were distributed to 552 crochet lace artisans following an eye screening initiative undertaken under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, providing timely vision care to artisans in the Narsapur region. An eye camp was conducted on August 9 at the Narsapur International Lace Centre, where 700 artisans underwent comprehensive examinations, including

computerised vision tests, intraocular pressure checks, retinal scans and slit-lamp examinations. Doctors identified 552 artisans who required spectacles. Frames were arranged free of cost through the Deputy Chief Minister's initiative, with artisans allowed to select frames of their choice at the camp. The spectacles were prepared and distributed within 10 days. The camp also identified 45 people requiring cataract surgery. Of them, 12 underwent successful procedures the following day at Sri Kiran Eye Hospital in Kakinada. Similar eye camps have been conducted in villages including Achanta and Athili, and arrangements are being made to provide further treatment to those requiring medical attention. The initiative aims to improve access to healthcare and support the well-being of artisans engaged in the region's traditional crochet lace industry.

Naidu Says No Deviation in Mega DSC Recruitment Process

Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu asserted that there was no deviation in the Mega DSC recruitment process and said all details had been made available online transparently. He accused YSRCP leaders of running a "hit-and-run" campaign and challenged them to debate the issue



iversity. During his earlier tenure, schools were established within a kilometre of habitations, while junior



Purandeswari Gets Key BJP National Role

Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Rajahmundry MP and former Union Minister Daggubati Purandeswari has been appointed a national vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), marking recognition of her political and parliamentary experience. Purandeswari is among the 13 vice-presidents appointed by the BJP national leadership. Her elevation, along with the appointment of senior Andhra Pradesh leader Ram Madhav, has generated enthusiasm among party cadres across the State, particularly in the Godavari region. BJP leaders described the appointment as recognition of Purandeswari's political experience, administrative capabilities and contribution to strengthening the party in Andhra Pradesh. Leaders and workers in the erstwhile East Godavari district welcomed the decision, expressing confidence that her new responsibility would provide fresh momentum to the party's organisational activities. Purandeswari has served as a Union Minister and

"Fix the Date and Time. I Am Ready to Debate" - Lokesh Challenges Jagan on Mega DSC

Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh challenged YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to debate the Mega DSC 2025 recruitment in the Assembly, asserting that the process was conducted transparently and in accordance with Central norms and Supreme Court directions.

"Fix the date and time. I am ready to debate, inside the Assembly or outside. I am not running away. Come to the House and let us discuss this," Lokesh said, noting that it was the fourth time he had issued the challenge.

Lokesh said 16,347 teacher posts were notified and recruitment was completed in 148 days despite 336 court cases. Around 3,36,300 candidates submitted 5,77,675 applications. Examinations were conducted through TCS iON at 154



centres in Andhra Pradesh and 19 outside the State, covering 13 subjects and 67 post categories. He said 42,000 questions were prepared confidentially by SCERT subject experts, with candidates receiving randomised question papers. CCTV, physical and cyber-security measures were deployed. Online applications, Aadhaar authentication, score disclosure, normalisation, certificate verification, reservation and grievance

AP Students Shine in NPTEL Quantum Computing Course



Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh students have excelled in the national-level Quantum Computing

course conducted by NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning), securing four Gold and 14 Silver medals. The medal winners met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat. The four-week course on Quantum Algorithms and Qiskit, jointly organised by IITs and IISc, was led by experts from IIT Madras and IBM. AP students secured nearly half of the Gold and Silver medals awarded nationwide. Of 2,08,785 applications, 1,04,220 came from Andhra Pradesh.



Youth Hold Key to Building Viksit Bharat, Says Venkaiah Naidu

New Delhi, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Former Vice President Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu called upon the youth to play a pivotal role in building a developed India and achieving the Viksit Bharat @ 2047 goal while preserving the country's heritage and values. He was speaking at the launch of Janapriya Neta - Venkaiah Naidu, a Hindi biography authored by Acharya Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, President of Vishwa Hindi Parishad and former Rajya Sabha member, at the Bhim Auditorium, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. BJP National President Nitin Nabin unveiled the book, while Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over the programme. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and several political leaders and former officials attended. Venkaiah Naidu thanked Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad for documenting his public life. Recalling his political journey, he said he had discharged every responsibility with commitment and regarded public service as an act of worship. Inspired by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, he said he followed Charaiveti-Charaiveti and believed there was no

Assembly Focuses on Amaravati, Welfare, Health and Irrigation

ARN Mahesh

Amaravati: The first day of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly's monsoon session on Monday saw ministers respond to questions on Amaravati development, health, irrigation, ports, PNG connections, BC welfare and construction workers.

Amaravati Projects

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana said Amaravati development was progressing rapidly, with 97 of 119 major infrastructure projects under execution. Responding to MLAs Sravan Kumar and Buchayya Chowdary, he said Letters of Approval had been issued for 113 projects, of which 97 had commenced, including four completed works. The government had mobilised Rs.41,187.70 crore through the World Bank, HUDCO, NABARD, NaBFID and APPFC, with Rs.12,731.13 crore spent since 2024. The 119 projects were estimated at Rs.66,802 crore. Narayana said 71,299 returnable plots had been allotted to 30,173 land-pooling farmers, covering 98 per cent of the promised allocation. Annual lease payments since 2014 stood at Rs.2,248.02 crore. Infrastructure works worth Rs.904 crore covering roads, underground drainage and drinking water in 29 capital villages would be taken up, with tenders scheduled for August 27.

Land Rules

Replying to MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju, Narayana clarified that existing rules do

not permit land allocation to private associations in Amaravati. The Building Contractors Association had sought five acres for its State office and convention centre, but the request could not be accepted.

He said the rules were framed following the Supreme Court's November 25, 2024 orders. Under Rule 5 of the Amaravati land-allotment guidelines issued through G.O. No. 228 and Clause 6.5 of G.O. No. 229, both dated June 15, 2017, such allotment was not permissible.

Narayana said contractor bills worth around Rs.3,000 crore remained pending due to irregularities during the previous government's tenure. The Finance Department had cleared most bills, while the Chief Minister directed settlement of the remaining dues after examining financial feasibility.

COVID Status

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said COVID-19 transmission remained low in Andhra Pradesh. From January 1 to August 15, India recorded 2,554 cases, including 74 in the State. Of these, 56 patients recovered, 10 were undergoing hospital treatment, four were under home isolation and four deaths were reported. Cases were reported in 17 districts, with Visakhapatnam recording 16. Satya Kumar said there was no evidence of cluster transmission. Hospitals had adequate stocks, including 6,960 rapid testing kits, 22,535 N95 masks, 47,018 PPE kits, 15,31 lakh surgical masks and medicines worth Rs.9.53 crore.

Delta Modernisation

Water Resources Minister Dr. Nimmala Ramanaidu said Godavari Delta modernisation would be completed by 2029. He said Rs.14 crore was allocated for canal and drain modernisation, a LiDAR survey completed and DPRs prepared. More than Rs.1,100 crore had been allocated for operation and maintenance works over two years.

Proposals were being prepared to increase Yanamaduru Drain capacity from 23,000 to 30,000 cusecs. Of its 86 inlets, 70 were in poor condition, with Rs.3.2 crore allocated for rebuilding 10. For the Kesana-palli Canal project, estimates were being prepared to irrigate 2,686 acres at Rs.50 crore.

Rs.21 crore was released for Shankaraguptham Drain works, which were 25 per cent complete and targeted

for completion by May 2027.

PNG and Ports

Roads and Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy, replying to MLCs BT Naidu, Beeda Ravichandra and P. Rajasekharam, said the government planned to provide PNG connections to every household. As of August 13, 2026, 90,013 domestic connections had been provided. He also clarified that there was no proposal to privatise ports. Andhra Pradesh has six operational ports, five under construction-Mulapeta, AMNS, Kakinada Gateway, Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam-and six notified ports.

BC Welfare

BC Welfare, EWS Welfare, Handlooms

and Textiles Minister S. Savitha announced Rs.500 crore in SASKI funds for permanent buildings for MJP BC residential schools. She said 10 new BC residential schools were established this year and six BC girls' residential schools upgraded into junior colleges to reduce dropouts.

She said Rs.80 crore was allocated to complete stalled MJP buildings, while 90,676 students were studying in BC hostels. Repairs were being undertaken through CSR and DMF funds, with Rs.20 crore provided in the 2026-27 budget. CCTV cameras, RO plants, inverters and mosquito nets were also being provided.

Workers' Welfare

Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash said construction-worker welfare schemes had been revived after being stalled under the previous government following Memo 1214. He said about 15 lakh construction workers existed in 2018-19 and 6,777 workers had newly registered in the past two months. Eligible road and mining workers could also register through the Mana Mitra app. Subhash alleged that the previous YSRCP government failed to utilise 10 per cent of construction cess for skill development between 2019 and 2024.

Power Tower Relief

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar, responding to a question by Member Koona Ravi Kumar, said there was no discrepancy between Central and State guidelines on land acquisition for electricity towers.

He alleged that the previous YSRCP government failed to follow Central guidelines, resulting in delays in substations and transmission lines across the State.

Ravi Kumar said the Alliance government was providing 100 per cent compensation to farmers whose land was affected by tower construction. Compensation was being paid for 4.22 cents for 132 kV towers, 6.73 cents for 220 kV towers and 11.96 cents for 400 kV towers.

He said the government was creating awareness through social media and the press and consulting field-level officials over differences between market and registration rates. Additional compensation would also be provided wherever required.

Media Point

At the Assembly media point, Tribal Welfare and Women & Child Welfare Minister Gummidi Sandhyarani dismissed claims that the government planned to repeal the 1/70 Act as "completely false". She assured tribal communities that their land rights would be protected and accused the YSRCP of spreading misinformation.

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy urged advanced water management to protect farmers from possible El Niño impacts. She sought tribal communities schedules based on Somasila and Penna flows, timely canal repairs and scientific support for aquaculture and horticulture farmers.

MLC Nagababu Appointed Chairman of the Executive Committee of AP Green



Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council member Konidela Nagendra Rao (Nagababu) has been appointed Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Andhra Pradesh Society for Greening and Reforestation for Ecological Enrichment (AP Green), with Cabinet rank. The Environment and Forest Department issued G.O.Rt.No.93 on Monday, August 17, formalising the appointment. AP Green aims to expand forest cover and promote environmental

protection, with a target of increasing combined forest and green cover to 50 per cent of Andhra Pradesh's geographical area by 2047. Nagababu will coordinate with government departments and district bodies to implement greening, afforestation and reforestation programmes. Responding to the appointment on social media, Naga babu expressed his "deepest gratitude and sincere thanks" to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and said he was committed to contributing to the vision of a greener Andhra Pradesh.

'Nation First' Message Sparks Laughter in Assembly

Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

A lighthearted exchange among ministers at the start of the Legislative Assembly session on Monday drew laughter from members and highlighted a message of putting national interest above party considerations. Medical and Health Minister and BJP National Secretary Satya Kumar Yadav entered the Assembly wearing a BJP party scarf. Observing this, State Education Minister Nara Lokesh jokingly remarked that Satya Kumar did not need the scarf as everyone knew he belonged to the BJP. Another minister, Atchannaidu, joined the conversation, describing Satya Kumar as a prominent leader at the national level. Lokesh then jokingly asked Satya Kumar to teach TDP members about party discipline. A TDP MLA standing nearby intervened, saying, "Party first." Satya Kumar responded with a smile, "Nation first... Party next... Self last!" His response prompted laughter among the ministers and MLAs present. The brief exchange, which began with a playful reference to the BJP scarf, ended with Satya Kumar conveying the message that national interests should take precedence over party considerations. The unusual interaction provided a lighter moment in the Assembly proceedings while drawing attention to the minister's "Nation First" message.

Dy. CM Orders Probe into Panchayat Raj AE Family Suicide Attempt

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Panchayat Raj Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed concern over the suicide attempt by Panchayat Raj Department Assistant Engineer Nookaraju and his family members near Rajamahendravaram. Pawan Kalyan directed the district administration to intensify search and rescue operations to trace the family members reported missing. He instructed officials to deploy NDRF and SDRF teams if necessary and ensure that every possible effort was made to locate them. The Deputy Chief Minister spoke over the phone with the Superintendents of Police of East Godavari and Kakinada districts and

sought details about the circumstances that led to the incident. He ordered a comprehensive inquiry to establish the facts and identify those responsible.

Pawan Kalyan said strict legal action would be taken against anyone found responsible for the incident. He also enquired about the condition of Nookaraju's grandson, who survived the incident, and directed officials to provide him with necessary medical treatment.

Appealing to the public, Pawan Kalyan said people should not take extreme decisions during moments of emotional distress or mental pressure. He advised those facing threats, harassment or other difficulties to immediately approach the police or concerned authorities for legal assistance.



The Andhra Pradesh Assembly's Business Advisory Committee (BAC), chaired by Speaker Ayyanna Patrudu, decided to hold the Assembly session for four days, up to August 20. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Ministers Payyavula Keshav and Nadendla Manohar, and MLAs Vishnu Kumar Raju and GV Anjaneyulu attended the meeting.

GMR Executive Director Prasanna Meets Minister BC Janardhan Reddy

Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

GMR Group Executive Director C. Prasanna met Andhra Pradesh Minister for Roads and Buildings and Investments & Infrastructure BC Janardhan Reddy at the Secretariat on Monday and presented him with a memento. Prasanna congratulated the Minister on the successful inauguration and commencement of commercial operations at Bhogapuram International Airport and thanked the State government and Janardhan Reddy for their support. The Minister said the airport's

launch was made possible through coordinated efforts by all stakeholders and described it as a significant milestone for North Andhra Pradesh. Janardhan Reddy said the airport would usher in a new chapter in the region's development and transform its economic and social landscape. He expressed hope that it would soon offer world-class travel facilities and a modern passenger experience, while appreciating all departments and organisations involved in making the project operational.



Swaminarayan Gurukul Campus, Canara Bank Quarters Planned in Amaravati



Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) conducted a Grievance Day at its Rayapudi Main Office on Monday, receiving 17 grievances from capital region farmers, agricultural labourers and residents. Additional Commissioners K.

Karthik and A. Bhargav Teja, and Nodal Officer, Grievance Redressal Management (GRM), P. Jayashree, heard the complaints. Officials said the Citizen Grievance Centre receives complaints on working days, while Grievance Day is held every Monday from 10 am to 1 pm. A help desk also resolved NPCI and bank-linkage issues,

enabling lease payments to reach farmers. Separately, APCRDA completed registration of 4,235 acres at Nekallu for the Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul Trust to establish an educational campus offering education from pre-primary to Class XII. Phase-I construction will begin after municipal approvals. Sadhu Shukvallabh Das

thanked the government. APCRDA also executed an Agreement for Sale with Canara Bank for 0.80 acres at Inavolu to develop residential staff quarters. The agreement was signed by Jubin Cheeran Roy, Joint Director, Estates, APCRDA, and Premraj Bhoi, Assistant General Manager, Canara Bank.



Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu flags off the first commercial flight service at the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport in Bhogapuram, marking a major milestone for Andhra Pradesh's aviation sector. The minister also handed over boarding passes to passengers, who praised the airport's modern facilities and impressive infrastructure.

Minister Orders Intensified Search for Missing Fishermen

Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu directed Fisheries Department officials to intensify search and rescue operations for seven fishermen who went missing along with their fishing boat from Odalarevu Fish Landing Centre in Allavaram mandal of Dr B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district. Officials informed the minister that the boat left Odalarevu on August 3 and was expected to return by August 13, but had not reached the shore. It was carrying food supplies for about 15 days and nearly 1,000 litres of diesel. As the fishermen were believed to have ventured towards the Visakhapatnam-Paradip coastal stretch, Atchannaidu directed officials to focus searches along the route and coordinate continuously with the Indian Coast Guard. The missing fishermen include boat owner-cum-driver Kopanathi Ramakrishna Varma, Sangani Tatar Rao, Katadi



Satish, Santarao and Kollati Srinu, besides two others. Atchannaidu said ensuring their safe return was the top priority and asked officials to keep families informed. He assured the families of all possible government support and expressed hope that the fishermen would return safely.

Bhogapuram Airport Marks Lasting Milestone for North Andhra Development

Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan expressed happiness over the commencement of flight services at the Bhogapuram Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, describing it as a significant milestone in Andhra Pradesh's development journey. Responding on the social media platform X, Pawan Kalyan said the successful landing of an IndiGo flight from Hyderabad marked a magnificent new chapter in the State's progress. He said the airport, named after legendary freedom fighter and Manyam Veerudu Alluri Sitarama Raju, represented more than an expansion of transport infrastructure and reflected the decades-long aspirations of the people of North Andhra.

