



BUZZ POINTS



State MPs Present
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Radhakrishnan

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Youth
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in J&K Ahead of
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44.89 Lakh Electors Not Found During Door-to-Door Verification in AP

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati: As many as 44,89,512 electors were reported as not found at their given addresses during the enumeration phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh. The figure includes voters who were deceased, permanently shifted, found to have multiple enrolmentsw, untraceable, or unavailable for other reasons.

According to the draft electoral roll details released after the completion of the enumeration process, 15,22,174 names were linked to deceased voters, 14,43,888 voters had permanently shifted, 7,37,218 cases involved multiple enrolments, and 7,77,905 voters could not be traced. The verification process was carried out through door-to-door visits by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from June 15 to July 24.

The enumeration phase covered all 175 Assembly constituencies in the state, with 3,71,38,182 forms received and digitised, accounting for 89.22 per cent of the total electors. The draft electoral roll published on July 31 showed the

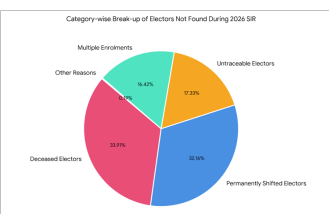
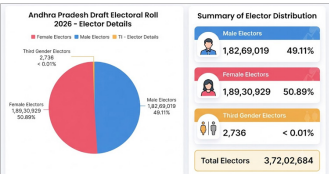
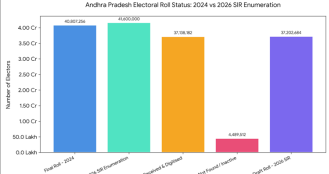
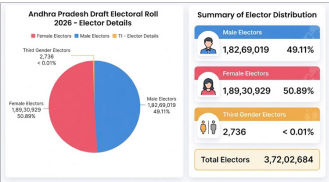


total electorate strength in Andhra Pradesh at 3,72,02,684, including service voters.

Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav stated that no voter would be removed from the electoral roll without following due procedure. He said electors whose details could not be linked or had discrepancies with the 2002 SIR records would be issued notices, provided an opportunity for hearing, and decisions would be taken only through speaking orders by the ERO/AERO authorities. He also informed that lists of Absent, Shifted, Death and Duplicate (ASDD) electors have been displayed at ERO/AERO offices, Gram Panchayat and municipal offices, polling stations and uploaded on the CEO website to ensure

transparency.

Vivek Yadav conducted an all-party meeting at the AP Secretariat on Tuesday and handed over soft copies of the draft electoral rolls to political party representatives. He appreciated the efforts of BLOs and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) during the revision exercise, while representatives of political parties expressed satisfaction with the process. The CEO further informed that polling station rationalisation has been completed by District Election Officers, increasing the number of polling stations from 46,397 to 50,330 after fixing a maximum limit of 1,200 electors per station. He appealed to eligible citizens, political parties and civil society organisations to actively par-



ticipate in the Claims and Objections process to ensure an accurate and inclusive electoral roll.



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu paying tribute to the portrait of late Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao, former minister and champion of the Telugu language, on his birth anniversary at the camp office.

India Brings Back 274 Fugitive Criminals Since 2019

New Delhi, August 4 | TPN Bureau

India has brought back 274 fugitive criminals from 36 countries between 2019 and 2026 as part of a strengthened extradition strategy under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Union Government said on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs stated that the Modi Government has made extradition of fugitives a national priority by adopting a technology-driven and intelligence-based approach built on three pillars — global operations, strong coordination and smart diplomacy. The government said the extradition process has been pursued in mission mode since 2020 with legal reforms, including amendments to the Nation-



al Investigation Agency (NIA) Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in 2019. The three new criminal laws introduced in 2024 also include provisions for trial in absentia under Sections 355 and 356 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

The Centre highlighted that BHARATPOL, launched in 2025, has connected more than 1,400 agencies

P3



CRDA Approves Major Projects To Transform Amaravati Into Global Hub

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

The CRDA Authority has approved several major development projects aimed at rebuilding Amaravati capital region

with emphasis on technology, infrastructure, tourism and cultural identity. State Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana announced the decisions taken at the

P3

Godavari Mega Water Grid Gains Momentum To Resolve Coastal Water Crisis

ARN Mahesh

Amaravati: Ensuring drinking water security in coastal villages has emerged as a major priority with the progress of the 'Amaravee Jaladhara' project under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The mega water grid projects in the combined East and West Godavari districts are expected to address long-pending drinking water needs of rural communities by strengthening water supply infrastructure.



The government has intensified monitoring of intake wells, water treatment plants, reservoirs and pipeline networks under the projects aimed at benefiting

P3



Lokesh Meets Chaganti Koteswara Rao and Shobharaju

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Renowned spiritual orator and advisor on moral values Chaganti Koteswara Rao met Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh at his residence in Undavalli on Tuesday and discussed the importance of value-based education for students. Chaganti Koteswara Rao highlighted the need to inculcate human values, discipline and morality among children from an early age to shape them into responsible citizens. He expressed happiness over being associated with the Andhra Pradesh government's initiative of introducing moral-value lessons in government schools on 'No Bag Day'. The spiritual orator appreciated the government's efforts to promote holistic edu-

cation through moral education and explained the significance of integrating ethical values into the learning process. Meanwhile, Padma Shri awardee and renowned classical singer Shobharaju also met Minister Nara Lokesh at his residence. Known for her dedicated efforts in promoting Talapakam Annamacharya's sankertanas, Shobharaju presented a portrait of Annamacharya to the Minister. Nara Lokesh honoured Shobharaju by presenting her with an idol of Lord Venkateswara. The Minister appreciated her contributions towards promoting Telugu culture, Sanatana Dharma and spirituality, and her efforts to preserve Annamaya's devotional compositions for future generations.



Subsidised Power Extended to Aqua Farmers in Non-Aqua Zones

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has decided to extend subsidised electricity to aqua farmers operating in non-aqua zones from this month. He directed officials to provide power to these farmers at the same subsidised rate of 1.50 per unit available in designated aqua zones. The decision is expected to benefit around 12,500 aqua farmers across the state.

The Chief Minister reviewed the impact of El Niño, rainfall conditions, crop cultivation, and water resources with officials at the Secretariat on Tuesday. He directed officials and public representatives to take the El Niño Mitigation Ac-

tion Plan to farmers and explain alternative cultivation methods. Farmer awareness programmes will begin from August 7. With forecasts indicating below-normal rainfall until October due to El Niño conditions, Naidu stressed the importance of contingency cultivation plans. He instructed officials to create awareness about PMDS cultivation methods and provide timely field-level information through the Rythu App. He also directed departments to prepare plans considering the increased cultivated area despite reduced rainfall and integrate livestock fodder management with the VBG Ram G programme. The Chief Minister ordered implementation of a

P3



Amaravati Will Make Telugu People Proud Say Ministers

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Ministers Anagani Satya Prasad, S. Savitha and Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana on Tuesday inspected the ongoing construction works in Amaravati and said the first phase of the capital city project would be completed by August 2028.

The ministers reviewed the progress of the Secretariat,

Head of Department (HoD) towers, Iconic Towers, ministers' residences and the residential complexes for MLAs and MLCs. They expressed satisfaction with the pace of construction and the quality of infrastructure being developed. Addressing the media, Anagani Satya Prasad said Amaravati was being developed as a world-class capital that would bring pride

P3

Naidu Calls For Collective Effort To Achieve 15% Growth Rate

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called upon people to extend cooperation to achieve a 15 per cent growth rate and build a healthy, wealthy and happy Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing media persons at the Secretariat on Monday, the Chief Minister released the progress report and financial status of the state for 2024-2026. He said it was the government's responsibility to explain the development and financial situation to the people. Naidu said the NDA government was focusing on decentralised development across all regions while implementing welfare schemes through wealth creation. Referring to the response received during



the inauguration of Bhogapuram Airport, he said the project would become a growth corridor for North Andhra and reflected the impact of good governance. The Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh achieved a GSDP growth rate of 13.5 per cent during 2014-2019, but it declined to 10.3 per cent during 2019-24, causing a loss of ₹6.94 lakh crore. He added that the state could have earned an additional ₹76,195 crore in reve-

₹100 Crore Central Yoga Research Institute To Come Up Near Guntur

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati : The state is set to emerge as a major centre for Yoga and Naturopathy research with the establishment of the Central Research Institute for Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN) near Guntur at an estimated cost of 100 crore. The institute will come up on 15.03 acres of land at Nadimpalem in Prathipadu Mandal of Guntur district and is expected to commence operations in 2028.

The proposed institute will include a 100-bed specialised hospital offering treatment for lifestyle diseases and chronic health conditions through Yoga and Naturopathy. The facility will also have advanced research laboratories, training centres and specialised treatment wings, integrating research, healthcare and training activities under one roof. State Minister for Health and Medical Education Satya Kumar Yadav said that the institute, being established under the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN) of the Union Ministry of AYUSH, will conduct scientific research, validate the effectiveness of Yoga and Naturopathy practices, and train doctors and re-



searchers. He stated that an official team from the Union Ministry of AYUSH inspected the proposed site on Tuesday and approved the location. The Minister said that site development works, including construction of roads, drains and other infrastructure facilities, would be completed within three months and handed over to the Central Government for further construction activities. The Minister also said that the institute would strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position as a national hub for Yoga and Naturopathy research and healthcare. Similar institutes are functioning in Jhajjar (Haryana), Naga-mangala (Karnataka) and Dibrugarh (Assam), while projects are under construction in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and

Jatni (Odisha). Earlier, Guntur District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma inspected the proposed site along with State AYUSH Department Director Gopalakrishna Ronanki, Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy Director Dr. Jyothi Keswani, Union AYUSH Ministry Senior Project Manager Pramod Varma and Research Officer Dr. N.V. Gnanadeep Tata-varthi. During the inspection, officials finalised plans for site levelling, stormwater drains, a 40-foot-wide approach road from National Highway-16 and a nearby bus stop to improve connectivity. The officials noted that the location's proximity to Guntur city and NH-16 would provide a major advantage for the institute.

Tiger Death Case Probe Intensifies, Forest Officials Seize Crucial Evidence

Giddalur, August 4 | TPN Bureau

The investigation into the death of a tiger in the Giddalur forest division has gained momentum, with Forest Department officials making significant progress in collecting evidence. Officials have reportedly seized seven tiger claws, leg bones, and a weapon allegedly connected with the case as part of the ongoing probe.

Deputy Director of Project Tiger (Giddalur) Nisha Kumari said the coordinated efforts of the Forest and Police Departments, along with the support of modern technology, have strengthened the investigation. She stated that the specialized HANUMAN team played a key role in tracing evidence and assisting field-level inquiries. A case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, and further investigation is underway to identify all persons involved in the incident. Officials are examining the circumstances leading to the tiger's death and are collecting scientific and forensic evidence to establish the facts.

The Forest Department is following established protocols in handling the tiger mortality case, including detailed investigation and evidence verification before arriving at conclusions. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) mandates that tiger death cases be examined through evidence such as post-mortem reports, forensic analysis, and other supporting records to determine the cause of mortality.

BC Protection Act Draft To Be Finalised Today: Minister Savitha

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

The Alliance government is set to finalise the draft of the proposed BC Protection Act, fulfilling its election promise, said BC Welfare Minister S. Savitha. A key meeting on the legislation will be held on Wednesday at Murali Fortune in Vijayawada.

The proposed Act aims to protect BC communities from caste-based verbal abuse, attacks and other atrocities, on the lines of the SC/ST Atrocities Act. Around 15 categories of offences are expected to be covered, with provisions for special courts to ensure speedy justice. Savitha said eight BC ministers have held multiple discussions and officials prepared the draft after examining existing laws and ensuring constitutional validity. Suggestions from BC representatives will be considered before submitting the final draft to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The meeting will be attended by ministers Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, Kollu Ravindra, Anagani Satya Prasad, Satya Kumar Yadav, Kolusu Parthasarathy, Vasamsetti Subhash and Kondapalli Srinivas, along with Home Minister Anita and Law Minister NMD Farooq. Around 30 MLAs, four MLCs and six MPs from the BC community are expected to participate. Savitha said Andhra Pradesh would be the first state to introduce a dedicated protection law for BCs.

Complete Polavaram Left Canal Works by August, Nimmala Warns Agencies

Vijayawada, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu warned that strict action would be taken against officials and agencies if the Polavaram Left Canal and Pushkara Lift Irrigation Scheme pipeline works were not completed within the scheduled timeframe.

The Minister held a review meeting at his camp office in Vijayawada on Tuesday with officials and representatives of executing agencies to assess the progress of the projects. Special Chief Secretary (Water Resources) Shashi Bhushan, Irrigation Advisor M. Venkateswara Rao, Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) Narasimha Murthy, Polavaram Left Canal Superintending Engineer (SE) Yesubabu and agency representatives participated.

Minister Nimmala expressed displeasure over delays in the works, particularly after recently inspecting the National Highway crossing bridges near Araempudi and Bendapudi villages near Annavaram under the Polavaram Left Canal project. He had also informed Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu about the status of the works.

Following the Chief Minister's directions, officials were instructed to prepare a clear schedule to remove hurdles and ensure the diversion of Godavari waters to North Andhra through the Polavaram Left Canal up to Anakapalli by August.

The Minister directed officials to coordinate with the National Highways Authority for integrating highways with the newly constructed bridges. He also expressed concern over delays in the Pushkara Lift Scheme pipeline works and ordered officials to submit a completion schedule, warning of strict action for further delays.

‘SADAREM Services Introduced on Mana Mitra WhatsApp Governance

Uday Krishna Amaravati: The State government has introduced SADAREM (Software for Assessment of Disabled for Access Rehabilitation and Empowerment) services through the Mana Mitra WhatsApp Governance platform, enabling persons with disabilities to access essential services easily using their mobile phones.

As per the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the SADAREM services have been integrated into the platform, the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) said in a statement. The facility allows users to check slot availability, book appointments and download disability certificates without visiting MeeSeva centres or village and ward secretariats.

Persons with disabilities can access the service by sending a "Hi" message to 9552300009 on

WhatsApp. After selecting "Citizen Services" from the menu, users can choose "SADAREM Services" and follow the instructions to complete the process.

The RTGS stated that the initiative aims to improve accessibility, transparency and convenience in delivering public services. It reduces the need for travel, minimises waiting time and eliminates paperwork, allowing beneficiaries to complete procedures from their homes.

The integration of SADAREM services into the Mana Mitra platform is part of the government's broader effort to expand digital governance and ensure that citizens can access essential services anytime and anywhere. Officials urged eligible beneficiaries across the State to utilise the facility for faster and hassle-free service delivery.

Union Minister Reviews DDU-GKY 2.0 Progress

New Delhi, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar on Tuesday reviewed the implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) 2.0 and stressed the need for timely execution and technology-driven reforms to strengthen rural skill development.

Chairing a review meeting at Sanchar Bhavan, the minister directed officials to ensure that training and placement targets under the scheme are achieved within the stipulated timeline. He also emphasised improving transparency and efficiency through digital initiatives.

Officials informed the meeting that since its launch in 2014-15, DDU-GKY has trained 18.45 lakh rural youth, while



23.35 lakh have secured wage employment across various sectors. The revised DDU-GKY 2.0 framework includes a comprehensive digital platform for project approvals, candidate management, assessments, financial monitoring and placement tracking.

