



Janasena Gears Up for Local Body Polls With Mangalagiri Meet

Suman Babu Veerisetty @ Tirupathi

The Janasena Party is intensifying its political activities ahead of the upcoming local body elections. Against this backdrop, the 'Athmeeya Samavesham' (cordial meeting) scheduled for Friday at the Janasena Party office in Mangalagiri has generated considerable interest in political circles. The meeting is expected to focus on strengthening the party organisation, coordinating cadres at the grassroots level and formulating strategies for seat-sharing with alliance partners.

The meeting will be attended by Janasena leaders serving as MLAs, MPs and MLCs, along with those who previously contested local body elections on the party ticket, including corporators, MPTC and ZPTC members. Discussions are likely to focus on assessing the party's organisational strength at the village, mandal and district levels, identifying constituencies with winning potential and preparing strong candidates well in advance.

Nadendla Manohar, Chairman of the Party's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) and Minister for Civil Supplies, is expected to guide party leaders during the meeting in accordance with the directions of Janasena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. He is likely to outline the party's strategy for the local elections, coordination with alliance partners and seat-sharing arrangements.

Party sources said Janasena leaders and cadres are hoping for around 35 per cent of the seats in the local body elections as part of the alliance arrangement. The party is expected to seek a higher number of seats in areas where it has a strong cadre base, performed well in previous elections or where its public representatives have considerable influence. However, political analysts believe the alliance would benefit from focusing on winnable seats rather than the overall number of seats. Meanwhile, there is speculation that the three alliance partners-TDP, Janasena

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AP-GREEN Sets 2047 Target for 50% Green Cover in State

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar @ Amaravati

The state government is preparing to launch an ambitious statewide greening initiative to increase forest and green cover to 50 per cent of the State's geographical area by 2047. The proposed Andhra Pradesh Society for Greening and Reforestation for Ecological Enrichment (AP-GREEN) will bring together various government departments, private organisations and citizens to coordinate plantation and ecological restoration programmes. The initiative has been conceived on the vision of Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment Pawan Kalyan, with emphasis on protecting existing forests, creating new green spaces, tackling climate-change impacts and generating nature-based livelihoods in villages. AP-GREEN will function as an autonomous, non-profit organisation involving the Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Education, Industries, Water Resources and Urban Local Bodies departments, besides voluntary organisations and CSR entities.

The State currently has 37.42 lakh hectares of notified forest area, accounting for 22.96 per cent of its geographical area. As an intermediate target, the government aims to raise green cover to 33 per cent by 2030. Progress will be monitored against annual, six-monthly, quarterly and monthly targets. AP-GREEN will undertake farm forestry, agro-forestry, avenue plantations, canal-bund plantations, shelter belts and greening programmes in urban and rural areas. Degraded lands, barren areas, mining-affected zones and eco-sensitive locations will receive special attention. A statewide nursery network will support the production and distribution of quality and climate-resilient saplings. Technology will play a key role, with GIS, geo-tagging and digital monitoring proposed to track plantation growth, sapling survival and expansion of green cover. The programme will

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VIJAYAWADA | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 154 | FRIDAY | AUGUST 28 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA □ HYDERABAD

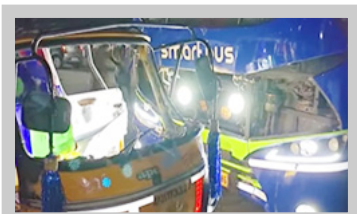
Massive Accident In Palnadu Leaves Seven Dead, Eight Injured



Chilakaluripet, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Seven people were killed and eight others, including four children, injured after a private travel bus collided with an auto-rickshaw near Kala Mandir Junction at Adda Road Centre in Chilakaluripet of Palnadu district around 1 am on Thursday. The bus was travelling from Vijayawada to Tirupathi and had reached the Chilakaluripet bypass to pick up a passenger before heading towards the Narasaraopet bus stand when it collided with the auto. The auto was carrying 15 residents of Veluru village who were returning after attending a birthday celebration at Kondamanjurluru. Narasaraopet Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) M Hanumanth Rao said

four people died at the spot, while two succumbed at Guntur Government General Hospital (GGH) and another at Chilakaluripet Government Hospital. The deceased were identified as Bonta Babu (62), Bonta Manemma (55), Sampurnamma (70), Lakshamma (75), Gangamma (50), Choutupalli Suvarta (45) and Mariyamma (45). All were residents of Veluru. Residents alleged that the auto driver had consumed excessive alcohol. Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha directed officials to investigate all aspects, including the speed of the bus and possible negligence. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav directed Guntur GGH Superintendent Durga Prasad to provide quality treatment and continuously monitor the injured.



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and directed officials to provide the injured with the best medical treatment and monitor their condition. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also directed officials to ensure proper care for the injured. Minister Nara Lokesh expressed grief and assured support to the affected families. Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy expressed grief and urged strict adherence to road-safety rules. Meanwhile, AP BJP president PVN Madhav expressed anguish over Nepal's flash floods and urged governments to ensure the safe return of stranded people from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy also expressed deep shock and grief over the tragic road accident.

'Inheritance' Politics Begins in Uttarandhra YSRCP Seniors' New Master Plan

- » Seniors' moves to bring heirs into local body elections
- » Botcha's daughter eyes ZP chair
- » Dharmana brothers prepare sons for political entry

Nandu@ Visakhapatnam

Strong political families that have shaped Uttarandhra politics for decades are now adopting new strategies. With the YSRCP facing difficult circumstances after losing power in the State, political circles are discussing whether senior leaders are focusing more on preserving their family legacy than strengthening the party organisation. Leaders such as Botcha Satyanarayana, Dharmana Prasada Rao and Dharmana Krishnadas are reportedly using the upcoming local body elections as a platform to bring their heirs into active politics. Their efforts to lay a foundation for their children's political future have become a talking point in regional politics. The Botcha family has a distinct imprint on Vizianagaram district politics. His wife and brothers have extensive political experience as MPs, MLAs and local body representatives. In the present political situation, attention appears to have shifted towards the next generation. There is considerable discussion within party circles that Botcha Satyanarayana is taking strategic steps to field his daughter in the upcoming local body elections and position her for the Vizianagaram Zilla Parishad chairperson post. The calculation is reportedly that winning a local election and securing an official position could provide her with a political platform to contest Assembly or Parliament elections in the future. At a time when the



party is facing a crisis, ensuring that the family's political influence remains intact appears to be a major priority. The Dharmana brothers, who have played a significant role in Srikakulam district politics, are reportedly following a similar strategy. Former ministers Dharmana Prasada Rao and Dharmana Krishnadas are making efforts to establish their sons in active politics. Prasada Rao has been bringing his son Dharmana Rammanohar Naidu to the forefront of constituency-level programmes, while Krishnadas has similarly been promoting his son Krishna Chaitanya. Following the YSRCP's defeat in the last general elections, local body polls are being viewed as an opportunity to introduce their sons directly to voters and build public acceptance. ZPTC or municipal-level contests could provide the heirs with an initial platform for political representation and help strengthen their political base. The developments have also raised questions about the calculations behind such moves. Critics argue that instead of concentrating on strengthening the party while in opposition and raising public issues, some senior leaders are prioritising family succession. There is also speculation that local-level positions could provide their heirs with a political base

and greater flexibility if political equations change in the future. However, these succession strategies may not be easy to translate into electoral victories. The Telugu Desam, Jana Sena and BJP alliance remains politically strong in the State and is preparing aggressively for the local body elections. In such circumstances, relying mainly on family influence to secure victories for political heirs could prove challenging. Another major question concerns the response of YSRCP's second-rung leaders and grassroots workers. Many cadres have spent years working for the party while facing political pressure and legal cases. Whether they will wholeheartedly support the entry of political heirs, particularly when some sections are already disillusioned with the leadership, remains uncertain. For Uttarandhra YSRCP leaders Botcha Satyanarayana and the Dharmana brothers, the upcoming local body elections are therefore more than a contest for political survival. They could also become a crucial test of their ability to establish the next generation. Whether their political influence can withstand the ruling alliance's strength and deliver victories for their successors will become clear only after the electoral battle unfolds.

Centre Closely Monitors Nepal Flash Flood Situation



New Delhi, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The Central Government is closely monitoring the situation arising from flash floods in Nepal, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaking to the Chief Ministers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and directing heightened vigilance in border areas. Amit Shah described the devastation caused by the floods as deeply tragic and conveyed condolences to families who lost their loved ones. He said the Government of India stood with Nepal during the crisis. Local administrations, rescue teams and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been placed on high alert in areas likely to be affected. According to

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Amaravati to Host India's First Dedicated Quantum and AI University Campus

Amaravati, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh has approved the establishment of India's first dedicated Quantum and AI University campus by NIELIT Deemed-to-be University under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), marking a major step towards positioning Amaravati as a national centre for advanced technology, research and innovation. The decision was taken at the CRDA Authority meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the State Secretariat on Thursday. The campus will be developed on 8.5 acres in Amaravati with a proposed investment of RS.730.70 crore over five years, to be funded through Government of India grant-in-aid from MeitY. The campus will focus on Quantum Technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Semiconductors and other emerging

deep-tech fields, integrating education, research, skilling, innovation and entrepreneurship. Academic and advanced technology skill-development programmes are scheduled to begin from September 2026 at a temporary facility at Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur. NIELIT, a Deemed-to-be University (Distinct Category) under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 and UGC Regulations, 2023, is an autonomous scientific society under MeitY and the only university under the ministry. It has 56 centres and more than 700 accredited institutes across India, with its main campus at Ropar, Punjab, and 11 constituent units. The Amaravati campus will offer undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral, diploma and executive programmes in Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication and Security, Artificial Intelligence and

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Naidu Directs Officials to Trace Missing AP Residents in Nepal Floods



Four people from the Kurnool-Adoni region were reported safe in Tibet

Amaravati, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to coordinate with the Central Government and Indian diplomatic missions to ensure the safety and safe return of Andhra Pradesh residents stranded in Nepal amid devastating

floods. Reviewing the situation with officials, Naidu instructed authorities to continuously track those whose whereabouts remain unknown and keep their families informed without delay. He stressed that bringing stranded residents back to their native places should be the top priority and directed departments to explore alternative evacuation routes while working to restore road and air connectivity. Officials informed Naidu that 41 Andhra Pradesh residents had so far been identified as stranded in Nepal, with the whereabouts of seven yet to be ascertained. Four people from the Kurnool-Adoni region were reported safe in Tibet, while 28 pilgrims

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RTGS Intensifies Efforts to Trace and Evacuate AP Pilgrims Stranded in Nepal Floods



Amaravati, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The state government has intensified efforts to trace and ensure the safe evacuation of residents and pilgrims stranded in flood-hit areas of Nepal, with Minister for Real Time Governance and IT Nara Lokesh leading the coordinated response through the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS). Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to maintain continuous vigilance, coordinate with the Central Government and diplomatic missions, and ensure that all affected Andhra Pradesh residents receive timely assistance. Following his directions, RTGS has strengthened its round-the-clock monitoring and information-gathering mechanism. RTGS Secretary Bhaskar Katamneni and RTGS CEO Prakar Jain have directed teams to track developments, verify information from multiple



sources and share confirmed updates with Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi. AP Bhavan is coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Embassy, Nepalese and Chinese authorities and pilgrimage organisations for rescue and evacuation. Seven Andhra Pradesh residents have so far been identified as missing or stranded. Four persons, including Bhaskar Shastri and three others from Adoni and Kurnool, have been traced safe but remain stranded. They were part of a 156-member group travelling to Kailash Mansarovar. Three persons remain untraced: Bala Subramanyam of Kuppam; Sasi Kumar, travelling with Isha Foundation Group S3 and last seen at the Gyrolog Embassy in China; and Rajya lakshmi Nimmagadda, also from Isha Foundation Group S3. The worst-affected areas include Syapru Besi, BC and Timure along the

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Govt Holds Talks With JUDA, Assures Action on Five Demands

Amaravati, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

A high-level committee of the State Medical and Health Department held the first round of discussions with representatives of the Junior Doctors Association (JUDA) on Thursday, in compliance with the High Court's directions. The government said there was no cause for concern over five of the six demands and agreed to hold further talks on the stipend issue. The meeting, held at the Medical and Health Department headquarters in Mangalagiri, lasted around two hours. Committee chairman and Medical and Health Department Secretary G. Veerapandian presided. Director of Medical Education Dr. A. Vishnuvardhan, Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences Registrar Sudheer and JUDA president Eswar, Bhargav and other representatives participated. On the demand to raise the retirement age of professors, the Secretary said no policy decision had been taken yet and discussions would be held when required. Regarding non-clinical medical posts, he said recruitment was being carried out as per National Medical



Commission guidelines. While up to 30 per cent of posts can be filled with candidates holding qualifications such as MSc and PhD, only 11.05 per cent had been filled under this provision so far. The government said instructions had been issued to hospital superintendents on fixed working hours and basic amenities for junior doctors, with action proposed against those failing to implement them. The issue of Senior Resident stipends is being examined separately, with the government clarifying that Senior Residents do not fall under JUDA. On stipends, the government proposed a 10 per cent hike for interns and 3 per cent for PG and super-speciality doctors, along with a 3 per cent annual increase from next year. JUDA sought a 13 per cent hike, prompting the committee to announce another round of talks.

AP Introduces Three-Level System To Speed Up Building Approvals

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati: The state government has introduced a uniform three-level supervisory mechanism for building inspections and Occupancy Certificate processing across Nagar Panchayats, Muni cipalities, Municipal Corpo rations and Urban Devel opment Authorities, aiming to reduce procedural delays and improve citizen services. The reform replaces the earlier system, under which building files moved through multiple Town Planning officers based on site area. The Government said the additional layers often resulted in delays in supervisory checks and issuance of Occupancy Certificates. Under the new system, every file will move through Level-1, Level-2 and Level-3, with Level-3 continuing as the confirming authority. Minister for Municipal

Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana said the reform was intended to simplify procedures without weakening regulatory scrutiny. He stressed that citizens should receive building-related services and Occupancy Certificates within the prescribed timelines, with clear accountability at every stage. The revised mechanism covers six site-area categories, beginning with buildings up to 100 square metres and extending to those above 4,000 square metres, excluding high-rise buildings. The same three-level structure will also be followed for Occupancy Certificate processing. The first level will generally be handled by the Ward Planning and Regulatory Secretary. The second and third levels will involve progressively senior Town Planning officers depending on the site area. For buildings above

SIMPLE THREE-LEVEL MECHANISM FOR BUILDING APPROVAL AUTHORITY (Excluding high-rise buildings.)			
SITE AREA	LEVEL-1	LEVEL-2	LEVEL-3 / CONFIRMING AUTHORITY
Up to 100 sq.m	Ward Planning & Regulatory Secretary	Building Overseer / Planning Supervisor	Town Planning Officer / Junior Planning Officer
Above 100-200 sq.m	Ward Planning & Regulatory Secretary	Town Planning Officer	Assistant City Planner / Assistant Planning Officer
Above 200-300 sq.m	Ward Planning & Regulatory Secretary	Assistant City Planner	Deputy City Planner / Deputy Planning Officer
Above 300-500 sq.m	Ward Planning & Regulatory Secretary	Deputy City Planner	City Planner / Planning Officer
Above 500-4,000 sq.m	Ward Planning & Regulatory Secretary	City Planner	Chief City Planner / Chief Planning Officer
Above 4,000 sq.m*	Ward Planning & Regulatory Secretary	Chief City Planner	Commissioner / Vice-Chairperson / Metropolitan Commissioner

*Authority for final approval rests with the Metropolitan Commissioner for Metropolitan Development Authority areas.

4,000 square metres, the Chief City Planner will function at Level-2, while the Commissioner, Vice-Chairperson or Metropolitan Commissioner will serve as the confirming authority at Level-3. Where a prescribed cadre post is unavailable, the next higher-level officer will exercise the relevant

powers. Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development S. Suresh Kumar said the reform sought to balance speed, accountability and supervisory rigour. He said reducing unnecessary administrative layers would make responsibilities clearer while retain-

ing essential regulatory checks. The Government expects the new mechanism to establish a common procedure across Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities, reduce file movement, and ensure timely supervisory inspections and Occupancy Certificates.

The reform follows earlier delegation of powers concerning building post-approval and Occupancy Certificates according to site-area categories, as well as delegation of Development Authority powers to Urban Local Bodies and Gram Panchayats within their jurisdiction.

Lokesh Calls for Greater Gen Z Participation in Politics and Governance

Mumbai, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

IT Minister Nara Lokesh has urged politicians to actively involve Gen Z in politics and governance, stressing the need for authenticity, open dialogue and meaningful participation by young people in decision-making. Speaking as Guest of Honour at the Fortune India 40 Under 40 Awards in Mumbai on August 26, Lokesh said politicians should move beyond conventional approaches while engaging with the younger generation. "Don't talk down to them. Make them part of the entire growth story and journey together," he said. Lokesh said his interactions with young people had begun well before the current focus on youth participation. He explained that



during constituency visits, he and Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu meet local influencers and seek their views on improving development and governance. "You get such amazing ideas, and there's a mechanism that we follow up," Lokesh said, emphasizing the importance of making young people part of the conversation. He also called on political

leaders to shed their inhibitions and engage with youngsters at an emotional and personal level. "We're looking at youngsters who are willing to engage with you at a very emotional level, and they're looking for authenticity," he said. Lokesh said authenticity and openness would be key qualities expected from the next generation of political leaders in India.

Governor Nazeer Attends Temple Development Works

Chilakaluripet, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Governor of Andhra Pradesh S Abdul Nazeer expressed grief over a road accident near Chilakaluripet in Palnadu district in the early hours of Thursday, in which seven people were reportedly killed and several others injured. The accident occurred when a bus travelling from Vijayawada to Tirupati hit an auto. The Governor directed officials to

ensure better medical treatment for the injured and conveyed condolences to the bereaved families. Later, Abdul Nazeer attended the foundation stone-laying ceremony for improvement and development works at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Papasilagni Konda, Boppudi village, Chilakaluripet mandal. Justice B. Krishna Mohan, Judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and Founder Family Mem-



ber of the temple, was present. Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Narasaraopet MP Lavu Krishna Devarayalu, Chilakaluripet MLA Prathipati Pullarao and

other dignitaries attended. The Governor also participated in Bhoomi Puja, unveiled a Shilaphalakam at Sri Vari Metla Margamu starting point and took part in tree plantation.

A New Pathway for ST Students to Reach Premier Institutions



K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati : The state government has established a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at Residential School (RSB), Marikavalasa, Visakhapatnam, to provide intensive residential coaching for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students preparing for NEET and IIT-JEE. Implemented through the Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (APTWEIS), the centre has a sanctioned intake of 600 Intermediate students, comprising 300 boys and 300 girls. All 600 students have been selected through a merit-based process. The CoE aims to help talented ST students secure admission to premier institutions, including IITs, NITs, AIIMS, Government Medical Colleges and other Institutions of National Importance. The students are being shifted to the centre, with arrangements for accommodation, diet and other administrative

requirements completed. Special funds have been sanctioned for infrastructure, furniture, ICT facilities and human resources. The government said works were being taken up on a priority basis to ensure all essential facilities are available when academic and competitive examination preparation begins. The residential programme will provide students with structured learning, specialised coaching and greater exposure to competitive examination patterns and academic resources. The government said the initiative was designed to strengthen the pathway for ST students to professional and higher education and improve their representation in premier national institutions. By combining residential education with focused NEET and IIT-JEE preparation, the Centre of Excellence is expected to help talented tribal students compete at the national level and access better career opportunities.

Juvenile Justice Act Implementation Reviewed



Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Principal Secretary of the State Women Development and Child Welfare Department A. Surya Kumari reviewed the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act (2015) by the Juvenile Welfare Department in Vijayawada on Thursday. The review was held ahead of the state-level Juvenile Justice Committee meeting scheduled for Sep 5, marking 10 years since the Act's enactment. Representatives from the Education, Health and Police departments, District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board and

other departments participated. Officials presented department-wise details of activities undertaken during the past decade and shared suggestions to strengthen implementation. Surya Kumari stressed the need for effective coordination among all departments to ensure the Act's objectives are achieved. Director, Women Development and Child Welfare M. Venugopala Reddy, Director, Juvenile Welfare Vasantha Bala, Joint Director, Mission Vatsalya Sirisha, ACP Daiva Prasad, UNICEF representatives, DPOs, DCPOs, Child Welfare Committee chairpersons and other officials attended.

