



Assembly Public Undertakings Committee to Meet on Aug 27, 28

Amaravati, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly's Public Undertakings Committee will meet on August 27 and 28 at the Assembly Committee Hall, Assembly Secretary General Suryadevara Prasanna Kumar said on Tuesday.

The meeting, initially scheduled for August 26 and 27, was rescheduled as August 26 is a government holiday on account of Milad-un-Nabi. The committee will review annual reports and general activities of various State-run Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for the past five years. On August 27, the committee will review Samagra Shiksha and AP Urban Infrastructure Asset Management Limited at 10 am, followed by the AP State Disaster Management Authority and AP Education and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation (APEWIDC) at 2 pm. On August 28, reviews of AP Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC), AP State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) and AP State Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies (APCO) will be held from 10 am. The AP Khadi and Village Industries Board (AP KVIB) and AP State Warehousing Corporation will be reviewed from 2 pm.

Five of Family Found Dead at Srisailam Lodge



Uday Banavath

Srisailam: Five members of a family were found dead at Room No. 11 of the Vaddera Satram, a pilgrim lodge in Srisailam. The incident, believed to have occurred three days ago, came to light after lodge staff noticed a foul smell from the room and alerted police. Police said two members were found hanging from the ceiling fan in the main room, while three women were found dead in the bathroom. The deceased were identified as Pallapu Sudhakar (36), Malleswari (45), Sridevi (33), Gogula Adilakshmi (50) and Manikanta (15), all from Battalipalli in Sri Sathya Sai district. Atmakur DSP Ramanjaneyulu inspected the scene. The Srisailam police registered a case and launched an investigation. The family had reportedly been staying at the lodge for nearly a month, despite rules that allow devotees to stay only 48 hours. Financial difficulties are suspected to have driven them to the extreme step. Temple Chairman Ramesh Naidu and Executive Officer (EO) Srinivasa Rao expressed distress over the incident and ordered private choultries to follow accommodation rules strictly. They also announced an inquiry into the controversies surrounding the Vaddera choultry.

Expert Committee to Discuss Junior Doctors' Stipend Hike

Vijayawada, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Directorate of Medical Education will hold an expert committee meeting on August 27 to discuss enhancement of stipends for medical and dental students in government institutions. The meeting, scheduled for 5 pm at APIIC, Mangalagiri, will examine revision of stipends for interns, post-graduate degree and diploma students, super-speciality students, MDS and DNB students in modern medicine. The committee will comprise the Secretary to the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department, Director of Medical Education, Director of Secondary Health, Registrar of Dr NTR University of Health Sciences and representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (APJUDA).



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Lokesh Launches RS.10,500-Crore Wind Energy Projects in Anantapur

1,325 MW projects to create 1,600 jobs and boost AP's clean-energy sector

Anantapur, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh further strengthened its position as a clean-energy hub with Minister for IT Nara Lokesh inaugurating Suzlon's 1,325 MW wind energy projects in Anantapur on Tuesday. The projects involve an investment of RS.10,500 crore and are expected to generate 1,600 direct and indirect jobs. Lokesh also inaugurated the expanded Suzlon smart blade manufacturing facility in Ananthapuramu, which now has two additional production lines. The expansion is expected to strengthen the State's renewable energy manufacturing ecosystem and support its growing clean-energy requirements. Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh was committed to developing a world-class clean-energy ecosystem to support the State's next phase of industrial and economic growth. "The groundbreaking of 1,325 MW of wind energy projects by Suzlon is another important milestone in this journey, reflecting the growing confidence of leading renewable energy companies in Andhra Pradesh's progressive policies and investment ecosystem," he said. Lokesh said long-standing partnerships



would be critical to accelerating renewable energy development, creating jobs, attracting investments and positioning Andhra Pradesh as a leading clean-energy hub in India. The latest investment builds on Suzlon's more than two-decade association with Andhra Pradesh. The company has so far catalysed around RS.15,500 crore of investment in the State and is executing nearly 1,600 MW of wind projects. Suzlon's Ananthapur manufacturing facility has an annual capacity of 1,260 MW and currently supports more than 1,200 direct and indirect green jobs. The company has also contributed to green skilling, with 12,000 young people, including 3,000 women, trained through

skill development labs in Uravakonda and Vijayawada. Suzlon Vice Chairman and Co-Founder Girish Tanti said the company was proud to be a long-term partner in Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy journey and described the new projects as a new chapter in the two-decade partnership. Suzlon CEO Ajay Kapur said the State's expanding industrial and technology ecosystem, including data centres and new industries, was creating new energy requirements and making integrated renewable energy solutions increasingly important. The projects further reinforce Andhra Pradesh's emergence as a destination for renewable energy investments, advanced manufacturing and green jobs.

Palm Groves to Form Natural Shield Along Andhra Pradesh Coast



ARN Mahesh

Amaravati : The state government has launched a major Palmyra planting drive along Andhra Pradesh's coastline as part of the second tier of the three-tiered 'Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh' initiative. The programme aims to create a natural barrier against strong coastal winds and erosion while improving ecological resilience in vulnerable coastal areas. Palmyra palms are suited to saline air, strong winds and coastal soils. Their extensive root systems help hold soil, while their height and dense growth provide a natural windbreak. The groves are



also expected to support biodiversity and strengthen climate resilience. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment Pawan Kalyan has proposed establishing three-tiered Palmyra groves across 5,499 hectares. The Forest Department estimates that 5.5 million seeds will be required. With the onset of the fruit season, seed collection and planting have begun. About 1.3 million seeds have already been collected through rural communities and various organisations, while 165,000 have been planted with the participation of the Panchayat Raj and Revenue departments.

AP High Court Bids Farewell to Justice Gopala Krishna Rao

Amaravati, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday bade farewell to Justice Venuturumalli Gopala Krishna Rao on his retirement at a ceremony held in Court Hall No. 1, with Chief Justice Lisa Gill and the full bench in attendance. Chief Justice Lisa Gill described him as a committed judge and recalled his distinguished career. Born on August 30, 1964, at Challapalli, he began



legal practice in 1989 and joined the AP Judicial Services in 1994 as a Junior Civil Judge. He became an Additional Judge of the High Court in January 2023 and a permanent judge in August 2024.

She noted his significant judgments and judicial responsibilities and wished him a peaceful and healthy retired life. Justice Gopala Krishna Rao thanked colleagues and others for their support and guidance throughout his career. Additional Solicitor General Challa Dhananjay, Advocate General Dammalapati Srinivas and AP High Court Bar Association President Prabhunath Vasireddy also conveyed their wishes.



Henrietta Becomes Costliest Player in WAPL History

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Mangalagiri : Pereira Flavia Henrietta emerged as the biggest attraction at the WAPL 2026 auction, becoming the most expensive player in league history after Godavari Golden Eagles secured her for RS.4.3 lakh. The auction, conducted under the franchise model for the first time by the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA), concluded at Novotel in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The auction witnessed strong competition for established players and emerging talent, reflecting growing interest in women's cricket in Andhra Pradesh. Of the 191 players registered, 74 were picked by the four franchises. Rayalaseema Zen Stars acquired India star Sri Charani for RS.1.1 lakh and also secured 12-year-old A. Sai Shanmukha Priya. Vizag Firebirds purchased K. Anjali Sarvani, while Amaravati E-Champions secured Neeragattu Anusha for RS.2.1 lakh. Former Indian captain Mithali Raj was a special attraction and has agreed to serve as brand ambassador for Andhra women's cricket development. Speaking to the media, Governing Council Chairman Sujay Krishna Ranga Rao and Director of Cricket Operations Kalyan Krishna described the auction as an unforgettable day in Andhra women's cricket. They said shifting WAPL to a franchise-based model would strengthen the sport and help produce more players like Sri Charani. They acknowledged



Justice Mallikharjuna Rao Takes Oath as AP Lokayukta

Vijayawada, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Pradesh High Court Judge Justice Tallapragada Mallikharjuna Rao was sworn in as the Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh at a ceremony held at Durbar Hall in Lok Bhavan on Tuesday. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer administered the oath of office to Justice Mallikharjuna Rao in the presence of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. The appointment marks the assumption of office by the former High Court judge as the Lokayukta for the State. Earlier, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), J. Syamala Rao commenced the proceedings. The Registrar of the Institution of Lokayukta subsequently read out the warrant of appointment

issued by the Governor, formally appointing Justice Tallapragada Mallikharjuna Rao as Lokayukta. Following the ceremony, Governor S. Abdul Nazeer and Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu congratulated Justice Mallikharjuna Rao and presented him bouquets. Minister for Labour, Factories, Boilers & Insurance Medical Services Vasamsetti Subhash, Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta, Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, Special Chief Secretary to Governor G. Anantha Ramu, Advocate General Dammalapati Srinivas and Secretary General, AP Legislature Secretariat, Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara attended the programme. Judicial officers, senior government officials and other dignitaries were also present.

Centre Sanctions RS.840 Crore for NH-365BB Upgrade: Gadkari

Amaravati, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

The Central Government has approved RS.840.41 crore for upgrading 45.09 km of National Highway 365BB in Andhra Pradesh, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced on Tuesday. The sanctioned works cover the Buttaigudem-LND Peta and Pattiseema-Kovvur sections, which will be upgraded to a two-lane highway with paved shoulders. Gadkari said the project would significantly improve connectivity to the Polavaram Irrigation Project and surrounding villages. In a post on X, Gadkari said the region was agriculturally rich, with tobacco, sugarcane and palm plantations. Improved road infrastructure would facilitate faster, safer and more efficient transportation of agricultural produce to



markets, strengthen farm-to-market linkages and support local livelihoods. He said the upgraded highway would strengthen connectivity between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and benefit commuters, businesses and tourists. It would also improve access to important Godavari ghats and the Polavaram Dam. Gadkari said the project would facilitate smoother movement of pilgrims and visitors during the Godavari Pushkaralu in 2027, giving

Naidu Directs Officials to Ensure Grand, Safe Godavari Pushkarams



Amaravati, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to make comprehensive arrangements for the Godavari Pushkarams, scheduled to begin on June 26, 2027, and ensure devotees face no inconvenience. He suggested conducting

the event under the theme "Akhanda Godavari", symbolising the river system from its origin to the sea. Reviewing Pushkaram works at the Secretariat on Tuesday, Naidu said the event should be conducted on a grand scale with world-class facilities. Officials said works

AP, UK Sign MoU for Sustainable Urban Development

Amaravati, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh and the United Kingdom on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a long-term Government-to-Government partnership focused on sustainable urban development, infrastructure planning, technology transfer and integrated urban mobility. The MoU was signed at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, by Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department, S. Suresh Kumar, and Deputy Director, Government Partnerships, Department for Business, Innovation, Science & Trade, UK Government, Chaz Walia, in the presence of Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development Dr P. Narayana.



Dr Narayana said the partnership would provide Andhra Pradesh access to international expertise and best practices as the State undertakes large-scale urban transformation, with Amaravati at the centre of its development vision. He said the focus would be on converting expertise into implementable, investment-ready and future-ready projects. S. Suresh Kumar said the MoU would provide a structured institutional platform to combine the State's development priorities with

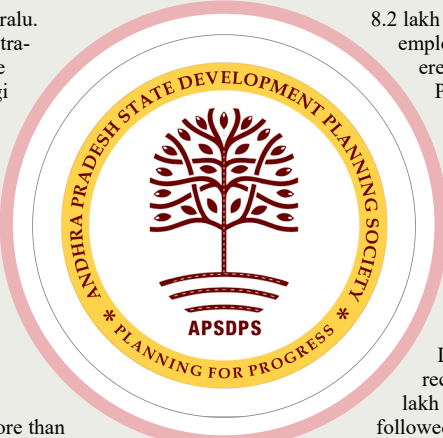
AP Shifts to Data-Driven Governance Under Swarna Andhra @2047

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government is increasingly shifting from broad policy announcements to measurable, data-driven execution, with the Andhra Pradesh State Development Planning Society (APSDPS) emerging as a key institutional mechanism. Over the past two years, APSDPS has expanded its role in monitoring development indicators, strengthening administrative capacity and supporting evidence-based decision-making across the State. The shift is increasingly visible at the grassroots, with development planning and monitoring extending across all 175

Assembly constituencies and 28 districts. Dashboards, economic indicators, citizen feedback and progress reports are being used to identify gaps and track outcomes as part of the Swarna Andhra @2047 roadmap. Operating under the Planning Department, APSDPS functions through four wings-Capacity Building, Economic and Policy Research, Information Technology, and the State Institution for Transformation (SIT) under NITI Aayog. The government has set a target of building a \$2.4 trillion economy, achieving a per capita income of Rs 55 lakh by 2047 and sustaining annual growth of 15 per cent or more under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu

Naidu's Padi Sutralu. A major administrative reform is the iGOT Karmayogi initiative, implemented under the AP Knowledge Society and Capacity Building Policy 2025 in partnership with IIM Ahmedabad and the Capacity Building Commission. More than



8.2 lakh government employees are covered, while Andhra Pradesh has secured second rank nationally with over 1.52 crore course completions from 1.85 crore enrolments. The School Education Department recorded 58.09 lakh completions, followed by Panchayat

Raj with 14.10 lakh, Police with 13.27 lakh, Municipal Administration with 10.63 lakh and Public Transport with 4.38 lakh. The government is establishing the Global Institute for Good Governance (GIGG) at Amaravati, including the Andhra Governance Innovation Lab for policy experimentation and data-driven governance. Constituency Vision Action Plan Units have also been established across all 175 constituencies. Chaired by local MLAs, the nine-member units use trained Young Professionals and live dashboards to monitor more than 600 development indicators. At the State level, the Chief Minister is using the Swarna Andhra Portal, RTGS

citizen feedback and PGRS data to review all 28 districts. A centralised Review Tracker monitors issues raised by Collectors and legislators until Action Taken Reports are submitted. Other initiatives include the Population Management Policy 2026, Pillare Sampada framework, AI-enabled GVA estimation and GSDP nowcasting. APSDPS has also partnered with TTD and IIM Ahmedabad to revamp Srivari Seva and secured Rs 1.61 crore under NITI Aayog's State Support Mission. The government says the data-driven system is aimed at making Swarna Andhra @2047 a measurable development programme rather than merely a long-term vision.

AP Junior Doctors Temporarily Call Off Strike After High Court Order



K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (APJUDA) has temporarily called off its statewide strike from 8 a.m. on August 26 following directions from the Andhra Pradesh High Court to resume patient services and asked the State Government to resolve the doctors' demands within two weeks.

The decision came during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (WP(PIL)/193/2026) filed by a social activist against the State Government and APJUDA. The Division Bench directed APJUDA to call off the strike and continue patient care, while directing the government to address the issues within two weeks, by September 7. The court also allowed APJU-

DA to approach it again if the demands were not resolved. APJUDA President Dr U. Eswar Shankar said, "The strike has been temporarily called off from 26.08.2026, 08:00 AM, in the best interest of patients and continuation of patient care. We respect the High Court's judgment and hope the government resolves all our demands within two weeks."



The association has been seeking enhancement of stipends for interns, post-graduates, super-specialty postgraduates and senior residents with effect from January 1, 2026, strict adherence to National Medical Commission regulations on recruitment of non-medical faculty, and opposition to increasing the retirement age to 65 years. APJUDA General Secretary Dr Sk Lukhman Ali said the association

has been pursuing the stipend revision since December 2025 and had even reduced its original demand for a 30 per cent hike to 15 per cent. "Only the strike has been temporarily called off; our pursuit for justice will continue through alternative courses of action," he said. Vice President Dr G. Bhargava Sai Naidu said the association remained hopeful of an amicable

resolution and thanked junior doctors and supporting organisations for their solidarity. APJUDA said four rounds of discussions with government officials had failed to produce a favourable solution. Another round of talks with Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, Health Secretary and Director of Medical Education is scheduled for August 27.

Search Intensified for Seven Missing Fishermen Says Atchannaidu

Amaravati, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said the search for seven missing fishermen from the Amalapuram region had been intensified with the coordination of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Navy and other agencies. He said 15 ICG vessels and four helicopters deployed in nearby waters were conducting an extensive search, while electronic surveillance continued under the Marine Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC). Maritime authorities in Myanmar and Bangladesh had also been alerted in case the missing

boat drifted into foreign waters. Atchannaidu said the Union Ministry of Defence stepped up efforts after Amalapuram MP Harish Balayogi met the Union Defence Minister on Tuesday. Eastern and North-Eastern Commands in Kolkata were also mobilised. Search operations have been expanded to Diamond Harbour and the Sundarbans, taking into account ocean currents, wind, weather conditions and fishermen's usual routes. The Minister said every possible effort was being made to locate the fishermen and bring them back safely.

POCSO Court Sentences Man to 20 Years

Kakinada, August 25 | TPN Bureau

The Special POCSO Court, Kakinada, sentenced Chirra Anand Kumar, 29, of SC Peta, Kolamuru village, to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for assaulting a 16-year-old minor girl. The judgment was delivered on Tuesday in POCSO S.C. No. 26/2021, arising from Crime No. 790/2020 of Rajanagar Police Station. The court imposed a fine of \$5,000 under Section 3 read with 4(2) of the POCSO Act, with three months' simple imprisonment in default. The fine will be handed over to the victim as compensation after the appeal period. Under IPC Section 363, the accused was sentenced to three months' simple imprisonment and a \$500 fine, with 15 days' imprisonment in default. The sentences will run concurrently. The case was registered after the accused allegedly lured the girl with a promise of marriage and assaulted her. Then Rajanagar SI U.V.S. Nagababu registered the FIR. East Zone DSP A.T.V. Ravikumar conducted the investigation, while Circle Inspector Veerayya Goud supervised it. Special Public Prosecutor P. Sridevi effectively presented the prosecution case. Head Constables Ch. Srinivasa Rao, K. Bala Satyakumar and Constable M. Satish assisted in producing witnesses. The District SP commended the police team and prosecutor.

AP JAC Seeks United Agitation on Employee Issues



Vijayawada, August 25 | TPN Bureau

AP JAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju called for a united agitation by employee organisations to press for the long-pending demands of employees, teachers and pensioners. As part of efforts to build unity, a delegation visited APNGO Bhavan in Vijayawada on Tuesday and met APNGO State President and AP JAC Chairman A. Vidyasagar and General Secretary Ramana. Bopparaju said there had been no response for two years on several issues, particularly financial benefits. He urged APNGO leaders to join the AP JAC Amaravati

agitation and invited them to participate in the state-level conference scheduled for August 28. APNGO President A. Vidyasagar said the AP JAC state executive committee would meet on September 3 and a decision on participation would be conveyed thereafter. The delegation also contacted Andhra Pradesh Secretariat Employees' Association President Ramakrishna and requested participation in the August 28 conference. Secretary General Paliseti Damodara Rao, Agitation Committee President T.V. Phani Perajuru, Treasurer Thimmasarthi Nageswara Rao and others participated.

Government to Positively Examine Junior Doctors' Demands

Amaravati, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said the state government would positively and sympathetically examine the demands of Junior Doctors' Association (JUDA) members and work towards a mutually acceptable solution. JUDA representatives met Satya Kumar and Health Secretary G. Veera Pandian at the State Secretariat on Tuesday and informed them that they had called off their strike and resumed duties. The Minister said a special committee headed by Health Secretary G. Veera Pandian would meet JUDA representatives within a day or two to discuss the demand for a stipend hike. He said the government would consider financial constraints and stipends



offered in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Telangana. Satya Kumar clarified that no final decision had been taken on increasing the retirement age of doctors and assured that the issue would be reconsidered. He also said the proposal concerning MSc and PhD candidates for non-clinical posts would be

reviewed. The Minister said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had been apprised of the doctors' concerns. He noted that around 9,500 junior doctors were serving in government hospitals and thanked them for withdrawing the strike, considering the impact on emergency services and public health.