The minister also reviewed proposals for a public candidate registration portal, advanced monitoring dashboards, blockchain-based certificate verification, online grievance redressal, facial authentication-based attendance and simplified approval processes to make the programme more transparent, citizen-friendly and effective in creating sustainable employment opportunities for rural youth.

The revised DDU-GKY 2.0 framework includes a comprehensive digital platform for project approvals, candidate management, assessments, financial monitoring and placement tracking.

Amaravati Chitra Kala Veedhi Art Festival Poster Unveiled

Vijayawada, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh unveiled the poster for the 'Amaravati Chitra Kala Veedhi' (Amaravati Art Street) festival at his camp office in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

The two-day festival will be held on August 8 and 9 at Koritepadu-Vidyanagar road near the Guntur Inner Ring Road under the aegis of the Andhra Pradesh State Creativity and Culture Commission.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the festival aims to showcase the cultural richness of Andhra Pradesh and provide a platform for artists to exhibit their creativity. He invited art lovers, students and the public to participate in large numbers.



The event will feature over 800 stalls displaying artworks and handicrafts from across the country, along with live art performances, musical concerts, nine entertainment stages, art installations, photo booths and food courts. The festival will be open from 10 am to 8 pm on both days.

Durgesh said the success of last year's art street event in Rajamahendravaram inspired the government to organise this year's festival on a larger scale in Guntur, near Amaravati.

AP Creativity and Culture Commission Chairperson Podapati Tejaswi also attended the poster launch.

Dr. NTR UHS Holds Orientation on Revised Physiotherapy Curriculum

Vijayawada, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (Dr. NTR UHS), Vijayawada, conducted an orientation programme on the revised Bachelor of Physiotherapy curriculum notified by the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP), New Delhi, on Tuesday.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. Chandrasekhar, Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. T. Sai Sudheer, Registrar of Dr. NTR UHS. Principals of 69 affiliated Physiotherapy Colleges participated in the programme along with senior officials.

Addressing the gathering, Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Chandrasekhar stressed the importance of implementing the revised curriculum uniformly to improve the quality of physiotherapy education and align academic standards with NCAHP guidelines. He said the university was taking steps to introduce the Bachelor of Physiotherapy course in well-



established Government Medical Colleges across Andhra Pradesh and proposals had already been submitted to the State Government.

Registrar Dr. T. Sai Sudheer urged affiliated colleges to adopt the revised curriculum effectively and coordinate with the university to ensure better academic standards and learning outcomes for students.

The programme was attended by Dr. V. Radhika Reddy, Additional Director of Medical Education (Academic), Dr. Ch. Sreekanth, Controller of Examinations, Dr. NTR UHS,

Yalamanchili Venkateswara Rao, Chairperson, Andhra Pradesh State Allied and Healthcare Professions Council, Bheema Sumila, Secretary, Andhra Pradesh State Allied and Healthcare Professions Council, Dr. M. Lakshmi Surya Prabha, Director (Research & Development), Dr. K. Sudha, Director (Publications), and K. Neelima, Joint Registrar (Academic).

The participants discussed the revised curriculum and offered suggestions for effective implementation across all affiliated institutions.

WB, ADB Teams Review Amaravati Projects and Safety Measures

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

A joint team from the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) continued its three-day visit to Amaravati, holding discussions with APCRDA officials at Rayapudi on Tuesday.

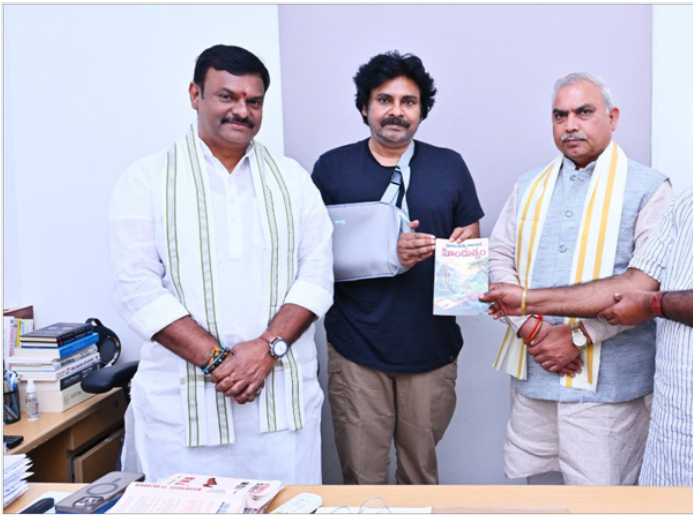
The team reviewed worker safety at construction sites, social and environmental safeguards, road safety measures and implementation of safety standards. APCRDA officials briefed them on land pooling and land acquisition activities, with the delegation suggesting measures for effective execution in capital region villages.

The team also examined the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) set up to address



complaints from farmers and residents. Discussions covered fund disbursement plans for 2027, progress of projects implemented through Amaravati Growth and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (AGICL), and proposed Public-Private

Partnership (PPP) projects. The delegation further offered suggestions on development of green buffer zones and parks by Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL) as part of sustainable capital city planning.



Shiv Prakash Meets Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party National Joint General Secretary Shiv Prakash met Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan at the camp office on Tuesday and inquired about his health. Pawan Kalyan is currently recovering after undergoing

shoulder surgery. Shiv Prakash wished him a speedy recovery and expressed hope that he would soon regain full health and continue his public service actively. BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav and State Organizing General Secretary Madhukar also participated in the meeting.

APCC Seeks Medical Education Reforms from Governor

Vijayawada, August 4 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) submitted a representation to Governor S. Abdul Nazeer seeking reforms in medical education, NEET admissions, counselling procedures and the admission system of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (Dr. NTRUHS).

APCC Official Spokesperson N. Kiran Kumar Reddy raised concerns over multiple application processes, high fees, lack of transparency, uncertain counselling schedules and financial burden on students.

The Congress sought a "One NEET-One State-One Application-One Fee" system, greater state autonomy in medical admissions, reforms in the NEET

qualifying process and measures to prevent wastage of PG and super-specialty seats.

The representation also sought a master academic calendar for health science courses, student-friendly counselling schedules and admissions to nursing and allied courses through AP EAMCET merit.

APCC demanded a review of Management and NRI quotas in government medical colleges, 10 per cent reservation for government school students, and an independent audit of admissions, counselling, fees and financial transactions at Dr. NTRUHS.

It urged the Governor's intervention for transparent, affordable and merit-based reforms.

Pawan Kalyan Pays Tribute to Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan paid tributes to former Andhra Pradesh minister Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao on his birth centenary, recalling his contributions to

Telugu language, culture and public service. He described Mandali as a leader of simplicity and values, praising his role in the first World Telugu Conference and relief efforts during the 1977 Diviseema cyclone.

APCRDA Holds Grama Sabhas on Amaravati Master Plan

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) conducted Grama Sabhas at Ananthavaram and Nekkallu villages on Tuesday as part of the Amaravati Master Plan implementation. Officials explained village circulation plans, integration of existing roads with the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) network, and proposed infrastructure development under the West Central-1 Grid. Special Deputy Collector P. Padmavathi highlighted the importance of planned road connectivity based on future needs.

Surveys are being conducted to map existing road networks and connectivity, with the data to be used for preparing effective village road plans. Villagers actively participated and shared suggestions, which officials said would be considered in finalising the plans. APCRDA stated that Grama Sabhas will be held in phases across capital region villages. Officials from various departments and technical experts from The Urbanizer are participating in the process. The next Grama Sabhas are scheduled at Thullur and Nelapadu on Wednesday.



An Unfinished Journey in the Midst of Development



Assessing the development of a state is not merely about counting the roads that have been built, the industries that have been established or the funds that have been spent. It is equally important to recognise a region's potential, understand its strengths and honestly analyse the challenges that still remain. It is with this objective that this special study, "Andhra Pradesh Development Audit (2014-2026)," has attempted to comprehensively examine the development journey of the state's three regions. The study highlights one fundamental conclusion: Andhra Pradesh's progress has never depended on a single region. Rather, it is the combined strength of its three distinct regions that forms the foundation of the state's development.

North Andhra: Turning the Sea into Opportunity

North Andhra is steadily transforming its long coastline into an engine of economic growth. Through ports, logistics, industrial corridors and a maritime economy, the region is emerging as Andhra Pradesh's gateway to the world. Yet North Andhra presents a striking contrast. On one hand, it possesses nearly 350 kilometres of coastline, the natural harbour of Visakhapatnam... one of the largest in the country—rich mineral resources, enormous tourism potential and a strategic location for industrial expansion. On the other hand, many young people continue to migrate in search of employment, farmers have waited for decades for assured irrigation, and public disappointment persists over unfulfilled promises. The gap between these two realities defines North Andhra's devel-



opment story. Over the past twelve years, successive governments have made sustained efforts to place the region's development on a stronger trajectory.

South Coastal Andhra: Converting Fertile Land into Economic Strength

South Coastal Andhra is transforming its fertile plains into a powerful economic engine. Agriculture, aquaculture, food processing, maritime trade and the highly productive delta ecosystem have strengthened not only the state's food security but also its export potential. As Amaravati evolves into the state capital, its success will depend on becoming more than just an administrative city. It must emerge as the development hub of South Coastal Andhra by integrating seamlessly with every major sector and every region of the state. A capital city is not defined solely by government buildings. Universities that attract students, research institutions that drive innovation, world-class health-care facilities, a vibrant knowledge economy and efficient transport networks together create a genuine centre of regional development. That remains Amaravati's real challenge. Similarly, the ports of South Coastal Andhra should not merely function as places where ships dock. They must serve as economic gateways connecting agriculture, aquaculture, industry and global markets. The region's aquaculture sector is no longer just an

agricultural activity; it has evolved into an export-oriented industry linking the rural economy with international markets. The study clearly demonstrates that multiple pathways are now emerging for South Coastal Andhra's sustained growth.

Rayalaseema: Transforming Constraints into Opportunities

Rayalaseema is steadily converting its natural limitations into development opportunities. Through the expansion of irrigation, a horticultural revolution, mineral-based industrialisation, renewable energy, spiritual and charitable institutions, and advances in education and healthcare, the region is witnessing the emergence of a new economic and social landscape. Along with Tirumala, Srikalahasti and Puttaparthi, Srisailem has become one of Rayalaseema's most significant spiritual and tourism destinations. Revered as one of the twelve Jyotirlingas and also recognised as a Shakti Peetha, it attracts millions of pilgrims every year. The surrounding Nallamala forests, the Srisailem reservoir, the hydel power project and the region's scenic beauty together make it an important centre for spiritual, ecological and nature-based tourism. Likewise, spiritual centres such as Tirumala, Srikalahasti, Srisailem, Ahobilam, Yaganti, Mantralayam and Puttaparthi, together with heritage and eco-tourism destinations such as Gandikota, Be-

lum Caves, Lepakshi, Horsley Hills and Talakona Waterfalls, are increasingly emerging as important drivers of regional development. The Rural Development Trust (RDT) represents far more than a voluntary organisation. It is a quiet social revolution that has demonstrated how community participation can become a powerful force for human development in Rayalaseema. A region once known for viewing its scorching climate as a curse is today converting the same sunshine into economic wealth through renewable energy. By transforming natural constraints into development opportunities, Rayalaseema has reached one of the most remarkable turning points in its history.

The Biggest Lesson
The most important lesson from these three regional studies is that there is no single model of development. Every region must build its own development path based on its geography, natural resources, human capital and social history. Policies that recognise these regional strengths and enable them to complement one another are the true foundation of balanced development. At the same time, this study does not end with a list of achievements, because development is never a completed chapter. Water security, quality employment, value-added industries, skill development, urbanisation, environmental sustainability, technological innovation and improvements in human development indicators remain the key priorities for the coming decade. The future of Andhra Pradesh will not be shaped by investment alone. It will depend equally on regional balance. If one region remains weak, the state cannot become truly strong. If one region progresses, the state moves forward only partially. But when all three regions grow simultaneously by build-

ing on their respective strengths, comprehensive and sustainable development becomes possible. This study has never sought to glorify any government or assign blame to anyone. Its objective has been to understand development through facts, identify the strengths of each region and provide a foundation for informed discussion about future opportunities. Development is not a destination—it is a continuous journey. In that journey, North Andhra contributes its maritime strength. South Coastal Andhra provides food security and export potential. Rayalaseema contributes resilience, innovation and the ability to transform adversity into opportunity. These three regions are not competitors; they are complementary pillars supporting Andhra Pradesh's future. The state's long-term prosperity depends upon this balanced vision of development. With this, our special series, "Andhra Pradesh Development Audit (2014-2026)," comes to a close. The journey of Andhra Pradesh's development, however, continues. It is our hope that future generations will carry this journey even further.

SMALL BOX ITEM
WITHIN THE FEATURE

Over the past 17 days, True Point presented a special series on Andhra Pradesh's development journey from 2014 to 2026, focusing on the progress of the bifurcated state. The series aimed to present facts without political bias, criticism, or favouritism, offering a balanced and evidence-based account.

Designed as a documented record rather than political commentary, these articles will serve as a historical reference for future generations. We sincerely thank our readers for their encouragement and support, which motivates us to bring more well-researched and meaningful stories.

India Brings Back 274 Fugitive Criminals Since 2019

continued

with INTERPOL, reducing the time required for information exchange to 3-10 days in several cases. Over the last three years, 401 fugitive criminals have been issued INTERPOL Red Corner Notices.

Through strict enforcement of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), assets worth 17,874 crore belonging to fugitive criminals were attached between 2019 and 2026. Successful restitution amounting to 18,762 crore was also carried out during the period.

CRDA Approves Major Projects To

Transform Amaravati Into Global Hub

continued

64th CRDA Authority meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the AP Secretariat on Tuesday.

Addressing the media, Minister Narayana said the Authority approved the tender award for the ₹1,280 crore Quantum Facility project to L&T (Larsen & Toubro), which is expected to strengthen Amaravati's position as a global technology hub.

He said approvals were also granted for land acquisition related to the Inner Ring Road and a new railway line after residents of Motadaka village in Guntur district voluntarily offered 2,344 acres under the land pooling scheme.

The Minister announced an iconic ropeway project under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to promote tourism and provide congestion-free transport. The route will connect Vijayawada Railway

According to the government data, among the 274 fugitives brought back, 62 were involved in murder, robbery and violent crimes, 53 in sexual offences, 42 in organised crime and extortion, 17 in terrorism-related cases, and others in financial crimes, narcotics, cyber offences and human trafficking.

The Centre said agencies including the Intelligence Bureau, CBI, R&AW, NIA, ED, MEA, NCB and State Police forces are working together under a coordinated framework to ensure the return of fugitives and speedy justice.

Station, Pandit Nehru Bus Station, Indrakeeladri Sri Kanaka Durgamma Temple, Punnami Ghat, Bhavani Island and Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Amaravati.

The CRDA approved proposals for establishing a 20 MW data centre and installing 5G towers at 20 locations. Relief was also provided to 'Happynest' homebuyers through exemption from AP RERA renewal fees.

Narayana said 122 crore would be released to the Endowments Department as per Supreme Court orders and 244.39 acres of endowment lands in Palnadu district would be brought under land pooling.

He added that a feasibility study would be conducted for an iconic bridge across the Krishna River, while an expert committee would ensure Amaravati's government buildings reflect Telugu culture, arts and traditions.