AP Completes 98.47% HPV Vaccination Target

DISTRICTS BELOW 90% COVERAGE	
DISTRICT	COVERAGE
Alluri Sitarama Raju	54.51%
Polavaram	73.68%
Guntur	87.20%

HIGHEST COVERAGE	
DISTRICT	COVERAGE
Markapuram	112.64%
YSR	105.00%
Konaseema	104.12%
Anakapalli	103.93%
Kakinada	103.51%

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati : The state has completed 98.47 per cent of HPV vaccine distribution among eligible 14-year-old girls, with the government targeting completion of the remaining vaccinations by August 31, State Minister for Medical and Health Satya Kumar Yadav said on Thursday. According to Swarna Grama/Ward data, 3,45,377 girls aged 14 but not yet 15 were identified as eligible as of March 2026. Of them, 3,40,108 had received the vaccine by Thursday afternoon, leaving 5,269 girls to be covered. Satya Kumar Yadav said the HPV vaccine was being administered free of cost to protect girls against cervical cancer. He attributed the high coverage to extensive awareness campaigns by the Alliance government, which helped address parents' initial concerns about vaccination. The Central Government has extended the deadline for the ongoing vaccination drive to December 31, considering lower coverage in some states. It will also supply 1,90,890 additional doses to Andhra Pradesh for newly eligible girls turning

14. Since the programme began, the State has received 3,81,780 doses in two consignments. Officials advised newly eligible 14-year-old girls to visit Primary Health Centres or Urban Health Centres with their parents to receive the vaccine. After December 31, HPV vaccination will become part of the routine immunisation programme. State Health and Family Welfare Commissioner Chakradhar Babu said no adverse reactions had been reported among the nearly 3.40 lakh girls vaccinated so far. The Gardasil-4 quadrivalent vaccine is administered as a single 0.5 ml intramuscular dose in the left upper arm, followed by 30 minutes of observation. Fourteen districts have achieved 100 per cent or higher coverage, led by Markapuram at 112.64 per cent. Konaseema recorded 104.12 per cent, while YSR reached 105 per cent. Coverage was below 90 per cent in Alluri Sitarama Raju (54.51 per cent), Polavaram (73.68 per cent) and Guntur (87.20 per cent). The government is focusing on these districts to ensure wider coverage before the extended deadline.

500 Villages To Be Developed As Sanskrit Villages

Guntur, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Chairman of the State Telugu and Sanskrit Academy R.D. Wilson @ Sarat Chandra said steps were being taken to transform 500 villages into "Sanskrit villages" to bring the ancient language closer to the common people. Speaking at a Sanskrit Saptaham programme organised by the Telugu and Sanskrit Academy in association with Central Sanskrit University at Sarada Niketan Oriental College in Guntur on Thursday, he described Sanskrit as an "Amruta Bhasha" and a pillar of nationalism. He said efforts were underway to dispel the perception that Sanskrit was meant only for scholars, with the motto "Sanskrit for All - Sanskrit Among

All." He said proposals were being considered to establish a \$500-crore facility in the capital region and a 100-bed Ayurveda hospital in affiliation with Central Sanskrit University. Former Minister Dokka Manikya Varaprasad stressed linking Sanskrit with employment opportunities to attract youth. Acharya Nagarjuna University Registrar Prof. P. Varaprasada Murthy and Sanskrit scholars also spoke. Sanskrit scholars Dr. Srishti Lakshmi Kumara Sarma, Dr. Akella Mallu Somayajulu, Sukhavasi Mallika rjunarayana Sastry and Kunishetti Swarajya Lakshmi were felicitated. The week-long celebrations will conclude at Ghantasala Venkateswara Rao Government Music College in Vijayawada on August 31.

Khelo India Samwad, Yuva Connect Programmes To Engage AP Youth

Amaravati, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Special programmes under Khelo India Samwad and Yuva Connect will be organised across Andhra Pradesh on August 27 as part of National Sports Day 2026 celebrations, State Director of MY Bharat-Andhra Pradesh K. Venkat Uzwal said. National Sports Day is observed on August 29 to mark the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. This year, the special programmes are being organised on August 27 to promote youth participation, sports development and nation-building. In Andhra Pradesh, Yuva Connect Category A, based on two-way communication, will be held at 17 venues across Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla, Chittoor, Kurnool, Nandyal, Ananthapur, Sri Sathya Sai, Srikakulam, Kadapa and Annamayya districts. Category B, involving one-way communication, will be conducted at 11 venues across Ananthapur,



Bapatla, Chittoor, Guntur, Kadapa, Palnadu, Sri Sathya Sai, Srikakulam and Tirupati. The programmes will provide youth opportunities to interact with sportspersons, MPs, MLAs, Ministers and local leaders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address more than eight lakh young participants at 1,600 locations across the country. The sessions will focus on sports infrastructure, talent development for the 2036 Olympics, youth participation in governance and youth empowerment for Viksit Bharat. Participants can submit suggestions through a QR code and take part in the VBLYD Quiz.

Atchannaidu Blames YSRCP for Irrigation Project Delays



Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Minister Atchannaidu criticised the YSRCP government, alleging that it had neglected and damaged irrigation projects during its tenure. Speaking to the media on Thursday, he said farmers would not have faced difficulties during El Niño events had the Polavaram project works continued after 2019. He said RS.3,500 crore was spent on the Handri-Neeva project within 16 months, bringing water to Kadapa, Anantapur and Chittoor districts.

Atchannaidu claimed Polavaram was 74% complete when the YSRCP came to power and could have been completed within another year if works had continued. He said the Alliance government had revived Polavaram and was working to inaugurate it during next year's Godavari Pushkaralu. He added that Chandrababu had laid the foundation for the Veligonda project and was now completing it. Godavari water would also reach North Andhra through the Pushkara Lift Irrigation scheme, he said.

Rammohan Naidu Holds Public Grievance Meeting

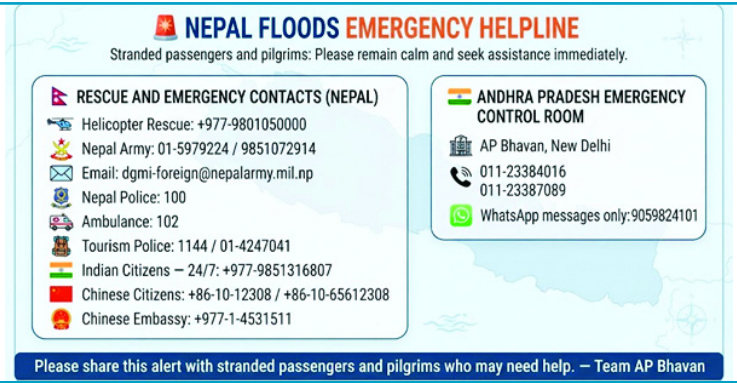


Kothapeta, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu conducted a public grievance meeting at Kothapeta in Kotabommali Mandal on Thursday. People from Ichchapuram, Palasa, Tekkali and Pathapatnam constituencies attended the Praja Darbar in large numbers to bring their issues to the Minister's attention. The meeting continued from 11 AM to 8

PM without interruption. Rammohan Naidu received representations from the public, listened to their grievances and offered reassurance. He also took steps to resolve necessary issues on the spot. The Minister assured the people that their concerns would be considered and appropriate action taken. The extensive participation from people across the four constituencies highlighted the demand for direct interaction with the Union Minister and immediate attention to local issues.

Centre Closely Monitors Nepal Flash Flood Situation



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the Central Water Commission (CWC) advisory and media reports, a sudden rise in water levels in the Trishuli River at Furke Khola in Nepal, around 160 km from the Indian border, was reported following suspected flash flood or GLOF activity near the Nepal-China border. The flood impact could move downstream into the Gandak River in India. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh authorities have undertaken evacuation and other support measures for communities near the border. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Defence are monitoring the situation. The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu has issued helplines +977 985 131 6807 and +977 970 910 7500 for affected Indian nationals.?

Amaravati to Host India's First Dedicated Quantum and AI University Campus

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Machine Learning, Data Science, Semiconductor Fabrication, Chip Design, VLSI, ATMP, Embedded Systems and High-Performance Computing. A key facility will be the Quantum Research, Innovation & Incubation Block (QRIIB), spread across approximately 1.25 lakh sq. ft. It will house infrastructure for quantum computing and communication, quantum photonics, quantum security, cryogenic systems, high-performance computing, cleanroom and nano-fabrication, semiconductor technologies, chip design, data centres and technology incubation. The campus is expected to train about 8,250 learners over five years, including 1,650 through degree programmes and 6,600 through skilling and certification courses. Annual intake is projected to reach around 3,913 learners by the fifth year. NIELIT proposes collaborations with IIT Tirupati, IIIT Sri City, Andhra University and JNTU institutions for academic programmes, research and technology development. The initiative aligns with the National Quantum Mission, IndiaAI Mission and India Semiconductor Mission, besides supporting Digital India, Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat. The permanent campus will feature solar power generation, solar water heating, energy-efficient utilities, EV charging and scientific waste-management systems, with an objective of achieving net-zero operations. It will also include smart classrooms, laboratories, hostels, an auditorium, sports facilities and a 500-bed residential capacity. The project is expected to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's deep-tech talent pipeline, promote start-ups and research commercialisation, and give Amaravati a distinctive identity in Quantum Technologies, AI, Semiconductors and emerging technologies.

Janasena Gears Up for Local Body Polls With Mangalagiri Meet

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and BJP-could contest separately in some areas. Though the parties fought the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections together, local factors, coordination among leaders and individual candidate strength are expected to influence the local body polls. Observers believe that while the alliance may arrive at a broad understanding at the State level, seat-sharing at the grassroots could pose a major challenge. Local body elections are viewed as an important test of organisational strength, particularly at the village level. Janasena is expected to focus on better coordination among its cadres, strengthening local leadership and increasing youth participation in party activities. Party leaders believe a strong performance in the polls could provide momentum for future organisational expansion. Pawan Kalyan is unlikely to attend the meeting in person due to his ongoing medical treatment. However, there is interest in whether he will interact with party leaders through a video call. His guidance to the cadre, if provided, could add significance to the discussions on the local election strategy. Meanwhile, the YSRCP is also expected to make efforts to retain its political presence in the local body elections. Analysts believe the party could seek to capitalise on differences over seat-sharing among alliance partners, local-level disagreements and competition among ticket aspirants. The Mangalagiri meeting is therefore expected to help Janasena finalise its approach based on feedback from leaders and assessments of local political conditions. The discussions on seat allocation, alliance coordination and grassroots campaign strategies could set the direction for the party's preparations for the upcoming local body elections.

Naidu Directs Officials to Trace Missing AP Residents in Nepal Floods

Continue

from Tirupati were reported safe in Kathmandu and were contacted through the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS). Seven persons from Chittoor, Vijayawada, Kakinada and Guntur remained untraceable, while two others were reported safe with Isha Foundation. Officials said families were being regularly updated. A control room has been established at AP Bhavan in New Delhi. Coordination is also being maintained with the Central Government and Indian embassies in Kathmandu and China.

AP-GREEN Sets 2047 Target for 50% Green Cover in State

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also promote tree-based livelihoods and rural employment by involving farmers, self-help groups, educational institutions and local communities. Funding will be mobilised through State and Central government schemes, NABARD, CSR funds, carbon finance and credits, green bonds, District Mineral Fund resources and eco-tourism revenues. The government has stressed transparency and accountability in fund utilisation and implementation. **Three-Tier Structure :** AP-GREEN will function through a three-tier system. The State-level Governing Council will be chaired by Pawan Kalyan, with AP-GREEN Chairperson and MLC Konidela Nagababu as Vice-Chairperson. It will include senior officials from key departments, PCCF, AP-GREEN CEO and representatives from NABARD, banking, industry, educational institutions, environmental groups and civil society. The council will meet twice a year. The Executive Committee, headed by the AP-GREEN Chairperson, will meet once every three months, while a senior IFS officer will serve as Commissioner. At the district level, the Green Development Authority will function under the District Joint Collector, with officials from concerned departments overseeing implementation. The government plans to implement AP-GREEN in mission mode from the mandal level, with public participation at every stage, to create a greener, climate-resilient Andhra Pradesh and achieve the 50 per cent green-cover goal by 2047.

RTGS Intensifies Efforts to Trace and Evacuate AP Pilgrims Stranded in Nepal Floods

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Nepal-China border, important transit and acclimatisation points for Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims. Preliminary information indicates that an ice-rock avalanche or landslide-cum-avalanche triggered massive flash floods in the Bhotekoshi River region. According to the latest updates, at least 175 people have died and more than 820 remain missing, while 19 bridges and about 40 km of roads have been destroyed. Around 14-15 helicopters are involved in rescue operations, with Nepal Army, Police and Armed Police Force teams working to locate survivors and evacuate them to Kathmandu. The Indian Embassy and MEA are coordinating with state governments to trace affected nationals. AP Bhavan has also established an emergency control room in New Delhi to facilitate assistance and communication. The government has advised stranded persons to remain in safe locations and maintain contact with embassies. Families seeking information have been advised to contact AP Bhavan or Nepal Tourism Police at 1144, providing travel details and the last known location. AP Bhavan emergency control room numbers are 011-23384016, 011-23387089 and WhatsApp 9059824101. RTGS will continue monitoring developments until the safety and whereabouts of all affected Andhra Pradesh residents are established.

Gottipati Highlights Development in Addanki



Addanki, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Minister Gottipati Ravikumar said priority was being given to accelerating development works and resolving public issues in the Addanki constituency. On Thursday, he participated in the 'Intintiki Telugu Desam' programme at S.L. Gudipadu village in Ballikurava mandal. He explained the development and welfare programmes implemented by the Alliance government over the past two years and sought residents' griev-

ances and suggestions. He inaugurated internal CC roads and side drains constructed at a cost of ₹40 lakh. He also inaugurated a Gokulam shed and a protected drinking water scheme supported by DSV Foundation and ASSIST. Gottipati announced that water plants would be established in Nujellapalli and Somavarappadu villages with DSV Foundation and ASSIST support. He received petitions from villagers and directed officials to resolve issues promptly. TDP activists, local leaders and officials participated.

Jagan's Intervention Helped Rescue Fishermen: Gurumoorthy



Tirupati, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Sri Muthyalamma, Gurumoorthy said they survived for nearly 24 days after the boat developed technical problems and drifted towards the Bangladesh side. They were later spotted by West Bengal fishermen and brought safely to Digha. He said YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the party to pursue the matter with the Centre. Gurumoorthy demanded mandatory safety audits, satellite phones, transponders, GPS systems, life jackets and solar backup for navigation equipment.

Tirupati MP Maddila Gurumoorthy alleged that the coalition government had failed to ensure adequate safety for fishermen despite Andhra Pradesh having nearly 900 km of coastline. Speaking at the YSRCP office in Tirupati, he questioned the absence of satellite phones, GPS tracking, safety audits and reliable navigation systems on fishing boats. Referring to seven Konaseema fishermen who went missing after leaving Odalarevu on Aug 3 aboard

Anil Kumar Yadav Calls 34% BC Quota Political Drama

Nellore, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister P. Anil Kumar Yadav accused Chief Minister Naidu of staging political drama over 34% BC reservation in local bodies. Speaking at the YSRCP office, he accepted TDP leader Beeda Ravichandra's challenge for an open debate on BC welfare and political empowerment under their respective governments. Anil recalled that the 34% reservation provided through G.O. 176 during the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government was challenged in court. He questioned why BCs, who constitute more than half the State's population, were not given the Deputy Chief Minister post by the coalition government. He recalled that the YSRCP government had appointed five Deputy Chief Ministers representing BC, SC, ST, minority and Kapu communities. Anil also questioned Pawan Kalyan's silence and urged senior BC leaders, including R. Krishnaiah, to speak up for BC rights.



BJP Felicitates SC Morcha Leader



Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The BJP SC Morcha felicitated Yarramsetti Visweswara Rao (Vissu), General Secretary of the NTR District SC Morcha, on his appointment as a board member of the Vijayeswara Devasthanam Temple Committee in Vijayawada. The felicitation programme was held at the BJP State Headquarters on Thursday following his swearing-in ceremony. SC Morcha State President Panatala Suresh said party recognition was a matter of pride for every worker and possible through the BJP. He described the party

as a mother and said dedicated workers would receive recognition for their efforts. Suresh said Visweswara Rao's appointment reflected his dedicated service, particularly his experience as NTR District SC Morcha General Secretary for two terms. State Executive Committee member Muvvala Venkata Subbayya, SC Morcha State Vice-President Ulluri Gangadhar, NTR District President Sarvasuddhi Raju, State Morcha Office Secretary Chinnna Amarlapudi and Minority Morcha State Vice-President Sharmila Khatun attended.

YSRCP Demands Home Minister's Resignation

Tadepalli, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP spokesperson Nagamalleswari demanded the resignation of Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, alleging that the coalition government had failed to control ganja and drugs in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at the YSRCP central office, she said Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh and Anitha had promised to eliminate ganja within 100 days. Nagamalleswari cited recent seizures across the State and questioned the government's response to alleged drug trafficking. She also referred to the Addanki incident and the seizure of about 6 kg of liquid ganja worth nearly ₹75 lakh at Gokavaram. She said the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government had created the Special Enforcement Bureau and launched Operation Parivarthana. She claimed around 11,500 acres of ganja cultivation were destroyed and 13,210 persons arrested. Nagamalleswari demanded details of the coalition government's action against ganja and drugs and urged immediate measures to protect youth and women.

Eswaraiah Slams BJP Over Exam Leaks

Kadapa, Aug 28 | TPN Bureau

CPI State Secretary Gujjula Eswaraiah accused the BJP-led NDA government of adopting an autocratic approach and failing to answer questions raised by students and youth. Speaking at a press conference at the Kadapa Press Club, he said the government appeared intimidated even by questions from a six-year-old boy in Bihar and criticized its response to protests over examination issues. Eswaraiah said Gen Z and Gen Alpha were increasingly opposing the government and demanded an apology for alleged injustice to students and youth. He questioned the Centre's silence over exam paper leaks and rising unemployment, inequality and intolerance. He alleged that more than 600,000 schools had closed since the BJP came to power, including 116,800 single-teacher schools. He said those questioning the government were being branded "Urban Naxals," asserting, "If everyone who questions is labelled an Urban Naxal, then we too are Urban Naxals." CPI District Secretary Gali Chandra, City Secretary Venkata Siva and AITUC District Secretary Nagasubba Reddy participated.

Yamini Sharma Slams Jagan

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Official Spokesperson Sadineni Yamini Sharma accused YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of double standards over unanimous local body elections. Addressing a press conference on Thursday, she recalled that Jagan Reddy's government had offered incentives for unanimous elections in 2021, while he now describes the practice as undemocratic. Yamini Sharma alleged that the previous YSRCP government had used force and prevented opposition candidates from filing nominations. She questioned whether Jagan's earlier or present stand was correct and demanded an explanation. She also criticized Vijayasai Reddy over his recent comments on Hindutva, asking why he remained silent during the previous government's tenure when allegations of attacks on temples and idols were raised. Yamini Sharma said the NDA government, led by Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan, was focused on development and welfare.

Seminar Traces Gen-Z Movement and Challenges in Education

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

A seminar tracing the journey of the Gen-Z movement was organised at Makineni Basavapunnaiiah Vignana Kendram in Vijayawada under the aegis of SFI. SFI State Secretary Prasanna Kumar presided, while Aishe Ghosh, Gen-Z movement leader and former President of the JNU Students' Union, attended as chief guest. The book Nishadham Baddalaindi (The Silence Was Broken) was unveiled. Aishe Ghosh said the nationwide movement had challenged authoritarianism and compelled governments to heed youth voices.



She condemned repression and lathi-charges against students and urged gov-

ernments to prioritise education and improve infrastructure in government institutions.