GoMill, AP MEPMA Join Hands to Empower 500 SHG Women



Vijayawada, August 25 | TPN Bureau

EBG Group's Native Touch brand GoMill has partnered with the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), Government of Andhra Pradesh, to promote sustainable millet-based enterprises among urban Self-Help Group (SHG) women across the state. Under the initiative, GoMill plans to facilitate 100 millet-based food and retail outlets, empowering 500 SHG women and generating

direct and indirect employment opportunities for around 1,500 people. The programme will provide women entrepreneurs with end-to-end support covering business formats, product and menu development, branding, infrastructure planning, food safety and hygiene training, operations, supply-chain assistance and market access. AP MEPMA will identify and mobilise eligible SHG women through its grassroots network across Urban Local Bodies. Dr. Irfan Khan, Founder, EBG

Group, said the initiative aimed to combine entrepreneurship, nutrition and community development. He said the partnership would help women build profitable and sustainable enterprises while promoting millet-based products. GoMill, the millet-focused brand under Native Touch, is developing value-added millet products and scalable business formats. EBG Group said Andhra Pradesh was selected as the pilot state, with the model expected to be expanded to other regions.

Alliance Government Clears Job Calendar with 10,060 Posts Says Ramprasad

Amaravati, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Transport, Youth and Sports Mandipalli Ramprasada Reddy said creating employment and livelihood opportunities for unemployed youth was a key objective of the Alliance government. He welcomed the release of the 'Job Calendar-2026', featuring recruitment to 10,060 posts, and urged youngsters to work hard to secure government jobs. Ramprasada Reddy said Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu was taking steps to fulfil the aspirations of the state's youth by pri-

oritising employment generation. He said recruitment under the job calendar would be conducted in four phases, with notifications expected to be issued in September and October. The Minister said the calendar covered vacancies in several departments, including Group-1, Group-2, Prisons, Forest, Animal Husbandry, Excise, Engineering and Electricity. As part of the recruitment drive, 2,991 teacher posts would be filled through the District Selection Committee (DSC) process, he said. Ramprasada Reddy called upon unemployed youth to make full use of the

recruitment opportunities and prepare seriously for competitive examinations. He said securing government employment would enable young people to serve the people and the state with dedication. He reiterated that the Alliance government was committed to creating more employment opportunities and strengthening livelihood prospects for the youth. The Minister said detailed information on the Job Calendar-2026 was available on the official website goir.ap.gov.in and advised aspirants to regularly check the portal for recruitment notifications and other updates.

MP Demands CBI Probe, Death Penalty for Coach in Nookaraju Family Case



CH Raju

Kakinada: Ten-year-old Riyansh Karthikeya Reddy, grandson of AE Nookaraju, expressed fear and anguish over the alleged harassment faced by his family and accused rifle shooting coach Sadiq Khan of destroying their lives. Kakinada MP Uday Srinivas took Riyansh to meet the District Collector and later spoke to the media along with the boy. Riyansh said he had developed an interest in rifle shooting in Class III and trained under Sadiq Khan during his school days. He alleged that the coach subsequently met his mother and subjected her to harassment and torture. He further alleged that Sadiq mixed chemicals into his father Jagadeesh Reddy's protein shake, resulting in his death, and threatened to sell him to terrorists if he disclosed the matter. "I have become an orphan and have no one left. I am afraid to even step outside," Riyansh said. Uday Srinivas alleged that Sadiq Khan

was responsible for the circumstances that led to the deaths of members of Nookaraju's family. He alleged that Sadiq had mixed cyanide into Jagadeesh Reddy's protein powder and taken possession of bank account details and property documents belonging to the family. The MP said Sowjanya had allegedly faced severe harassment and referred to her suicide note seeking justice. He demanded that the case be handed over to the CBI for a comprehensive investigation and sought the maximum punishment for Sadiq. Srinivas said he had requested the Collector to ensure that Riyansh's assets were transferred to his name and urged the government to support the boy's education. He also sought protection for Riyansh and appealed to students who had trained under Sadiq and faced difficulties to come forward confidentially. Nookaraju and his daughter Sowjanya had recently died by suicide in Rajamahendravaram. Police arrested Sadiq Khan and remanded him to custody.

Amaravati Set to Emerge as Quantum Computing Hub



Amaravati, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Amaravati is being developed as a knowledge hub with a focus on quantum computing and modern technology, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Dr Ponguru Narayana said after inspecting the construction of the quantum computing building in the capital city. Narayana said the government aimed to transform Amaravati into a technology centre on the lines of Hyderabad's development as an IT hub. He inspected the construction progress and interacted with officials on the status of the project. The 45,216-sqft quantum computing building is being constructed under the Quantum Valley Mission. Narayana said the primary structural works were nearing completion and directed officials to expedite the remaining works. The quantum laboratory is being built on a "room-within-a-room" concept using German technology to minimise seismic vibrations and external noise. He said helium compressors and cryogenic dilution refrigerators would cool quantum chips to extremely low temper-

atures. A dual active feeder system would ensure uninterrupted power, while K13-rated isolation transformers would control harmonic disturbances. The building is also being developed under the green-building concept to reduce carbon emissions. Building to be ready by December Narayana said, as directed by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the building would be completed by December. L&T is expected to hand over the structure for MEP works by September 15, with quantum computing services targeted for launch in January. He said two 48-floor, 202-metre towers, with a combined 3.7 million sqft area, would be developed nearby. Tenders have been invited and the L-1 bidder finalised. The towers are intended to accommodate startups, technology firms and other companies. Narayana said N Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh were personally monitoring the project and efforts were underway to attract leading domestic and international quantum computing companies to Amaravati.

Contract Medical Staff Seek Resolution of Service Issues



Amaravati, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Representatives of the AP Allied Medical Health Sciences & Paramedical JAC met Medical and Health Minister Satya Kumar at the State Secretariat on Tuesday evening and submitted a representation seeking resolution of issues faced by contract medical and paramedical staff working in government hospitals and medical institutions. The representatives requested favourable decisions on their service conditions and demanded payment of 100 per cent gross salary until their services are regularised. They also

sought 750 lakh accident insurance coverage and full EPF benefits for all contract employees. The JAC further requested provisions for request and mutual transfers, taking into consideration employees' seniority and family circumstances. The representatives urged the Minister to take steps to provide greater job security and welfare benefits to contract staff. Responding to their representation, Satya Kumar assured them that he would soon arrange a meeting with the concerned officials to discuss their demands and explore appropriate solutions.

Lokesh Calls for Alliance Unity and Victory in Local Body Polls

Rayadurgam, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Desam Party National General Secretary Nara Lokesh called upon party workers to work collectively for victory in the upcoming local body elections and uphold the unity of the TDP-BJP-Jana Sena alliance. Addressing a constituency party workers' meeting at Nallampalli in Kanekal Mandal on Tuesday, he said the cadre was the real strength of the TDP and assured recognition and respect for every hardworking worker. Lokesh said feedback from party workers through the 'MyTDP' app was being reviewed and assured that genuine issues would be addressed. He highlighted the party's welfare initiatives for its cadre, including insurance coverage, and said RS.160 crore had



already been spent on their welfare. He said the development of Anantapur district was his responsibility and highlighted investments in solar and wind energy, industries and fighter jet manufacturing, which he said would create employment opportunities for youth. Lokesh said the alliance government was implementing wel-

fare programmes including Deepam 2.0, Stree Shakti, Talliki Vandanam and pensions. He said 16,000 teacher posts had been filled through DSC and a job calendar covering 10,000 vacancies was announced. He criticised YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for not attending the Assembly regularly and challenged him to debate the DSC issue. Lokesh urged alliance workers not to fall prey to social media propaganda and work unitedly for victory in the local body elections. He also announced responsibility for sanctioning a degree college at Kanekal. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, Anantapur MP Ambica G. Lakshminarayana, Rayadurgam MLA Kalava Srinivasulu and other leaders participated.

Gear Up for Local Body Polls, Says YS Jagan



Tadepalli, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has called upon party leaders and cadre to gear up for the ensuing local body elections, asserting that a strong anti-incumbency wave is building against the coalition government. Addressing Party leaders and cadre at Tadepalli on Tuesday, Jagan said the anger among all sections of people could translate into votes for YSRCP if elections were conducted in a free and fair manner. He urged the cadre to fight every seat and leave no scope for manipulation by the TDP. Jagan said the coalition government had failed on all fronts during the past two years and expressed confidence that YSRCP would win if there was a level playing field. He directed leaders to field strong candidates for every seat and said unanimous elections would be taken

seriously. MLA aspirants should work hard to ensure contests and victories for Party candidates, he added. He asked leaders and cadre to visit every household and explain the differences between YSRCP and the coalition to voters. He said QR-coded identity cards would be distributed to cadre up to the village level, along with campaign and election material. Jagan also directed the legal cell to remain active against alleged

harassment and coercive measures, while social media teams should highlight the government's policies. He stressed the need to train cadre in using the Jagan 2.0 App and warned leaders against complacency and ego. He asked leaders to work as a single unit and remain in their constituencies over the next few months. Party coordinators, in-charges of all 175 Assembly constituencies and other leaders attended the meeting.



Alliance Leaders Clash in Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Differences among the TDP and Jana Sena leaders in Pendurthi came to the fore when the leaders reportedly came to blows in the middle of the road in the presence of MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu. The incident created tension as the leaders exchanged verbal abuse and engaged in a scuffle in full public view.

The clash reportedly highlighted growing differences between the alliance leaders in the constituency. MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu expressed anger over the behaviour of the leaders and reportedly warned them against creating disputes in public places. The incident has sparked discussion among the alliance ranks about the need for coordination and discipline among the TDP and Jana Sena leaders.

Suresh Kumar Calls for Greater Focus on Manufacturing Sector



Vijayawada, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

CR Media Academy Chairman Alapati Suresh Kumar called upon entrepreneurs to give greater priority to the manufacturing sector to strengthen the country's economy and create wealth. He was speaking as chief guest at the curtain-raiser event for the "Flagship Expo - Visakhapatnam", organised by the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation in Vijayawada on Tuesday. He said India had witnessed significant growth in services and other sectors, but manufacturing had not progressed as expected. Suresh Kumar urged entrepreneurs to promote manufacturing in the spirit of the Government of India's 'Make in India' initiative. He suggested introduc-

ing students to basic product manufacturing at the college level and coordinating with technical education institutions to encourage practical learning. He also released the Business Expo brochure. Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation President Potluri Bhaskara Rao said the Business Expo would be held in Visakhapatnam on September 11, 12 and 13. He said the city's rapid industrial growth made it an ideal venue for the event. He said the expo would feature dedicated pavilions for food processing, tourism and startup companies, providing businesses an opportunity to showcase their products and explore partnerships. Chamber of Commerce Secretary Subbarao Ravuri, B. Rajashekhar and others participated.

Alliance to Win Local Body Polls: Adinarayana Reddy



Vijayawada, August 25 | TPN Bureau

BJP MLA from Jammalamadugu C. Adinarayana Reddy said the TDP-BJP-Jana Sena alliance would contest the ensuing local body elections in coordination and secure a resounding victory. He said the three parties would decide seat allocations and candidates based on their respective strengths and prevailing political conditions. Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Adinarayana Reddy criticised YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for speaking about elections despite not attending the Assembly. He alleged that democracy was undermined during the previous YSRCP

regime and said the alliance government was committed to conducting the local body polls democratically. He said the alliance would demonstrate its strength in Pulivendula and asserted that Jagan lacked the courage to contest elections himself. Adinarayana Reddy also questioned Jagan over the CBI and ED cases against him and said investigative agencies should be allowed to perform their duties, with courts taking the final decisions. He said the alliance would seek votes by highlighting development and welfare programmes, including Talliki Vandanam, free bus travel for women and Annadatha Sukhibhava. He also highlighted Amaravati development, Bhogapuram Airport, road networks, housing, drinking water, electricity and industrial investments. Adinarayana Reddy said the alliance's unity was its greatest strength and expressed confidence of victory in the local body elections. BJP spokesperson Shaik Baji, BJP leader Dr. Rajesh Reddy and others attended.

Lokesh Urges Telugu People in Bellary to Return to AP

Bellary, Karnataka, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh called upon Telugu people living in Bellary to contribute to the development of Andhra Pradesh and said the TDP's mission was to ensure the welfare of Telugu people wherever they lived. Addressing the Telugu community at Kudithini in Bellary Mandal, Lokesh recalled the courage shown by the Telugu people during the arrest of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on September 9, 2023. He said their protest in Bellary during the difficult period had given strength to the Telugu community and assured that their support would always be remembered. Lokesh said Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh shared a close bond and called for greater cooperation among southern states to make South India the leading region in the country. He welcomed Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's call for collective development and referred to Chandrababu Naidu's proposal for interlinking rivers in South India. Appreciating the Bellary



Telugu community for establishing an Anna Canteen and seeking an NTR Circle, Lokesh said Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao remained a symbol of Telugu self-respect. He invited Telugu people to return to Andhra Pradesh, highlighting opportunities in industries and development. AP Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, MLA Daggubati Venkata Prasad, Bellary TDP leaders Ramu and Anoop Kumar, party activists and admirers participated.

SERP-AP Wins National Award for PMFME Implementation



Vijayawada, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

The Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Andhra Pradesh, has received a national-level award for its outstanding implementation of the Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme. Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan presented the award at the PMFME Conclave held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on August 24 and 25. SERP-AP was recog-

nised for facilitating seed capital and bank loans for higher-order enterprises among SHG women. Dr. Siva Sankara Prasad, Director, Livelihoods Division, K. Sarala, Additional Director, and Ramya, Consultant, received the award on behalf of Andhra Pradesh. SERP Chief Executive Officer Karuna Vakati said the recognition would encourage women entrepreneurs, generate rural employment, strengthen women's economic empowerment and boost the rural economy.



Henrietta Becomes Costliest Player in WAPL History

Continue

the support of ACA President Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) and Secretary Sana Satish. The tournament is scheduled to begin after September 15, with day and night matches planned in Mangalagiri. The schedule will be announced soon. Apex Committee members, franchise representatives and others attended the auction, conducted by Shweta Ball.

Palm Groves to Form Natural Shield Along Andhra Pradesh Coast?

Continue

school students and the public. The Palmyra groves constitute the second tier of the initiative, with mangroves forming the first tier. The palms can grow in saline, sandy and alluvial soils and help reduce coastal erosion. Pawan Kalyan appealed to the public to support seed collection, planting and protection of saplings. He urged people to prevent cattle from damaging the plants and cooperate with Forest Department field staff. He called upon communities, educational institutions, government and private organisations and voluntary groups to participate in the programme and help achieve the target of 50 per cent green cover while restoring ecosystems and conserving natural resources.

Naidu Directs Officials to Ensure Grand, Safe Godavari Pushkarams

Continue

worth RS.4,026 crore were underway, with RS.899 crore allocated by the Finance Department. With 8-10 crore devotees expected, including nearly one crore daily, arrangements are being made at 440 ghats. Of these, 259 existing ghats will be developed and 181 new ones constructed across six districts. Advanced technology, including AI-based crowd analytics, CCTV monitoring, drone surveillance and QR-based vehicle identification, will be deployed. As many as 2,697 rescue boats will be kept ready. Naidu directed officials to develop a tourism circuit connecting the Shakti Peetham at Pithapuram, four Pancharama temples, Dwaraka Tirumala, Annavaram, Vada palli and Antarvedi. He also called for promoting homestays, speedy hotel approvals and a convention centre in Rajamahendravaram. He ordered pothole-free roads, prevention of sewage entering the Godavari and completion of works at Havelock Bridge and nearby islands. Medical arrangements will include ambulances, camps and 30 temporary field hospitals. As part of green initiatives, 487 green-energy buses will be deployed and 11 bus stations modernised. Fifty of 260 Godavari basin gram panchayats will be developed as Model Pushkar Panchayats, with Muni Kudali selected as the pilot. Ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, BC Janardhan Reddy and Y. Satya Kumar Yadav, Godavari Pushkarams Special Officer, Municipal Administration Department Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar and other officials participated.

Centre Sanctions RS.840 Crore for NH-365BB Upgrade: Gadkari

Continue

a boost to agriculture, tourism, pilgrimage, trade and socio-economic development. Meanwhile, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu thanked Nitin Gadkari for approving the project, saying it would provide seamless connectivity to the Polavaram Project and help tobacco, sugarcane, palm and aqua farmers access markets faster. He said it would strengthen AP-Telangana trade and improve infrastructure for Godavari Pushkaralu 2027. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also welcomed the approval, thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gadkari. He said the highway would boost connectivity, agriculture, tourism and trade ahead of the 2027 Pushkaralu.

AP, UK Sign MoU for Sustainable Urban Development

Continue

UK expertise and translate the partnership into tangible outcomes. The cooperation will cover sustainable urban infrastructure, urban planning, technology and innovation, integrated mobility, project prioritisation, financial viability assessments and programme management. Amaravati will be a key area of engagement, including opportunities in riverfront development, urban regeneration and sustainable infrastructure. The partnership will also explore Intelligent Transport Systems, Building Information Modelling, Digital Twins and advanced construction technologies. A Joint Government-to-Government Steering Group will review progress approximately every six months. The AP delegation included APCRDA Commissioner Vijay Rama Raju, Additional Commissioner APCRDA Rahul, APIC MD Dinesh Kumar and senior officials. The UK delegation included Mark Birrell, Gareth Wynn Owen, Rishikesh Chanda and Rohit Chandragiri.

Conversion Pressure, Dowry Harassment Allegations Rock Jogi Ramesh's Family

Prasanna Durgam

Vijayawada: A family dispute involving YSRCP leader and former minister Jogi Ramesh escalated on Tuesday after his daughter-in-law Meghana appeared before the media and levelled serious allegations against her in-laws. Visibly emotional, she alleged that she had faced harassment over additional dowry, pressure relating to religion and prolonged mental distress since her marriage. Meghana said she had considered Jogi Ramesh and his wife as her own parents but alleged that the family failed to address problems involving her husband, Jogi Rajiv.

She claimed that instead of resolving the differences between the couple, her in-laws pressured her to bring additional dowry. She also alleged that her in-laws had concealed their religious background before the marriage. Meghana said she had no objection to Christianity but



objected to what she described as the concealment of their religious practices before the wedding. She further alleged that her mother-in-law made disparaging remarks about Hindu deities. Meghana said she had submitted evidence supporting her allegations to the police and claimed to have proof relating to

every allegation mentioned in the FIR. She said videos that had surfaced so far represented only a part of the alleged harassment and that she would disclose further evidence at an appropriate time. Recounting attempts to resolve the dispute, Meghana said she had approached Mylavaram MLA Vasantha

Krishna Prasad, who offered advice and assured her of support.

