



441 Children Receive Free Surgeries Under RBSK In Four Months

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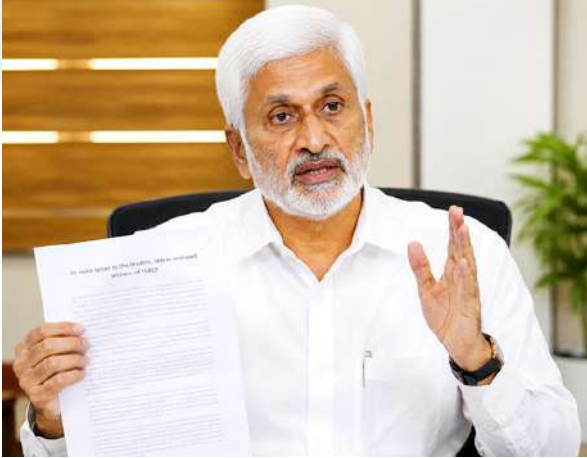
Vijayasai Reddy Takes Aim At Sajjala And YSRCP Coterie

Defends Decision To Launch New Party

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Former YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Rajya Sabha member Vijayasai Reddy has strongly defended his decision to quit the party and launch a new political outfit, alleging that a party "coterie" systematically humiliated and sidelined him.

In an open letter, Vijayasai Reddy said he had remained loyal to Jagan for 40 years and rejected allegations that he had betrayed the former Chief Minister. He recalled being named A-2 in CBI and ED charge sheets during the



Congress-led government and spending 15 months in prison while Jagan spent 16 months in

jail. He alleged that despite being named A-5 in the liquor scam case and A-2 in the

Kakinada Seaport case after the 2024 elections, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, whom he described as the "Minister of All Departments", had not been named in any charge sheet during the TDP rule.

Vijayasai Reddy alleged that Sajjala and an "Uttarandhra leader" had spread misinformation against him since 2020, eventually contributing to his removal from responsibilities in the region. He also alleged that Sajjala exercised excessive influence over Jagan and prevented party leaders from meeting him freely.

Recalling incidents from 2022, Vijayasai Reddy alleged that a minister holding multiple portfolios physically assaulted him

during the YSRCP plenary in Mangalagiri and claimed Jagan was aware of the incident. He said he was subsequently removed from several organisational responsibilities and the core committee.

He claimed there were 74 instances of humiliation and said he eventually resigned from the YSRCP and surrendered his four-year Rajya Sabha term because he could not compromise his self-respect.

"I have not betrayed Jagan-garu, nor will I ever do so," he asserted, adding that he intended to fight a democratic battle through his new party.

Vijayasai Reddy said he would disclose further facts through the media at another time.

Sanjeevani To End Dolly Carrying In Tribal Areas, Says CM



Araku, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday launched the Sanjeevani health project at Gannela village in Araku Valley constituency, aimed at taking technology-based healthcare to the doorsteps of tribal communities in remote and inaccessible areas. The initiative brought relief to tribal residents who have long depended on carrying critically ill patients, including pregnant women, on makeshift stretchers across difficult terrain to reach medical facilities.

Septuagenarian tribal leader Suriboyi Donnu of Gannela panchayat welcomed the initiative, saying it would provide much-needed relief to tribal families. Tribal woman Sontari Sorubuddi also



expressed happiness over doorstep healthcare.

Immediately after launching the project, Naidu visited the nearby primary health centre and inspected drone services for collecting blood samples from tribal patients and transporting them to the Government General Hospital at Paderu for testing. He later interacted with Sanjeevani beneficiaries and reviewed

the technology-enabled services.

Naidu said Sanjeevani, which creates individual digital health records, would become a game changer not only for Andhra Pradesh but for the entire country. He said Thalli Bidda Express vehicles had been introduced for pregnant women and 104 vehicles would provide medical services, including diagnostic facilities, at tribal doorsteps. He also flagged off 104 Arogya Ratham vehicles. Beneficiaries Surabhi Balaji and Surabhi Madhu explained how their families were benefiting from government welfare schemes. Pregnant woman Divya said she was receiving health and nutrition advice through mobile messages. During her interaction with Naidu, she received a call from the Sanjeevani project enquiring about her health.

Naidu announced a Tribal Health Infrastructure Completion Mission with an outlay of RS.250 crore and said Jan Aushadhi Kendras would soon be established in all mandals. Arrangements were also being made to conduct 41 types of medical tests at people's homes. An Emergency Lifeline Network with 150 vehicles was available in Alluri Sitharama Raju district, he said.

The Chief Minister outlined a five-pronged strategy for tribal development, including roads, drinking water, livelihoods, education and employment. Under Adivi Thalli Bata, 905 km of roads had been constructed at a cost of RS.1,000 crore, while tap water had been



supplied to 1.60 lakh households.

He urged tribal communities to increase incomes through coffee and pepper cultivation, stating that Araku coffee would be promoted over another one lakh acres. Tribal families could also benefit from tourism through homestays, while skill development would be provided to one lakh youth over the next three years.

Naidu said the government was considering a common education centre for tribal children from Classes VI to XII, along with coaching for IIT and NEET examinations. He also highlighted an agreement with IIT Madras to help tribal students access premier institutions.

He said the government was working to provide alternative employment opportunities, improve connectivity through cell towers and support tribal farmers in taking their produce to international markets. He also congratulated tribal children for creating a Guinness World Record through Dhimsa dance.

Ministers Satyakumar Yadav and Gummadi Sandhyarani participated.



Durgesh Stresses Need To Preserve Telugu Language

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh said the coalition government was according top priority to preserving and promoting Telugu and ensuring the mother tongue received its rightful place in education and public life. He was speaking at Telugu Language Day celebrations marking the 163rd birth anniversary of Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy Pantulu, organised by the Andhra Pradesh Department of Language and Culture at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

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Dinakar Calls For Sustainable Water Management

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Lanka Dinakar, Chairman of the Twenty-Point Programme Implementation Committee (Viksit Bharat-Swara Andhra Pradesh), Government of Andhra Pradesh, said sustainable

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Govt Hikes Private Medical College Fees for 2026-27

Revised Medical and Dental Fees for 2026-27

Course	Category A	Category C	Previous Fee	Hike
MBBS —	₹18,150	₹14.52 lakh	Up to ₹43.56 lakh	10%
BDS —	₹15,730	₹4.84 lakh	Up to ₹14.52 lakh	10% hike
PG Clinical Degree —	₹5.71 lakh	₹11.43 lakh	Up to ₹66.13 lakh	15%
PG Para-Clinical Degree/Diploma	₹1.79 lakh	₹3.57 lakh	₹19.84 lakh	15%
PG Pre-Clinical Degree	₹80,937	₹1.62 lakh	₹10.58 lakh	15%
Super Speciality	₹19.84 lakh	—	—	15% hike

Category A: Competent Authority Quota; Category B: Management Quota; Category C: NRI/Institutional Quota
*Revised fees are interim for the academic year 2026-27 and subject to final determination by APHEFR&MC.

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

The state government has increased the interim fee structure for medical and dental courses in private unaided professional colleges for the 2026-27 academic year, citing the need to notify fees pending final recommendations from the Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Fee Regulatory and Monitoring Commission (APHEFR&MC).

According to three orders issued by the Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department on August 29, 2026, fees for UG medical and dental courses have been increased by 10 per cent, while fees for PG medical, dental and Super Speciality courses have been enhanced by 15 per cent.

Under G.O.Rt.No.785, the annual MBBS fee under the A-Category (Competent Authority quota) has been fixed at RS.18,150, while the B-Category (Management quota) fee is ₹14.52 lakh and the C-Category (NRI quota) fee is up to RS.43.56 lakh. For BDS, the corresponding fees are RS.15,730, RS.4.84 lakh and RS.14.52 lakh, respectively. For PG courses, G.O.Rt.No.786 fixes the A-Category fee for clinical degree courses

at RS.5,71,320 and the B-Category fee at RS.11,42,640. The C-Category fee is up to RS.66.12 lakh. Para-clinical degree and diploma fees have also been revised, while pre-clinical degree fees stand at RS.80,937 under A-Category and RS.1,61,874 under B-Category. For Super Speciality courses, G.O.Rt.No.787 fixes the annual tuition fee at RS.19,83,750, up from RS.17.25 lakh. The revised fee applies to GSL Medical College, Katuri Medical College and Hospital, Narayana Medical College, NRI Medical College and Dr. Pinnamaneni Siddardha Institute of Medical Sciences.

The revised fees are interim and applicable only for 2026-27. G. Veerapandian, Secretary to Government, said the final fee will be determined after APHEFR&MC recommendations. Colleges cannot collect amounts beyond the notified interim fees.

Meanwhile, the Parents Association of Andhra Pradesh (PAAAP) has opposed the Government of Andhra Pradesh's decision to increase fees for MBBS and BDS courses by 10 per cent and postgraduate medical courses by 15 per cent in private unaided colleges.

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Kondapalli Srinivas

Urges NRIs To Partner In Swarnandhra-2047

Amaravati, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for MSMEs, Rural Poverty Eradication and Non-Resident Andhra Empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas called upon non-resident Andhras to become partners in building 'Swarnandhra-2047' by bringing their expertise, investments and technology to Andhra Pradesh. Kondapalli Srinivas, who attended the 70th Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Malaysia Telugu Association (TAM) as the State Government's chief guest, addressed the gathering at the Penang Waterfront Convention Centre on Saturday. He praised TAM's seven-decade journey since its establishment in 1955 and its role in supporting the Telugu community in Malaysia. The Minister said the government, under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, was creating opportunities in development, industries, technology, employment, skill development and the rural economy. He urged Telugu entrepreneurs in Malaysia to invest in the State and assured them of full government support. Kondapalli Srinivas said the government was committed to the safety and welfare of non-resident Andhras. Through APNRTS, services including RS.10 lakh free accident insurance under the PBB scheme, a 24/7 helpline, an NRI cell and

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Nepal Floods: Rescue Efforts Intensify as Global Support Pours In

Kathmandu, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Nepal continued its desperate search for survivors on Saturday after catastrophic flash floods and landslides struck the Nepal-Tibet border region, leaving hundreds dead, thousands missing and entire communities devastated. Rescue operations resumed after a temporary suspension caused by fears of another flood from an unstable lake formed in the Himalayas. The disaster began on August 26 after a massive collapse of ice, rock and debris unleashed a torrent through Himalayan river systems. Nepal's authorities have reported 669 deaths and 2,426 people missing, while Chinese authorities have reported seven deaths and 554

missing in Tibet, taking the combined missing figure close to 3,000.

Rescuers are working through thick layers of mud and debris, while helicopters are being used to reach areas where roads and bridges have been washed away. Authorities have warned that the casualty figures could rise as teams reach isolated communities. Families across Nepal and other countries continue to wait anxiously for information about missing relatives. Nepal has sought specialised international assistance, particularly for difficult technical operations, tunnel rescues, communications restoration and identification of bodies. Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said Nepal welcomes international

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Flood-Swept Bank Safe Looted in Nepal, 29 Detained



Kathmandu, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Amid the devastation caused by catastrophic floods in Nepal, an unusual theft case has emerged after a bank safe swept away by floodwaters was allegedly broken open and its cash taken by locals.

According to the District Police Office, Dhading, the safe was carried downstream from the flood-hit Bhotekoshi area of Rasuwa district and was later found near Belkukhola in Galchhi Rural Municipality-4, Dhading, along the Trishuli River. Police said they received information that some residents had found the safe, broken it open and removed the money inside. A police team was immediately deployed and began an investigation. During preliminary searches, 29 people were detained, with most reportedly from the Galchhi area. Authorities recovered NPR 9,268,505 from those detained, equivalent to

approximately RS.57-58 lakh in Indian currency. The suspects have been kept at the local police office while further investigation and legal proceedings continue. Police are still determining the original ownership of the safe, the total amount of cash it contained and whether additional people were involved. Officials have not ruled out the possibility that some money remains unaccounted for.

The incident comes as Nepal struggles with the aftermath of devastating flash floods and landslides that have killed hundreds and left thousands missing. Rescue teams are simultaneously searching for survivors and recovering bodies, while authorities are increasing security in affected areas to prevent looting and theft. Nepal Police also posted details of the arrests on its official social media account, confirming the recovery of cash from those detained.

Nagababu Calls For Green Andhra Through Tree Planting

Mangalagiri, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

AP Green Executive Committee Chairman Konidela Nagababu called upon people to make tree planting and nurturing a shared responsibility to achieve the goal of a 'Green Andhra Pradesh'. He said protecting Mother Earth was a duty of every citizen and urged India to emerge as a global role model in nature conservation. Nagababu and his wife Padmaja participated in the traditional 'Ashwatha Narayana Vivaham' at Aranyaramam Nandavanam in Mangalagiri on Saturday. After performing special

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Pithapuram Healthcare Sector Gets Major Development Push



Uday Banavath @ Pithapuram

Deputy Chief Minister and Pithapuram MLA Pawan Kalyan has taken several initiatives to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in the constituency by upgrading hospitals, improving rural health facilities, expanding AYUSH services and promoting medical education. The old 30-bed Community Health Centre in Pithapuram is being upgraded into a modern 100-bed Area Hospital at an estimated cost of RS.34 crore. Taken up on priority as an election promise, the project has completed around 50 per cent of construction. Spread across 4.67 acres, the new hospital will have an advanced ICU, diagnostic laboratories, modern operation theatres and a 30-bed maternity ward. Specialised departments for paediatrics, ophthalmology and orthopaedics will also be established. A biomedical waste management unit, mortuary and one-lakh-litre water sump are among the



ancillary facilities. The hospital is expected to serve nearly three lakh people from Pithapuram and six surrounding mandals. Pawan Kalyan has also initiated steps to establish a Government AYUSH Medical College under the National AYUSH Mission at an estimated cost of RS.100 crore. Land acquisition and preliminary works have been expedited. In rural areas, Primary Health Centres at Komaragiri in U. Kothapalli mandal and Chebrolu in Gollaprolu mandal have been completed and made operational at RS.50 lakh each. A Government AYUSH dispensary at Viravada, taken up at RS.30 lakh, is nearing completion. Meanwhile, a state-of-the-art cancer treatment centre is being established at Kakinada Government General Hospital at RS.36.6 crore. It will include CT simulators, HDR brachytherapy systems, dosimetry equipment and a mobile cancer screening vehicle.

Connecting roads to hospitals are also being developed to improve patient accessibility.

APSCH

Launches

Five-Day Faculty Programme On Generative AI

Guntur, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCH) inaugurated a five-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Integration of Generative AI, Interactive e-Content and Emerging Educational Technologies in Higher Education" at Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU) on Saturday. Being conducted from August 29 to September 2, the programme aims to equip faculty with practical skills in Generative AI and emerging educational technologies. APSCH Chairman and programme president Prof. K. Madhu Murthy said AI could serve as a powerful toolbox for teachers, helping develop



educational content, question banks, web resources and innovative teaching materials. ANU Vice-Chancellor Prof. K. Gangadhara Rao stressed the need for faculty to continuously upgrade their skills. Prof. K. Srinivas, Senior Professor, NIEPA, New Delhi, explained AI applications in teaching, learning and evaluation. APSCH Vice-Chairman Prof. S. Vijaya Bhaskar, Vice Chairperson Prof. K. Ratna Shila Mani, Secretary Prof. B. Tirupati Rao and ANU Rector Prof. Siva Ram Prasad highlighted digital transformation. The FDP features 20 interactive sessions on Generative AI, prompt engineering, AI-assisted assessment, Moodle, learning analytics and AI-enabled course redesign.

Refresher Classes For Rural Reporters In Nellore On Sept 5, 6

Nellore, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Two-day refresher classes for rural reporters of Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore district will be held on September 5 and 6 under the aegis of C.R. Media Academy, Chairman Alapati Suresh Kumar said on Saturday. The sessions will be conducted at the Nellore Zilla Parishad Meeting Hall, with senior journalists training participants in rural reporting, newsroom expectations, crime reporting and journalistic language. Alapati Suresh Kumar said the programme would also cover

modern news-writing methods, including Artificial Intelligence (AI). Senior journalist Vijayakumar Kurra will explain AI-based news writing through a PowerPoint presentation. He said the programme aims to strengthen the professional skills of rural journalists and help them adapt to changing media practices. Participants completing the training will receive certificates and books published by the C.R. Media Academy on the training topics. Interested reporters should register through the prescribed Google Form by September 4, Alapati Suresh Kumar said.