Expressing concern over the closure of 96,000 schools nationwide, she alleged that NEP 2020 was weakening the education system. Former MLC K.S. Lakshmana Rao said 972 schools had closed in Andhra Pradesh in three years, while single-teacher schools were increasing. SFI State Assistant Secretary Prasad, Sameer, Shanmukh, Sindhu, Bhaskar, Gen-Z youths Parker, Hamid and Meghana, students and Vijayawada Civil Society members attended.

Quality Key to Flawless Voter List

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Election Commission of India (ECI) Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma stressed the need for collective efforts to prepare an error-free voter list by maintaining quality at every stage of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) process. Addressing District Collectors and election officials at Sri AVS Reddy Hall in the NTR District Collectorate on Thursday, he commended Andhra Pradesh's progress. AP CEO Vivek Yadav and Additional CEO S. Dilli Rao attended the review, along with District Collectors Dr. G.

Lakshmisha, C.M. Saikant Varma, Dr. Kritika Shukla, Keerthi Chekuri, Chadalavada Nagarani, K. Vetriselvi and Dr. V. Vinod Kumar. Collectors from other districts participated virtually. Sharma said 43,71,397 notices had been issued statewide, with inquiries completed for 16,23,774. He appreciated Kurnool for recording the lowest inquiry pendency at 15.18%. He stressed coordination among EROs, AEROs, BLOs, BLAs and political parties and directed officials to assist elderly and ill voters through home visits. He urged officials to ensure fairness, transparency and quality until the final voter list is published on Oct 3.

Medical Camp Held at Maris Stella College



Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Maris Stella College (Autonomous) organised a medical camp at its auditorium on Thursday under the aegis of the Maris Stella Alumnae Association (MSAA). Free eye, dental, blood pressure and sugar tests were conducted for students and staff. Principal Dr. Sr. Innyasamma inaugurated the camp and

appreciated MSAA's efforts to serve poor and needy people through annual social service activities. Degree Vice Principal Dr. Sr. Lavanya, coordinator and vice-president G. Usha Kumari, executive members Swapna Vunnam, Vidyavathi, Santha Kumari and Visalakshi participated. Representatives of Win Vision Eye Hospital, Konac Diagnostics and Asician Dental Care provided medical support.

Traffic Police Intensify Road Safety Measures



Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Traffic Police have intensified measures to prevent road accidents and improve passenger safety across the city. Acting on the directions of City Police Commissioner S.V. Raja Sekhara Babu and under the supervision of Traffic DCP Thirumaleswara Reddy, Traffic Inspector (Traffic-3) Sudhakar and his team installed new rumble strips along the entire BRTS road corridor to control vehicle speeds. Rumble strips were also installed at the flyover descent near

Satyanarayanapuram Police Station on the route from Prabhas Colony, identified as an accident-prone area. Traffic officials also conducted an awareness programme for permanent drivers at the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) vehicle depot at Eluru Locks. Drivers were instructed to ensure vehicles have radium stickers and proper rear lighting. They were advised to use helpers while reversing and maintain controlled speeds. Officials urged drivers and the public to cooperate with traffic police in reducing accidents.

Fire Safety Awareness Held at Mother Teresa School



Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) conducted a fire safety awareness programme at Mother Teresa School in Sitaramapuram on Thursday. Acting on

Commissioner Dhyanaachandra's instructions, Regional Fire Officer Ch. Ratnababu inspected the school and demonstrated firefighting equipment to students and staff. Fire officials explained emergency precautions, including crawling when smoke fills classrooms, evacuating calmly and assembling at designated safe points. Floor in-charges were told to verify attendance and immediately inform fire personnel about missing students. Station Fire Officer Naresh and his team also explained the use of sprinklers, smoke detectors, alarms and firefighting equipment. Meanwhile, VMC officials inspected food establishments in the 37th Division and fined three hotels ₹7,000 for unhygienic kitchens. Trinadh Tiffin Centre and Trinadh Fast Food Centre were fined ₹3,000 each, while Mahalakshmi Sweets and Samosa was fined ₹1,000. AMOH-1 Dr. Annapurna and Sanitary Supervisor D. Somaraju supervised the inspections.

Khelo India Programme Held at KL University



Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The 'Khelo India Dialogue - Khel Ki Baat, Pradhan Mantri Ke Saath' programme was organised grandly at KL University on Thursday on the occasion of National Sports Day. Organised under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the event featured Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with students and young athletes across the country through video conference. KL University students enthusiastically participated and watched the Prime Minister's address. Modi stressed that sports should become part of young people's daily lives rather than remain limited to competitions. He highlighted the role of sports in develop-

ing discipline, confidence, leadership and physical fitness. He said the Khelo India programme aims to identify talent at a young age and provide training, knowledge and infrastructure. KL University Sports Director Dr. K. Hari Kishore encouraged students to participate actively in sports and fitness programmes and pursue opportunities at national and international levels. He congratulated KLU student Dhanu Srikanth on receiving the Arjuna Award. Vice-Chancellor Dr. G. Parthasaradhi Varma, Pro-Vice-Chancellors Dr. N. Venkat Ram and Dr. K. Rajasekhara Rao, Registrar Dr. K.I. Pavan Kumar, Dean (In-charge) Student Welfare Dr. K.R.S. Prasad, Advisor Dr. Habibullah Khan and others congratulated the participants.

Pavitrotsavams Begin at Durga Temple

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The annual Pavitrotsavams commenced with grandeur at the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Thursday. Conducted during Shravana, the three-day purification festival aims to cleanse the temple of spiritual blemishes and errors committed knowingly or unknowingly during the year. The rituals began with Vighneswara Puja, Punyaha vachanam and Akhanda Deeparadhana under the supervision of the Vedic committee. Sacred Pavitras meant for the presiding deity and sub-shrine deities were consecrated on the first day. Special Arjita Sevhas have been suspended during the three-day celebrations. Temple Chairman B. Radhakrishna Gandhi and



Executive Officer Seena Naik offered the sacred garlands. Temple Sthanacharya Siva Prasad, Vedic Committee Chief Priest Kota Prasad, Chief Priest Durga Prasad and Vedic Scholar Shanmukha Sastry guided the rituals. Deputy Chief Priests Kota Ravi and Shankar Sandilya, along with other priests, conducted the homas and consecration ceremonies according to scriptural traditions.

KBN College Holds Blood Donation Camp to Raise Awareness



Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

A blood donation camp was organised at KBN College on Thursday to dispel misconceptions among youth and highlight the importance of blood donation. The camp was jointly conducted by VKR Rotary Blood Center, KBN College NSS unit and Red Ribbon Club. Principal Dr. G. Krishnaveni inaugurated the camp and said blood had no substitute, urging

healthy individuals to donate and help save lives. Secretary Dr. T. Srinivasu said the belief that blood donation causes weakness was a misconception and advised eligible donors to seek medical guidance. He said the college had received the District Collector's award 16 times as an outstanding blood donation centre. Around 100 degree students voluntarily donated blood. Rotary Past District Governors Muttavarapu Satish and Madugula Varaprasad, PSCMR Engineering College Treasurer Kaja Raghavayya, Hindu High Schools Committee Operations Head Boliseti Ramesh Babu and Vice Principal Dr. M. Venkateswara Rao attended. NSS Programme Officers D. Pawan and P. Gautami Devi organised the camp.

792 Veda Parayanam Posts Created: Bonda Uma

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Central Constituency MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao felicitated Veda scholars appointed by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for Veda Parayanam duties in 6-B and 6-C category temples at his office in Singh Nagar on Thursday. He described the appointments as a historic decision and said they would help strengthen the spiritual atmosphere in temples. Bonda Uma said the Telugu Desam government had last appointed Veda scholars in Andhra Pradesh in 2017, while the subsequent government failed

to continue the process. He said the Alliance government's creation of 792 Veda Parayanam posts was unprecedented in 55 years and welcomed the appointment of 520 scholars from Andhra Pradesh. He recalled raising the issue in the Assembly and bringing it to the attention of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

He said Vedic chanters in Category 6-B and 6-C temples would receive a monthly honorarium of ₹22,000. MLA's office secretary Ganta Krishna Mohan, 33rd Division in-charge Garlapati Vijayakumar and several Vedic scholars participated.

KDCA to Conduct Umpiring Classes From Sep 4

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The Krishna District Cricket Association (KDCA) will conduct umpiring classes for district panel umpires from Sep 4 to 6, 2026, from 9 am to 5 pm at its office in Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation

Stadium, Labbipet. KDCA Secretary M. Ravindra Choudhary said the programme would strengthen umpires' knowledge and skills. For details, participants can contact K. Srinivas Rao at 9393444279 or M. Ravindra Choudhary at 9849010492, 9989399299.

Separate NCC Directorate for AP in Three Months



Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh NCC Directorate is expected to be established in Guntur within three months, Air Commodore Narasimh Sailani, Deputy Director General of the AP & Telangana NCC Directorate, said on Thursday. He said the Central Government and NCC Director General had initiated the process to create a separate directorate for Andhra Pradesh. It would later be shifted to Amaravati after necessary infrastructure is developed. Sailani said he had discussed the propos-

al with State Education Minister Nara Lokesh, who assured full government support. He was speaking at an event at Prasad V. Potluri Siddhartha Institute of Technology, Kanuru, where T-shirts for cadets participating in AWIDSSC-2026 were unveiled. The event was held under Kakinada NCC Group Commander Colonel Ritin Mohan Agarwal. Sailani said 35 cadets from AP and Telangana would participate in the Delhi championship from Aug 31 to Sep 11. He highlighted NCC training in discipline, leadership, drone operations, cyber skills and adventure activities. Institutional Excellence Awards were presented to Sri Prakash Synergy School, SASI Institute of Technology and Engineering, Swarnandhra College of Engineering and Technology, Aditya Engineering College and Sri Viswa Shanthi School. Professional Excellence Awards were also presented to outstanding NCC staff, ANOs and PI staff.

Stress Management Improves Work Performance

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said employees should effectively manage stress to improve their performance and efficiency. Speaking at a stress management programme at the District Collector's camp office on Thursday, he said weekly sessions were being conducted every Thursday to reduce work-related stress. He noted that 15 sessions had been completed and the programme would continue. DCP KGV Saritha, the keynote speaker, said unmanaged work stress could affect mental peace. Comparing stress to

continuously holding a 250-gram bottle, she advised employees to address problems promptly and give their minds adequate rest. She suggested preparing a daily to-do list, prioritising urgent tasks, completing work before deadlines and delegating tasks when necessary. Saritha also advised employees to avoid unnecessary work, exercise regularly, practise meditation and breathing exercises, and get six to seven hours of quality sleep. Psychologist Dr. T.S. Rao presided. Dr. Garre Shankar Rao, Haritha, Sripriti Jagadeesh, psychologists Navitha, Venugopal and Kavitha, and Nodal Officer G. Jyothi participated.

Immigration Lawyer Warns Students Against Visa Fraud

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

International immigration lawyer Kaviti Srinivasa Rao advised students and professionals travelling abroad to understand immigration laws and visa regulations to avoid agent fraud. Speaking at a press conference in Labbipet on Thursday, he said free legal aid and initial consultations could help prevent financial losses. He said US F-1 students could work up to 20 hours a week on campus, while the UK, Australia and Canada offered greater flexibility for off-campus employment. Workers facing wage exploitation could

approach labour authorities without fearing visa cancellation. Srinivasa Rao warned against drunk driving, forged documents, fake bank statements, misuse of political asylum claims and carrying unknown bags containing illegal substances. He also cautioned against agents promising easy Green Cards. He advised parents to stay in regular contact with children abroad and urged consultancies to provide pre-departure orientation. Bridge Overseas Education Consultancy Managing Director Srikanth Gurralla called for transparent practices and legitimate documentation.

Alliance Government Focuses on Development: Ramamohan

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

East Constituency MLA Gadde Ramamohan said development and welfare initiatives gained momentum only after the Alliance government assumed power. He made the remarks during a door-to-door campaign organised by the Telugu Desam Party in Prajashakti Nagar, Giripuram area of the 7th Division, on Thursday. Ramamohan visited households and explained welfare schemes implemented since the Alliance government took office. He said the state had suffered setbacks across sectors and faced financial difficulties during the

five-year YSRCP rule. He credited Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's administrative experience, along with the cooperation of Jana Sena and the Central Government, for advancing development and welfare. He said the TDP was conducting the campaign to understand public needs and improve governance and welfare delivery. He claimed people were satisfied with the Alliance government's administration. Padamata Satish Chandra, Perepi Eswar, Dayala Sirisha Gandhi, Kalapala Vikram, Domakonda Ravi, Padala Gangadhar, Penukonda Srinu, Doma konda Jyothi, Kota Siva Lakshmi, Pera vali Sivakumar and Aneef participated.

Loyola College Hosts Academic and Practical Learning Events

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The Department of English at Andhra Loyola College (Autonomous), Vijayawada, organised an English Department Colloquium at Bishop Mummadi Hall on Thursday, focusing on research, literature and student talent. Dr. K. Narasimha Rao, Associate Professor, Department of English, Acharya Nagarjuna University, urged students to read widely, think critically and undertake extensive research. Principal Rev. Fr. Dr. S. Melchior, SJ, encouraged stu-

dents to utilise academic and extracurricular opportunities. The departmental journal was inaugurated, while Literature student Annie presented a review of The Guide. Around 265 students participated. Meanwhile, the Departments of Botany and Biotechnology conducted a hands-on workshop on "Essential Instrumentation in Plant Sciences" for first-year students. Vice Principals Rev. Fr. Arul Jothi and Dr. B. Sivakumari attended. Heads of Departments Dr. T. Rosemary and Mrs. S. Sri Lakshmi encouraged students to make the most of the practical sessions.

Sravana Pournami Giri Pradakshina

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The Indrakeeladri Giri Pradakshina will be held on Friday, Aug 28, at 5.55 am on the occasion of Sravana Pournami. The procession will commence from

Sri Kamadhenu Ammavari Temple at the entrance of the Ghat Road. The Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam has urged devotees to participate in the spiritually significant event.

New Meeting Hall Inaugurated

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

A newly established meeting hall on the fourth floor of the Devasthanam Maha Mandapam was inaugurated on Thursday amid Vedic chants and traditional music. Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi)

and Executive Officer V.K. Seena Naik performed the inauguration rituals. Deputy Chief Priest Shankar Sandilya, Trust Board members P. Raghavaraju, A. Srinivasa Rao, S. Saritha and M. Kalavathi, along with engineering and administrative officials, attended.

Santoshimata Temple Anniversary Celebrations From Aug 28

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The 28th anniversary of Santoshimata Temple near Kandrika and the third anniversary of its reconstruction will be celebrated for three days from Aug 28, founder Chittibabu and Secretary Ch. Chiranjeevi said on Thursday. The cele-

brations will begin with Panchamruta bhishekam and special rituals on Rakhi Purnima, followed by a chariot and vilage procession on Aug 29. Annadanam for around 5,000 devotees will be held on Aug 30. Cultural programmes, mythological plays and Kuchipudi performances will also be organised.

Lokesh Lays Foundation Stone for Modern Rythu Bazar

Mangalagiri, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh laid the foundation stone for a modern Rythu Bazar near the Nidamaru railway gate in Mangalagiri town on Thursday. He performed the Bhoomi Puja, unveiled the commemorative plaque and reviewed the project models and proposed facilities. The integrated retail and wholesale market will be developed across 5.90 acres at a cost of ₹18.55 crore using CSR funds from the Aurobindo



Pharma Trust. The facility will have 71,925 sq ft of built-up area and include 102 vegetable stalls, 54

fruit and flower stalls and 60 other shops. The wholesale section will have 18 unloading platforms and 23 vegetable shops.

Cold storage, vegetable washing areas, administrative facilities, a canteen, restrooms and parking for goods vehicles, two-wheelers and four-wheelers will also be provided.

G. Bheemudu, Vice President, Aurobindo Pharma Trust; Shaik Aleem Basha, MTMC Commissioner; Nandam Abaddayya, and others attended.

DISHA Reviews Central Schemes and Pushkaralu Works

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Rajamahendravaram MP and DISHA Committee Chairperson Daggubati Purandeswari said steps would be taken to ensure Central Government schemes reached all eligible beneficiaries. She chaired the East Godavari DISHA meeting at the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation office on Thursday, attended by Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop, MLAs Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary, Vegulla Jogeswara Rao and Nallamilli

Ramakrishna Reddy, and senior officials. Purandeswari reviewed agriculture schemes, including crop insurance and Soil Health Cards, and directed officials to register flower growers in Kadiyam as farmers. She said the lack of crop insurance for tobacco farmers would be taken up with the Centre. Ahead of Pushkaralu, she directed officials to expedite road, drainage, drinking water and Pushkar Ghat works. Railway officials were asked to complete key Rajamahendravaram station works before the festival. The MP also stressed modern skill training for women, including computers and Artificial Intelligence. Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop said previous meeting decisions and Action Taken Reports were reviewed. Purandeswari said the meeting minutes would be forwarded to the Centre.



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Rammohan Naidu Offers Prayers at Kothamma Thalli Temple

Kothapeta, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, accompanied by his family, visited the Kothamma Thalli temple in Kothapeta, Kotabommali Mandal, on Thursday. Temple priests accorded a traditional Purna Kumbha welcome to the Minister and his family. Carrying Pattu Vastralu for the



Goddess on his head, Rammohan Naidu entered the temple and participated in special prayers. He later received Vedic blessings and Teertha Prasadam, along with a portrait of the Goddess presented by Endowments Department officials. The Minister expressed happiness over visiting the temple during the auspicious month of Sravana and discussed temple development plans with local

leaders. Meanwhile, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu urged Andhra Pradesh pilgrims stranded amid floods in Nepal to remain brave. He said constant coordination was being maintained with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Office, AP Bhavan and the Nepal Embassy. Efforts are underway to ensure their safe return home.

Telugu Pilgrims Escape Disaster in Nepal

Visakhapatnam, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Telugu pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana narrowly escaped a major disaster amid floods in Nepal. The group included Bheemili ZPTC member and Visakhapatnam DLDA Chairman Gadu Venkatappadu and other Visakhapatnam residents. The pilgrims, who travelled through Shining Travels, said a three-day delay in obtaining China visas kept them in Kathmandu and may have saved their lives. While travelling nearly 80 km from Kathmandu, they witnessed severe flooding and a dam collapse. The driver quickly moved the vehicle to a safer location,



averting danger. In a video, the pilgrims said they were safe and attributed their survival to divine grace. They said the sequence of events, from the visa delay to the dam collapse, made them feel Lord Shiva had protected them. The group confirmed that all pilgrims were safe and planned to continue their journey.

Airport Workers' Protest Intensifies



Visakhapatnam, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The protest by workers at Visakhapatnam Airport seeking justice intensified on Thursday, with workers staging a cook-and-eat demonstration on the road. Around 300 workers participated, expressing anger over the government's alleged failure to provide a clear assurance or immediate solution. They raised slogans demanding resolution of their grievances and said their families were

facing severe financial difficulties. The workers stated that they did not want to continue protesting but were compelled to take to the streets due to uncertainty over their livelihoods. Telugu Shakti chief B.V. Ram and Radha Ranga Royal Association's Gadde Balaji warned that the government would be held responsible if any harm befell the protesting workers. They demanded that justice be delivered immediately rather than being delayed for another week.



ous government. He later interacted with tobacco farmers and said prices had reached \$293 per kg. Farmers were also receiving interest-free loans of \$50,000 and \$10 per kg additional support.

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Inaugurates Road Projects

Jangareddygudem, Aug 28 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar said the Alliance government was rebuilding roads damaged during the previous government's tenure. He inaugurated several development works in Jangareddygudem and surrounding areas of the Chintalapudi constituency on Thursday. He inaugurated a \$50 lakh

CC road and \$30 lakh CC drain at Srinivasapuram, funded through ZP funds. He also inaugurated the \$90 lakh Akkempeta-Srinivasapuram BT road and \$3 crore Jangareddygudem-Mulagalampalli BT road, funded through AIB. Earlier, he joined Chintalapudi MLA Songa Roshan Kumar and APCOB Chairman Ganni Veeranjanyulu in inaugurating the renovated

Suryateja Hospital. During his tour of Chintalapudi and Polavaram constituencies, Mahesh Kumar said BC welfare and farmers remained priorities of the Alliance government. At a meeting on "Two Years of Alliance Government - Development and Welfare," he said 34% reservation for BCs in local bodies had addressed injustice caused by the previous

Collector Visits Veligonda Submergence Villages

Markapuram, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to release water into the Nallamalasagar Reservoir through the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project on August 31. Ahead of his visit, Markapuram District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha and Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu inspected project-affected villages, including Gottipadiya and Akka

cheruvu. Thanda. Villagers thanked the Collector, saying compensation had been provided to all eligible displaced families before the project's inauguration. Vijaya Sunitha said rehabilitation colonies had been provided with government schools, Anganwadi centres, drinking water tanks, drainage, electricity and streetlights. Around \$700 crore had been distributed as compensation to affected families.