She alleged that when they approached the Commissioner of Police (CP) to lodge a complaint, mediation was suggested through their lawyer, with a proposal to settle the matter with Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy. According to Meghana, Sajjala advised them to reach a compromise and assured her that justice would be done. She also said an attempt to meet Y.S. Jagan did not materialise. Meghana alleged that Jogi Rajiv filed a petition seeking to have their marriage declared null and void just two months after the wedding, and said the court later dismissed the petition. She alleged that various stories were subsequently created to separate her from the family. Stating that she and her family had suffered for nearly 15 months, Meghana said she would continue her legal battle until she secured justice and expressed confidence that the truth would eventually come out.

AP Power Employees Forum Seeks Fair Implementation of G.O. 45



Vijayawada, August 25 | TPN Bureau

The AP Power Employees Forum has urged the Andhra Pradesh government to implement G.O. 45, which raises the retirement age from 60 to 62 years, for employees of the power sector. Forum representatives met Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Ponguru Narayana, a member of the ministerial committee, and submitted a representation seeking immediate action. The representatives said the non-implementation of the order in the power sector was causing anxiety and uncertainty among employees nearing

retirement. They urged that power sector employees be treated on par with employees of other state-owned public sector undertakings and corporations. They also highlighted the mental distress faced by employees and families of those who had already retired amid uncertainty over the retirement age. Responding positively, Ponguru Narayana assured the representatives that he would consult the concerned officials and take appropriate action. Gutta Villi Ramakrishnudu, President, S. Koteswara Rao, General Secretary, Ramana Rao and P. Sambasiva Rao, President of TNBK, among others, participated.

ASHA Seeks Faster Tourism Reforms, Investment Push in Andhra Pradesh



Amaravati, August 25 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of the Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association (ASHA) met Special Chief Secretary, Tourism, Shamsheer Singh Rawat and newly appointed AP Tourism CEO and APTDC Managing Director Ravi Pattanshetti on Monday and submitted a series of suggestions to accelerate tourism development in the state. The delegation presented ASHA's "Strategic Assessment of Andhra Pradesh Tourism (2024-2029)" and appreciated the government's initiatives to attract major hotel investments and introduce hospitality sector reforms. The association sought immediate operationalisation of incentives for Tourism MSMEs and establishment of a permanent government-industry tourism promotion council to strengthen coordination and policy implementation. ASHA called for closer coordination between the Tourism and

Endowments departments to promote religious tourism and encourage longer visitor stays. It also proposed developing Amaravati as an integrated destination combining entertainment, MICE, leisure and hospitality facilities. The association urged the state government to advocate a reduction of GST on the hospitality sector to 5 per cent, along with full Input Tax Credit, to improve the industry's competitiveness and encourage fresh investments.

ASHA President R.V. Swamy and General Secretary S. Murthy Chittoory said the association was ready to support the government with industry expertise, investment networks and practical inputs. They expressed confidence that stronger government-industry collaboration would help make tourism a major growth engine for Andhra Pradesh and generate employment and investment opportunities.

Dr YSR Award 2026 to MSSRF for Contribution to Agriculture

Hyderabad, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

The Dr YSR & Dr KVP Foundation will confer the Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Award-2026, carrying a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh, on the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) for its pioneering contribution to Indian agriculture, food security, sustainable development and rural livelihoods. The award will be presented on Sep 2, 2026, at 5 pm at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson of MSSRF, will receive the award on behalf of the foundation. The foundation said MSSRF carries forward the legacy of late Dr M.S. Swaminathan, whose sci-

entific leadership, along with the political support of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the efforts of Indian farmers, helped transform the country from food scarcity to self-reliance. MSSRF continues its work in sustainable agriculture, nutrition security, biodiversity and rural livelihoods.

The award recognises the distinguished contributions of Dr M.S. Swaminathan and Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy to agricultural science, food security and farmers' welfare. Dr KVP Ramachandra Rao, Founder Chairman of the foundation, said the initiative seeks to uphold Dr YSR's commitment to farmers, the disadvantaged, education and rural development.

YSRCP Doctors Wing pays tributes to BP Mandal Yadav

Vijayawada, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

The YSRCP Doctors Wing paid solemn tributes to social justice champion Bindheshwari Prasad Mandal Yadav on his birth anniversary. A tribute programme was organised under the leadership of Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav, Chairman, YSRCP NTR District Doctors Wing. Dr. Prabhu Das, State Doctors Wing Secretary, Gundu Sundar Paul, State Joint Secretary, and B. Ganesh, District BC Cell President, participated. The leaders lit a lamp and offered floral tributes to BP Mandal Yadav's portrait. They recalled his con-

tribution to the upliftment of Backward Classes and his role in promoting socio-political equality. The leaders criticised the TDP government over local body reservations for BCs. They alleged that despite assurances of implementing 34% reservations, the government was relying on technical procedures and government orders instead of ensuring genuine political empowerment. They demanded immediate and transparent implementation of 34% BC reservations and said YSRCP would stand with BC communities in protecting their political representation, rights and welfare.

APSSDC to conduct company-specific recruitment drive on Aug 29

Vijayawada, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) will conduct a "Company-Specific Drive" on Aug 29 to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth in the district. District Employment and Skill Officer C. Madhubhushan Rao and District Skill Development Officer S. Srinivasa Rao said the drive would begin at 9 am at Aadhya Store (The Unit of Rama), Old SBI Branch, opposite Zudio Stores, D.No. 59-13-4, Ghantasala Vari Street, Gayatri Nagar, Vijayawada.

Candi dates aged 18 to below 29 years who have completed Intermediate or Degree education are eligible. Selected candidates will receive salaries ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month along with other benefits. Eligible candidates must register through the APSSDC Naipunyam portal before attending the drive.

They should bring their resume, Aadhaar card, Aadhaar-linked mobile number, PAN card and copies of educational certificates.

For details, candidates can contact 81259 73743 or 93477 79032.

Ensure Due Process in Voter Verification: Seshagiri Babu



Vijayawada, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Officials have been directed to ensure a transparent and impartial inquiry into voters issued notices during the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls. Roll Observer MV Seshagiri Babu, along with Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner Dhyanaachandra HM, inspected AERO offices at Ayyappa Nagar in Vijayawada East and Ajit Singh Nagar in the Central constituency on Monday. Seshagiri Babu reviewed the verification process and instructed officials to hear voters' expla-

nations fully, examine supporting documents and consider field reports submitted by BLOs before taking decisions. He stressed that every eligible voter's right to vote must be protected. Officials were asked to ensure proper verification of voters who are pregnant, bedridden, facing health issues or staying in other states or countries. So far, 1,90,348 notices have been distributed, while inquiries have been completed for 75,471 people. The inquiry period for 58,895 individuals has lapsed and is being rescheduled. Vijayawada RDO Vennela Srinu, EROs, AEROs and BLOs participated.

Rallis India Launches Marcellus, Silentra for Enhanced Crop Protection



Vijayawada, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Rallis India Limited, a Tata Enterprise, launched two new crop protection products, 'Marcellus' and 'Silentra', in Vijayawada on Tuesday, with a focus on addressing major fungal diseases and pest-related challenges faced by farmers. Marcellus has been developed using a combination of two established fungicidal technologies and provides preventive as well as curative control against a range of fungal diseases. Recommended for paddy, chilli, tomato and cumint, the product helps manage Sheath Blight, Leaf Blast, Dirty Panicle, Early Blight, Powdery Mildew, Anthracnose, Leaf Spot and Alternaria Blight. The recommended dose is 200 grams per hectare or 80 grams per acre. Silentra has been introduced to effectively manage Brown Plant Hopper (BPH), one of the major insect pests affecting paddy cultivation. The product is aimed at protecting

crop health, reducing pest-related losses and supporting better crop productivity. Dr. Gyanendra Shukla, MD & CEO, Rallis India, said the company was continuously focusing on innovative solutions to address the evolving crop protection challenges faced by farmers. He said the two products would provide enhanced crop protection while contributing to improved crop health and productivity.

Rahul Pandey, Business Head - Crop Care Corporate, said the launches reflected Rallis India's commitment to providing farmers with modern, science-based agricultural solutions. The launch event was attended by Aswani Mahajan, Vice President - Supply Chain & Procurement; P. Raja, Sales Head; Y. Ravi Krishna, Head - Field Marketing; Divisional Sales Managers Vasantha Shankar Reddy and Venkat Rami Reddy, along with Rallis India sales teams from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Youth Poetry, AI Robotics Programmes Held



Vijayawada, August 25 | TPN Bureau

P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science witnessed two programmes focusing on Telugu literature and emerging technology, with a youth poetry recital and a workshop on AI-powered humanoid robotics organised on the campus. Mummaneni Subbarao Siddhartha Kalapeetham and the Department of Telugu will jointly organise a youth poetry recital on August 29 on the occasion of Telugu Bhasha Dinotsavam. The programme will be held at the college seminar hall from 10 am to 12 noon. Kalapeetham General Secretary Nimagadda Lalitha Prasad announced the programme while releasing the pamphlet at the P.B. Siddhartha Webinar Hall on Tuesday. Kalapeetham Secretary BVS Prakash, College Director Vemuri Baburao, Dean Prof. Rajesh C. Jampala, Vice Principal Dr. Manoranjani and Telugu Department Head Dr. Sasree were present. Students and aspiring poets can contact 9989844001. The recital will be followed by an interaction with emerging poets

Somepalli Sri Vasishttha, Parker, Tulasi Padmasri, Naanaa and Kolli Sanath Kumar. Meanwhile, A two-day workshop on AI-powered humanoid robotics, organised by the Electronics and Artificial Intelligence departments, concluded on Tuesday. Edubotics Business Manager K. Sandeep, the chief guest, explained humanoid robot operations and guided students in performing tasks using Python programming. Students participated in demonstrations involving robot movement and identification of college ID cards, smartwatches and mobile phones. College Director Vemuri Baburao said around ₹2.5 lakh was spent on developing the robot. AI Department Head Dr. K. Udayasree said robots would soon perform routine human tasks within seconds. Electronics Department Head K. Sambasiva Rao noted that countries including Korea, Japan and China were increasingly using robots as alternatives to human workers. Vemuri Baburao, Dean Prof. Rajesh C. Jampala and Vice Principal Dr. Manoranjani felicitated K. Sandeep.

Collector Congratulates Badminton Players



Vijayawada, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha congratulated badminton players who showcased their talent at a tournament organised by the Swasa Foundation on Aug 15 as part of Independence Day celebrations. At a programme held at the Collectorate on Tuesday, the Collector presented certificates to participants and trophies to the winners and runners-up. Interacting with the players, Dr. G. Lakshminisha appreciated their talent, sportsmanship and enthu-

siasm. He said sports played an important role in developing discipline, perseverance, self-confidence and team spirit among youth, besides promoting a healthy lifestyle. He encouraged the players to continue their practice with dedication and participate in more competitions, bringing recognition to the district. The Collector also appreciated the Swasa Foundation for successfully organising the tournament and stressed the need for conducting more sporting events to encourage young people to pursue sports and develop their abilities.

Telugu Language Day programme on Aug 30

Vijayawada, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Praja Chaitanya Vedika will organise a Telugu Language Day programme on Aug 30 from 4 pm to 6.40 pm at the fourth floor of the Vijayawada Book Festival Society Library Building, opposite Civil Courts, Vijayawada-02. The programme will feature discussions on the Telugu language movement and its action plan. Telugu Bhashodyama Samakhyas General Secretary Dr. Movva Srinivasa Rao will address the federation's action plan, while Samala Ramesh

Babu, Prof. Thumati Sanjeeva Rao, Rallabandi Samvaran Kashyap and Dr. J.D. will deliver special addresses. Prof. Thumati Sanjeeva Rao will also launch the book "Shishita Vyavaharika Bhasha - Nivedika". The event will include a presidential address, resolutions and audience responses, followed by a vote of thanks by Prabhakar, Assistant Professor, GITAM University, andivelugu Mukteswara Rao, Rahanuddin Shaik and Prof. Garapati Umamaheswara Rao are among the invitees and organising team. For details, contact 9493035658.

Veligonda Waters to Give Wings to Western Prakasam Development: CM

Amaravati, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the long-awaited Veligonda project would mark a major turning point for the drought-prone areas of western Prakasam, bringing Krishna River water to the region and opening new opportunities for agriculture and development. In a post on X, he said a resolve made three decades ago had finally been fulfilled and announced that the project would be inaugurated on August 31.Chandrababu recalled that he had laid the foundation stone for the Veligonda project on March 5, 1996, when he was Chief Minister of the undivided Andhra Pradesh. He said he would now inaugurate the same project three decades later.The Chief Minister said Phase-1 of the project had been completed despite numerous hurdles and challenges. About 10.7 TMC of water would



be released into Nallamala Sagar as part of the inauguration programme in Markapuram district.He said Phase-1 would provide irrigation water to 1.19

lakh acres, while Phase-2 would cater to 3.283 lakh acres, besides supplying drinking water to lakhs of people. Describing Veligonda as a "garland of

light" for drought-hit Markapuram, Chandrababu said the Krishna waters would bring relief to generations affected by drought. He said the government had fulfilled the long-standing demand for a separate Markapuram district and was planning projects worth ?1 lakh crore to develop Rayalaseema and the undivided Prakasam region into a horticulture hub. Chandrababu said national highways, the Bengaluru-Amaravati Highway and Ramayapatnam Port would help address logistical gaps and promote commercial and industrial growth.He also promised a permanent solution to the fluoride problem in western Prakasam by providing tap water connections to every household."Water for every farmer's field, employment for every youth, and security for every family-this is the pledge of CBN," he said.

Dinakar Seeks GST Relief for Subabul, Eucalyptus Farmers



Amaravati, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Lanka Dinakar, Chairman, Twenty Point Programme, Government of Andhra Pradesh, urged the Union Government to provide GST relief to farmers cultivating Subabul (*Leucaena leucocephala*) and Eucalyptus (*Jamaye*) as agro-forestry crops on agricultural lands. In separate representations to Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industry Piyush Vedprakash Goyal, Dinakar highlighted difficulties faced by agro-forestry farmers due to the prevailing GST regime. The representations were based on a memorandum submitted by West

Wood Farmer Producer Company Limited and other Farmer Producer Organisations. The FPOs said Subabul and Eucalyptus are mainly supplied as raw material to paper and pulp industries, while also contributing to soil enrichment, climate benefits and increased tree cover. They pointed out that wood pulp attracts 18% GST and claimed that increased imports since November 2025 had reduced domestic demand.Dinakar sought nil-rate GST for agro-forestry produce, or an interim reduction to 5%, besides a committee to examine the issue. He also urged a clarificatory circular and requested the matter be placed before the GST Council on priority.

Tirumala Launches Weekly 'Cleaning Day' Ahead of Brahmotsavams

Suman Babu Veerisetty

Tirumala: With Tirumala preparing to receive thousands of devotees for the annual Srivari Brahmotsavams, the TTD Health Department has intensified sanitation measures by introducing a weekly "Cleaning Day" every Tuesday. The initiative aims to maintain hygienic surroundings and improve cleanliness at food outlets frequented by pilgrims.The move comes as TTD steps up preparations for the annual Brahmotsavams scheduled from September 15 to 23. TTD has been emphasising cleanliness and other pilgrim amenities ahead of the major festival.Under the instructions of TTD Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra and Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, fast-food outlets have been directed to remain closed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday to facilitate deep cleaning.Speaking to True Point, a devotee, B Anantha from Srikakulam, said, "The weekly Cleaning Day is a welcome step. With thousands of devotees visiting Tirumala, maintaining cleanliness around food outlets is very important for public health."M Aliveni, another devotee from Chennai, told True Point, "Regular deep cleaning of the shops will help provide a more hygienic environment for pilgrims. The initiative should be implemented strictly at all food



centres."Regarding the new initiative, Deputy Executive Officer of Health Somanarayana said the weekly closure would enable shopkeepers to remove accumulated waste, sanitise their premises and undertake preventive pest-control measures. "The shopkeepers must maintain strict hygiene in food preparation, storage and service and ensure that their premises remain pest-free," he said.Fast-food centres at Third Choultry, PAC-1, PAC-2 and other locations underwent deep cleaning on Tuesday. Health



inspectors also sensitised shopkeepers on maintaining hygiene standards.Devotees welcomed the initiative, saying clean surroundings and hygienic food outlets were essential for a comfortable pilgrimage, particularly during the Brahmotsavams when Tirumala witnesses a heavy influx of visitors.The Health Department warned of stern action against non-compliance and appealed to devotees, shopkeepers and staff to cooperate in keeping Tirumala clean and hygienic.

Surya Ghar Scheme Must Benefit Every Family Ravi Kumar



Kurnool, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the PM Surya Ghar Yojana should enable every household to reduce electricity expenditure while promoting clean and renewable energy. He inspected a 2-kilowatt solar rooftop plant installed by beneficiary Ajay Kumar at Rachumari village in Mantralayam mandal on Tuesday.Water Resources Minister and Kurnool District In-charge Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu and Kurnool MP Basthipati Nagaraju accompanied him during the inspection. The ministers reviewed the plant's installation, functioning, capacity, subsidy provisions and benefits available to the beneficiary.Gottipati Ravi Kumar directed officials to maintain strict quality standards in solar

panels, inverters and other equipment. He stressed that rooftop solar systems should be durable and function efficiently for at least 20 years, enabling beneficiaries to derive long-term financial explained that eligible beneficiaries under the scheme could receive subsidies of up to 60 per cent, while APSDCL was providing technical support and guidance for installation and operation of rooftop solar systems.The Minister instructed officials to closely monitor the implementation of the scheme and ensure that beneficiaries did not face difficulties in availing subsidies or technical assistance.Mantralayam in-charge Raghavendra Reddy, Adoni RDO Aruna Devi, Electricity SE Pradeep Kumar, District TDP President Gudisi Krishnamma and others participated in the programme.

Ministers offer prayers at Mantralayam Matha



Kurnool, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister and Kurnool District In-charge Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu, State Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Kurnool MP Bastipati Nagaraju, Yemmiganur MLA Dr. B.V. Jaya Nageswara Reddy and other public representatives visited Sri Guru Raghavendra Swamy Matha in Mantralayam on Tuesday. The dignitaries offered special prayers at the Brindavan of Sri Guru Raghavendra Swamy, seeking the well-being, health and prosperity of the people and the

development of the state. Matha Pontiff Sri Sri Sri Subudhendra Tirtha Swamy blessed the visiting leaders and honoured them with Shesha Vastram, Phala-Mantrakshata and Teertha-Prasadam. The leaders also offered prayers to village deity Manchalamma before visiting the Matha. Nimmala Rama Naidu said they prayed for happiness, prosperity and good health for the people and further development of the state. Mantralayam In-charge Raghavendra Reddy, TDP District President Gudise Krishnamma and Zone-5 In-charge Srinivasa Reddy participated.

Gottipati Calls for Coalition Victory in Local Body Polls

Kurnool, August 25 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar participated in the Ministers Outreach programme in Mantralayam constituency and launched the PM Surya Ghar scheme. Addressing party workers, he called for coordinated efforts to ensure the coalition achieves victory in all seats in the upcoming local body elections. Gottipati Ravi Kumar said a 100 per cent victory for the coalition in local bodies would give the government greater confidence to continue its development and welfare programmes. He urged party workers to remain alert and work actively for the coalition's success.The Minister criticised the previous YSRCP government, stating that it took five years to increase the pension for poor people by

?1,000, while Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu increased the welfare pension to ?4,000 with a single signature. He said the government was providing 10,000 monthly pensions to dialysis patients and 15,000 to long-term patients confined to bed.He said the government had provided 16,000 teacher posts through Mega DSC, describing it as an unprecedented recruitment drive for unemployed youth.Gottipati alleged that opposition leaders were spreading misinformation about DSC recruitment. He said the coalition government had completed several welfare and development initiatives in two years but had failed to communicate its achievements effectively to the public.He urged workers to counter false propaganda and remain vigilant ahead of the local body elections.