Pawan Kalyan expressed confidence that the airport would attract fresh investments and industrial opportunities to the region while creating greater employment prospects for youth. He said its impact would extend beyond connectivity and contribute significantly to the economic development of North Andhra. The Deputy CM hoped that the Bhogapuram Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport would emerge as one of the finest airports in the country, providing world-class services to passengers. He also wished the airport continued growth and success, describing it as a lasting milestone in the development of North Andhra.

PIN POINT

APSACS Invites Social Media Influencers for HIV Awareness

Amaravati : The Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS) has invited social media influencers to join its campaign to create scientifically accurate awareness about HIV/AIDS among youth. The Project Director of APSACS said the initiative would promote information on HIV prevention, testing and treatment, while dispelling myths and encouraging young people to undergo testing without fear or stigma. Interested influencers have been asked to visit the APSACS office at Tadepalli, Guntur district, on August 20 at 10 am with their details.



Minister Nara Lokesh paying floral tributes to the statue of former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao at Venkata Palem in the presence of ministers, MLAs, MLCs and Amaravati farmers.

Jagan Demands Impartial Probe into Alleged Police Drug Incident



Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy demanded an impartial investigation into an alleged incident in which ganja and liquor bottles were reportedly found in a

vehicle carrying two police Sub-Inspectors in Prakasam district. In a post on X, Jagan questioned public trust in police if personnel tasked with preventing illegal transportation of ganja and liquor were themselves allegedly found with such substances. He referred to the incident at Sankhavarappadu in Addanki mandal and urged an independent probe. Jagan alleged that the vehicle, reportedly driven by an intoxicated person, collided with an auto, seriously injuring passengers. He claimed the two SIs were also allegedly intoxicated and that ganja, liquor and a police uniform were found in the vehicle's boot. He further alleged that a CI threatened people who recorded videos. Jagan also cited allegations of private parties involving liquor and ganja and alleged that local TDP leaders helped the personnel leave. He urged action against anyone found responsible, irrespective of political affiliation.

Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu Hits Back at YSRCP Over DSC

Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu criticised the YSRCP over its allegations on the District Selection Committee (DSC) recruitment process, saying the party had no moral right to question the drive. Responding to former Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana during a Legislative Council discussion, Atchannaidu alleged that the previous YSRCP government failed to fulfil its promise of conducting a mega DSC recruitment drive between 2019 and 2024. He said thousands of unemployed youth spent years preparing for competitive examinations, often borrowing money for coaching, after being assured that a mega DSC would be conducted. However, the notification was not issued, he alleged, demanding an explanation from the previous government. Atchannaidu further alleged that after the coalition government assumed office, the YSRCP attempted to obstruct recruitment by filing around 300 court cases.



He questioned the party's commitment to unemployed youth. The Minister challenged Botsa and YSRCP members to a detailed Council discussion and said the government was ready to present supporting evidence. He said a booklet detailing the previous administration's promises and actions would be provided and warned parties against dragging successful candidates into political controversies.

Jana Sena MLAs Criticise Jagan's Assembly Absence



Amaravati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena legislators P. Nanaji and Patsamatla Dharmaraju criticised former

Chief Minister and Pulivendula MLA Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for allegedly skipping the Assembly for the seventh consecutive time and failing to raise public issues. Speaking at the Assembly media point, Kakinada Rural MLA Nanaji said Jagan had no justification for seeking Opposition status before attending the House. He said Opposition status was determined by the people's mandate and party strength, not granted by the government. Nanaji alleged that the previous YSRCP government conducted no DSC recruitment examination during its five-year tenure, while the coalition government had filled more than 16,000 teacher posts. Unguturu MLA Dharmaraju said Jagan's continued absence reflected a lack of concern for public issues. He said the State was moving from "destruction to development" under the coalition government and urged support for teacher recruitment.

Bharat Seeks Assembly Debate on Priyanka's Death

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Former Rajamahendravaram MP and YSRCP national spokesperson Margani Bharat Ram demanded a special discussion in the Assembly and Legislative Council on the death of medical student Priyanka and sought a fair and impartial investigation. Addressing the media at the YSRCP city office on Monday, Bharat said the handling of the case had raised doubts among the victim's family and the public. He questioned the alleged delay in registering the case and sought action against the Prakash Nagar Circle

Inspector. Bharat demanded that mobile phone signals of the accused be traced from the night of August 3 to establish their movements. He said information indicated their presence around Tilak Road and sought investigation into whether anyone had sheltered them. He also questioned the delay in showing the accused as arrested and sought clarity on officials' roles. Bharat said those responsible, and anyone allegedly protecting them, should face strict punishment. He said the YSRCP would continue its fight for justice for Priyanka and stronger protection for women.

PVN Madhav Congratulates BJP Leaders



Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh BJP State President PVN Madhav congratulated Ram Madhav and Dagubati Purandeswari on their appointment as Vice-Presidents and Vishnuvardhan Reddy as In-charge of Cells in the BJP National Executive. He said their experience would help strengthen the party in Andhra Pradesh and effectively highlight the State's issues at the national level. BJP State Media In-charge Kilari Dileep also conveyed his greetings. Meanwhile, Madhav inspected arrangements at Vizag Convention Hall and sur-

rounding areas for the upcoming Andhra Pradesh BJP Executive Committee meeting. He reviewed venue facilities, parking, logistics and security, stressing coordination to ensure smooth proceedings. National President Nitin Nabin will attend the expanded State Executive meeting as chief guest for the first time. State Organizing General Secretary Madhukar Ji, State General Secretaries Ramesh Naidu, Dayakar and Lakshmi Prasanna, Media In-charge Kilari Dileep, and Jayaprakash, Uppalapati Srinivas Raju, Vinod Varma, Rongali Gopi Srinivas, Parashuram Raju, Surendra Mohan and Paramesh participated.

Tulasi Reddy Slams Jagan's Absence from Assembly



Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Former Rajya Sabha member and Andhra Pradesh Congress Party State Media Chairman Dr. N. Tulasi Reddy on Monday criticised YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the party's 10 other MLAs for not attending Assembly sessions, calling the decision irresponsible and cowardly. Speaking at Andhra Ratna Bhavan, Tulasi Reddy said Jagan's condition that YSRCP should be recognised as the principal Opposition party and that he be made Leader of the Opposition before attending the Assembly was irrational. He said the Assembly has 175 members and the 10 per cent convention requires 18 MLAs for Opposition recognition, while YSRCP currently has 11. He recalled that Congress faced similar situations in the undivided Andhra Pradesh Assembly in 1994 and the Lok Sabha in 2014 and 2019, but continued participating in legislative proceedings and raising

public issues. Tulasi Reddy said contesting elections without attending Assembly proceedings served no purpose and criticised YSRCP MLAs for supporting Jagan's stand. Call for Farm Loan Waiver Tulasi Reddy also raised concerns over farmers' hardships, citing poor crop prices, inadequate insurance, delayed compensation, rising fertiliser costs and difficulties in accessing agricultural inputs. He urged the Central and State governments to intervene and address mounting farm debt. Referring to the government's decision to waive Rs.1.5 lakh in agricultural loans per family under the second phase of Amaravati land pooling, he demanded that the benefit be extended to farmers across Andhra Pradesh. Vijayawada City Congress Vice-President Ansari and Congress leaders Tumparathi Paramesh, Janakiram (Sai) and Chagaleti Venkatesh, among others, attended.

TDP Tirupati In-charge JB Srinivas Warns Bhumana



Tirupati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

TDP Tirupati constituency in-charge JB Srinivas on Monday warned former minister and former TTD chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy to exercise restraint while making statements against Minister Anagani Satya Prasad and Tirupati District Collector Venkateswar. Addressing a press conference, Srinivas accused Karunakar Reddy of making irresponsible remarks against public representatives and officials. He praised Anagani Satya Prasad's political career and defended Collector Venkateswar, citing his services in the tribal region of Paderu. Srinivas alleged corruption

involving Karunakar Reddy and his son Abhinay Reddy and questioned the source of properties allegedly acquired by the family. He also alleged that Vasu Yadav was present near his residence during an alleged attack and released video footage claiming it supported his allegation. He appealed to Karunakar Reddy not to create divisions among communities and warned that continued provocative statements could have political consequences. TDP State Secretary Anna Anitha and leaders Dampuru Bhaskar Yadav, Ragala Ananda Gowd, Karate Chandra, Mannem Srinivasulu, Amudala Tulsiram and Banku Shantamma attended.

Srinivasa Yadav Targeted in Alleged Murder Plot

Guntur, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Police have registered a case following an alleged conspiracy to murder Jana Sena leader Bonaboyina Srinivasa Yadav in Guntur, with investigators reportedly looking into allegations that a YSRCP leader negotiated a contract killing for Rs.1.5 crore. According to the allegations, YSRCP leader Narendra Reddy allegedly approached a rowdy-sheeter and discussed a Rs.1.5-crore contract to eliminate Srinivasa Yadav. The suspects reportedly planned to attack him while he was on his way to a gym in the morning. Police suspect that the gang had already conducted reconnaissance of the target's movements on two occasions as

part of the alleged plan. The motive is reportedly linked to earlier political differences between Srinivasa Yadav and Narendra Reddy. Sources alleged that Srinivasa Yadav had strongly opposed Narendra Reddy's activities in the past. Narendra Reddy was also accused of attempting to attack TDP leader Pemmasani Chandrasekar during polling on election day. Following the alleged murder plot coming to light, police registered a case against Narendra Reddy. He reportedly went absconding after the case was filed, prompting police to launch a search to trace him. Investigators are examining the alleged conspiracy and the involvement of other persons in the case.

Naidu Says No Deviation in Mega DSC Recruitment Process

Continue

colleges, engineering colleges and medical colleges were expanded across the State. Naidu alleged that the government between 2019 and 2024 had not recruited a single teacher, while 11 of the 14 DSC recruitments conducted so far were undertaken under TDP and NDA governments. He said around 10-12 lakh students had moved out of government schools during the previous regime, while more than one lakh had returned following educational improvements and the Thaliki Vandanam scheme. The Chief Minister said the NDA government filled 15,941 teacher posts through Mega DSC within 148 days of assuming office. TET and DSC notifications, reservation norms and sports quota rules were implemented strictly, he said. The examination covered 13 subjects and was conducted through Computer-Based Testing at 154 centres. A pool of 42,000 questions was prepared, with selections based entirely on merit-cum-roster. Zonal and State-level committees and an appellate authority were constituted to address grievances. Naidu alleged that hundreds of cases were filed to obstruct recruitment despite official clarifications. He also criticised protests over the process and said teachers had protested in Kurnool and Vijayawada against what they described as a false campaign targeting their merit. He said the government was accountable to the people and challenged YSRCP leaders to raise their concerns in the Assembly instead of staying away from legislative proceedings.

AP Students Shine in NPTEL Quantum Computing Course

Continue

Around 19,000 AP students appeared for the examination and 2,839 passed, compared with 11,000 candidates and 2,700 passes from other states. AP students won four of the eight Gold medals and 14 of 30 Silver medals. Gold medallists included Ch. Rama Sowjanya of Visakhapatnam, T. Sowmya Sri of Vijayawada, Anil Srinivas of West Godavari district and Yashwanth of Rajamahendravaram, all B.Tech students of RGUKT Nuzvid. Naidu had earlier set a target of training one lakh quantum experts in the State. The programme aims to improve employment opportunities in companies including IBM, Microsoft, Intel, TCS, Infosys and Google. Six medallists have already secured jobs in quantum computing firms, including three at a company in Medha Towers.

Purandeswari Gets Key BJP National Role

Continue

president of the Andhra Pradesh BJP unit and has represented the State in Parliament. As the elected representative of the Rajahmundry Lok Sabha constituency, she has focus ed on development issues concerning the Godavari region and efforts to secure Central support for local projects. BJP leaders expressed confidence that her experience would strengthen the party in Andhra Pradesh and across southern India. Following the announcement, party workers in Rajahmundry, Kakinada and Amalapuram celebrated by distributing sweets and bursting firecrackers.

Over 200 Shahzad Bhatti Network Operatives Arrested Ahead of Independence Day

Continue

to Bhatti. In April 2026, the agency had filed a chargesheet naming him as an absconding accused in one of the cases. According to government records, the Shahzad Bhatti Network had allegedly been involved in bomb blasts, assassinations and reconnaissance of police, defence and religious installations. The latest operations were aimed at disrupting its alleged terror infrastructure and preventing attacks during the Independence Day period.

AP Reshapes Urban Development Map with New UDAs

Continue

was essentially one of administrative rationalisation and jurisdictional clarity. He said aligning UDA boundaries with reorganised districts would facilitate smoother coordination among UDAs, District Collectors, Urban Local Bodies and other departments while reducing ambiguity over territorial responsibility. The government said the exercise was not merely a change in boundaries but an effort to simplify the institutional framework of urban administration. Detailed schedules specifying the Urban Local Bodies, Mandals and villages included or excluded from each UDA will form part of the respective notifications under the Andhra Pradesh Metropolitan Region and Urban Development Authorities Act, 2016.

"Fix the Date and Time. I Am Ready to Debate" - Lokesh Challenges Jagan on Mega DSC

Continue

redressal were also incorporated. Lokesh said 33,840 grievances were received, but only 36 reached the final appellate authority. Attack on YSRCP Record Lokesh alleged that the YSRCP government conducted no DSC or teacher recruitment drives between 2019 and 2024, while around 12 lakh students shifted from government to private schools. He said the coalition government had expanded the One Class-One Teacher system to around 10,000 schools and would continue recruiting teachers annually. Rejecting allegations of a question paper leak, Lokesh said outsourced employees had no role in question preparation and termed the claims baseless. Defending sports quota selections, he said 372 candidates - 46 OC, 185 BC, 112 SC and 29 ST - were selected according to prescribed Central guidelines. He alleged that 141 cases were filed by YSRCP leaders and others during the 148-day recruitment process, but the government completed appointments and deployed the selected teachers.

Three More DSC Recruitments

Lokesh announced that another notification for around 3,000 teacher posts would be issued this year and said the coalition government would conduct DSC recruitment annually. Efforts were also underway to fill 10,060 posts through the Mega Job Calendar. He said teachers were being sent to Singapore and Finland for training and expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh could develop the country's best education system. Reiterating his challenge to Jagan, Lokesh said, "Come to the House. Fix the date and time. I am ready for the debate."

Junior Doctors' Strike Puts Emergency Care Under Strain as Talks Remain Elusive

Continue

around Rs.87.91 crore annually. Government teaching hospitals continue to handle substantial workloads. On August 11, they recorded 32,575 OP cases, 2,398 IP cases and 2,647 surgeries. On August 12, the figures were 33,035 OP cases, 2,085 IP cases and 2,589 surgeries, while August 13 saw 34,442 OP cases, 1,159 IP cases, 2,122 surgeries and 147 deliveries. With both sides maintaining their positions, reopening negotiations has become urgent. For patients waiting outside casualty wards, emergency care cannot wait for a prolonged dispute. A fresh dialogue remains the immediate route to prevent further disruption.

Youth Hold Key to Building Viksit Bharat, Says Venkaiah Naidu

Continue

retirement from serving the nation. He urged youth to remain vigilant against foreign interference in youth-led movements, particularly through social media, and called for physical, mental and spiritual strength. Citing Swami Vivekananda, he encouraged yoga and nutritious traditional foods such as millets. He also urged young people to understand India's democratic system and enter public life with constructive solutions while remaining committed to national development and social harmony.

Third Phase ITI Admissions Open in NTR District

Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

The third phase of admissions for the 2026-27/28 academic year has commenced at government and private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across NTR district, Vijayawada Government ITI Principal and District Convener M. Kanaka Rao said. In a statement on Monday, Kanaka Rao advised eligible and interested candidates to complete their online registration by 4 p.m. on August 19 and get their certificates verified by 5 p.m. the same day. Admission counselling for registered candidates will be conducted at the Vijayawada Government ITI on August 20. Candidates have been instructed to attend the counselling in person according to their merit number and carry all original certificates for verification and admission.

The Principal said candidates belonging to SC, ST and other categories securing admission in government ITIs would have to pay a Rs.60 caution deposit. Students joining private ITIs will be required to pay the prescribed fee as per government regulations. Applicants have been advised to check their merit number and obtain complete information regarding the admission process from the help desk at Vijayawada Government ITI. Candidates seeking clarification can also contact the institute through 0866-2475575, 94906 39639 or 77804 29468. The district authorities urged eligible candidates who have not yet secured admission to complete registration and certificate verification within the stipulated deadline to participate in the third-phase counselling.