Special Trains To Run Between Machilipatnam And Shivamogga

Machilipatnam, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

South Coast Railway will operate special train services between Machilipatnam and Shivamogga Town, and Shivamogga Town and Guntakal, to clear the extra rush of passengers, Chief Public Relations Officer Y Balaji Kiran said. Train No. 07217 Machilipatnam-Shivamogga Town Summer Special Express will make one trip on Sunday, August 30. It will depart Machilipatnam at 3.55 pm and reach Shivamogga Town at 1.45 am on September 2 and reach Machilipatnam at 3.55 pm on

September 3. The train will stop at major stations including Guduvada, Vijayawada, Guntur, Narasaraopet, Donakonda, Markapur, Nandyal, Dhone, Gooty, Anantapur, Dharmavaram, Hindupur, Yelhanka, Tumakuru, Arsikere, Birur, Tarikere and Bhadravati. Meanwhile, Train Nos. 07219/07220 will operate one trip between Shivamogga Town and Guntakal. Train No. 07219 will leave Shivamogga at 5.40 pm on August 31 and reach Guntakal at 7 am the next day. The return train will depart Guntakal at 1.45 am on September 2 and reach Shivamogga at 3 pm the same day. The services will include AC, sleeper and general coaches.

Road Accident Deaths Must Be Registered Within 21 Days

Amaravati, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Medical and Health Department has directed officials to ensure that road accident and other medico-legal deaths are registered with the concerned Registrars of Births and Deaths within 21 days. The department said delays were occurring due to failure to promptly report such deaths. The Health Secretary wrote to the State Director General of Police (DGP) on August 21, 2026, seeking measures to ensure timely registration. Following this, the State DGP's office issued a circular on August 25 to all Police Commissioners, Superintendents and Station House Officers across the State,

directing them to submit details of such deaths to jurisdictional Registrars in the prescribed Form-II. The department said the procedure is mandated under Section 8 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, and the Andhra Pradesh Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2025. If a person dies at an accident site, the concerned Station House Officer or Sub-Inspector of Police must submit the details within 21 days. The same applies when a victim dies while being transported to a hospital and is declared "brought dead". District officials have been directed to ensure strict compliance.

AP Tightens Security For NEET-PG Examination On August 30

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department has directed district administrations and police authorities to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the smooth, secure and fair conduct of the NEET-PG Examination 2026 on August 30. According to departmental authorities, around 18,700 candidates will appear at 76 centres across Andhra Pradesh, while 2,73,183 candidates have registered nationwide. In a memorandum issued on August 28, District Collectors and District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police and health officials were instructed to coordinate with the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) and designated nodal officers. Sai Sudheer, Registrar of Dr. NTR

University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada, has been designated State Nodal Officer for the Health and Medical Department. District Nodal Officers were asked to inspect centres and review arrangements. Traffic plans, regulated entry and exit, uninterrupted power and internet connectivity and adequate security will be ensured. Signal jammers will operate for about four hours, with nearby residents and establishments informed about disruptions. Candidates will undergo checks for unauthorised devices, including AI-enabled Meta glasses, Bluetooth earpieces and miniature spy cameras. Cybersecurity measures will also be implemented at computer-based test centres. Secretary G. Veerapandian directed officials to accord top priority to the arrangements.

AIIMS Mangalagiri Inaugurates Fitness And Wellness Centre

Mangalagiri, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

AIIMS Mangalagiri marked National Sports Day by inaugurating a Fitness and Wellness Centre at its Sports Complex on Saturday, providing dedicated facilities for the health and fitness of students and staff. Prof. (Dr.) Ahanthem Santa Singh, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Mangalagiri, inaugurated the facility, which includes separate gymnasiums for men and women. Col. Shashikanth Thumma, Deputy Director (Administration), members of the Sports Committee, Heads of Departments, faculty, staff and students attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Ahanthem Santa Singh stressed the importance of sports, physical fitness and wellness in maintaining a healthy and productive

lifestyle. He said the institute was committed to creating a vibrant and healthy campus and announced that several additional sports facilities would be developed at AIIMS Mangalagiri to encourage greater participation in recreational activities. As part of the celebrations, he also inaugurated the Men's Doubles and Women's Singles Badminton Tournaments. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation and promoted sportsmanship, teamwork and healthy competition among the institute community. Dr. Rajeev Aravindakshan, Professor and Head, Department of Community & Family Medicine and Chairman of the Sports Committee, thanked the Executive Director and CEO for supporting sports and fitness initiatives.



The celebrations highlighted the institute's commitment to physical fitness, mental well-being, teamwork and a healthy work-life environment.

Waqf Board Reviews Institutions, Focuses On Project Amanah

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Azeez on Saturday reviewed the functioning and progress of Waqf institutions across the State through a video conference with Inspector-Auditors, Waqf officers and staff from all districts. The meeting reviewed district-wise details of Waqf institutions, including site visits conducted by Inspector-Auditors, supporting evidence, pending visits and action plans to complete field inspections within stipulated deadlines. Abdul Azeez also discussed the performance, challenges and pending issues of various sections with department heads and suggested measures for their resolution. The Chairman gave special attention to Project Amanah, an initiative aimed at field-level data collection, verification and digitisation of Waqf property records. Under the project, each Waqf property will be assigned a unique ID, with digital records containing details of its physical condition, photographs, encroachment status, legal issues and discrepancies in records, sup



ported by evidence. A seven-day pilot project will be conducted before the full rollout. The pilot will assess field data collection, forms, data quality, risk identification, action tracking and the district-level dashboard before necessary modifications are made. Abdul Azeez directed officials to complete assigned tasks within deadlines and strengthen field-level supervision and coordination. State Waqf Board CEO Yakub Khaji, DEE Abdul Khader, inspectors-cum-auditors, section heads and staff participated.

Garudalwar Consecration Ceremony Held At TTD Kalyana Mandapam



Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is conducting the consecration (Pratishtha) and sanctification (Samprokshana) ceremonies for the idols of Garudalwar and Bali Peethams at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in the

TTD Kalyana Mandapam complex in Vijayawada from August 28 to 31. The auspicious timings were finalised by Parasharam Bhavanarayanacharyulu, Sri Vaikhanasa Agama Advisor, as per the directions of senior TTD officials. On August 28, Bhagavat Prarthana, Vishvakshena Puja, Punyahavachanam, Acharya Varanam, Vastu Puja, Vastu Homam, Akalmasha Homam, Panchagavya Prasanam and Raksha Bandhanam were performed as part of the rituals. At noon, Anna Prasadam was distributed to around 1,000 devotees with the support of donors Poluru Rajagopal and Nirmala. In the evening, Tretagni Pranayanam, Agni Pratishtha and other Vedic rituals commenced at the Yagashala. Devotees attended the ceremonies with devotion and reverence.

Transport Officers Seek Comprehensive Probe Into Lorry Driver Incident



Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Transport Department Technical Officers Association has urged authorities to conduct a comprehensive and impartial inquiry into the alleged assault of a lorry driver in Visakhapatnam. State President

R. Praveen and State General Secretary MDL Siddiq, speaking at the Association building on Bandar Road, Vijayawada, said it was inappropriate to hold an Assistant Motor Vehicle Inspector (AMVI) responsible based solely on a portion of a video circulating on social media. Praveen said the complete video, CCTV footage, eyewitness accounts and statements of those involved should be examined before fixing responsibility. He noted that the circulating footage did not show the AMVI directly assaulting the driver inside the lorry cabin. The Association said it would not oppose legal action if wrongdoing was established through evidence, but holding anyone responsible based on incomplete footage or assumptions was unjustifiable.

Satyaprasad Questions Bopparaju's Agenda

Amaravati, Aug 30 | TPN Bureau

Revenue Minister Anagani Satyaprasad on Saturday criticised AP JAC (Amaravati) Chairman Bopparaju over his alleged provocative conduct, questioning whether he was working for employee welfare or pursuing a political agenda. Satyaprasad alleged that Bopparaju was attempting to disrupt the cordial relationship between employees and the government by spreading false propaganda and attributing arrears accumulated during the previous government to the present Alliance government. The Minister said the government was holding discussions with various employee unions, including Bopparaju's organisation, to resolve their concerns despite financial constraints. He said a significant portion of pending

bills had been cleared and the remaining dues were being settled. Satyaprasad said the government had extended the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to 11,000 CPS employees and restored CPS contributions allegedly diverted by the previous government.

He added that pending bills of retired employees had been cleared and employee arrears worth thousands of crores were being settled in phases. He alleged that Bopparaju was ignoring the previous government's "reverse PRC" and salary recovery orders. Satyaprasad also criticised a meeting allegedly organised to ridicule Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. While saying protests and questions would be tolerated, he warned that malicious attempts to insult the Chief Minister would not be accepted.

Veligonda Project To Boost Irrigation And Crop Diversification



Amaravati, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Agriculture Department has organised awareness programmes, discussion meetings and rallies across the ayacut areas of the Veligonda Project ahead of the inauguration of its Phase-I by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at Veligonda on Monday. Agriculture Director Dr. Manajir Zeelani Samoon said the project would provide irrigation facilities to 4.47 lakh acres and benefit farmers in Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts. Under the theme "Veligonda Waters - Wings for Development", officials conducted farmer awareness programmes at Rythu Seva Kendras to educate cultivators in the newly expanding ayacut areas about suitable cropping patterns and

modern cultivation practices. Farmers said assured irrigation would help bring fallow lands under cultivation and enable a shift from rain-fed crops such as red gram and cotton to irrigated crops including maize and chilli. They also expressed interest in adopting drip irrigation and expanding horticultural cultivation with the expected improvement in groundwater levels. Based on feedback from farmers, the Agriculture Department plans to promote high-income orchards, particularly sweet orange (bathayi) and oil palm plantations, in suitable areas. As part of the campaign, PMDS seed kits supporting natural farming and improving soil organic matter were also distributed to farmers. Ag Dept - Press Note in Eng on Veligonda project awareness document

APCRDA Allots 7.97 Acres For International School In Amaravati



Amaravati, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has allotted 7.97 acres of land at Thulluru village in Amaravati to St. Mary's Educational Society for establishing Sancta Maria International School. The land has been allotted on a freehold

basis in accordance with the Amaravati Land Allotment Rules and Regulations, 2017. The project has been classified under the Social Development objective category and is expected to strengthen the educational ecosystem in the Capital Region. The proposed international school will offer quality education and global learning opportunities while contributing to the development of social infrastructure in Amaravati. As part of the allotment process, APCRDA Authorised Signatory Jubin Cheeran Roy handed over the relevant documents to Kallam Rama Mohan Reddy, authorised representative of St. Mary's Educational Society. The establishment of the school is expected to enhance Amaravati's attractiveness as a destination for quality education and support its development as a world-class capital region.

DPharmacy-2026 Web Counselling From August 31

Amaravati, Aug 30 | TPN Bureau

The Department of Higher Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh, has announced that web counselling for DPharmacy-2026 admissions will commence on August 31, 2026. According to Joint Director and Convenor V. Padma Rao, candidates can register and pay the counselling fee from August 31 to September 5. Certificate verification at Help Line Centres will be conducted from September 2 to 5, while option entry will be available from

September 3 to 6. Candidates can change their options on September 7, with seat allotments scheduled for release on September 9. Self-joining and reporting at colleges will be permitted from September 10 to 16, while class work will commence on September 10. Candidates have been advised to visit polycet.ap.gov.in for the detailed notification. For queries, they can contact 7842075469, 7842085469 or 7842095469 between 9 am and 5 pm, or email chepolycet@gmail.com.

VRO Caught Taking 16,500 Bribe In Konaseema

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday trapped and arrested Chollangi Nageswara Rao, Village Revenue Officer (VRO) of Ryali village in Athreyapuram mandal of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, for allegedly accepting a ?16,500 bribe. The case was registered based on a complaint by Chinnam Lakshmi Prasanna of Ravulapalem village. According to the ACB, Nageswara Rao demanded the bribe for processing and forwarding her mutation application relating to 0.09 cents of land in Survey No. 381/6 at Ryali village. The trap was laid at about 4.50 pm at the Village Sachivalayam in Ryali on August 29. The accused VRO was allegedly caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe from the complainant. The ACB said Nageswara Rao was



selected as a VRO through the 2014 notification and appointed on March 4, 2014. He has been serving at Ryali since 2024. The ACB urged citizens to report corruption through toll-free number 1064 or mobile number 9440440057.

Janasena Seeks Eluru Mayor Post



Eluru, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Janasena party held an extended meeting at its Eluru office on Saturday to prepare cadres for the upcoming local body elections. The meeting was chaired by Reddy Appalanaidu, APSRTC Vijayawada Zone Chairman and constituency in-charge, and attended by cluster and division in-charges and Veera Mahilas. Speaking at the meeting, Appalanaidu urged cadres to set aside differences and work for a 100% strike rate. (He said candidate

selection rests entirely with Pawan Kalyan and stated that the party leadership had been requested to allocate the Eluru Mayor's post to Janasena. He added that they were awaiting a decision. He also announced programmes to mark Pawan Kalyan's birthday on September 2, including blood donation, food and sapling distribution, and a bike rally from the party office at 9 AM. Nara Seshu, Siripalli Sivaramakrishna, Kavuri Vanisri, Illa Srinivas and others partici-

Robust Arrangements for Veligonda Inauguration

Markapuram Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy said elaborate arrangements were being made for the inauguration of the Veligonda project. A coordination committee meeting was held to review preparations, with Ministers Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, Nimmala Ramanaidu, Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Ponguru Narayana, along with several MLAs, participating. Dola said the Alliance government had fulfilled its election promises by creating Markapuram district and complet-

ing the Veligonda project. He recalled that Chief Minister Chandrababu had laid the foundation stone 30 years ago and was now inaugurating the project. He alleged that the YSRCP had deceived people by dedicating the project to the nation without making even a single drop of water available. He called Jagan a fake person and YSRCP a fake party. Dola said Veligonda would provide a permanent solution to irrigation and drinking water problems in western Prakasam. He urged people to welcome the waters with Harathi and participate in the historic event.

Eminent Personalities Honored on Telugu Language Day

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) organized a programme at Andharatna Bhavan, the State Congress office in Vijayawada, on the occasion of Telugu Language Day and the birth anniversary of Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy. The event was held under the leadership of APCC Vice-President and In-charge of Administration Kolunakonda Shivaji. Golla Narayana Rao presided over the meeting. Several personalities who contributed to Telugu language, literature and cultural fields were felicitated with shawls and mementos. Those honored included writer Dutta

Samanthakamani, writer Kopuri Pushpavathi, musician Darja Phanindra, lecturer Kappaganthu Ramakrishna, Madugula Ramakrishna of All India Radio, lecturer Masimukku Anjaiah, lecturer Adusumilli Durgaprasad, lecturer Uyyuru Sambireddy, teacher Pobili Rajashekhar and lecturer Akunuri Narayana. Congress leaders Naraharasetti Narasimha Rao, Meesala Rajeshwara Rao, Sports Chairman Kamalakar, and women leaders Kursida and Ansari also participated. Shivaji said everyone has a responsibility to protect Telugu language, literature and culture and pass them to future generations. He said Congress demanded

Government Records Expose DSC Irregularities: Veera Sekhar Reddy

Tadepalli, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP spokesperson Veera Sekhar Reddy alleged that government records revealed serious eligibility violations in Mega DSC-2025 and demanded a CBI probe into the recruitment process. Displaying TET records, certificate-verification documents and candidate-wise data, he claimed qualified candidates were denied opportunities while ineligible candidates secured teacher posts. Veera Sekhar Reddy said the notification prescribed minimum TET marks of 90 for OC, 75 for BC and 60 for SC/ST candidates. He cited cases of an OC candidate with 79 marks securing a School Assistant post in Chittoor and a BC candidate with 65 marks securing an SGT post in Kurnool. He also alleged appointments were made in subjects dif-

ferent from those in which candidates qualified. He questioned Sports Quota recruitment conducted without a competitive examination and sought details of 382 entries in the final merit records. He cited discrepancies in TET and certificate-verification records from Krishna, Kadapa, East Godavari and Prakasam districts. He questioned the non-availability of verification data from several districts and demanded publication of complete recruitment records. Reiterating YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's demand, he sought CBI probes into Group-I and Mega DSC-2025. Responding to Nara Lokesh's debate challenge, he said YSRCP was ready with documentary evidence and asked him to fix the date, time and venue.