Ambedkar Study Circle to Come Up in Ongole at 4.40 Crore

Ongole, August 25 | TPN Bureau

The State Social Welfare Department issued orders on Tuesday for construction of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Study Circle building in Ongole at a cost of ?4.40 crore. The facility will be established at the existing Yuva Bhavan site.Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for sanctioning the project and said the Alliance government was committed to providing corporate-standard education and employment opportunities to the poor.He said the Ambedkar Study Circle would benefit unemployed candidates preparing for competitive examina-

tions. Recalling that the TDP government initiated Yuva Bhavan works between 2014 and 2019, he alleged that the subsequent YSRCP government neglected the project.The Minister said a skill development centre for unemployed youth would also be established in Ongole this year. He added that the Social Welfare Department had constructed various buildings across the state at a cost of ?100 crore.He said IIT, NEET and Centres of Excellence established for underprivileged students would be inaugurated this month, reflecting Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision of enabling poor students to attain higher positions in society.

Boat Develops Hole Near Antarvedi, Fishermen Stranded at Sea

Antarvedi, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

Several fishermen were stranded at sea after a fishing boat named 'Sona' developed a hole near the Antarvedi Sagara Sangamam in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district on Tuesday. The incident occurred when the boat reportedly struck

sandbars while travelling at high speed near the confluence of the river and the sea. A rescue attempt also faced difficulties after another boat sent from the harbour to bring the fishermen back sustained damage due to strong waves and developed a hole. It was forced to return, leaving the fishermen on the 'Sona' awaiting assistance.

Local fishermen and marine officials launched efforts to safely bring those stranded back to shore. The incident caused concern among the families of the fishermen as rescue operations continued. Antarvedi is located at the confluence of the Vasishta Godavari and the sea, a site officially known as the Sapta Sagara Sangam.

SRM University-AP Distributes Kits to 1,673 Govt School Students



Amaravati, August 25 | TPN Bureau:

SRM University-AP, Amaravati, celebrated Founder's Day by organising initiatives aimed at supporting government school students and commemorating the 88th birth anniversary of University Founder Chancellor Dr. T.R. Paarive ndhar.As part of the celebrations, educational kits were distributed free of cost to 1,673 Class 10 students from 25 government Zilla Parishad and municipal schools in the Mangalagiri constituency. The initiative was aimed at providing essential learning materials and helping students prepare effectively for their Class 10 examinations. The distribution programme was held at the SRM University-AP campus in the presence of Vice Chancellor Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar, Registrar Dr. Vinayak

Kalluri and other University officials. The University's NSS team facilitated transportation of the educational kits and supported the students' participation in the programme. University representatives said the initiative reflected SRM University-AP's commitment to extending its educational resources beyond the campus and contributing to the surrounding community. The programme also highlighted the institution's continued engagement with government schools in the region. The University said such initiatives were intended to encourage students, strengthen access to educational resources and motivate them to pursue higher education and future career opportunities, while carrying forward the Founder's vision of combining education with social responsibility.

DEO Praises Teacher for Navodaya Coaching



Podili, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

District Educational Officer (DEO) Sama Subbarao appreciated teachers for their efforts in preparing students to excel in competitive examinations during his visit to Prakash Nagar Primary School in Podili.Subbarao particularly commended Headmaster Ragi Somaraju for providing primary school students with additional instruction to prepare them for the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya entrance examination along with their regular curriculum.The DEO

He appreciated the headmaster's efforts to provide students with opportunities beyond routine classroom learning.Later, DEO Sama Subbarao and Mandal Educational Officer (MEO) B. Venkateswara Reddy distributed Navodaya study materials among the students. The materials were provided through the courtesy of Gopaluni Srinivasa Murthy (USA).The officials encouraged students to make effective use of the study material and work hard to perform well in the Navodaya entrance examination.

Editorial

When People Lose Faith in the System

A victim committing suicide without approaching the Police, Court, or people's representatives reflects a serious failure of our systems. When a Government employee is unable to come forward because of alleged harassment by the accused, it raises a fundamental question: "Is this not our collective failure?"

The tragic suicide of the family of Government employee *Nukaraju* is a deeply disturbing episode that demands serious attention. The letter written by the victim reflects a growing sense of helplessness and shows how people are gradually losing confidence in the Police, Courts, and Government institutions.

When citizens stop believing that the system will protect them or provide justice, it becomes a dangerous warning for society. People are increasingly looking for alternative ways to resolve their problems because they feel that existing law-and-order mechanisms and legal processes are not delivering timely or effective justice. In the worst cases, some people see suicide as their only remaining option.

This situation is extremely dangerous and pathetic. If we cannot build confidence among citizens in our institutions, then decades of development and progress mean very little. True development is not limited to infrastructure, technology, or economic growth. A truly developed society is one where ordinary citizens feel safe, protected, and confident that they can approach the Police, Courts, and Government for justice.

The accused are often able to exploit loopholes created by weaknesses in the political and administrative systems. A corrupt or ineffective system can provide opportunities for offenders to commit further crimes and create more victims.

This incident should not be treated as an isolated tragedy. It must become a serious *wake-up call for the authorities and society*. Restoring public confidence, ensuring accountability, protecting victims, and closing systemic loopholes must become an urgent priority. Otherwise, the consequences of losing people's faith in our institutions could be far more dangerous than we realize.

- Editor

Kashmir's Second Spring : Paradise Can Become India's Global Tourism Powerhouse



Kashmir may be approaching a defining tourism inflection point. The August 19, 2026 visit of US Ambassador Sergio Gor to Srinagar, accompanied by his indication that Washington could review its Level 4 "Do Not Travel" advisory, represents more than a diplomatic gesture. It potentially signals a shift in the international risk perception surrounding Jammu and Kashmir from a destination predominantly viewed through the prism of security to one increasingly evaluated for its tourism, connectivity and economic potential. His acknowledgement of Jammu and Kashmir as an important part of India, alongside recognition of improvements in the security environment, carries considerable economic significance. Travel advisories influence insurance premiums, tour-operator decisions, airline planning, corporate travel policies and individual perceptions. If international confidence begins returning, Kashmir could move from being predominantly a domestic tourism giant to becoming a globally competitive destination.

The opportunity is extraordinary, but so is the asymmetry. Jammu and Kashmir has demonstrated enormous domestic tourism demand, recording more than 2.3 crore tourist visits in 2024. Yet international tourism remains disproportionately small, with only around 36,000 foreign tourists reported in 2025-26. This gap is not merely a statistic; it represents an enormous unrealised economic market. International visitors generally generate

higher foreign-exchange earnings and can support longer-stay, experience-oriented tourism. The strategic objective should therefore not simply be to increase arrivals, but to diversify the visitor base. North America, Europe, Southeast Asia and the Gulf offer distinct segments from adventure travellers and winter-sports enthusiasts to heritage tourists, luxury travellers, wellness seekers and cultural explorers. Kashmir already possesses the product. What it needs is sustained international confidence and a globally credible delivery ecosystem. Tourism's economic importance makes this transformation far larger than the hotel industry. The sector contributes an estimated 7% to Jammu and Kashmir's economy and supports the livelihoods of nearly five lakh people directly and indirectly. Its multiplier reaches taxi drivers, guides, restaurants, artisans, farmers, transport operators, retailers, houseboat owners, handicraft producers and thousands of small enterprises. Kashmir's carpets, shawls, papier-mâché, saffron, dry fruits and traditional crafts gain visibility and market access through tourism. Consequently, every additional visitor can generate a chain of economic transactions extending deep into local communities. The challenge is to maximise that multiplier rather than allow tourism revenue to concentrate in a few metropolitan or premium hospitality segments. A globally connected tourism economy should become an engine of distributed regional prosperity.

But Kashmir's tourism equation has one variable that cannot be negotiated: security. The April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack, which killed 26 people, predominantly tourists, demonstrated the extraordinary vulnerability of destination confidence. A single high-profile incident can destroy years of branding, investment and visitor trust. The strategic objective therefore cannot be simply to persuade foreign governments that Kashmir is safe today. It must be to create an institutional security architecture resilient enough to prevent, detect and rapidly contain threats tomorrow. Security should become an invisible layer of tourism infrastructure-present everywhere, but experienced by visitors primarily through confidence rather than confrontation. The test of governance is whether a tourist can enjoy a valley, trek or market without constantly thinking about the security system protecting them. That requires moving from reactive security to predictive, integrated security governance. Parliamentary scrutiny has highlighted vulnerabilities involving integrated surveillance, periodic security audits, inter-agency coordination and unified command-and-control mechanisms. These weaknesses acquire special significance in mountainous terrain, where geography can magnify response times. Counter-drone systems, high-altitude surveillance, secure communications, real-time intelligence sharing, geospatial monitoring and rehearsed evacuation protocols



should therefore be integrated into tourism planning. Emergency preparedness must extend beyond Srinagar to major tourist circuits, trekking routes, ski destinations and remote rural attractions. Medical evacuation capacity, trauma care, emergency communications and rapid-response mechanisms should be designed around the geography of tourism rather than the geography of administrative boundaries.

Connectivity is another transformational variable. The USBRL railway connection, Vande Bharat services and the Z-Morh Tunnel have significantly strengthened Kashmir's integration with the national transport network. Expansion of Srinagar Airport, alongside hundreds of tourism-related projects, river tourism, ropeways and emerging circuits, is widening the region's tourism capacity. But infrastructure creates a paradox: successful connectivity can generate demand faster than destinations can absorb it. Roads, airports, accommodation, waste management, telecommunications, medical facilities, parking, ATMs and emergency services must therefore scale ahead of demand. Otherwise, the very tourism boom created by improved connectivity could produce congestion, ecological stress and declining visitor experience. Infrastructure planning must consequently shift from project completion to capacity management.

Kashmir should also reject the temptation to measure tourism success purely through visitor numbers. Three crore visitors generating congestion, waste and environmental degradation may produce less sustainable value than a smaller number of visitors staying longer and spending more. The future should therefore belong to high-value, diversified and geographically distributed tourism. Adventure tourism, skiing, eco-tourism, rural homestays, wellness, heritage, film tourism, handicraft trails, religious tourism and river-based experiences can extend the tourism season and

disperse economic activity beyond Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam. International standards will increasingly matter: multilingual emergency information, trained tourist police, internationally credible medical evacuation, digital travel platforms, transparent weather and road updates, reliable telecommunications and professionally certified adventure operators should become components of the Kashmir tourism brand.

The deeper opportunity is to transform tourism from an industry into a community-owned development strategy. Local youth can become trained guides, hospitality professionals and adventure specialists. Women's Self-Help Groups can participate in homestays, local cuisine and handicraft enterprises. Farmers can integrate agricultural experiences and supply chains into tourism. Village tourism can create direct economic incentives for preserving landscapes, water bodies and cultural traditions. Kashmir can learn selectively from mountain destinations such as Switzerland, Austria, New Zealand and Bhutan-not by copying their models, but by adapting their principles of safety, rescue preparedness, environmental stewardship, high-value tourism and visitor management.

The strategic principle should be sequencing: strengthen security, emergency medicine, connectivity, hospitality and ecological safeguards first; accelerate global marketing thereafter. The US advisory review is therefore not simply about whether Americans can visit Kashmir.

It is a test of whether Kashmir can build an ecosystem worthy of global confidence. India already possesses the destination. The next challenge is to build the trust. If security, sustainability and service converge, Kashmir can move beyond being merely "Paradise on Earth" to becoming one of Asia's most sophisticated, resilient and valuable tourism economies.

Saving NSTR Means Saving the Nallamala

A Tiger Reserve That Protects Much More Than Tigers

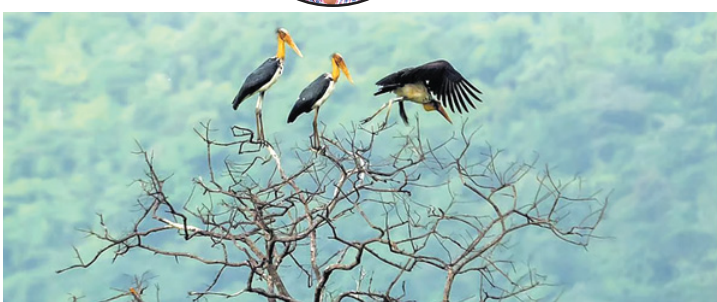


The Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) is an important wildlife landscape in the Nallamala Hills of the Eastern Ghats, characterized by extensive dry deciduous forests, rugged hills, valleys, gorges, plateaus and Krishna River ecosystems. It provides important habitat for Bengal tigers and diverse mammals, birds, reptiles and plants, while also supporting the cultural heritage of Srisailem and the livelihoods and traditional knowledge of the Chenchu community. NSTR extends across Andhra Pradesh and forms part of the wider Nallamala tiger landscape connected with Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana, supporting tiger breeding, dispersal and population connectivity.

The Krishna River, along with the Nagarjunasagar and Srisailem reservoirs, contributes to aquatic, ecological, economic, cultural and tourism importance. According to the source, the NTCA lists the Andhra Pradesh tiger reserve at 3,296.31 km², while the broader NSTR management landscape is approximately 3,728 km²; the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department assessment cited in the source reported approximately 87 tigers in the NSTR/Nallamala landscape in 2024, distinct from officially reported state-level AITE estimates. Overall, NSTR is more than a tiger habitat, representing an interconnected landscape where biodiversity conservation, watershed protection, tribal livelihoods, cultural heritage, tourism and ecological research are closely linked, making it highly valuable for maintaining wildlife populations and ecological

connectivity in the Eastern Ghats. Biodiversity of Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve: The NSTR landscape supports rich wildlife, including Bengal tigers, leopards, dhole, sloth bears, chital, sambar, wild boar, chinkara, four-horned antelope, mugger crocodiles, reptiles and diverse resident and migratory birds. Tiger distribution depends on prey availability, water, vegetation, forest cover, terrain, human disturbance and habitat connectivity. Its diverse dry deciduous forests, bamboo and grasslands, rocky terrain, valleys and riverine habitats, along with important plants such as Anogeissus latifolia, Tectona grandis, Terminalia spp., Pterocarpus marsupium, Hardwickia binata and Boswellia serrata, make NSTR highly valuable for biodiversity conservation.

Project Tiger and Tiger Conservation: Project Tiger, launched by the Government of India in 1973, protects the Bengal tiger (Panthera tigris) and its forest ecosystems. NSTR was notified as a wildlife sanctuary in 1978 and brought under Project Tiger in 1983. As part of the Nallamala tiger landscape, it provides important habitat for tiger breeding, dispersal and movement, while connectivity with adjoining forests supports viable populations. Tiger conservation also protects prey, water sources, vegetation and wildlife corridors. The Nallamala forests are important watersheds that reduce soil erosion, support water systems, regulate climate and store carbon, while the Krishna River and reservoirs support agricul-



ture, drinking water, irrigation and power generation. The Chenchu community's traditional ecological knowledge and participation in wildlife protection further strengthen biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods.

Why Nagarjuna Sagar tiger reserve becomes the important tiger reserve in India when compared to other tiger reserves: NSTR covers about 3,296 km² in its notified extent and is the largest tiger reserve in India by area according to NTCA, while the broader management landscape is about 3,728 km². Located in the Nallamala Hills, its extensive forests, valleys, ridges and gorges support tigers and important prey species. Its connectivity with Amrabad Tiger Reserve and the wider forest landscape is vital for tiger movement, genetic diversity and long-term survival. The Krishna River and surrounding forests also support water security, soil conservation and ecosystem services. NSTR's rich biodiversity and association with the Chenchu community demonstrate the close relationship between wildlife conservation, tribal livelihoods and traditional ecological knowledge.

Major Threats Facing and Current Issues in the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve: The Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) faces threats from human activities, infrastructure, tourism and changes in the forest ecosystem, including dependence on forest resources, livestock grazing, human-wildlife conflict, habitat

fragmentation, loss of wildlife corridors, forest fires, bamboo degradation and illegal fishing. Recent concerns during 2025-2026 also include tiger mortality, suspected poaching, missing animals, illegal wildlife trade, snares, electrocution and increasing human pressure. Addressing these issues requires effective habitat management, protection of wildlife corridors, stronger anti-poaching measures, camera-trap and genetic monitoring, regular detection of snares, prevention of illegal electrocution, and cooperation among forest, police and local authorities.

Community participation and livelihood programmes are equally important for reducing human pressure and ensuring the long-term conservation of tigers and their habitat.

Andhra Pradesh Government Initiatives to Protect NSTR: The Andhra Pradesh Government has undertaken several initiatives to protect NSTR, including strengthening anti-poaching measures, deploying protection personnel, and using camera traps and M-STripes for scientific tiger monitoring. Cooperation with police, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and other agencies helps address wildlife crime and illegal trafficking. Community participation, particularly involving the Chenchu tribal community, is also encouraged. Forest-fire management through fire lines, along with habitat improvement, water-resource protection and grassland management, supports healthy prey populations and secure habitats for tigers.

Tinkling sound of cycle bells falling silent



During my school days, I fell head over heels in love with cycles. It continued till the completion of my graduation and beyond. Later, my bond with cycles slowly and gradually got weakened with the arrival of petrol-run two-wheelers into the market. Whenever I see a school-going boy or girl trying to learn cycle riding under the supervision of either of their parents or someone elder in their family, in any school playground on Sundays or any holiday, I feel nostalgic, and those difficult cycle-learning days roll before my eyes.

In the 60s and 70s, cycles were few and far between. Cycle visibility was rare on the roads. In fact, many did not know the skill of cycle riding. And riders were looked upon with awe and admiration.

In those days of the bullock-cart era, owning a cycle was a luxury, and cycle owners were considered a privileged class. Such were the days that when someone rode a cycle, people, especially elderly ones, would watch, wondering as to why the two-wheeled cycle was not losing its balance and falling down. It used to arouse much curiosity among them. As owning a cycle was beyond the economic means of many, learning cycle riding was also out of the question. But when cycle taxis came up in my village, youngsters and school-going children began learning the skill of cycling by hiring cycles on an hourly rental basis. For children, learning cycle riding was a herculean task because cycles were designed for grown-up men only. Unlike now, kids' cycles were not known. Children had no option except learning cycling using 'big' cycles. When I was in Class Five, I made my first attempt to ride a cycle. But it was a disaster. The cycle fell on me as I lost balance, injuring my toe and hands.

Whenever someone came to my house on a cycle, stealthily I would unlock the stand and take it out for riding. I don't know the count

of how many times I had a fall. Yet, I endured all for the love of 'cycle riding'. As my legs were not tall enough to sit on a straddle, I began learning cycle riding by the Scissors method (known as Kainchi). This method is risky and prone to accidents. In this method, cycling is done by holding the handlebar with one hand and the crossbar with the other. One leg is kept on the pedal through the frame, and the other leg is placed on the ground for balancing. To gain initial momentum, pedalling is done back and forth with the right leg. Once it reaches critical speed, the other leg is lifted and placed on the other pedal for continuous cycling. With age, my legs became tall enough to ride a cycle comfortably, sitting on the straddle. Once we were confident enough of cycle riding, we would go around the village. And to attract attention and to inform the world that we had acquired the skill of cycling, we would roam the streets, tinkling the bell attached to the crossbar. Sound pollution was unheard of in those days. And the tinkling sound is still green in my memory. Now things have changed; a wide range of kids' cycles have flooded the market to pick and choose according to the needs. Later, cycle design was also made girl-friendly, which resulted in bringing about a kind of revolution in school education. It paved the way for increasing female literacy. The cycle around which society revolved has lost its utilitarian value post-liberalisation. Once a king of the road has fallen by the roadside for want of patronisers. What was once designed for men is now confined to school-going children who use it for learning cycling only and not for cycling. The majority go to school by buses or by other means.