Vijayawada Street Vendors Seek Grievance Redressal Committee

Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

CITU leaders have urged the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) to immediately establish a statutory Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) for street vendors and introduce a transparent system to address their complaints. CITU representatives submitted a memorandum to VMC Commissioner and IAS officer C.H. Dhyana Chandra, who directed officials to initiate steps towards setting up the committee. CITU city general secretary K. Durga Rao and city secretary M. Someswara Rao said thousands of street vendors, hawkers and pushcart traders depended

on vending for their livelihoods. They pointed out that the Street Vendors Act, 2014 provides legal protection and a grievance mechanism, including a GRC under Section 20. The leaders highlighted complaints over delays in issuing identity cards and vending certificates, omissions from surveys, disputes over vending zones, evictions, seizure of carts and goods, fines and Town Vending Committee decisions. They sought vendor representation on the GRC, publication of its procedures, a complaint tracking system, regular meetings and timely disposal of grievances. Hawkers Union leaders Bhulokam, Srinu and Lakshmi also participated.

DYFI Seeks Probe Into Police Personnel Caught With Ganja



Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

The Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) State Committee has demanded a thorough investigation and strict action against police personnel allegedly caught with ganja in Prakasam district. Speaking at a meeting at Balotsav Bhavan in Vijayawada on Monday, DYFI State president Y. Ramu and secretary G. Ramanna expressed concern over the reported incident at Shankaravaram village in Addanki mandal. They urged Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Home Minister Vangala Pudi Anitha to respond to the matter.

The DYFI leaders questioned the involvement of police personnel in an alleged ganja-related incident, stressing that law-enforcement agencies should work to prevent drug trafficking. They said such allegations could affect public confidence in the police. They also sought an impartial inquiry into an alleged accident in which four people reportedly suffered serious injuries. The leaders demanded an investigation into the source of the alleged ganja and liquor bottle and criticised attempts to intimidate ordinary citizens through video recordings. DYFI leaders Ramana, Raju, Shiva, Kiran, Babu and Abdullah, among others, participated.

Job Mela at Gannavaram on August 19: Collector M. Naveen

Gannavaram, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

A job mela will be organised at the Government Polytechnic College in Gannavaram on August 19 to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth, NTR District In-charge Collector M. Naveen, IAS, said. The job mela is being conducted by the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and will begin at 9 a.m. More than 10 leading companies, including UNO Minda, Tata Electronics, Axis Bank, Kuraku Financial Services, MedPlus Health Services, Adecco India, Santosh (NEX) Automotors, Mohan Spintex India, Schneider Electric and Team Red Management Solutions, are expected to participate. District Skill Development Officer Dr. P. Naresh Kumar said interviews

would be conducted for more than 650 job vacancies across various sectors. Candidates who have completed Class 10, Intermediate, ITI, Diploma, Degree or B.Tech are eligible. Applicants should be aged between 18 and 35 years. Selected candidates will be offered employment with competitive salaries and other benefits. Eligible candidates have been advised to register online through the AP Naipunya portal before attending the job mela. They should carry their resume or biodata, Aadhaar card, mobile number linked to Aadhaar, PAN card and photocopies of educational certificates. Officials urged unemployed youth to make use of the opportunity. For further details, candidates may contact 9676708041, 9494005725 or 8885159008.

MP Kesineni Chinni Assures Support for Journalists



Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) assured

journalists that he would take up their issues with the

Central and State governments and work towards find-

ing solutions. He was speaking at a seminar organised at the Vijayawada Press Club to mark the 70th anniversary of the Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ). MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao and representatives of APUWJ and the Indian Union of Journalists (IUJ) also attended the programme. The event began with the unfurling of the APUWJ flag, followed by the release of the organisation's poster and souvenir by MP Kesineni Chinni and MLA Bonda Uma. Journalists later submitted a memorandum highlighting various issues faced by the media fraternity.

Kesineni Chinni said Vijayawada had a significant place in the history of Telugu journalism, with Andhra Patrika having its roots in the city. He noted that journalism had undergone major changes with the rise of electronic, digital and social media. He expressed concern that the race to publish news quickly was sometimes leading to the spread of unverified information. He urged journalists to verify facts and maintain professional standards. The MP said the coalition government respected the media and assured journalists of his continued support in addressing their concerns.

Collector M. Naveen Directs Officials to Ensure Satisfactory Resolution of Grievances

Machilipatnam, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District In-charge Collector M. Naveen, IAS, directed officials to ensure that public grievances received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) are resolved within the stipulated timeframe and provide satisfactory solutions to applicants. Naveen received petitions from people

across the district during the "PGRS Mee Kosam" programme at the Collectorate on Monday. District Revenue Officer K. Sridhar Reddy, KRRC Deputy Collector P. Neelakanteswara Reddy and Disha Police Station CI V. Venkateswara Rao participated. The Collector said the number of pending petitions was declining but stressed the need for focused action in departments including Revenue,

Panchayat Raj, Municipal Administration, Survey and Settlements, Water Works, Civil Supplies, Housing, Agriculture and Medical and Health. With the Collectors' Conference scheduled for the last week of August, he ordered officials to expedite pending cases and ensure no petition crosses the Service Level Agreement (SLA) deadline. Daily reviews of overdue petitions were



also ordered. Naveen directed officials to communicate directly with petitioners instead of closing cases through

mere endorsements and upload inquiry reports, action-taken reports and field-visit photographs as evidence of resolution.

NTR Police Commissionerate Receives 91 Public Grievances

Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

The NTR District Police Commissionerate received 91 complaints during the "Public Grievance Redressal Forum" held at the Police Commissioner's Office in Vijayawada on Monday. The programme was conducted every Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the objective of providing prompt solutions to public grievances. On the directions of NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Raja Sekhara Babu, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police A.B.T.S. Udayarani, IPS, conducted the programme on Monday. DCP Udayarani personally interacted with the complainants, listened to their concerns and obtained details regarding their grievances. Officials concerned were



instructed to take appropriate action for resolving the issues in accordance with the law. Of the 91 complaints received, the highest number-34-related to land and property disputes and financial transactions. Eight complaints concerned marital and family disputes, while nine were related to various forms of cheating and fraud. Three complaints involved crimes against women, seven concerned assault and clashes,

and two were related to thefts. Another 28 complaints covered various other issues. Police officials said the grievance redressal programme was being conducted regularly to provide citizens with a direct platform to approach senior officers with their problems. Other police officers and staff participated in the programme and assisted in taking forward the complaints for necessary action and resolution.

VMC Commissioner Orders Swift Resolution of Public Complaints

Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner C.H. Dhyana Chandra directed officials to treat every public complaint with utmost responsibility and ensure permanent solutions after conducting thorough field-level inspections. Addressing the public grievance redressal programme at the VMC Command Control Room on Monday, the Commissioner received petitions from citizens and issued instructions to the concerned officials. He also reviewed grievance redressal programmes conducted at the headquarters and zonal offices through video conference. Dhyana Chandra instructed officials to resolve public complaints within the stipulated timeframe without keeping issues pending. He stressed that officers should identify the root cause of each problem and take corrective measures rather than resorting to temporary solutions. He also directed officials to closely monitor complaints registered through the Puramitra app and ensure timely action. Complaints should not be unnecessarily transferred between departments, he said, stressing the need for coordination among departments



wherever required. A total of 14 complaints were received during Monday's grievance programme. These included four complaints related to illegal constructions and road encroachments under the Town Planning Department, five concerning the Engineering Department, and one each relating to Public Health, Revenue, Estate, Mapping and street vendors. The Commissioner said public complaints should be viewed as valuable inputs for improving civic administration. He called for transparency, accountability and efficient functioning to strengthen public confidence and ensure better civic services.

Collector Reviews Public Grievances, Honours Skating Champions

Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha directed officials to ensure every public grievance receives a quality and satisfactory resolution within the stipulated time. He stressed thorough examination of petitions and timely communication of action taken to applicants. At the district-level Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) meeting held at the

Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall on Monday, officials received 176 petitions. Revenue issues topped the list with 52 complaints, followed by Municipal Administration and Urban Development with 32, Police with 24 and Panchayat Raj with 17. The Collector asked officials to coordinate with field-level staff and improve grievance resolution and public satisfaction. Meanwhile, Dr. Lakshminisha felicitated young Vijayawada skaters Nadiktla

Blesson Anand and Nadiktla Ghanatha Anand for their achievements in zonal and regional competitions. Blesson won two gold and one silver medal in the Under-11 boys category, while Ghanatha secured three gold and one silver in the Under-14 girls category. Ghanatha also qualified for the State-level competitions in October. The Collector praised their discipline and dedication and encouraged them to aim for higher achievements.



VMC Commissioner Congratulates Roller Skating Achiever

Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner C.H. Dhyana Chandra congratulated young roller skater Nadiktla Ghanatha Anand for excelling at zonal and regional-level competitions and qualifying for the national-level championships. Ghanatha Anand, competing in the Under-14 girls category, won gold medals in the Road Race and Rink-2 Race at the zonal-level competitions held in Ravulapalem. At the regional-level events, she secured a silver medal in the Road Race and a gold medal in the Rink category, earning selection for the national-

level competitions. Commissioner Dhyana Chandra met Ghanatha Anand at his chamber on Monday and appreciated her achievements at a young age. He said participation in sports helps students develop discipline, confidence and determination. He wished Ghanatha success at the national-level competitions and urged her to bring recognition to Vijayawada and the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation through her performance. The Commissioner also appreciated Nadiktla Blesson Anand, who competed in the Under-11 boys category.



Blesson won gold medals in the Rink-1 and Road Race events at the zonal level and secured a silver medal in the Road Race at the regional level. Dhyana Chandra congratulated the students, along with their headmasters, teachers, coaches and parents, for their contribution to the young athletes' achievements.

KBN College Students Honoured for Independence Day Parade Achievements

Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Students of KBN College have been felicitated for winning prizes in various activities held as part of the Independence Day celebrations organised by the district administration. Speaking at a meeting held at the college on Monday, Principal Dr. G. Krishnaveni said 14 students represented the college through the Indian Red Cross Society and participated in various service activities during the Independence Day programme. Their team secured the first prize. She added that five students participated in the My Bharat programme and won the third prize, bringing recognition to the institution. Hindu High Schools Committee Administrative Officer Dr. V. Narayana Rao



said young people should give equal importance to education and community service. He noted that serving society provides a sense of satisfaction beyond words. College Secretary Dr. T. Srinivas congratulated the award-winning students. Vice-Principals Dr. M. Venkateswara Rao and P.L. Ramesh, along with NSS Programme Officers N. Sambasiva Rao, P. Gauthami Devi, D. Pavan Kumar and M. Shanti Babu, were also felicitated for their efforts.

Eluru Collector Warns Officials Over Neglect of Public Grievances

Eluru, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Eluru District Collector K. Vetrivelvi warned that departmental action would be taken against officials who neglected petitions received through the "Mee Kosam" Public Grievance Redressal System. The Collector presided over the grievance redressal programme held at the Godavari Conference Hall in the Collectorate on Monday. Joint Collector Dr. M.J. Abhishek Gowda, Assistant Collector C.H. Sravan Kumar

Reddy and other officials received petitions from the public. Vetrivelvi directed officials to personally visit the field, interact with complainants in a friendly manner, thoroughly examine their problems and resolve them within the stipulated time. She made it clear that telling applicants that an issue was "not within my jurisdiction" would not be acceptable. Several petitions were received during the programme. Amrutala Goyyamma of Kamavarapukota, a person with a disability, sought assistance in

securing employment and a house. Vari kuthi Marthamma of Denduluru requested that 50 cents of land be recorded online in her name. Regalla Pullaiah of T. Narasapuram sought transfer of property allotted to him back into his name, alleging that his family was not supporting him. Jampana Venkatanarayana of Eluru complained that while his passport showed one acre, only five cents was reflected in the online records. Officials from various departments, Tahsildars and surveyors participated in the programme.



APSRTC Officials Assure Action on Employees' Issues

Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Zonal Chairman and Jana Sena Eluru in-charge Reddy Appalanaidu, along with Nellore Zonal Chairman Sannapureddy Suresh Reddy, met senior officials of the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) at its headquarters in Vijayawada on Monday and discussed various issues concerning the organisation and its employees. During the meeting, they met APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao and Vice-Chairman and Managing Director N.

Balasubrahmanyam and submitted representations highlighting several problems within their respective zones. Appalanaidu was accompanied by APSRTC employees' union leaders Yarlagadda Seetharamaiah, Vemula Krishna Rao and Ankem Amarnath, among others. They explained the difficulties being faced by employees and sought appropriate measures for their resolution. The APSRTC Chairman and Managing Director heard the representatives and assured them that the issues raised during the meeting would be examined and necessary steps



would be taken to resolve them at the earliest. The representatives expressed hope that the assurances would lead to concrete action and provide relief to APSRTC employees.

Farmers Seek Relief for Drought Losses, Rs.4,400 Crore Insurance Dues

Eluru, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Farmer organisations staged a protest outside the Eluru Collectorate on Monday, demanding immediate relief for farmers affected by deficient rainfall and the release of pending crop insurance payments. The protest was organised jointly by the

Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham and Koulou Rythu Sangham as part of the "Maarpu Raavali - Maarpu Koraali" campaign. Rythu Sangham district secretary Rayankula Lakshmana Rao and CPI district assistant secretary Bandi Venkateswara Rao led the agitation, while Koulou Rythu Sangham district president Gannu

Venkata Rao presided. The organisations submitted a memorandum containing 25 demands to the District Collector. Key demands included legalising minimum support prices for all crops based on the recommendations of the M.S. Swaminathan Commission and waiving farm loans up to Rs.2 lakh.

They also sought increased crop loans in line with rising cultivation costs and collateral-free loans up to Rs.2 lakh for tenant farmers as per RBI guidelines. The farmers demanded immediate release of Rs.4,400 crore in pending crop insurance dues for the past three years and restoration of free crop insurance. They also



sought Rs.1,200 crore in pending input subsidies and urged the government to provide identity cards and welfare benefits to tenant farmers. AI TUC district general secretary Reddy Srinivas Dange and farmer leaders K. Ananda Rao, Kuchipudi Nageswara Rao and Pantangani Tirupathi Rao, among others, participated.

BJP Leaders Hail MP Daggubati Purandeswari's Elevation

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

BJP leaders from the Rajanagaram Assembly constituency welcomed the appointment of Rajamahendravaram MP and former Union Minister Daggubati Purandeswari as the party's national vice-president, expressing confidence that her leadership would further strengthen the BJP in Andhra Pradesh. Former Rajanagaram BJP Assembly constituency convener Neerukonda Veeranna Chowdary congratulated Purandeswari on receiving the prestigious national-level responsibility. He said the appointment had brought renewed enthusiasm among BJP leaders and cadres across the Godavari districts and the state. Chowdary praised Purandeswari's political experience, commitment and leadership skills, describing the elevation as recognition of her dedicated service to the party. He expressed confidence that her experience would help expand the

BJP's organisational network and strengthen its presence at the grassroots level. He said Purandeswari had consistently worked to take Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, welfare programmes and the BJP's ideology to the people. Her role would be crucial in further advancing the party's growth in Andhra Pradesh, he added. BJP leaders and workers expressed confidence that under Purandeswari's leadership, the party would gain greater strength across Andhra Pradesh and achieve further progress in the coming days.



Dr Murali Krishna Advises Engineering Students to Focus on Skills

Chirala, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

A student induction programme for first-year B.Tech students was organised at St. Ann's College of Engineering and Technology in Chirala on Monday. Former JNTU-K Vice-Chancellor Dr K.V.S.G. Murali Krishna attended the programme as the chief guest and interacted with the newly admitted students. Addressing the gathering, Dr Murali Krishna said St. Ann's was among the reputed engineering colleges affiliated with JNTU-K. He described engineering as a field driven by creativity and innovation and advised students to continuously acquire new knowledge, develop technical skills and choose good friends who would support their academic and personal growth. College secretary Vanama Ramakrishna Rao and correspondent Srimanthula Lakshmana Rao said the management would work to uphold the trust placed in



the institution by parents and strive to produce responsible and capable citizens for the country. Principal K. Jagadeesh Babu said around 250 faculty members were working at the college, including more than 50 PhD-qualified teachers. A dual-degree facility was being offered to students from non-computer science branches to improve their opportunities in the IT sector, he added. Directors, department heads, faculty members, students and parents attended the programme.