Coalition Government Has Become a 'Double-Rate' Government: YSRCP

Visakhapatnam/Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders accused the Chandrababu Naidu government of turning the promised "double-engine government" into a "double-rate government" as prices of essential commodities, fuel and cooking oils continue to rise. MLC and YSRCP Women's Wing State President Varudu Kalyani said the government was using diversion politics instead of addressing price rise. Former Minister Vellampalli Srinivas, Devineni Avinash and Malladi Vishnu submitted a representation to the NTR District Joint Collector seeking immediate action.Kalyani said petrol and diesel prices in Andhra Pradesh were higher

than in neighbouring States and demanded restoration of the Price Stabilisation Fund. She recalled that the YS Jagan government purchased tomatoes and onions during price spikes and supplied them at subsidised rates. She said 8,460 tonnes of tomatoes and 94,335 quintals of onions were procured, while fortified wheat flour was supplied at Rs.11 per kg. In Vijayawada, YSRCP leaders said sugar prices increased from Rs.40 to Rs.75 per kg, rice from Rs.40 to Rs.65 and tur dal from Rs.100 to Rs.160. They demanded subsidised essentials, action against hoarding and black marketing, and immediate price control. They warned of a mass agitation from NTR district if relief was not provided.

Govt Hikes Private Medical College Fees for 2026-27 Continue

Speaking to True Point, State president of PAAP Sikharam Narahari said the hikes would impose an additional burden on middle-class and lower-middle-class families already struggling with the high cost of medical education. "An additional hike of 10-15 per cent is pushing parents further into a debt trap," he said. PAAP questioned the decision to allow fee increases while demands for higher stipends for junior doctors were rejected citing financial constraints. "This reflects a double standard," it said. The association demanded immediate withdrawal or downward revision of the hikes and consultations with parents and students before fixing fees. It also sought strict regulation of hostel and miscellaneous charges, more scholarships, interest subsidies on educational loans and an increase in government-quota seats. "Medical education should not become accessible only to the wealthy," PAAP said, warning that it may launch a statewide protest if its demands are ignored.

YSRCP Slams 'Sticker Sanjeevani' and Tribal Neglect

Alluri Sitarama Raju District, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP public representatives criticised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's Araku visit, alleging that he focused on religious and diversionary politics while ignoring tribal issues related to healthcare, education, employment, roads and connectivity. Araku MLA Regam Matsyalingam, Paderu MLA Matsyarasa Visweswara Raju and former MLA Kottagullu Bhagyalakshmi alleged that healthcare programmes introduced during the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government, including Village Health Clinics, Family Doctor, Aarogya Suraksha and telemedicine, were simply renamed "Sanjeevani". They termed it "Sticker Sanjeevani" and said governance should not be reduced to

changing names and claiming credit. The leaders alleged that the coalition government weakened tribal welfare by removing the volunteer system that helped deliver pensions in remote habitations and reducing support to ROFR tribal farmers. They also raised concerns over reduced medical seats at Paderu Medical College and uncertainty surrounding Parvathipuram Medical College. They demanded a white paper on new mobile towers installed in agency areas after the coalition government assumed power. They also criticised Chandrababu for claiming credit for Araku Coffee. The leaders demanded revival of stalled development works, restoration of tribal welfare safeguards and greater focus on employment, healthcare, education and connectivity.

Price Rise Crushing People Under Chandrababu's Rule: Putha

Tadepalli, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State spokesperson Putha Sivashankar said rising prices under the Chandrababu government were placing a heavy burden on people. Speaking to the media at the YSRCP central office, he said drought and Chandrababu had become "twin children," with farmers suffering due to poor rainfall and inadequate irrigation. He claimed only 20-25% of cultivated land had been sown. Putha said families were spending 40-50% of their monthly income on essential commodities. He cited sharp increases in prices, saying sugar had risen from Rs.35-40 to Rs.75 per kg, ordinary rice from Rs.40 to Rs.65, tur dal and urad dal

from about Rs.100-105 to Rs.160, onions from Rs.18 to Rs.70 and dry chillies from Rs.120 to Rs.390. He said cooking oil prices had also nearly doubled, while LPG, liquor and electricity costs had increased. Power bills that were earlier around Rs.300 were now reaching Rs.1,500-2,000 and, in some areas, Rs.3,000-5,000.Putha demanded immediate market intervention, subsidised essentials and price control. He said the YSRCP government had supported consumers and farmers through Civil Supplies and the Price Stabilisation Fund during Covid and warned that YSRCP would take the issue to the people if the government failed to act.



Telugu as the official administrative language, Telugu GOs and court verdicts, and fines for establishments displaying

only English signboards. He thanked the scholars for attending the programme.

YSRCP Says YSR, Jagan Built Veligonda Project

Tadepalli/Markapuram, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of taking credit for the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project, stating that most of the major work was carried out during the governments of Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. YSRCP Campaign Wing State President Kakamanu Rajasekhar and former and sitting legislators said Naidu laid the foundation stone in 1996 but failed to make significant progress during his later terms. They said YSR redesigned the project under Jalayagnam with twin tunnels, Nallamala Sagar, three dams, feeder

channels and canals, targeting irrigation for 4.47 lakh acres and drinking water for 15.25 lakh people in 30 mandals. The leaders said 20.33 km of tunnel excavation was completed during the YSR-initiated phase, while 6.686 km was completed during Naidu's 2014-19 tenure. Under Jagan, the remaining 10.568 km was completed despite Covid, technical challenges and TBM problems. They said 82.2% of the total 37.587 km tunnel excavation was completed during the YSR-initiated phase and Jagan's tenure. YSRCP demanded completion of the Teegaleru canal and full R&R for displaced families before the inauguration and challenged Naidu to an open debate based on official records.

Kondapalli Srinivas Urges NRIs To Partner In Swarnandhra-2047

Continue

one-stop investment services were being provided, he said. He said six new industrial policies had been introduced with a target of attracting RS.30 lakh crore in investments and creating 20 lakh jobs. The government was also establishing Ratan Tata Innovation Centers, with the main centre in Amaravati and hubs in Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and Anantapur, to promote MSMEs and startups. The Minister highlighted opportunities in food processing, manufacturing, tourism and digital services and invited Malaysian Telugu entrepreneurs to contribute their experience and technical expertise to the State's development. He said the Telugu community in Malaysia had contributed significantly to the country's development while preserving its cultural identity. "Regardless of where we live, our blood is Telugu and our roots are in Andhra Pradesh," Kondapalli Srinivas said, urging NRIs to join the State's industrial and economic growth journey.



441 Children Receive Free Surgeries Under RBSK In Four Months

Amaravati, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The state government has provided 441 free surgeries to children below 18 years under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) during the 2026-27 financial year from April to August 19, with an expenditure of RS.2.42 crore. Commissioner of the Health and Family Welfare Department Chakradhar Babu informed State Minister for Medical and Health Satya Kumar Yadav about the screening, early diagnosis, treatment and follow-up services being provided to children. Of the 441 beneficiaries, 289 were identified during health screenings at Anganwadi centres and 152 through school screenings. The highest number, 132, were surgeries for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), followed by 72 for cleft lip and palate, 30 for congenital heart disease and 35 for clubfoot. Surgeries were also performed for congenital deafness, neural tube defects and congenital cataracts. Under RBSK, ANMs and Mid-Level Health Providers conduct preliminary screenings before suspected cases are referred to Medical Officers at Primary Health Centres. Children requiring further evaluation are sent to District Early Intervention Centres (DEICs), where pediatricians assess their conditions and determine treatment. Of the total surgeries, 238 were performed at government hospitals. The remaining cases were treated at 15 private hospitals empanelled under RBSK, including the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute. Treatment unavailable in government facilities is provided free of cost under Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva or PM-JAY. Officials said parents are also provided counselling when surgery is advised. The government is focusing on early detection, free treatment and follow-up care to safeguard children's health.



Nagababu Calls For Green Andhra Through Tree Planting

Continue

rituals, the couple planted Peepal and Neem saplings. He said the ceremony represented the close bond between nature, spirituality and ecological conservation. Nagababu said Mother Earth provides food, water, air and shelter throughout human life, while forests are being damaged through indiscriminate tree felling, mining and pollution. He said the Alliance government believed in planting and protecting trees rather than felling them. He said Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and he shared a common commitment towards environmental protection. Referring to the previous government, Nagababu alleged that it focused on felling trees and neglected plantation. He said countries such as Kenya were giving importance to forests and wildlife and stressed the need for India to set an example in environmental conservation. Nagababu also inspected the designs for the proposed Aranyaramam building, being constructed at a cost of ?24 crore to support research and training programmes for the Forest and Environment Departments. PCCF Chief P.V. Chalapathi Rao said construction was planned for completion within 10 months. Nagababu inspected 73 trees transplanted instead of being felled for the project and inaugurated the relocated trees. Officials said the trees were successfully shifted to other locations. PCCF P.V. Chalapathi Rao, CCF (Wildlife) N. Nageswara Rao, CCF (Guntur) Y. Srinivasa Reddy, CCF Chief Executive, AP Green Officer B.N.N. Murthy and Guntur DFO Himashailaja participated.

Nepal Floods: Rescue Efforts Intensify as Global Support Pours In Continue

support and that assistance would also be crucial for reconstruction and economic recovery. **World Rallies Behind Nepal** Countries and international organisations have begun sending relief materials, rescue personnel, medical assistance and financial support. India has provided more than 57 tonnes of relief material, while assistance has also arrived from China, Japan, Australia and other countries. Specialist teams from India and China are helping with technically challenging rescue operations. India has also intensified assistance to its citizens. The Ministry of External Affairs said 88 Indian nationals had been rescued, while 287 Indians and 128 people of Indian origin remained missing. Forensic teams have been deployed to assist in identification efforts. Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel thanked India for its support and solidarity. The wider international response has included assistance from the United Nations, Red Cross, United States, United Kingdom, South Korea and European partners. UNICEF has warned that thousands of children urgently need humanitarian assistance, while humanitarian agencies estimate that tens of thousands of people require immediate support. Beyond rescue operations, Nepal now faces the enormous task of rebuilding homes, roads, bridges, hydropower facilities and livelihoods. The international community's continued support-through rescue expertise, relief supplies, medical aid, financial assistance and long-term reconstruction-will be vital as Nepal confronts one of its worst natural disasters in recent years.

Dinakar Calls For Sustainable Water Management

Continue

water management was essential to achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat-2047 and Swarna Andhra Pradesh-2047, with technology and data-driven governance playing a key role. He was speaking at a national conference on "Sustainable Water Management for Urban & Rural Andhra Pradesh" organised at the School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, on Saturday. Dinakar said convergence of the Jal Jeevan Mission (Jm) and AMRUT programmes could create an integrated rural-urban water security framework. He called for complete water-cycle management covering storage, treatment, distribution, wastewater reuse and groundwater recharge. He proposed a State Integrated Water Data Platform covering rainfall, reservoir levels, groundwater, water quality, consumption, distribution losses, STP performance and GIS data. He also suggested annual district-level Water Balance Sheets and developing Vijayawada as a Water Circular Economy City through greater reuse of treated wastewater. Dinakar proposed a Comprehensive Water Security Mission-2047 with five priorities-Har Ghar Jal Security, Every Drop Recharged, Zero-Waste Water Cities, Living Water Bodies and Digital Water Governance. Prof. Dr. S. Ramesh, Director of SPA, Vijayawada, stressed water-sensitive ecosystems and technology-driven management. K. Sarath Kumar, Member Secretary and CEO of APCOST, RNS Murthy, Conference Convenor, and experts Rajeshkumar Jain, Devendar Rao, Dr. Kaushik Gosh, Prof. Ramakrishna Rao and Jitendra Paul participated.

Durgesh Stresses Need To Preserve Telugu Language Continue

Kalavedika on Saturday. Durgesh presented Telugu Bhasha Puraskaralu-2026 to 19 personalities, with each recipient receiving RS.25,000, a memento and certificate. Durgesh described Gidugu Ramamurthy Pantulu as a visionary who brought Telugu to common people through the Vyavaharika Bhasha movement. He said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan were according priority to the mother tongue. The Minister announced that a decision on Nandi Natakotsavulu would be announced in the first week of September and assured that the theatre festival would be organised on a grand scale within the year. He also said Ugadi, Kandukuri and Telugu Language awards would be presented annually. Special Chief Secretary of the Tourism and Culture Department Shamsheer Singh Rawat said Telugu, known as the "Italian of the East", should be encouraged through reading, writing and speaking. NTR District Collector Lakshmisha, Cultural and Creative Committee Chairperson Tejaswi Podapati, Official Language Commission Chairman Poola Trivikrama Rao and Nataka Academy Chairman Gummadi Gopalakrishna highlighted the importance of carrying Gidugu's legacy forward. Durgesh also released Kavya Mallikalu, authored by Gidugu's great-grandson Nageswara Rao.

Young Voices Bring Telugu Poetry To Life

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

A youth poetry recitation programme was held at Parvataneni Brahmaya Siddhartha Arts and Science College, Vijayawada, to mark Telugu Language Day. Prominent young poet PT Parker said poetry was a series of incomplete sentences and noted that contemporary poetry was evolving beyond traditional theories and standards.

Emerging poets Somepalli Srivashishtha and Tulasi Padmashri shared their experiences and discussed themes behind their



poetry collections.

Students from Siddhartha College and other city colleges recited poems. The programme began with a Kuchipudi performance by B.Sc. Chemistry student N. Lasya Priya and a prayer song by T. Bhuvana Sri. Vice-Principal Dr. M. Manoranjani paid floral tribute to Gidugu Ramamurthy. Director Vemuri Babu Rao, Junior College Principal Chundu Venkateswarlu, Dean Prof. Rajesh C. Jampala and Kalapeetham Secretary B.V.S. Prakash attended. Certificates were presented to participating students.

Collector Inspects EVM and VVPAT Warehouse



NTR District, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha directed officials to maintain strict vigilance and ensure there were no lapses in security at the EVM and VVPAT warehouse in Gollapudi. He conducted the routine monthly inspection on Saturday in the presence of representatives of recognized political parties, as mandated by

Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines. The Collector inspected the functioning of CCTV cameras and fire safety equipment before signing the monitoring register. He said the warehouse was being regularly inspected as per ECI guidelines and comprehensive reports were being submitted.

Lakshminisha instructed officials and security personnel to remain alert and maintain continuous surveillance through CCTV systems. He stressed that despite the existing robust security arrangements, constant monitoring was essential. DRO M. Lakshminarasimham, along with TDP representative Yedupati Ramayya, BJP representative P. Govinda, INC representative B. Muralikrishna and JSP representative Jadagam Srinivas, participated in the inspection.

Vehicles Distributed to 58 Differently-Abled Beneficiaries



Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

State Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens Assistance Corporation Chairman Gadiputi Narayanaswamy and District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha said free motorized three-wheelers would help persons with disabilities achieve self-reliance and access livelihood opportunities. At a programme organized by the Department for the

Welfare of Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens at the Collectorate on Saturday, vehicles worth ₹66.70 lakh were distributed to 58 beneficiaries. Narayanaswamy said the vehicles would support employment, business and self-employment while improving mobility, confidence and dignity. Collector Lakshminisha said the government was providing free retrofitted motorized vehicles to eligible persons with physical disabilities to promote mobility, independence and sustainable employment. He said 113 applications were received from seven Assembly constituencies and beneficiaries were selected transparently by the District Selection Committee according to government guidelines. Each vehicle was valued at ₹1.15 lakh. Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, Department Officer Vadrevu Kamaraju and others participated.