Godavari Mega Water Grid Gains Momentum To Resolve Coastal Water Crisis

continued

around 33 lakh people across both districts. Timely completion of key works, particularly in water-scarce areas, has been identified as crucial for achieving the objective. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Rural Water Supply Pawan Kalyan stated that the pace of Jal Jeevan Mission works must be accelerated in areas facing severe water scarcity. He said the 'Amarajeevi Jaladghara' project would provide a permanent solution to drinking water problems in coastal villages and directed officials to complete critical works within the stipulated timeframe without compromising quality. During a review meeting with Rural Water Supply officials, Pawan Kalyan assessed the progress of projects worth 3,050 crore in the combined Godavari dis-

tricts. Officials informed that the works were progressing as scheduled. The East Godavari Mega Water Grid project, with an estimated cost of ₹1,650 crore, aims to provide drinking water to nearly 20 lakh people across 10 constituencies. So far, 182 km of pipeline works have been completed, while intake wells and access bridges are under construction. The West Godavari project, costing ₹1,400 crore, is targeted to benefit around 13.50 lakh people. Works on intake wells, access bridges and a 155 MLD water treatment plant are progressing, with nearly 400 km of pipelines completed under both projects. Pawan Kalyan instructed officials to coordinate with various departments to remove hurdles and announced that he would personally inspect Jal Jeevan Mission works across the state to ensure quality standards.

Subsidised Power Extended to Aqua Farmers in Non-Aqua Zones

continued

support price of 10 per kg for off-style tobacco from Wednesday. Officials were asked to procure 94 million kg of off-style tobacco, benefiting around 44,000 farmers. A five-member committee comprising government, Tobacco Board and farmer representatives will monitor the process. Naidu directed officials to

launch a scheme providing 50,000 loans per tobacco curing barn and prepare an action plan to control shrimp feed prices. He also instructed officials to accelerate plans to develop Rayalaseema as a horticulture hub with 201 clusters. He announced that agriculture and El Niño mitigation measures would be reviewed every Tuesday.

43 lakh SC beneficiaries, ₹5,730 crore to nine lakh ST beneficiaries, ₹32,534 crore to 118 lakh BC beneficiaries and ₹4,856 crore towards minority welfare for 17 lakh beneficiaries. He said the government aims to transform five lakh Self-Help Group women into entrepreneurs during 2026-27 through branding and market linkages under the umbrella brand "Swayam-AP". He added that Andhra Pradesh has

HC Dismissal of YSRCP PIL Proves DSC Transparency: Minister

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy on Tuesday welcomed the High Court's dismissal of the PIL filed by YSRCP leaders against the DSC teacher recruitment process, saying the verdict reaffirmed the transparency of the recruitment exercise.

The minister alleged that the YSRCP had attempted to stall the DSC process through court cases for political gains. He said the Alliance government conducted the recruitment in a fair and transparent manner after examining all objections

raised by candidates before announcing the final results.

Janardhan Reddy criticised the previous YSRCP government for failing to conduct a Mega DSC during its five-year tenure and questioned its moral right to comment on the current recruitment process.

He said the government had released a job calendar with 10,060 vacancies, with appointments to be made in four phases. The minister reiterated that the Alliance government remains committed to safeguarding the interests of unemployed youth and ensuring transparent recruitment.

Guduri Srinivas Demands Education Reforms, Alleges DSC Irregularities

Rajamahendravaram, August 4 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Rajamahendravaram Parliamentary Constituency In-charge Dr. Guduri Srinivas called for major reforms in the education system, alleging irregularities in the DSC recruitment process and increasing corporate influence in education.

Addressing the media after a YSRCP-organised round-table conference on alleged DSC and NEET examination irregularities, he said urgent measures were needed to strengthen public education. He alleged that the Alliance government was

supporting corporate institutions while neglecting government schools. Dr. Srinivas said former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had improved public education through digital initiatives and infrastructure development. He appealed to parents to encourage government school education to reduce financial burdens. He further alleged that merit was compromised in the DSC recruitment process and demanded a transparent inquiry. He said YSRCP would intensify its agitation and organise large-scale protests against the alleged irregularities.

Borugadda Anil Stages Protest Outside YSRCP Office

Tadepalli, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Borugadda Anil staged a protest along with his wife outside the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli on Tuesday, demanding an opportunity to meet former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Anil sat in protest, alleging that despite working for the party for nearly a decade and spending nine months in jail, he had not received support from the party leadership. He demanded that senior YSRCP leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy issue a public apology to him and his family.

He also sought disciplinary



action against YSRCP leader Karumuri Venkata Reddy, alleging that he had referred to him as a "rowdy-sheeter." Anil said such remarks had deeply hurt his family, especially when made by members of his own party.



The protest created a brief commotion outside the party office as Anil insisted on meeting Jagan Mohan Reddy to present his grievances directly. No immediate response was issued by the YSRCP leadership regarding his demands.

CPI to Launch District-Wide Campaign Jatha from August 6

Eluru, August 4 | TPN Bureau

CPI Eluru District Committee will organise a district-wide campaign jatha and padayatra from August 6 to 15 to highlight public issues and oppose the policies of the Central and State governments, District Secretary Mannava Krishna Chaitanya announced.

Addressing a press conference, he said the campaign with the slogan "Change Must Come;

Change is Inevitable" would cover villages and towns across Eluru district and culminate in a massive rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on September 1. Mannava Krishna Chaitanya demanded a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP), timely compensation and rehabilitation for Polavaram project displaced families, completion of the Chintalapudi Lift Irrigation Scheme, revival of Forest

Protection Committees, and distribution of Podu land pattas. CPI District Assistant Secretary Bandi Venkateswara Rao demanded continuation of the Employment Guarantee Act in its original form, cancellation of the VBG Ramji scheme, employment opportunities for youth, price control measures, increased funds for education and healthcare, and filling of vacant government posts.

Amaravati Will Make Telugu People Proud Say Ministers

to Telugu people. He accused the YSR Congress Party of spreading misinformation about the capital project and criticised its comments on the Mega DSC recruitment process. He also praised Education Minister Nara Lokesh for introducing reforms in the education sector. Minister S. Savitha said the Secretariat, High Court, Assembly and other landmark buildings would be completed by 2028. She added

that the residential complexes for ministers, MLAs and MLCs would be handed over to the General Administration Department on August 15. She said road connectivity and other infrastructure works were progressing as scheduled, expressing confidence that Amaravati would emerge as a modern, world-class capital under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

continued

crore pending dues and secured ₹29,890 crore in central funds since June 2024. He said ₹1.49 lakh crore was spent on welfare programmes in the last two years, while 30,607 government jobs were created, including 15,941 teacher posts through Mega DSC and 5,757 constable posts. Highlighting welfare measures, Naidu said ₹19,100 crore was provided to

Naidu Calls For Collective Effort To Achieve 15% Growth Rate

continued

emerged as a national role model in digitalisation of SHG loan processes. Naidu announced that Phase-I of Amaravati capital development would be completed by 2028 and the Polavaram project would be dedicated to the nation in March 2027. He also announced a ₹1 lakh crore integrated horticulture development plan to transform Rayalaseema into an international horticulture hub.

JB Srinivas vows to work for Tirupati development



Tirupati, August 4 | TPN Bureau
Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Tirupati constituency in-charge JB Srinivas said he would work tirelessly for the development of the constituency and address long-pending issues faced by people. As part of the Alliance government's welfare campaign, a door-to-door programme was conducted on Tuesday in the 34th Division (9th Cluster). JB Srinivas, along with AP Greening and Beautification Corporation Chairperson Sugunamma, visited households and explained the welfare initiatives and achievements of the Alliance govern-

ment. He said people were expressing satisfaction with the government's administration and assured residents that their concerns would be taken up and resolved. He reiterated his commitment to improving basic facilities and ensuring development across the constituency. Cluster in-charge Munishekhar Royal, women leader Venkata Keerthi, unit in-charges Suresh, Madhusudan Yadav, Vijayalakshmi, ward presidents Bhupathi, Lokanatham Yadav, Mohan Royal, Prakash, party leaders, and workers participated in the programme.

All-party movement launched to protect 148-year-old CSI High School



Kadapa, August 4 | TPN Bureau
An all-party movement has intensified to protect the 148-year-old CSI High School in Kadapa city, with leaders announcing that protests will continue until alleged illegal construction permits are cancelled and structures on the school premises are demolished. A round-table conference was held at the Press Club on Tuesday under the chairmanship of CPI City Secretary N. Venkata Siva. Leaders from CPI, CPM, Congress, YSRCP, BSP, Aam Aadmi Party, Lok Satta Party, and various civil society organizations participated in the meeting. The leaders alleged irregularities in granting permissions for a commercial complex on the school land and demanded strict action against those responsible. They claimed that approvals were obtained through fraudulent documents and urged authorities to protect the educational institution serving poor and marginalized students. The meeting passed a resolution demanding cancellation of construction permissions, demolition of illegal structures, criminal action against those involved, and punishment for officials who supported the alleged violations. Leaders announced protests at the KUDA office on the 7th and the Corporation office on the 10th. They warned that further action would be taken if the illegal structures were not removed. Student, youth, labour, minority organization representatives, alumni, and retired teachers also participated.

TTD cancels Arjitha Sevas during Srivari Brahmotsavams

Tirumala, August 4 | TPN Bureau

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced the cancellation of certain Arjitha Sevas and special darshan facilities during the annual Srivari Salakatta Brahmotsavams scheduled to be held at Tirumala from September 15 to 23. TTD officials said the decision was taken to facilitate the smooth conduct of the nine-day Brahmotsavam celebrations and manage the large number of devotees expected to participate in the festivities. The cancelled Arjitha Sevas include Astadala Pada Padmaradhana Seva, Tirupavada Seva, Arjitha Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, and Sahasra Deepalankarana Seva. Along with these services, special darshan facilities provided for senior citizens, physically handicapped devotees, parents with infants, NRIs, and donors will also remain unavailable during the Brahmotsavam period. TTD requested devotees to take note of the changes and cooperate with the arrangements made for the successful conduct of the annual festival. The Brahmotsavams are among the most significant religious events conducted at Tirumala, attracting thousands of devotees from across the country and abroad every year.

Meda Raghunath Reddy seeks easier birth and death registration system



New Delhi, August 4 | TPN Bureau
YSRCP MP Meda Raghunath Reddy called for a people-friendly approach in the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026, during the Rajya Sabha discussion on Tuesday. He suggested introducing flexible provisions to help rural, poor, and tribal communities access registration services easily. Highlighting the doorstep service model of Village Secretariats and Volunteers implemented during the YS Jagan government, he urged the Centre to adopt a similar system across the country. Meda Raghunath Reddy proposed creating a digital platform through Village

and Ward Secretariats for late registration applications of births and deaths. He also requested complete exemption of late fees and court charges for BPL families, SC, ST, and tribal communities. The MP suggested conducting special registration camps in rural and tribal areas to improve accessibility. He emphasized that governance should focus on reaching people instead of making citizens repeatedly visit government offices. Meda Raghunath Reddy said the Village Secretariat and Volunteer system is an example of citizen-oriented administration and urged the Central Government to implement such models nationwide for better public service delivery.

Welfare Hostels To Get \$34.80 Crore Modernisation Push in Nellore

Suman Babu Veerisetty
Nellore: Welfare hostels across Nellore district are set to undergo a major transformation with the launch of the 'Vidya Vasathi Vikasam' (Education, Accommodation, Development) initiative aimed at providing students a safe, hygienic and comfortable living environment. District Collector Himanshu Shukla launched the special programme at Tikkana Complex on Tuesday. The initiative will modernise 155 SC, ST, BC, Tribal and Minority welfare hostels in the district, benefiting 19,069 students with an estimated expenditure of \$34.80 crore. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Himanshu Shukla said the objective of the programme was to provide safe, dignified and quality accommodation for every student and ensure that no student faces difficulties due to a lack of basic infrastructure. Under the initiative, \$20.35 crore has been allocated for infrastructure repairs, while \$14.45 crore will be utilised for furniture,



equipment and modern amenities. Works include renovation of old buildings, roof repairs, flooring, painting, improvement of doors, windows, compound walls and toilets. The hostels will also receive drinking water facilities, borewells, RO plants, rainwater harvesting structures, modern electrical systems, solar lights and other essential amenities. Students will be provided facilities including computers, smart TVs, washing machines, solar geysers, kitchen equipment, library books, sports materials and other daily-use items.

The programme will cover hostels under the Social Welfare, BC Welfare, Tribal Welfare, APSWREI (Gurukulam) and Minority Welfare departments. The works will be implemented in five phases, including administrative approvals, repairs, procurement of equipment and quality inspections. The project will be monitored under the direct supervision of District Collector Himanshu Shukla. The District BC Welfare and Empowerment Officer will act as the nodal officer, while the APEWIDC engineering wing will oversee construction works and quality monitoring.

Collector Dr. A. Siri reviews welfare schemes

Kurnool, August 4 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. A. Siri directed officials to ensure effective implementation of women and child welfare schemes and complete development works in Kurnool city within the stipulated deadlines. During a review meeting at the Collectorate, the Collector instructed ICDS officials to strengthen the implementation of Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti schemes. She said the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) should function independently as per the guidelines of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. She directed officials to identify more beneficiaries under welfare schemes and warned that negligence in duties would not be tolerated. Dr. Siri ordered monthly special drives to identify and rescue street children across the district and provide them with necessary care and rehabilitation. She emphasized that field-level activities should bring visible results. In another meeting with Kurnool Municipal Corporation officials, the Collector directed the effective utilization of 15th Finance Commission funds and completion of pending works by October-



end. She stressed transforming Kurnool into a clean and green city through improved sanitation, roads, parks, greenery, and pollution control measures. She instructed officials to plant 22,000 saplings, remove potholes, maintain canals, improve drinking water supply, and beautify junctions. Municipal Commissioner Challa Obulesu and other officials participated in the meetings.

Gurukula schools will regain former glory: MLA Somireddy

Muthukur, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy said the Alliance government's priority is to transform Gurukula schools by providing better facilities and improving the learning environment for students. The MLA visited the Gurukula school in Muthukur and inspected classrooms and hostels. He interacted with female students, listened to their concerns, and assured them of support for addressing their needs. He advised students to study with discipline and aim for higher achievements. Somireddy recalled that the Gurukula system was introduced in Andhra Pradesh in 1984 by former Chief Minister N.T.R. He appreciated the presence of a historic British-era building on the school premises and directed officials to repair it while preserving its heritage value. He announced that new dormitories would be constructed in place of damaged ones and officials would prepare estimates soon. District Collector Himanshu Shukla said \$34.80 crore has been allocated under the "Vasati Vidya



Vikasam" programme for developing 155 residential hostels, including \$78 lakh for Muthukur Gurukulam. The funds will be used for repairs, sanitation, flooring, and other infrastructure works. He also informed that new classrooms, a Junior College at BC Gurukulam Golegamudi, and infrastructure development at Vikrama Simhapuri University are among the ongoing initiatives.

\$3,635 crore loans sanctioned for agriculture infrastructure in state

Nellore, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ramnath Thakur informed Parliament that loans worth \$3,635.57 crore have been sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme. He gave the details in response to a question raised by Nellore Lok Sabha member Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy. The Minister said 6,850 projects have been approved across the state under the scheme, with \$1,989.51 crore already released. Full loan amounts have been provided for 4,272 projects. In Nellore district, 370 projects were sanctioned with loans amounting to \$314.09 crore, of which \$108.44 crore has been released for 268 projects. East Godavari received the highest number of approved projects at 633, with loans of \$373.13 crore sanctioned. The AIF scheme aims to strengthen agricultural infra-

structure, including storage facilities, processing units, and mechanisation support. The Central Government highlighted the positive impact of the scheme based on an assessment by IIM Ahmedabad.