The human-powered cycle that served mankind for decades is struggling to survive and facing an existential threat.

Will better days come for cycles?

Supreme Court Notice To 20 Rebel TMC MPs

The political battle within the Trinamool Congress has now reached the Supreme Court, with the apex court issuing notices to 20 rebel TMC Lok Sabha MPs over a plea seeking their disqualification. The petition was filed by TMC general secretary and Lok Sabha leader Abhishek Banerjee, who approached the Supreme Court seeking an early decision on disqualification petitions pending before Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, along with Justices Joydalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, heard the matter and issued notices to the 20 MPs. The dispute began after the 20 lawmakers broke away from the TMC and announced their association with the National Citizens Party of India (NCPI). They have subsequently been treated as a separate group in Parliament and have participated in meetings of the NDA. The TMC has argued that the MPs were elected on the party's symbol and that their decision to join another political formation amounts to voluntarily giving up TMC membership. The party therefore wants them disqualified under the anti-defection law. The rebel MPs, however, maintain that their move constitutes a valid merger and have challenged the allegations made by the TMC. During the hearing, the court also focused on the delay in the proceedings. The Solicitor General, appearing for the Speaker, informed the bench that notices had already been issued to the MPs by the Speaker. The court made it clear that simply issuing notices was not enough and stressed the need to complete the proceedings within a specific time frame. The Supreme Court's intervention is being viewed as a significant development in the growing political confrontation within the TMC. For Abhishek Banerjee and the party leadership, an early decision could determine the parliamentary status of the rebel lawmakers. TMC leaders have described the development as a major legal and political boost. The rebel camp, meanwhile, is expected to defend its claim that the merger was legally valid. The case could have wider implications for the functioning of Parliament and the interpretation of the anti-defection law. With the Supreme Court stepping in, the battle between the TMC leadership and its 20 rebel MPs has entered a crucial legal phase.



Rajnath Clears DRDO Missile Tech Transfer



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the transfer of technology for conventional missile systems developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to Indian defence companies for domestic production. The decision marks a major step in India's push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat and aims to strengthen the country's defence manufacturing ecosystem. Eligible Indian companies will be able to produce DRDO-developed conventional missile systems, subject to technical qualifications, certifications and regulatory approvals. The move is expected to increase private-sector participation in defence manufacturing and create new opportunities for Indian companies to enter the advanced weapons production sector. The government has been encouraging domestic industries to play a larger role in defence production. The latest decision could help expand India's indigenous manufacturing capabilities while reducing dependence on foreign suppliers. For Indian defence companies, access to DRDO-developed technologies could open the door to large-scale production of advanced missile systems. Established manufacturers as well as other eligible domestic firms could benefit from the new opportunity. However, the transfer of technology does not mean that companies can immediately begin manufacturing the systems. Firms will have to meet prescribed technical standards and obtain the necessary certifications and regulatory clearances before production begins. DRDO has traditionally been responsible for developing advanced defence technologies for the Indian armed forces. The latest move seeks to take these technologies beyond research and development and facilitate wider industrial production. The decision could also help create a stronger domestic defence supply chain. Increased local manufacturing would reduce vulnerabilities associated with overseas procurement and improve the availability of critical military equipment. For the armed forces, greater domestic production could eventually provide stronger supply-chain resilience and faster access to locally manufactured systems. The move comes as India continues to increase its focus on indigenous defence production and reduce reliance on imported military equipment. It also supports the government's broader objective of developing India into a major defence manufacturing hub. By transferring DRDO-developed missile technologies to eligible Indian companies, the government is seeking to combine the organisation's technological expertise with the production capabilities of domestic industry. The decision could therefore become an important milestone in India's efforts to build a self-reliant defence ecosystem. With greater private-sector participation and access to indigenous technologies, India hopes to strengthen both its domestic defence industry and its long-term strategic capabilities.

Bengaluru Parking Fee Proposal Sparks Row

Bengaluru residents who park their vehicles on public roads outside their homes could soon face an annual parking fee under the proposed Greater Bengaluru Authority Parking Rules, 2026. The draft rules propose annual residential parking permits of up to ₹25,000, depending on the type of vehicle. Hatchback owners could be charged ₹15,000 per year, sedan owners ₹20,000 and SUV owners ₹25,000. The proposal has triggered opposition from within the Karnataka government itself. Congress minister Ramalinga Reddy has raised concerns over the financial burden the plan could place on ordinary and middle-class families. In a letter to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Reddy acknowledged that Bengaluru needs stronger measures to tackle illegal and prolonged roadside parking. However, he argued that charging residents for parking outside their homes could create additional financial pressure, particularly for families who have no adequate parking facilities within their buildings. Many older residential areas and apartment complexes in Bengaluru lack sufficient parking space. While residents of independent houses with larger properties may be able to park vehicles inside their premises, many middle-class families have no such option. Reddy pointed out that these families are already dealing with expenses such as home and vehicle loans, education, healthcare and daily household costs. An annual parking fee of up to ₹25,000 could therefore become a significant additional burden. He has suggested that the government consider exemptions for residents who genuinely do not have parking facilities within their homes or buildings. The minister has also called for wider consultations before the policy is finalised. He wants Bengaluru MLAs, resident welfare associations, citizens' groups and concerned officials to discuss the proposal. The parking controversy has also given the Opposition an opportunity to attack the Congress government. BJP leaders have described the proposed charges as an additional financial burden on Bengaluru residents and questioned the rationale behind making people pay to park outside their own homes. The government, however, faces a genuine challenge. Bengaluru has been struggling with severe traffic congestion, limited parking space and increasing roadside parking. The proposed policy is aimed at regulating the use of public road space, but the government will now have to balance traffic management with the financial concerns of residents. For now, the parking charges remain part of the draft rules and are not a final levy. The bigger question is whether Bengaluru can solve its parking crisis without placing another financial burden on ordinary residents.



Modi 3.0 Cabinet Reshuffle: 12 Berths Open

The Modi 3.0 government could soon witness a major Cabinet reshuffle following the BJP's recent organisational changes. With several ministers taking up important party responsibilities, speculation is growing over who could enter the Union Council of Ministers next.

The Council currently has 69 members, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, against the constitutional maximum of 81. This leaves room for 12 new ministers, giving the government considerable flexibility to accommodate political and regional considerations. The BJP's principle of "one person, one post" could be an important factor behind the reshuffle. Several leaders holding ministerial positions have recently received key organisational responsibilities within the party. Some ministerial positions have also become vacant. The departure



of former Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, along with the exit of ministers whose Rajya Sabha terms have ended, has created additional scope for changes. The reshuffle could bring a greater focus on younger leaders and women, while also balancing representation from different states. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal

Pradesh could receive particular attention because of their political importance and upcoming electoral battles. The BJP's alliance partners could also benefit. In Maharashtra, Shrikant Shinde, son of Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, has been discussed as a possible candidate for a ministerial berth. Other allies may also seek greater representation in the Union gov-

ernment. Another consideration could be workload. Several senior ministers currently handle multiple portfolios. New inductions could allow the government to distribute responsibilities more effectively and improve administrative efficiency. The reshuffle is therefore expected to be more than a routine exercise. Political equations, regional balance, youth representation, alliance management and organisational requirements could all influence the final choices. With the 2029 Lok Sabha elections increasingly becoming a long-term political focus, the next Cabinet reshuffle could provide an early indication of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strategy for the second half of his third term. With 12 berths potentially available, Modi 3.0 has significant room for a political and administrative reset.

Gadkari Remark Taken Out Of Context, Office Clarifies

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's recent comments about being unable to work with the same intensity as before triggered speculation about his political future. However, his office has clarified that the remarks were not about politics and were instead made in the context of the Laxmanrao Mankar Trust. Gadkari made the comments while speaking at an event in Nagpur. Reflecting on his more than three decades in public life, he spoke about the responsibilities he had handled and the changes he had experienced over the years. During his speech, Gadkari said that it was becoming difficult for him to work with the same intensity as earlier. He also spoke about the importance of giving younger people greater opportunities and responsibilities. His remarks quickly led to speculation that he might be consider-



ing a reduced political role or even retirement from active politics. However, his office rejected such an interpretation. According to the clarification, Gadkari was specifically discussing the functioning and future leadership of the Laxmanrao Mankar Trust, an organisation associated with him that works through Ekal Vidyalayas in tribal

areas. His office said that his comments about not being able to take on as much work as before were related to the Trust and its future leadership. It also criticised the manner in which some media reports presented the remarks, arguing that they had been taken out of context. Gadkari also spoke about his personal lifestyle and his early years in politics. He recalled travelling extensively, working under difficult circumstances and maintaining a simple routine. He said that after the Covid period, he brought greater discipline into his lifestyle and began paying more attention to his health. He mentioned practising yoga regularly and stressed that health should be given greater importance than power, position or prestige. The Union Minister also empha-

sised the importance of giving opportunities to younger generations. His office therefore described the remarks as a reflection on organisational responsibilities and generational transition rather than a signal about his political career. The controversy highlights how comments by senior political leaders can quickly trigger speculation, particularly when they involve workload, health or the need for younger leadership. For now, Gadkari's office has made its position clear: The minister's remarks were connected to the future functioning of the Trust and should not be interpreted as an announcement about his retirement or withdrawal from active politics. The clarification is expected to put an end to speculation surrounding Gadkari's political future, at least for the time being.

Bihar Students Clash With Police Over BPSC Exam

Tension erupted in Patna on Tuesday as students protesting against the 70th Bihar Public Service Commission examination clashed with police during a march towards the Raj Bhavan. The protesters began their march from Gandhi Maidan, demanding cancellation of the 70th BPSC examination. The agitation intensified when students attempted to move beyond police barricades placed along the route. Police detained several protesters and used water cannons to disperse the crowd after some demonstrators broke through the barricades. There were also reports of clashes between students and police as the situation became increasingly tense. The students have been protesting over alleged irregularities in the BPSC examination process, including claims of question-paper leaks and concerns about the fairness and transparency of recruitment examinations. Their demands have now expanded beyond the 70th



BPSC examination. Protesters are also seeking changes to the proposed Teacher Recruitment Examination, known as TRE 4.0. They want the teacher recruitment test to be conducted in a single stage and have demanded the removal of negative marking. Students have also raised concerns over delays in various recruitment examinations conducted by the Bihar Staff Selection Commission and other

government recruitment bodies. They are demanding a transparent examination system, timely recruitment and a regular examination calendar. The agitation has received support from several student and youth organisations. Opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav has also backed the protesters and urged the Bihar government to hold talks with them. Meanwhile, the state government has announced a new initia-

tive called Vidyarthi Sahyog Shivir to address student grievances. These support camps will reportedly be organised at educational institutions every month, allowing students to raise their concerns directly with government officials. The government has also announced an online mechanism through which students can submit complaints and track their progress. The confrontation in Patna has nevertheless added fresh pressure on the Bihar government. Students have made it clear that they want concrete action rather than assurances. The controversy is now becoming a larger debate over recruitment transparency, examination integrity and employment opportunities for Bihar's youth. With protests intensifying and students continuing to demand cancellation of the 70th BPSC examination, the government faces growing pressure to open a direct dialogue and find a solution to the dispute.

J&K Power Hike Sparks Political Row

A fresh political controversy has erupted in Jammu and Kashmir over the increase in electricity tariffs, with opposition parties demanding an immediate rollback of the decision. The power tariff has been increased by around 6.83 percent and is scheduled to come into effect from September 1. The decision has triggered protests by opposition parties, including the Peoples Democratic Party, which has accused the Omar Abdullah government of going back on its election promises. Electricity was one of the major issues during the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections. The opposition has particularly targeted the National Conference government over its promise of providing 200 units of free electricity to eligible households. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, however, has defended the tariff increase, describing it as a compulsion rather than a political choice. He said rising electricity costs, inflation and financial pressures on the power sector made the increase necessary. Abdullah also hit back at his critics by pointing to previous tariff increases during the earlier PDP-BJP government. He argued that his government had increased electricity charges by only around six percent after a gap of four years, whereas previous administrations had implemented significantly higher hikes. The Chief Minister also clarified that his government had promised free electricity for the poorest households through a solar-based scheme, rather than a permanent freeze on electricity tariffs. The government believes that improving the financial condition of the power sector is essential to prevent larger problems in the future. Officials have also indicated that better financial management could reduce the need for repeated tariff increases. Opposition parties, however, argue that ordinary consumers should not be forced to bear the burden of the power sector's financial difficulties. They have demanded that the government reconsider the decision and provide relief to households already facing rising living costs. The issue is likely to become a major political point in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, with opposition parties planning to continue raising the matter. The tariff increase has therefore created a difficult situation for the Omar Abdullah government. While the administration says the hike is necessary to address structural problems in the electricity sector, the opposition is portraying it as a betrayal of electoral promises. For now, the government appears determined to defend the decision. The controversy highlights the difficult balance between providing affordable electricity to consumers and maintaining the financial sustainability of the power sector in Jammu and Kashmir.



Supreme Court Asks Tarun Tejpal To Surrender

The Supreme Court has directed former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal to surrender within two weeks in connection with the 2013 Goa sexual assault case. A bench headed by Justice Alok Aradhe rejected Tejpal's request for exemption from surrender. The court directed him to submit a surrender certificate before his appeal challenging his conviction and sentence can be taken up. The case dates back to November 2013, when a junior colleague accused Tejpal of sexually assaulting her inside a hotel elevator at a resort in Goa during an event organised by Tehelka magazine. A Goa trial court acquitted Tejpal of all charges in 2021. However, the Bombay High Court later overturned the acquittal, convicted him and sentenced him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment. Tejpal subsequently approached the Supreme Court challenging the High Court judgment and seeking relief from the sentence. His legal team had argued that he should not be required to surrender immediately. The lawyers pointed out that the High Court had earlier given him additional time to surrender and that he had remained on bail for most of the proceedings. The Goa government opposed the request and argued that Tejpal was required to surrender before his appeal could be considered by the Supreme Court. The apex court has now rejected the exemption plea and given Tejpal two weeks to comply with the surrender order. However, the legal battle is not over. His appeal against the conviction and 10-year sentence will continue before the Supreme Court after the required surrender certificate is submitted. The Goa government has also challenged the sentence separately and has sought a harsher punishment. The state has argued that the sentence awarded by the High Court is inadequate considering the seriousness of the case. The latest order is therefore a setback for Tejpal's immediate effort to remain out of custody while challenging his conviction. The Supreme Court's consideration of his main appeal will be crucial in determining whether the High Court conviction and sentence will stand. The case has continued for more than a decade and has involved proceedings before multiple courts. For now, the immediate requirement is clear: Tejpal must surrender within two weeks and comply with the Supreme Court's direction before his appeal can proceed. The next stage of the legal battle will determine the future course of the case and his challenge to the conviction and sentence.



Iran State TV Video Targets Trump's Son



Iranian state television has aired a controversial video appearing to target Barron Trump, the youngest son of US President Donald Trump, amid heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran. The nearly three-minute video reportedly focused on locations associated with Barron, including Trump Tower in New York and areas around his university. The broadcast was presented in a surveillance-style format and reportedly included a provocative question about where Barron could be targeted. The video also referred to a \$10 million reward allegedly linked to an attack against the president's son. However, the authenticity and details of the reported reward remain unclear, and there has been no independent confirmation that such a bounty actually exists. The broadcast has attracted significant attention in the United States because it appeared to move beyond criticism of Donald Trump and directly target a member of his family. The US Secret Service is aware of the video and has been assessing the situation. The agency routinely investigates material that could potentially represent a threat against people under its protection. However, officials have not disclosed specific details about Barron Trump's security arrangements. The incident comes at a time when relations between the United States and Iran remain extremely tense. Iranian state-linked media have previously carried strongly worded messages against President Trump and other senior US officials. The latest broadcast has raised additional concerns because it reportedly highlighted locations connected to Barron's movements and daily life. Such material can attract particular attention from security agencies even when it is presented as propaganda. At present, however, there is no public evidence of an actual attack being planned or attempted against Barron Trump. The video appears to be part of a broader propaganda campaign, and some of the claims presented in it have not been independently verified. The incident nevertheless adds another troubling dimension to the confrontation between Washington and Tehran. Directly targeting the president's family could further intensify political and diplomatic tensions. For the Secret Service, the key task will be determining whether the broadcast represents inflammatory propaganda or contains information suggesting a genuine security threat. The agency has not revealed whether Barron's existing protection measures have been changed following the broadcast. The controversy highlights how geopolitical conflicts can increasingly spill into personal threats against political leaders and their families. For now, the video has triggered fresh security concerns in the US, while the actual intent behind the broadcast remains unclear.

Rare Mojtaba Khamenei Footage Raises Health Questions



Iranian media has released rare footage showing Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei in public, amid continued speculation about his health and whereabouts. The video has attracted significant attention because Khamenei has largely remained out of the public eye since assuming the position of Iran's Supreme Leader earlier this year. The newly released footage reportedly shows Mojtaba Khamenei attending a religious academic session. He can be seen listening to a student presenting a thesis and discussing aspects of Iran's "Islamic Security Model." During the interaction, Khamenei reportedly evaluated the student's work and awarded a score of 19.5 out of 20. The footage also captures him speaking, providing a rare opportunity to hear his voice and observe his appearance. The release is significant because his limited public presence has triggered questions about his physical condition and ability to perform his duties as Iran's highest political and religious authority. However, there is an important uncertainty surrounding the video. The recording is undated. Iranian media has not clearly revealed when or where it was filmed. As a result, while the footage confirms that Khamenei participated in the event shown, it does not independently establish his current health condition. Earlier, Iranian media had also released another short video showing Khamenei sitting with officials and advisers. That footage too was undated and emerged amid reports and speculation about his health. The repeated release of such footage has raised questions over why Iran has not provided a clearly dated and recent public appearance of the Supreme Leader. Khamenei's absence is particularly significant because of the enormous authority associated with his position. The Supreme Leader plays a central role in Iran's political, military and religious decision-making, making his health a matter of national and international interest. Iranian authorities have continued to portray him as active and engaged in official and religious affairs. The latest footage appears to reinforce that message by showing him participating in an academic discussion. The timing is also important as Iran continues to face major geopolitical and security challenges. Any uncertainty surrounding the Supreme Leader's health could have implications for political stability and decision-making within the country. For now, the newly released video offers a rare glimpse of Mojtaba Khamenei speaking and interacting with others. But without a confirmed recording date, it does not completely resolve the questions surrounding his present condition. Iran has shown its Supreme Leader on camera, but the mystery remains over when the footage was recorded and what it reveals about his current health.

US Military C-17 Lands In Moscow, Mystery Deepens

A US Air Force Boeing C-17 Globemaster III military transport aircraft landed at Moscow's Vnukovo Airport on Tuesday, August 25, in an unusual development that has sparked widespread speculation about the purpose of the flight. The aircraft, carrying the US registration 07-7181, flew directly from Riga, Latvia, and arrived in Moscow at around 10 am local time. Flight-tracking data confirmed the unusual journey. The aircraft had reportedly reached Riga on August 23 after travelling from Camp Springs, Maryland, near Washington DC, where Joint Base Andrews is located. The base is closely associated with official US government air travel.