She said housing deeds had been issued to all eligible displaced persons and distributed title deeds at Gottipadiya and Akka cheruvu Thanda. She directed those facing technical delays in receiving compensation to approach officials immediately. RDO Venkata Sivaramireddy, District Mining Officer Ravi Prasad, DWAMA PD Suvartha, ICDS In-charge PD Padmavati, DSO Ankayya and other officials participated.

Seven Missing Fishermen Found Safe After 23 Days

Amalapuram, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Seven fishermen from Konaseema district, who went missing at sea 23 days ago, were found safe off the West Bengal coast and brought ashore, District Collector Dr. R. Mahesh Kumar said on Thursday. Speaking at a press conference at the Collectorate, the Collector, accompanied by District SP Rahul Meena and Fisheries Department Joint Director Karunakar, detailed the rescue operation. The fishermen had left Odalarevu Fish Landing Centre on Aug 3 aboard the fishing boat Mutyalamma for a 15-day deep-sea fishing trip. Communication with their families was lost the same day, and a missing complaint was lodged on Aug 14. The district administration coordinated with the Coast Guard, Navy and authorities in West Bengal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. On Aug 26, the crew of Arabinda Barman spotted the fishermen near the West Bengal coast. The Mutyalamma had reportedly drifted after an engine gearbox failure. After nearly 10 hours of rescue efforts, the boat was towed safely to port. One fisherman, Tatarao, was slightly unwell, while the others were safe. The Collector said a special vehicle and Fisheries Development Officer had been sent to bring them home. A safety brainstorming session with fishermen will be held on Monday.

Baby Boy Delivered Safely Onboard Train

Vijayawada, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

A 22-year-old nine-month pregnant passenger safely delivered a baby boy aboard Train No. 12503 SMVT Bengaluru-Agartala Express at Vijayawada Railway Station on Aug 25. Passenger Nargis, travelling with her family in B6 coach from SMVT Bengaluru to Kishanganj, developed severe labour pains. Travelling Ticket Examiner Manish Kumar Jatav alerted the Vijayawada Commercial Control Office at 10.10 pm. Officials coordinated with the Andhra Hospital First Aid Centre on Platform



No. 6 and the Deputy Station Superintendent. Medical staff assisted Nargis after the train arrived at 10.45 pm. Mother and baby were healthy and shifted to Government Hospital, Vijayawada, by ambulance. The train resumed its journey at 11.18 pm.

Bill Collectors' Protest Enters 11th Day

Tirupati, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The relay hunger strike by bill collectors protesting the proposed removal of workers under SPDCL jurisdiction from Sept 1 entered its 11th day on Thursday. Bill collectors from Pathikonda and Kurnool ERO limits participated with their families in the protest before the SPDCL corporate office. Children aged one to 10 years joined their parents, appealing for employment for their fathers and expressing concern over school fees and family needs.

The workers said termination would threaten their families' livelihoods, children's education and repayment of debts. CITU leaders urged the management and state government to intervene on humanitarian grounds and ensure continued employment. The affected families appealed to SPDCL CMD Lotheti Shivashankar to immediately resolve the issue and provide job security. Venkataramana, CITU State President, sought urgent action to protect the workers and their families.



Four Caught in ACB Bribery Trap

Nellore, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) caught four persons, including three officials of the Somasila Project and a private contractor, in a bribery case in Nellore on Thursday. Based on a complaint by Ambati Chiranjeevi, 35, of Kanupurupalli village, ACB Nellore Range registered a case against Z. Gautham Suman, AEE, FAC: DEE, Somasila Project, Kothur Division; M. Narayana Raju, AEE, Somasila Project, Nellore Sub-Division; P. Mahesh, DEE, FAC: EE, Somasila Project; and private contractor Sompalli Madhav.

According to the ACB, Gautham Suman and Narayana Raju allegedly demanded ₹3 lakh from Chiranjeevi for showing official favour in processing and issuing an NOC for further development of his



agricultural land. A trap was laid at about 6.10 pm at the Executive Engineer's office, Somasila Project, Division No.6, Nellore City. The accused were caught red-handed while allegedly demanding and accepting ₹3 lakh from the complainant. The case was registered under Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. The ACB urged the public to report corruption through toll-free number 1064.

TTD Hospitals to Get Improved Medical Services

Tirumala, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu announced that medical services in TTD hospitals would be improved and expanded. Newly appointed SVIMS Director Dr. Jagadeesh met B.R. Naidu at his camp office in Tirumala on Thursday. The Chairman congratulated him and expressed confidence that his experience and vision would help SVIMS provide advanced healthcare. B.R. Naidu said Dr. Jagadeesh was appointed as SVIMS Director following the directions of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He said SVIMS was being developed with a

major investment and that a super-specialty hospital for children would soon become operational.

Dr. Jagadeesh said he would work according to the vision of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and the guidance of TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu and EO Ravichandra.

He said efforts would be made to develop Tirupati as an integrated medical hub and strengthen public confidence in SVIMS treatment. He also announced plans to expand NTR medical services to reduce the financial burden on poor patients and ensure continuous state-of-the-art healthcare.

Collector Reviews Lokesh Visit Arrangements

Ongole, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

District Collector P. Raja Babu directed officials to ensure foolproof arrangements for Minister for Education Nara Lokesh's visit to Ongole on Friday. He inspected preparations on Thursday along with MLC Manthena Venkata Satyanarayana Raju, MLAs Damacharla Janardhana Rao, Ugra Narasimha Reddy and Maddipati Venkata Raju, and State Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Nukamani Balaji. Lokesh will inspect beautification works near KIMS Hospital junction, unveil statues of 20 prominent personalities and inaugurate a pylon marking development works at Rangarayudu Cheruvu under AMRUT-2. He will also perform Bhoomi Puja for a



Radisson Hotel at Maddiralapadu and attend a party workers' meeting. RDO Chandrasekhar Naidu, Municipal Commissioner Venkata Krishnaiah, Municipal Engineer Yesayya and others participated.

Yashoda Launches Advanced Genetic Cancer Therapy



Rajamahendravaram, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Yashoda Hospitals, Hitech City, has launched an advanced genetic analysis centre using Next-Generation Sequencing to provide personalised cancer treatment based on patients' genetic profiles. Cancer specialist Dr. Shikhar Kumar announced the initiative at a press conference in Rajamahendravaram, saying it could improve treatment outcomes and reduce adverse effects. Targeted therapies and immunotherapy could improve patients' life expectancy and quality of

life. The facility will provide faster and cost-effective genetic test reports within the hospital, helping doctors make timely treatment decisions for complex cancers, including lung, breast and gastric cancers. Dr. Shikhar Kumar said genetic changes could be identified and suitable medicines determined before treatment begins.

The facility complements its robotic surgery and advanced radiation services. Sai Venkat Maddu, Oncology Marketing Manager, Andhra Pradesh, and Marketing Executive V. Sai Kiran participated.

Editorial

Social Media

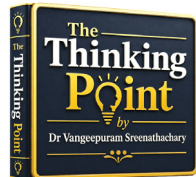
*A Voice for the Voiceless,
But Not Always the Truth*

Social media is undoubtedly a powerful platform to elevate people's problems that are sometimes undermined or ignored by the mainstream media. People who cannot express their opinions openly are finding the courage to speak through social media. Similarly, those who may not notice or respond to news in the mainstream media are quickly reacting to issues that emerge on social media. In this way, social media has become an important tool for public expression and democratic participation. However, social media can also mislead people when information is circulated without verification. A recent episode involving a six-year-old girl in Bihar is a clear example. The girl was brought by someone to a protest venue, where protesters reportedly prompted her to ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resign. Police later took the child away from the protest site. Social media posts soon claimed that the police had arrested the six-year-old girl merely because she had demanded the Prime Minister's resignation. The claim immediately triggered a massive reaction. Lakhs of posts criticised the BJP and Prime Minister Modi, portraying the incident as an example of the government allegedly arresting a child for expressing a political opinion. But the subsequent clarification from the police presented a different picture. According to the police, the girl was moved away from the protest area because they were clearing protesters from the place and feared that the child could be hurt in the process. The police said she was subsequently handed over to her parents. This explanation is understandable and entirely different from the claim that the girl was arrested for demanding the Prime Minister's resignation. The incident exposes the dangerous speed at which misinformation can travel. By the time the clarification emerged, the unverified version had already spread across the country. Social media must remain a platform for public voices, but users must also remain responsible. Before believing, sharing or reacting to any unusual claim, people should verify the facts. Freedom of expression is important, but responsible information sharing is equally important.

- Editor

WHEN EVERY CHILD BELONGS

Rethinking Inclusive Education Beyond Admission and Access



A child with a disability enters a regular classroom. The school has opened its gates, admission has been granted, and a seat has been provided. But can the child follow the lesson? Participate in activities? Communicate comfortably? Access the learning materials? Make friends? And, most importantly, does the child feel that this classroom belongs to them too? These questions reveal the difference between admission and inclusion. Inclusive education is not accomplished simply by placing children with disabilities alongside their peers. It begins when the educational environment itself is prepared to recognise diversity, remove barriers and enable every learner to participate, learn, progress and belong. That distinction is where the real conversation on inclusive education must begin.

From Segregation to Inclusion

The education of children with disabilities has travelled through three distinct approaches: segregation, integration and inclusion. Segregation educated children with disabilities separately. Integration brought them into mainstream schools, but largely expected them to adjust to an already existing system. Inclusion reverses that expectation: the system must also adapt to the learner. UNESCO describes inclusion as strengthening the education system so that all learners can participate and achieve together, with their individual needs recognised. This is more than a change of terminology. It represents a change of philosophy.



from asking whether a child is fit for the classroom to asking whether the classroom is ready for every child.

From Opportunity to a Human Right

The global movement towards inclusion gained decisive momentum with the Salamanca Statement of 1994, which called for schools that accommodate all children and respond to their diverse needs. A stronger rights-based foundation followed through the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Article 24 recognises the right to education without discrimination and requires inclusive education, reasonable accommodation and appropriate individual support. The Sustainable Development Goals carried this commitment forward: SDG 4 seeks inclusive and equitable quality education, specifically calling for equal educational access for persons with disabilities and disability-sensitive learning environments. The message is unmistakable: inclusive education is not an act of charity or convenience; it is a matter of rights, dignity and equal opportunity.

India Has the Framework

India's policy framework strongly supports this rights-based vision. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 requires educational institutions to provide inclusive education, reasonable accommodation, accessible facilities and individualised support. NEP 2020 gives high priority to the inclusion and equal participation of children with disabilities throughout schooling, while Samagra Shiksha translates these principles into practical support from identification and assessment to assistive devices, accessible learning materials, therapeutic interventions and barrier-free infrastructure. The direction, therefore, is clear: India does not lack intent or policy architecture. The real challenge is ensuring that these commitments become everyday realities in every classroom.

The Barriers Beyond the School Gate

The greatest barriers to inclusion are not always visible. An inaccessible building can exclude a child, but so can an inflexible curriculum, unsuitable learning materials, inadequate teacher preparation, bullying, stigma and low expectations. A child may therefore cross the school

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gate every morning and still remain outside meaningful learning. UNICEF identifies discrimination, lack of trained teachers, inadequate materials and inaccessible facilities among the persistent barriers confronting children with disabilities. More importantly, barriers differ from child to child; a single solution cannot serve every learner. A ramp can provide entry into a classroom, but only an inclusive attitude, adaptable teaching and appropriate support can provide entry into learning.

One Classroom, Many Ways to Learn

An inclusive classroom recognises a simple truth: children differ, and so must opportunities for learning. Some learners benefit from visual cues, others from demonstration, repetition, simplified instructions, additional time or hands-on experiences. The answer is not to label children by fixed "learning styles," but to provide multiple ways to understand, participate and demonstrate learning. Adapted materials, flexible assessment, assistive technology and appropriate accommodations can turn exclusion into participation. Occupational therapists and other rehabilitation professionals can further help by adapting tasks, seating, classroom environments and functional activities to individual needs. Inclusion does not lower expectations; it creates different pathways through which every child can reach meaningful goals.

Beyond Enrolment: Measure What Matters
India's latest UDISE+ 2024-25

data records 21,49,258 Children With Special Needs (CWSN) enrolled in school education—a number that shows the scale of the responsibility before us. But enrolment alone cannot become the measure of inclusion. Significantly, the RPwD Act, 2016 requires monitoring not merely admission, but each student's participation, attainment and completion of education. That should guide policy evaluation too. We must ask: Are children attending, participating, learning and progressing? Counting children inside classrooms is important; ensuring that every child counts is the real goal.

From Inclusion to Belonging

Making inclusion work requires more than legislation. Teachers need preparation and support; parents must be treated as partners; rehabilitation professionals must contribute their expertise; and policymakers must ensure that resources reach the classroom. The RPwD Act itself envisages trained teachers and professionals, resource centres, appropriate learning materials and assistive devices to support inclusive education. Ultimately, the question is not whether a child with disability can adjust to our classroom, but whether our classroom can respond to the diversity of its children.

Admission opens the school gate. Inclusion opens learning. Belonging opens the future.
(The Author is a Consultant Psychologist, Rehabilitation Professional – RCI, Academic & Research Mentor, and Guinness, Asia, Limca & India Book Records Holder)

Rakhi and Onam linked by a mysterious thread

Across the vast expanse of India, where landscapes shift from the snow-capped peaks of the North to the lush, rain-washed coastlines of the South, festivals often seem like distinct colours on a diverse canvas. In the North, the full moon of Shravana brings Raksha Bandhan—a celebration of the protective bond between siblings, marked by the tying of a sacred thread. Down South, the harvest season heralds Onam—a grand, floral-decked homecoming of a beloved, exiled king. To the naked eye, they are worlds apart. But beneath the surface of popular folklore lies a hidden, beautiful thread that binds these two celebrations together into one continuous story of devotion and honour.

Many of us grew up captivated by the dramatic tale of Rani Karnavati sending a Rakhi to the Mughal Emperor Humayun, forging a bond across empires. Yet, historical records do not support this medieval legend. To find the true origin of this sacred bond, we must travel back to an era of cosmic promises, descending into the subterranean realm of Satala. Here lies the extraordinary connection between the North's sacred thread and the South's greatest festival. The story begins with King Mahabali, the grandson of King Prahlada, the grand devotee of Mahavishnu was a ruler of unparalleled generosity and righteousness whose legend forms the very heartbeat of Onam in Kerala. When the Vamana avatar of Lord Vishnu sent Mahabali to the netherworld of Satala, it was not the end of their profound connection. Deeply moved by Bali's absolute adherence to his word, Lord Vishnu granted him a boon and chose to stand as the eternal guardian at the doorway of his underground kingdom, the Sutha. The Supreme Lord of Vaikuntha became a humble sentry for his devoted king. But this divine arrangement created a void in the celestial realm. Devi Lakshmi, the goddess of fortune, found herself separated from her beloved husband. Guided by the wisdom of Sage Narada, she descended to Satala, casting aside her divine radiance to appear as a destitute woman seeking shelter. True to his nature, King Mahabali welcomed her with open arms. He



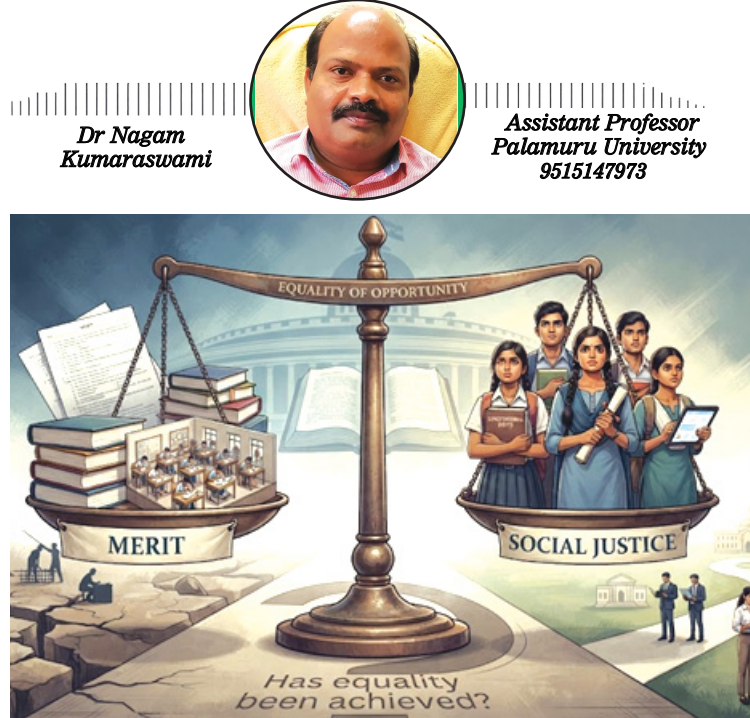
offered her a home, treating her with the utmost respect and tender affection. Over time, a beautiful, unspoken bond blossomed between the benevolent king and the mysterious woman. On the full moon day of Shravana Purnima—the very day we now celebrate Raksha Bandhan—she took a simple, sacred thread and tied it around Mahabali's wrist, sealing their bond as brother and sister. Deeply moved by this pure gesture, Mahabali asked his new sister what she desired as a gift. In a breathtaking moment of truth, the poor woman revealed her dazzling cosmic form as Devi Lakshmi. She did not ask for wealth or kingdom; she simply asked for her husband, Lord Vishnu, to be released from his duty as a guard so he could return to Vaikuntha. Mahabali was faced with a monumental paradox. Lord Vishnu was bound by a promise to guard him, and Bali was now bound by a vow to his new sister. Without hesitation, the righteous king honoured the bond of the thread. He released the Lord of the Universe to fulfil his duty as a brother. This act of supreme sacrifice and unwavering Dharma immortalized the Rakhi. Even today, when a sacred thread is tied in the North, priests chant an ancient mantra: "Yena baddho Bali raja..." "With that by which the mighty King Bali was bound, I bind you, O protective thread." The thread of Rakhi is not just a plea for protection; it is a vow of absolute honour, invoking the very king the South celebrates during

Onam. The realization is nothing short of magical. The mighty King Bali invoked during Raksha Bandhan in the North is the exact same beloved sovereign who returns to visit his people in Kerala during Onam. The two festivals are two sides of one ancient, sacred promise. One celebrates the bond he shared with Devi Lakshmi, proving that true kinship requires no bloodline—just like the vow Krishna made to Draupadi when she bound his bleeding finger. The other celebrates the eternal bond Mahabali shares with his subjects, a love so strong it transcends worlds and yugas. When a sister ties a Rakhi this year, she doesn't just tie a decorative thread; she binds her brother with the unyielding honour of Mahabali. Also, please note that it is not only siblings who tie Rakhi, but anyone who vows to protect respect of womanhood, tie Rakhi. And when the vibrant Pookkalam flowers are laid for Onam, they welcome the very king who gave Raksha Bandhan its deepest meaning. Together, these festivals whisper an ancient truth: from and beyond the Himalayan foothills to the tropical backwaters, India is bound by the same enduring threads of love, devotion, and Dharma. This interesting story was narrated after research by scriptwriter K Hari Kumar in his Vlog, Chaturya.