The study found that improved post-harvest infrastructure helped reduce crop losses by 5-15% and increased farmers' income by 11-15%. It also stated that each AIF-supported unit creates employment opportunities for around 12-13 people during peak seasons and supports additional jobs in transportation, marketing, and packaging sectors.



Official seal passbooks will protect farmers' lands: MLA Pulivarthi Nani

Chandragiri, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani said that Pattadar passbooks with the official state seal will provide greater confidence and protection to farmers regarding their land rights. As part of the "Your Land... Your Right" programme, new Pattadar passbooks were distributed to farmers at Kotala Panchayat. MLA Pulivarthi Nani attended the programme and personally handed over the passbooks to beneficiaries. He said that land survey has been completed for 438 farmers in Kotala Panchayat, and 383 farmers are receiving the passbooks in the first phase. He assured that technical issues affecting the remaining 55 farmers would be resolved soon. The MLA said the transparent resurvey process allows farmers to verify land details through QR codes printed on the passbooks, along with maps showing land boundaries and extent.



He stated that removing the Land Titling Act after the Alliance government came to power was a historic decision in favour of farmers. Beneficiaries thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, and MLA Pulivarthi Nani. Officials, farmers, and alliance leaders participated in the programme.

New school opened for Morampalli children after 15-year wait



Chittoor, August 4 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Sumith Kumar and Puthalapattu MLA Dr. Kalikiri Muralimohan inaugurated a new primary school for students of Grades 1 to 5 at BC Colony in Morampalli village of Irala Mandal, providing relief to students and parents.

For nearly 15 years, 21 children from the colony had been travelling about two kilometres to a nearby village for education. After parents brought the issue to MLA Dr. Kalikiri Muralimohan's notice, he took up the matter with Education Minister Nara Lokesh and worked with Collector Sumith Kumar to establish the school. Speaking at the inauguration, Collector Sumith Kumar said the school would be provided with necessary infrastructure and monitored by the Mandal Educational Officer and District Educational Officer. He urged parents to focus on children's education, attendance, hygiene, diet and responsible mobile phone usage. The Collector credited MLA Muralimohan's efforts for fulfilling the long-pending demand. The MLA said the new school would enable children to continue their education conveniently within the village. District Educational Officer Lakshminarayana, SSA Project Officer Venkataramana, MEOs Rushendra Babu and Bhanuprasad Rao, officials, TDP leaders, parents and villagers participated.

CMRF aid crosses \$6 crore in Nellore Rural



Nellore Rural, August 4 | TPN Bureau
Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) assistance provided to poor patients in Nellore Rural constituency has crossed \$6 crore, offering major financial support for medical expenses. Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy distributed CMRF cheques worth \$47 lakh to 54 beneficiaries at his office on Tuesday. He said that during the two years of the alliance government, \$6 crore assistance has been sanctioned to 697 poor families in the constituency through CMRF. Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy appreciated Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for promptly responding to health-related issues of poor families despite financial challenges faced by the state. He said the government is committed to supporting people during difficult times and assured that he would continue to stand by families in need. Local leaders, party workers, and beneficiaries participated in the programme.

Raghurami Reddy demands Srisaillam water release for Rayalaseema farmers

Kadapa, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Former YSRCP MLA Raghurami Reddy of Mydukur criticized the Alliance government for allegedly



neglecting the water needs of Rayalaseema farmers and demanded immediate release of water through the Pothiredypadu Head Regulator. Addressing a press conference at the YSRCP district office in Kadapa, Raghurami Reddy said water from Srisaillam reservoir should be released downstream only after the project reaches full capacity. He stressed that drinking water and irrigation requirements must get the highest priority before releasing water towards Nagarjuna Sagar or for power generation. He alleged that Karnataka and Telangana were protecting their own interests while the AP government remained silent. He warned that releasing water before filling Srisaillam would amount to injustice to Rayalaseema. Raghurami Reddy demanded the immediate resumption of the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, stating that the project would help draw water even at lower reservoir levels. He alleged that the project was stopped after the Alliance government came to power. Badvel YCP MLA Dr. Sudha also criticized Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that the state's water interests were being compromised. She recalled that former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy initiated the Pothiredypadu expansion and YS Jagan started the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme. The YCP leaders warned of direct agitation if water was not released to Rayalaseema immediately.

Tributes paid to leader Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao

Tirupati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati District SP L. Subbarayudu paid tributes to late prominent leader Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao on his birth anniversary by garlanding his portrait at the camp office on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, SP L. Subbarayudu recalled the valuable contributions of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao to public service and social welfare. He said Rao was a dedicated leader who worked for the welfare of society and his principles and commitment continue to inspire the present generation. The SP stated that the services rendered by Rao for social development will always remain memorable. He highlighted the importance of following the ideals and values upheld by such leaders. Police officials and staff participated in the programme and paid their respects while remembering the contributions of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao to public life.



Ayyanna Patrudu Urges Paddy Farmers to Enrol for Crop Insurance

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu has urged paddy farmers to enrol in the crop insurance scheme before August 15, citing the risk of crop losses due to the El Niño weather phenomenon and inadequate rainfall.

He said farmers can obtain insurance by paying 84 per acre, with registrations being facilitated through Common Service Centres (CSCs), Aadhaar update centres, and Village Secretariats.

The Speaker advised farmers to carry their 1B document, a photocopy of the first page of the bank passbook, a self-decla-

ration certificate, and, in the case of tenant farmers, a lease agreement or verification certificate from the Village Sarpanch or VRO while registering.

Ayyanna Patrudu also stressed the importance of updating crop details in the e-Panta (e-Crop) system within 15 to 30 days of transplantation. He said eligible farmers could receive insurance compensation of up to 42,400 per acre in the event of crop loss. He called upon mandal-level leaders and public representatives to create awareness about the scheme and ensure that every eligible paddy farmer completes the registration process before the deadline.

Drainage Works Trigger Traffic Diversions

Chirala, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Traffic diversions have been imposed in Chirala following the commencement of drainage reconstruction works between Masjid Center and Gorantla Hospital. The affected road has been temporarily closed to facilitate the repair works being undertaken by municipal authorities as part of the town's drainae improvement project. According to Traffic SI Pavan Kumar, vehicular movement on the stretch has been suspended until the

works are completed. To minimize inconvenience, the One Town Traffic Police have introduced alternative traffic arrangements. Vehicles traveling from Masjid Center towards Kothapeta have been diverted via Perala, while those coming from Kothapeta are being routed through LBS Nagar near the Government Hospital. Traffic SI Pavan Kumar appealed to motorists and the general public to follow the designated diversion routes and cooperate with the traffic police and municipal staff.

Shakti App Promoted for Women's Safety

Chirala, August 4 | TPN Bureau

The Chirala Sub-Division Shakti team conducted an awareness programme on the Shakti App for female students at Sri Medhavi Junior College, highlighting its role in ensuring women's safety and preventing harassment.

Held under the direction of Bapatla District SP B. Umamaheswar and the guidance of Chirala DSP M.D. Moin, the programme was led by CI G. Somashekhar and SI A. Haribabu. Addressing the students, SI A. Haribabu and Shakti team constable K. Subbarao urged them to report incidents of eve-teasing, cyber harass-

ment, obscene comments, or harassment in public places through the Shakti App's SOS feature or by calling 112. They stressed that timely reporting would help police take swift action against offenders. The officials encouraged students to develop self-confidence, discipline, punctuality, and self-defence skills while pursuing their education, emphasizing that ensuring women's safety is a shared responsibility. College Correspondent M.V. Durga Kumar, Principal Satyanarayana, Administrative Officer Avinash, Vice Principal Ahmed, and members of the Shakti team attended the awareness programme.

St. Ann's Conducts Employability Training for B.Tech Students

Chirala, August 4 | TPN Bureau

St. Ann's College of Engineering and Technology, Chirala, has launched a three-day Employability Enhancement programme to prepare engineering students for recruitment by multinational companies. College Secretary Vanama Ramakrishna Rao and Correspondent Srimanthula Lakshmana Rao said the initiative is aimed at improving students' employability and career readiness. Principal Dr. K. Jagadeesh Babu said

the programme, being held from August 3 to 5, is designed for fourth-year B.Tech Computer Science and Engineering students. He noted that soft skills are as important as technical knowledge in today's competitive job market. The training focuses on communication skills, professional body language, aptitude, group discussions, and HR interview techniques to help students confidently face recruitment processes conducted by multinational companies.

Padmavathi Highlights Anganwadi Welfare Initiatives

Narsipatnam, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Chintakayala Padmavathi, wife of Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, distributed sarees, induction stoves, and pressure cookers to Anganwadi centres under the Narsipatnam and Golugonda project areas on Tuesday.

She also participated in a Breastfeeding Week awareness rally, encouraging mothers to adopt breastfeeding for the healthy growth of infants. The distribution covered Anganwadi centres in Makavara-palem, Narsipatnam, Golugonda, and Nathavaram mandals. Addressing the gathering, Padmavathi said the Telugu Desam Party and the Alliance gov-

ernment are committed to strengthening the Anganwadi system and improving the welfare of its workers. She said the government has taken steps to improve Anganwadi services by providing 5G mobile phones, promoting mini-workers as main workers, and enhancing retirement benefits for Anganwadi staff. She also highlighted salary revisions and welfare measures introduced for Anganwadi workers. ZPTC member Ramanamma, Tandava Reservoir Chairman Karaka Satyanarayana, Adigarla Nanibabu, Nandipalli Venkataramana, CDPOs Ramani and Srigowri, Anganwadi supervisors, and local representatives attended the programme.

CM Naidu's Chirala Visit To Highlight Weaver Welfare: Parthasarathy

Chirala, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District In-charge Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy said that the visit of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to Chirala on National Handloom Day should be organised in a grand manner with all necessary arrangements.

The Chief Minister is scheduled to visit the Kothapeta area of Chirala Mandal on August 7 and distribute financial assistance to weavers under the 'Nethanna Seva' scheme. On Tuesday, Minister Parthasarathy, along with District Collec-

tor Dr. Vinod Kumar V., Superintendent of Police B. Uma Maheswar and public representatives, inspected the public meeting venue, helipad and interaction areas with weavers.

The Minister directed officials to ensure smooth arrangements without inconvenience. Later, speaking to the media, he said the government was committed to supporting handloom weavers and addressing their challenges.

He stated that over 50,000 weavers would receive 25,000 financial assistance under the scheme. He also highlighted the 4,000 monthly pension and free electricity schemes pro-

viding 200 units to handloom weavers and 500 units to powerloom weavers.

Parthasarathy said Chirala was chosen for the programme as it was the native place of handloom activist Pragada Kotaiah. He added that the government was focusing on coastal development, tourism promotion and infrastructure connectivity.

Commissioner of Handlooms & Textiles Rekha Rani, RDOs Narasimha Rao, A. Hari Kumar and B. Sridevi, MLA Maddaluri Malakondaiiah, BUDA Chairman Ch. Rajasekhar Babu, officials and alliance leaders participated.



Kandula Durgesh Launches Subsidised Fine Rice Scheme

Nidadavole, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Tuesday reviewed the beautification and development works at the Malakoduru tank in Nidadavole and directed officials to complete the project within the stipulated time while maintaining quality standards. He said the tank should be developed into a model recreational space with facilities that promote fitness and provide a pleasant environment for families.

Later, the Minister inaugurated the sale of subsidised Sona Masuri rice through special outlets at Rythu Bazaars and rice miller centres. He said rice priced at 60-65 per kg in the open market would be supplied to eligible beneficiaries at 52 per kg, with 10 kg per month available to each family. The scheme is currently being implemented through 45 centres in East Godavari district.

Kandula Durgesh said the government is ensuring payments to farmers within 24

hours of procurement and recalled that over 1,600 crore in pending dues had been cleared after the Alliance government assumed office.

The Minister said the government is coordinating with the Centre to provide price difference compensation to tobacco farmers affected by global market conditions. He also highlighted welfare schemes including NTR Bharosa, Stree Shakti, Deepam 2, Talliki Vandanam, and Annadatha Sukhibhava-PM Kisan, while asserting that the Alliance government's priority is the welfare of farmers and the poor.

Kandula Durgesh said the government is committed to ensuring that welfare benefits reach every eligible beneficiary through transparent implementation. He directed officials to work in close coordination, expand public access to welfare services, and complete development projects on schedule to improve the quality of life for residents of the constituency.

Ensure Welfare Benefits Reach Every Household, Says Manohar

Eluru, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Civil Supplies and Eluru District In-charge Minister Nadendla Manohar reviewed development and welfare programmes in Eluru district during a meeting held at the District Collectorate on Tuesday. The Minister was welcomed on his arrival by AP- SRTC Vijayawada Zonal Chairperson and Janasena Eluru constituency in-charge Reddy Appala Naidu. During the review meeting, Nadendla Manohar discussed the implementation of government schemes, district development, and welfare initiatives with officials. He instructed officials to work in coordination to ensure that government programmes and

welfare benefits effectively reach the people. Among those who welcomed the Minister were District TDP President and Eluru MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti), District Collector K. Vetri Selvi, Joint Collector Abhishek Gowda, Unguturu MLA Patsamatla Dharmaraju, Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar, State Vaddila Corporation Chairperson Ghantasala Venkata lakshmi, and District DCMS Chairman Chaganti Muralikrishna (Chinna). Senior Janasena leader Nara Sesu, senior officials, Alliance leaders, Veera Mahilas, Janasainiks, and party activists also participated in the programme.

BC Janardhan Reddy Inspects Mini Conference Hall Works

Nandyal, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Roads and Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy on Tuesday inspected the construction of a proposed mini conference hall near the R&B Guest House in Nandyal town. The conference hall is being built at a cost of 2 crore for government administrative purposes. During the surprise inspection, the Minister reviewed the progress of the project and directed officials to speed up the construction. BC Janardhan Reddy in-



structed the officials to ensure that the conference hall is completed within the next two months so that it can be put to use without delay. Nandyal District R&B Executive Engineer Sridhar Reddy and other senior officials accompanied the Minister during the inspection.

Unions Call for 'Jail Bharo' Protest on August 10

Eluru: CITU, the Farmers' Union and the Agricultural Workers' Union announced a district-wide 'Jail Bharo' protest on August 10 against the Centre's alleged anti-farmer and anti-worker policies. Pamphlets were released at Uddharaju Ramam Bhavan on Tuesday.

Leaders D.N.V.D. Prasad, K.

Srinivas and P. Ramakrishna said the protest, inspired by Quit India Day, aims to defend democracy and farmers' rights. They criticised the Centre over the US trade deal, labour codes, lack of MSP guarantee, weakening of the Employment Guarantee Act, and rising prices.

MLA Prabhakar Seeks Better Transport, Infrastructure

Eluru, August 4 | TPN Bureau



Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar on Tuesday participated in various public and official programmes, highlighting welfare schemes and constituency development issues.

At the District Development Committee meeting chaired by District In-charge Minister Nadendla Manohar, the MLA sought additional RTC buses on the Kalarayannagudem-Eluru route, restoration of services to villages, action on alleged housing irregularities during the previous YSRCP government, and early completion of pending road, irrigation and drinking water projects. The Minister appreciated the issuance of 1,100 Learner's Licences through special camps in Denduluru.