The most striking aspect of the incident is that neither Washington nor Moscow has publicly explained why the military aircraft travelled to Moscow. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said he had no information about the plane when questioned about its arrival. It also remains unclear whether



the C-17 was carrying passengers, military equipment or other cargo. There has been no official confirmation about the aircraft's mission or who may have been on board. The C-17 Globemaster III is a large strategic transport aircraft designed to carry troops, vehicles, equipment and other heavy cargo over long distances. It can also be used for humanitarian missions, evacuations and other specialised operations. Because of its capabilities and the unusual destination, the flight has

triggered considerable speculation. Some theories suggest the aircraft could be linked to diplomatic activity, while others have raised the possibility of a prisoner exchange or another sensitive mission. However, there is currently no confirmation of any of these theories. The timing of the flight has also attracted attention. Relations between the United States and Russia remain tense amid the ongoing Ukraine conflict, while efforts to advance peace negotia-

tions have faced significant obstacles.

The last known direct flight of a US-registered aircraft from Europe to Russia took place in January, when US officials Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner travelled to Moscow for discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding the Ukraine conflict.

The latest C-17 flight is therefore unusual, particularly because of the absence of any publicly announced US delegation or meeting.

For now, the aircraft's mission remains a mystery. The flight path is known, but its purpose, passengers and cargo have not been disclosed.

Until Washington or Moscow provides an official explanation, speculation surrounding the flight should be treated cautiously.

A US military transport aircraft landing in Moscow is highly unusual - but what brought the C-17 to the Russian capital remains unanswered.

Canada Plans Retaliatory Tariffs Against US

Canada is preparing to announce fresh retaliatory tariffs against the United States after trade negotiations between Ottawa and Washington collapsed. The move comes as President Donald Trump threatens to sharply increase tariffs on Canadian automobiles, auto parts and steel, escalating tensions between the two major trading partners.

Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on Canadian cars, trucks and automotive parts to 50% from January 1, 2027. The announcement followed the breakdown of recent trade negotiations between the two countries.

The automotive sector is particularly vulnerable because manufacturing supply chains between Canada and the United States are deeply interconnected. Vehicles and components frequently cross the border during different stages of production. Higher tariffs could therefore increase costs for manufacturers and potentially push up prices for consumers.

Canada has indicated that it is prepared to respond with its own measures. Canadian officials have said retaliatory tariffs could target selected American products, with the government seeking to protect



Canadian workers and businesses from the impact of US trade restrictions. Canadian Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc has indicated that Ottawa could announce the new measures on Tuesday. He stressed that imposing tariffs was not Canada's preferred option but could become necessary to protect important sectors of the economy. Prime Minister Mark Carney has also taken a firm position in the dispute. He has argued that Canada will defend its economic interests and will not accept trade negotiations conducted on the

basis that Canada is subordinate to the United States. The latest escalation follows the collapse of negotiations that could have reduced tariffs on Canadian vehicles and addressed duties affecting Canadian steel and aluminium. The talks failed to resolve several important issues, pushing both countries closer to another round of trade retaliation.

The dispute is particularly significant because the US and Canada have one of the world's most closely integrated trading relationships. Any prolonged tariff battle could affect automobile manufac-

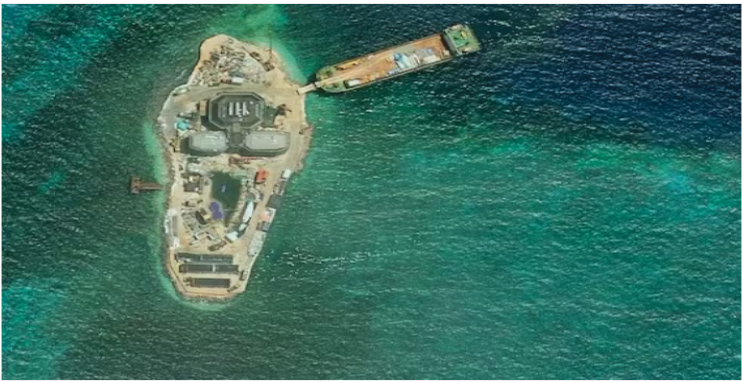
turers, steel producers, exporters, workers and consumers in both countries.

American companies could also face consequences because many US manufacturers depend on Canadian raw materials, components and energy. Higher import costs could ultimately be passed on through supply chains.

The conflict could create uncertainty for financial markets and businesses planning investments on either side of the border. Automotive companies are likely to be particularly sensitive because of their dependence on cross-border production networks. For now, both governments continue to signal that negotiations remain possible, but neither side appears willing to make major concessions without securing protection for its own economic interests. The latest developments suggest that the long-standing US-Canada trade relationship is entering another difficult phase.

With Washington threatening higher tariffs and Ottawa preparing retaliation, the two neighbours are moving closer to a wider trade confrontation that could affect industries and consumers on both sides of the border.

China Expands Military Presence In South China Sea



China appears to be expanding its military footprint in the disputed South China Sea, with new construction emerging on a small island near Antelope Reef in the Paracel Islands. Recent satellite imagery has revealed construction activity on Yagong Island, located around 14 kilometres northeast of Antelope Reef. The newly built structures have attracted the attention of security analysts, who believe they could eventually be used for radar, surveillance or early-warning purposes. Construction reportedly began around March or April 2026. More recent satellite images show several newly developed structures on the island. Analysts have noted that their design resembles radar and early-warning facilities seen at other Chinese installations in the South China Sea. The development comes as China continues a much larger project at Antelope Reef. Satellite images indicate that Beijing has completed the first phase of land reclamation there, creating a large artificial island stretching nearly six kilometres. The expanded area includes a long straight coastline, a harbour, a wharf and other infrastructure. The scale of the project has raised speculation that the facility could eventually support military operations, although China has not officially described it as a military base. Chinese authorities have said the Antelope Reef development is intended for purposes such as weather monitoring, fisheries protection and scientific research. Regional security experts, however, remain cautious about that explanation. They argue that the location, size and design of the infrastructure could give China greater surveillance and operational capabilities across the northern South China Sea. The role of Yagong Island remains less clear because of its relatively small size. Analysts say it is too early to determine whether the new facilities will become a dedicated radar station, communications site or another type of observation facility. The strategic importance of the area adds to concerns. The Paracel Islands sit along important maritime routes and are close to several areas of geopolitical importance in East Asia. China has controlled the Paracel Islands since 1974, but Vietnam also claims sovereignty over the islands. The broader South China Sea is disputed by several countries, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. China's continuing construction activity has therefore increased concerns among regional countries and Western powers. The United States and its allies have repeatedly criticised Beijing's expansion of infrastructure in disputed waters. The latest development also highlights how China is gradually building a network of facilities across the South China Sea. Even when individual installations are described as civilian or dual-use projects, their combined capabilities could significantly strengthen Beijing's ability to monitor maritime activity. For now, the exact purpose of the new Yagong Island structures remains unclear. But their emergence alongside the huge Antelope Reef project indicates that China's presence in the region continues to expand. As Beijing adds new facilities to its growing network, the South China Sea is becoming an increasingly important centre of military competition and geopolitical rivalry.

Ukraine Gives UK Access To Battlefield AI Data



Ukraine has given the United Kingdom access to its "Avengers" AI Labs, a major battlefield database built from years of real-world combat data. The agreement marks a significant expansion of defence and technology cooperation between the two countries. The partnership was signed in Kyiv by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and British Prime Minister Andy Burnham. Britain has become the first international partner to receive access to the Avengers platform. The database contains millions of pieces of information collected from cameras, drones and sensors operating across Ukrainian battlefields. It includes data relating to tanks, artillery systems, air-defence equipment, soldiers and drones, including Shahed attack drones and reconnaissance UAVs. The data is used to train artificial intelligence systems capable of identifying military objects and potential threats. Ukrainian officials say AI models trained using the database are already being used to analyse large volumes of drone footage and identify enemy targets. For Britain, access to this information provides an opportunity to study how artificial intelligence performs in an actual war environment. Instead of relying primarily on simulations, British researchers and technology companies can learn from years of battlefield experience. The initial cooperation will focus on defence and national security. One of the first projects involves developing AI-powered sensors using fibre-optic technology to help protect military facilities. The technology could eventually have wider applications. Similar systems could potentially be used to protect airports, railway networks, prisons and energy infrastructure from hostile activity or security threats. Britain and Ukraine are also planning to cooperate on the development of low-power AI chips. Such chips could be useful for drones, robots and autonomous systems, allowing them to operate for longer while consuming less energy. The partnership is designed to work in both directions. While Britain gains access to Ukraine's battlefield data and operational experience, Ukraine will benefit from British universities, researchers, engineers and technology companies. The agreement comes as Ukraine continues to develop rapidly in the field of defence technology. Years of fighting with Russia have forced Ukrainian forces to experiment with drones, artificial intelligence, sensors and battlefield-management systems. The deal also has wider geopolitical significance. Britain remains one of Ukraine's strongest supporters, while Russia has repeatedly criticised Western military and technological assistance to Kyiv. The latest agreement demonstrates how the experience of the Ukraine war is increasingly shaping the development of future military technology. For Britain, the partnership provides access to valuable real-world battlefield information. For Ukraine, it creates another channel to strengthen its defence technology ecosystem. By combining Ukraine's frontline experience with Britain's AI expertise, the two countries are seeking to develop technologies that could influence the future of warfare and national security.

Delhi HC Orders RS.53 Crore Refund To Vodafone Idea



The Delhi High Court has strongly criticised the Income Tax Department over the prolonged delay in releasing a tax refund to Vodafone Idea, describing the situation as a "grim picture" of the department's functioning. The court has directed the authorities to pay the telecom company rs53.09 crore along with applicable interest. A Division Bench comprising Justice Dinesh Mehta and Justice Rajneesh Kumar Gupta issued the order on August 18. The court directed the Income Tax Department to release the refund by September 30, 2026. If the payment is not made within the deadline, the outstanding amount will attract an additional interest of 1% per month, over and above the statutory interest. The dispute relates to tax refunds for several assessment years, including 2003-04 and 2008-09 to 2013-14. Vodafone Idea had won a series of cases before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal between April 2024 and February 2025. Following those rulings, the Assessing Officer determined that the company was entitled to a total refund of ₹53.09 crore. Despite the refund being quantified, the amount was not released for a considerable period. The High Court noted that Vodafone Idea had been involved in litigation relating to the matter for nearly a decade. Even after the Assessing Officer passed orders determining the refund, the company continued to wait for the payment. The Income Tax Department had insisted that Vodafone Idea submit Form 26B before the refund could be processed. The company eventually submitted the required forms for two assessment years. However, the applications were rejected because the department cited outstanding tax demands against Vodafone Idea's PAN and the TANs of its sister concerns. The department claimed that the total outstanding demands were around ₹924.57 crore. However, it acknowledged that approximately ₹913.66 crore of those demands had already been stayed by courts or other authorities. This left around rs10.91 crore without a stay. Vodafone Idea disputed even that figure and maintained that only about ₹27.63 lakh was actually outstanding. The High Court made it clear that the existence of an outstanding demand cannot automatically justify withholding a refund. The department must follow the appropriate legal procedure for adjusting or withholding the amount. The ruling is significant because it reinforces the principle that taxpayers who are legally entitled to refunds should not face indefinite delays because of unrelated or disputed outstanding demands. For Vodafone Idea, the ₹53.09 crore refund could provide some additional liquidity at a time when the telecom operator continues to manage substantial financial obligations. For the tax administration, meanwhile, the court's strong observations underline the need for faster and more transparent handling of legitimate refund claims. The order also sends a wider message to taxpayers: once a refund becomes legally payable following an assessment or appellate decision, administrative delays cannot continue indefinitely without proper legal justification.

Kotak Flags Oil, Inflation Risks For Markets



Indian equity markets could face heightened volatility in the coming weeks as several unresolved macroeconomic risks continue to weigh on the global financial environment. Kotak Institutional Equities has flagged four major concerns for investors: the ongoing Iran-US conflict, rising crude oil prices, persistent inflation and growing worries over government debt and fiscal deficits. According to Kotak, the continued uncertainty surrounding the Iran-US conflict and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz could create significant pressure on global markets. Oil markets have so far remained relatively resilient because of high inventories built up before the conflict. However, declining stock piles could change the situation if supply disruptions continue. Kotak warned that another few weeks of negligible oil supplies through the Strait of Hormuz could push crude prices to worrying levels. For India, this is particularly important because the country remains heavily dependent on imported crude oil. A sharp increase in energy prices could have a broader impact on inflation, the current account, the rupee and overall economic growth. Inflation is another major concern highlighted by the brokerage. Inflation in several developed and emerging economies has remained above central-bank targets for an extended period. At the same time, relatively low or negative real interest rates could make it difficult for policymakers to contain price pressures without affecting economic activity. The global bond market is also showing signs of stress. Kotak pointed to concerns surrounding high and rising public debt, along with governments continuing to run large fiscal deficits. Long-term US Treasury yields have remained volatile as investors assess the government's borrowing requirements and its interaction with the bond market. Higher bond yields could become an additional challenge for equity markets. Rising yields generally increase borrowing costs and can reduce the attractiveness of riskier assets such as equities. Emerging markets such as India could also face pressure if higher global yields encourage investors to shift money toward safer fixed-income assets. Kotak believes the next few weeks could prove particularly important for global stock markets. Equity valuations remain elevated in several segments, supported by expectations of strong corporate earnings growth. As a result, the brokerage believes markets have relatively little room for negative surprises from either crude oil prices or bond yields. The brokerage also highlighted the market's strong focus on artificial intelligence and AI-related capital expenditure. According to Kotak, this enthusiasm may have reduced investor attention toward broader macroeconomic concerns such as government debt, fiscal deficits and inflation. For Indian investors, the combination of expensive crude, persistent inflation and higher global bond yields could create a challenging environment. Recent market performance has already shown that elevated oil prices and rising yields can hurt investor sentiment. Overall, Kotak's assessment suggests that investors may need to remain cautious as geopolitical developments, energy prices, inflation and fiscal concerns interact. While strong earnings expectations continue to support equities, any significant deterioration in these macro factors could increase market volatility and trigger sharper corrections.

Sensex Jumps 287 Points, Nifty Reclaims 24,300

Indian equity markets staged a strong recovery on Tuesday, August 25, after witnessing a weak opening and volatile trading during the session. Buying in pharmaceutical, media and PSU banking stocks helped the benchmark indices erase their early losses and finish firmly in positive territory on the monthly expiry day. The Sensex gained 286.98 points, or 0.37 percent, to close at 77,656.09, while the Nifty 50 rose 115.50 points, or 0.48 percent, to settle at 24,334.55. The Nifty Bank index, however, remained almost flat, ending at 57,514.20.

The session began on a cautious note amid mixed global signals. The Nifty slipped to an intraday low of 24,115.45 before recovering sharply as investors stepped in at lower levels. Easing crude oil prices and a stronger Indian rupee also supported market sentiment. The recovery became particularly strong during the final hours of trading. According to market analysts, the indices found support near the 24,100 level on the Nifty and around 77,100 on the Sensex. The subsequent rebound helped both benchmarks close near the



day's stronger levels. Among sectors, pharmaceutical stocks emerged as major gainers, with the Nifty Pharma index rising 0.85 percent. Media and PSU banking stocks also attracted buying interest. Healthcare, digital and tourism-related segments were among the other areas that outperformed during the session. The broader market also witnessed significant activity. More than 140 stocks touched their 52-week highs, including Paytm, Bajaj Auto, AU Small Finance Bank, Ipca Laboratories, PVR

INOX, Siemens, HFCL, Aarti Industries and Welspun Corp. However, some individual stocks remained under pressure. Hindustan Copper fell around 7 percent after the government announced plans to sell up to a 6 percent stake through an offer for sale. Federal Bank and Jana Small Finance Bank also declined more than 2 percent amid reports related to a potential stake acquisition. PVR INOX, meanwhile, touched a fresh 52-week high as its board is scheduled to consider a share buy-back proposal on August 31.

Netweb Technologies India declined after completing a ₹1,200 crore qualified institutional placement.

The Indian rupee also strengthened during the session. It ended at rs.95.41 against the US dollar, gaining 33 paise compared with its previous close of ₹95.74.

Newly listed companies also attracted investor attention. Sunshine Pictures ended 2.3 percent higher at ₹368.50 after making its market debut, while Shankesh Jewellers gained 2.3 percent to close at ₹95.21.

Market experts believe the strong recovery from lower levels has improved the near-term technical outlook. The sharp rebound and positive daily candle suggest that bullish momentum could continue, although volatility may remain elevated after the expiry session. Overall, Tuesday's trading session highlighted strong buying interest at lower levels, with investors taking advantage of the decline to accumulate stocks across several sectors. The ability of the Nifty to reclaim and hold the 24,300 mark will remain an important factor for the market's next move.

Oriental Hotels Merger May Boost Indian Hotels' EPS

The proposed merger of Oriental Hotels with Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), the Tata Group hospitality company that operates the Taj brand, is being viewed positively by several brokerages. Analysts believe the all-stock transaction could simplify IHCL's corporate structure, improve operating efficiency and potentially boost earnings per share (EPS) over the longer term. Under the proposed arrangement, shareholders of Oriental Hotels will receive 25 shares of IHCL for every 117 shares they hold. IHCL currently owns around 37.1 percent of Oriental Hotels. To complete the transaction, IHCL will issue approximately 23.2 million new shares, resulting in around 1.6 percent dilution for existing IHCL shareholders.

The merger is expected to bring Oriental Hotels' seven properties, comprising around 825 rooms, directly under IHCL's platform. The portfolio includes hotels operating under the Taj, Gateway and Vivanta brands. Brokerages believe IHCL's stronger scale and financial resources could help unlock growth opportunities at these properties. JM Financial said the transaction could be EPS-accretive from the



first year. The brokerage highlighted the benefits of simplifying the group structure, consolidating Oriental Hotels' operations and improving margins through asset upgrades and active management. It retained a positive view on IHCL and assigned a target price of ₹850. The merger could also provide IHCL with greater opportunities to expand its presence in South India. Oriental Hotels currently operates properties in key markets, including Chennai and Mangaluru, while IHCL could use its expertise and financial strength to improve existing hotels and expand their revenue poten-

tial. Several properties have already been identified as having expansion or renovation opportunities. The 149-room Taj Fisherman's Cove in Chennai, for example, could add villas and banquet facilities. The 63-room Gateway Madurai also offers scope for expansion, while the 220-room Taj Coromandel in Chennai and 96-room Vivanta in Mangaluru are planned for upgrades. The merger is also expected to improve IHCL's operating margins. The company has indicated that its EBITDA margin could rise to more than 30 percent, compared

with 26.8 percent in FY26. IHCL believes that bringing Oriental Hotels fully into its fold will allow the company to leverage its existing infrastructure, brands and management capabilities more effectively.

However, not every brokerage expects an immediate financial benefit. Elara Securities said the transaction could initially be broadly neutral after accounting for share dilution and potential synergies. It estimated that the deal could be around 3 percent EPS dilutive on FY26 pro forma numbers before considering synergy benefits. Elara maintained an Accumulate rating with a target price of ₹786.