Watch in detail:
https://youtu.be/wt4_ZC1tr-0?si=xUovD-dmbdfloH7o

The Reservation Debate Needs a Debate on Social Justice

Recent controversies over alleged irregularities and paper leaks in competitive examinations such as NEET have exposed a deeper crisis facing India's young people. Students and unemployed youth are questioning corruption, lack of opportunities and failures in the education and employment systems. Yet, amid this growing frustration, another campaign has gained visibility on social media: the demand to abolish reservations under slogans such as "Aarakshan Hatao". The author argues that this shift in public discourse deserves closer examination, particularly from the perspective of communities that have historically faced social exclusion. India's socio-political history, the author contends, shows a recurring pattern. Whenever Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and other marginalised communities have asserted their rights, counter-narratives have emerged to weaken or divert those struggles. The political contest surrounding the Mandal Commission recommendations in the 1990s, often framed as "Mandal versus Kamandal", is cited as an example. In the author's view, the present debate similarly risks shifting attention away from examination-system failures, unemployment and inequality towards reservations. The author invokes B.R. Ambedkar's observation that forces defending the existing social order can mobilise against movements seeking fundamental change. From this perspective, reservations should not be viewed merely as a concession but as an instrument intended to address historical inequalities created by caste-based exclusion. The argument also challenges the frequent invocation of "merit" in debates over reservations. The author points to management and NRI quotas, particularly in private educational institutions, where access can depend substantially on financial capacity. Against this background, the author questions why merit becomes the principal concern when reservation enables disadvantaged students to enter educational institutions and public employment. The author further argues that, despite decades of constitutional democracy, representation of SCs, STs and BCs remains inadequate in several influential institutions,



including the judiciary, media, corporate sector and other centres of power. Equality before law, the article maintains, cannot by itself eliminate entrenched social and economic inequalities. In the traditions associated with Mahatma Phule, B.R. Ambedkar and social reform movements, substantive equality requires the redistribution of opportunities and representation. The debate, therefore, should move beyond the question of how long reservations should continue and address why the underlying inequalities persist. Even RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has stated that reservations should continue as long as social discrimination, educational backwardness and unequal wealth distribution remain. The author argues that such positions should also be examined against the actions and statements of organisations and groups operating at the grassroots. The way forward, according to the author, begins with a comprehensive caste census. Reliable data on the population and socioeconomic conditions of different communities, the article argues, is essential for determining representation and designing evidence-based affirmative-action policies. The author also calls for extending reservation policies to the private sector as public-sector employ-

ment declines through privatisation. If major employment opportunities increasingly lie outside government institutions, the article argues, social justice cannot remain confined to the public sector. At the same time, examination systems require urgent reform. Paper leaks and other irregularities can destroy the aspirations of lakhs of students, particularly those from poor and middle-class families. The author believes that authorities must ensure transparency, strengthen examination systems and take strict action against those responsible instead of allowing reservation to become a convenient scapegoat. Finally, the author calls for greater unity among SC, ST, BC and minority communities while acknowledging their internal differences. The youth of these communities, the article argues, have a particular responsibility to defend constitutional values and pursue social equality through democratic means. The central question, therefore, is not simply whether reservations should remain. It is whether India has succeeded in creating a society in which the historical conditions that made reservations necessary have genuinely disappeared. Until that question is answered with evidence rather than rhetoric, the reservation debate will remain incomplete.

Kharge Seeks Clarity On Special Parliament Session



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking clarity on reports that the Centre may convene a special session of Parliament to introduce legislation related to delimitation. Kharge has described delimitation as an issue of major national importance and urged the government to clearly state its intentions before taking any legislative step. The Congress has also reiterated its demand that the existing strength of the Lok Sabha should remain unchanged for the next 25 years. Delimitation involves redrawing parliamentary constituencies based on population figures. The issue has become politically sensitive because several states, particularly in southern India, fear that population-based delimitation could alter the current balance of representation in Parliament. The Congress argues that states which successfully implemented population-control measures should not be penalised through a reduction in their political representation. Party leaders have repeatedly raised concerns that states with larger populations could gain a greater share of Lok Sabha seats under a new delimitation exercise. Kharge has therefore called for broad consultations involving political parties and state governments before any decision is taken. The Congress wants the Centre to clarify whether a special session is actually being planned and whether new delimitation Bills could be introduced. The issue is also linked to the Census and the constitutional requirement for a fresh delimitation exercise after the first Census conducted following 2026. Any change in the distribution of parliamentary constituencies could have long-term political consequences. The debate has gained further significance because delimitation is closely connected with women's reservation in Parliament. The implementation of the reservation law is expected to be linked to the completion of the delimitation process. Opposition parties have been demanding greater transparency over the government's plans, arguing that such a major constitutional and political exercise should not be undertaken without consensus. With political parties already preparing for future elections, the delimitation issue is likely to become increasingly contentious. Kharge's letter has once again brought the subject into the national spotlight, with the Congress insisting that federal balance and the interests of all states must be protected before any new delimitation exercise is undertaken.

Tharoor Urges Media To Avoid Boasting

Congress MP and former diplomat Shashi Tharoor has welcomed India's swift response to the devastating flash floods in Nepal, while urging Indian media outlets to avoid excessive publicity or "boasting" about the assistance being provided. Speaking at the NDTV World Anviksha Summit in Kathmandu, Tharoor said India had done the right thing by responding quickly to Nepal's crisis. He described the immediate relief assistance as the natural responsibility of a close neighbour and said more help should be provided if required. At the same time, Tharoor recalled India's experience during Nepal's earthquake and warned that the way humanitarian assistance is presented can affect bilateral relations. He said India had provided substantial help at the time, but sections of the Indian media had highlighted the assistance in a manner that created resentment among Nepalis. According to Tharoor, people facing a disaster do not need to be repeatedly reminded that another country is helping them. He argued that the media should show the same sensitivity towards India-Nepal relations as the government does. His remarks come as India has begun sending emergency relief material to flood-hit Nepal. The assistance is aimed at supporting rescue and recovery efforts after devastating floods swept through parts of the Himalayan nation, destroying homes, bridges, roads and other infrastructure. The disaster has also affected a large number of Indian nationals, including pilgrims travelling towards the Kailash Mansarovar region. Families across India are seeking information about relatives who remain missing or stranded. Tharoor stressed that Nepal needs all the assistance it can receive at this critical moment. He also called for a broader change in India's approach towards its Himalayan neighbour, arguing that New Delhi should engage with Nepal as a sovereign and equal country. The former diplomat said strong bilateral relations require sensitivity and mutual respect, particularly during moments of crisis. Humanitarian assistance, he suggested, should strengthen the relationship rather than create a perception of superiority. With rescue operations still underway, India's support is expected to continue. Tharoor's message is that while helping a neighbour during a catastrophe is important, how that help is communicated can be equally significant for long-term India-Nepal ties.

Top Law School Cancels Convocation Amid Row

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bengaluru has cancelled its 34th annual convocation for the graduating batch of 2026, citing "unavoidable circumstances". The ceremony was earlier scheduled to take place on September 12. The cancellation comes amid growing opposition from students and alumni over the proposed participation of Bar Council of India Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra and Chief Justice of India Surya Kant at the convocation. According to the university, the degrees of graduating students will instead be conferred in absentia, subject to approval from the appropriate governing bodies. Students will be given the option of receiving their certificates by courier or collecting them directly from the campus. The controversy has its roots in a wider dispute involving the BCI and another premier law institution, NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad. Earlier this month, the BCI had temporarily halted the enrolment of NALSAR's 2026 graduating batch after students objected to the proposed presence of CJI Surya Kant at their convocation. The decision was withdrawn within hours. The episode triggered strong reactions from students and alumni, who accused the BCI of attempting to suppress dissent. At NLSIU too, students and alumni opposed the proposed attendance of the BCI chairman and the CJI. More than 700 students and alumni reportedly signed a statement objecting to the developments and demanding an unconditional apology from the BCI to the student and faculty community of NALSAR. Students at NLSIU described the BCI's earlier actions as an attack on free speech. They also criticised a directive seeking information about students and faculty members involved in the campaign against the proposed participation of the legal officials. Amid the growing tensions, CJI Surya Kant reportedly held an interaction with NLSIU students to understand their concerns. The cancellation of the convocation has now added another dimension to the controversy. Instead of celebrating their graduation together, the 2026 batch will receive their degrees through an alternative process. The development has sparked a wider debate over student dissent, institutional autonomy and the relationship between law students and regulatory bodies.



PM Modi Set For Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to undertake a four-day visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan from August 29 to September 1, with the trip expected to strengthen India's engagement with Central Asia and deepen cooperation on regional and global issues. Modi will first visit Uzbekistan on August 29 and 30 for bilateral talks with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The visit comes as India seeks to expand its strategic partnership with Uzbekistan in areas including trade, connectivity, defence, technology, energy and regional security. From Uzbekistan, the Prime Minister will travel to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan to participate in the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on August 31 and September 1. The summit will bring together leaders of major Eurasian countries to discuss regional security, economic cooperation and development. The SCO meeting is expected to focus on terrorism, connectivity,



trade, energy and broader regional stability. Discussions on strengthening economic cooperation within the grouping are also likely to receive attention, including the proposed SCO Development Bank. Modi's visit is also significant against the backdrop of evolving India-China relations. Recent diplomatic contacts between New

Delhi and Beijing have indicated efforts to stabilise bilateral ties and maintain dialogue on important issues. The SCO summit could provide an opportunity for Modi to engage with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other regional leaders. Russian President Vladimir Putin is also expected to meet Modi on the sidelines of the sum-

mit, adding importance to the gathering for India's engagement with Moscow. India has traditionally viewed Central Asia as strategically important because of its geographical location, natural resources and connectivity potential. However, geographical barriers and the lack of direct land access have complicated New Delhi's efforts to expand economic links with the region. The upcoming visit therefore carries significance beyond routine diplomacy. It reflects India's effort to strengthen its presence in Central Asia, maintain strategic partnerships with Russia and other regional powers, and pursue its broader multi-alignment policy. Modi's engagements in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are expected to give fresh momentum to India's Central Asia strategy while providing an important platform to discuss regional security, connectivity, trade and economic cooperation.

Nearly 300 Indians Missing In Nepal Floods

Nepal is facing a devastating humanitarian crisis after massive flash floods struck the Rasuwa region near the Nepal-Tibet border, leaving at least 160 people dead and thousands unaccounted for. Nepal Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal said nearly 300 Indian nationals, many of them pilgrims travelling for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, have been reported missing. Around 500 foreign nationals in total are currently out of contact. The disaster struck suddenly, sending huge volumes of muddy water, rocks and debris through settlements along the river system. Entire towns and villages were severely damaged within hours, with homes, roads, bridges and other infrastructure either washed away or buried under mud. Speaking about the situation, Khanal described the scale of the destruction as unprecedented. He said thousands of families had lost their homes and that authorities were still trying to determine the full extent of the disaster.



The large number of missing Indians has raised serious concerns in India, particularly because many were believed to be pilgrims travelling through the region. Families are anxiously waiting for information about their relatives as rescue teams struggle to reach affected areas. Nepal's security forces and emergency agencies have launched extensive search-and-rescue oper-

ations. However, the destruction of roads and bridges has made access to several locations extremely difficult. Communication networks have also been disrupted in some areas, complicating efforts to establish contact with people stranded in remote locations. Nepal's army has rescued more than 100 people from Timure in Rasuwa, while rescue teams continue operations in the worst-hit

areas. Authorities are also assessing the damage and providing emergency assistance to survivors. India is coordinating with Nepal to locate its citizens and assist those affected by the disaster. Indian authorities are closely monitoring the situation and working with Nepalese agencies on rescue and relief operations. The disaster has also affected areas on the Tibetan side of the border, with significant casualties and infrastructure damage reported there. For Nepal, the immediate priorities are rescuing survivors, locating missing people and providing shelter and medical assistance. For India, the focus remains on tracing missing nationals and ensuring the safe return of those stranded. With thousands of people still unaccounted for, the full scale of the tragedy remains unclear. Rescue teams are continuing their efforts amid extremely challenging conditions, while families on both sides of the border wait anxiously for news of their loved ones.

New Myanmar Drug Route Alarms Assam

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has raised serious concerns over the emergence of a new drug trafficking route from Myanmar through Arunachal Pradesh into Assam. Sarma said drug traffickers who previously relied on the Moreh-Manipur corridor are now attempting to use a different route through Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh before reaching Tinsukia in Assam. The new corridor came to light during investigations into recent drug trafficking cases. Describing the development as a "very worrying signal" for Upper Assam, the Chief Minister said the changing routes showed that drug networks were attempting to evade intensified enforcement measures. He warned that authorities would continue to target traffickers regardless of which route they chose. Assam has significantly intensified its crackdown on narcotics in recent weeks. According to Sarma, authorities



recently seized drugs worth around ₹80 crore that were allegedly being transported towards Punjab. He said the scale of the seizure highlighted the growing challenge posed by organised drug networks operating across state and international borders. The emergence of the new route has also increased concerns because Arunachal Pradesh

shares a long and difficult-to-monitor border with Myanmar. The mountainous terrain and remote locations can make surveillance and enforcement particularly challenging. Officials said drug-producing networks in Myanmar have historically used India's Northeast as a transit corridor. The latest shift indicates that trafficking groups may be constantly chang-

ing their routes to avoid security agencies. Arunachal Pradesh has also stepped up its own anti-drug operations, with authorities arresting several people allegedly involved in narcotics trafficking. Sarma has made the fight against drugs a major priority for his government and has repeatedly called for stronger coordination between law-enforcement agencies across the Northeast. The latest development has therefore triggered concerns not only for Assam but for the wider region. Authorities fear that the new corridor could expand if traffickers are not stopped at an early stage. Sarma has made it clear that changing routes will not weaken the government's crackdown. With increased surveillance, seizures and arrests expected along the Myanmar-Arunachal-Assam corridor, security agencies are now focusing on preventing the emerging route from becoming an established drug-trafficking network.

MP School Education Department Tops Payment Probe

Madhya Pradesh's School Education Department has emerged as the department with the highest number of offices flagged in a statewide investigation into suspected irregularities in government payments. The probe is examining transactions worth around ₹648 crore made through the state's financial management system. The investigation is being conducted by the State Financial Intelligence Cell, which was established to identify suspicious payment patterns through the government treasury system. Officials said the investigation covers transactions suspected to be irregular, fraudulent, duplicated or excessive. Of the 187 Drawing and Disbursing Offices flagged across various government departments, 45 belong to the School Education Department. This is the highest number among all departments. The Revenue Department follows with 43 flagged offices, while the Tribal Affairs Department has 26. The investigation has identified around ₹349 crore in irregular



transfers and another ₹299 crore in payments categorised as suspicious, fraudulent, duplicate or excessive. However, officials have cautioned that these figures represent transactions that triggered alerts and do not automatically mean that the entire amount was misappropriated. Investigators have also identified nearly ₹305 crore across 199 suspicious transactions involving trans-

fers to private bank accounts linked to government officials, employees and their relatives. Another ₹293 crore meant to remain in Treasury Personal Deposit accounts was reportedly transferred to other bank accounts. The probe has uncovered several weaknesses in the government payment system. These include duplicate employee codes, changes

to registered mobile numbers, shared login credentials and mismatches between employee records and bank-account details. Such vulnerabilities could potentially facilitate unauthorised or duplicate payments. Authorities have already recovered around ₹56 crore and reversed irregular transfers worth nearly ₹164 crore, bringing the amount addressed so far to approximately ₹220 crore. Where investigations indicate criminal wrongdoing, cases have been referred for further action, with FIRs reportedly registered against more than 50 officials over the past three years. Following the findings, the Madhya Pradesh government has introduced additional safeguards, including stronger system validation, restrictions on changing registered mobile numbers, payment limits and mandatory two-factor authentication. The investigation is continuing, with officials examining the flagged transactions to determine which cases involve genuine errors and which may point to financial misconduct.

China Warns Of Fresh Risk To Nepal Rescue



China has warned of a fresh geological threat that could further complicate rescue operations following the devastating floods and landslides along the Nepal-China border. Authorities in Beijing have identified a barrier lake upstream from the affected Himalayan border area. The lake has already begun overflowing, raising concerns that a sudden release of water could trigger another surge and create additional danger for people in the region. According to Chinese authorities, the barrier lake is located near the meeting point of the Chhochen Khola and Purepu Tsangpo rivers, northeast of the disaster-hit area. China's Ministry of Water Resources has increased monitoring of the lake and is assessing the possibility of further geological hazards. The latest warning comes as rescue teams continue searching for hundreds of people missing after the catastrophic flash floods. The disaster caused extensive destruction in Nepal and Tibet, sweeping away homes, roads, bridges and power infrastructure. The barrier lake was estimated to contain around 2 million cubic metres of water on Thursday, while another 3 million cubic metres could flow into it over the next three days. Authorities are therefore keeping a close watch on water levels and surrounding geological conditions. The potential threat has added another challenge for rescue teams already working in extremely difficult terrain. Several roads and bridges have been damaged, leaving some areas difficult to access. Rescue workers must now balance the urgent search for survivors with the possibility of another flood or landslide. China has deployed additional fire and rescue personnel from Beijing and Chengdu to assist local police and emergency teams. Authorities have also evacuated residents from vulnerable areas on the Tibetan side of the border. The latest danger follows the massive flash flood that struck the region on August 26. A huge wall of mud and rock entered the Lhende River near the border, triggering a powerful surge that travelled downstream through the Bhote Kosi and Trishuli river systems in Nepal. The disaster has already caused a large number of deaths and left hundreds of people missing. Critical infrastructure has been destroyed, while rescue and relief operations remain underway on both sides of the border. The emergence of a new barrier lake highlights the continuing dangers facing the region even after the initial floodwaters have receded. With unstable slopes, blocked waterways and changing water levels posing additional risks, authorities are closely monitoring the situation. For rescuers, the priority remains finding survivors and providing emergency assistance, but the possibility of another sudden surge means operations must proceed with extreme caution.

Trump Team Defends Plan To Revoke 2 Lakh Visas

The Trump administration is preparing a major review of temporary US visas that could eventually lead to the cancellation of up to 2 lakh business and tourist visas. The move targets foreign nationals who entered the United States on temporary visas and later applied for asylum or sought to remain permanently.



US State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott defended the proposed action, saying that a US visa is "a privilege, not a right." He said the administration was targeting what it considers fraud and abuse in the visa system. The review mainly concerns B1 and B2 visas. B1 visas are generally issued for business travel, while B2 visas are meant for tourism, family visits and certain medical purposes. According to US officials, authorities are examining cases in which people entered the country claiming they intended to stay temporarily but later applied for asylum. The key issue is whether applicants misrepresented their intentions when they originally applied for their visas. The administration argues that temporary visas are issued with the expectation that visitors will eventually return to their home countries. If authorities determine that an applicant deliberately concealed an intention to remain permanently, officials could consider that fraud and revoke the visa.

However, applying for asylum after entering the US does not automatically mean that a person committed fraud. Authorities are specifically looking at whether the individual had already decided to remain permanently before obtaining the temporary visa and failed to disclose that intention during the visa process.

The State Department has not officially confirmed that exactly 2 lakh visas will be revoked. Officials have indicated that the figure could change as the review progresses and that the cancellations would take place in phases rather than all at once.

The review could affect nationals from several countries, including potentially Indians. However, US officials have not provided a specific figure for Indian nationals who could be affected and have not singled out India for special treatment.

The proposed action is part of President Donald Trump's broader immigration crackdown. His administration has increased scrutiny of visa applicants and taken several steps aimed at tightening both legal and illegal immigration.

Officials have also stressed that revoking a visa does not automatically mean immediate deportation for someone already in the United States with a pending asylum case. Their immigration status could instead be affected through separate legal procedures. The proposed mass cancellation could become one of the largest visa-revocation exercises in US history. It has already raised concerns among immigration advocates and could face legal challenges. For now, the administration says the focus is on preventing misuse of temporary visas. For foreign nationals holding US visitor visas, the latest policy sends a clear message that authorities are prepared to take action if they believe the original purpose of a visa was misrepresented.

China Denies Dam Link To Nepal Floods

China has rejected allegations that the devastating flash floods in Nepal were caused by the collapse of a "geological disaster dam" on the Chinese side of the border. Beijing has also dismissed claims that it failed to provide an early warning to Nepal before the disaster.