During the public grievance meeting at Duggirala, Chintamaneni said the Alliance government was strengthening healthcare through NTR Vaidya Seva and CMRF. He later explained government initiatives

during the Intintiki Kutami programme and announced funds for road works, a health centre and drinking water facilities in Dasarigudem and surrounding villages.

MP Mahesh Raises Key Fisheries, Agriculture Issues in LS

Delhi, August 4 | TPN Bureau



Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar raised key issues concerning Andhra Pradesh in the Lok Sabha, seeking measures to curb illegal fishing and promote state-specific agricultural development. Responding to his query, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh said the Centre approved the Vessel Communication and Support System (VCSS) under PMMSY at a cost of 364 crore. The project will install transponders on fishing boats with full government assistance to

prevent boundary violations. The Minister said around 160 illegal fishing cases involving

boats from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry were reported in Andhra Pradesh over the past five years. He added that awareness campaigns and geo-fencing technology would strengthen fishermen's safety. On agriculture, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Ramnath Thakur said the Centre is preparing state-specific agricultural roadmaps, including one for Andhra Pradesh, focusing on productivity, climate resilience, resource efficiency, and farmers' income growth. The plans are being prepared with support from ICAR, state governments, agricultural universities, and experts.

Health Minister Satya Kumar Lays Foundation for PHC

Amaravati, August 4 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satya Kumar and Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a new Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Chanubanda village in Chatrai mandal of Eluru district's Nuzvid Assembly constituency.

Addressing the gathering, Satya Kumar accused the YSR Congress Party of spreading misinformation that the coali-

tion government had weakened the Aarogyasri health insurance scheme. He said the previous YSRCP government spent around 9,000 crore on the scheme over five years, while the present government cleared nearly 7,000 crore in pending hospital dues and bills within two years.

The minister challenged YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and party leaders to a public debate on Aarogyasri, saying official records would

prove the government's claims.

Satya Kumar also criticised the YSRCP for allegedly supporting accused persons instead of crime victims and accused former ministers of resorting to abusive politics. He further said the coalition government was naming institutions after eminent personalities, unlike the previous government, which, he alleged, favoured a single family's name for public schemes and institutions.

Protocol Row During Panchayat Inquiry in Kadiyapulanka

Rajamahendravaram: An inquiry into alleged irregularities at Kadiyapulanka Panchayat in Kadiyam Mandal sparked controversy on Tuesday over violation of protocol by officials.

The probe, ordered by the District Panchayat Officer,

was conducted by EOPRD Neelam Srinivas along with two Grade-4 secretaries, in the presence of Panchayat Secretary Venkata lakshmi.

During the inquiry, the EOPRD reportedly occupied the chair reserved for the Sarpanch, while the Panchayat Secretary sat in

the Deputy Sarpanch's chair.

Former Sarpanches, elected representatives and residents criticised the act, stating it undermined the dignity of local bodies. They urged higher authorities to examine the incident and prevent recurrence.

Rowdy-Sheeteer Jailed for Violating Bind-Over Conditions

Bhimavaram : West Godavari Police jailed a rowdy-sheeteer for violating bind-over conditions under the directions of SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi. The accused, Addanki Venkanna alias Rolex alias Venkata Rao (25)

of Duvva village under Tanuku Rural Police limits, had executed a 5 lakh bond in April 2026 to maintain good behaviour for six months. He was allegedly involved in another offence in July. Based on a police report, the Mandal

Executive Magistrate ordered simple imprisonment from August 4 to October 7. He has been lodged in Rajamahendravaram Central Jail. CI D. Venkateswara Rao warned of strict action against repeat offenders.

Editorial

A Political Gift or a Calculated Strategy?

In politics, controversy may generate instant headlines, but it rarely guarantees lasting public support. Leaders who deliberately provoke disputes in the hope of gaining political mileage often underestimate the wisdom of the electorate. While sensational remarks may keep them in the news, they can also create a negative public image that becomes difficult to erase. Once a politician is identified with unnecessary controversies, future opportunities may gradually diminish as people begin to question both judgment and maturity.

The recent political conduct of Udayanidhi Stalin has once again brought this issue into focus. As a young leader with the opportunity to play a significant role in shaping the future of his party, he is expected to demonstrate restraint and responsibility. However, his repeated involvement in controversial remarks has attracted criticism rather than appreciation. His earlier comments on Sanatana Dharma had already sparked a nationwide debate, and now his decision to bring actress Trisha into political discourse has reportedly resulted in legal complications, further adding to the controversy surrounding him.

The developments also raise questions about the political strategy of the DMK. After facing electoral setbacks and the emergence of Vijay as a new political force in Tamil Nadu, the party appears eager to counter its new rival. However, targeting a newcomer through aggressive political attacks may not produce the desired results. On the contrary, such an approach could strengthen public sympathy for Vijay while reinforcing a negative perception of the ruling party.

History has repeatedly shown that voters appreciate constructive politics over personal attacks and sensationalism. Political parties must focus on governance, development, and public welfare rather than creating controversies for short-term attention. In the long run, credibility, dignity, and responsible leadership earn greater public confidence than provocative statements. Controversy may offer temporary visibility, but it is performance and public trust that ultimately determine political success.

Editor

Gen Z and the New Work Ethic: Redefining Commitment in a Changing World

Ravi Podili



Senior Journalist

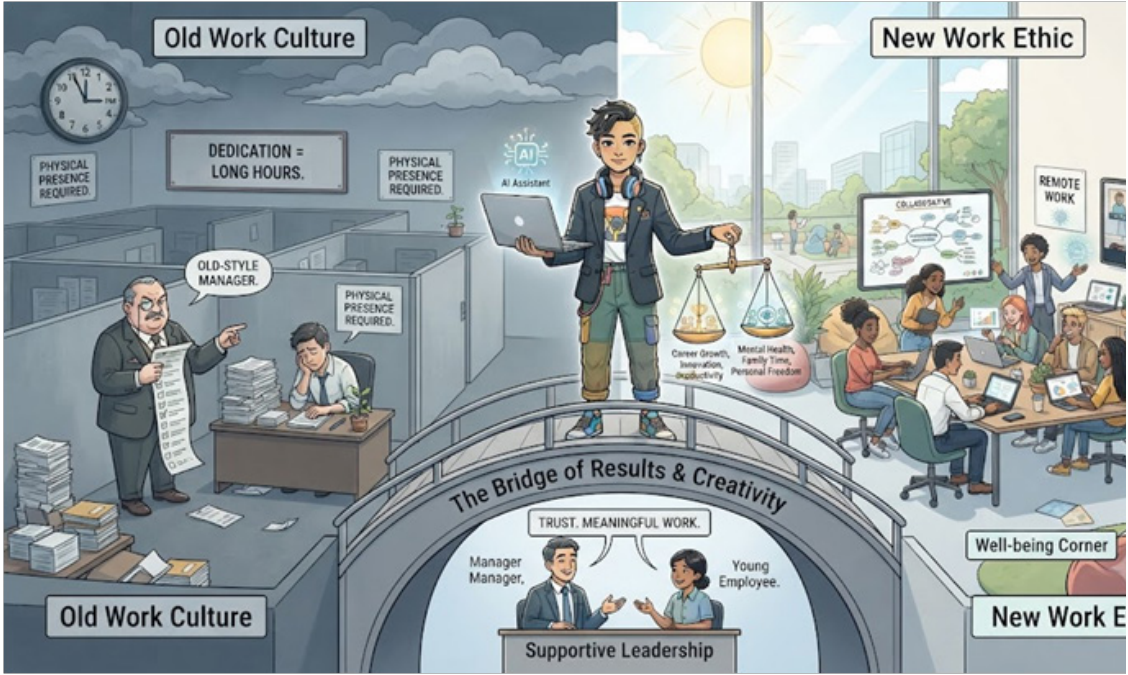
Everywhere you look today, the conversation seems to circle back to Gen Z. From political movements to workplace dynamics, this generation is increasingly shaping narratives across the globe. In countries like Bangladesh and Nepal, youth-led protests have demonstrated the power of collective action, while in India, student mobilisations around issues such as the NEET examination controversy have highlighted their growing political awareness. These developments have fueled a broader belief that the future of leadership—both political and economic—may well rest in Gen Z's hands. Yet, even as their influence rises, a paradox is emerging: a recent study points to a noticeable shift in how young employees approach work, raising questions about commitment, productivity and the very meaning of professional responsibility.

Gen Z today forms a significant portion of the workforce, spanning government offices, private companies and emerging industries. However, according to the "Great Place to Work India 2026" study, there is a growing reluctance among young employees to take on responsibilities beyond their defined roles. This trend, described as an "effort recession," suggests that many employees are unwilling to go the extra mile unless compelled by urgency or direct instructions from superiors. Unlike earlier

generations that often equated long hours with dedication, Gen Z appears to be redefining the boundaries of work.

The study, which surveyed 380 organisations nationwide, found that in nearly 63% of workplaces, employees were not engaging in discretionary effort—actions such as voluntarily working beyond official hours or taking up additional tasks. On average, this decline stood at 5%. At the same time, Gen Z now constitutes around 26% of the workforce, nearly double its share in 2023. This growing demographic places greater emphasis on work-life balance, flexible schedules, continuous learning, career growth and mental well-being rather than simply increasing their workload.

Artificial Intelligence is another factor reshaping workplace attitudes. As AI tools become more integrated into daily operations, traditional metrics of productivity—such as hours worked—are losing relevance. Instead, efficiency, innovation and adaptability are gaining importance. However, the study also highlights sectoral differences in attitudes toward additional responsibilities. Reluctance is highest in the retail sector at 88%, followed by IT and professional services at 77%, and construction and real estate at 71%. Manufacturing shows comparatively lower resistance at 44%, indicating that workplace culture and job nature significantly influence employee



behaviour.

Interestingly, the report underscores the critical role of organisational culture. When employees feel valued and supported by leadership, their willingness to take on extra responsibilities rises dramatically—up to 99%. Conversely, in environments marked by mistrust or lack of recognition, this willingness drops sharply to 29%. Similarly, when leadership is approachable and inspiring, 98% of employees are ready to go beyond their assigned duties, compared to just 32% in less supportive settings. These figures make it clear that employee engagement is less about generational attitudes and more about the quality of workplace relationships.

Experts argue that this shift should not be misinterpreted as declining work ethic. Rather, it reflects a transformation in how

commitment is understood. For Gen Z, dedication is not measured by the number of hours spent at a desk but by the quality of outcomes achieved. Problem-solving, collaboration and meaningful contributions are seen as more valuable indicators of performance than sheer busyness. This perspective aligns with the evolving demands of modern workplaces, where creativity and critical thinking are increasingly prized.

Moreover, broader societal changes are reinforcing this mindset. The rise of remote and hybrid work models, along with growing awareness of mental health, has encouraged employees to prioritise personal well-being. Gen Z, in particular, is unwilling to sacrifice quality of life for professional advancement unless they perceive genuine value in their work. They are more like-

ly to invest extra effort when they feel respected, trusted and aligned with the organisation's goals.

In many ways, this evolution presents an opportunity rather than a challenge. Employers who recognise and adapt to these changing expectations can build more engaged, productive and innovative teams. By fostering trust, offering flexibility and creating meaningful work environments, organisations can unlock the full potential of this generation.

Ultimately, Gen Z is not rejecting work—it is redefining it. Their approach signals a shift from quantity to quality, from purpose obligation. As industries continue to evolve under the influence of technology and changing social values, this redefinition may well prove to be not just relevant, but essential.

Beyond Borders: The Evolution of India's Civilizational Diplomacy

Pranav Peyyala



Development Analyst

Pranav Peyyala

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When the world's leaders bent into their first hesitant yoga poses on June 21, 2015, something unusual was happening in international relations. India had persuaded the United Nations to dedicate a day not to a treaty, a cause, or a crisis, but to a five-thousand-year-old practice of breath and posture. One hundred and seventy-five countries co-sponsored the resolution, a near record. It was a quiet announcement that India intended to walk into the world not only as a market or a military power, but as a civilization.

An Old Instinct, A New Confidence

Civilizational diplomacy is not new to India; it is arguably India's oldest export. Long before the modern state existed, Indian ideas travelled without armies. Buddhism crossed the Himalayas and the seas to shape China, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia. The temple complexes of Angkor and Borobudur, the Ramayana traditions of Thailand and Indonesia, and the Sanskrit inscriptions scattered across Asia are reminders that India's most durable conquests were conquests of the imagination.

What has changed in recent years is the confidence and coherence with which this inheritance is being used. Where earlier decades treated culture as a decorative afterthought to foreign policy, it now sits close to the centre of it. The phrase "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," the world is one family, was not merely quoted during India's

G20 presidency in 2023; it was the presidency's official theme, printed on every document and displayed at every venue. An ancient Upanishadic idea became the organising principle of the world's premier economic forum. That is civilizational diplomacy in its most literal form.

The Many Instruments of Soft Power

The toolkit has expanded impressively. Yoga and Ayurveda now have global constituencies, supported by institutions such as the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine, established in Jamnagar; the first of its kind anywhere in the world. The International Solar Alliance, headquartered in India, frames climate cooperation through the old reverence for Surya, the sun, giving a technical body a cultural soul.

The diaspora, thirty-five million strong, has become a living bridge. The spectacular community receptions for Indian leaders abroad, from Madison Square Garden to Sydney, are not mere spectacle; they signal to host governments that the Indian community is engaged, organised and proud of its roots. Meanwhile, the repatriation of stolen antiquities has added a moving new chapter. Hundreds of sculptures and artefacts have returned home from the United States, Australia and Europe in recent years, each homecoming a small ceremony of civilizational self-respect.

Even vaccine diplomacy carried this imprint. When India shipped Covid vaccines to dozens of countries under Vaccine Maitri, the gesture was framed through the ideal of "Seva,"



service, echoing the dictum that the world is one family. Aid became an expression of ethos rather than a transaction.

Buddhism and the Neighbourhood

Nowhere is the civilizational thread more visible than in India's engagement with Asia. The nurturing of Buddhist circuits connecting Bodhi Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar and Lumbini speaks directly to the spiritual geography of Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan and beyond. The gifting of sacred relics for exposition abroad, the restoration of temples in Cambodia and Vietnam by Indian archaeologists, and the establishment of institutions such as Nalanda University as a revived seat of ancient learning all serve a patient purpose. They remind Asia that its cultural bloodstream carries Indian memory, and that this connection predates and outlasts the anxieties of contemporary geopolitics.

Why Civilizational Diplomacy Works

Sceptics sometimes dismiss soft power as ornamental. This misunderstands how influence actually accumulates. Military alliances shift, and trade deals expire, but cultural affinity compounds quietly across generations. A student who studies at an Indian university on an ICCR scholarship, a Japanese pilgrim who visits Bodhi Gaya, a

Brazilian who begins her morning with pranayama, each becomes a small ambassador for an idea of India that no press release could manufacture.

Civilizational diplomacy also gives India a distinctive voice in a crowded world. Many nations can offer markets and weapons; very few can offer an unbroken living tradition of philosophy, medicine, art, and pluralism stretching back millennia. By speaking as a civilization, India offers the world not just partnership but perspective on sustainability through simple living, on harmony through dialogue, on universalism through "the world is one family."