Gannavaram Girls' School Wins Sports Award

Machilipatnam, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Gannavaram Girls' High School secured third place in the district-level 'Excellent' sports award for 2026-27. Headmistress Parvathi said. Physical education teachers K. Geetha and K. Tanya Giri received the certificate and memento from District Educational Officer U. Subbarao at Machilipatnam on Saturday, marking National Sports Day.



Telugu Language Day Celebrated at Andhra Loyola College



Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, celebrated Telugu Language Day on Saturday to commemorate the birth anniversary of Gidugu Ramamurthy. Dr. G.V. Purnachandru, poet, Secretary of the World Telugu Writers' Association and renowned Ayurvedic physician, attended as chief guest. Dr. Purnachandru explained the distinction between scholarly language (Pandita Bhasha) and colloquial

language (Vyavaharika Bhasha), highlighting the importance of both in preserving Telugu.

He said ancient literature reflects the sweetness of scholarly Telugu, while colloquial language helps convey its richness to the present generation. He urged youth to preserve Telugu traces on social media and stressed the role of scientific roots in sustaining the language. Vice Principal Fr. M. Arul Jothi said that while English should be respected, preserving the mother tongue is everyone's responsibility. Dr. Kola Sekhar, Head of the Department of Oriental Languages, also stressed the need to safeguard Telugu. Essay writing, poetry recitation and elocution competitions were conducted, with prizes and certificates presented to winners and participants.

Red Cross Plans Wider Outreach And Life-Saving Training



Machilipatnam, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Indian Red Cross Society District President and District Collector D.K. Balaji said Red Cross services should be strengthened and brought closer to the public to provide timely assistance during emergencies. He stressed the importance of CPR and first-aid training in saving lives during the golden hour. The Red Cross district annual general body meeting was held at the Collectorate PGRS

meeting hall on Saturday. The annual activity report, audited accounts and income-expenditure details were approved, while the budget and action plan for the coming financial year were discussed and ratified. The meeting decided to establish Youth Red Cross units in all colleges and Junior Red Cross units in all high schools. Three workshops will be organized in Machilipatnam, Uyyuru and Gudur to train PETs in first aid, CPR and setting up Junior Red Cross units. Collector Balaji also directed officials to arrange land for Red Cross facilities in Machilipatnam and Challapalli and organize blood donation camps across all mandals. In-charge DRO S. Pothuraju, Red Cross Society Chairman D.R.K. Prasad, Secretary Shankarnath Bhaviri, Treasurer Padamata Sukumar, DEO U.V. Subbarao, Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva District Coordinator Dr. Satish and others participated.

Collector Directs Support For Lagging Primary School Students

Machilipatnam, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector D.K. Balaji directed officials to effectively utilise volunteers engaged in supporting academically lagging primary school students and improve their learning levels. Balaji held a teleconference with Mandal Special Officers and Mandal Educational Officers (MEOs) from his camp office on Saturday and reviewed measures to strengthen student learning. He instructed officials to coordinate with volunteers, provide additional support to students

below expected standards and regularly assess their progress. Field-level inspections should be conducted to observe teaching methods and evaluate outcomes, he said. Balaji advised officials to visit schools and villages, interact with volunteers and understand challenges faced during teaching. He stressed continuous guidance and coordination among teachers, volunteers and Education Department officials to strengthen foundational learning. District Educational Officer U.V. Subbarao, Mandal Special Officers and MEOs participated.

Women's Equality Day Rally Held

Chirravuru, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau



A Women's Equality Day Awareness Rally was organized at Chirravuru Zilla Parishad High School under the joint auspices of the KLU Women's Development Cell and Value Education Cell. Keynote speaker and KLU psychologist Shankari said women's education is the foundation of societal development and stressed that true progress is possible only when women receive equal rights and opportunities. She said quality education is essential for the economic and social empowerment of girls and urged students to support women's participation in legislative bodies, workplaces and leadership positions. Students marched through

the village carrying placards with messages supporting women's rights and opposing gender discrimination. University Vice-Chancellor Dr. G. Parthasaradhi Varma, Pro-Vice-Chancellors Dr. N. Venkat Ram and Dr. K. Rajashekhar Rao, Registrar Dr. K.I. Pavan Kumar, Dean (In-charge) of Student Welfare Dr. K.R.S. Prasad, and others participated.

VMC Chief Urges Citizens To Use SIR-2026 Campaign



Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra urged citizens to utilise the special campaign on August 29 and 30 under the SIR-2026 process, as directed by the Election

Commission of India. He said voters could correct errors in names, addresses and other electoral details by submitting any one of the 12 prescribed documents. Eligible youth aged 18 and above could also apply for new voter registration. Dhyanaachandra directed AEROs and BLOs to conduct field verification and contact voters by phone before considering any transfer or deletion. He stressed that no voter's registration should be changed without consent. Officials were instructed to transparently accept corrections, objections and new applications and complete the process carefully. AERO and Assistant City Planner Rambabu, BLOs and staff participated.

VMC Warns Food Establishments Over Hygiene Violations

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Assistant Medical Health Officer Dr. Annapurna warned that legal action would be taken against food establishments violating hygiene regulations. Following Municipal Commissioner Dhyanaachandra's directions, officials inspected hotels, restaurants and tiffin centres in Sanitary Divisions 39, 40, 41 and 42 on Saturday.

Tirumala Restaurant, Balaji Hotel, Pandu Hotel and Gupta Tiffin Center were inspected for cleanliness, waste management, dustbins and surrounding sanitation.

Fines totalling ₹4,000 were imposed for violations. Notices were issued to estab-



lishments with deficiencies, directing owners to rectify them within seven days. Officials warned that failure to comply would result in trade licence cancellation and further penalties.

The inspection was led by Sanitary Supervisor S.V.S. Sridhar. Sanitary Inspectors Adinarayana, V. Srinivas and J. Durga Rao and other staff participated.

National Sports Day Celebrated at Municipal School



Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

National Sports Day was celebrated enthusiastically at PM SHRI M.K. Baig Municipal High School in Singh Nagar to mark the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.

Ajit Singh Nagar Circle Inspector Chandrasekhar, the chief guest, said

sports improve physical fitness, mental well-being and discipline. He urged students to include sports in their daily routine alongside academics, noting that games help reduce stress and build confidence.

The school Headmaster said sportsmanship teaches students to accept defeat positively and move forward. Prizes and certificates were presented to students who excelled in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball and Throwball competitions organized for National Sports Day. School Physical Director G. Kishore, Havila, teaching staff and students participated in the celebrations.

Basic Amenities Must Be Provided in Ashram Schools

A. Konduru, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

CPM State Secretary V. Srinivasa Rao demanded that the government provide basic amenities, quality education and nutritious food to students in tribal ashram schools. He also urged authorities to ensure proper health and safety measures. On Saturday, Srinivasa Rao, along with CPM leaders, visited the tribal boys' ashram school at Chaitanya Nagar Thanda near A. Konduru junction. He discussed student enrollment, education and facilities with in-charge Headmaster P. Anuradha and inspected classrooms, dormitories, kitchen, water plant and hostel premises. Students complained about snakes, mosquitoes and



monkeys, besides skin allergies. Srinivasa Rao urged authorities to improve sanitation, ensure safe drinking water and accommodation, tackle the problems and fill vacant hostel warden posts. He also sought immediate disbursement of Thalliki Vandanam funds. CPM State Secretariat members Ch. Baburao and Y. Venkateswara Rao, and others participated.

Bhakti Ranjani Concert Enchants Devotees



Indrakeeladri, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The 'Bhakti Ranjani' musical concert held on Saturday evening as part of the 'Dharmapatham' programme at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam, Indrakeeladri, delighted devotees. Presented by Smt. Y. Anuradha's troupe from Vijayawada, the programme began at 6:30 PM.

Vocalists Kumari K. Bhumika and Kumari N. Rishitha impressed the audience with devotional and Carnatic classical compositions. The concert opened with Muthuswami Dikshitar's 'Sri Maha

Ganapatim Bhajeham', followed by 'Chakkani Thalliki Changubhala', praising Goddess Kanaka Durgamma. Annamacharya compositions including 'Adivo Alladivo Srihari Vasamu', 'Tiru Tiru Javarala' and 'Pidikita Talambala Pendikuturu' were also presented. Sri S. Jagannathan on mridangam provided accompaniment.

Devasthanam officials, Vedic committee members and devotees appreciated the artistes. The performers were honoured with Sesha Vastrams and Prasadam as per temple traditions.

Nagajyothi Receives International Recognition in Finland

Anakapalli, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

P.V.M. Nagajyothi, School Assistant (English) at ZP High School, Rolugunta, has earned appreciation for her performance during an educational tour to Finland under the International Professional Development programme organized by the Andhra Pradesh School Education Department. A State Best Teacher, Nagajyothi studied Finland's education system, focusing on student-centred learning, experiential education, joyful learning, independent thinking and practical teaching methods. She presented an innovative project explaining how Finnish educational



practices could be adapted to Indian schools. Her project design and teaching

ideas aimed at making learning easier, engaging and effective received appreciation from Finnish representatives, teachers and mentors. Commissioner of School Education Tamim Ansari also commended her work and study. Nagajyothi received the International Professional Development Certificate from Maija Pihlola, Vice-Rector of the University of Turku, after completing the programme. Teachers and students of Rolugunta ZP High School, education officials and friends congratulated her for bringing recognition to the school and district through her international presentation.

Yasvitha Sai Wins Gold Medal

Krishna, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

R. Yasvitha Sai of Krishna district won the gold medal in the Under-23 girls' category at the Amaravati Cup 2026 state-level shuttle badminton tournament. District Shuttle Badminton Association Executive Secretary Dhaniyala Nagaraju said Yasvitha displayed excellent sporting skills at the tournament held in Tirupati from Aug 24 to 27. She received the gold medal from Minister Chandra Mohan Reddy. Yasvitha is pursuing her second-year Intermediate at Sri Chaitanya Junior College in Vijayawada. Nagaraju congratulated her on the achievement and expressed hope that she would continue to excel in badminton and achieve greater success. He said Yasvitha has been progressing well with the encouragement and guidance of her physical education teacher Murali.

Paddy Procurement Relief for Telugu Farmers in Odisha

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Rajamahendravaram MP Daggubati Purandeswari expressed happiness over the Odisha government's decision to procure paddy cultivated by Telugu farmers, bringing relief to around 50,000 farmers. Farmers from Pedapudi Mandal in the Anaparthi constituency had recently approached Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy over the Odisha government's refusal to procure their produce. Ramakrishna Reddy brought the issue to Purandeswari's notice, following which she spoke with concerned Odisha ministers and urged immediate action. Responding positively, the Odisha government agreed to procure the paddy from the affected farmers. Ramakrishna Reddy thanked Purandeswari for her intervention and efforts to resolve the issue. Purandeswari also thanked Odisha Governor Kambhampati Hari Babu, Odisha R&B Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, Civil Supplies Minister Krishna Chandra Patra, and Odisha Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo for their cooperation. She said farmers deserve fair returns for their hard work, irrespective of where they cultivate their crops, and assured that she would continue raising farmers' issues on appropriate platforms.

Robust Arrangements Planned for Godavari Pushkaram



Rajamahendravaram, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Keerthi Chekuri and SP D. Narasimha Kishore conducted a field visit on Saturday to review arrangements for the Godavari Pushkaram. The Collector said the focus was on providing better facilities, safe pilgrim movement and effective crowd management at ghats and temples. The team inspected Kotilingala Ghat, Sri Uma Kotilingaswara Swamy Temple, Lutherigiri and Arts College areas. Officials discussed parking, pilgrim movement, bus operations, pedestrian pathways and entry-exit routes. Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to regulate pilgrim entry in phases and establish separate entry and exit routes. She stressed coordinated arrangements for drinking water, sanitation, electricity, medical facilities and security. Temporary bus terminals will be established at Lutherigiri and Arts College grounds, with special pedestrian pathways. SP D. Narasimha Kishore said barricading, queue lines, traffic diversions and parking management would be implemented. Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop, DSP Y. Srikanth, Special Officer Mahesh and other officials participated.

Nashik Kumbh Technology to Guide Godavari Pushkarams

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Principal Secretary of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department S. Suresh Kumar directed officials to study and adapt technical strategies used for the Nashik Kumbh Mela for the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams. He held a video conference with officials on Friday, during which Subhash Patil and his team presented the Nashik Kumbh technical plans through a PowerPoint presentation. The arrangements discussed covered crowd and safety management, mobility and traffic, health and sanitation, and digital pilgrim management. Advanced technologies including CCTV cameras, sensors, Artificial Intelligence and command-and-control centres are being used for effective management. Subhash Patil said specialized agencies were being engaged for different technical services. Suresh Kumar noted that the Godavari Pushkar ghats are spread across a vast basin and directed officials to consider local geography and pilgrim movement while planning arrangements. He stressed adapting Nashik's technology to local requirements despite differences in scale, duration and number of ghats. SP Narasimha Kishore, Joint Collector Megha Swaroop, Municipal Commissioner Rahul Meena and Pushkaralu Special Deputy Collector A. Mahesh participated.



Vysakhi Nrithyotsav 2026 Logo and Poster Unveiled

Visakhapatnam, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The official logo and poster of the 18th All India Dance Festival - Vysakhi Nrithyotsav 2026 were unveiled by Odisha Governor Kambhampati Hari Babu in Visakhapatnam. Writers Academy Chairman V.V. Ramana Murthy, Festival Director Vikram Goud and Festival Coordinator Bhagyashri Bathina participated in the ceremony. Organized by Nataraj Music & Dance Academy, the two-day festival will be held on September 26 and 27 from 6 PM at Kalabharathi Auditorium, Visakhapatnam. The event will feature classical and folk dance performances by artists from across India. The opening day will feature Kuchipudi by



Geeta Narayan Sadagani, Manipuri by Padmashri awardee Darshana Jhaveri Group and Kathak by the Hari Reddy Group. On September 27, performances include Bharatanatyam by Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Vasundhara Doraswamy Group and Chari folk dance by Afsan Gujarat Group.

56 Hostel Students Fall Ill In Dosakayalapalli

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

As many as 56 students of GSH Junior College hostel at Dosakayalapalli in Korukonda mandal developed loose stools and abdominal pain on Friday, prompting the Medical and Health Department to intensify monitoring. DM&HO Dr. P. Komali said immediate medical, sanitation and disease-control measures were taken under the directions of East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri. Of the 172 hostel students, 56 received treatment at Dosakayalapalli PHC and their condition remained stable. A 24/7 medical camp was established at the hostel, while symptomatic students were isolated and kept under observation. Rajahmundry MP Daggubati Purandeswari spoke with Dr. P. Komali and reviewed the stu-



dents' health condition. She directed officials to investigate possible contamination of food or drinking water. Four drinking-water samples were sent to the DPHL laboratory for testing. Water tanks and sumps were cleaned and leftover food was discarded. Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh also spoke with

Collector Keerthi Chekuri and directed officials to ensure continuous monitoring, quality treatment, sanitation and strict food-safety measures in hostels across the district. Former MLA and YSR Congress Party youth wing State President Jakkampudi Raja visited the hostel, met affected students and urged surprise food-safety inspections.

Rammohan Naidu Reviews Development Works



Srikakulam, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu directed officials to ensure speedy utilisation of MPLADS funds and timely completion of sanctioned works. At a review meeting with District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar on Saturday, he

instructed officials to set deadlines and divert funds to other urgent public projects if works did not begin within four months of sanction. Officials said 346 projects had been sanctioned, of which 177 were completed and 29 were progressing. The Centre had released \$24.35 crore through the e-Sakshi portal. Naidu also reviewed the Jal Jeevan Mission

and directed officials to update MLAs every two weeks. He called for faster implementation of PM Surya Ghar and PM KUSUM schemes, targeting 19 MW of solar power generation and solar electricity for 56,000 households. Support For Chenchu Community Naidu also handed over an \$8 lakh zero-interest bank-linked loan to the Chenchu community's 'Unnathi' association at the Collectorate. He advised members to use the assistance for traditional attire and occupational needs. Srikakulam MLA Gondu Shankar, Collector Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar, ITDA PO Swapnil and Trainee Collector Hari Om Pandya attended.