Ram's Name Brings Hope to Young Patient



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

For 18-year-old Sashi Bhavya of Duppalapudi village in Anaparthi mandal, the name of Telugu film actor Ram Pothineni continues to bring a spark of happiness despite a rare genetic disorder that has left her bedridden. Bhavya, daughter of Saladi Srinu and Sri Durga, was pursuing her Intermediate studies and had been a bright student until she began suffering from seizures in 2022. Her condition gradually worsened, with frequent seizures and neurological complications leaving her dependent on her parents. After consultations at several hospitals, doctors at AIIMS Mangalagiri/Guntur diagnosed her with Lafora myoclonic epilepsy, a rare and progressive genetic disorder. Unable to afford treatment at specialised hospitals, her parents admitted her to the Government General

Hospital (GGH) in Rajamahendravaram. The family spends around Rs.9,000 a month on medicines and other medical expenses, with a donor currently helping them meet the costs, her father said. Bhavya has been a fan of actor Ram Pothineni and grew up watching his films and videos. Her mother, Sri Durga, uses his name, photographs and videos to comfort her, encouraging her to eat and take medicines. Doctors have reportedly suggested consultations at specialised hospitals in Mumbai or Bengaluru, hoping that further treatment could provide some relief. Members of Ram Pothineni's fan association visited Bhavya at the hospital on Sunday after her condition gained attention on social media. Representatives Suresh Bonthu, Akhila, Shanku and Rohith assured the family of their support and said they would try to bring her situation to the actor's attention.

CITU Demands Jobs for 100 SPDSCL Bill Collectors

Tirupati, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

CITU State vice-president Kandaa rapu Murali has demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government withdraw orders to discontinue the services of 100 bill collectors working under the Southern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh Limited (APSPDCL) from September 1.

Murali launched a 48-hour hunger strike outside the APSPDCL corporate office on Monday, with bill collectors and their family members from nine districts participating. He said many employees had served the power utility for more than three decades and should not be removed in the name of digitisation. He urged the government to provide alternative employment suited to their qualifications and protect the livelihoods of hundreds of dependent family members. He alleged that the workers had served for years on low wages and without adequate leave. United Electricity Employees



Union State president D. Suribabu and Contract Workers Union State general secretary Bojja Suman extended support to the agitation. CITU Tirupati district president S. Jayachandra demanded protection and regularisation of workers associated with the power utility. The participation of women and children of bill collectors added an emotional dimension to the protest, with families appealing to the government to safeguard their livelihoods. AP Bill Collectors Union State president P. Venkataramana and representatives from several districts participated in the protest.

SFI Seeks Rs.50 Lakh Ex-gratia for Student Killed in School Wall Collapse



Vijayawada, Sept 17 | TPN Bureau

The Students' Federation of India (SFI) has demanded immediate compensation of Rs.50 lakh for the family of a Class 10 student who died after a wall collapsed at the ZPHS Government School in Salur. In a statement, SFI Andhra Pradesh State president P. Rammohan Rao and State secretary Prasanna Kumar described the incident as tragic and alleged that it exposed the government's failure to provide basic safety and infrastructure in government and tribal welfare residential schools. The SFI leaders demanded an immediate comprehensive inspection of school buildings, compound walls, toilets, drinking water facilities and electrical infra-

structure across the State. They said buildings and walls found to be unsafe should be demolished and replaced with new structures without delay. They also demanded that the government provide a Rs.50 lakh ex-gratia to the deceased student's family and offer a government job to one member of the family. The leaders warned that negligence over student safety could have serious consequences and urged the authorities to take immediate corrective measures. SFI said it would launch statewide protests if the government failed to address concerns relating to student safety, infrastructure and quality education. The organisation called for urgent action to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Police Grievance Forum Receives 65 Complaints

Eluru, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Eluru District Additional Superintendent of Police (Administration) Y. Prasada Rao said the district police were committed to resolving public grievances quickly, transparently and fairly. He said the grievance redressal process was being carried out under the directions of District Superintendent of Police K. Pratap Shiva Kishore. A Public Grievance Redressal Forum was held at the District Police Headquarters conference hall on Monday, with people from different parts of the district attending the programme. The Additional SP personally interacted with the complainants and received their petitions. A total of 65 complaints were received, mainly relating to land disputes, family disputes and financial frauds. The entire grievance process was conducted through a paperless and online system. Officials

were directed to coordinate with concerned officers through video conferencing and initiate appropriate action. The Additional SP instructed authorities to conduct impartial inquiries into every complaint, ensure speedy justice to victims and submit action-taken reports within the prescribed time. People from distant areas can submit complaints at their respective sub-divisional or circle police offices. Complaints can also be registered online through the Mee Kosam portal, while the status can be tracked through the 1100 toll-free number. The Eluru Sathya Sai Seva Samithi members provided food to the people who attended the grievance programme.



Collector Himanshu Shukla Honours Promise, Supports Woman Entrepreneur

Nellore, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

Nellore District Collector Himanshu Shukla fulfilled a promise made during the "Palle Veekshana" programme by providing Rs.80,000 financial assistance to woman entrepreneur Yeddula Kalyani of Jangalakandriga village in Muthukur mandal. At the public grievance redressal programme held at the Tikkana premises of the Nellore Collectorate on Monday, the Collector handed over the assistance to Kalyani through a cheque. During his visit to the village on June 19, he had inspected her compost manure unit and appreciated her efforts to produce quality organic manure by processing cattle dung and adding neem cake.

Kalyani and her husband had requested financial assistance to purchase a machine for preparing neem powder and expanding their business. Responding positively, the Collector had assured them of Rs.80,000 support from his own funds and fulfilled the commitment on Monday. The initiative was described as an example of encouraging rural women entrepreneurs and supporting self-employment opportunities. In another development, R. Subhashini of Aditya Nagar, Nellore, donated Rs.20 lakh to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. She said the contribution



was made in memory of her father, C. Sundar, a retired Army doctor, to support serving armed forces personnel, ex-servicemen and their families. Collector Himanshu Shukla appreciated Subhashini for her generous contribution.

BKMSU to Stage Protests at Tahsildar Offices on August 21

Eluru, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Labourers' Union (BKMSU) has announced protests at all mandal Tahsildar offices in Eluru district on August 21, demanding social justice, land rights and dignity for rural poor and agricultural labourers. BKMSU Eluru district president Kancharla Guravaiah and secretary Bandi Venkateswara Rao said the agitation was being organised as part of the State committee's call under the slogan "Change Should Come - We Should Bring Change." They urged agricultural labourers and poor people across the mandals to participate in large numbers. The leaders demanded distribu-

tion of cultivable land to landless poor and issuance of title deeds to those cultivating land for several decades. They also sought pattas for podu lands and individual ownership documents for beneficiaries who were allotted land through VSS. Among other demands, they sought three cents of house-site land for every homeless poor family and Rs.5 lakh financial assistance for house construction. The organisation also demanded continuation of the MGNREGA Act, 2005, in its existing form and called for the withdrawal of the Centre's Viksit Bharat-G RAM G scheme. The BKMSU leaders appealed to people to participate in the August 21 protests in large numbers and make the agitation a success.

Editorial

22-A: The Ghost That Continues to Haunt Landowners

22-A is nothing less than a ghost. Yes, under the name of 22-A, countless acres of valuable land have changed hands, and there seems to be no proper account of how much land has been affected. This is not a new story. It has been continuing for years in both Telugu States. With the introduction of online land-record systems, the situation should have improved. Instead, manipulation has allegedly become easier and more sophisticated. For those involved in illegal activities, changing land records online has become another convenient route. When politicians and officials join hands, it becomes possible to manipulate records involving acres of land.

This is what has happened in the past, and unfortunately, the same pattern continues even today. Once somebody sets their eyes on a particular piece of land, the first step can be to bring it under the 22-A prohibited list. The genuine owner is then forced to run from one office to another to prove ownership and get the restriction removed. Even after years of struggle, there may be no guarantee of relief. In the meantime, the land can allegedly be transferred or manipulated in favour of another person.

A particularly disturbing practice is the partial inclusion of a survey number under 22-A while leaving the required portion outside the restriction. Such manipulation can create opportunities for vested interests to take away precisely the land they want.

How many ordinary families have lost agricultural lands that their ancestors protected for generations, particularly when those lands suddenly gained value because of development? Whenever development begins in an area, concerns over land grabbing and manipulation of land records often emerge.

Governments may change and Chief Ministers may come and go, but the problem remains. This requires a sustained, mission-mode effort rather than occasional announcements.

People must also become more aware of their land records and legal rights. NGOs should come forward to provide legal assistance to affected landowners, while governments must encourage and facilitate such efforts. Only through continuous monitoring, transparency and collective action can the ghost of 22-A finally be confronted.

Editor

Preparations Begin for the Local Election Battle

From Electoral Rolls to Reservations... Election Process Gathers Pace



The process for local body elections in Andhra Pradesh has begun to move forward. Although the final election schedule is yet to be announced, the series of steps being taken by the State Election Commission indicates that the local elections are drawing closer. Preparations have gathered momentum particularly in the areas of electoral rolls, identification of polling stations, reservations and training of election personnel. The first step is the preparation of electoral rolls. The State Election Commission is making arrangements to prepare photo electoral rolls for urban local bodies and publish them on September 3. The exercise covers electoral rolls relating to 17 municipal corporations, 24 nagara panchayats and 82 municipalities in the state. The Municipal Administration Department has also put the number of urban

local bodies in the state at 123. While this may appear to be a routine administrative exercise, electoral rolls are the foundation of the credibility of any election. Who should be included? Whose name should be deleted? What about voters who have changed their addresses? Have the names of newly eligible voters been added? Have the names of deceased or migrated voters been removed? Electoral rolls must be prepared without leaving room for errors on these issues. After the urban local bodies, the election process for gram panchayats is also expected to move forward. As part of this process, the publication of polling-station lists for panchayats between August 21 and 31 is also being taken up. This indicates that the election machinery is not limiting its preparations to electoral rolls alone but is also focusing on the basic arrangements

required for conducting the polls. Reservations: Another Crucial Milestone Reservations are another extremely important component of the local election process. Particularly with regard to BC reservations, the dedicated commission constituted by the government has completed its process. The government now has to take a decision based on its report. Only after the reservation process is completed will the political picture of the local elections become clearer. Which gram panchayat sarpanch seat will be reserved for which category? Which municipal wards will be reserved for women, BCs, SCs or STs? Which divisions in municipal corporations will be reserved? Political parties will be able to formulate their strategies clearly only after these issues are settled. Therefore, the announcement of reservations is

likely to be a crucial turning point in the local election process. How quickly this issue is resolved will have a direct bearing on how rapidly the remaining election preparations move forward. Can the Election Machinery Be Ready in 30-35 Days?

Another major challenge before the Election Commission is personnel, equipment and training. Apart from training election staff, arrangements have to be completed for polling stations, deployment of personnel, ballot boxes and other election material. Steps being taken to procure additional ballot boxes from other states, keeping the requirements of the local elections in mind, are also an indication of the advance preparations being made for conducting the polls. Local body elections present challenges that are different from those of Assembly or Lok Sabha elections. Even though elections are held across the same state, every village, ward and municipality has its own local issues, social equations and political objectives. Consequently, conducting local elections represents a substantial organisational exercise for the election machinery. Elections Are Not Merely a Battle for Power

Local body elections cannot be viewed simply as a contest between political parties. From gram panchayats to municipal corporations, local bodies

directly influence people's everyday lives. Drinking water, sanitation, roads, drainage, street lighting, waste management, local taxation, urban planning and rural infrastructure are all closely linked to the functioning of local bodies. Therefore, the quality of the representatives elected to these institutions is equally important. This is also where the responsibility of political parties begins. Instead of selecting candidates solely on the basis of party symbols, parties need to give opportunities to people who understand local issues and remain accessible to the public. Local bodies should not be treated as political rehabilitation centres but as the first level of public administration. Candidates, therefore, need to be selected with public needs in mind rather than merely political requirements.

Voters Have an Equal Responsibility With the publication of electoral rolls, the responsibility does not rest solely with the Election Commission. It also begins with the voters. Every voter must verify whether their name appears on the electoral roll and get any errors corrected. Unlike in general elections, voters in local elections should give greater importance to a candidate's ability,

integrity and understanding of local issues rather than money, liquor, caste or personal connections. The reason is simple: a decision taken by an elected local representative can directly affect the road outside our homes, the drainage system in our neighbourhood or the drinking-water problem in our village. Therefore, as signs of the approaching local elections become increasingly visible, the real test is not only before the Election Commission but also before political parties, candidates and, most importantly, voters.

The electoral rolls are being prepared. A decision on reservations is expected. Election personnel are getting ready. Ballot boxes are being arranged. What remains now is the real test of democracy. But there is an important question: How far will the State Election Commission's decision to conduct the elections in October succeed? Will the elections be conducted on the basis of the electoral rolls to be finalised this month, or will the process be completed using the rolls finalised in 2025?

This is an issue that requires careful consideration. Once there is clarity on this matter, the next and perhaps more important question will be: What kind of leadership will the people choose?



Chennu Peddiraju

Senior Journalist

Gulzar: Where Silence Turns into Poetry



Writing about Gulzar is a strange and deeply pleasurable challenge. The more familiar his life and literature seem to us, the newer and more elusive they appear. His poems and songs have entered our collective memory. They carry the joy of falling rain. They speak in the language of love. They fall silent with separation. They take us back to our childhood. They give a voice to loneliness. Through cinema, radio, television and books, almost every medium, Gulzar's words and songs have become part of the lived experience of generations of Indians.

Gulzar's greatness does not lie merely in bringing poetry into cinema. His uniqueness lies in giving simple poetry the depth, introspection and symbolism it needs. Through his writing, he has taught us to look at the ordinary world around us with a renewed sense of wonder. In his poetry, a railway station becomes an emotional landscape, a window becomes a doorway into memory, rain turns into a conversation, the silence left behind by someone who has long gone becomes a poem.

Gulzar's poetry begins with ordinary things. Perhaps the most captivating quality of his creative work is his imagery.

Usually, a poet puts a feeling into words. Gulzar, however, gives that feeling a visual form. That is why his poems and songs are not merely heard, they are seen.

And when we read Gulzar, one word keeps returning to us a memory. The person living in the present turns back and looks at the past. A small incident from long ago alters the texture of his present life. An old object. An old song. An old street. An old letter. An old love. None of them remains confined to the past.

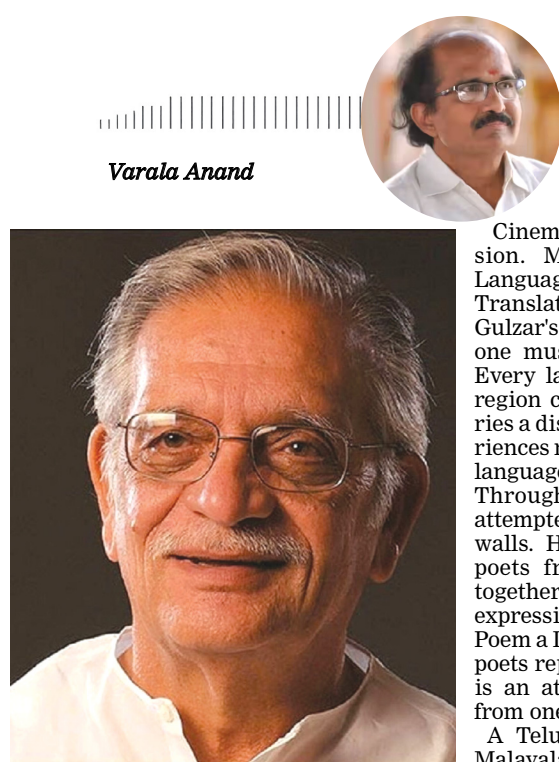
In Gulzar's writing, the past returns to the present as memory. That is why time in his work is never a straight line. Past and present enter into one another. Perhaps this sensibility has something to do with the experience of Partition that marked his early life. As a child, he was forced to leave the land of his birth, he witnessed the violence of Partition, experienced displacement, and lost familiar people and places. These experiences left indelible impressions on his mind. In his writing, they quietly transformed themselves into tenderness and sensitivity.

We often tend to regard serious literature and popular film culture as two separate worlds. A poem, we imagine, belongs in a book, a song belongs to a film, a story

belongs in a magazine or on the screen. Gulzar has dissolved these boundaries. He is a poet, lyricist, director, storyteller and screenwriter, a creative artist who has experimented with poetic forms. Deeply rooted in the Hindi-Urdu literary traditions, he has simultaneously carried literature into the lived experience of millions through the immensely popular medium of Hindi cinema. This crossing of boundaries is fundamental to his creative nature.