The Road Ahead

The evolution is far from complete. The next frontier lies in institutions: more chairs of Indian studies abroad, deeper translation of classical literature, stronger global platforms for Indian cinema, cuisine and digital creativity. The raw material is inexhaustible; the task is curation and consistency.

What is already clear is that India has stopped being shy about its inheritance. It has learned to convert memory into a message and heritage into a handshake. In a century likely to be defined by contests of technology and power, India is making an older wager, that the deepest borders are crossed not by force, but by ideas that feel, to those who receive them, like something they had always known.

Owls: Silent Guardians of Nature That Need Protection

Prof. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy



Education Expert

Owls are among nature's most fascinating creations, known for their unique appearance, silent flight and remarkable hunting skills. International Owl Awareness Day, observed on August 4 every year, reminds us of the importance of protecting these unique birds. Beyond myths and beliefs, owls play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by controlling pests and supporting agricultural ecosystems. Their presence in nature reflects the health of our environment.

Owls - Unique Birds With Big Eyes

Owls look different and sometimes appear scary because of their large eyes. They are considered auspicious birds and are traditionally regarded as the vehicle of Goddess Lakshmi. Owls are special birds that can fly silently due to their unique feather structure. Owls can turn their heads up to 270 degrees and can see clearly even in complete darkness. They are found in forests and deserts on all continents except Antarctica. A group of owls is called a "parliament".

A pair of owls can eat up to 3,000 mice during their nesting season, which is beneficial to farmers. They can even detect and catch prey hidden under deep snow through their excellent hearing ability. Their feathers and spots blend with the colour of tree bark, providing safety during resting and hunting.

Let's Protect This Rare Bird Species

The declining population of

owls worldwide should be considered a warning sign of biodiversity loss. Their numbers have been reduced due to habitat destruction, pollution, excessive pesticide use, poisoned food and indiscriminate hunting. Protecting owl habitats, reducing the use of poisonous rodenticides and creating awareness through wildlife conservation programmes are essential steps. Schools and communities should encourage conservation activities to ensure ecological balance.

There are more than 200 species of owls worldwide. These nocturnal birds mainly move during the night, though some species also hunt during the day. As skilled carnivorous hunters, they feed on insects,

Unknown Facts About Owls

- Owls have special feathers that help them fly almost silently.
- They cannot move their eyes but rotate their heads to see around.
- Their facial discs help capture and focus sounds.
- Some owls can locate prey hidden under snow.
- Owls act as natural pest controllers and help farmers.

lizards, mice, crabs and worms.

While some cultures believe owls bring prosperity and good fortune, others consider them a bad omen. It is important to understand their ecological value and protect these unique birds.



Lok Sabha Passes Appropriation Bill, Adjourns Amid Opposition Protests

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day on Tuesday after passing the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2026, amid continued protests by Opposition members over the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple and other issues. When the House re-assembled at 2 pm after an earlier adjournment, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to replace an Ordinance that removed income tax provisions relating to foreign investment in government securities. Although several Opposition members had submitted notices to oppose the introduction of the Bill, none spoke when their names were called by the Chair. The Bill proposes amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the Income-tax Act, 2025, and the Finance Act, 2027. Despite the uproar, the Lok Sabha passed the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2026 by voice vote. The legislation authorises the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India to cover expenditure incurred on certain services during the financial year ending March 31, 2023, that exceeded the amounts originally approved. Earlier in the day,



Speaker Om Birla appealed to members to allow Question Hour to function smoothly and sought cooperation from all parties. Opposition members continued raising slogans, including "Home Minister, answer us", protesting police action against student demonstrators during their march to Parliament on July 20. Birla said he had requested leaders of all political parties during the Business Advisory Committee meeting to ensure the smooth functioning of Parliament. Describing Parliament as the country's highest

democratic institution, he said it should be used for debating and passing legislation rather than slogan-shouting or displaying placards. During the ongoing Monsoon Session, the Lok Sabha has passed five Bills. Two have already received approval from both Houses, while the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2026, and the Supreme Court Judges (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, are awaiting consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

Security Tightened in J&K Ahead of Article 370 Anniversary

Security has been intensified across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the seventh anniversary of the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to revoke the erstwhile state's special constitutional status under Article 370 and bifurcate it into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Several political parties have announced protests and Black Day observances on Wednesday, prompting authorities to deploy additional security personnel, especially in the Kashmir Valley.

Officials in Srinagar and Jammu are scheduled to hold security review meetings to finalise measures to regulate or prevent political gatherings. While the National Conference (NC) has not disclosed its complete plans, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Congress, Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) and other regional parties have announced protest programmes. Party leaders have expressed concerns that they may face house detention or preventive restrictions.

PDP president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has directed party workers to organise district-level demonstrations demanding the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A and the release of political de-



tainees. The party has also appealed to the public to observe a 15-minute lights-out blackout as a symbolic protest. The protest schedule was issued by General Secretary (Organisation) G.N. Lone Hanjura.

NC Provincial President (Jammu) Rattan Lal Gupta said the party would observe August 5 as Black Day, calling the 2019 decisions unconstitutional and asserting that people continue to face political, constitutional and emotional consequences. He also criticised the BJP over the delay in restoring statehood.

The Congress has planned statewide protests under the

slogan "Meri Riyasat, Mera Haq", reiterating its demand for the restoration of statehood.

Meanwhile, AIP, led by MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, announced Black Day programmes in Srinagar and New Delhi. Party spokesperson Inam Un Nabi said Rashid would wear black clothes in Parliament and observe a day-long hunger strike as a peaceful protest. The party will also hold seminars highlighting its demand for the restoration of democratic and constitutional rights in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rahul Gandhi Attacks RSS, PM Modi Over History and Student Protest Crackdown

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing the RSS of attempting to rewrite India's history and asserting that the country's historical legacy would not be allowed to be distorted.

Addressing the media, Gandhi said the RSS could not alter India's past and insisted that the nation would not tolerate any attempt to undermine or rewrite its history. He maintained that India's historical heritage belongs to its people and cannot be changed to suit any political ideology.

"The RSS can't change our history. India will not tolerate its history being trampled upon by anybody," Gandhi said while criticising what he described as efforts to reshape the country's historical narrative.

The Congress leader also



strongly criticised the Union government's handling of recent student protests, saying students had suffered because of police action and deserved justice instead of symbolic gestures.

Referring to the police action against student protesters, Gandhi said the Prime Minister should apologise to them rather than seek forgiveness. "Students are in severe

pain. They don't need the Prime Minister's forgiveness; Modi needs to apologise instead," he said.

His remarks came amid an ongoing political confrontation between the Opposition and the ruling BJP over the treatment of student demonstrators and wider ideological issues. Opposition parties have repeatedly accused the government of suppressing

dissent and using excessive force against protesting students. The BJP, however, has defended the government's actions and accused the Congress of politicising the issue for electoral gains.

The comments also coincided with continued disruptions in Parliament, where Opposition parties intensified their protests over multiple issues. Among the key concerns raised were the police action against student protesters and allegations regarding the theft of donations at the Ayodhya Ram Temple.

The exchange has further sharpened the political divide between the Congress and the BJP, with both sides continuing to trade allegations over governance, democratic values and the handling of public protests. The issue is expected to remain a major point of contention during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament.



Gen Z Should Lead Youth Outreach, Says Abhijeet Dipke

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday welcomed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's planned interaction with students but said such initiatives would be more meaningful if they were led by young people from Gen Z.

Bhagwat is scheduled to interact with Gen Alpha and Gen Z students in Mumbai on August 6. The programme will bring together more than 2,000 students aged between 15 and 19 from over 100 cities across the country.

Speaking to reporters at his residence in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Dipke said the growing engagement with young people reflected the influence of the youth on national politics. He remarked that even Prime Minister Narendra Modi had started posting Instagram reels and Bhagwat was now preparing to interact with Gen Z.

"The youth has forced this. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has to post a reel on Instagram, and Mohan Bhagwat also wants to interact with Gen Z," Dipke said.

He added that while the dialogue was a positive step, Gen Z needed representatives from

its own generation to lead such conversations. According to Dipke, interactions would be more effective if young people engaged directly with other young people instead of senior leaders.

Dipke said it was encouraging that the importance of Gen Z was finally being recognised, describing young people as the future of the country. However, he stressed that youth outreach should feature younger faces to better understand the aspirations and concerns of students.

He also referred to the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister on July 25 following CJP-led protests over the alleged NEET examination paper leak.

Commenting on student protests in Jharkhand, Dipke accused the state government of ignoring the demonstrators. Students have been holding an indefinite protest in Ranchi since July 29 over alleged paper leaks in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission examinations and other recruitment tests. Dipke said he had spoken with the protesting students and claimed they lacked basic facilities, adding that the CJP stood in solidarity with their agitation.



Ranchi Protesters Seek Independent Probe into Paper Leak Allegations

Job aspirants protesting the alleged paper leaks in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) examination and other recruitment tests have demanded an investigation by an independent panel of retired High Court judges from outside Jharkhand, expressing a lack of confidence in the ongoing probe.

The protesters have been staging an indefinite sit-in at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in Ranchi since July 29. They alleged that the JMM-led government was attempting to "whitewash" the issue by assigning the investigation to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Earlier, the protesters had demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry along with an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe, claiming the alleged recruitment scam involved large-scale financial transactions.

Vinay Mehta, a job aspirant from Hazaribag district, said the protesters had lost faith in the CID investigation. He claimed that during the earlier JSSC-CGL paper leak inquiry, the CID found that answers to 135 out of 150 questions had

been leaked, with 120 questions matching the actual examination paper.

Mehta also alleged that despite candidates submitting documentary evidence through emails and WhatsApp, authorities neither acknowledged nor acted on the complaints. He reiterated the demand for either a CBI investigation or an independent inquiry by retired High Court judges from outside the state.

The protesters also announced plans to pay tribute to former Chief Minister Shibu Soren on his first death anniversary. Pawan Goswami, a protester from Palamu district, said the students would march to Soren's residence to pay their respects, describing him as an inspiration.

While emphasising that the agitation would remain peaceful, Goswami warned that the protesters would intensify their movement if the government continued to ignore their demands. He said they would gherao the Jharkhand Assembly on August 10 if no action was taken. The protest has received support from several organisations in recent days.

Udhayanidhi Stalin Released After High Court Order in Trisha Remarks Case

DMK leader and Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin was released by the police on Tuesday after the Madras High Court directed authorities to free him immediately following questioning in connection with a case over his alleged objectionable remarks about actor Trisha Krishnan.

Udhayanidhi was arrested earlier in the day from his residence in Chennai after a case was registered over comments he made during a public meeting. During the hearing, Tamil Nadu Advocate General Vijay Narayan informed the High Court that Udhayanidhi had been taken to Thanjavur for questioning and that the police had no intention of seeking judicial remand. He said the plan was to question him and release him on station bail.

Taking note of the submission, the Madras High Court ordered the police to release Udhayanidhi immediately after the questioning was completed. He was subsequently released on Tuesday evening.

The controversy stems from a speech delivered by Udhayanidhi on Monday during a protest over the Cauvery water dispute. While criticising the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government, some party workers began chanting "Trisha, Trisha." In response, Udhayanidhi made remarks that were alleged to carry a double meaning and were widely criticised as inappropriate.

Following the backlash, Udhayanidhi clarified that his comments were intended to refer to the Cauvery issue and not the actor. However, the explanation failed to end the controversy, with several political parties demanding an unconditional apology, alleging that the remarks were derogatory towards women.

The TVK lodged a police complaint over the comments, leading to the registration of a case against Udhayanidhi. He then approached the Madras High Court seeking relief, prompting an urgent hearing that resulted in his release after police questioning.

MK Stalin Targets CM Vijay After Udhayanidhi Stalin's Arrest

DMK president MK Stalin on Tuesday launched a strong attack on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay and the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government following the arrest and subsequent release of Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin.

Udhayanidhi Stalin was detained for nearly four hours over alleged double entendre remarks linked to actor Trisha Krishnan before being released on the orders of the Madras High Court.

Reacting to the incident, MK Stalin accused the state government of using arrests to divert attention from governance failures, particularly on the Cauvery water dispute and the Mekedatu dam issue. He said the arrest, carried out a day before the state budget session, was intended to prevent Udhayanidhi Stalin from participating in the Assembly. "Arrogance leads to destruction; persistent arrogance only accelerates it," MK Stalin said while criticising the Vijay-led



government. He also alleged that instead of fulfilling electoral promises, Chief Minister Vijay had focused on social media publicity. "From the moment he assumed office, instead of striving to fulfil promises, Chief Minister Vijay, content to roam as a mere reels creator, must now awaken to his responsibilities," he said. The DMK chief further accused the government of repeatedly using arrests against political opponents, students, farmers and protesters. He claimed protests against the NEET examination, farmers' demonstrations and awareness campaigns against NEET had faced restrictions under the present administration. The

controversy stems from remarks made by Udhayanidhi Stalin during a protest in Thanjavur over the Cauvery water dispute. The comments drew criticism from several political leaders and public figures, who alleged they contained a vulgar double meaning. Police booked Udhayanidhi Stalin under multiple legal provisions, including charges related to the use of obscene words, outraging the modesty of women, promoting enmity, provoking riots and criminal intimidation. Provisions of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act were also invoked before he was released following court intervention.

Police Halt Kejriwal's March Against E20 Petrol Policy

Delhi Police on Tuesday stopped Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal and other party leaders from marching to the Prime Minister's residence to submit more than 2.30 lakh petitions opposing the Centre's E20 petrol policy. The action prompted AAP leaders and supporters to stage a sit-in protest on Firoz Shah Road. Kejriwal, accompanied by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, AAP leader Jasmine Shah and other party members, sat on the road after police prevented the group from proceeding towards the Prime Minister's residence. The party had begun the march with around 100 participants carrying petitions collected from people across the country. According to AAP, the petitions represent the concerns of vehicle owners over the government's promotion of E20 petrol, an ethanol-blended fuel. The party alleged that the increased use of E20 petrol was adversely affecting vehicle owners and urged the Centre to reconsider the pol-

icy. AAP leaders said the petitions were intended to highlight public opposition to the fuel initiative and seek a review of the government's decision.

Addressing supporters before the march, Kejriwal said the party had collected more than 2.30 lakh signatures from citizens across the country. He appealed to the government to take note of the concerns raised by crores of vehicle owners and respond to the issues associated with the E20 fuel policy. The protest remained peaceful as police restricted the march before it could reach the Prime Minister's residence. AAP leaders continued their demonstration on the roadside, reiterating their demand that the government engage with the concerns expressed through the petitions. "The E20 petrol policy has become a point of political debate, with AAP claiming it could negatively impact vehicle users, while the Centre has been promoting ethanol blending as part of its broader fuel and energy strategy.

Bangladesh Seeks India's Stand on Sheikh Hasina's Planned Address

Bangladesh has sought clarification from India over former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's proposed virtual address from New Delhi, saying that allowing a fugitive to engage in political activities could negatively affect the improving bilateral relationship between the two countries.

The issue marks Dhaka's first official response to Hasina's planned participation in an August 5 event organised by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCCSA) in New Delhi. The programme is being held to mark the second anniversary of the student-led uprising that led to the fall of Hasina's government in 2024.