Red Cross Conducts First Aid and CPR Training

Chirala, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

The Indian Red Cross Society, Chirala Sub-District Branch, organised a First Aid and CPR training programme at the Rotary Community Hall on Saturday. Tahsildar Gopi Krishna presented certificates to 40 participants who completed the training. He appreciated the Red Cross initiative, stating that programmes focused on life-saving skills were highly commendable. He urged people to obtain Red Cross lifetime membership and support its service



activities. Red Cross Chairman Budaraju Sashi Kiran said First Aid and CPR training programmes were being expanded across the constituency. He announced that special training sessions

would soon be conducted for staff of government and private schools, colleges, government offices and courts. Junior Red Cross District Coordinator P. Srimannarayana, Vice-

Chairperson Surampalli Tejaswi, Secretary G.A.V. Prasad, and managing committee members Purnachandra Rao, Dammu Vijay Bhaskar and Pasupula Vandana, among others, attended.

Nidhhi Agerwal Inaugurates Ekadhi Silver Jewellery Store

Nellore, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Ekadhi Silver Jewellery inaugurated its new exclusive store at Achari Street in Nellore on Saturday, attracting a large number of jewellery enthusiasts. Popular actress Nidhhi Agerwal attended the grand opening as chief guest and interacted with customers. Ekadhi Directors Venu Rachakonda and Shiv Charan Vuppalachani said the new store aims to make quality silver jewellery, contemporary designs and traditional craftsmanship accessible to customers in Nellore. Franchise partners Vanarasi Goutham, Kondeti Sai Krishna and Yannaru Venkatesh welcomed the public to the new outlet. The store offers necklaces, harams, earrings, bangles, bracelets, rings, jhumkas



and pendants suitable for weddings, festivals, special occasions and everyday wear. Special opening offers include \$1,000 off on purchases of \$10,000, a \$25,000 gift voucher on purchases of \$1 lakh and a \$60,000 voucher on purchases of \$2 lakh. Under Swarna Shravana offers, customers purchasing for \$5,000 can spin the wheel, while those spending \$10,000 can receive a gold coin. The offers are valid until September 10.

Rs 3.25 Crore Road Works Launched in Bommanampadu



Addanki, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravikumar said the Alliance government is giving priority to road development across Andhra Pradesh. On Saturday, he laid the foundation stone for a \$3.25 crore tar road connecting Kakanivaripalem through Bommanampadu in Addanki mandal. Gottipati Ravikumar said better roads would improve transportation in rural areas and accelerate economic and social development. He said road construction and repair works worth around \$2.123 crore are being undertaken across the

state, particularly in remote villages. New roads are also being developed to connect villages with urban areas and improve public transport. The Minister alleged that road development was neglected during the five-year YCP government and claimed that proper repairs were not undertaken. He said the Alliance government, led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, was taking up neglected road works on a priority basis. He added that the government was focusing on infrastructure, rural connectivity and public welfare. TDP and Alliance leaders and officials participated.

Telugu Language Day and National Sports Day Celebrated

Eluru, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Language Day and National Sports Day were celebrated enthusiastically at BR & D School of Nursing in Denduluru, Eluru district, on Saturday. Speaking on Telugu Language Day, student E. Navya recalled Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy's contribution to promoting colloquial Telugu and noted that the day marks his 163rd birth anniversary. Students paid floral tributes to his portrait, while Prashanthi appeared as Telugu Thalli. On National Sports Day, student P. Anjali highlighted the achievements of hockey



legend Major Dhyan Chand, whose 121st birth anniversary is observed on August 29. She recalled his role in India's three consecutive Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936. Students displayed posters highlighting his achievements.

Raghurama Krishna Raju Visits Temple, Nursery

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker and Undi MLA Raghurama Krishna Raju visited Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Vadapalli, popularly known as Konaseema Tirumala. Temple officials and priests accorded him a traditional welcome, following which he performed special rituals and received Teertha-Prasadam. Temple Chairman Mudunuri Venkata Raju and Deputy Commissioner Nallam Surya Chakradhara Rao felicitated Raghurama Krishna Raju and presented him with a portrait of the deity and Prasadam. He highlighted the shrine's spiritual significance and the "Seven Weeks - Seven Circumambulations" ritual.



Later, Raghurama Krishna Raju visited Sri Satyadeva Nursery in Kadiyam, where proprietor Pulla Anjaneyulu welcomed him with an 'Aglaoenema Thai Butterfly' plant. Raju appreciated the nursery's thousands of plant varieties and expressed delight at seeing a fruit-bearing avocado tree. He also enquired about Lakshmana Phalam (Soursop) and Hanuman Phalam (Cherimoya), observing that imported mango varieties could benefit Indian agriculture.

Telugu Language Day Celebrated at Ramamohana Library

Vijayawada, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Language Day was celebrated at Ramamohana Library to mark the 164th birth anniversary of Gidugu Ramamurthy Pantulu. Telugu language activist and Avadhana Marthanda Dr. Palaparthi Shyamalananda Prasad attended as chief guest and highlighted Gidugu Ramamurthy's efforts to promote colloquial Telugu. Dr. Shyamalananda and Ambati Madhu Mohan Krishna paid floral tributes to Gidugu Ramamurthy's portrait. Madhu Mohan Krishna urged parents to develop love for Telugu among children. Library Committee President Chintalapudi Koteswara Rao presided and delivered the welcome address. Secretary Venulapalli Keshavarao proposed the vote of thanks. Vice-President Dammala Ramachandra Rao, committee members Chidambareswara Rao and Padmaja, library staff, readers and prominent citizens participated.



Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials caught VRO

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials caught Ryali Village VRO Nageswara Rao red-handed while accepting a \$16,500 bribe at the Ryali Village Secretariat in Atreyapuram Mandal on Saturday. Acting on a complaint from Chinnam Lakshmi Prasanna, ACB officials laid a trap after Nageswara Rao allegedly demanded the money to process her land mutation application. The amount was recovered from his shirt pocket and a phenolphthalein test returned positive. A case was registered and investigation is underway.

Editorial

Redesign Tourism Policy to Put Safety First

The flash floods and natural calamities in Nepal should serve as a serious warning for India to rethink and redesign its tourism policy. Natural disasters cannot always be prevented, but the loss of human lives can certainly be reduced through proper planning, timely warnings and strict safety measures. India, with its vast geographical diversity and numerous tourist and pilgrimage destinations, needs a comprehensive system to identify which places are safe to visit, which areas are vulnerable and which destinations should be avoided during particular seasons. The Tourism Department should issue clear precautionary guidelines to tourists before they begin their journeys. Information about weather conditions, landslide-prone areas, flood risks, road conditions and other possible dangers should be made easily available through official platforms. Tourists should not be left to depend only on private travel agencies or local information.

The licences and permissions granted to private tourism institutions also need to be reviewed periodically. Tourism operators must be made accountable for the safety of their customers. Before granting new licences, authorities should examine whether the institutions have proper safety arrangements, trained personnel, emergency communication systems and disaster-management plans. Regular inspections should also be mandatory.

This becomes even more important in India because a large section of the population is devotional. Pilgrims often have tremendous faith and may be willing to undertake journeys even under difficult or dangerous circumstances. Their devotion should be respected, but it should never be allowed to become a reason for putting their lives at risk. Governments have a responsibility to ensure that faith and tourism go together with safety.

We cannot stop nature from showing its power. But we can certainly prepare ourselves better to face it. A responsible tourism policy should aim not merely at increasing tourist numbers, but at ensuring that every journey is safe, well-informed and properly managed. Tourism should bring happiness and memorable experiences-not tragedy. India must learn from every natural disaster and build a tourism system where safety is given the highest priority.

- Editor

A Shattered Mirror: 'When the Music Changes' and the Harsh Realities of Urban Vulnerability for Women

American - Indian actor and director, Lakshmi Devy's *When the Music Changes* is not merely a cinematic endeavour; it is a brutal, unyielding mirror held up to a society caught in a turbulent, often dangerous transition. As India navigates the influx of globalized, modern lifestyles, the traditional reverence for women deeply rooted in ancient cultural frameworks that viewed them as the foundation of the household and figures of profound respect is increasingly colliding with imported urban vulnerabilities. The film captures the horrifying reality faced by countless young women whose lives are abruptly shattered, forced to carry the weight of a trauma they must spend a lifetime trying to navigate.

A scene from the film

To understand the genesis of the violence depicted in the film, one must examine the pervasive visual and media culture surrounding us. Decades spent observing and navigating the mass communication and advertising industries reveal a disturbing, normalized trend: the relentless commodification of women to sell products and narratives. This continuous objectification conditions the collective mind-set, slowly stripping away reverence and replacing it with a sense of consumption and entitlement. When women are consistently framed as commodities on billboards, screens, and in print, the psychological leap for some men to treat them as mere objects of conquest in real life becomes tragically small.

Director and Actor Lakshmi Devy.

This deep-seated conditioning creates fertile ground for the tragedy that unfolds in the film. The assault depicted is not born of isolated passion, but of twisted egos and a desire for dominance. As the group of men descends upon the protagonist, the film chillingly illustrates the darkest aspects of group psychology. Within the pack, individual morality evaporates. Deindividuation takes hold, and the psychological burden of guilt is entirely diffused among the perpetrators. Because the horrific act is shared, no single individual feels



entirely culpable, allowing a dangerous mob mentality to override rational thought or human empathy. In that moment, ordinary individuals transform into absolute monsters, fuelled by the escalating, unchecked energy of the group. The profound tragedy of *When the Music Changes* extends far beyond the physical assault; it lies in the stark, immutable truth of the aftermath. In our current reality, a gendered double standard persists with cruel resilience. If the roles were reversed, a young man might bizarrely find his social standing unaffected, perhaps even perversely enhanced in certain toxic circles. But for a young woman, the incident fractures her world. Despite the pro-

tagonist's powerful, necessary declaration at the end of the film-that her honour, dignity, and self-respect remain untarnished-the reality on the ground is often far less forgiving. Society, regardless of how modern it claims to be, tends to view the survivor through a tinted, permanent "yellow glass." The stigma lingers heavily, making the rebuilding of a life a monumental struggle where the victim is forced to bear the consequences of a crime she did not commit.

This brings us to a critical societal failure highlighted by the very existence of such narratives. Often, public commentators and human rights activists emerge only in the aftermath, holding candlelight vigils in the streets when it is already too late. While they advocate fiercely for ultimate personal freedoms and the right to reclaim the night, they frequently neglect the urgent, practical need to advise young women on the immediate, unvarnished dangers of their environments. Sweet psychological terms, post-incident moral outrage, and even the strictest law and order systems do not turn back the clock on a tragedy.

Therefore, *When the Music Changes* must serve as an urgent cautionary tale, prompting vital conversations within families, especially for young girls stepping into the independence of metropolitan cities and upcoming towns. For those moving away from the safety of home for studies or work, embracing a newfound life must be paired with acute situational awareness.

Advice for Families and Young Women

When *The Music Changes* is a diffi-

Ram Kamal



Social Engineer

cult watch, but a necessary one all families with girl children to watch. It strips away the illusion of safety, reminding us that until society undergoes a fundamental, systemic rewiring in how it

views and values women, vigilance remains the strongest shield we possess.

When the *Music Change* as a mirror to hold in front of the young girls to understand the consequences. As the film rightly said, 'life can change in an instant. Sometimes, all it takes is one moment for everything to be different'.

The film acknowledges the reality. Families must bridge the gap between traditional protective values and the modern urban reality. We must acknowledge that society is still taking baby steps toward genuine civic sense and personal responsibility.

We need vigilance over idealism in this uncertain world. Young women must be advised that while the fight for their absolute freedom is valid, their physical safety must take precedence. The dangers of roaming in the wee hours of the night, or placing blind trust in newly formed, untested groups of friends or friend's friends, are not archaic myths but a present day risks. Test the water before entering into the group. It is must for families to teach their children on situational awareness. Independence requires strategy. Understanding the dynamics of new social circles, recognizing the signs of escalating toxic behaviour (as seen early in the film), and maintaining strong, reliable communication with family or trusted guardians is essential. Also all must aware that the GenZ is less intelligent, pragmatic and less in commonsense than the previous generations and all studies prove this fact too.

Safety and self-preservation must be the first choice for all girls. Protecting oneself from the very real dangers lurking in modern urban environments is not a surrender of rights, it is the most crucial step in protection and prevention.

When the *Music Changes* is a powerful independent feature film in English, perfectly made out of GenZ, that explores love, loss, resilience, and the choices that shape who we become. Through emotionally rich performances and intimate storytelling, the film takes viewers on a deeply human journey that lingers long after the final scene. Written, directed, produced by, and starring Lakshmi Devy presented this film with Executive Producer John Turturro. The director of photography Abhinandan Ramanujam deserves a credit for his natural lighting skills.

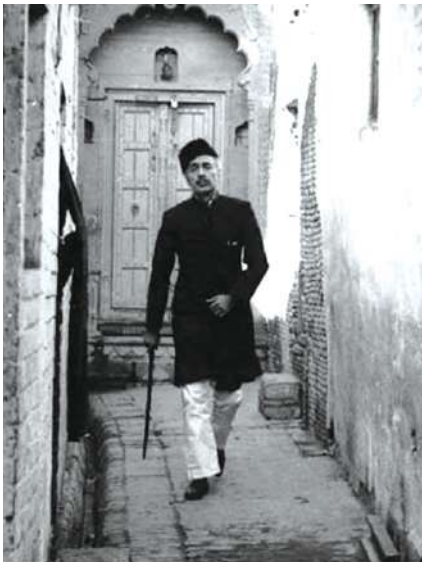
Born in New York, Lakshmi Devy is an Actress, Director, Screenwriter and Producer of Indian descent. She shuttles between New York and India and is well tuned to both cultures. From an early age, Lakshmi expressed an artistic talent and passion for the performing arts. She is a trained classical Bharathanatyam dancer. As the director, Lakshmi Devy also performed the lead character and victim with powerful acting skills with a natural flow.

My only objection was the dialogues and the overuse of the word f**** *G, and a few of the acting expressions are a reflection of how badly India is copying the bad street English, imported careless and emotionless culture. Even though *When the Music Changes* is a celebration of independent cinema and authentic storytelling, a little consideration could have been given to the screenplay and mannerisms.

Watch the movie: <https://youtu.be/qoBzZxMELWc?si=eZqMLkXjBk31Rijh>

How Far Has Cinema Done Justice to the History of Partition?

Garm Hava, Train to Pakistan, Tamas, Pinjar, Main Vaapas Aaunga - History, Wound and Memory



one of the most significant Indian films about Partition. Released in 1973, it does not depend primarily on scenes of bloodshed. Instead, it enters the life of a Muslim family that remains in India after Partition.

Countries may be divided. Borders may be drawn. Maps may be redrawn. But human memory has no borders.

The Partition of India in 1947 was not merely a political decision or a cartographic exercise. It was a human catastrophe that shook millions of lives. Homes, villages, property, relationships, friendships, loves and childhood memories were suddenly divided into "this side" and "the other side" of an invisible line.

That is why Partition has returned again and again to Indian cinema, like a wound that refuses to heal. *Garm Hava*, *Train to Pakistan*, *Tamas* and *Pinjar* have approached that wound from very different directions. *Main Vaapas Aaunga* takes the journey a step further, moving from history into the deeper territory of memory. But an unavoidable question remains: How far have these films really done justice to the history of Partition?

There is no simple answer. These films are not history textbooks. They are works of art that attempt to show how human beings experienced history. Their value, therefore, cannot be measured merely by the number of historical events they contain. What matters is whether they have honestly, sensitively and responsibly conveyed some essential truth of that history. *Garm Hava*: When a Country Changes, Does a Home Change Too?

M. S. Sathya's *Garm Hava* remains



becomes a carrier of the dead. And yet, in the darkness, the love between Juggut Singh and Nooran remains like a small human lamp. *Train to Pakistan* does not attempt to narrate the whole history of Partition. Instead, it shows what happens when a vast political catastrophe enters the lives of ordinary people. Its achievement lies precisely there: it transforms history from an abstract event into a human experience. *Tamas*: Who Creates the Darkness? Govind Nihalani's *Tamas*, based on Bhisham Sahni's novel, examines Partition through a deeper political and social lens. The question here is not merely, "Who killed whom?"