The merger is expected to be completed by FY28, subject to regulatory and other required approvals. The companies have set April 1 as the appointed date for the combination.

Overall, brokerages see the transaction as strategically important for IHCL. While the immediate earnings impact may be limited, the combination could provide greater operational control, simplify the ownership structure and create opportunities to improve the performance of Oriental Hotels' properties.

Kotak Downgrades Infosys, TCS, Prefers TechM



Kotak Institutional Equities has turned more cautious on India's information technology sector, downgrading Infosys and TCS to 'Add' from 'Buy' following a sharp recovery in IT stocks. The brokerage said the sector's risk-reward profile has shifted from attractive to more balanced, while pricing pressure and artificial intelligence-led deflation could limit near-term growth. Kotak has also downgraded LTM Ltd (LTMindtree) to 'Sell' from 'Reduce', citing its valuation after a strong rally. In contrast, the brokerage continues to favour challengers and hybrid IT companies, naming Tech Mahindra, Coforge, Hexaware Technologies and Indegene among its preferred stocks. The reassessment comes after IT services stocks rebounded sharply from their recent lows. Several stocks have gained between 15 percent and 35 percent during the recovery, prompting Kotak to believe that much of the earlier upside has already been captured. The brokerage estimates only around 6 percent upside for Infosys and 7 percent for TCS from current levels to its fair-value estimates. Kotak has set a target price of ₹1,200 for Infosys and ₹2,450 for TCS. For LTMindtree, it has assigned a target of ₹4,150. The brokerage believes valuations have become less attractive after the recent rally, particularly for companies that continue to face challenges in generating strong organic growth. One of the biggest concerns highlighted by Kotak is pricing pressure. The brokerage believes that deal volumes remain insufficient to support the growth ambitions of all major IT companies. As competition intensifies, vendors may be forced to offer more aggressive pricing to win contracts, potentially putting pressure on margins. Artificial intelligence is another major factor reshaping the sector. Kotak believes the AI debate has moved beyond concerns about whether AI could replace IT services altogether. The bigger question now is which companies in the technology value chain will capture the economic benefits created by AI. The brokerage expects open-weight AI models to increase demand for services such as model selection, tuning, proprietary-data integration, security, monitoring and workflow redesign. However, greater access to AI tools could also reduce the price of traditional IT services. Kotak estimates that Indian IT services could face 3-3.5 percent annual revenue deflation through FY2029. Kotak believes challengers could be better positioned in this environment. Companies such as Tech Mahindra, Coforge, Hexaware and Indegene may be able to gain market share by passing AI-driven productivity benefits to clients and competing more aggressively for new business. The brokerage also expects enterprise AI adoption to eventually create a fresh demand cycle. However, it believes AI-related new-business demand may not fully offset the deflationary impact on traditional IT services until around 2029. Overall, Kotak's latest view suggests that the Indian IT sector is entering a period of significant transformation. Large incumbents such as Infosys and TCS continue to have strong businesses and established client relationships, but challengers may offer a more attractive risk-reward profile as AI reshapes technology spending and competitive dynamics.

Dixon EBITDA Margins May Rise, Says Kotak



Dixon Technologies could see a meaningful improvement in its operating profitability as higher exports, increased localisation and deeper manufacturing integration support growth, according to Kotak Institutional Equities. The brokerage expects the electronics manufacturing services (EMS) company to benefit from rising volumes from key customers and greater efficiency in its manufacturing operations. Kotak has retained its "Attractive" view on the EMS sector, highlighting the government's Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) as an important catalyst for increasing manufacturing scale and localisation in India. The scheme has a total incentive outlay of around ₹62,500 crore and follows a two-track framework aimed at expanding mobile-phone manufacturing and encouraging the growth of Indian smartphone brands. According to Kotak, exports will become increasingly important for companies seeking to meet the growth thresholds under the scheme. India's domestic smartphone market has expanded at a relatively modest pace in recent years, making it difficult for manufacturers to sustain the required growth through domestic demand alone. India's smartphone market recorded only around 1.8 percent volume CAGR and 14 percent value CAGR between CY2022 and CY2025. In contrast, mobile-phone production grew at approximately 24 percent CAGR between FY2021 and FY2026, primarily because of rapid growth in exports. Kotak therefore expects exports to remain a key growth driver for electronics manufacturers. For Dixon Technologies, the brokerage expects higher volumes from major anchor customers to provide a significant boost. Increased exports could improve capacity utilisation, while backward integration could provide additional benefits to operating margins. Kotak's scenario analysis indicates that Dixon could see an EBITDA margin improvement of around 14-22 basis points. Although the direct benefit from MPMS is expected to be limited, the broader impact of increased manufacturing scale, exports and localisation could strengthen the company's profitability. The brokerage also sees potential additional upside if Dixon's various joint ventures and partnerships experience stronger-than-expected volume growth. These include its joint ventures with Vivo and Longcheer, which is associated with brands such as OPPO and Realme, as well as its partnership with Compal, which is linked to Pixel manufacturing. A sharp increase in volumes from these businesses could provide further operating leverage. The broader electronics manufacturing industry is undergoing a significant transformation as global companies increasingly diversify their supply chains beyond China. India is attempting to position itself as a major manufacturing and export hub, with government incentives encouraging companies to establish larger production facilities and localise component manufacturing. For Dixon, this shift could create opportunities beyond traditional assembly operations. Greater backward integration and localisation could help the company capture more value across the manufacturing chain while reducing dependence on imported components.

Kotak, however, remains more cautious about the near-term impact of MPMS on Amber Enterprises. The brokerage does not expect a significant immediate benefit for Amber because OPPO-related volumes are still in the process of ramping up. It has retained its existing estimates and fair values for both Dixon and Amber. Overall, Kotak's assessment suggests that exports, localisation and manufacturing integration could become important drivers of Dixon's next phase of growth. While the immediate margin benefit may appear modest, sustained volume growth from major customers could provide additional operating leverage and strengthen the company's long-term earnings potential.

Passenger Shares Flight View With Family

A simple act of kindness during a flight has touched many people online. A woman recently shared how she was moved after watching a fellow passenger use a video call to share the view from an airplane window with his family.

The incident was shared by X user Amy Palan, who noticed the passenger sitting beside her during a flight. After the plane took off, he began showing his family the view outside the window through a video call. The family mem-

bers, who were not on the flight, appeared delighted as they watched the clouds and scenery from thousands of feet above the ground.

For the passenger, looking out of an airplane window may have been an ordinary part of his journey. But for his family, the experience seemed much more special. Through a simple video call, they were able to share a moment that they otherwise would not have experienced themselves.

The passenger's gesture also

left a strong impression on Palan. What caught her attention was not simply the beautiful view outside the aircraft, but the effort he made to include his family in the experience. Instead of enjoying the view alone, he chose to share it with the people who mattered to him. The incident has since resonated with social media users, with many saying that it is a reminder that ordinary moments can hold extraordinary meaning for someone else.



Image Credit: @markmyouze/X

Several users also shared similar experiences involving their families and first-time journeys. For some people, flying can be a routine part of life, while for others, even seeing an airplane from the ground can be a memorable experience. A view from an aircraft window can therefore represent excitement, achievement or even the fulfillment of a long-held dream.

The heartwarming moment highlights how technology can bring families closer,

even when they are miles apart. A short video call required only a few seconds, but it allowed an entire family to experience a small part of the journey together.

The story ultimately offers a simple message: something that may seem completely ordinary to one person can be incredibly meaningful to another. Sometimes, sharing a beautiful view with loved ones is all it takes to turn an everyday journey into a cherished memory.

Candidate Loses Job After Asking About Hybrid Work

A job candidate's offer was reportedly withdrawn after they asked their prospective employer for clarification about the company's work-from-home policy and sick leave rules. The incident has sparked discussion online about transparency during recruitment and the importance of carefully checking an offer letter before accepting a job.

According to a viral social media post highlighted by NDTV, the candidate had gone through three rounds of interviews over a period of five weeks before finally receiving an offer. The salary was reportedly acceptable, but the candidate noticed two clauses in the offer letter that raised concerns.

The letter stated that the standard schedule required employees to work in the office five days a week, with no exceptions. It also mentioned that sick days would remain unpaid during the first 90 days of employment.

The candidate found this surprising because the hiring manager had reportedly described the role during the interview process as having a "flexible hybrid" work arrangement. The candidate therefore sent a polite email to the recruiter asking whether the terms mentioned in the offer letter were correct and sought clarification about the sick leave policy as well. Instead of providing an explanation, the recruiter reportedly responded with a single sentence saying the company had decided to



move forward with another candidate. The offer was withdrawn on the same day.

The candidate later shared the experience online, saying they were relieved to discover the discrepancy before joining the company. They also claimed that the recruiter had earlier asked about their current salary and had expressed concern when the candidate mentioned needing two weeks' notice before joining.

The post quickly attracted attention, with many social media users supporting the candidate. Several commenters said the applicant had effectively "dodged a bullet" by discovering the company's working conditions before starting the job. Others argued that asking questions about employment terms is completely reasonable, particularly when the written offer contradicts what was dis-

cussed during interviews. They pointed out that candidates should always seek clarification before signing an agreement. The incident has also prompted broader conversations about job advertisements and recruitment practices.

A position described as hybrid during interviews may have very different expectations once the formal offer is issued. For job seekers, the episode serves as a reminder to carefully read every clause in an offer letter and compare it with the promises made during interviews. Working hours, office attendance, leave policies, salary, notice periods and other employment conditions should ideally be confirmed in writing before accepting an offer. While the candidate lost the opportunity, the experience may have helped them avoid a potentially uncomfortable situation after joining the organisation.

Why 2-to-10 Shift Beats 9-to-5 For Some

The traditional 9-to-5 work schedule may be the standard for millions of employees, but a viral social media post has sparked a debate over whether working from 2 pm to 10 pm could actually offer better productivity and work-life balance.

The discussion began after a remote worker in Spain shared their experience of working according to US time zones. The employee argued that the 2 pm to 10 pm shift was "way better" than the conventional daytime schedule.

According to the worker, one of the biggest advantages was being able to sleep soon after finishing work. Instead of returning home in the evening feeling exhausted and unable to do anything else, they could complete their work and go straight to bed. This, they claimed, helped them avoid the tiredness that often follows a traditional workday.

Another major advantage was having the entire morning available. The employee said that errands, appointments and household chores could be completed easily before work began. Since most businesses, grocery stores and other services operate during the daytime, there was less difficulty



finding time for essential tasks. The employee also pointed out that mornings tend to be quieter. Gyms are less crowded, roads have less traffic and grocery stores can be more peaceful. Starting the day after a good night's sleep also made it easier to complete personal tasks before beginning work.

However, the post received mixed reactions online. While some users agreed that late shifts could provide greater flexibility, others highlighted the social disadvantages. Critics pointed out that employees working from 2 pm to 10 pm could

miss out on evening activities with friends and family. Most people following traditional schedules are free after 5 or 6 pm, meaning late-shift workers may be working precisely when others are available to socialise.

Some users also said the schedule could become difficult for married employees or parents, particularly if their work hours overlap with family dinner, children's activities or other evening commitments. Others, however, strongly supported the idea. People who dislike early mornings said later shifts allowed them to wake up naturally, complete personal tasks and still have several productive hours before starting work. The debate ultimately shows that there is no single work schedule that suits everyone. A 2-to-10 shift may offer significant advantages for night owls, remote workers and people who value quiet mornings. For others, especially those with family or social commitments in the evening, the traditional 9-to-5 schedule may remain preferable. The ideal working hours, therefore, may depend less on the clock and more on an individual's lifestyle, responsibilities and personal productivity patterns.

Weightlifting Robot Crashes Into Judges' Table

A humanoid robot attempting to prove its strength at the World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing ended up delivering an unexpected moment of chaos after losing its balance and crashing into the judges' table.

The incident took place during the weightlifting competition at the ongoing games, where humanoid robots are being tested across a range of athletic and practical challenges. The weightlifting event is designed to test important capabilities such as balance, joint torque and stability while robots handle heavy loads.

In a video of the incident, the humanoid robot can be seen preparing to lift a barbell. As it attempted to raise the weight, the machine appeared to struggle with maintaining its balance. Instead of completing the lift successfully, it began to lose stability and toppled forward.

The robot then crashed directly into the table where the judges were seated. The unexpected collision created a dramatic scene at the competition venue and quickly attracted attention online. Social media users were amused by the incident, with several comparing the robot's failed attempt to the struggles of humans at the gym. The mishap comes at a competition that is showcasing both the



Image credit: V/golammedia

impressive progress and current limitations of humanoid robotics. More than 2,000 robots from hundreds of teams are taking part in the 2026 World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing, competing in 51 events that include running, football, table tennis, weightlifting and other challenges.

The games have already produced some remarkable performances. Humanoid robots have reportedly surpassed human records in events such as the 100-metre sprint and high jump. One robot completed the 100 metres in 9.39 seconds, faster than Usain Bolt's human world record of 9.58 seconds.

However, spectacular failures such as the weightlifting crash highlight an important challenge fac-

ing robotics developers. Speed and strength alone are not enough for humanoid machines. They also need precise coordination, stability and the ability to recover when something goes wrong.

The contrast between record-breaking performances and amusing crashes has become one of the defining features of the event. While robots are demonstrating extraordinary physical capabilities, incidents like this show that mastering balance and control remains a major hurdle. For spectators, however, the failed lift provided an entertaining reminder that even the most advanced machines can still have very human-like moments of struggle.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi 2026: History And Significance

Eid Milad-un-Nabi, also known as Eid-e-Milad or Mawlid, is observed by Muslims around the world to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad. In India, the occasion will be observed on August 26, 2026, with celebrations beginning in several places a day earlier. The festival falls on the 12th day of Rabi' ul-awwal, the third month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

The word Mawlid is associated with birth or the act of giving birth. For Muslims who observe the occasion, Eid Milad-un-Nabi is an important day to remember the life, teachings and character of Prophet Muhammad. He was born in Rabi' ul-awwal around 570 AD and is regarded in Islam as the final prophet and messenger of God. His teachings, recorded through Islamic traditions including the Hadith, have had a profound influence on Muslim communities across the world.

The occasion also provides an opportunity for devotees to reflect on values associated with the Prophet's teachings, including compassion, forgiveness, humility and selflessness. Rather than being limited to a single form of celebration, the observance varies across communities and countries.

History Of Eid Milad-un-Nabi
Historical accounts suggest that gatherings commemorating the



Image credit: Unplash

Prophet's life developed over the early centuries of Islamic history. Such gatherings often featured religious recitations, poetry and verses praising Prophet Muhammad. The observance became more prominent during the Fatimid period in Egypt, according to historical accounts cited by NDTV.

Over time, Milad traditions spread across different parts of West Asia and South Asia and became part of the cultural and religious practices of many Muslim communities. Today, the occasion is observed in several countries, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Russia and Germany. How Is The Day Observed?

Celebrations can include the decoration of mosques, homes and streets with colourful lights. In several regions, communities organise processions to commemorate the Prophet's birth. Religious gatherings may feature lectures, readings and poetry focusing on his life, teachings and legacy.

The date of Eid Milad-un-Nabi changes each year because the Islamic calendar follows lunar cycles. In 2026, the observance in India falls on August 26. For millions of Muslims, the day is therefore not only a commemoration of Prophet Muhammad's birth but also a time to remember the values and principles associated with his life and teachings.

Onam 2026: History, Significance And Ten-Day Celebrations

Onam is Kerala's biggest and most vibrant harvest festival, celebrated every year during the Malayalam month of Chingam, which generally falls between August and September. In 2026, the main celebration, Thiruvonam, falls on Wednesday, August 26. The festival is celebrated over ten days and represents prosperity, unity, cultural pride and the cherished traditions of Kerala.

The Legend Behind Onam
According to Hindu mythology, Onam commemorates the annual return of King Mahabali, a legendary ruler remembered for his generosity, wisdom and popularity among his people. His reign is traditionally described as a golden period when prosperity and happiness prevailed throughout his kingdom.

According to the legend, the Gods became concerned about Mahabali's growing influence and sought the help of Lord Vishnu. Vishnu appeared before the king in the form of Vamana, a dwarf Brahmin, and asked for three paces of land. Mahabali agreed to the request. Vamana then assumed a gigantic form. With his first step, he covered the Earth, and with the second, he covered the heavens. With nowhere left for the third step, Mahabali offered his own head. Vishnu then sent him to the underworld but, impressed by his devotion and generosity, granted him permission to return to his people once every year. Onam is traditionally associated with this annual homecoming.

Ten Days Of Onam Celebrations

The ten-day festival begins with Atham and concludes with Thiruvonam.

Day 1 - Atham: Festivities begin with prayers, processions and the creation of Pookalams, colourful floral designs placed outside homes.

Day 2 - Chithira: Families continue expanding their Pookalams and prepare for the celebrations ahead.

Day 3 - Chodhi: People traditionally shop for new clothes and gifts for family members.

Day 4 - Visakam: Preparations intensify, with households beginning arrangements for the main festivities.

Day 5 - Anizham: One of Kerala's most famous traditions, the Vallamkali or



Image credit: Pixels

snake boat race, takes centre stage.

Day 6 - Thriketa: Cultural programmes, traditional music and community gatherings become more prominent.

Day 7 - Moolam: Families cre-

ate increasingly elaborate floral designs and participate in festive activities.

Day 8 - Pooradam: Clay figures representing Mahabali and Vamana, often called Thrikkakara Appan, are placed in the Pookalam.

Day 9 - Uthradam: Known as First Onam, this day is marked by final household preparations and festive shopping.

Day 10 - Thiruvonam: The most important day sees families visit temples, decorate

homes and prepare the traditional Onam Sadya. The elaborate vegetarian feast is served on banana leaves and traditionally features numerous dishes.

A Festival Of Unity And Tradition
Onam goes beyond religious observance and has become a powerful symbol of Kerala's cultural identity. Floral decorations, traditional games, boat races, music, dance and the grand Sadya bring families and communities together. The festival's message of prosperity, harmony and togetherness continues to make Onam one of India's most celebrated cultural festivals. In 2026, as Thiruv onam arrives on August 26, the ten-day festivities once again bring Kerala's traditions, colours and cultural spirit to life.

Harsha Bhogle On Sri Lanka's Umpiring Fury

Sri Lanka were left frustrated after losing nightwatchman Prabath Jayasuriya on the final ball of Day 2 in the second Test against India in Colombo. Umpire Ahsan Raza gave Jayasuriya out LBW against Manav Suthar in a tight decision. Replays later showed that the ball was marginally clipping the off-stump. Jayasuriya was visibly upset after the dismissal and reportedly threw his gloves in frustration while returning to the dressing room. The Sri Lankan players were also unhappy that the umpires allowed play to continue despite fading light. The match had resumed after a rain interruption, but only three overs were possible before the final wicket of the day. The umpires had checked the conditions with a light meter before deciding that another over could be played.