The matter comes as Bangladesh continues to pursue Hasina's extradition from India, where she has been living since leaving Bangladesh in August 2024. Despite facing multiple criminal cases, Hasina recently told Reuters that she intends to return to Bangladesh in December. Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said her government was committed to maintaining a forward-looking relationship with India but wanted New Delhi to clarify its position on the issue. "We are moving forward with India with a forward-looking approach. We don't want that progress to be affected. India has to be clear about its stance," Islam told reporters. According to the FC-



CSA, Hasina, 78, is scheduled to address the event through video conferencing. She is expected to be joined by her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and other speakers. The organisation has not responded publicly to Bangladesh's concerns. Islam said Bangladesh had repeatedly conveyed its objections to India regarding Hasina and other Awami League leaders making political statements while staying in India. She said Dhaka did not want bilateral relations to suffer because of comments made by individuals facing legal proceedings in Bangladesh. She also noted that India had earlier indicated it did not expect fugitives to carry out political activities from its territory. Although she acknowledged that the event was not being organised

by the Indian government, Islam said Bangladesh would raise the issue through diplomatic channels if required. There was no immediate response from India's Ministry of External Affairs. Relations between India and Bangladesh have remained strained since Hasina's removal from office, though both governments have recently expressed interest in rebuilding ties through increased engagement and cooperation after the formation of Tarique Rahman's government following February's elections. Bangladesh has also sought Hasina's extradition after she was sentenced to death in 2025 for crimes against humanity related to the 2024 crackdown, a verdict she has rejected as legally invalid.

US Begins Largest Citizenship Revocation Drive Against 25 Naturalised Citizens

The United States Department of Justice (DoJ) has initiated proceedings to revoke the citizenship of 25 naturalised citizens, including an Indian-origin man, in what officials describe as the largest coordinated denaturalisation effort in the department's history. The cases involve allegations ranging from identity fraud and marriage fraud to attempted murder, child sexual abuse and other serious offences.

Among those named is 65-year-old Narinder Singh, a resident of Delaware, who is accused of obtaining US citizenship by using a fraudulent identity. According to the DoJ, Singh allegedly used two different identities to gain admission into the United States beginning in 1996 before becoming a naturalised citizen on May 1, 2008. The complaint against him includes seven counts related to alleged misrepresentations and unlawful conduct that authorities say reflect adversely on his moral



character.

The list of 25 individuals also includes two people of Pakistani origin, Zia Murad Bhatti and Mohd Wasif, who are accused of falsifying their identities. Others facing denaturalisation proceedings are naturalised citizens originally from Moldova, Mexico, Colombia, Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, Jamaica, Taiwan, Honduras, Cameroon, Jordan, Cuba, El

Salvador, Haiti and Sweden.

The complaints were filed between July 20 and August 3. With these new filings, the total number of denaturalisation cases initiated by the Justice Department since January 20, 2025, has risen to 123 as part of the Trump administration's intensified immigration enforcement measures.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said US citizen-

ship is one of the nation's highest privileges and must be obtained lawfully and honestly. He stated that the complaints allege the individuals secured naturalisation through fraud, concealment or other unlawful conduct, including hiding violent crimes, sexual offences against children, fraudulent identities and other disqualifying facts.

Blanche said the latest actions marked only the beginning of the department's efforts to protect the integrity of the naturalisation process and public safety.

Assistant Attorney General Brett Shumate described the initiative as the largest denaturalisation surge in recorded history. The Justice Department said the allegations across the 25 cases include attempted murder, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, identity fraud, passport fraud, bank and credit card fraud, marriage fraud and practising medicine without a licence.

Former FBI Agent Accused of Stealing \$1 Million in Cryptocurrency

A former FBI counterintelligence agent has been arrested in the United States on allegations of stealing nearly \$1 million worth of cryptocurrency from digital wallets that the bureau was monitoring as part of an investigation, according to court documents.

Patrick Steven Yaroch, who previously served in the FBI's Counterintelligence and Espionage Division, is accused of using his access to government systems to transfer cryptocurrency from accounts linked to a foreign adversary. According to CNN, the accounts were connected to Russia.

Prosecutors allege that Yaroch became dissatisfied with the FBI's handling of the cryptocurrency accounts and, in late 2024, created a personal digital wallet. Investigators claim he accessed FBI databases to obtain passphrases linked to the monitored wallets and transferred the funds through 10 to 12 separate transactions.



Authorities estimate the stolen cryptocurrency was worth about \$1 million. During a search of Yaroch's home in Ashburn, Virginia, investigators recovered cryptocurrency valued at approximately \$925,426. They also seized a hardware wallet, handwritten seed phrases used to access digital assets, and documents indicating that Yaroch may have been planning to relocate abroad, including paperwork

related to Portugal.

The FBI said it acted immediately after learning about the allegations. In a statement, the agency said it had launched an investigation, executed an arrest warrant and reaffirmed that it holds its employees to the highest ethical standards. The bureau added that such conduct would not be tolerated and declined to comment further because the investigation remains ongoing.

Investigators also recovered conversations from Yaroch's mobile phone in which he allegedly used ChatGPT to seek advice on investing or spending \$1 million and asked about relocating overseas. Court records state that he later admitted to a colleague that he had made poor decisions before contacting the US Department of Justice.

Bloomberg News reported that Yaroch was dismissed from the FBI and arrested on the same day federal agents searched his residence. He has been charged with interstate transportation of stolen goods and receipt of stolen goods. A federal magistrate judge has ordered that he remain in custody temporarily while legal proceedings continue. His lawyer has not issued a public statement regarding the allegations. The case remains under investigation by federal authorities.

UN Experts Urge Canada to Protect Sikh Activist Moninder Singh

A group of United Nations human rights experts has called on Canada to take all possible measures to protect Sikh activist Moninder Singh, citing allegations of foreign intimidation and repeated threats to his life.

In a letter dated June 3 and made public two months later under standard UN procedures, five independent UN experts expressed concern over what they described as allegations of foreign intimidation and reprisals against Singh, a Canadian citizen. They noted that Canadian authorities had issued Singh four "duty to warn" notices since 2022, informing him of credible and imminent threats to his life.

The experts urged the Canadian government to ensure the safety of Singh, his family and others facing similar risks. They also called for accelerated investigations into the allegations, accountability for those responsible, appropriate remedies for victims and measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The letter was signed by the UN Special Rapporteurs on protecting human rights while countering terrorism, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, human rights defenders, freedom of religion or belief, and the Independent Expert on promoting a democratic and equitable international order. A copy of the com-



munication was also sent to the Government of India.

UN Special Rapporteurs and independent experts are appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to examine and report on specific issues. They serve in an independent capacity and do not speak on behalf of the United Nations.

Earlier this year, Singh visited the UN in Geneva to seek international attention to what he described as the targeting of Sikh activists abroad and broader concerns about transnational repression.

The issue has remained a source of diplomatic tension between India and Canada since the 2023 killing of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia. Canada alleged Indian involvement in

the killing, an accusation India has consistently denied. The dispute led to a deterioration in bilateral relations and the expulsion of diplomats by both countries in 2024. Relations have improved in recent months following renewed diplomatic engagement.

Singh, who supports the Khalistan movement advocating an independent Sikh state, welcomed the UN experts' intervention. He said the letter highlighted concerns about the safety of Sikh activists and reaffirmed that his advocacy was based on international law, human rights principles and the experiences of his community. India has consistently rejected allegations of targeting Sikh activists abroad.



UK Man Jailed for Hiding Mother's Body and Claiming Benefits

A court in the United Kingdom has sentenced a 60-year-old man to two years and four months in prison after he kept his mother's body in a chest freezer for nearly three years while continuing to claim her pension and government benefits worth more than £78,000 (about Rs 99 lakh).

Christopher Phillips, from Porthcawl in South Wales, concealed the body of his mother, Sylvia Phillips, following her death in March 2023. According to court proceedings, he failed to inform authorities of her death and continued to receive state pension payments, attendance allowance, housing benefits, winter fuel payments and other financial support that should have ceased after her passing. The case came to light in February 2026 after doctors became concerned about Sylvia Phillips' welfare and requested a police welfare check. When officers visited the property, Phillips initially claimed that his mother was staying with relatives in London. However, inconsistencies in his statements prompted further investigation, leading police to discover her body inside a chest freezer at the home they had shared. Investigators also found that Phillips had continued accessing his moth-

er's bank accounts while receiving benefits in her name. The court heard that the total amount fraudulently obtained exceeded £78,000 during the nearly three-year period. During the trial, Phillips' defence lawyer said he had been his mother's full-time carer for many years and struggled emotionally after her death. According to the defence, Phillips told investigators he "didn't want to let her go." His lawyer also cited mental health difficulties following his mother's death as a contributing factor to his actions. Judge Tracey Lloyd-Clarke sentenced Phillips to two years and four months in prison after he pleaded guilty to preventing a lawful burial and multiple fraud offences related to the continued receipt of government benefits. Police described the case as deeply distressing and expressed sympathy for Sylvia Phillips' relatives. Authorities said the discovery of her body finally allowed family members to arrange a proper burial and bring the matter to a close. The case has drawn attention across the UK because of its unusual circumstances and the prolonged misuse of public funds through fraudulent benefit claims after the death of a family member.

Lufthansa Cuts Profit Outlook as West Asia War Raises Fuel Costs

German aviation giant Lufthansa on Tuesday lowered its earnings outlook for 2026, citing rising jet fuel prices caused by the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The announcement triggered a sharp decline in the company's share price, which fell more than 11 percent in trading on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The airline now expects its core operating profit to be between 1.7 billion euros and 2.2 billion euros for 2026. Earlier, Lufthansa had projected significantly higher earnings than its 2025 core profit of 1.96 billion euros. Speaking during the company's earnings call, Chief Financial Officer Till Streichert said the biggest challenge remained the sharp increase in fuel costs and uncertainty over how much of the additional expense could be passed on to customers. Streichert said Lufthansa intends to continue raising ticket prices during the second half of the year to offset higher fuel expenses. However, he noted that predicting customer demand had become more difficult because travellers were booking flights closer to their departure dates rather than making advance reservations. Despite a 10 percent increase in revenue to 11.1 billion euros during the April-June quarter, Lufthansa's core operating profit, excluding one-time items, dropped nearly 56 percent to 383 million eu-

ros. According to the airline, higher fuel prices alone added around 750 million euros to its operating costs during the period. Lufthansa said it had managed to recover approximately 60 percent of those additional costs by increasing ticket prices, but the higher fares were not enough to fully compensate for the surge in fuel expenses. The airline group, which also operates Swiss, Brussels Airlines and Eurowings alongside the Lufthansa brand, has become the latest global carrier to feel the financial impact of the prolonged conflict in West Asia. The war has disrupted petrochemical supplies moving through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, contributing to higher jet fuel prices worldwide. Lufthansa also reported that labour unrest significantly affected its financial performance. Repeated strikes by pilots and cabin crew over pay and pension disputes led to the cancellation of thousands of flights this year, costing the airline around 200 million euros during the second quarter. Several major international airlines, including British Airways parent IAG, Air France-KLM, EasyJet, American Airlines and Ryanair, have also reported weaker profits in recent weeks, attributing the decline largely to rising fuel costs linked to the conflict in West Asia.



India has invited Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to attend the outreach session of the upcoming BRICS Summit in New Delhi in his capacity as the current chair of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The 18th BRICS Summit will be held in New Delhi on September 12 and 13, with India hosting the event as the current chair of the grouping. The summit is expected to focus on several global issues, including the economic impact of the ongoing West Asia crisis.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the invitation to Rahman was extended in line with the

standard practice followed for BRICS outreach sessions. He also noted that India had separately invited Rahman to undertake a bilateral visit after he assumed office as Bangladesh's Prime Minister in February. "As far as the BRICS Summit is concerned, India has separately extended an invitation to the Bangladesh Prime Minister in his capacity as the current chair of BIMSTEC to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit," Jaiswal said during a regular media briefing. He added that invitations had also been extended to the heads of other regional organisations following the same practice.

Several world leaders, including Chinese President Xi

Jinping, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin, are expected to participate in the summit. Originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, BRICS expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining the grouping in 2025. The bloc now represents nearly half of the world's population, around 40 per cent of global GDP and about 26 per cent of global trade. BIMSTEC is a regional organisation comprising India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan, aimed at strengthening cooperation among countries in the Bay of Bengal region.

UFC Flyweight Allan Nascimento Dies at 34 After Reported Heart Attack

Brazilian UFC flyweight fighter Allan Nascimento has died at the age of 34, the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) confirmed. According to reports, Nascimento was found unresponsive on the morning of August 3 after reportedly suffering a heart attack in his sleep.

In an official statement, the UFC said medical personnel responded to the incident but were unable to revive the fighter. The organisation extended its condolences to Nascimento's family, friends, teammates and loved ones.

Known by his nickname "Puro Osso", meaning "skin and bones," Nascimento had

been part of the UFC roster since 2021. He last competed in June at UFC Fight Night: Kape vs Horiguchi, where he lost to Mitch Raposo by split decision. The bout took place only weeks before his unexpected death.

Nascimento first gained recognition in 2018 after appearing on Dana White's Contender Series, where he lost a closely contested split decision to Raulian Paiva. Despite that setback, he later earned a UFC contract and went on to compile a respectable record of four wins and two losses in the promotion. During his UFC career, he also received two Fight of the Night bonuses

for his performances.

Overall, Nascimento finished his professional mixed martial arts career with an impressive record of 22 wins and seven defeats. Competing in the flyweight division, he was known for his technical skills, resilience and entertaining fighting style.

The Brazilian was also a respected Brazilian jiu-jitsu black belt and trained at the renowned Chute Boxe Academy in São Paulo alongside former UFC lightweight champion Charles Oliveira.

Following the news of his passing, Oliveira paid an emotional tribute to his long-time training partner on so-

cial media, describing Nascimento as a brother and thanking him for the years they spent training, competing and supporting one another. He said Nascimento would be deeply missed and remembered as a legend.

Tributes have continued to pour in from fellow fighters, coaches and fans across the mixed martial arts community, who remembered Nascimento not only for his achievements inside the octagon but also for his humility and dedication to the sport. His untimely death has left the MMA world mourning the loss of a respected athlete at the age of 34.



Zoho CEO Says Flexible Work Is About People, Not Gen Z

Zoho Chief Executive Officer Mani Vembu has said that flexible working is not a concept introduced by Generation Z, pointing out that the software company has followed flexible work practices for nearly three decades. Vembu made the remarks while responding to a post on X that claimed the traditional 9-to-5 work culture was fading because Gen Z employees preferred more flexible work schedules. Rejecting the idea that flexibility is a new workplace trend, he said Zoho had adopted such practices long before Gen Z entered the workforce. "We've been working this way at Zoho for nearly 30 years. Interesting that it's been framed as new Gen Z culture," Vembu wrote on X. He added that the desire for flexible working is not limited to any particular generation but reflects a broader human preference. According to him, employees have always valued flexibility, provided that work



is completed efficiently and business objectives are achieved. "I think this is more about human beings. We always preferred flexibility, as long as work gets done," Vembu said. His comments come at a time when organisations across the world continue to debate the future of workplace

policies. While many companies have encouraged employees to return to offices after the pandemic, others have retained hybrid or remote work models in response to changing employee expectations. Vembu's remarks suggest that workplace policies should be based on business require-

ments and productivity rather than being driven by generational stereotypes. His comments also contribute to the ongoing discussion on balancing employee flexibility with organisational performance. Mani Vembu has been associated with Zoho for several years and is one of the company's senior leaders. He is the brother of Zoho co-founder and Chief Scientist Sridhar Vembu, who has also been an advocate of unconventional workplace and business practices. The debate over flexible work continues to gain momentum as companies explore ways to attract and retain talent while maintaining collaboration and productivity. Vembu's observations highlight that flexible working arrangements have existed well before the emergence of Gen Z in the workforce and should be viewed as a practical business approach rather than a trend associated with a single generation.