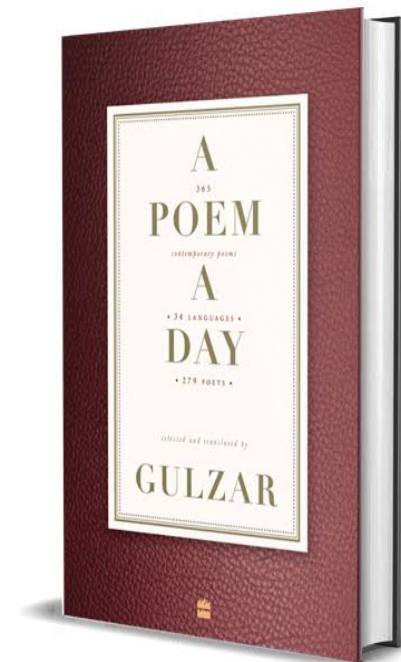
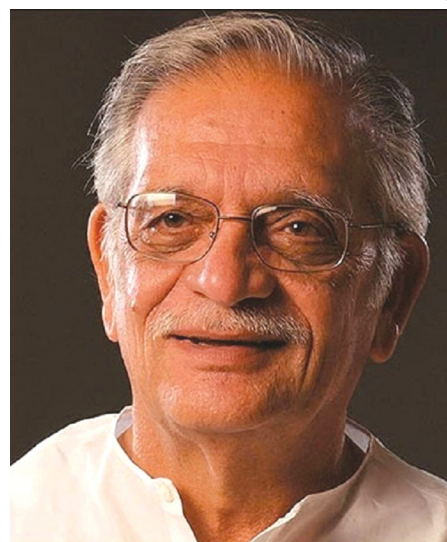
When we speak of Gulzar's poetry, we must speak of its brevity. Literary greatness does not lie in saying more. If a single small line can awaken a vast emotion within us, that is poetry. Gulzar himself has often expressed his preference for saying more with fewer words rather than saying too much. This quality can be felt in his songs, his dialogues and his poems. Sometimes, what is left unsaid speaks more eloquently than what is said.

Gulzar's journey, in fact, has never followed a single road. First came writing, then lyrics, dialogue and direction. Alongside these ran poetry and translation, while television opened yet another creative world. His celebrated television series Mirza Ghalib, which brought



Varala Anand

Poet, Film Critic & Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for Translation



Ghalib's life and poetry vividly to the screen, is another testament to his profound literary sensibility. This is not merely a story of versatility. It is a creative journey that demonstrates how one art can become the driving force of another. Poetry influenced his cinema.

Cinema gave his poetry a visual dimension. Music gave his words a body. Language introduced him to the world. Translation occupies a special chapter in Gulzar's creative life. To understand India, one must listen to its many languages. Every language contains a region, every region contains a life, and every life carries a distinctive experience. If these experiences remain imprisoned within a single language, the country loses a part of itself. Through his translations, Gulzar has attempted to break down some of these walls. His effort to bring contemporary poets from different Indian languages together in a single anthology is a striking expression of his cultural vision. In A Poem a Day, he translated 365 poems by 279 poets representing 34 Indian languages. It is an attempt to make India hear itself from one language to another.

A Telugu poet reading the poem of a Malayalam poet, a Bengali poet recognizing his own experience in a Punjabi poem that is true cultural unity.

Gulzar has received national and international recognition in cinema, including the Academy Award and Grammy, as well as the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. In the literary sphere, he has been honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award and the Padma Bhushan, among many other distinctions. Above all, the 58th Jnanpith Award, conferred on him for his outstanding contribution to Indian literature, stands as one of the highest honours of his literary journey.

When I think of Gulzar, I see a beautiful, enduring bridge.

On one side is literature, on the other, cinema. On one side, Hindi, on the other, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali and the many languages of India.

On one side, sound, on the other, silence. On one side, the past; on the other, the present.

Gulzar is the man walking between these two rivers, quietly bringing them together. His song is a little poem.

His poem is an image. His image becomes a memory. And that memory, in the end, finds its way into our own lives.

To read Gulzar, therefore, is not merely to read a poet. It is to meet again a person within ourselves whom we had, somewhere along the way, forgotten. That is the enduring magic of Gulzar's creation. (Remembering Gulzar on his 92nd birthday, August 18, 2026)

Politricks: Inside the Southern Political Theater's Toxic New Equation

During my early days of journalism in 1982, I worked for a year as a stringer for a film weekly based in Kerala. Every month, my assignments took me to Madras, now Chennai, which served as the undisputed film capital for South Indian cinema, including Malayalam, Kannada, and Telugu productions. At the time, the legendary M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) was serving as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. During one visit, I observed a conversation of M. Karunanidhi, who was then the leader of the opposition in the constituent assembly and a formidable kingmaker in the film industry. While I was interviewing Karunanidhi, his secretary ushered a group of businessmen to his table, I overheard a profound revelation about the inner workings of Southern politics. The investors explained they had approached MGR seeking quick sanctions and free land to start a transformer manufacturing unit. MGR had welcomed them warmly, but asked a single question: "Did you meet Kalaignar?". Referring to Karunanidhi by his playwright honorific, MGR instructed the businessmen to secure his consensus first, ensuring that a project generating employment and revenue for the state would face no political



opposition. This era of cordial mutual respect effectively ended when MGR passed away while in office. His close supporter and soulmate, Jayalalitha, became the Chief Minister, and her already ruined relationship with the DMK permanently severed the ties between the AIADMK and DMK party chiefs. Now the totally unknown political equation is dismaying the state under the new chief minister and cinema heart-throb Superstar Vijay, who swapped the last election totally through Social Media and Instagram reach to the public. While neighboring states shared similar political fortunes before the 1980s, Kerala was a completely different battlefield. The state's popu-

lace was deeply infected by Communist ideologies propagated by leaders like E.M.S. Namboodiripad. Ironically, Namboodiripad was a Brahmin championing a fight against caste and religious divides, reflecting a broader paradox where almost all top leaders of the Indian Communist Party hailed from upper castes. In Kerala, opposition coalitions for state development never worked because Communists refused to agree with other parties and were often in confusion regarding how their own ideology would work practically. Consequently, Keralites fell into a pattern of alternating between Communist and Congress governments every five years, with each new administration spending its tenure undoing its predecessor's



Ram Kamal

Social Engineer

work, bringing government policies and development to a standstill. Further north, since 1980, Karnataka's political landscape transformed from a single-party Congress monopoly into a fiercely competitive, multi-party system. The state reached a turning point in 1983 when the Janata Party formed Karnataka's first non-Congress government. This centrist alternative eventually evolved into the Janata Dal, reaching its peak in the 1990s and even propelling Chief Minister H.D. Deve Gowda to the Prime Minister's office.

However, by the late 1990s, the Janata Dal fractured into factions like the JD(S) and JD(U). This split provided a crucial opening for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which steadily consolidated its power, emerging as the single largest party in 2004 and forming its first independent southern government in 2008. Over the past two decades, control has alternated between Congress and the BJP, with the regional JD(S) frequently acting as

kingmaker during coalition governments. The Congress ultimately reclaimed power with a decisive victory in 2023. Modern Karnataka politics is defined by caste dynamics between the Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, a tripolar contest, and Kerala-style anti-incumbency factors. Furthermore, unlike its counterparts elsewhere, the Karnataka BJP has increasingly fallen onto a track of corruption and caste polarization. In Andhra Pradesh, the Congress maintained an uninterrupted monopoly until the early 1980s. However, frequent meddling by the Delhi high command—resulting in four Chief Ministers between 1978 and 1982—sparked severe resentment. When Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi harshly rebuked Chief Minister Anjaiah in front of a crowd, it gave the opposition a perfect opportunity to flare up a campaign centered on Telugu self-respect. In 1982, charismatic actor N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) channeled this discontent by founding the Telugu Desam

Party (TDP) on the platform of "Telugu Atma Gauravam". Within nine months, the TDP swept the 1983 elections, forming the first non-Congress government and fundamentally altering state caste equations. The land-owning Reddy community had historically dominated Congress leadership, but NTR's rise trapped Andhra in a vicious circle of caste dynamics led by a fierce Kamma-Reddy rivalry. NTR's final term ended via a 1995 family coup led by his son-in-law, N. Chandrababu Naidu. Taking over as Chief Minister, Naidu pivoted the state toward economic liberalization, earning a reputation as a "CEO Chief Minister". The Congress returned in 2004 under Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR), who successfully countered the TDP with massive welfare programs and major infrastructure projects. However, YSR's sudden death while in the office in a 2009 helicopter crash created a massive political vacuum. The subsequent Telangana movement culminated in the state's 2014 bifurcation, completely decimating the Congress party in residual Andhra Pradesh due to intense public anger. Now Congress have to settle with a collation alliance in the new State of Telangana.

Following bifurcation, politics consolidated tightly around powerful dynasties. The Nandamuri-Nara family saw Chandrababu Naidu return as Chief Minister in 2014, relying heavily on NTR's legacy while positioning his son, Nara Lokesh, as heir apparent. Conversely, infighting among YSR's children has prevented either from gaining a definitive upper hand; Y.S. Sharmila publicly denounced her brother, Jagan Mohan Reddy, and joined the Congress to become the State committee president making a no coming back for both. Adding a final dimension to the state's politics is the Jana Sena Party. Founded by the support of Kapu community by actor Pawan Kalyan, is not a dominant independent force but has become a crucial kingmaker, significantly shifting power by aligning with the TDP and BJP in the 2024 elections. Politics in South India is increasingly ensnared in a vicious cycle of caste calculations and religious bargaining aimed at securing top leadership positions. Rather than fostering state development, this alarming trend threatens to deeply fracture society and inflict far-reaching damage. Tomorrow: Short memories of the past and the lies.

BJP Announces New National Team Under Nitin Nabin



The BJP has announced its new national office-bearers under party president Nitin Nabin, making several key appointments while retaining B L Santhosh as national general secretary (organisation). The new team includes 13 national vice presidents. Ram Madhav, Lok Sabha MP D Purandeshwari and former Uttarakhand chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat are among them. Former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia, former Union minister Bharti Pawar, Manpreet Singh Badal and Tariq Mansoor have also been appointed national vice presidents. Former Union minister Smriti Irani and former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb have joined the team of eight national general secretaries. Vinod Tawde, Sunil Bansal, Gajendra Patel, Harish Dwivedi and Sanjay Bhatia are also national general secretaries. Shivprakash and Saudan Singh have been appointed national joint general secretaries (organisation), while Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been named national treasurer. Kavita Patidar, K Surendran, Sandeep Pathak and Manoj Tigga are among the new faces appointed as national secretaries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the newly appointed office-bearers, saying the team combines organisational experience, energy and grassroots connect. He expressed confidence that the new leadership would strengthen the BJP and focus on public service. The appointments follow Nitin Nabin taking charge as BJP national president, succeeding J P Nadda.

Assam Floods Damage Over 26,000 Houses, Relief Payments Underway

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said an official assessment has found that floods in July damaged 26,681 houses, with total losses estimated at around Rs 480 crore so far. Sarma released the second phase of immediate interim relief of Rs 15,000 each to 31,991 affected families in Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat and Golaghat districts. The government has so far provided assistance to 96,842 families, disbursing Rs 146.26 crore. The assessment also found damage to 18,887 cattle sheds and destruction of



41,000 handloom-related materials. Around 5,98,691 domestic animals have been lost, while 93,256 farmers have been affected. Sarma said

the first phase of the damage survey would be completed by August 28 or 29. Details will be uploaded on a web portal, allowing families to check their inclusion and loss assessment. A second survey is expected around September 10, with updates by September 15. The final damage could exceed Rs 1,000 crore. Compensation will be transferred through DBT after the assessment. The floods have claimed 104 lives. An ex-gratia payment of Rs 9 lakh is being provided to the next of kin of those who died.

SC Asks Allahabad HC to Hold Off Proceedings Against Rahul Gandhi

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Allahabad High Court to defer proceedings in a disproportionate assets case involving Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and asked the CBI and ED not to file reports based on the High Court's directions for now. A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana directed the High Court to defer its next hearing until the apex court considers Gandhi's plea challenging its order. The bench also issued notices to Karnataka resident S. Vignesh Shishir, who filed the petition, along with the



CBI and ED. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Gandhi, described the proceedings as a "witch-hunt" and questioned Shishir's locus to approach the

High Court. Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju said the central probe agencies had no role in the case so far. Chief Justice Surya Kant said courts issuing directions were expected to follow the principle of natural justice. Justice Bagchi questioned why the agencies had not taken action if the allegations were serious. The Allahabad High Court's Lucknow bench had on July 20 directed a senior CBI officer to file a fresh affidavit detailing the probe's progress. It had fixed August 20 for the next hearing and ordered the case records to remain sealed.

Govt to Soon Set Up High-Level Panel on 'Banking for Viksit Bharat'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government will soon constitute a high-level committee to comprehensively review the banking sector under the 'Banking for Viksit Bharat' initiative and align it with India's long-term economic goals. Speaking at a two-day PSB confluence, Sitharaman said the proposed panel would examine how the banking sector can better support India's next phase of growth and the vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. The committee will submit its recommendations to the government for quick action. She urged public sector banks (PSBs) to leverage their strengthened balance sheets to support economic expansion. Sitharaman said banks' non-performing assets (NPAs) are at their lowest level, creating a stronger foundation for



further reforms. "The ideas emerging from the banking leadership could provide substantive inputs to the committee and help the government move rapidly on its recommendations," she said. Sitharaman noted that less than 20 years remain to achieve the Viksit Bharat 2047 goal, underlining the need for banks to prepare for the country's future financing requirements. Department of Financial Services secretary Sanjay Lohiya said the asset quality of PSBs had improved sharply. Gross NPAs declined from a peak of 14.6 per cent in March 2018 to 1.93 per cent in March 2026. Net NPAs also fell from 8 per cent to 2.39 per cent during the same period.

Supreme Court Orders Nationwide Survey of Elephant Corridors, Bans Fireballs

The Supreme Court has directed the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to conduct a nationwide survey of elephant corridors and check whether states have created obstacles or blockades along the traditional pathways of elephants. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said states cannot block elephant corridors to protect crops or livelihoods. The court stressed that elephants travel long distances and their natural movement cannot be obstructed. The Supreme Court also barred the use of fireballs and mashaals (torches) to chase elephants away and directed state authorities to implement the order. The Centre has been asked to submit a comprehensive status report within six weeks, including details of existing obstructions and steps taken to remove them. Justice Bagchi referred to the use of fireballs and spikes in West Bengal, where elephants reportedly travel from Nepal through West Bengal towards Jharkhand and other states. Chief Justice Surya Kant also referred to elephants moving from Haryana's Yamuna Nagar area towards Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. The directions came during the hearing of a petition filed by activist Prerna Singh Bindra and others concerning methods used to manage human-elephant conflict. Advocate Shibani Ghosh represented the contempt plea. The petitioners referred to Supreme Court orders issued on August 1, 2018 and December 4, 2018, which directed states to remove spikes and stop using fireballs to drive elephants away, except as an emergency measure for a limited period. The petition alleged that such practices continued in West Bengal despite the court's directions. It cited incidents involving local 'Hulla' parties using burning mashaals, spikes and other objects to chase elephant herds. The Supreme Court has now sought a nationwide assessment and directed authorities to report on the use of fireballs, mashaals and other coercive measures against elephants.



Defence Ministry Signs Rs 1,943-Crore Deal for Two Sea Guardian Drones

The Defence Ministry has signed a Rs 1,943-crore agreement with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems to lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones for the Indian Navy for 30 months. The Navy already operates two Sea Guardian drones, which were leased earlier. The newly leased remotely piloted aircraft are equipped with advanced systems, sophisticated sensors and modern payloads. According to the Defence Ministry, the MQ-9B Sea Guardians will significantly strengthen the Indian Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness capabilities. The drones will provide continuous intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance coverage over large areas of the maritime domain. The ministry said the enhanced surveillance capability will help India monitor developments across the Indian Ocean Region and improve its ability to respond to emerging situations. The contract was signed in the presence of the additional secretary and director general (acquisition), Department of Defence. The MQ-9B Sea Guardian is a high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aircraft designed for extended surveillance missions. Its deployment is expected to support the Indian Navy in monitoring India's maritime interests and maintaining greater awareness of activity across the region. The agreement strengthens India's maritime surveillance capabilities while providing the Navy with additional unmanned platforms for intelligence and reconnaissance operations.



India, Thailand to Hold Joint Military Exercise Maitree From August 18

India and Thailand will conduct the 15th edition of their joint military exercise Maitree from August 18 to August 31. The exercise will involve troops of the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army and focus on joint counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist operations. The exercise will be conducted at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp in Surat Thani, Thailand. The Indian Army contingent has departed for Thailand to participate in the exercise. Both contingents will comprise 85 personnel each. The Indian Army

contingent will be represented mainly by troops from 9 Gorkha Rifles, while the Royal Thai Army contingent will include personnel from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division. The company-level training will focus on operations in jungle and semi-urban environments under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The programme will include field exercises, combat discussions, lectures, demonstrations and a final validation exercise. The two forces will also exchange operational experience and show-



case modern equipment and technologies used during joint operations. The exercise aims to improve interoperability, mutual understanding and coordination between the two armies. The previous edition was held at Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya, in September 2025. Instituted in 2006, Exercise Maitree has become an important platform for strengthening military cooperation and bilateral ties between India and Thailand.