The flash floods struck areas around the Nepal-China border, causing widespread destruction and leaving hundreds of people dead or missing. Roads, bridges, power infrastructure and buildings were swept away by powerful torrents of water, mud and debris. Questions emerged in Nepal over whether a natural geological blockage or dam had formed upstream and later collapsed, sending a sudden surge of water into Nepal. There were also concerns about whether an earlier warning from Chinese authorities could have helped people living downstream move to safer locations.

China has rejected both allegations, calling them false. The Chinese Embassy in Nepal said



the disaster was triggered by an earthquake or earthquake-like event and a massive landslide, rather than the collapse of a geological dam on the Chinese side. However, preliminary geological and satellite assessments have pointed towards an ice-rock avalanche or glacial collapse as the likely trigger. The collapse sent huge quantities of ice, rock and debris into the Lhende Khola river,

generating a powerful downstream surge.

The event caused extensive destruction on both sides of the border. The floodwaters swept through settlements and damaged critical infrastructure, while rescue operations have been complicated by damaged roads, communication networks and difficult Himalayan terrain. Chinese authorities have launched

large-scale rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. Nepal and China are also coordinating their efforts to locate missing people and provide emergency assistance.

The disaster has renewed attention on the growing risks posed by unstable glaciers and mountain slopes in the Himalayas. Scientists have warned that rising temperatures, glacier melt and changing weather patterns could increase the likelihood of such extreme events.

The incident has also highlighted the importance of cross-border early-warning systems. Nepal and China have agreed to exchange meteorological information to improve preparedness for future disasters.

For now, China has firmly denied that a collapsed geological dam on its territory caused the Nepal floods. While investigations into the exact sequence of events continue, authorities on both sides are focusing on rescue, relief and preventing further disasters.

Putin Moves To Escalate Ukraine War As Talks Stall

Russia is preparing to intensify its military campaign in Ukraine after peace negotiations were reportedly pushed to a dead end, raising fresh concerns that the nearly four-year-old war could enter an even more dangerous phase.

People familiar with the Kremlin's thinking said Moscow is considering a new wave of powerful conventional ballistic missile strikes against Kyiv, including possible attacks on targets in the Ukrainian capital. Critical infrastructure in other Ukrainian cities could also come under increased pressure.

The development comes after months of diplomatic efforts aimed at finding a settlement. Negotiations involving the United States, Russia and Ukraine have so far failed to bridge major differences, particularly over territory and security guarantees. Recent discussions have produced little progress, leaving the two sides facing many of the same disagreements that have blocked a peace deal.

Russia's leadership reportedly



believes that economic pressure, Western sanctions and Ukrainian attacks on Russian infrastructure have not forced Moscow to change its position. Instead, the Kremlin appears increasingly prepared to rely on military pressure to achieve its objectives.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has stepped up attacks against Russian military and economic targets. Ukrainian drones have struck oil refineries, logistics facilities and other infrastructure inside Russia, adding to pressure on Moscow. The possibility of intensified Russian missile attacks has raised

concerns in Kyiv, particularly because Ukraine's air-defence systems are already under significant pressure. Western countries have been working to provide additional interceptor missiles and other air-defence equipment as Russian attacks continue. The latest developments also come amid growing concern over the future of US-led diplomatic efforts.

While Washington has continued to push for an end to the conflict, expectations of an immediate breakthrough have weakened considerably.

Russia has previously indicated

that it remains open to negotiations, but Moscow insists that any agreement must reflect what it describes as the "realities on the ground." Ukraine, on the other hand, has rejected demands that would require it to surrender territory.

The possibility of further escalation has also revived fears about how far Russia could go if conventional military pressure fails. However, there is currently no concrete indication that Moscow has decided to use nuclear weapons, and analysts continue to consider such a scenario highly unlikely.

For now, the biggest concern is a renewed intensification of conventional attacks. With diplomatic efforts struggling to produce results and both Russia and Ukraine continuing to target each other's military and strategic infrastructure, hopes for a quick end to the war appear increasingly distant. The latest situation suggests that instead of moving closer to a peace agreement, Moscow and Kyiv could once again be heading toward a more dangerous phase of the conflict.

Meta Agrees \$17 Billion Deal Over Teen Safety

Meta has agreed to pay up to \$17 billion to settle a major legal battle with US states over allegations that Facebook and Instagram were designed in ways that encouraged teenagers to spend excessive amounts of time on social media.

The settlement follows a closely watched legal dispute in which several US states accused Meta of deliberately creating features that could encourage addictive behaviour among young users. Authorities also alleged that the company failed to adequately protect children and teenagers from potential harms associated with its platforms.

Meta has denied wrongdoing. However, as part of the proposed settlement, the company has agreed to introduce several significant changes aimed at improving safety for users under the age of 18.

One of the most notable measures is a daily usage limit for teenage accounts. Under the proposed changes, teenagers would face restrictions on how long they can use Meta's social media platforms each day. Access would also be restricted during overnight hours, while notifications could be limited during school hours.

Meta is also expected to strengthen its age-verification systems. The company plans to improve its ability to identify underage users and prevent children from accessing features or content that may not be appropriate for their age. Parents could also receive greater control over their children's accounts. Enhanced parental controls are expected to give parents more information about their children's activity and allow them to manage certain aspects of their social media use. Some features that have faced criticism for encouraging excessive engagement could also be restricted for teenagers. These may include certain recommendation systems, personalised content and features designed to increase user interaction. The settlement comes amid growing concern in the United States about the impact of social media on children and teenagers. Parents, educators and lawmakers have increasingly questioned whether platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube are doing enough to protect young users.



Chinese Hackers Breach NASA, Senate In Major Attack

The United States has disrupted a major cyber-espionage operation allegedly linked to Chinese state-backed hackers that targeted several sensitive American government agencies and critical infrastructure networks.

US authorities said the hacking campaign involved a group known as QTFY and relied on two platforms, QScan and QTRouter. Law enforcement agencies seized internet domains associated with the platforms as part of an operation aimed at dismantling the hacking infrastructure. According to the US Justice Department, the hackers successfully breached or targeted several high-profile institutions, including NASA, the Federal Reserve, the US Senate, the Department of Justice, the Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health. The campaign also allegedly targeted the Department of Health and Human Services and several organisations in the private sector. Hospitals, universities, telecommunications companies, power providers, financial institutions and defence contractors were among the sectors reportedly targeted. Investigators said QTFY was connected to Nanjing Xinjiuwei Network Technology Company, a China-based technology firm. Court documents allege that the hacking group provided services to customers including China's Ministry of State Security and the People's Liberation Army. The hackers reportedly used QScan to scan internet-connected devices for vulnerabilities and automatically infect them. Those compromised devices were then incorporated into QTRouter, creating a large network that could be used to conduct further cyberattacks. The infrastructure also relied on commercial proxy services and rented virtual private servers. This allowed the attackers to hide the true origin of their activities and make it more difficult for investigators to trace the operations back to China.

US officials said the hacking campaign had been active since at least 2018. Investigators found evidence of successful data theft from defence contractors, financial institutions and universities, while several attempts to penetrate other networks were unsuccessful.



Iran, US Tensions Escalate Over Strait Of Hormuz

Tensions between Iran and the United States remain high as the two countries continue to face off over the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Fresh developments have raised concerns about the security of one of the world's most important oil routes. Iran and Oman have reportedly agreed to share revenues from the Strait of Hormuz, amid continuing uncertainty over the waterway. The development comes as efforts continue to manage tensions surrounding shipping and energy supplies in the region. The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial global trade route through which a

significant share of the world's oil supplies passes. Any prolonged disruption could therefore have consequences far beyond the Middle East, potentially pushing up crude prices and increasing pressure on energy-importing countries. The latest developments follow a series of warnings and threats between Washington and Tehran. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly warned Iran against actions that could threaten shipping through the strait. The United States has also increased pressure on Iran through sanctions and military measures. Iran, mean-

while, has maintained a tough position and warned that it will respond to attempts to restrict its economic activity or challenge its control over the region. The situation became more tense after an unidentified projectile struck a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, triggering a fire that was later brought under control. The incident added to concerns about the safety of commercial shipping in the strategically important waterway. The Strait of Hormuz has become a major centre of the wider US-Iran confrontation. Washington has sought to pressure



Tehran economically while keeping military options

open, whereas Iran has resisted US demands and warned against further escalation. The crisis is also being closely watched by countries that depend heavily on energy imports. Any major disruption to oil shipments could lead to higher crude prices, increased transportation costs and renewed inflationary pressures across global economies. For India, the situation is particularly important because the country is one of the world's largest energy importers and has significant trade and strategic interests in the Gulf region. Higher oil prices

could increase India's import bill and put additional pressure on domestic fuel prices and inflation. Diplomatic efforts remain crucial as both sides consider their next steps. Although there have been attempts at negotiations and mediation, deep disagreements between Washington and Tehran continue to make a lasting settlement difficult. For now, the Strait of Hormuz remains a major geopolitical flashpoint. Any military confrontation or prolonged disruption could have serious consequences for global energy markets, international trade and regional stability.

Adani Enterprises Gains As Motilal Oswal Says Buy



Shares of Adani Enterprises gained more than 1.5 percent on August 27 after domestic brokerage Motilal Oswal Financial Services initiated coverage on the stock with a 'Buy' rating. The brokerage set a target price of Rs 3,880 per share, indicating significant upside from the prevailing market level. At around 1:40 pm, Adani Enterprises shares were trading 1.7 percent higher at Rs 3,164.40 apiece, making the stock one of the stronger performers on the Nifty 50 index. The positive movement came despite broader weakness in the Indian equity market. Motilal Oswal's bullish view is based on Adani Enterprises' diversified business portfolio, strong market position and its ability to develop and scale new businesses. The brokerage believes the company is positioned to emerge as a leading global infrastructure platform as India's investment and infrastructure cycle gathers momentum. According to the brokerage, Adani Enterprises' incubator-led business model is one of its major strengths. The company has historically developed new businesses within the group before scaling them into independent operations. Motilal Oswal expects this model to continue creating value as newer businesses mature and contribute more significantly to earnings. The brokerage estimates that Adani Enterprises' consolidated revenue, EBITDA and profit after tax could grow at approximately 22 percent, 29 percent and 82 percent respectively between FY26 and FY29. The expected growth is likely to be supported by expansion across business verticals, improving margins and a rising contribution from relatively high-margin businesses. Motilal Oswal also expects the company's incubated businesses to become increasingly important growth drivers. Its diversified exposure across infrastructure and emerging sectors provides multiple avenues for expansion, reducing dependence on any single business segment. The brokerage's valuation uses a sum-of-the-parts approach, reflecting the different growth prospects and valuations of Adani Enterprises' various businesses. Based on this methodology, it arrived at the Rs 3,880 target price. However, the brokerage also highlighted several risks. These include delays in project execution, higher-than-expected capital expenditure, regulatory or policy changes, commodity price fluctuations and slower-than-anticipated ramp-up of new businesses. The latest recommendation comes at a time when Adani Enterprises has already witnessed strong market interest. The stock has been among the better-performing large-cap names this year, supported by expectations of earnings growth and expansion across its infrastructure portfolio. With Motilal Oswal initiating coverage with a Buy rating and projecting further upside, investor attention is now likely to remain focused on the company's upcoming projects, earnings trajectory and ability to execute its ambitious expansion plans.

boAt FY26 Profit Jumps 38% To Rs 84.5 Crore

Indian consumer electronics brand boAt has reported a strong improvement in profitability for the financial year 2025-26. The company recorded a 38 percent rise in profit after tax to Rs 84.5 crore, compared with Rs 61.1 crore in the previous financial year. boAt is owned by Imagine Marketing Limited. According to the company, its revenue from operations stood at Rs 2,931 crore in FY26. The improved profitability comes as the company worked to strengthen its core business while expanding into newer product categories. One of the biggest positive developments was the turnaround in boAt's wearables business. The segment, which had reported a loss of around Rs 54 crore in FY25, became profitable in FY26, recording a profit of approximately Rs 7 crore. The turnaround highlights the company's efforts to improve margins and operating efficiency in a highly competitive consumer electronics market. The company's other business segment also delivered significant growth. This segment includes products such as charging solutions, cables and gaming accessories. Profit from these categories increased to Rs 46 crore in FY26 from Rs 14 crore a year earlier. boAt also witnessed strong growth in its international business. Revenue from overseas markets more than doubled during the year, rising to Rs 45 crore from approximately Rs 20 crore in FY25. The company is increasingly looking at international markets as an important avenue for future expansion. Commenting on the financial performance, boAt CEO Gaurav Nayyar said the company had focused on strengthening its foundations while dealing with a challenging external environment. He highlighted the improvement across various parts of the business and said newer categories were beginning to emerge as meaningful sources of growth and profitability. The company also ended FY26 with approximately Rs 397 crore in cash reserves and zero bank debt. A stronger balance sheet is expected to give boAt greater flexibility as it expands its product portfolio and enters new markets. Going forward, boAt plans to move from a turnaround-focused strategy towards growth. The company intends to build on its leadership in audio products while developing new growth engines across international markets and consumer technology categories. These newer categories include projectors, grooming products and charging solutions. The company is also expected to continue strengthening its presence in its traditional audio and wearable segments. The FY26 results indicate that boAt has made progress in improving profitability, controlling costs and diversifying its revenue sources. With its wearables business turning profitable and international revenue increasing sharply, the company is now looking to build on this momentum and accelerate its next phase of growth.



Sensex Plunges 539 Points, Nifty Slips Below 24,100

Indian equity markets extended their losing streak on Thursday, August 27, with benchmark indices ending sharply lower amid expiry-related volatility, profit booking and weakness in key heavyweight stocks. The Nifty 50 slipped below the crucial 24,100 mark, while the Sensex declined by around 539 points during the session. The Nifty closed at 24,090.85, down 117 points or around 0.48 percent. The Sensex ended at 76,933.59, falling 539 points, or about 0.70 percent. The decline came despite broader Asian markets largely trading higher, highlighting the cautious mood among domestic investors. One of the biggest drags on the market was HDFC Bank. The stock declined around 2.2 percent and touched its lowest level in nearly two-and-a-half years. Investor sentiment was affected by reports of a US class-action lawsuit involving the bank and two senior executives, along with uncertainty surrounding the renewal of CEO



Sashidhar Jagdishan's tenure. The market also witnessed significant movement in individual stocks. ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company shares fell around 4 percent following a large block deal. On the other hand, Adani Energy Solutions gained about 2 percent after Morgan Stanley maintained an 'Overweight' rating on the stock.

Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation surged 11 percent following relief from the Supreme Court, while Juniper Green Energy declined 7 percent despite reporting strong quarterly earnings. Skipper also advanced after securing fresh orders worth Rs 1,305 crore. Sector-wise, the performance remained mixed. Selective buying was seen in phar-

maceutical and healthcare stocks, while the capital market index declined more than 1 percent. The Nifty Pharma index was among the stronger performers, gaining around 0.84 percent, while PSU banks, FMCG and financial stocks faced pressure. The rupee also weakened against the US dollar. It ended at Rs 95.54 per dollar, compared with Rs 95.41 in the previous session. Analysts have warned that the market's short-term structure remains weak. According to Kotak Securities, the Nifty could see a technical rebound if it sustains above the 24,100 level. A move above that zone could take the index towards 24,250-24,300. However, a break below 24,000 could intensify selling pressure and push the Nifty towards 23,900-23,850. Overall, Thursday's session reflected continued caution among investors, with expiry-related volatility and concerns over global and domestic factors weighing on sentiment.

Happiest Minds Shares Fall 6% On Stake Sale Buzz

Shares of Happiest Minds Technologies came under pressure on August 27, falling around 6 percent after reports indicated that ITC Infotech could acquire a stake held by the company's promoter. The development revived investor focus on the potential ownership change at the Bengaluru-based IT services firm. The stock has been under the spotlight since reports emerged that ITC Infotech had emerged as the frontrunner to acquire a majority stake in Happiest Minds. Earlier reports said the contours of the transaction, including the size of the stake, valuation and deal structure, were still being finalised. Happiest Minds founder and Executive Chairman Ashok Soota has been exploring the possibility of selling his stake in the company. Soota holds more than 32 percent directly and over 40 percent through other promoter holdings. Ashok Soota Medical Research LLP separately holds around 11.8 percent in the company.



The proposed transaction could have significant implications for Happiest Minds. If ITC Infotech acquires Soota's promoter stake and crosses the relevant regulatory threshold, it would be required to make a mandatory open offer to the company's public shareholders under SEBI takeover regulations. ITC Infotech's potential interest is also significant because the acquisition could strengthen its presence in digital transformation,

artificial intelligence and technology services. For Happiest Minds, a strategic investor with access to greater resources could provide additional opportunities for expansion and scale. The company has been operating in a challenging environment for the IT services sector, although its recent financial performance has shown signs of improvement. Happiest Minds reported consolidated revenue of Rs 628.51 crore

for the June 2026 quarter, representing a 14.3 percent year-on-year increase. The proposed stake sale comes after a period of weakness in the Happiest Minds stock. Earlier in 2026, reports said Soota had appointed JM Financial to evaluate strategic options, including a possible sale of his holding. At that stage, discussions were described as preliminary, with valuation emerging as an important consideration. The potential deal has therefore become a key trigger for the stock. Investors are closely watching whether the reported transaction progresses, what valuation is ultimately agreed upon and whether ITC Infotech proceeds with a mandatory open offer. For now, the reported stake-sale discussions remain the major focus surrounding Happiest Minds. Any official announcement regarding the transaction, valuation or ownership structure could have a significant impact on the stock in the coming sessions.

HDFC Bank Drag Sends Sensex, Nifty Lower

Indian equity markets remained under pressure on Thursday as weakness in HDFC Bank weighed heavily on the benchmark indices. The private-sector lender's shares fell sharply following reports of a securities class-action lawsuit filed in the United States, adding to concerns surrounding the bank and contributing to a weak market breadth. HDFC Bank shares declined more than 2 percent during the session, touching a fresh 52-week low. The stock became one of the biggest drags on the Nifty 50 because of its significant weight in the benchmark index. By the end of trading, HDFC Bank closed around 2.1 percent lower. The US lawsuit was filed by investor Jwalant Natvarlal Soneji in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. The complaint alleges securities-law violations and claims that certain payments made to the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation were improperly disclosed. The allegations relate to the period between July 2023 and May 2026. HDFC Bank has rejected the allegations. A bank spokesperson said shareholder lawsuits of this nature are common in the US after a company's stock price declines and maintained that the claims



are without merit. The bank said it intends to defend itself vigorously. The legal development comes at a sensitive time for HDFC Bank, which is already facing investor concerns over leadership and other regulatory issues. Uncertainty surrounding CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan's tenure, which ends in October, has also contributed to the cautious sentiment surrounding the stock. The broader market also struggled during the session. The Nifty slipped below 24,150 during trading and was down for a second consecutive session, while the

Sensex also remained in negative territory. Market breadth was weak, with declining stocks outnumbering gainers across the exchanges. Most sectors traded in the red, with selling pressure visible in IT, FMCG and metal stocks. Consumer durable and pharmaceutical shares, however, witnessed buying interest and provided some support. Broader markets remained relatively lacklustre, with small- and mid-cap stocks also facing pressure. Global cues offered limited relief. Asian mar-

kets ended mixed, while European markets largely remained lower. Meanwhile, softer crude oil prices and gains in US Nasdaq futures provided some support to investor sentiment. By the close, the Nifty 50 ended at 24,090.85, down 116.90 points or 0.48 percent, while the Sensex settled at 76,933.59, declining 539 points or 0.70 percent. The session highlighted how stock-specific developments, particularly involving heavyweight companies such as HDFC Bank, can have a significant impact on overall market sentiment.