Jayasuriya was dismissed during that over, immediately after which bad light brought play to an end. Commentator Harsha Bhogle acknowledged Sri Lanka's frustration but said the decision of the experienced international umpires had to be respected. Bhogle also added a humorous twist, saying he suspected there might be "a few objects flying around" in the Sri Lankan dressing room that evening. His remark quickly attracted attention among cricket fans. The controversy came at the end of a difficult day for Sri Lanka. India had declared their first innings at 503/9, with Dhruv Jurel scoring an unbeaten 115 and Devdutt Padikkal making 117. Sri Lanka then lost two wickets for just eight runs. Lahiru Udara was dismissed early before Jayasuriya came in as

the nightwatchman. His dismissal on the final delivery left Sri Lanka facing an enormous deficit at the end of the day. Only 56 overs were possible during the day because of rain interruptions. Despite the limited playing time, India strengthened their position considerably. For Sri Lanka, the controversial dismissal added to their frustration, but the bigger concern remains their massive deficit against a dominant Indian side. Bhogle's comments captured the mood perfectly - Sri Lanka's anger was understandable, but the players ultimately had to accept the umpires' judgement. With India holding a commanding advantage, Sri Lanka now face the difficult task of surviving the Indian bowling attack and attempting to stay in the contest.



Sarfraz Khan's Cheeky Sledging Stuns Sri Lanka

India batter Sarfraz Khan once again grabbed attention with his lively presence on the field during Day 3 of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo. Sarfraz, who was serving as a substitute fielder, was stationed close to the batter when Sri Lankan captain Dhananajaya De Silva pulled away just before Manav Suthar delivered the ball. De Silva appeared to be distracted and looked around the field before getting ready again. Sarfraz immediately used the opportunity to engage the Sri Lankan skipper in some playful sledging. His comments were picked up clearly by the stump microphone. The Indian batter could be heard questioning why De Silva was looking towards different areas of the field. He then told the Sri Lankan captain that he was simply wasting time and urged him not to be afraid to face the delivery. Sarfraz's cheeky exchange quickly became one of the talking



points of the day, with fans enjoying the lively banter between the two teams. The moment became even more interesting because De Silva was dismissed shortly afterwards. Manav Suthar got the better of the Sri Lankan captain, who managed only eight runs. Suthar produced a delivery that gripped and turned sharply, resulting in an edge.

Dhruv Jurel got a hand to the ball before Rahul completed the catch at slip. Sri Lanka were subsequently reduced to 137/5. Sarfraz continued to remain energetic in his role as a substitute fielder. His constant chatter from the close-in fielding position added plenty of entertainment to the contest. Sri Lanka did manage to fight back

after the early setbacks. Pasindu Sooriyabandara played an impressive knock of 80 and helped rebuild the innings. However, Ravindra Jadeja eventually ended his resistance. India continued to pick up wickets at regular intervals, keeping Sri Lanka under considerable pressure. The hosts were still facing a huge deficit after India declared their first innings at 503/9. The exchange between Sarfraz and De Silva highlighted the intensity and competitive spirit of Test cricket. While sledging has always been part of the game, moments caught on the stump microphone often provide fans with an entertaining glimpse into what happens between players during a match. For Sarfraz, the incident was another reminder of his energetic personality on the cricket field. Even though he was not part of the playing XI, his presence as a substitute fielder ensured that he remained very much involved in the action.

India Dominate Sri Lanka As Rain Ends Day 3



India remained firmly in control of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo after another eventful day of play. Rain once again interrupted proceedings, forcing an early end to Day 3. Sri Lanka finished the day at 265/8, still 238 runs behind India's first-innings total of 503/9 declared. India had posted a commanding total of 503/9 before declaring, with Dhruv Jurel and Devdutt Padikkal hitting impressive centuries. Jurel remained unbeaten on 115, while Padikkal scored 117. Captain Shubman Gill also contributed a crucial half-century as India built a massive first-innings total. Sri Lanka's reply began on a disastrous note. The hosts were reduced to just 8/2, giving India complete control in the early stages. However, Pasindu Sooriyabandara and Kamindu Mendis helped the home side recover with a valuable partnership. Sooriyabandara emerged as one of Sri Lanka's major positives. The young batter played a determined knock of 80 runs, recording his maiden Test half-century and frustrating the Indian bowling attack for a significant period. India continued to pick up wickets at regular intervals. Prasidh Krishna produced an impressive spell, while Manav Suthar and the other Indian bowlers kept the pressure firmly on the Sri Lankan batting lineup. Despite losing wickets, Sri Lanka's lower order showed some resistance. By the time rain forced an early conclusion to the day, the hosts had reached 265/8. The remaining batters now face the difficult task of reducing the massive deficit when play resumes. Weather has become one of the biggest factors in the Colombo Test. Rain interruptions have already resulted in valuable playing time being lost, and another shortened day could make it more difficult for India to force a result despite their dominant position. India entered the second Test with a 1-0 series lead, having won the opening match in Galle by 165 runs. Manav Suthar was one of the standout performers in that victory, taking 10 wickets on debut. With Sri Lanka eight wickets down and still trailing by 238 runs, India remain in a commanding position. Their immediate objective will be to take the remaining two wickets as quickly as possible. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will hope their tailenders can extend the innings and reduce the deficit. However, with the weather continuing to threaten playing time, the hosts have a major challenge ahead. India have clearly held the upper hand so far, but the remaining days could prove crucial in determining whether they can convert their advantage into another series victory.

India's WTC Final Hopes Face Tough Road Ahead

India's hopes of reaching the World Test Championship final are still alive, but former India head coach Rahul Dravid believes the team has fallen slightly behind in the qualification race. India are currently fifth in the WTC points table and have eight Tests remaining in the current cycle. To remain in contention for the top two spots, the team may need around six wins from those eight matches. The road ahead is challenging. India will first travel to New Zealand for a two-Test series in October, before hosting Australia in a crucial five-Test series from January 2027. Dravid believes India still have the quality required to make the final, despite their current position. He said the team has "fallen behind a little bit", but stressed that India cannot be written off because of the talent in the squad. India have made a positive start against Sri Lanka, leading the two-match series 1-0 after winning the first Test in Galle by 165 runs. They have also taken control of the second Test in Colombo after posting a huge first-innings total. However, Dravid believes the upcoming New Zealand tour will be a major test for the young Indian side. Playing Test cricket in New Zealand conditions can be challenging, particularly for players with limited experience there. The former India coach also pointed to the absence of experienced campaigners. Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara are no longer part of India's Test setup, and their experience in difficult overseas conditions will be missed. After New Zealand, India will face Australia in what could become a decisive series in the WTC qualification race. The Australians are expected to be highly motivated, especially because their current generation has yet to win a Test series in India. For India, therefore, the equation is straightforward but demanding. They need consistent performances and a series of victories over the next eight Tests. Dravid remains optimistic despite the difficult situation. According to him, India have fallen behind, but their quality means they remain capable of making a comeback. The WTC qualification race is far from over, but India now have very little margin for error. Strong performances in New Zealand and against Australia could revive their hopes, while further setbacks could make qualification extremely difficult.



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Turns Bowler, Stuns Everyone

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi may have struggled with the bat on his Duleep Trophy debut, but the young sensation quickly made amends by producing a stunning performance with the ball for East Zone. The 15-year-old was expected to make headlines with his explosive batting during the quarter-final against North East Zone. However, his first innings ended disappointingly as he managed just 8 runs from six deliveries. He struck two boundaries before edging the final ball he faced to the gully fielder. But Sooryavanshi soon showed that there is more to his game than just aggressive batting. During North East Zone's second innings, the youngster turned to his left-arm orthodox spin and produced an impressive spell. He picked up two wickets in just four deliveries, dismissing Kishan Lyngdoh and Imliwati Lemtur in the same over. His first wicket came when Lyngdoh stepped out looking for a big shot but mistimed the delivery towards the point



region. The second wicket arrived just three balls later when Lemtur edged the quicker delivery through to wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan. Sooryavanshi's contribution did not stop there. He also took two catches during the match, giving him an all-round impact despite his disappointing batting performance. The Board of Control for Cricket in India also took notice of the youngster's perform-

ance. The BCCI praised Sooryavanshi for providing "double delight" after his two wickets and two catches. East Zone had already gained complete control of the match after posting 467 runs in their first innings. Sudip Kumar Gharami scored 146, while Shahbaz Ahmed produced a brilliant 167. North East Zone were then bowled out for just 111 before being forced to follow on.

Sooryavanshi's bowling burst further damaged North East Zone's second innings as they slipped to eight wickets down. The Duleep Trophy represents an important challenge for the teenage star, particularly because red-ball cricket demands a different approach from the fast-paced T20 format in which he has already made a name for himself. While his batting remains his biggest strength, his surprise contribution with the ball has given fans another reason to be excited about his potential. The youngster has already achieved remarkable milestones at just 15. His performance in Bengaluru showed that he can contribute in multiple departments when required. For Sooryavanshi, the Duleep Trophy debut may not have started perfectly with the bat, but his response with the ball was impressive. Two wickets, two catches and a glimpse of his all-round ability - Vaibhav Sooryavanshi once again showed why Indian cricket is watching his progress closely.

Anaya Bangar Set To Return To Cricket

Anaya Bangar, daughter of former India cricketer Sanjay Bangar, is set to return to competitive cricket after receiving clearance from Cricket Australia to play women's community cricket in the country. The development marks an important moment in Anaya's cricket journey. She had previously represented Mumbai at the age-group level and played alongside cricketers including Sarfraz Khan and Musheer Khan. However, her cricketing career was later put on hold during her transition. Anaya has now received permission to begin playing women's community cricket in Australia. She described the clearance as a major moment in her life, saying there was a stage when she believed she might never be able to play cricket again. The Cricket Australia decision could also open the possibility of Anaya eventually competing at the elite level. However, participation in competitions such as the Women's Big Bash League will require her to meet Cricket Australia's eligibility requirements. Under Cricket Australia's policy for transgender and gender-diverse players in elite cricket, players seeking eligibility for elite women's competitions must satisfy specific requirements. Anaya's eligibility for elite cricket is expected to be considered from March 2027, subject to the required medical assessments and continued compliance with the relevant policy. The clearance followed an assessment of Anaya's medical records and other documentation by Cricket Australia. The organisation reportedly examined the relevant reports and testing before making its decision. For Anaya, the opportunity represents much more than simply returning to the cricket field. It gives her a chance to rebuild her sporting career after a period in which she feared that her transition might permanently end her competitive cricket ambitions. Her immediate focus will be on community cricket in Australia. The experience will allow her to regain match fitness, develop confidence and gain competitive experience before potentially pursuing opportunities at a higher level.



PR Sreejesh Questions India's Hockey Future

India's disappointing exit from the 2026 Hockey World Cup has once again raised serious questions about the state of Indian hockey. Legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has now urged the authorities and stakeholders to stop hiding behind excuses and confront the problems affecting the sport. India's World Cup campaign ended in disappointment, leaving fans and former players frustrated. The team had entered the tournament with significant expectations, but failed to make the deep run that supporters were hoping for. Sreejesh, one of India's greatest goalkeepers and a key figure in the country's recent hockey success, questioned whether Indian hockey is genuinely moving in the right direction. According to Sreejesh, the repeated setbacks cannot simply be explained away by individual mistakes or isolated poor performances. He believes the sport needs a deeper assessment of its overall system, from grassroots development to the preparation of the senior national team. The former India goalkeeper stressed the need to identify the real reasons behind the team's struggles. Instead of trying to cover up weaknesses, he called for an honest discussion about what is going wrong and what needs to change. His comments come at a crucial time for Indian hockey. The country has invested heavily in infrastructure, domestic competitions and player development over the years. India has also enjoyed several memorable successes on the international stage, including an Olympic bronze medal at Tokyo 2020 and another bronze at Paris 2024. However, maintaining consistency at the highest level remains a challenge. Sreejesh's concerns also highlight the pressure surrounding the next generation of Indian hockey players. With several senior stars approaching the latter stages of their careers, India must develop enough quality players to maintain competitiveness in international tournaments. The former goalkeeper has been closely associated with Indian hockey for more than a decade and understands the pressures faced by players and coaches.



Ravi Teja's New Film Gets Sankranthi Release

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja is gearing up for another exciting project, and his upcoming collaboration with producer Dil Raju and director Hasith Goli has now been officially announced. The makers have also locked the film's theatrical release date, creating fresh excitement among the actor's fans. The project was formally announced on August 25, with Dil Raju meeting Ravi Teja and congratulating him on the success of his latest film Irumudi. The upcoming movie is being produced by Dil Raju and directed by Hasith Goli, who previously impressed audiences with his distinctive storytelling style. The film, which is currently being referred to by its tentative title SVC64, is scheduled to hit theatres on January 14, 2027, during the Sankranthi festive season. The release date puts Ravi Teja's next outing directly in one of the biggest and most competitive theatrical windows for Telugu cinema. The combination of Ravi Teja and Hasith Goli has already generated considerable curiosity among movie lovers. Reports about their collaboration had been circulating for several months. In April, it was reported that Ravi Teja would team up with Hasith Goli for a film backed by Dil Raju. At the time, the makers were expected to announce the project officially at a later date. The latest announcement has now confirmed the collaboration. However, several important details about the movie are still being kept under wraps. The official title, complete cast and other technical details are expected to be revealed in the coming days. There had also been reports suggesting that the film could be a multistarrer featuring actor Sree Vishnu in another key lead role. However, his involvement has not yet been officially confirmed by the filmmakers. Until an announcement is made, his presence in the project remains speculative. For Ravi Teja, the new film comes at an interesting stage in his career. His latest release Irumudi, directed by Shiva Nirvana, arrived in theatres on August 21 and has been receiving positive attention. The film is being viewed as an important comeback for the actor following a series of underwhelming performances. With a proven production house like Dil Raju's backing the project and Hasith Goli at the helm, expectations are already building around this new combination. A Sankranthi release further adds to the anticipation. For now, fans will have to wait for more updates about the title, storyline and cast. But one thing is clear—the Ravi Teja, Dil Raju and Hasith Goli combination is officially set for a grand Sankranthi 2027 arrival.



Dhanush Praises Baby Nakshatra's Irumudi Performance

Ravi Teja's latest film Irumudi continues to receive appreciation from audiences, with the performances of Ravi Teja and child artist Baby Nakshatra emerging as some of the major highlights. Now, Nakshatra has received special praise from National Award-winning actor Dhanush, making the young actress's moment even more memorable. Following the success meet of Irumudi, director Shiva Nirvana arranged a special video call between Baby Nakshatra and Dhanush. During the interaction, Dhanush spoke to the young actress about her performance in the film and appreciated the way she handled her role. Dhanush reportedly told Nakshatra that he would like to learn acting from her whenever they meet in the future. His words left the young actress delighted and turned the interaction into a memorable moment for her. Nakshatra later shared the video of the conversation on Instagram. The clip quickly attracted attention on social media, with fans and movie lovers praising the heartwarming interaction between the two actors. In Irumudi, Nakshatra plays Ravi Teja's daughter. Her emotional performance has received considerable appreciation from viewers, particularly in the scenes involving the father-daughter relationship. Her chemistry with Ravi Teja has also been highlighted as one of the film's strengths. The appreciation from an actor like Dhanush is particularly significant for the young performer. Known for his versatile performances and regarded as one of the prominent actors in Indian cinema, Dhanush's words have added further attention to Nakshatra's work. Irumudi, directed by Shiva Nirvana, has been enjoying a strong theatrical run. The film has reportedly crossed the ₹100 crore gross mark, with its emotional storyline, performances and family-oriented moments connecting well with audiences. Ravi Teja's performance has also been receiving positive feedback. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film has emerged as an important success for Ravi Teja. Alongside the lead actor, Nakshatra's performance has become one of the talking points among moviegoers. The viral video has now given the young actress another special moment to celebrate. While Irumudi continues its successful run in theatres, Dhanush's appreciation is likely to further boost interest in Nakshatra and her future projects. For the child artist, the interaction is more than just a viral social media moment.

The Paradise Makers Reveal Second Single Update

Natural Star Nani's much-awaited film The Paradise is generating fresh excitement with a key update about its second single. The film marks the second collaboration between Nani and director Srikanth Odela after their successful association in Dasara. The upcoming action drama is scheduled to release worldwide on September 24, 2026. The makers have now confirmed that the recording of the film's second single has been completed. The song is said to be a folk number penned by popular lyricist Kasarla Shyam, while music director Anirudh Ravichander has composed the track. The team has announced that the song will be released soon, with reports suggesting that it could arrive as early as this weekend. The announcement has increased curiosity among Nani's fans, particularly because Anirudh is composing the music for the film. Expectations are high for the second single following the response to the earlier musical promotions. The Paradise is being presented as a large-scale multilingual project. Director Srikanth Odela, who impressed audiences with Dasara, is once again teaming up with Nani for a story that promises a different and intense cinematic experience. Kayadu Lohar is playing the female lead in the movie. The film also features a strong ensemble cast, including veteran actor Mohan Babu, Tanikella Bharani, Raghav Juyal, Sonali Kulkarni, Babu Mohan and Sampooranesh Babu in important roles. Actress Keerthy Suresh will also be seen in a special song, adding another major attraction to the project. The movie is being produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner. The makers are mounting the project on a grand scale and are planning a multilingual release, aiming to take the film beyond the Telugu-speaking states. With the theatrical release now just a month away, the team is expected to accelerate promotional activities. The second single could become an important part of the upcoming campaign and is likely to provide audiences with another glimpse into the musical world created by Anirudh. The film has already generated considerable interest because of the Nani-Srikanth Odela combination. Their previous collaboration Dasara received significant attention for its raw storytelling, performances and music. Expectations are therefore naturally high for The Paradise. For now, the makers have confirmed that the second single is coming soon, while the exact release date has not been officially announced. If the current reports are accurate, fans could get to hear the new folk number later this week.

Bollywood actress Kiara Advani has opened up about her plans to make her debut in Tamil cinema. During the pre-release event of Yash's much-awaited film Toxic, held in Chennai, the actress was asked why she has appeared in Telugu and Kannada films but has not yet made her Tamil debut.

Responding to the question, Kiara explained that she has already had an association with the Tamil film industry through filmmaker Vishnuvardhan. She worked with him in the Hindi film Shershaah, which went on to become a major success. The actress pointed out that although the film was made in Hindi, her collaboration with a Tamil filmmaker gave her a connection to the industry.

However, Kiara made it clear that she would like to take that association a step further by acting in a Tamil-language film. She said that a Tamil project is definitely on her wish list and expressed hope that it will happen in the near future.

Kiara is currently enjoying considerable attention for her role in Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film stars Kannada superstar Yash in the lead, with Kiara playing the character Nadia. The movie also features an ensemble cast including Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria and Rukmini Vasanth.

The Chennai event provided an opportunity for Kiara to connect with the Tamil audience ahead of the film's release. Her comments about wanting to work in Tamil cinema have now generated interest among fans, particularly because the actress has already established herself across multiple Indian film industries.

Kiara has previously appeared in Telugu cinema opposite Ram Charan in Game Changer. She has also expanded her presence in South Indian cinema through Toxic, which is primarily a Kannada-language project. Her willingness to explore different industries has helped strengthen her position as a pan-India actress.

For Tamil cinema fans, her statement is likely to fuel curiosity about the kind of project she might choose for her debut. While Kiara has not revealed any specific film or filmmaker, her confirmation that a Tamil project is part of her future plans suggests that an announcement could eventually be on the cards. Meanwhile, Toxic is gearing up for its worldwide theatrical release on August 26, 2026. The film has generated significant buzz ahead of its release, with Yash and Kiara's combination being one of its major attractions.

For now, Kiara's Tamil debut remains a future possibility, but the actress has made her intention clear: she wants to enter Tamil cinema when the right opportunity comes her way.

Kiara Advani Reveals Plans For Tamil Debut