E20 Fuel Shift Puts Pressure on Petrol Car Sales

Ravi Podili

The automobile industry is facing growing pressure as the nationwide introduction of E20 petrol has affected consumer confidence and petrol vehicle sales. E20 is petrol blended with 20 percent ethanol, and its wider availability has raised concerns among vehicle owners, dealers and industry stakeholders.

The Central Government introduced E20 fuel across the country as part of its efforts to increase ethanol blending and reduce dependence on conventional fuel. However, concerns have been raised over the availability of alternative petrol blends and the impact of E20 on older vehicles.

Oil companies have maintained that E20 petrol does not pose a confirmed threat to vehicles. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has also stated in Parliament

that there is no evidence or confirmed complaints establishing that E20 causes such damage. He has said that E20 would remain the available petrol option.

However, vehicle owners and mechanics have shared their experiences on social media, claiming that older vehicles have faced performance and component-related issues after using E20 petrol. These concerns have contributed to uncertainty among potential buyers.

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has reported a sharp decline in petrol car sales across several states. Many customers are reportedly choosing diesel, CNG and electric vehicles (EVs) instead of petrol models due to concerns over E20.

The change is also visible in dealership inventories. Automobile dealers generally



maintain inventory for period has reportedly 70 days. Lower retail sales in around 30 to 33 days, but the increased to between 60 and July left dealers with more

than 52,000 vehicles in unsold inventory.

Petrol cars, which previously dominated the passenger vehicle market, now account for around 41.68 percent. Vehicles using alternative fuels have increased their combined share to 40.59 percent, reducing the gap between the two segments to about one percentage point. Diesel vehicles are also regaining popularity. Their market share rose to 17.73 percent in July, as buyers looking for alternatives to petrol, CNG and EVs increasingly considered diesel models. Tata Motors has also acknowledged the increase in demand for diesel vehicles.

To reduce unsold inventory, automobile manufacturers and dealers are offering major discounts on petrol models. Discounts of up to Rs.95,000 are being offered on models including the Hyundai Grand i10, Hyundai

i20, Tata Nexon and Kia Sonet. Some companies are also offering concessions ranging from Rs.1.50 lakh to Rs.3.50 lakh on selected models and older stock.

Automakers are now reviewing their production strategies. Companies are considering reducing petrol vehicle production while increasing the output of CNG and EV models. The move is aimed at controlling inventory, reducing dealer losses and responding to changing customer preferences.

Industry observers point out that E20 is not the only reason for the decline in petrol vehicle sales. The government's broader push towards fuel efficiency, CNG and electric mobility is also influencing the market. However, concerns surrounding E20 have emerged as a major factor behind the current uncertainty in the petrol vehicle segment.

Tempsens Instruments IPO GMP Nears 44% Ahead of Subscription

Tempsens Instruments (India) is attracting strong interest in the grey market ahead of the opening of its initial public offering (IPO) on August 20. The company's grey-market premium (GMP) is currently indicating a potential listing gain of more than 43 percent over the upper end of its IPO price band.



The strong GMP suggests that investors in the unofficial market are expecting a positive response to the public issue. However, grey-market premiums are unofficial indicators and do not guarantee the actual listing price or returns after the shares begin trading on the stock exchanges. The Tempsens Instruments IPO is scheduled to open for subscription on August 20. Investors will be able to participate in the issue during the subscription period, with the company expected to provide further details regarding the issue structure, price band, lot size and other key dates through its official offer documents. The company has generated attention among investors because of the strong premium being quoted in the grey market ahead of the IPO. A GMP close to 44 percent can indicate high market expectations, particularly when the broader equity market is experiencing cautious trading conditions. However, investors are advised to look beyond the grey-market premium before making an investment decision. Factors such as the company's financial performance, revenue growth, profitability, valuation, business prospects and risks can influence the stock's performance after listing. The IPO timeline is also important for investors planning to participate. The issue is set to open on August 20, and potential investors should check the final price band, minimum investment requirement, lot size and subscription closing date before applying. Grey-market activity can change significantly before an IPO opens and during the subscription period. Therefore, the current premium should not be treated as a fixed indication of the eventual listing price. Market conditions, demand from institutional and retail investors and the overall response to the issue can all influence the final outcome. The strong interest surrounding Tempsens Instruments comes ahead of its public-market debut, making the IPO one to watch during the upcoming subscription period. Investors will be closely tracking subscription figures across different investor categories as the issue progresses. With the GMP currently pointing towards a potential gain of more than 43 percent over the upper price-band level, expectations are high ahead of August 20. Nevertheless, investors should conduct their own research and consider the company's fundamentals and risk factors rather than relying solely on unofficial market premiums. The final listing performance will depend on actual investor demand and market conditions at the time of listing. The strong grey-market indication has created early optimism, but the company's post-listing performance will ultimately determine whether those expectations are met.

IT Stocks Fall Up to 2.5% as Investors Book Profits

Indian IT stocks came under pressure on August 17, with several major companies witnessing selling as investors booked profits after recent gains. The Nifty IT index declined for the second consecutive session and fell nearly 2 percent during the trading session. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys were among the biggest losers, while Tech Mahindra also faced selling pressure. The decline affected several major technology companies and pulled the IT index lower. Analysts and market participants pointed to rising geopolitical concerns as one of the factors weighing on IT stocks. Crude oil prices have been moving higher, while US Treasury yields have remained elevated. Higher yields and rising energy prices can increase concerns about global economic growth and corporate spending, particularly in key markets such as the United States. The weakness in IT stocks also came amid profit booking. After a period of gains, investors appeared to take some money off the table, putting pressure on large IT companies. The selling resulted in losses of up to 2.5 percent among selected IT stocks. The Nifty IT index had already declined in the previous session, making Monday's fall its second consecutive session of weakness. The continued decline highlights the cautious approach among investors towards the technology sector amid uncertain global conditions. Indian IT companies depend significantly on overseas markets, particularly the US and Europe, for their revenues. Any concerns over economic growth, corporate technology spending or currency movements can therefore influence investor sentiment towards the sector. Higher US Treasury yields can also affect global investment flows and valuations of technology companies. When bond yields remain elevated, investors may reassess valuations of growth-oriented sectors, including information technology. Meanwhile, rising crude oil prices have added another layer of concern for global markets. Higher energy costs can increase inflationary pressures and influence interest-rate expectations, potentially affecting businesses and financial markets. Despite the day's decline, investors will continue to monitor the performance of major IT companies and developments in global markets. Corporate earnings, technology spending trends and demand from key overseas markets will remain important factors for the sector. The latest decline reflects a combination of profit booking and concerns over global economic conditions. With geopolitical risks remaining elevated, investors are likely to watch crude oil prices, US Treasury yields and global economic signals closely before taking fresh positions in IT stocks. For now, TCS, Infosys and Tech Mahindra remain among the stocks facing notable selling pressure, while the broader Nifty IT index continues to experience weakness for a second straight session.



Sensex Falls 280 Points, Nifty Drops Below 24,300

Indian equity markets extended their losing streak to the fifth consecutive session on August 17, with the benchmark indices closing lower amid selling pressure across several key sectors. The Sensex declined 280 points, or 0.36 percent, while the Nifty fell 0.32 percent and ended below the 24,300 mark. The continued weakness reflected cautious investor sentiment, with selling seen in IT, PSU banks, pharma and FMCG stocks.

Despite the decline in the benchmark indices, select sectors managed to outperform the broader market. Metal and realty stocks remained relatively strong during the session, helping limit the overall market weakness. The broader market also showed resilience. The Nifty Midcap index ended largely unchanged, while the Nifty Smallcap index gained 0.36 percent. The performance indicates that buying interest remained present in selected mid- and small-cap stocks even as large-cap benchmarks faced pressure.



The fifth straight session of losses highlights the cautious mood prevailing in the domestic equity market. Investors are closely tracking sectoral movements and global market cues while assessing the near-term direction of Indian

equities. Selling pressure in IT, PSU banks, pharmaceutical and FMCG stocks weighed on the market. These sectors contributed to the decline in the major indices, although strength in metal and realty

shares provided some support. Market participants are likely to remain focused on upcoming economic and corporate developments for further direction. The contrasting performance between large-cap benchmarks and segments of the broader market also suggests that investors are selectively looking for opportunities despite the recent weakness.

The Sensex and Nifty have faced persistent pressure over the past five trading sessions, making the market's next moves important for investors. A sustained recovery in heavyweight sectors could be required to improve overall sentiment, while continued selling could keep the benchmark indices under pressure.

For now, the market remains in a cautious phase, with investors monitoring sectoral trends and broader economic signals. The outperformance of metal and realty stocks, along with the marginal gains in small-cap shares, offered some relief during an otherwise weak trading session.

NMDC Shares Rise 1% After June Quarter Results

Shares of state-owned mining company NMDC recovered sharply on Monday and settled more than 1 percent higher after the company reported an increase in consolidated net profit for the June quarter. NMDC shares ended the session at Rs 85.44 per share, with investors responding positively to the company's quarterly performance. The results were largely in line with market expectations, helping the stock recover from earlier weakness during the trading session.

NMDC is India's largest iron ore miner and operates under the Ministry of Steel. The company plays an important role in the domestic iron ore market and contributes around 20-25 percent of India's iron ore demand. The increase in consolidated net profit during the June quarter supported investor sentiment towards the stock. Market participants are closely tracking the company's earnings as well as developments in the domestic steel and iron ore sectors.

Iron ore prices, production levels and demand from the steel industry remain key factors that can influence NMDC's financial performance. As one of the country's largest iron ore producers, the company's results are closely linked to movements in commodity prices and domestic demand. The recovery in NMDC shares comes as investors assess the company's latest earnings and its outlook for the coming quarters. The stock's performance also reflects broader expectations about the mining and metals sector. NMDC's position as a major supplier of iron ore makes its produc-

tion and sales performance important for the domestic steel industry. Strong demand from steel producers can support volumes, while changes in commodity prices can influence revenue and profitability. The June quarter results have therefore provided investors with an important update on the company's financial position and oper-



ating performance. The rise in net profit, combined with the largely in-line results, helped ease concerns and encouraged buying interest in the stock. Going ahead, investors are likely to focus on NMDC's production targets, sales volumes, iron ore prices and demand from the steel sector. Developments in domestic infrastructure and construction activity could also influence steel demand and, indirectly, the company's business outlook.

With the shares settling at Rs 85.44 after gaining more than 1 percent, NMDC remained in focus following its June quarter earnings announcement. The company's performance in the coming quarters will be closely watched as investors assess whether the recent improvement in profitability can be sustained.

Hindustan Copper Rises 7% as Copper Prices Near Record High

Shares of Hindustan Copper rose around 7 percent as copper prices moved close to record levels on the London Metal Exchange (LME). The sharp rise in copper prices also lifted other companies in the cable and wire segment, with some stocks gaining up to 5 percent. Copper prices have been supported by strong market demand and tight supply conditions. On the London Metal Exchange, the metal's spot price traded as much as \$518.50 a tonne above contracts for delivery in three months. This marked the biggest gap between the two prices since a major market squeeze in 2021 that caused significant disruption.

The rise in copper prices has brought renewed investor attention to companies involved in copper mining and related businesses. Hindustan Copper, one of India's key copper producers, was among the major beneficiaries of the latest price movement, with its shares gaining sharply during Monday's trading session. Higher copper prices can improve the earnings outlook for mining companies because stronger realisations can support revenue and profitability. Investors therefore closely track international copper prices when assessing the

prospects of companies such as Hindustan Copper.

The rally also spread to cable and wire manufacturers. Stocks in the segment gained as much as 5 percent, reflecting expectations that strong copper prices could signal healthy demand for the metal across industries.

Copper is widely used in power transmission, electrical equipment, construction, automobiles, electronics and renewable energy infrastructure. As investment in electrification and infrastructure increases globally, demand for copper is expected to remain an important factor for the metal market. The unusual premium of the spot copper price over three-month contracts has also attracted market attention. Such a large gap can indicate tight availability of physical metal and strong immediate demand. The current spread has revived memories of the 2021 copper squeeze, when supply concerns and aggressive market activity created extreme price movements. For Indian metal and electrical companies, global copper prices remain an important market indicator. Higher prices can benefit producers such as Hindustan Copper, while manufacturers that use copper as a major



raw material may face higher input costs. The impact can therefore vary across different parts of the industry.

Investors will now monitor whether copper prices can sustain their current levels and whether the supply-demand imbalance continues. Any changes in global industrial activity, inventories, mining output and demand from major economies could influence

prices in the coming sessions. The strong movement in Hindustan Copper and cable and wire stocks shows the wider impact of the copper rally on Indian equities. With copper prices approaching record highs on the LME, metal and electrical stocks are likely to remain in focus as investors assess the outlook for global commodity markets and domestic demand.

Indian Family in Shanghai Spends Nearly Rs 9.8 Lakh a Month

An Indian woman living in Shanghai has revealed that her family of four spends nearly Rs 9.8 lakh every month, offering a glimpse into the cost of maintaining a particular lifestyle in one of China's most expensive cities.

Aditi Sharma shared an Instagram video detailing her family's monthly expenditure on rent, education, groceries, domestic help, transport and leisure. She clarified that the figures represent her family's personal spending and should not be considered a general

guide to living costs in China.

Rent and education account for the largest share of the family's budget. Their Shanghai home costs 25,000 yuan, approximately Rs 3.5 lakh, a month. Their children attend an international school, which costs another 25,000 yuan, or around Rs 3.5 lakh, every month.

The family spends about 5,000 yuan, or Rs 70,750, on groceries. Domestic help costs more than Rs 1 lakh monthly. Utilities add around 1,500 yuan, equivalent to Rs 21,230, while public transport

costs approximately 700 yuan, or Rs 10,000.

The family also spends around 1,500 yuan, or Rs 21,230, on children's entertainment and extracurricular activities. Eating out and shopping account for another 4,000 yuan, approximately Rs 56,650, every month.

Adding these expenses, the family's monthly spending comes to around Rs 9,81,860. Sharma said they do not receive an expatriate allowance, while their medical insurance covers 100 per cent of their medical expenses.

She also pointed out that expenses can vary considerably depending on lifestyle, school choice and the area where a person lives. Rent, in particular, can differ significantly across Shanghai.

The revelation sparked mixed reactions online. Some users said the figures challenged their perception that China was inexpensive, while others pointed out that Shanghai and Beijing are among the country's costlier cities.

One user said Shanghai's rent and international school fees were particularly expen-

sive. Another said China may be affordable for expatriates when employers cover housing and education costs, but expenses can become considerably higher for families without such benefits.

A fourth user noted that costs vary across China and said smaller cities such as Kunshan can be much more affordable than major metropolitan centres.

The discussion highlighted how the cost of living can differ sharply depending on location, family size, education choices and lifestyle.



Indian Woman in UK Highlights Family Time After Work

An Indian woman living in the UK has shared a glimpse of her weekday evening, highlighting how people can spend time with family, exercise and relax after completing their regular working hours. Anushka Vyas shared a video showing a park near her home at around 5:30 pm on a Thursday. She pointed out that the scene was not from a weekend or public holiday. Instead, people were spending their evening with families, enjoying picnics by the lake and focusing on health and fitness.

Vyas said such a routine was part of everyday life in the UK, where people could finish their 9-to-5 jobs and still have time for personal activities. She suggested that this lifestyle offered a different perspective on work-life balance. Comparing the routine with that of many working professionals in



India, Vyas said long commutes, traffic, additional work and unexpected office responsibilities often consume much of the evening. By

the time employees return home, they may have little energy left for family or personal activities. She said it was difficult for many people in India to imagine spending a relaxed evening with family after a 9-to-5 job. According to her, employees often have to deal with traffic after leaving work, while bosses may assign additional tasks or other unexpected responsibilities.

Vyas also pointed out that exhaustion during the working week can affect weekends. Instead of using weekends for meaningful family time, rest or fitness, people may spend much of the time recovering from the previous week. She said people often struggle to focus on their health and fitness because of demanding schedules and the pressure of urban life.

Vyas suggested that work-life balance and quality of life could be among the reasons some Indians decide to settle abroad. She said financial opportunities and employment were important, but the ability to enjoy life outside work also mattered.

Her observations have drawn attention to the broader discussion around working hours, commuting, family time and personal wellbeing. While experiences can differ between individuals and countries, her video offered a glimpse into how an ordinary weekday evening can look for some families living in the UK.