TD Power Shares Rise 5% On Brokerage Outlook

Shares of TD Power Systems bounced back on Thursday, August 27, rising as much as 5 percent and snapping a two-session losing streak. The stock climbed after brokerage Monarch Network Capital maintained its 'Hold' rating while highlighting strong growth opportunities linked to artificial intelligence, data centres and global power demand. TD Power Systems shares touched an intraday high of Rs 765.50 on the NSE, gaining nearly 5 percent. The stock had fallen more than 7 percent during the previous two trading sessions, making Thursday's recovery particularly notable. Monarch Network Capital said TD Power Systems is

well positioned to benefit from the rapidly expanding global AI and data-centre power cycle. According to the brokerage, exports are likely to remain the company's key growth engine over the medium term. The brokerage also pointed to ongoing debottlenecking and planned capacity expansion as important factors that could help TD Power take advantage of its strong order pipeline. A possible entry into large generators could further expand the company's addressable market and provide additional growth opportunities beyond FY28. Demand for the company's gas engines and gas turbines remains strong, supported by

increasing electricity requirements from AI and data centres as well as the broader need for captive power generation. TD Power Systems recorded a strong order inflow in the first quarter of FY27. Order inflows surged 87.4 percent year-on-year to Rs 7.3 billion, with exports and deemed exports accounting for 93.1 percent of the total. The company's order backlog stood at Rs 22.1 billion, providing visibility for future revenue growth. Management expects quarterly order inflows of around Rs 7 billion, according to the brokerage. Monarch Network Capital estimates that revenue, EBITDA and profit after tax could grow at



compound annual growth rates of 32.3 percent, 36.8 percent and 34.9 percent respectively between FY26 and FY28. The company's latest financial performance has also strengthened the brokerage's confidence. EBITDA increased 76.7 percent year-on-year to Rs 1,216 million, while the EBITDA margin expanded to 19 percent. Profit after tax rose 72.3 percent year-on-year to Rs 863 million. Despite the positive outlook, Monarch Network Capital retained its 'Hold' rating and assigned a tar-

get price of Rs 756 per share, implying limited upside from the previous closing price. The brokerage's stance suggests that much of the company's growth potential may already be reflected in its valuation. TD Power Systems has nevertheless attracted strong investor interest over the past year. The stock has gained substantially, supported by strong earnings, rising orders and growing expectations around power demand from AI and data-centre infrastructure. The latest rebound indicates that investors continue to closely track the company's expansion plans and its ability to convert the strong order pipeline into sustained earnings growth.

Partial Lunar Eclipse Falls On Raksha Bandhan

Raksha Bandhan 2026 will coincide with a rare celestial event-a partial lunar eclipse. This has raised questions among devotees about whether the eclipse will affect Rakhi rituals, auspicious timings and the Satak period. The partial lunar eclipse will occur on August 28, 2026, the day Raksha Bandhan is celebrated. During the eclipse, a significant portion of the Moon will pass through the Earth's shadow. However, the eclipse will not be visible from India because the Moon

will be below the horizon when the event takes place. It will be visible from several other parts of the world, including regions of Europe, Africa and the Americas. The visibility of a lunar eclipse is traditionally considered important when determining whether Satak, the period observed before an eclipse, applies. In areas where an eclipse is not visible, many Hindu traditions and Panchang calculations do not consider the Satak period applicable. Therefore, people in India are generally

not expected to follow eclipse-related restrictions for Raksha Bandhan this year. This means that the Rakhi ceremony can be performed normally in India. Sisters can tie Rakhi on their brothers' wrists, perform the traditional prayers and exchange sweets without having to postpone the rituals because of the lunar eclipse. According to Panchang calculations, the morning hours of August 28 are considered suitable for tying Rakhi. Some Panchangs indicate an



auspicious period from around 5:57 am to 9:48 am. Devotees, however, may follow the exact timing prescribed by their local Panchang, as auspicious timings can vary depending on location and tradition. The eclipse also does not appear to interfere significantly with the traditional Raksha Bandhan rituals in India because it will not be visible here. Families following specific customs may nevertheless consult their local priest or astrologer for guidance.

Thus, despite the unusual coincidence of Raksha Bandhan and a partial lunar eclipse, there is no need for widespread concern in India. The festival can be celebrated as usual, with brothers and sisters observing their customary rituals and strengthening the bond of love and protection that Raksha Bandhan represents. The celestial event may add an interesting dimension to this year's festival, but for devotees in India, the eclipse is not expected to disrupt the traditional celebrations.

Couple Gets Surprise Wedding At 35,000 Feet

A couple heading to Las Vegas for a private elopement got an unexpected wedding celebration in the skies after the flight crew decided to turn their journey into a memorable occasion. Sara Arroyo Montalvo and her partner were travelling to Las Vegas on August 13, 2026, planning to get married privately after reaching their destination. However, when the Southwest Airlines flight attendants learned about their plans, they decided to surprise the couple with an impromptu wedding ceremony aboard the aircraft. The unusual wedding took place at an altitude of around 35,000 feet, with 178 passengers becoming witnesses to the ceremony. Adding another remarkable twist to the occasion, the flight's captain was an ordained minister and agreed to officiate the wedding. The crew went a step further by creating wedding accessories using whatever was available on the plane. Flight attendants made



a veil and even a one-ply wedding dress using toilet paper. The bride's bouquet was created from Southwest coffee stir sticks, giving the ceremony a humorous but unforgettable touch. Montalvo later shared her experience on social media, expressing gratitude to the airline staff for turning what was supposed to be a private elopement into a celebra-

tion witnessed by an entire aircraft. She described the experience as a moment when "fate" seemed perfectly aligned. The couple's first flight with Southwest Airlines unexpectedly became part of their wedding story. The passengers also embraced the celebration, with many congratulating the newlyweds and cheering

for them during the ceremony. The heartwarming incident quickly attracted attention online after Montalvo shared details and images from the unusual wedding. Social media users praised the flight crew for their kindness and creativity. Several commenters described the midair wedding as a beautiful example of a spontaneous gesture turning an ordinary journey into a lifelong memory. The story also prompted some online discussion about the legal aspects of getting married while flying, including questions about marriage licences and where such a ceremony would be legally registered. However, the emotional significance of the event remained the main focus for viewers. What began as a quiet plan to elope in Las Vegas ultimately became a wedding celebrated 35,000 feet above the ground, surrounded by 178 unexpected witnesses. For the couple, the journey to their new life together became a story they are unlikely to forget.

Kerala Lottery SS-534 Results Announced, Jackpot Won



The Kerala State Lotteries Department has announced the results of the Threer Sakthi SS-534 weekly lottery draw, with a first prize of Rs 1 crore. The draw was conducted on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at Gorky Bhavan near Bakery Junction in Thiruvananthapuram. The winning ticket for the coveted first prize is SE 974999, sold in Ernakulam. The lucky ticket holder will receive Rs 1 crore, subject to applicable taxes and the rules prescribed by the Kerala State Lotteries Department. The Threer Sakthi lottery is part of Kerala's weekly lottery programme and is conducted every Tuesday. The ticket price is Rs 50, while a full book of tickets costs Rs 750. The lottery attracts a large number of participants who look forward to the weekly draw and its substantial prize amounts. The second prize in the SS-534 draw is worth Rs 30 lakh. It was won by ticket SL 541135, while the third prize of Rs 5 lakh went to ticket SK 838192. These prizes are awarded according to the official winning-number list released following the draw. Apart from the top three prizes, the lottery also offers several lower-tier prizes. The fourth prize is Rs 5,000, the fifth prize is Rs 2,000, the sixth prize is Rs 1,000 and the seventh prize is Rs 500. A consolation prize of Rs 5,000 is also awarded to eligible tickets from other series matching the first-prize number. The draw was held at 3 pm in Thiruvananthapuram. Participants are advised to carefully compare their complete ticket number and series with the official result before making any claim. Lottery winners must preserve the original ticket safely and follow the Kerala State Lotteries Department's prescribed procedure to claim their prize. Winners should also verify the result through the official government publication or gazette rather than relying solely on unofficial websites. With the Rs 1 crore jackpot going to an Ernakulam ticket, the SS-534 draw has once again brought a major windfall to one fortunate participant.

Bengaluru Auto Driver's Kind Gesture Wins Hearts

A simple act of kindness by a Bengaluru autorickshaw driver has won widespread appreciation online after he stopped to help a woman whose scooter had broken down on the road. The heartwarming incident was captured by Chetna Saraf, who was travelling in an Uber auto during a short visit to Bengaluru. She noticed another auto driver moving alongside a woman riding a scooter and initially wondered what he was doing. She soon realised that the woman's scooter had developed a mechanical problem and the driver was helping her get it to a safer place. According to Saraf, the driver continued helping the stranded woman for around 10 to 15 minutes. He carefully used his foot and, at times, his hand to push and guide the scooter while driving his autorickshaw alongside it. His priority appeared to be keeping the two-wheeler balanced and ensuring the woman could move safely along the road. Saraf said the driver stayed with the woman until she reached a location where she could get further assistance. Although she recorded only part of the incident, the gesture left a lasting impression on her. She later shared the video on



Instagram with the message, "Uber India needs to see this," and identified the driver as Tanzeem. Saraf also urged Uber India to recognise his helpfulness, saying that he deserved appreciation and even a raise for his gesture. The video quickly went viral, receiving more than 7.8 million views and thousands of comments. Social media users praised Tanzeem for stepping in to help a stranger without apparently expecting anything

in return. Many viewers said such incidents restore their faith in humanity. Some users described the driver as a responsible citizen and praised Bengaluru's culture of warmth and helpfulness. Others noted that positive stories like this deserve to be shared more often because they can inspire people to help others in similar situations. The incident is another reminder that acts of kindness do not always require money or

extraordinary effort. Sometimes, simply stopping for a stranger in trouble and offering a helping hand can make a significant difference. For the woman whose scooter broke down, Tanzeem's timely assistance turned what could have been a stressful situation into a reassuring experience. For millions who watched the video, his small gesture became a powerful example of compassion on Bengaluru's busy roads.

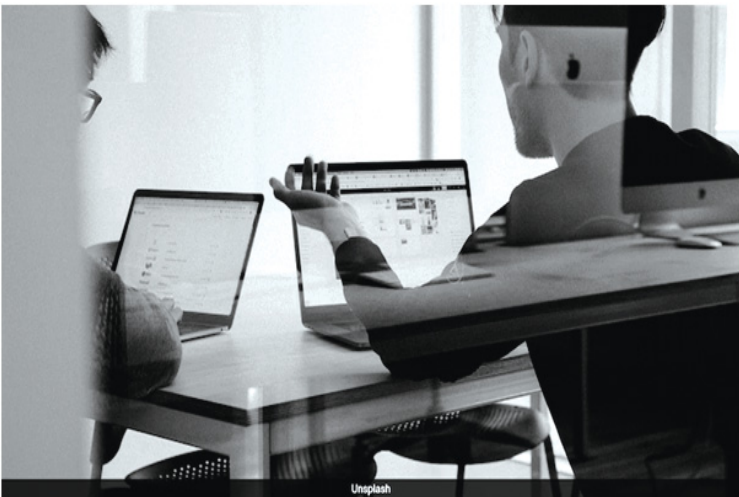
US Snack Detective Says Indian Food Changed Everything



Indian food has made such a strong impression on a US-based food content creator that he says it has completely changed the way he experiences other cuisines. His humorous confession about Indian flavours has now gone viral on social media, with food lovers reacting enthusiastically to his comments. In a video shared on August 27, the creator, Ed Nathanson, described what he called his "problem with Indian food." According to him, discovering Indian cuisine several years ago completely transformed his taste preferences. He jokingly suggested that Indian food had "ruined" other cuisines for him because of the depth and variety of flavours he experienced. Nathanson recalled discovering Indian food around four and a half to five years ago. His reaction was immediate and dramatic. He compared the experience to a moment of revelation, saying that it felt as though the heavens had opened and he had been invited into a world of delicious food. His comments highlight the growing popularity of Indian cuisine among international food enthusiasts. Indian food is known for its extensive use of spices, herbs, sauces and regional cooking techniques. From creamy curries and aromatic biryanis to dosas, chaats and street-food favourites, the country's culinary traditions offer an enormous range of flavours and textures. For many people unfamiliar with Indian cuisine, the combination of spices can initially seem intense. However, once they become familiar with the flavours, Indian dishes can become a favourite. Nathanson's experience appears to reflect exactly that journey. The video quickly attracted attention online, particularly among Indian viewers who found his description both amusing and flattering. Social media users often share similar experiences when foreigners discover Indian food and become enthusiastic about regional dishes. What makes the video particularly entertaining is Nathanson's framing of his experience as a "problem." Rather than complaining about Indian cuisine, he was effectively saying that it had raised his expectations so high that other food no longer seemed as exciting. His comments also underline the cultural influence of food. Indian cuisine has travelled far beyond the country's borders, with restaurants, chefs and food creators introducing regional Indian dishes to audiences around the world. The viral reaction to Nathanson's video shows that food can become a powerful bridge between cultures. For this US snack enthusiast, discovering Indian cuisine was not simply about trying something new-it changed what he expected from food altogether.

Fresher Saves Company From Rs 30 Lakh Loss

A newly hired business school graduate has made a remarkable first impression after spotting a major calculation error on his very first day at work, potentially saving his company and an important client from a loss of Rs 30 lakh. The incident was shared on LinkedIn by Abhishek Agarwal, who described how the young employee had just joined the organisation after graduating from a reputed business school. On his first day, Agarwal asked the fresher to familiarise himself with the company's active client accounts. Later that day, Agarwal reviewed and signed an important report before sending it to a key client. The new employee was included in the email. Shortly afterwards, the graduate walked into his manager's office and pointed out what he believed was a serious calculation mistake on page four of the report. Initially, Agarwal was not convinced. He said he had already checked the document twice and believed the figures were correct. However, he decided to examine the calculation once again after the fresher raised the concern.



The young employee turned out to be right. The error was significant and could have resulted in a financial loss of around Rs 30 lakh for the client. It could also have created serious consequences for the company, including the possibility of legal action. Realising the seriousness of the situation, Agarwal immediately contacted the client, sent a corrected version of the report and apolo-

gised for the mistake. Instead of damaging the business relationship, the company's quick response had an unexpected positive outcome. Impressed by the transparency and prompt correction, the client decided to extend the company's contract for an upcoming project. They also specifically requested that the same team continue handling their account. When Agarwal later thanked the

young employee for speaking up, the graduate revealed that he had previously faced criticism for being too straightforward. He said he had even lost an internship after pointing out a similar problem. This time, however, his willingness to question the numbers proved invaluable. Agarwal said the experience reinforced an important lesson for companies: fresh graduates should not automatically be treated as liabilities. New employees can bring analytical thinking, fresh perspectives and the confidence to question information that experienced workers may overlook. The incident also highlights the importance of creating workplaces where employees feel comfortable raising concerns, regardless of their seniority. For this fresher, the first day at his new job could hardly have gone better. Within hours of joining, he identified a costly mistake, protected an important client relationship and demonstrated why giving young employees the freedom to speak up can benefit an entire organisation.

Sri Lanka Escape Defeat As India Miss Series Sweep

India's hopes of completing a 2-0 Test series sweep over Sri Lanka were dashed as the second and final Test in Colombo ended in a dramatic draw. Sri Lanka produced a remarkable resistance on the fifth day after being forced to follow on, frustrating India's bowlers and securing a hard-fought result. India had dominated large portions of the Test. After scoring 503/9 declared in their first innings, India bowled Sri Lanka out for 290 and secured a massive 213-run first-innings lead. Captain Shubman Gill's side then enforced the follow-on, putting the hosts under enormous pressure. Sri Lanka, however, refused to surrender. After reaching 229/6 at the end of the fourth



day, the hosts continued their determined fight on Day 5. Sonal Dinusha emerged as the star of the resistance, producing an outstanding unbeaten century to keep

India waiting for the final wickets. Dinusha's performance was particularly significant. He scored 103 in Sri Lanka's first innings and followed it with another century in the second innings. His second hundred made him only the eighth Sri Lankan batter to score centuries in both innings of a Test against India. He also became one of the very few batters to register four consecutive fifty-plus scores in a two-match Test series against India. India's bowlers had earlier put Sri Lanka under considerable pressure. Manav Suthar was among the stand-out performers during the series, finishing with 16 wickets. Saransh Jain also played an important role in

the second Test, repeatedly breaking crucial partnerships. On the final day, Sri Lanka's lower order showed tremendous resilience. Dinusha and Lahiru Kumara consumed valuable deliveries and denied India the wickets needed to force a victory. By the tea interval, Sri Lanka had reached 383/8, with a 170-run lead after being asked to follow on. Rain had already disrupted the Test on earlier days and remained an important factor in Colombo. The interruptions reduced India's opportunities to bowl Sri Lanka out and eventually played a significant role in the match ending without a result. Despite the draw, India had

already established their dominance in the series by winning the opening Test by 165 runs. The result in Colombo therefore meant India finished the two-match series with a 1-0 victory. For Sri Lanka, the draw was almost equivalent to a victory considering their difficult position after the follow-on. Their determined batting, led by Dinusha, prevented India from completing what appeared to be a likely series sweep. The Colombo Test will therefore be remembered for Sri Lanka's extraordinary fightback after following on and Dinusha's record-setting batting performance, while India will reflect on a missed opportunity to finish the series with another win.³

Dhoni's 25% CSK Stake Claim Sparks Debate



MS Dhoni and Chennai Super Kings have long been considered inseparable in the IPL, but a fresh report has sparked speculation about a possible rift between the former captain and the franchise. According to reports, Dhoni had allegedly sought a 25 percent stake in CSK, later reducing his demand, while the franchise reportedly offered him a much smaller stake. The development has attracted considerable attention because Dhoni has been one of the most influential figures in CSK's history. Under his leadership, the franchise won five IPL titles and established itself as one of the competition's biggest brands. Although Dhoni did not play a single match in IPL 2026, he continued to remain an important figure around the team. However, former India cricketer and ex-Kolkata Knight Riders batter Aakash Chopra has questioned the credibility of the reported stake negotiations. Chopra described the alleged 25 percent demand as unrealistic, pointing to the enormous valuation of the CSK franchise. Chopra noted that if CSK were valued at around \$1.8 billion, a 25 percent stake would be worth roughly \$450 million. He argued that it would be highly unlikely for a franchise owner to simply hand over such a substantial ownership share to an individual. The former cricketer also questioned reports that Dhoni's alleged demand was subsequently reduced and that CSK eventually offered him a stake of around 5.5 percent. According to Chopra, even a stake of that size would represent a significant financial value given CSK's current valuation. Chopra stopped short of calling the report fake news because he said he did not have verified information. However, he expressed his personal belief that the entire story could have been planted. He questioned the sequence of the alleged negotiations, from a 25 percent demand to a lower figure and finally a reported 5.5 percent offer. The speculation comes at an interesting stage in Dhoni's association with CSK. The veteran has seen his playing role diminish in recent seasons, while the franchise has already transitioned its captaincy to Ruturaj Gaikwad. Despite that, Dhoni's influence and popularity remain enormous. His five IPL titles with CSK, long association with the franchise and status as one of the most successful captains in IPL history have made him synonymous with the team. For now, neither Dhoni nor CSK has publicly confirmed the reported stake discussions. Until an official statement emerges, the 25 percent ownership claim remains unverified, with Chopra's comments adding another layer to an already intriguing CSK-Dhoni story.

India Remain Fifth In Updated WTC Table

India remain in fifth position in the World Test Championship 2025-27 points table after the second Test against Sri Lanka ended in a draw in Colombo. The result denied Shubman Gill and his team a series clean sweep and also prevented India from making a significant jump in the WTC standings. India had entered the Colombo Test with an opportunity to move closer to the top four after winning the opening Test in Galle by 165 runs. A victory in the second Test would have given India another valuable 12 WTC points and improved their points percentage considerably. Instead, the drawn match earned both teams four points each under the WTC points system. The draw means India finish the two-Test Sri Lanka tour with one victory and one draw. Their WTC campaign therefore receives a modest boost rather than the major lift that a second successive victory would have provided. India remain fifth in the table, with their points percentage



still below the leading teams. The outcome is particularly frustrating because India appeared to be in complete control of the Colombo Test. After taking a substantial first-innings lead, Gill's side enforced the follow-on and put Sri Lanka under immense pressure. However, the hosts produced a

remarkable fightback and managed to save the Test, becoming the first Sri Lankan side to save a Test against India after being forced to follow on. For Gill, the result means the road to the WTC final has become more demanding. India still have plenty of matches remaining in the championship cycle, but

they will need to convert more opportunities into victories, particularly in the upcoming series. Every drawn Test now becomes significant because teams are ranked according to points percentage rather than simply their total points. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, remain sixth in the standings. Despite avoiding a series defeat, the draw does not dramatically improve their position because they were already behind India on points percentage. The top two teams at the end of the WTC league stage will qualify for the final, making every point crucial. India's immediate objective will therefore be to build consistency and avoid further dropped opportunities. The Colombo result may ultimately prove costly if the competition at the top remains tight. India have shown enough quality to challenge for a place in the final, but Gill's team will now need a strong run of results in their remaining WTC fixtures to keep their qualification hopes firmly alive.