It is: How did human beings reach a point where they were prepared to kill one another? A rumour. A corpse. A religious symbol. A political conspiracy. When such elements converge, communal hatred can spread with terrifying speed. *Tamas* is therefore particularly important for understanding Partition because it does not merely portray victims of violence. It examines the social and political machinery through which vio-



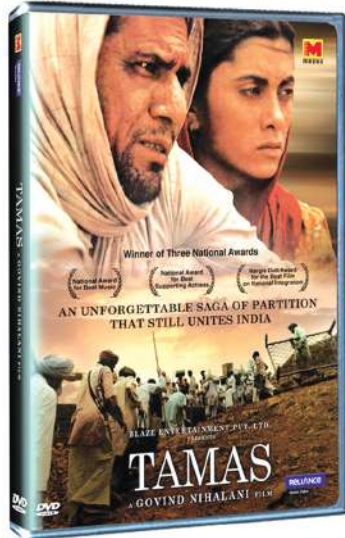
lence is manufactured. In that sense, *Tamas* is among the films that approach Partition with an especially strong sense of historical responsibility. It asks us not only to remember the violence, but to understand how societies can be manipulated into producing it. *Pinjar*: The Border Drawn on a Woman's Body Chandraprakash Dwivedi's *Pinjar*, based on Amrita Pritam's novel, brought another neglected dimension of Partition into the centre of the conversation: the experience of women.

When countries were divided, women's bodies, freedom, families and futures were also subjected to violence. Abduction, sexual assault, forced marriage, religious conversion and the rejection of women in the name of family honour formed some of the darkest chapters of Partition. Through Puro's story, *Pinjar* asks an unsettling question: Why did a border drawn in the name of nations become a cage around a woman's life? The film does not claim to tell the entire story of Partition. Instead, it gives a voice to women whose suffering was too often pushed to the margins of historical memory. Its great contribution is to remind us that Partition was not merely a division of territory. It entered the most intimate spaces of human existence. *Main Vaapas Aaunga*: When History Becomes Memory At this point, *Main Vaapas Aaunga* marks an interesting turn in the cinematic journey through

Varala Anand



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



Partition. It does not look at Partition simply as an event that happened in 1947. It explores how that event continued to live inside the memory of a generation that eventually grew old.

The house left behind in Sargodha. Childhood. Love. A familiar street. A world that once seemed permanent.

The country changed. The border changed. But memory did not. Here, "vaapas"-return-is not merely a journey back to a geographical location.

It is a return to childhood.

A return to love.

A return to home.

A return to the person one once was.

That is where the film finds its distinctive emotional territory. The house left behind is no longer merely a property. It becomes a repository of identity. The lost street becomes a landscape of memory. The distant homeland becomes an interior geography that cannot be erased by political borders. But How Much Justice Can Cinema Do to History? Here, a degree of caution is necessary. Partition was not simply the story



of one person losing a home. It was the outcome of colonial rule, political negotiations and conflicts, the Mountbatten Plan, the Radcliffe boundary, the division of Punjab and Bengal, mass migration, communal killings, violence against women, refugee rehabilitation and the long-term consequences for India-Pakistan relations.

No single film can encompass this enormous and complex history. But that is also the inevitable limitation of cinema.

Garm Hava chooses the experience of a family rather than the complete political history of Partition. *Train to Pakistan* chooses the tragedy of a village rather than the history of an entire subcontinent. *Tamas* examines the making of communal hatred. *Pinjar* enters the experience of women and the violence inflicted upon their bodies and identities. *Main Vaapas Aaunga* chooses memory. These films, therefore, are not the complete portrait of Partition. They are different fragments of the same immense historical canvas.

And perhaps that is precisely how Partition has to be remembered-not as one finished narrative, but as a collection of millions of unfinished human stories.

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

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

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.

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.

FDA Cancels Cipla Unit's Drug Licence

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cancelled the drug sale licences of Cipla Pharma & Life Sciences Ltd's Carry and Forwarding (C&F) unit in Pune, citing serious irregularities in the packaging, storage and recall of Reactin Plus Tablets. According to an FDA statement issued on Friday, the cancellation took effect on August 27 following inspections of the company's main warehouse at Wadki in Pune district. The regulator said its inspections uncovered several deficiencies in the unit's drug storage and distribution systems. Medicines were found stored directly on the floor, while arrangements involving pallets and racks were deemed inadequate. The FDA also identified shortcomings in procedures and record-keeping related to expired medicines. During an inspection conducted around June, officials found that the packaging of Reactin Plus Tablets, a Schedule H prescription medicine, carried an unauthorised claim describing the product as an "analgesic and antipyretic". The FDA said the claim violated provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Drugs Rules, 1945. Following the discovery, the regulator seized stock valued at Rs 11.19 lakh and directed the company to recall the misbranded tablets from the market. However, the FDA said Cipla Pharma & Life Sciences did not fully comply with the recall directions and other measures required

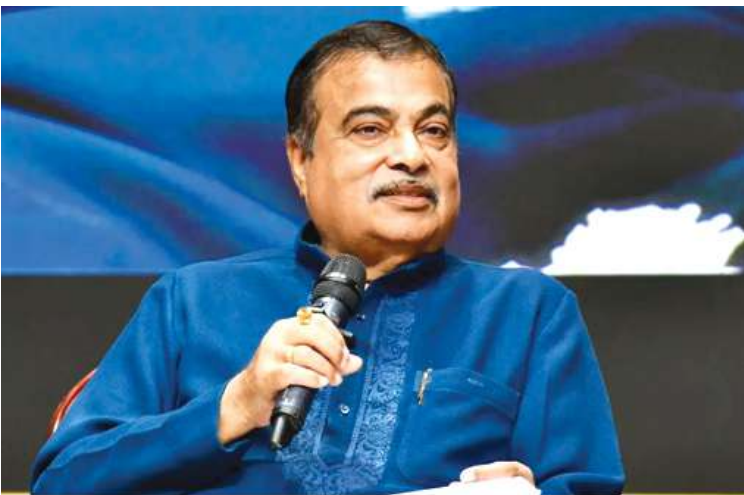


by the regulator. A subsequent inspection of the C&F unit's sale and distribution system revealed further irregularities. These included discrepancies between purchase and sale records and the actual computerised stock, as well as differences between physical inventory and computerised records. The FDA also flagged deficiencies in storage arrangements and the procedures

followed for handling expired medicines. The regulator subsequently issued a show-cause notice to the licence holder, seeking an explanation for the violations. After examining the company's response, the FDA concluded that the deficiencies had not been adequately addressed and that directions relating to the recall of Reactin Plus Tablets had not been properly complied with. FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe said the department would take a strict approach to violations involving drug safety and public health. He particularly highlighted the importance of compliance in the advertising, sale, storage and distribution of Schedule H prescription medicines. Mundhe said any violation of rules by entities involved in the manufacture or distribution of medicines would invite action under the law. The cancellation represents a regulatory setback for Cipla's Pune distribution operations and underlines the increasing scrutiny of pharmaceutical companies over drug labelling, inventory management, storage standards and compliance with recall orders.

EV Market May Hit Rs.20 Lakh Crore by 2030

New Delhi: India's electric vehicle (EV) market could expand to around Rs.20 lakh crore by 2030 and generate nearly five crore jobs, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said. Speaking at a conference organised by the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, Gadkari said 5.7 million electric vehicles had been registered in the country so far, accounting for around 7 per cent of the overall vehicle market. He highlighted the growing potential of India's EV ecosystem and said the sector could become a major source of employment and economic growth over the coming years. Gadkari said leading two-wheeler manufacturers Bajaj Auto and Hero MotoCorp were already exporting more than half of the vehicles they produce, reflecting the increasing competitiveness of India's automobile industry in global markets. The minister also pointed to a significant gap between demand and production in the electric bus segment. India has annual demand

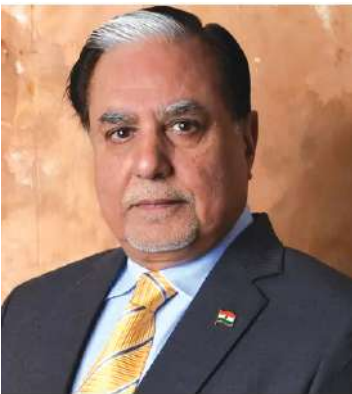


for around one lakh electric buses, but manufacturers currently have the capacity to produce only about 50,000-60,000 units, he said. The government, Gadkari added, aims to make India's automobile industry the world's leading vehicle manufacturing sector within the next five years. He attributed India's potential success to the combination of competitive pricing and improving quality of vehicles manufactured domestically. Gadkari said the size of India's automobile industry had increased substantially since he took charge as the road transport minister. The industry's value, which stood at around Rs.14 lakh crore at the time, has now grown to approximately Rs.23 lakh crore. For comparison, he said the US automobile industry is valued at around Rs.78 lakh crore, while

China's is estimated at approximately Rs.47 lakh crore, indicating significant room for further expansion of India's automotive sector. The minister also stressed the importance of reducing India's dependence on imported fuel. The country currently imports fuel worth around Rs.22 lakh crore annually, he said, adding that bio-fuels are expected to play an increasingly important role in the transport sector in the future. Gadkari further said improvements in the country's road infrastructure had helped bring down logistics costs significantly. Logistics expenses have declined from around 16 per cent to 10 per cent, and the government's target is to reduce them further to 8 per cent. The expansion of EV manufacturing, increased exports, alternative fuels and lower logistics costs are expected to strengthen India's position as a global automobile manufacturing hub. The government is also banking on rising domestic demand and technological development to accelerate the transition towards cleaner mobility.

Subhash Chandra Says Claim Is Rs.3,992 Crore

New Delhi: Essel Group founder Subhash Chandra has clarified that the total claim against him in his personal insolvency proceedings is Rs.3,992 crore, and not Rs.22,006.57 crore as widely reported. He said he was only a personal guarantor for loans taken by companies and was not himself a borrower. Chandra's clarification comes amid widespread discussion over the National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) approval of a resolution plan under which only Rs.6.5 crore would be paid against claims of Rs.22,006.57 crore in his personal insolvency case. The approval had raised concerns among lenders over the extent of recovery. Responding to the reports on Thursday, Chandra said the total amount claimed against him was Rs.3,992 crore. Of this, claims amounting to Rs.620 crore have already been resolved, while companies that had borrowed the money have agreed to repay another



Rs.1,063 crore, he said. Chandra further claimed that companies that had borrowed funds against his personal guarantees had already repaid around Rs.43,000 crore. He said the concerned companies had also assured lenders that the remaining amounts would be settled. How the Case Began The insolvency proceedings originated with a Rs.170-crore loan taken by Vivek Infracon, which

subsequently turned into a non-performing asset. Chandra had provided a personal guarantee for the loan. After the lender approached the NCLT and insolvency proceedings were initiated, other entities with claims against Chandra joined the process. This eventually pushed the aggregate claims submitted in the proceedings to Rs.22,006 crore. The claims included loans taken by companies associated with the Essel and Zee Network groups for which Chandra had provided personal guarantees. Chandra, however, maintains that these figures should not be treated as loans personally borrowed by him. HDFC Bank to Appeal HDFC Bank has announced that it will challenge the approval of the resolution plan, joining lenders who had opposed it on the grounds that the recovery was too low. The lenders, led by LIC Housing Finance, had argued that the plan should not be approved because of the limited recovery. Their objections were rejected by the tribunal. HDFC Bank said its claim of around Rs.680 crore would result in a recovery of only about 3.2 per cent under the approved plan. The bank also said the loan had been sourced from its parent entity, HDFC. Vijay Mallya Reacts Fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya, who is currently in the UK, reacted sarcastically to the development. He congratulated Chandra if the reported resolution was accurate and drew a comparison with his own case. Mallya said the court-determined amount outstanding against him was Rs.6,203 crore, while banks and the government had acknowledged recovery of Rs.14,100 crore. He also pointed to other borrowers who, according to him, had settled their liabilities by paying substantially smaller amounts. Mallya described the situation as an example of what he called India's approach to debt-resolution law.

highlighted the evolving role of Meta's platforms in the region. According to Devanathan, WhatsApp has increasingly been used to support government citizen services in India, while Meta platforms have helped small businesses expand in markets such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand. She said that although Meta's products and teams had evolved considerably during her tenure, its commitment to clients remained consistent. Devanathan also expressed pride in the teams she worked with, particularly as the technology industry underwent rapid changes. She thanked employees, businesses, ecosystem partners, non-profit organisations and creators for their support and collaboration.

Sandhya Devanathan to Join OpenAI

New Delhi: Sandhya Devanathan, Meta's Vice President and Head for India and Southeast Asia, is stepping down from the social media company after more than a decade to take up a leadership role at OpenAI. Devanathan announced her departure in a social media post on Friday, describing the decision as "bittersweet". She said she would take a short break before sharing details about her next chapter. Devanathan will join OpenAI in October 2026 to lead its operations across Southeast Asia and Australia. In her new role, she will oversee consumer growth, enterprise adoption, partnerships, engagement with authorities and regional operations for the ChatGPT maker. Her move comes at a time when OpenAI is expand-

ing its presence across international markets and focusing on increasing adoption among consumers, businesses and other organisations. Meta's Asia-Pacific leadership acknowledged Devanathan's contribution to the company. Benjamin Joe, Meta's Vice President for Asia Pacific, thanked her for her work and said Arun Srinivas, Meta's Managing Director and Country Head for India, would join his leadership team and help build on the company's existing foundation in the country. Devanathan joined Meta more than 10 years ago, beginning her journey when the company had around 300 employees in Singapore. During her tenure, she worked across multiple sectors



and markets, including e-commerce and gaming. She became Meta's Vice President for Asia-Pacific Gaming in 2020. In 2023, she was appointed Vice President and head of Meta India, before expanding her responsibilities to Southeast Asia in 2025. Reflecting on her tenure, Devanathan said she had the opportunity to work with startups, businesses, creators and ecosystem partners across India and Southeast Asia. She also

highlighted the evolving role of Meta's platforms in the region. According to Devanathan, WhatsApp has increasingly been used to support government citizen services in India, while Meta platforms have helped small businesses expand in markets such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand. She said that although Meta's products and teams had evolved considerably during her tenure, its commitment to clients remained consistent. Devanathan also expressed pride in the teams she worked with, particularly as the technology industry underwent rapid changes. She thanked employees, businesses, ecosystem partners, non-profit organisations and creators for their support and collaboration.

Sensex, Nifty Rise on IT Rally



Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks ended higher on Friday, snapping a two-session losing streak as strong gains in technology stocks helped offset weakness across several key sectors. Investors drew confidence from the overnight rally in US technology shares, with renewed optimism over artificial intelligence spending providing a major boost to domestic IT stocks. The Sensex gained 330.92 points, or 0.43 per cent, to close at 77,264.51. The Nifty 50 advanced 84.80 points, or 0.35 per cent, ending the session at 24,175.65. The Nifty IT index was the standout performer, surging 3.5 per cent as investors returned to technology counters following the recent selloff. The sector tracked gains in global technology stocks after Nvidia reported strong second-quarter results and offered an upbeat revenue outlook, reinforcing expectations of continued spending on AI infrastructure and related technologies. Among individual stocks, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) rose 4.09 per cent, emerging as one of the biggest gainers on the Nifty. Infosys climbed 3.34 per cent, while Tech Mahindra advanced 3.18 per cent and HCL Technologies gained 2.68 per cent. The rally in IT stocks provided crucial support to the benchmark indices despite muted participation from financial stocks. The Bank Nifty ended almost unchanged, slipping 0.02 per cent to 57,496.30. Sector-wise, metal and pharmaceutical stocks also performed strongly, supported by selective buying interest. However, FMCG, energy and automobile stocks remained under pressure as investors booked profits. FMCG companies were particularly affected by concerns over rising raw material costs, which could put pressure on margins. The broader market remained relatively resilient. The Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 0.20 per cent and continued to trade close to its record-high levels. The Nifty Midcap 100 was largely flat, edging up 0.05 per cent, highlighting selective participation rather than a broad-based buying trend. Despite Friday's gains, investors remained cautious because Brent crude oil prices continued to trade above \$85 a barrel. Elevated crude prices remain a concern for India because the country relies heavily on imports to meet its energy requirements and higher oil prices can put pressure on inflation and the trade balance. Market participants will now closely monitor developments from the Jackson Hole symposium over the weekend. Comments from global central bankers, particularly on inflation, interest rates and the future direction of monetary policy, could influence market sentiment in the coming sessions. Overall, the week's final session reflected a recovery led primarily by technology stocks, while investors continued to remain watchful of global interest rate signals, crude prices and domestic sector-specific trends.