The comparison also highlights how urban lifestyles are shaped not only by salaries and employment opportunities but also by commuting time, workplace culture and the amount of time people have available after work.

Jobless for Over Two Months, Man Opens Up on Metro Life and Mental Exhaustion

A man named Shubb has opened up about the financial pressure and mental exhaustion he has experienced after being without a job for more than two months. Sharing his situation on social media, he described how unemployment has affected his daily routine, savings and connection with the professional world.

Shubb said he has been unemployed for two and a half months after leaving his job. During this period, he said his life had become repetitive, with little happening beyond the daily routine. He described the experience as mentally exhausting and said the lack of work had taken a toll on him.

The financial pressure has been another major concern. Shubb said living in a metro city becomes particularly difficult without a regular income, as expenses such as rent,



electricity and other monthly bills continue regardless of employment status. He said these expenses are currently being covered from his savings, adding to the pressure of finding another job. He also spoke about the importance of professional networking during a job search. According to Shubb, opportunities can be difficult to find without professional connections, and he encouraged juniors and working professionals to build and maintain their networks. Shubb said he had contacted people within his professional circle while searching for another opportunity but had not yet secured a new job. He also discussed the difference between self-learning and practical experience gained while working in a company. He said being part of an organisation provides continuous opportunities to learn, practise and understand concepts in real-world situations. According to Shubb, knowledge gained through actual workplace experience cannot always be replicated through notebooks or self-study. He said people may learn and document concepts independently, but practical exposure helps them understand how those skills are applied in professional situations. His comments struck a chord with social media users, several of whom said they could relate to his experience of unemployment and uncertainty. One user wrote, "Totally agree with you brother," while another encouraged him to remain positive, saying, "God has a plan for everyone." A third user said they were going through a similar situation. Shubb's experience highlights the challenges that can accompany prolonged unemployment, particularly for professionals living in metropolitan cities. While the search for a new job can involve applications, interviews and networking, the financial responsibilities of everyday life continue in the background. His account also reflects how unemployment can affect more than a person's income. The loss of a structured work routine, reduced professional interaction and uncertainty about the future can make an extended job search mentally demanding. For Shubb, rebuilding his professional network and finding a new opportunity remain important goals as he navigates this period of unemployment.

Robot Waiter Draws Crowds at Murthal Dhaba



Murthal's popular dhabas, traditionally known for hot parathas and familiar flavours, are now attracting attention for another reason - a robot waiter. At Resham Dhaba, a robot has been introduced to carry food from the service area to customers' tables, giving diners an unusual mix of traditional food and modern technology. The robot uses a navigation system to follow a designated route inside the eatery. Once an order is ready, staff place the food tray on it and the machine moves towards the assigned table. A separate team has been given responsibility for operating and controlling the robot, with a remote-control system available when required. The robot has a fibre-built exterior and LED lights in its eyes, including glowing red lights that give it a futuristic appearance. Its movements have quickly become an attraction, with customers stopping to watch it and recording videos on their mobile phones. Children, in particular, have shown considerable interest, with many taking selfies alongside the machine. According to hotel manager Sanjay, the robot was developed with a team from Bengaluru. The initiative was introduced to offer visitors an experience that goes beyond Murthal's traditional food culture by combining popular local cuisine with new technology. The robot can operate for around 1.5 to two hours on a single charge. Customers do not have to pay any additional amount for having their food served by the robot. The introduction has also drawn comparisons with earlier attempts to use robots in the food-service industry. Two years ago, a cafe in Ahmedabad attracted attention after introducing a robot named Aisha to serve ice golas. According to the video shared at the time, the robot had cost Rs 1.35 lakh. At Resham Dhaba, however, the robot's role is less about replacing the traditional dining experience and more about adding an element of curiosity. For many customers, watching a machine deliver their food has become an unexpected part of their visit. With its combination of technology, entertainment and roadside dining, the robot waiter has turned an ordinary meal at the Murthal eatery into an experience that customers are keen to capture and share.

Foreigner Praises Indian Hospitality, Says Welcome Goes Beyond Free Food

A foreign traveller has shared her experiences of visiting India, saying the country's hospitality often extends far beyond the common perception that tourists are overcharged. Jane said she was frequently charged less than expected, offered complimentary food and sweets, and welcomed into the homes of people she had never met before.

Jane shared her experiences on her Instagram account, "Jane Ki Khoj", describing several encounters that left a lasting impression during her travels across India. Her account focused on the warmth and generosity she experienced from ordinary people during her journeys.

She said there is a widespread belief that foreigners are often charged more for everyday services in India. However, her personal experiences were frequently the opposite. Jane recalled occasions when local vendors charged her less simply because she was a guest in the country. She also recounted an incident involving a local tea vendor, who she later discovered had deliberately charged her a lower price. At some restaurants, she was offered

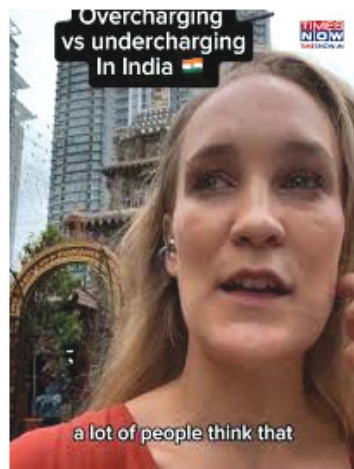
complimentary sweets along with a warm "Welcome to India" greeting.

For Jane, however, the most memorable part of her journey was not the food, discounts or lower prices but the personal warmth she received from strangers.

She said Indian families invited her into their homes for meals, took her to family weddings and even offered her a place to stay. During her first trip to India, Jane said she stayed mainly with Indian families and was often connected to relatives or friends of her hosts in the next city on her travel itinerary.

According to Jane, these gestures made travelling easier while also allowing her to experience Indian family life more closely. Rather than simply visiting tourist attractions, she was able to interact with families and observe local traditions and customs through personal connections.

Jane acknowledged that tourists can sometimes be overcharged, particularly while using auto-rickshaws. However, based on her own experiences, she said she was more often treated generously than asked to pay extra.



Her observations offer a personal perspective on the different experiences foreign travellers can have while visiting India. While pricing can vary depending on the place, service and circumstances, Jane said the kindness she encountered stood out more strongly than any negative experience.

She suggested that the hospitality she experienced was difficult to compare with her experiences in many other countries. For her, the willingness of strangers to share

food, open their homes and introduce travellers to their families represented a distinctive aspect of Indian culture.

Jane shared the clip with the caption, "Undercharging vs overcharging in India." The post attracted positive reactions from social media users, with several appreciating her perspective on Indian hospitality.

One user commented, "Thank you for this video. You have captured it well." Another wrote, "Thank You for making this video."

Jane's account highlights how seemingly small gestures can leave a lasting impression on travellers. Sharing a meal, offering sweets, charging a guest less or inviting a stranger into a family home may appear simple, but such moments can become some of the most memorable experiences of a journey.

Her story also shows how personal interactions can shape a traveller's understanding of a country. For Jane, the hospitality she encountered became an important part of her India travel experience, offering her memories that went well beyond sightseeing and traditional tourist attractions.

Bengaluru Man Uses AI To Detect Potholes And Track Who Must Fix Them

Potholes are a familiar headache for motorists, but Bengaluru-based engineer Gaurav Sen has used artificial intelligence to turn the problem into a technology project that could make road complaints more effective. Sen demonstrated his pothole-detection system in a video shared on Instagram in collaboration with ChatGPT India. The system uses a dashcam, GPS and an accelerometer installed in his car to collect information while he drives. The recorded footage is then processed using AI vision models capable of identifying potholes of different sizes. Sen said he used Codex to build an application that records relevant information and sends it to OpenAI for analysis. The system is designed to detect potholes that may not immediately appear obvious to motorists. Some road defects can resemble speed breakers from a distance, making them difficult to identify until a vehicle reaches them. But Sen's idea goes beyond simply spotting damaged roads. He also wanted the system to determine which contractor or authority could be responsible for repairing a particular pothole. For this, he modified the application to examine around 2,900 government contracts and identify the contrac-



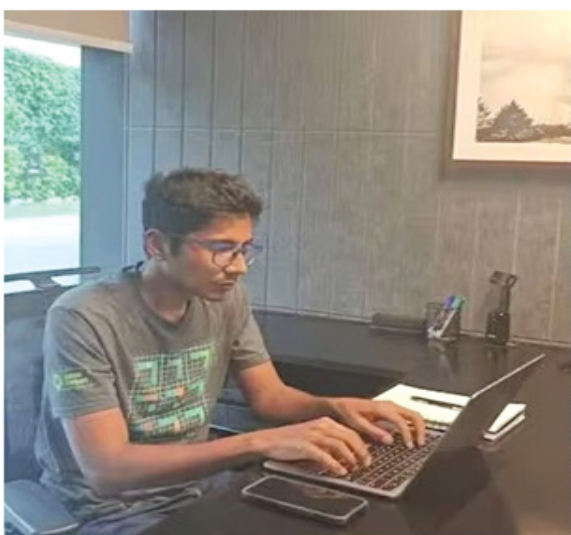
tor responsible for a particular stretch of road. This could be useful when a road is still under warranty and the contractor is required to repair defects without placing the cost on the government. The application can reportedly generate a structured record within four seconds. The information includes a photograph of the pothole, its exact location, tender number and the officer responsible for the road. Sen also tested the system during one of his daily

drives to work.

The technology detected 12 potholes along his route, providing documented evidence that could potentially be used while filing complaints with civic authorities. The project later attracted attention beyond Bengaluru after the video reached X, with social media users appreciating the practical use of AI for an everyday civic problem. One user commented, "Great idea and execution." Another wrote, "Good job. Hope it

helps." "Fixing real life bugs," added a third user.

A fourth user said, "Hope this works." The project has drawn attention because it combines familiar car technology with AI to create a system aimed at documenting road problems. Instead of relying only on verbal complaints, Sen's approach attempts to produce evidence and connect damaged roads with the contracts and officials associated with them.



Gavaskar Calls for Full Transparency in IPL Player Trades

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has urged the IPL authorities to ensure complete transparency in player transfers between teams, saying clarity in trade deals is crucial for maintaining confidence in the league. The issue has gained attention following discussions surrounding Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya and a possible move to Gujarat Titans during the IPL transfer window. Pandya had reportedly held talks with Gujarat Titans regarding a return, but the communication between the parties did not progress as expected. The developments have kept the all-rounder's IPL future in focus, with speculation continuing over which team he could represent in the coming season. Gavaskar's comments come at a time when player transfers have become an important



part of the IPL's franchise system. While trades allow teams to restructure their squads and address specific requirements, the former India captain believes the process must remain transparent. After the conclusion of the IPL

2026 season, only two player transfers have taken place under the trade window. Lucknow Super Giants and Delhi Capitals completed a major deal involving Rishabh Pant and Kuldeep Yadav. Such transfers can have a significant impact on team combinations and the competitive balance of the league. Gavaskar has therefore stressed the need for the IPL authorities to ensure that the terms and process surrounding trades are clear. The former India captain's call comes amid growing interest in franchise decisions ahead of the next IPL season. With teams assessing their squads, player availability and future requirements, further movements could take place during the transfer window. The Hardik Pandya situation has particularly attracted attention because of his role as captain

of Mumbai Indians and his previous association with Gujarat Titans. Pandya led Gujarat Titans to the IPL title in their debut season before returning to Mumbai Indians. Gavaskar's demand for transparency highlights the importance of maintaining credibility in the trade system as the league continues to evolve. Clear procedures could help reduce speculation and ensure that players, franchises and fans have a better understanding of how transfer decisions are reached. With the IPL becoming increasingly competitive and franchise strategies playing a major role in squad building, player trades are expected to remain an important aspect of the tournament. The authorities' handling of future deals could determine how much confidence teams and supporters place in the process.

Navneet Kaur: From Cricket-Loving Home to India's World Cup Spark

India forward Navneet Kaur is playing a key role in the team's campaign at the World Cup, making her third appearance in the prestigious tournament. The striker has emerged as an important attacking option and led from the front in India's opening match against China. Navneet's journey to international hockey began in Shahbad, Haryana, a town widely known as one of India's prominent hockey nurseries. Despite growing up in an environment where hockey was deeply embedded in local sporting culture, her family initially had a different sporting preference. Her father was an avid cricket follower and wanted Navneet to pursue the sport. One of her early sporting idols was Harmanpreet Kaur, the India cricket captain. However, growing up in Shahbad gradually changed her sporting path. In the town, hockey is a part of everyday life, with a large number of children taking up the sport from a young age. The presence of established players and a strong hockey culture has helped Shahbad produce several interna-

tional players. Navneet recalled that her father wanted her to play cricket because of his love for the sport. However, she found that almost everyone around her was playing hockey. With limited opportunities to pursue cricket locally, she decided to try hockey instead. The decision eventually transformed her life and took her from the small Haryana town to the international stage. Navneet has since established herself as one of India's dependable forwards. Her pace, movement and ability to create opportunities in the attacking third have made her an important part of the national team. Her third World Cup appearance reflects the consistency she has achieved at the highest level. With India facing crucial matches ahead, her contribution will be central to the team's hopes of progressing in the tournament. The opening match against China provided an early opportunity for Navneet to demonstrate her leadership and attacking influence. India will look to her experience and ability to perform under pres-



sure as the competition becomes tougher. Her journey also reflects the influence of Shahbad's hockey culture. Although cricket was the sport that dominated her household, the environment around her introduced her to hockey and eventually guided her towards a professional career.

From a cricket-loving family to becoming one of India's World Cup forwards, Navneet's rise is a reminder of how sporting surroundings can shape an athlete's future. As India continues its World Cup campaign, she remains one of the players expected to make a decisive impact in the upcoming matches.

Warner Says Bangladesh 'Got in Australia's Faces' in Historic Test Win

Former Australia opener David Warner has praised Bangladesh for their aggressive approach and hunger after the visitors stunned a full-strength Australian side in the first Test at Darwin. Bangladesh, led by Najmul Hussain Shanto, secured a historic nine-wicket victory over Australia on Sunday. The result marked Bangladesh's first Test win on Australian soil and only their second victory against Australia in Test cricket. Bangladesh became only the second Asian team, after India, to defeat Australia in a Test since 1995. Chasing a modest target of 57 in their second innings, Bangladesh reached the target for the loss of one wicket to complete a memorable victory. Warner said Bangladesh did not allow Australia to dictate the game and instead maintained an aggressive approach throughout the contest. He felt the visitors showed greater hunger and belief while taking on a strong Australian team led by Pat Cummins. The former opener described Bangladesh's performance as a sign of a team that was determined to compete without being

intimidated by the reputation of the hosts. Their approach put Australia under sustained pressure and eventually resulted in one of the most notable Test defeats for the side on home soil. Bangladesh's victory was built on their ability to remain competitive across the Test and capitalise on Australia's mistakes. The visitors' bowlers played a crucial role in restricting the hosts, while their batters ensured that the team stayed within reach of victory. The result is particularly significant for Bangladesh, who have historically struggled against Australia in Test cricket. Their success in Darwin provides the team with confidence and demonstrates that they can challenge established sides away from home. For Australia, the defeat will raise questions about their performance despite fielding a full-strength squad under Cummins. Bangladesh's fearless approach exposed weaknesses and prevented the hosts from settling into the contest. Warner's assessment highlights the intensity with which Bangladesh approached the match. Rather than simply



attempting to survive against Australia, the visitors took the game to their opponents and maintained pressure until the final stages. The historic victory also gives Shanto's team an important boost ahead of the remaining matches in the series. Bangladesh will now look to build on the momentum from their Darwin triumph, while

Australia will aim to respond strongly after suffering a rare home Test defeat. The result has already become a landmark moment in Bangladesh cricket, with the team proving that confidence, discipline and an aggressive mindset can produce a breakthrough even against one of the strongest Test sides in world cricket.