AB de Villiers Clarifies Kohli-Sachin Comparison

South African cricket legend AB de Villiers has clarified his recent comments comparing Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar after facing criticism from fans on social media. De Villiers had sparked controversy by suggesting that Kohli was stronger than Tendulkar in challenging overseas conditions. While praising Tendulkar as a pioneer who showed Indian batters that they could succeed in seaming and bouncy conditions, he said Kohli took that standard forward and raised the bar. The comments quickly triggered a debate among cricket fans, particularly those who regard Tendulkar as one of the greatest batters in the history of the sport. Several social media users questioned de Villiers' assessment and pointed to Tendulkar's extraordinary record across formats and conditions. Following the backlash, de Villiers returned to the subject and clarified that his comments were being misunderstood. He stressed that



the comparison represented his personal opinion and was not intended to diminish Tendulkar's achievements. De Villiers acknowledged that Tendulkar was the first major Indian batter to demonstrate how successfully a player from the subcontinent could perform around the world. According to him, Tendulkar showed younger generations what was required to maintain consistency in different playing conditions. He also explained why he rated Kohli highly. De Villiers highlight-

ed Kohli's ability to handle the short ball and his overall approach to batting in demanding overseas conditions. He said Kohli brought a different dimension to Indian batting and inspired several younger players to follow his example. Importantly, de Villiers admitted that Kohli's overseas Test statistics do not match Tendulkar's. He specifically acknowledged that Kohli struggled at times in England. However, he argued that statistics alone do not completely

define a player's quality or influence. The South African great said he believed Kohli displayed the confidence and balanced approach needed to succeed outside India. In his view, Kohli learned from the foundation established by Tendulkar and subsequently carried it forward. The clarification has attempted to put the controversy into perspective. Rather than suggesting that Tendulkar's achievements were inferior, de Villiers said his comments were about how he personally viewed the evolution of Indian batting. Both Tendulkar and Kohli remain towering figures in Indian cricket, with each leaving an enormous impact on the game. Their careers belong to different eras, making direct comparisons difficult and often subjective. De Villiers' latest comments therefore appear aimed at ending the debate while making it clear that his admiration for both Indian batting legends remains intact.

Anaya Bangar Gets Green Light For WBBL

Anaya Bangar, daughter of former India cricketer Sanjay Bangar, has received a significant boost in her cricketing career after Cricket Australia confirmed that she can pursue elite women's cricket in the country from March 2027. The development could open a pathway for Anaya to compete in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), one of the premier women's T20 competitions. However, the clearance does not guarantee her a place in a WBBL franchise. She will still need to meet the eligibility requirements and earn an opportunity through her performances. Anaya announced the development on social media, describing it as an extremely emotional moment. She said there was a stage when she believed she had lost cricket forever, but Cricket Australia's decision has given her an opportunity to return to the sport she has loved since childhood. Cricket Australia's decision follows an assessment under its policy governing transgender and gender-diverse players in elite cricket. The approval is based on the med-



ical information provided by Anaya and remains subject to her continuing to satisfy the applicable eligibility requirements. Until March 2027, Anaya can participate in Premier Cricket competitions in Australia. These competitions are classified separately from elite cricket under Cricket Australia's policy. The former Mumbai age-group cricketer has already begun preparing for her comeback. Her immediate focus is expected to be on rebuilding her fitness, match practice and overall cricketing skills before attempting to make the jump to the elite level. The WBBL opportunity would represent another major step in that journey. The league uses an overseas-player contracting and draft system, meaning Anaya would

still have to impress franchises sufficiently to earn a place in a squad. Anaya has made it clear that simply receiving eligibility is only the beginning. She now needs to prove herself on the field through her batting, bowling, fielding and fitness. Her journey has attracted considerable attention because she had previously feared that her cricket career might have ended after her transition. She had also sought clarity from the BCCI regarding opportunities to play women's cricket in India but did not receive a response. For now, Australia has provided her with a pathway back into competitive cricket. The next challenge will be turning that opportunity into consistent performances and, eventually, a WBBL contract. If she succeeds, Anaya Bangar could become one of the most closely watched emerging names in women's cricket, with her comeback representing both a personal milestone and a significant moment in the evolving conversation around participation in elite sport.

Mbappe Hat-Trick Powers Real Madrid To Victory

Kylian Mbappe delivered a sensational performance as Real Madrid defeated Real Sociedad 4-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu. The victory gave Jose Mourinho a winning start in his first home game since returning as Real Madrid manager and helped the Spanish giants make it two wins from two in LaLiga. Real Madrid opened the scoring in the 40th minute when Federico Valverde found Mbappe inside the box. The French forward cut inside before firing a precise left-footed shot into the corner. Real Sociedad responded almost immediately. Luka Sucic equalised in the 44th minute after the ball fell to him inside the penalty area following a rebound. The teams went into half-time level at 1-1. Madrid returned for the second half with a completely different intensity. Mbappe restored their lead in the 60th minute after combining with Jude Bellingham. The French striker finished the move with a low shot to make it 2-1. Real Sociedad struggled to cope with Madrid's attacking pressure. In the 68th minute, Bellingham won possession and helped create the opening for Vinicius Junior, who calmly found



the net to extend the home side's advantage. Mbappe then completed his hat-trick in the 80th minute. Vinicius supplied a superb pass into the box, and Mbappe produced a composed chipped finish over the goalkeeper to make it 4-1. The three-goal performance was a major response from Mbappe after he failed to score in Real

Madrid's opening league match. The forward has now made a spectacular start to the new campaign and once again demonstrated why he is regarded as one of the most dangerous attackers in world football. The victory was equally significant for Mourinho. Returning to the Santiago Bernabeu after more than 13 years, the Portuguese manager endured some pressure during the opening half as Madrid struggled to impose themselves. However, his team responded strongly after the break and eventually secured a convincing victory. Jude Bellingham also played an important role in the win, providing two assists and contributing significantly to Madrid's improved second-half performance. Vinicius Junior's goal further underlined the attacking strength available to Mourinho. Real Madrid now have six points from their opening two league matches. The emphatic win will give Mourinho and his players considerable confidence, while Mbappe's hat-trick has ensured that the French superstar is already among the early headlines of the new LaLiga season.

Mamitha Baiju's *BKU* Beats *Toxic* In BookMyShow Sales

Box-office trends can often produce unexpected surprises, and the latest numbers from BookMyShow have created one such talking point. Bethlehem Kudumba Unit (BKU), starring Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju, has reportedly overtaken Yash's much-hyped *Toxic* in hourly ticket sales on the platform.

At the time of the latest update, BKU was recording more than 28,000 hourly ticket sales on BookMyShow, while *Toxic* was registering around 22,000. The development is particularly notable because *Toxic* is a much bigger pan-Indian release with enormous pre-release expectations and a significantly larger scale. BKU, meanwhile, is already a week old. Despite facing



hourly bookings indicates that the movie continues to attract viewers even after its initial release period. Both films have reportedly crossed the Rs 100 crore gross milestone, making the comparison even more interesting. *Toxic*, given its scale, star power and nationwide reach, is still expected to collect substantially bigger numbers overall. However, BKU's ability to lead the hourly BookMyShow sales at a particular point has emerged as a genuine box-office surprise. BKU features Nivin Pauly in the lead, with Mamitha Baiju playing a prominent role. The film is directed by Girish A.D., who previously made the popular Malayalam films *Premalu* and *Thanneer Mathan Dinangal*. The combination of the cast and director had generated considerable interest even before release. Mamitha Baiju, in particular, has been enjoying growing popularity among young audiences. Her recent appearances have helped strengthen her position as one of the promising young faces in South Indian cinema. The strong response to BKU adds another positive development to her recent career trajectory. *Toxic*, on the other hand, marks Yash's return to the big screen after four years and arrived with massive expectations following his blockbuster KGF franchise. Despite mixed audience reactions, the film has opened strongly at the box office. Early estimates suggest that *Toxic* collected around Rs 120 crore gross in India on its first day, underlining Yash's enormous market value. Therefore, BKU's temporary lead in hourly ticket sales should not be interpreted as *Toxic* losing its overall box-office advantage. Instead, it highlights the unpredictable nature of audience demand and the strong staying power of a well-received regional film. For the makers of BKU, however, the numbers are certainly encouraging. Maintaining momentum against a high-profile release like *Toxic* could help the film extend its successful theatrical run in the coming days.

Ranabaali Locks New Date, Clash With *Jailer 2*

Vijay Deverakonda's upcoming period action drama *Ranabaali* has got a new release date, setting up an interesting box-office clash with Superstar Rajinikanth's *Jailer 2*. The makers have announced that the highly anticipated film will arrive in theatres on October 16, 2026. *Ranabaali* was earlier scheduled for a different release window, but the team has now finalized October 16. The announcement has immediately attracted attention because Rajinikanth's *Jailer 2* is scheduled to hit cinemas just a day earlier, on October 15. The simultaneous arrival of two big-ticket films could make the October festive season particularly competitive. Both movies are backed by strong star power and are expected to target audiences across multiple regions. While *Jailer 2* carries the enormous popularity of Rajinikanth and the success of its predecessor, *Ranabaali* is one of Vijay Deverakonda's ambitious upcoming projects. *Ranabaali* is being presented as a pan-Indian action drama with a historical backdrop. The story is set against the 19th century and draws from historical events that occurred during British rule between 1854 and 1878. The period setting, large-scale action and dramatic narrative are expected to be major attractions for audiences. Vijay Deverakonda plays the titular character, while Rashmika Mandanna is paired with him as the female lead. The film also features Arnold Vosloo as the antagonist. A newly unveiled warrior-themed poster has further increased curiosity around Vijay's look and character. The project is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers, with T-Series presenting the film. With a pan-Indian release planned, the makers are expected to step up promotions as the theatrical date approaches. The clash with *Jailer 2* is undoubtedly a major challenge. Rajinikanth's sequel has already generated substantial buzz, and the makers have locked October 15 as its release date. The film brings back Rajinikanth as Muthuvel Pandian and is directed by Nelson Dilipkumar. However, *Ranabaali* could benefit from its distinct period-action setting and Vijay Deverakonda's popularity among younger audiences. The one-day gap between the two releases could result in intense competition for premium screens and holiday-season audiences. For now, the October 15-16 weekend is shaping up to be a major showdown at the box office. Whether *Ranabaali* can hold its ground against Rajinikanth's *Jailer 2* will become one of the most interesting trade-watching points of the season.



Namit Malhotra May Join *Brahmastra 2* Team

Ayan Mukerji's much-awaited *Brahmastra 2* is once again making headlines, with fresh reports suggesting that filmmaker and producer Namit Malhotra could come on board as a studio partner for the ambitious sequel.

According to reports, Ayan Mukerji has been exploring options for the production of *Brahmastra 2* after discussions with several major studios did not materialise. Jio Studios, Dharma Productions and Yash Raj Films were reportedly approached, but none of the collaborations moved forward. The latest development is that Ayan is said to be in talks with Namit Malhotra, who heads Prime Focus and is producing the upcoming *Ramayana*.

The potential collaboration makes sense from a technical and creative perspective. Namit Malhotra's Prime Focus and DNEG have extensive experience in large-scale visual effects, while *Brahmastra 2* is expected to demand substantial VFX work because of its fantasy setting and expansive *Astraverse* storyline.

The first installment, *Brahm?stra: Part One - Shiva*, was released in 2022 and starred Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan, Mouni Roy and Nagarjuna. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the film introduced audiences to the *Astraverse*, a fantasy universe built around powerful astras. The sequel was announced as *Brahmastra Part Two: Dev* and is expected to expand the mythology introduced in the first chapter.

Namit Malhotra is already closely associated with Ranbir Kapoor through *Ramayana*, in which the actor plays Lord Rama. The producer had also previously confirmed that he intended to continue the *Astraverse* after completing *Ramayana*. However, the latest reports suggest that his possible involvement in *Brahmastra 2* could now go beyond a general association and involve Prime Focus as a studio partner. The sequel has remained in development for several

years, with fans eagerly waiting for clarity on its production timeline. Ranbir Kapoor has previously indicated that the project is moving ahead, while Ayan Mukerji has been developing the story and the broader *Astraverse*.

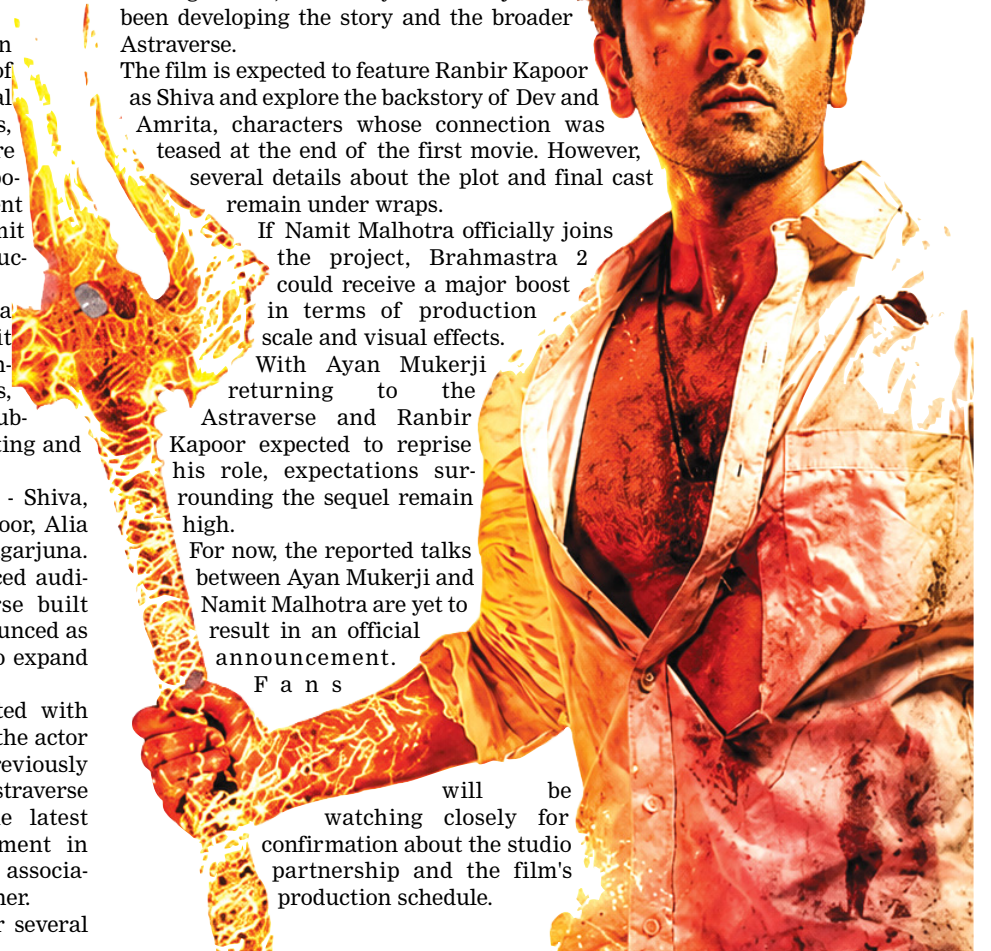
The film is expected to feature Ranbir Kapoor as Shiva and explore the backstory of Dev and Amrita, characters whose connection was teased at the end of the first movie. However, several details about the plot and final cast remain under wraps.

If Namit Malhotra officially joins the project, *Brahmastra 2* could receive a major boost in terms of production scale and visual effects.

With Ayan Mukerji returning to the *Astraverse* and Ranbir Kapoor expected to reprise his role, expectations surrounding the sequel remain high.

For now, the reported talks between Ayan Mukerji and Namit Malhotra are yet to result in an official announcement.

Fans will be watching closely for confirmation about the studio partnership and the film's production schedule.



Gen-Z Will Love Rajinikanth In *Dharman*

Superstar Rajinikanth's upcoming Tamil film *Dharman* is generating strong curiosity among fans, and director Ashwath Marimuthu believes the movie will appeal particularly well to the younger generation. The filmmaker has described the project as a special film and expressed confidence that Gen-Z audiences will enjoy watching Rajinikanth in a completely engaging new-age entertainer.

Ashwath Marimuthu, known for films such as *Oh My Kadavule* and *Dragon*, is currently directing *Dharman* with Rajinikanth in the lead. Speaking about the project, the director highlighted the comfortable equation he shares with the superstar. He said working with Rajinikanth has been a memorable experience and that their collaboration has developed a strong level of mutual understanding.

The director's comments have added to the excitement surrounding *Dharman*, especially because the film brings together a veteran superstar and a filmmaker associated with contemporary storytelling. Ashwath believes this combination can help the movie connect with audiences across different age groups.

According to the filmmaker, *Dharman* is being designed as a Gen-Z-friendly entertainer while also retaining elements that will appeal to Rajinikanth's longtime followers. His confidence suggests that the film will attempt to combine the superstar's trademark screen presence with a fresh narrative style aimed at modern audiences.

The film has already created considerable buzz because of Rajinikanth's character. Earlier reports and promotional material have sparked speculation about his role, with the superstar seen in a striking appearance involving a surgical knife. Ashwath has also previously indicated that several assumptions about Rajinikanth's character may not be accurate, keeping the actual storyline under wraps.

Dharman is being produced by Kamal Haasan, while Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music. Simran and Raashii Khanna are also associated with the project in important roles. The film has now entered another phase of production, with shooting progressing steadily. Recent reports indicate that the team is aiming to complete the shoot by October.

The project is also significant because it marks an important opportunity for Ashwath Marimuthu to work with one of Indian cinema's biggest stars. For Rajinikanth, the film adds another interesting title to an already busy lineup.

With the director promising a film that can connect with both younger viewers and longtime Rajinikanth fans, expectations around *Dharman* are steadily increasing. If Ashwath's vision succeeds, the movie could offer audiences a fresh combination of Rajinikanth's legendary charisma and contemporary filmmaking.

For now, fans are eagerly waiting for more updates on the film, particularly details about Rajinikanth's character, the story and the official release plans.

Megastar Chiranjeevi Rejoins *Vishwambhara* Shoot

Megastar Chiranjeevi has reportedly rejoined the sets of his much-awaited socio-fantasy film *Vishwambhara*. The movie, which has been in production for a long time, has faced repeated delays, mainly because the team has been spending additional time on its extensive visual effects work. According to reports, Chiranjeevi has now allotted

four days to complete some pending portions of the film. The actor is said to be shooting a few key scenes as part of the remaining work. Once these portions are completed, his involvement in the shoot is expected to be wrapped up. The latest development has once again created curiosity among fans, who have been eagerly waiting for an update on the film's release. *Vishwambhara* was originally planned for a January 2025 release, but the schedule has changed several times as the makers focused on improving the quality of the CGI and VFX. The film's visual effects have been a major factor behind the delay. Earlier, members of the production team acknowledged that the initial teaser's CGI received a mixed response, prompting them to work extensively on improving the visual presentation. Since *Vishwambhara* is a fantasy film with large-scale VFX requirements, the makers have reportedly been unwilling to compromise on the final output. Directed by Vassishtha, *Vishwambhara* features Trisha Krishnan as the female lead, while Ashika Ranganath and Kunal Kapoor are playing important roles. The film is being produced by UV Creations, with Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani providing the music. The release date remains the biggest question surrounding the project. There has been speculation about a Dussehra 2026 release, while more recent reports have suggested that the movie could be pushed to 2027 if the VFX work takes longer than expected. However, the makers have not officially confirmed a final release date.

For now, Chiranjeevi's return to the sets is being viewed as a positive sign that the long-delayed project is moving closer to completion. Fans will have to wait for an official announcement from the makers regarding the theatrical release.

With the Megastar completing his pending portions and the VFX work progressing, attention is now firmly on when *Vishwambhara* will finally reach theatres.