NTPC Plans Rs.16.86 Lakh Crore Capex by 2037



New Delhi: State-run power giant NTPC plans to significantly expand its generation and energy infrastructure capacity, targeting 244 GW of operational capacity by 2037, Chairman and Managing Director Gurdeep Singh said. Addressing the company's 50th Annual General Meeting, Singh said NTPC expects strong growth over the coming decade as India's electricity demand rises alongside economic expansion and improvements in living standards. NTPC currently has an installed operational capacity of around 91 GW. The company has now set more ambitious long-term capacity targets, aiming to increase its capacity to 149 GW by 2032, including 60 GW from renewable energy sources. The target is expected to rise further to 244 GW by 2037, reflecting the company's strategy to expand beyond conventional thermal power and build a diversified energy portfolio. To support this expansion, NTPC plans to undertake capital expenditure of approximately Rs.16.86 lakh crore across multiple segments through the financial year 2036-37. The planned investments will cover thermal power, hydropower, pumped-storage projects, renewable energy, battery storage, mining and nuclear power. The company expects a growing share of renewable and storage capacity to complement its conventional generation portfolio as India's energy requirements increase and the country continues its transition towards cleaner sources of electricity. Singh said rising incomes, economic activity and improving living standards would drive higher electricity consumption in the years ahead. NTPC's long-term investment programme is therefore aimed at ensuring adequate generation capacity while supporting India's broader energy-security requirements. The expansion across thermal, hydro, renewable and storage projects is also expected to provide NTPC with greater flexibility in managing changing patterns of electricity demand. Investments in pumped storage and battery systems could help address the intermittency associated with renewable power generation. The company's plans to enter or expand its presence in areas such as nuclear energy and mining further underline its ambition to build an integrated energy portfolio. NTPC's proposed Rs.16.86 lakh crore investment programme represents one of the country's largest long-term power-sector expansion plans. The company is expected to play a key role in meeting India's rising electricity demand while balancing the need for energy security, capacity expansion and a gradual shift towards cleaner energy sources. With the 2032 and 2037 targets substantially higher than its current capacity, NTPC is preparing for a major expansion phase over the next decade as India seeks to strengthen its power infrastructure and support sustained economic growth.

Classmates Turn Their Love For Telugu Into A Digital Mission

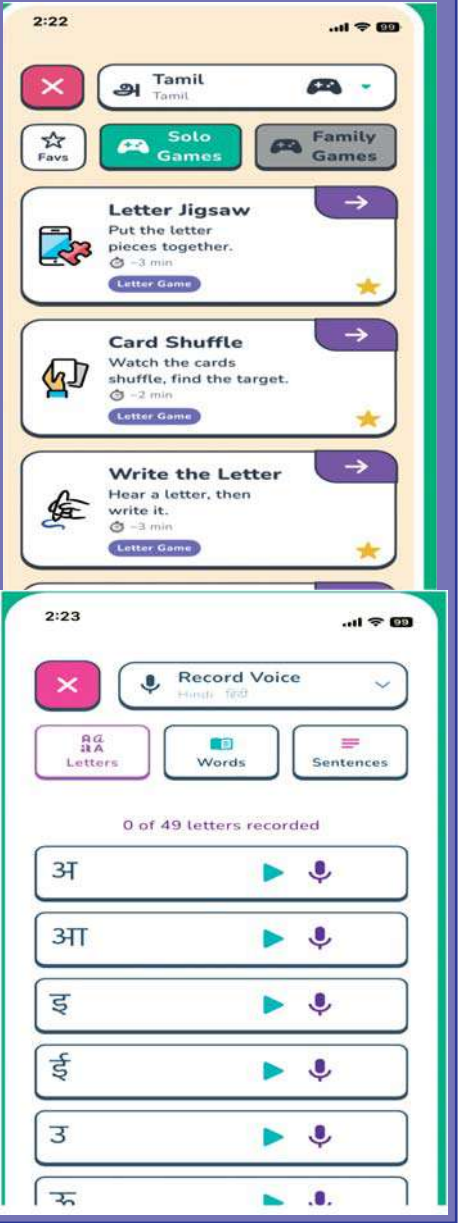
Shivaranjani Cherukupalli
A childhood friendship, a shared love for Telugu and a concern about the changing relationship between children and their mother tongue have culminated in a technology venture after nearly a decade of persistence. Kollu Ranjit, who hails from Vijayawada and is settled in Boston as a Senior Principal Software Engineer, and Venkat Yelati, who hails from Hyderabad, Telangana, and runs his own company People Dock as CEO, are childhood classmates who decided to turn their concern into action. After observing that many children, particularly those growing up away from their native places, were gradually losing interest in reading and writing Telugu, they chose not to blame society, English or changing lifestyles. Instead, they asked a simple question: could technology make children fall in love with their mother tongue? That thought eventually gave birth to Coolphabets, an AI-powered learning application designed to help children read and write their mother tongue engagingly. "We grew up loving these letters, and we wanted every child to get the same head start in their own language," Ranjit told

True Point. He further stated "Apps have taught children to recognise letters for years. Coolphabets is the first that can sit beside a child, watch them write, and coach them like a teacher would." The journey, however, was not quick. The idea moved at a snail's pace for several years as the founders explored technology capable of understanding the intricacies of Indian scripts. They did not give up when their initial efforts failed to deliver what they wanted. Instead, they waited for technology to catch up with their ambition. After nearly a decade, advances in artificial intelligence, handwriting recognition and on-device processing made their original vision possible. Coolphabets Applications LLC was established in Boston, and the founders began developing an app that could do more than simply display letters and sounds. Coolphabets was launched globally on August 29, World Telugu Language Day. The app initially supports Telugu, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada and English and is designed for children aged three to 10. Its key technology, CoolphaSense, analyses how a child writes a letter, including stroke order, direction, shape, propor-



tions and completeness, and provides immediate guidance. The app also offers learning games, native-speaker voices, parent-recorded voices and progress reports. It works offline, uses on-device AI and carries no advertisements. A parent who used the app said Coolphabets makes learning Telugu and other major Indian languages fun and useful. Its tracing, free-hand practice and automatic grading help both children and adults improve their writing skills. The founders now hope to take their idea beyond individual families. They are planning support for more

Indian and international languages and exploring opportunities to make Coolphabets available in schools, including discussions with the Andhra Pradesh Government. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and former Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu also hailed the launch and appreciated the founders for using technology to promote Telugu and encourage children to learn their mother tongue. What began with two childhood classmates carrying their affection for Telugu into adulthood has now become an attempt to connect a new generation with its linguistic roots. For Ranjit and Venkat, the message is simple: technology need not replace a mother tongue; it can become the bridge that helps children read it, write it and love it.



Keeping Kuchipudi Alive And Moving Across Generations

ARN Mahesh
For Bathina Vikram Goud, Kuchipudi is more than a classical dance form. It is a living inheritance that must be protected, taught, reinvented and carried to audiences beyond its traditional home. Hailing from Visakhapatnam, Vikram Kumar B R, popularly known as Bathina Vikram Goud, has pursued that mission for more than three decades as a dancer, choreographer, educator, researcher, theatre artist and cultural diplomat. His journey began with encouragement from his father, who recognised his early interest in movement and storytelling. Vikram earned a Master of Arts in Kuchipudi from Andhra



combine mythology, spirituality, environmental awareness and youth empowerment. His artistic interests also extend to theatre. Holding Advanced Diplomas in Acting and Direction from Andhra University, Vikram spent more than a decade in the Theatre Arts Department as an actor-director. His productions were witnessed by distinguished personalities, including former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, besides UGC and NAAC delegates. In 2000, he founded the Nataraj Music & Dance Academy (NMDA) in Visakhapatnam. Conceived as a cultural sanctuary rather than merely a training centre, the ISO 9001:2008-certified institution

University with distinction and contributed to establishing the university's Department of Dance during his postgraduate years. As a soloist and principal performer, he developed a reputation for expressive abhinaya and rhythmic nritya, drawing from the theatrical traditions of Yakshagana. "For me, Kuchipudi is not simply a performance that begins on a stage and ends with applause. It is a responsibility to preserve what our gurus gave us while finding ways to make the art meaningful to younger generations. Tradition becomes stronger when we carry it forward with creativity and discipline," Vikram told True Point. His choreography seeks to connect classical aesthetics with contemporary concerns. His acclaimed Chenchu Lakshmi Narasimha Kalyanam, based on the legend of Lord Narasimha at Simhachalam, blends Kuchipudi with folk traditions and has been presented on more than 150 stages across India. His other productions, including Swachh Ganga - Swachh Bharat, Maha Visakha Vaibhavam, Sri Krishna Leelalu, Society for Future and Youth Never Sleeps,

has trained thousands of young practitioners in classical arts. His contribution to dance also earned him membership in the UNESCO International Dance Council. Beyond his own performances, Vikram has worked to create a wider festival ecosystem, giving classical dancers regular opportunities to perform. He mentors emerging organisers, assists with artist selection and event planning, connects seniors with cultural institutions and introduces senior stalwarts and Padma Awardees to new platforms. His efforts have helped nurture festivals including the Yadagiri National Dance Festival by M. Bharathi, Bhagyanagar Dance Festival by Sajni Vallabhaneni, Jathis Hyderabad National Dance Festival by Hemalatha B., and the Guru Nataraj Ramakrishna National Dance Festival network led by Chandrashekhara, Loka and Kesavaraj Balakrishna. International initiatives include Roopa Kiran's Ilaasyotsav in Hong Kong. "An artist needs more than talent; an artist needs a stage, an audience and an opportunity to grow. Creating platforms for artists gives me the greatest satisfaction," he said.

She Teaches Young Minds And Lifts More Than Weights



Uday Banavath
Some people spend a lifetime mastering one passion. P. V. M. Naga Jyothi chose two and pursued both with extraordinary determination. A teacher who inspires children to dream bigger and an international athlete who has carried India's pride to sporting arenas, her journey proves that passion has no age limit and achievement has no single definition. For the past 28 years, Naga Jyothi, who hails from Anapalli, has served as a School Assistant (English) at PMSHRI ZPHS-Rolugunta, Anapalli District. Teaching, for her, is not merely a profession but a mission to make learning joyful, meaningful and accessible. She uses puppets, 3D models, animation, digital panels, Google Classroom and Kahoot to make English lessons interactive. Her innovative practice, "Blooming English: A Journey of Joyful Communication," reflects her commitment to student-centred education. Her dedication earned her the prestigious Andhra Pradesh State Best Teacher Award-2025. She has also actively contributed to student development, school programmes, community outreach and innovative teaching practices. Her passion for education took her beyond India when she was selected by the Government of

Andhra Pradesh for the International Professional Development Programme in Finland. She visited the University of Turku, Finnish schools and teacher-training institutions, studying student-centred learning, experiential education, teacher autonomy and innovative classroom practices. Her professional contributions earned appreciation from Finnish educators and mentors. But the classroom is only one arena where Naga Jyothi excels. From a young age, she developed a passion for athletics and strength sports. Years of disciplined training transformed her into an international powerlifter and athlete. She has competed at national and international levels and has won around 200 gold medals across various sporting events. Her achievements span Powerlifting, 60m, 100m and Discus. At the SBKF International Games in Bhutan, she won four gold medals in 60m, 100m, Discus and Powerlifting. Her performance at national selection trials also earned her selection for the World Powerlifting Championship. What makes her story remarkable is the connection between her two passions. As

a teacher, she lifts the confidence and dreams of young minds; as a powerlifter, she lifts weights and raises the nation's pride. Speaking to True Point, Naga Jyothi said, "I never see teaching and sports as two separate worlds. Teaching gives me purpose, while athletics gives me energy and discipline. I plan my time carefully, complete my responsibilities at school and dedicate the remaining time to training. There are certainly challenging days, but when you truly love what you do, you learn to manage both with commitment. I believe passion should never be sacrificed because of age or professional responsibilities," Naga Jyothi said. Naga Jyothi's journey is a powerful reminder that age is never a barrier when passion, discipline and determination refuse to give up.



Amit Shah: India Aims to Become Global Sports Destination



India is stepping up preparations to establish itself as a major global sports destination, with the government focusing on hosting several major international sporting events over the coming decade. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi held a review meeting on Thursday to discuss preparations for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and India's proposed bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games. Sharing details of the meeting on social media, Shah said the Narendra Modi government was working with an ambitious objective of positioning India as an international sporting hub. "The Modi government is working with a big goal. Our target is to establish India as a global sports destination," Shah said, adding that all necessary steps would be taken to ensure the country is equipped to host major international events.

The meeting reviewed India's preparations for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, which are scheduled to be hosted in Ahmedabad. Discussions were also held on India's proposed bid for the 2036 Olympics, with Ahmedabad being projected as the potential host city.

Shah also reviewed preparations for the 2029 World Police and Fire Games, which will be held in Ahmedabad. The event is expected to attract more than 10,000 athletes from around 70 countries, making security and logistical arrangements a key priority. The Home Ministry is closely monitoring the security preparations for the major events. Shah has been holding review meetings with the Sports Ministry as India works to strengthen its infrastructure and organisational capabilities.

India last hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2010 in Delhi. Hosting the 2030 edition would therefore mark the country's return as the Games' host after two decades.

The proposed 2036 Olympic bid represents an even larger ambition. The central government has been working towards bringing the world's biggest sporting event to India, with Ahmedabad emerging as the preferred venue. Gujarat officials have also held discussions with the International Olympic Committee regarding the proposal.

The government's broader strategy includes developing infrastructure capable of handling large international competitions while improving India's reputation as a reliable destination for global sporting events.

The 2029 World Police and Fire Games, followed by the 2030 Commonwealth Games, are expected to provide India with opportunities to demonstrate its organisational and logistical capabilities ahead of the proposed Olympic bid.

With preparations for multiple major events now underway, the government is seeking to combine sports infrastructure, security and event management capabilities to strengthen India's case for hosting the world's biggest sporting competitions.

Milan Draw Sunderland, Bournemouth



AC Milan will face two English opponents in the Europa League league phase after being drawn to host Sunderland and travel to Bournemouth, setting up an intriguing campaign for new coach Ruben Amorim. The Italian giants will also welcome Benfica to the San Siro in the eight-game league phase. The fixture carries historical significance, as Milan defeated the Portuguese club in the 1990 European Cup final.

For Amorim, the Europa League campaign will provide an opportunity to move forward from his difficult spell at Manchester United. The Portuguese coach lost the 2025 Europa League final during his largely disappointing 14-month tenure at the English club, which ended in January.

Milan's meeting with Sunderland will be particularly interesting given the contrasting histories and current trajectories of the two clubs, while the trip to Bournemouth will give the Italian side another test against Premier League opposition.

Juventus were handed a challenging draw of their own, with the Italian club set to face Spanish sides Real Sociedad and Celta Vigo. Juventus will also travel to a neutral venue to meet Hapoel Beer-Sheva of Israel. Hapoel Beer-Sheva face an especially demanding schedule, with trips to the Netherlands, Belgium, England and Turkey to take on AZ Alkmaar, Union Saint-Gilloise, Bournemouth and Besiktas.

Crystal Palace will finally make their Europa League appearance after their participation was blocked by UEFA last season because of shared ownership links with Lyon involving American businessman John Textor. Following Textor's departure from Lyon, Palace are now eligible to compete and will travel to France to face Lyon.

Celtic have been drawn against Marseille and will make two trips to Portugal. The Scottish champions will face Benfica and second-tier side Torreeense. The Benfica fixture also carries historical significance, as Celtic famously defeated the Portuguese club in the 1967 European Cup final.

Bayer Leverkusen, who lost the 2024 Europa League final after going unbeaten in both their domestic league and Europa League campaign until that stage, will face French opposition in Marseille and Lyon.