Former India Batter Slams Rishabh Pant's Shot Selection in Galle

Former India batter criticised wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant for his dismissal during India's rain-affected Test against Sri Lanka, questioning the batter's shot selection after he was dismissed for 39. India had started the second afternoon strongly at 288 for two but lost seven wickets during a brief passage of play. Only 43 overs were possible because of rain and difficult conditions, with India ending the day at 460 for nine. Pant's dismissal was one of the key moments in India's collapse. Sri Lanka took the second new ball after the completion of 80 overs, and Pant was dismissed just four deliveries later. Debutant off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha bowled the delivery that prompted Pant to attempt an aggressive slog. The shot did not produce the desired result as Pant holed out to wide long-off for 39. The former India batter questioned Pant's decision-making and suggested that the wicket-keeper batter should have shown greater awareness of the match situation. Pant's dismissal came at a time when India were looking to build a commanding

first-innings total. Having already reached 288 for two, India were in a strong position to push towards a much bigger score. However, the loss of wickets prevented them from maintaining the momentum. The former batter's criticism focused on Pant's tendency to attempt high-risk strokes even when the situation required greater patience. The dismissal against Nuwantha once again raised questions about his shot selection in Test cricket. The debutant spinner made the most of the opportunity, drawing Pant into an attacking stroke and completing an important wicket for Sri Lanka. The catch at wide long-off ended Pant's stay and gave the hosts renewed confidence. Despite the collapse, India remained in a strong position at 460 for nine. The visitors had built a substantial total before Sri Lanka's bowlers fought back during the limited play available. The match was affected heavily by rain, restricting the amount of cricket possible and making conditions challenging for both teams. India's ability to reach 460 for nine



nevertheless provided them with a solid platform. Pant's dismissal, however, remained one of the talking points of the day. His aggressive style has often produced match-changing innings, but his latest dismissal highlighted the risks associated with attacking

strokes at crucial moments. As the Test progresses, India will hope their lower-order batters can add further runs, while Sri Lanka will look to complete the innings quickly and use their home conditions to put pressure on the Indian batting line-up.

India Take 178-Run Lead as Sri Lanka Bowled Out for 284 in Galle Test



India strengthened their position in the first Test against Sri Lanka after bowling the hosts out for 284 on the third day, securing a substantial 178-run first-innings lead. India had earlier posted 462, powered by a superb 167 from Devdutt Padikkal. Padikkal played a crucial role in India's strong batting performance, scoring his maiden Test century and anchoring the innings through challenging conditions. His effort helped India build a commanding total despite Sri Lanka's late fightback with the ball. Sri Lanka began their reply under pressure and slipped to 90 for five before Sonal Dinusha and Niroshan Dickwella revived the innings. The pair added 146 runs for the sixth wicket, giving the hosts hope of avoiding a heavy deficit. Dinusha completed his maiden Test century, scoring 100 from 168 balls with four fours and two sixes, while Dickwella made 80. However, India's spinners eventually ended Sri Lanka's resistance. Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar and veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja shared seven wickets as the hosts were dismissed for 284. Suthar claimed two wickets early in the innings and continued to trouble the Sri Lankan batters. India had also benefited from strong contributions from their batting line-up. Dhruv Jurel scored a half-century, while India's overall total of 462 gave the bowlers a sizeable cushion. Sri Lanka's spinners Prabath Jayasuriya and debutant Keshara Nuwantha had earlier taken seven wickets between them during India's innings. Indian captain Shubman Gill also made an impact in the field, taking a spectacular catch to dismiss Kamindu Mendis off Kuldeep Yadav. The dismissal further strengthened India's control as Sri Lanka struggled to keep pace with the visitors. Sri Lanka's 284 meant they trailed India by 178 runs. India were therefore in a commanding position, with their bowlers having successfully converted the advantage created by the first-innings total. Rain remained a major factor during the Test, restricting playing time and adding uncertainty to the contest. Despite the interruptions, India managed to establish a strong advantage through their batting depth and disciplined bowling. With Sri Lanka unable to erase the first-innings deficit, India will now look to build further pressure and push for a favourable result in the opening Test.

CSK Must First Decide MS Dhoni's Role, Says Kris Srikkanth

Former India captain Kris Srikkanth has urged Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to first decide the future role of former India captain MS Dhoni before finalising the franchise's next head coach. The comments come after Stephen Fleming's departure following a long association with the five-time IPL champions. Srikkanth backed CSK batting coach and former Australian batsman Michael Hussey as the ideal replacement for Fleming. He said CSK already have a suitable candidate within their setup and do not need to look outside the franchise. "Michael Hussey should be the automatic head coach. He will be the best choice," Srikkanth said on his YouTube channel. However, he stressed that Dhoni's position in the team must be settled first, saying the arrangement would determine how other decisions fall into place. Dhoni has not played for CSK since 2025 and missed the entire IPL 2026 season due to injury struggles. His future with the franchise has therefore become a major talking point ahead of IPL 2027. Srikkanth also dismissed former England captain Eoin Morgan as a coaching option. Morgan has been linked with the vacant position, while former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin recently suggested that Morgan could be under consideration. "I won't go for Eoin Morgan for sure," Srikkanth said, praising Morgan's playing and captaincy record but questioning his coaching credentials. He added that Morgan would be better suited to commentary. Fleming had spent 17 years as CSK head coach and guided the franchise to five IPL titles. He joined CSK as a player in the inaugural IPL season in 2008 and became head coach in 2009. Under his leadership, CSK also won two Champions League Twenty20 titles and reached the IPL playoffs 12 times.



Manav Suthar a Throwback to Old-School Indian Spin, Says Sivaramakrishnan

Former India spinner Laxman Sivaramakrishnan believes young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar represents a throwback to the old-school Indian spin tradition, praising his bowling technique and control. Suthar has attracted considerable attention since emerging on the domestic circuit and has been seen as a potential successor in India's long tradition of left-arm spin. His impressive performance against Sri Lanka on the third day of the Test in Galle further strengthened his reputation. Suthar returned figures of 4 for 76 from 21.4 overs as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 284 in their first innings. His ability to extract turn, maintain accuracy and trouble batters throughout the innings was one of the key highlights of his performance. Sivaramakrishnan said Suthar reminds him of Indian spinners from the 1970s and 1980s. He pointed to several technical aspects of the youngster's bowling, including his rockback, hip drive and release point. "He is a throwback to old school, the Indian spinner one got to witness in the 1970s and 1980s," Sivaramakrishnan said. Much of the discussion around Suthar has focused on his release position. His seam is angled towards first slip, allowing him to generate dip and drift before the ball reaches the batter. According to Sivaramakrishnan, however, Suthar's effectiveness cannot be explained by his release point alone. The former India spinner believes the combination of Suthar's movements, bowling action and ability to control the ball makes him a more complete spinner. Suthar's performance in Galle has provided another indication of his growing potential at the international level. His four-wicket haul against Sri Lanka also demonstrated his ability to perform under pressure in Test cricket. With India continuing to search for quality spin options for the future, Suthar's development could be significant. His traditional approach, combined with his technical skills and ability to create variations through drift and dip, has made him an intriguing prospect for Indian cricket.



Farrhana Bhatt Takes on Shocking Worm-Eating Challenge in Khatron Ke Khiladi 15



Television personality Farrhana Bhatt is drawing attention with her daring performance in the latest season of Khatron Ke Khiladi 15. A newly released promo from Colors features Farrhana facing one of the show's most gruesome challenges, in which she is asked to eat live worms as part of a task. Farrhana, who previously gained popularity through Bigg Boss 19, appears visibly frightened when she learns what she has to do. The promo captures her initial hesitation as she struggles to accept the challenge. She screams in fear and openly says that she cannot complete it, highlighting just how difficult the task is for her. However, the challenge pushes Farrhana beyond her comfort zone as she is expected to overcome her fear and continue with the task. The worm-eating stunt is designed to test not only the contestants' physical endurance but also their ability to control fear and discomfort under extreme circumstances. Farrhana's reaction has already attracted attention among viewers, with the promo offering a glimpse of the intense and unpredictable challenges awaiting contestants in Khatron Ke Khiladi 15. Known for combining physical stunts with fear-based tasks, the reality show regularly puts celebrities in situations that test their mental strength and determination. The latest promo places Farrhana at the centre of one such moment. Her hesitation and screams make the challenge particularly shocking, while her eventual response remains a key point of interest for viewers waiting to see whether she manages to complete the task. Farrhana's participation in Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 marks another major reality television appearance following her stint on Bigg Boss 19. Her presence on the stunt-based show has added another dimension to her television journey, as she now faces challenges that are very different from those encountered inside the Bigg Boss house. The promo has also generated curiosity about how Farrhana will handle future tasks on the show. With contestants being pushed to confront fears involving heights, speed, animals and other extreme situations, Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 is expected to deliver several intense moments throughout the season. For Farrhana, the live-worm challenge could become one of the most memorable moments of her stint on the show. Whether she successfully overcomes her fear and completes the task will be revealed as the episode unfolds.

RC17: Latest Buzz on Ram Charan and Sukumar's Much-Awaited Film



Ram Charan is currently basking in the success of Peddi and is preparing for his next major project with director Sukumar. Tentatively titled RC17, the upcoming film marks the reunion of the successful Rangasthalam duo and is being mounted on a grand scale by Mythri Movie Makers. According to the latest reports, the script work for RC17 has been completed, and the makers are now making preparations for the film's official launch. The project is expected to be formally launched in the coming weeks, while regular shooting is likely to begin later this year. The announcement has generated considerable excitement among Telugu cinema audiences, particularly because of the reunion of Ram Charan and Sukumar. The actor-director combination previously delivered Rangasthalam, which emerged as a major success and became one of the notable films in Ram Charan's career. RC17 is expected to be made on a large scale, with the makers reportedly working on the project with considerable attention to its story and presentation. While several details about the film are still being kept under wraps, the completion of the script is being seen as an important step towards taking the project into production. The film has also received attention because of comments from filmmaker SS Rajamouli. He previously revealed that he knows how the film begins and praised its opening sequence. Rajamouli described the sequence as hard-hitting and suggested that it could leave audiences stunned. His comments have further increased curiosity surrounding the project, particularly about how Sukumar plans to introduce the story and characters. Sukumar is known for creating distinctive narratives and strong characterisations, while Ram Charan has established himself as one of the leading stars in Indian cinema following a series of successful films. The reunion is especially significant because Rangasthalam remains an important collaboration for both Ram Charan and Sukumar. The film showcased a different side of the actor and received widespread appreciation for its storytelling, performances and technical execution. Expectations are therefore high for their second collaboration. Mythri Movie Makers is backing RC17 on a grand scale, adding to the anticipation surrounding the project. However, the makers have not yet revealed the complete cast, technical team or other major production details. With the script reportedly ready and preparations for the launch underway, RC17 is gradually moving towards production. An official announcement regarding the launch date, cast and other details is expected soon. As Ram Charan moves forward after Peddi, his collaboration with Sukumar has already become one of the most awaited upcoming projects in Telugu cinema. The film's official launch and the beginning of regular shooting are expected to provide further clarity about its scale, storyline and release plans.

SRK, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff Receive Notices Over Gutka Advertisement

Bollywood stars Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff have received show-cause notices from the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration over their advertisement for Vimal Elaichi. According to reports, the authorities have alleged that the commercial indirectly promotes Vimal Pan Masala, a product prohibited in Maharashtra. Based on the allegation, notices have been issued to all three actors seeking an explanation regarding their involvement in the advertisement. The celebrities have been given 15 days to respond to the notices and clarify their respective roles in the commercial. The development has attracted considerable attention, particularly on social media, where the participation of prominent Bollywood stars in such advertisements has sparked debate. The issue has also renewed discussions about celebrity endorsements of products associated with tobacco and other potentially harmful substances. Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff enjoy a massive following across India, and critics argue that celebrities with such influence should exercise caution while endorsing products that could have serious health consequences. The notices come amid continuing scrutiny of surrogate advertising, in which brands associated with restricted products promote alternative products using similar branding. Advertisements featuring popular film stars often receive widespread visibility, making the role of celebrities in such campaigns a subject of public debate. The actors are now expected to respond to the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration within the stipulated 15-day period. Their responses could provide clarity on their understanding of the advertisement and the nature of their association with the brand. The controversy has once again placed celebrity endorsements under the spotlight, with audiences and authorities closely watching how major public figures respond when their promotional campaigns face regulatory objections.



Spider-Man: Brand New Day, starring Tom Holland and Zendaya, has become a massive global box-office success, crossing the \$2 billion mark worldwide. Released on July 31, the Marvel Cinematic Universe film has reportedly collected \$2.02 billion globally, equivalent to around Rs 19,120 crore.

The film has also created a major record in India, where it has earned more than Rs 500 crore. It has emerged as the highest-grossing Hollywood film in the Indian market, surpassing the previous records set by Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey and Obsession.

Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Spider-Man: Brand New Day features Tom Holland once again as the

iconic superhero. The film introduces Spider-Man to a new powerful villain while also exploring unexpected physical changes faced by the character. The concept has reportedly connected strongly with audiences.

The film is the 38th entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe and has become another major blockbuster for

Marvel Studios. Kevin Feige and Amy Pascal have produced the project.

The cast includes Jacob Batalan as Ned Leeds, Crondon as Tombstone and Sadie Sink as Jean Gray. Marc Ruffalo appears as Hulk, Jon Bernthal as Punisher and Michael Mando as Scorpion. With its record-breaking performance in India and worldwide collections crossing \$2 billion, Spider-Man: Brand New Day has strengthened the franchise's position as one of the big gest commercial forces in global cinema.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day Crosses \$2 Billion Worldwide

SPIDER-MAN



Music maestro A.R. Rahman is set to lead the search for the next Tamil singing sensation with Tamil Idol, a statewide talent hunt aimed at discovering promising voices from across Tamil Nadu. The auditions for the show will open from August 18, giving aspiring singers an opportunity to showcase their abilities and compete for a platform under the guidance of one of India's most celebrated composers. The initiative is expected to bring together singers from different parts of the state and highlight a wide range of musical talent.

Speaking about Tamil Idol, A.R. Rahman said that the search for new voices is at the heart of music and that such journeys help uncover new talent, fresh perspectives and untold stories of different generations. He added that the show would bring together extraordinary voices from Tamil Nadu and provide them with a platform to be celebrated. Sony Vizha has unveiled Tamil Idol as the first-ever Tamil edition of one of the world's most iconic singing competition formats. A.R. Rahman announced the opening of auditions from August 18 and invited aspiring singers across Tamil Nadu to register through the Sony LIV app. The audition process has been designed to allow participation from singers who may not be able to attend physical audition centres. Those unable to appear in person can also audition from anywhere through the Sony LIV app. To participate, aspiring contestants need to select the Tamil Idol Audition section on the app and complete the registration process by entering their personal details. The digital audition option is expected to make the talent hunt accessible to singers from different regions and backgrounds. Tamil Idol marks another major initiative involving A.R. Rahman, whose career has been defined by his work across Indian and international cinema. The composer has consistently supported emerging musical talent and has been associated with projects aimed at giving new voices greater opportunities. Meanwhile, Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman recently unveiled the soundtrack for the critically acclaimed Arabic psychological fantasy-thriller Baab, directed by Nayla Al Khaja. The project marked Rahman's first collaboration on an Arabic film. The original soundtrack for Baab was released across major streaming platforms through Rahman's music label KM Musiq and distributed worldwide by Divo. The album features 10 compositions by the celebrated composer. Discussing his association with Baab, Rahman said he was drawn to the project because of its emotional complexity and the distinctive world created by director Nayla Al Khaja.

A.R. Rahman Launches Search for Tamil Idol Across Tamil Nadu

While his international projects continue to expand his musical footprint, Tamil Idol gives Rahman an opportunity to focus on emerging singers from Tamil Nadu. The statewide auditions are expected to attract a large number of participants looking to establish themselves in the music industry. With registrations opening through Sony LIV and auditions beginning on August 18, Tamil Idol is now set to begin its search for new Tamil voices. The show could provide aspiring singers with an important opportunity to gain recognition and take their first major step towards a career in music.

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G V Prakash Kumar Promises a Surprise Version of Mallepoola Pallaki in Irumudi

expected to continue their promotional campaign and maintain the momentum in the days leading up to the theatrical opening. Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar under the Mythri Movie Makers banner, Irumudi is positioned as an emotional action drama with a combination of strong performances, music and commercial elements. The film is scheduled to release on August 21, 2026, in both Telugu and Tamil. With Ravi Teja and Shiva Nirvana collaborating on the project and G V Prakash Kumar teasing additional surprises, audiences will be watching closely to see whether the theatrical version of Mallepoola Pallaki delivers the impact promised by the composer.

Irumudi is one of the upcoming big releases in Tollywood, featuring Ravi Teja in the lead role and directed by Shiva Nirvana. The emotional action drama stars Priya Bhavani Shankar as the female lead and has already generated interest among moviegoers. The makers recently released the much-awaited song Mallepoola Pallaki at the film's pre-release event. While the released version featured vocals by the original singer, a section of fans expressed disappointment with the presentation. Composer G V Prakash Kumar has now assured fans that the song will receive a special treatment in theatres. He revealed that a DJ version and other surprises are planned for the theatrical presentation, raising expectations among audiences waiting to experience the song on the big screen. The announcement has come as a relief to fans who were hoping for a different version of Mallepoola Pallaki. With G V Prakash Kumar promising additional elements, curiosity has increased over how the song will be presented when Irumudi reaches theatres. The promotional material released so far has helped the film create decent buzz ahead of its release. The makers are