The Europa League league phase will begin on September 16-17, with the eighth and final round scheduled for January 28. The competition's final will be played in May at the stadium of Eintracht Frankfurt.

A total of 36 teams will compete in the league phase, sharing a UEFA prize-money fund of 565 million (\$658 million).

With several high-profile clubs and intriguing matchups in the draw, the revamped league phase promises a demanding schedule for Milan, Juventus, Celtic, Crystal Palace and the rest of the field.

Asian Games Organisers Assure Accommodation for All

Tokyo: Asian Games organisers have assured that all registered participants will have accommodation during next month's event, despite the number of athletes and officials rising to more than 17,000 and concerns over a potential shortage of rooms.

The Asian Games will be held in Nagoya and across Japan's Aichi Prefecture from September 19 to October 4. Organisers had initially expected around 15,000 athletes and officials, already exceeding the number who attended the Olympics. However, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) recently revised the figure to around 17,000, including approximately 11,000 athletes and 6,000 officials.

Unlike recent Olympic Games, the event will not have a dedicated athletes' village. Organisers are instead using a combination of hotels, temporary accommodation and a cruise ship to house participants.

The accommodation issue became a concern after the OCA added teqball and padel to the sporting programme in March. Earlier this week, organising committee president Hideaki Omura, who is also governor of Aichi Prefecture, said the committee did not have suffi-



cient manpower or budget to make arrangements for additional participants.

However, a joint statement issued by the organising committee and OCA on Friday said accommodation had been secured for all registered athletes and officials.

"All the 17,000+ athletes and officials that are registered for the Asian Games before the closing of Entry by Name in July have been provided with Games-appropriate accommodation," the statement

said. It added that, except in exceptional circumstances, no further registrations would be permitted. The organising committee separately said the exact number of participants was still fluctuating daily but acknowledged that the delegation size was expected to exceed 15,000.

To control costs, organisers have hired the Italian cruise ship Costa Serena as temporary accommodation. Between 4,000 and 5,000 athletes are expected to stay aboard

the ship, while another 2,000 athletes and officials will be housed in temporary wooden, shipping-container-style units.

The remaining participants will stay in hotels, including some in Tokyo, where swimming, diving and equestrian competitions will be held.

Organisers also rejected reports that they were attempting to reduce the number of participants. Instead, they said certain team officials would make their own accommodation arrangements.

There are also concerns about Japan's typhoon season, which is typically active during September and October. However, organisers expressed confidence that the weather would not disrupt the Games. "The final preparations are all on track and progressing smoothly," the joint statement said, describing the event as one that promises to be among the most spectacular Asian Games in generations. With less than a month remaining before the opening ceremony, organisers will now focus on ensuring that the unconventional accommodation arrangements operate smoothly throughout the competition.

Mamatha Madiwala Picked for India A

Hyderabad wicket-keeper Mamatha Madiwala has earned a place in the India 'A' women's squad for the upcoming Australia 'A' tour of India, marking another significant opportunity in her cricketing career.

Mamatha has been selected for the multi-day fixture against Australia 'A', scheduled to be played from September 29 to October at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh. The Hyderabad player will join a strong India 'A' squad led by Yastika Bhatia.

The tour will feature three T20s, three One-Day matches and a multi-day game. The T20 fixtures are scheduled for September 12, 15 and 17 at New Chandigarh, while the three One-Day matches will be played on September 20, 23 and 25 at the PCA Stadium in Mohali, Punjab.

Mamatha's selection for the multi-day game is particularly notable as she will be one of the wicket-keeping options in the squad. Yastika



Bhatia has been named captain and wicket-keeper, while Mamatha has been included alongside the experienced India player.

The India 'A' multi-day squad includes Anushka Sharma as vice-captain, along with Shubha Satheesh, Priya Punia, Tanisha Singh, Tejal Hasabnis, Nikki Prasad, Sushree Dibyadarshini, Shuchi Upadhyay, Vaishnavi

Sharma, Sayali Satghare, Jintimani Kalita, Shabnam Shakeel and Akshita Bhagat.

The T20 squad will be led by Anushka Sharma, with Sayali Satghare serving as vice-captain. The squad also includes Vrinda Dinesh, Sujata Dey, Tejal Hasabnis, Nikki Prasad, Shipra Giri, Shweta Sehrawat, Uma Chetry, Tanuja Kanwer, Minnu

Mani, Vaishnavi Sharma, Jintimani Kalita, Shabnam Shakeel and Simran Dil Bahadur. For the One-Day matches, Yastika Bhatia will captain the side, with Anushka Sharma as vice-captain. The squad features several players from the multi-day team, including Vrinda Dinesh, Priya Punia, Tanisha Singh, Tejal Hasabnis, Nikki Prasad, Uma Chetry, Minnu Mani, Amandeep Kaur, Vaishnavi Sharma, Sayali Satghare, Jintimani Kalita, Shabnam Shakeel and Akshita Bhagat.

The Australia 'A' series will provide India's emerging players with valuable exposure against international opposition. For Mamatha, the multi-day fixture at Dharamshala represents an important chance to strengthen her credentials at the domestic and national pathway level.

Her inclusion also brings recognition to Hyderabad's women's cricket setup, with the wicket-keeper now set to represent India 'A' on an international development tour.

Praggnanandhaa Makes History

Indian chess prodigy R Praggnanandhaa created history by becoming the first Indian player to win the Grand Chess Tour title, defeating defending champion Fabiano Caruana 15-13 in a thrilling finish.

Praggnanandhaa entered the final day six points behind Caruana and appeared to face a difficult challenge. However, the young Indian produced a stunning comeback, winning two consecutive rapid games to overturn the deficit and take the lead.

His victory earned him his maiden Grand Chess Tour title along with prize money of nearly Rs 2 crore. The triumph also secured Praggnanandhaa direct qualification for next year's Grand Chess Tour. Reflecting on his remarkable comeback, Praggnanandhaa admitted that he had not expected to get a chance to win when the final day began. "I did not think I would get a chance to win today. I was six points behind. But I showed how to play in such situations. Against a play-

er like Fabi, winning even one game is difficult. I managed to win two rapid games," he said.

The 19-year-old also credited the changes he had made to his rapid and blitz preparation since last year for the breakthrough performance. "I made changes to my rapid and blitz games from last year. Now the results are visible. I think I have improved in this format," Praggnanandhaa said.

The historic triumph caps an impressive year for the Indian grandmaster. His campaign did not begin particularly well, with a disappointing performance at the Candidates Tournament. However, he quickly bounced back with a victory at Norway Chess.

His Norway Chess triumph was particularly notable as he defeated world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen twice during the event, underlining his ability to compete against the strongest players in the world.

Praggnanandhaa continued his impressive run by winning the St. Louis Rapid & Blitz and the



Sinquefield Cup. His consistency across different formats has strengthened his position among the leading young players in international chess. The Indian star had earlier expressed disappointment about not winning the Candidates Tournament, saying it would have made his year even more special. However, his performances since then have provided a strong response. The Grand Chess Tour victory now adds another major

achievement to his growing list of accomplishments. More importantly, the dramatic comeback against Caruana showcased Praggnanandhaa's composure, fighting spirit and growing mastery of rapid chess. With direct qualification for next year's Grand Chess Tour secured, the Indian youngster will now look to build on his breakthrough and establish himself further among the elite of world chess.

BCCI Raises Asian Games Facility Concerns

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reportedly raised concerns over the facilities and arrangements being made for cricketers at the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

The BCCI and the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) are not satisfied with the conditions being provided for participating cricketers. The concerns reportedly include temporary dressing rooms being arranged in tents, while wash-room facilities are said to be located around 500 metres away from the playing area.

The Asian Games are scheduled to begin on September 19 in Aichi-Nagoya. Cricket will be among the sports at the continental multi-sport event, with the men's tournament scheduled from September 24 to October 3. The women's competition is scheduled from September 17 to 22.

The board is closely monitoring the situation and may send an observer to Japan to assess the facilities and arrangements in person.

The reported concerns could have implications for India's squad selection. If the facilities are ultimately deemed inadequate, the BCCI could consider sending a 'B' team to the competition instead of its strongest available squad.

India's participation in the Asian Games has attracted considerable attention because cricket has become an important part of the multi-sport event. The tournament provides players with an opportunity to represent the country on a major continental stage while also competing against teams from across Asia.

The BCCI is expected to assess the arrangements before making a final decision on the composition



of India's teams. The board's priority is likely to be ensuring that players have appropriate facilities for training, match preparation, recovery and general comfort during the competition.

The Asian Games cricket tournaments will be played in a condensed schedule, making proper logistical arrangements particu-

larly important. The women's event will conclude before the men's tournament gets underway, giving the cricket competitions a prominent place in the overall Games calendar.

While the reported concerns have not yet resulted in a formal decision to withdraw or alter India's participation, the possibility of sending a second-string squad highlights the seriousness with which the BCCI is viewing the situation.

An on-site assessment by a BCCI representative could provide clarity on whether the reported shortcomings can be addressed before the tournament begins.

With the Asian Games approaching, attention will now remain on the facilities in Japan and the BCCI's eventual decision regarding India's squads for the men's and women's cricket competitions.

Veteran Actor G.V. Narayana Rao Dies at 73

Veteran Telugu actor and producer Gullapalli Venkata Narayana Rao, popularly known as G.V. Narayana Rao, passed away at the age of 73 on Wednesday night. He had been suffering from health issues for some time and breathed his last at his residence in Hyderabad's Srinagar Colony.

Narayana Rao left a lasting mark on Telugu cinema with performances in more than 100 films and several television serials. As a producer, he backed successful films including Yamudiki Mogudu, Devantakudu, Intiko Rudramma and Pelli Neeku Shubham Naaku. Born in Kurumaddali in Krishna district, Narayana Rao grew up in Guntakal after his father, a film distributor, settled there. Growing up in a cinema-oriented environment sparked his interest in the



arts from an early age. He trained in Bharatanatyam under Gidugu Visalakshi, Kuchipudi under Nataraja Ramakrishna and acting

under A.R. Krishna.

He developed an association with theatre during his student years and earned recognition through plays such as Mohammed Bin Tughlaq, Prataparudreeya and Manchutera. Before entering films, he received formal acting training at the Madras Film Institute. Superstar Rajinikanth was reportedly his classmate there.

Narayana Rao made his screen debut with K. Balachander's Antuleni Katha. The film became a major success, opening the doors to several opportunities. He went on to play lead roles in around 50 films before transitioning to character and supporting roles.

His notable films include Muthyala Pallaki, Oka Oori Katha, Guppedu Manasu, Chilakamma

Cheppindi, Seetharamayyagari Manavaralu, Manchu Pallaki, Bahudoorapu Batasari, Chattaniki Kallu Levu, Raja Vikramarka, Gang Leader, Hitler, Sahasam, Tholubommallata and Skylab. His final film, Aalochana, is yet to be released.

Narayana Rao shared a close friendship with Chiranjeevi, who expressed grief over his death. Chiranjeevi recalled their long association and cherished memories. The Movie Artists Association and several film personalities also condoled his demise.

He is survived by his wife Anuradha, son Avinash and daughter Lalitha Yamini. His last rites will be performed at Mahaprasthanam in Jubilee Hills on Friday.

KING 100 Title Reveal on August 29

The much-awaited title of Nagarjuna's 100th film will be unveiled on August 29 at 9 AM, coinciding with the actor's birthday.

The makers have released a teaser announcing the title reveal time. The glimpse features a speeding car moving through a dense night, with a prominent cobra warning sign adding mystery to the visuals.

The cobra imagery has already sparked speculation among fans about a possible connection with the film's title. The mystery is expected to be cleared when the official title is revealed on August 29.

Produced by Nagarjuna and directed by Ra Karthik, the film features Tabu, Sushmita Bhatt and Vijayendra in key roles. Devi Sri Prasad is composing the music.

With Nagarjuna celebrating his birthday and marking the milestone of his 100th film, the title reveal is expected to be a special treat for his fans.



Raashii Khanna Misses Brother on Raksha Bandhan

Actress Raashii Khanna shared an emotional and adorable note for her brother Raunaq Khanna on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan on Friday, revealing that she missed him as he is currently away at sea. Taking to Instagram, Raashii wrote about the special bond she shares with her brother while playfully acknowledging their frequent fights. "Sometimes I love you, most times I love to fight with you," she wrote, adding that she was celebrating Raksha Bandhan alone this year. She concluded her message by wishing her brother and calling him "Captain."

On the work front, Raashii is gearing up for her upcoming Tamil film Dharman, in which she shares the screen with superstar Rajinikanth. Directed by Ashwath Marimuthu, the film has been generating considerable buzz and is among the highly anticipated releases.

Recently, Raashii also revealed a thoughtful gift she received from Rajinikanth while working on the film. The superstar gifted her the spiritual book Living with the Himalayan Masters after the two discussed spirituality during a conversation on the sets.

Raashii said she has been reading the book diligently and was particularly moved by its reflections on self-discovery and human relationships. She revealed that Rajinikanth even told her he would test her on the book, making the gift all the more memorable.

Sharing her key takeaway, the actress said many people feel disconnected because they spend years trying to become someone else rather than remaining connected to their true selves.

Meanwhile, Dharman continues to attract attention with its combination of Rajinikanth, Raashii Khanna and director Ashwath Marimuthu. The film's unique combination of talent has raised expectations among audiences ahead of its release.



Anand Deverakonda's Honest Take on Kingdom Goes Viral

Actor Anand Deverakonda has grabbed attention with his candid comments about his brother Vijay Deverakonda's film Kingdom. His straightforward assessment of the movie has now become a talking point among Telugu cinema fans on social media.

During a recent interaction, Anand revealed that he generally avoids listening to the stories of Vijay's films before their release. However, he watched the edited version of Kingdom and shared his genuine reaction to the movie.

According to Anand, the film became somewhat confusing when the protagonist's journey moved to Sri Lanka. His comments have drawn attention because a section of the audience had also raised similar concerns after watching the film.

Rather than offering unconditional praise for his brother's movie, Anand appeared to share his opinion from the perspective of an ordinary viewer. This honesty has been appreciated by several fans, who believe that his remarks demonstrate that he is willing to acknowledge both the strengths and weaknesses of Vijay's films.

Kingdom, which generated considerable expectations ahead of its release, features Vijay Deverakonda in the lead role. The film's narrative and setting attracted significant attention, while its second-half developments became a subject of discussion among audiences.

Anand's latest comments have once again brought the film into the spotlight. His observation about the Sri Lanka portion, in particular, has sparked conversations online, with fans debating whether the narrative became difficult to follow at that stage.

While Anand's remarks may be unexpected coming from a close family member, they have also added an interesting perspective to the ongoing discussion around the Kingdom. Whether audiences agree with his assessment or not, his candid take has certainly succeeded in generating fresh buzz around the film.

GV Prakash: 'Mandaadi' a Blockbuster

Music composer and actor G. V. Prakash Kumar has expressed strong confidence in the upcoming sports-action drama Mandaadi, calling it a "sure-shot blockbuster" during the film's audio launch event.

Speaking at the event, GV Prakash said 2026 has been an exceptionally successful year for him. He pointed to projects including Youth, Happy Raj, Vishwanath And Sons and Irumudi, which he described as successful outings. He expressed hope that Mandaadi would continue the winning streak and become another major success.

The composer also heaped praise on actor Soori, making a particularly bold prediction about the film. GV Prakash said he believes Mandaadi could turn out to be the best film of Soori's career.

His confident remarks have added to the anticipation surrounding the project, which is being positioned as a sports-action drama with a distinctive coastal setting. The film also features Telugu actor Suhas in a negative lead role, marking an interesting addition to the movie's cast.

The coastal backdrop and sports-oriented storyline are expected to give Mandaadi a different flavour from conventional commercial entertainers. Soori's involvement has also raised expectations, particularly following his growing reputation for taking on challenging and performance-driven roles.

GV Prakash's strong endorsement at the audio launch is likely to further increase curiosity among audiences. However, whether Mandaadi can live up to the "sure-shot blockbuster" prediction and emerge as the biggest film of Soori's career will ultimately be decided by its reception after release.