Viral Videos of Misconduct at Bhogapuram Airport Spark Civic Sense Debate

Videos showing visitors allegedly damaging property and removing plants at the newly inaugurated Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) International Airport at Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh have gone viral on social media, triggering widespread criticism and a debate on civic responsibility.

The videos show several visitors stepping into and playing in decorative fountains within the airport premises, while another clip allegedly captures people removing ornamental plants from landscaped areas. The footage also shows some visitors treating parts of the airport premises like a recreational space.



The airport, which recently began operations, is considered a major infrastructure project aimed at boosting connectivity and economic development in Andhra Pradesh. However, the viral videos have shifted public attention from the new facility to concerns over public behaviour and the protection of public property.

The clips have attracted thousands of reactions across social media platforms, with many users expressing disappointment over the incidents. Several commentators said modern public infrastructure can only be preserved if citizens demonstrate responsible behaviour and respect for shared spaces.

Many users argued that dam-

aging public property or taking plants from landscaped areas undermines efforts to improve civic infrastructure. Some also called for stricter monitoring at the airport to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Several social media users urged airport authorities to deploy additional security personnel and impose penalties on those found vandalising or stealing public property.

One user commented that authorities might even need the Forest Department to protect the airport's plants from irresponsible visitors. Another remarked that a lack of civic sense, coupled with a sense of entitlement, was responsible for such behaviour. A third suggested introducing civic

sense as a compulsory subject in school curricula along with stricter punishments for acts of vandalism.

The incidents have reignited discussions about the need for greater public awareness regarding the preservation of public infrastructure. Many users stressed that newly developed facilities represent significant public investment and should be treated with care rather than misused.

Airport authorities have not yet issued an official statement regarding the viral videos or indicated whether action will be taken against those involved. Meanwhile, the footage continues to circulate widely, prompting renewed calls for stronger enforcement and greater civic responsibility.

Hyderabad Father Uses AI to Help Son Build Robotic Arm for School Project

A Hyderabad-based technology enthusiast has shared how Artificial Intelligence helped him and his son build a working robotic arm for a school technology fair, with the experience winning praise from social media users.

In a post on X, the father explained that his son initially wanted to build a robot for the school event. However, considering the limited time available, they decided instead to create a voice-controlled robotic arm. To bring the idea to life, they relied on Anthropic's AI assistant, Claude, as a virtual engineering guide throughout the project.

According to the father, they first searched YouTube for ideas as before using Claude to create 3D designs for the robotic arm. The components were then 3D printed in Tolichowki and delivered through Rapido. They later visited Koti to purchase motors, chips, capacitors, resistors and other elec-



tronic components needed for the project.

The father said Claude also helped write the programming code, troubleshoot technical issues and suggest improvements. He added that they continued refining the design using Opus 5 and Fable until the robotic arm functioned more effectively.

Reflecting on the experience, he said the project became

much more than a school assignment. Instead, it turned into an opportunity for learning, experimentation and spending quality time together as father and son.

He also emphasised that using AI did not reduce the learning process. Rather, it encouraged curiosity and enabled them to attempt a project they might not have considered otherwise.

The post quickly gained attention online, with many users appreciating how AI had been used as a learning tool rather than a replacement for human effort. Several parents said the story demonstrated how technology could make challenging school projects more engaging and accessible.

One user commented that AI had helped bridge the gap between the child's ambition and their existing technical knowledge without replacing the experience of working together. Another praised the father-son collaboration, while a third remarked that successfully completing such a project after overcoming technical challenges felt like a major achievement.

The story has sparked discussions about the positive role Artificial Intelligence can play in education by supporting creativity, problem-solving and hands-on learning when used responsibly.

OpenAI Faces Online Criticism Over Influencer Retreat in New York

OpenAI has come under criticism on social media after hosting an exclusive three-day retreat for influencers at Wildflower Farms, a luxury resort in New York's Hudson Valley. The event, described by attendees as an "OpenAI summer camp," has sparked debate over the company's marketing strategy and the environmental impact of artificial intelligence.

The retreat took place at the 140-acre resort, where room rates typically range from 1,500 to 3,100 US dollars per night. Influencers shared videos and photos showcasing private cabins, farm-to-table meals and branded gifts, including tote bags and honey jars.

The posts quickly drew criticism across platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, X and Reddit. Many users accused the ChatGPT maker of "greenwashing," arguing that a nature-themed event conflicted with the environmental costs associated with running large-scale AI data centres, which consume significant amounts



of electricity and water. Critics described the retreat as "dystopian" and questioned the company's decision to promote sustainability-themed experiences while operating energy-intensive AI infrastructure. Some social media users also criticised influencers who attended the event, asking why they promoted AI technologies without discussing their broader environmental and social implications. One attendee, content creator Grace McCarrick, de-

fended her participation on social media, saying that attending discussions about emerging technology did not compromise her personal values. Technology journalist Taylor Lorenz also commented on X, noting that creators attending the event had received widespread criticism, while similar retreats organised by competing technology companies had attracted far less attention. Responding to the controversy, OpenAI said the

gathering was an educational initiative linked to the recent launch of ChatGPT Work. According to the company, the retreat was designed to help creators better understand its AI tools so they could explain practical use cases to their audiences. An OpenAI spokesperson said content creators are an important part of the company's community and play a significant role in helping people discover and understand new technologies. However, the company declined to disclose whether influencers were paid to attend, whether travel and accommodation expenses were fully covered or whether participants were contractually required to publish promotional content. The episode has renewed discussions about the environmental footprint of artificial intelligence and the growing public scrutiny facing technology companies as they promote AI products while addressing concerns about sustainability, transparency and responsible innovation.

Google Executive Shares Six Leadership Lessons From 20-Year Career

An Indian Google executive has reflected on his two-decade journey with the technology giant, sharing six leadership lessons that shaped his career from the company's early days in India to leading teams in California.

Shankar Murali, an Engineering Analyst Manager in Google's Trust & Safety Payments division in California, marked 20 years at Google with a LinkedIn post recounting his professional journey and the experiences that influenced his leadership style.

Murali said he joined Google India when the company was still in its early stages in the country. At the time, the office was small, there were no cafeterias and the workforce was relatively limited. He recalled working on Google's early payments initiative, Checkout, where he helped design the company's first risk, merchant review and order review models while collaborating with engineering teams. He also remembered Google's early "TGIF" meetings, where employees could openly interact with senior leaders and ask questions. Over the years, Murali contributed to Google's payments licensing efforts in the United States before moving to Dublin. There, he worked on scalable compliance systems for UK payment licences and financial reporting. He later led Google's counterfeit operations team during the company's early advertising policy enforcement initiatives, worked on account security projects and eventually re-



turned to the payments business. Reflecting on his career, Murali shared six leadership principles. He said leadership begins with listening, explaining that effective managers often allow people to talk through problems rather than immediately offering solutions. He also stressed the importance of remaining curious and continuously learning, adding that knowledge becomes truly valuable when it is shared with others. Murali said leaders should lead by example and encourage their teams by working alongside them rather than directing from a distance. He highlighted empathy as another

essential quality, urging leaders to recognise that everyone faces unseen challenges and to assume good intentions. He also encouraged professionals to build resilience by accepting differing opinions, developing a thick skin and treating others with respect despite disagreements. Finally, Murali said embracing change is essential because technology, products and leadership styles evolve constantly. He thanked his managers, colleagues and mentors for their support over the past 20 years and expressed confidence that his curiosity would continue to guide the next phase of his career.

Sensex, Nifty End Lower as Profit Booking Weighs on Markets

Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp reversal on August 4 as benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined after a four-day rally, with investors booking profits and volatility increasing across sectors. The Sensex slipped nearly 700 points from its intraday high, while the Nifty ended the session around the 24,600 mark. The market downturn was driven by several factors, including profit booking, rising volatility and cautious investor sentiment ahead of key economic developments. After a strong upward movement in recent sessions, traders preferred to lock in gains, leading to selling pressure in several major stocks. One of the major reasons behind the decline was profit booking following the recent rally. Investors took advantage of higher valuations and reduced their exposure, resulting in weakness across multiple sectors. Fifteen out of the 16 major sectoral indices ended lower, highlighting the broad-based nature of the selling. Another factor affecting market sentiment was the rise in volatility. The India VIX, considered a measure of market fear, moved higher as traders remained cautious about short-term market movements. Concerns over changing trading conditions and increased fluctuations also contributed to nervousness among participants. The newly introduced closing auction mechanism in the derivatives market also added uncertainty among traders. Market participants remained watchful about its impact on index movements, especially during expiry-related sessions, which contributed to higher swings in the market. Sector-wise, IT, banking, real estate and other major segments witnessed selling pressure. Weakness in heavyweight stocks also dragged the broader indices lower. Investors adopted a cautious approach as they assessed global cues, domestic economic factors and upcoming policy decisions. The market decline came after strong gains in the previous session, when easing global concerns and improved sentiment had supported buying interest. However, analysts said short-term corrections are common after sharp rallies as investors rebalance their portfolios and secure profits. Despite the fall, market experts indicated that the broader outlook would depend on corporate earnings, global developments, foreign investor activity and upcoming economic policy signals. Traders are expected to closely monitor volatility levels and sector-specific performance in the coming sessions. The decline serves as a reminder that even during a strong market phase, investors remain sensitive to valuations, global risks and changes in trading patterns.

Manipal Health Lists Amid Weak GMP



Manipal Health Enterprises is set to make its stock market debut on August 5, with its shares scheduled to list on the BSE and NSE. Ahead of the listing, the company's grey market premium (GMP) indicates a subdued opening, suggesting limited gains for investors despite strong demand during the initial public offering (IPO) period. The healthcare company's IPO received a positive response from investors, with strong participation from institutional buyers. The issue attracted bids significantly higher than the shares offered, highlighting investor interest in the healthcare sector and the company's long-term growth potential. However, the sentiment in the grey market remained cautious ahead of the listing. The latest GMP trends pointed towards a nearly flat debut compared with the IPO issue price, indicating that investors may not see a major listing-day premium. Market observers said the muted GMP reflects concerns over valuations and broader market conditions. Manipal Health had launched its IPO with a price band of ₹560 to ₹590 per share. The issue included a fresh issue component along with an offer-for-sale portion, and the shares are scheduled to begin trading on both major stock exchanges on August 5. The company operates a large multispecialty hospital network and has attracted attention due to its strong presence in India's expanding healthcare market. Investors have been tracking the IPO closely as healthcare continues to remain a key growth sector driven by rising demand for quality medical services. Analysts said that while listing gains may remain limited due to the current GMP trend, long-term investors may focus on the company's business fundamentals, expansion plans and financial performance rather than short-term market movements. The IPO's valuation also remained a point of discussion among market participants. Some investors expressed caution over pricing, while others highlighted the company's scale, brand value and growth opportunities in the healthcare industry. As the company enters the listed market, investors will closely watch trading volumes, institutional participation and market sentiment after the debut. The stock's performance in the first few sessions is expected to provide further insight into investor confidence and valuation acceptance.

LIC OFS Tops Govt PSU Stake Sale Drive in 2026

The central government has accelerated its disinvestment programme through Offer for Sale (OFS) transactions in public sector companies, raising significant funds while increasing public shareholding in key state-owned firms. So far in 2026, the government has raised around ₹25,491 crore through PSU stake sales, marking one of the highest collections through the OFS route in recent years. The latest major transaction is the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) OFS, where the government has proposed selling up to a 6.5% stake. The offer has a floor price of ₹382 per share and is expected to help the government raise around ₹31,000 crore if fully subscribed. The move is also aimed at increasing LIC's public shareholding to meet regulatory requirements. Before LIC, several major PSU companies witnessed government stake sales through OFS. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Coal India, Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and NHPC were among the companies where the government diluted its holdings. These transactions helped the Centre mobilise funds while allowing investors to participate in leading public sector companies. BHEL, a major engineering and power equipment manufacturer, attracted strong investor interest during its stake sale. The company has benefited from expectations of higher infrastructure spending and increased demand for power sector equipment. However, investors continue to track its order pipeline, execution capabilities and profitability. Coal India, the country's largest coal producer, remains a key PSU stock due to its dominant position in the energy sector. The company continues to benefit from strong domestic coal demand, although concerns over energy transition and renewable energy growth remain long-term factors for investors to consider. IRFC, the financing arm of Indian Railways, has also remained in focus due to railway infrastructure expansion plans. The company plays an important role in financing railway projects and has gained investor attention because of government infrastructure spending.

SEBI Proposes Mutual Fund-Only PMS Route to Widen Investor Choices

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a new mutual fund-only Portfolio Management Services (MF-PMS) framework that could change the way some investors access professionally managed portfolios. The proposal aims to create a separate PMS category where portfolio managers can build portfolios using only mutual fund products instead of directly selecting individual stocks. Under the proposed structure, investors may get access to professional asset allocation and fund selection services at a lower entry point compared with traditional PMS. SEBI has suggested reducing the minimum investment requirement for MF-PMS to ₹25 lakh, making the product accessible to a wider group of affluent investors. The biggest change for investors is that the portfolio manager will not directly buy and sell individual shares.



Instead, the manager will decide which mutual fund schemes to include, how much allocation each fund should receive and when to switch between different funds based on market conditions and investment goals.

However, investors may still face the possibility of paying two layers of management costs. The underlying mutual fund already charges expenses for managing the scheme, while the PMS manager may charge a separate fee for

portfolio construction, monitoring and allocation decisions. This additional cost structure will be an important factor for investors to evaluate before choosing the product. Supporters of the proposal

argue that the two roles are different. A mutual fund manager focuses on managing an individual scheme according to its investment objective, while the PMS manager focuses on broader portfolio construction, asset

MTAR Technologies Hits Fourth Upper Circuit on Strong Q1 Results

MTAR Technologies shares continued their strong rally on Tuesday, hitting the upper circuit for the fourth consecutive session after the company reported impressive June quarter results. Investor sentiment has also improved due to optimism around the company's key US client relationships and strong future growth prospects. The stock has delivered a massive return over the past year, gaining around 335%, while it has risen nearly 163% so far in 2026. The recent surge came after MTAR posted significant improvement across revenue, profitability and order inflows in the first quarter of FY27. For the June quarter, MTAR Technologies reported a 130.4% year-on-year increase in revenue from operations to \$360.7 crore. EBITDA increased nearly 200% to \$85.1 crore, while consolidated profit after tax jumped 364.5% to \$50.2

crore compared with \$10.8 crore in the same period last year. A major positive factor for the company is its record order book. MTAR secured orders worth \$2,895.1 crore during Q1 FY27, its highest-ever quarterly order inflow, taking the total order backlog to \$5,143.3 crore as of June 30, 2026. The orders include contracts related to nuclear power, aerospace, defence and data centre infrastructure. Analysts believe the strong order pipeline provides revenue visibility for the coming years. The company has also received support from its growing presence in clean energy, aerospace and defence sectors, along with new opportunities from global customers. However, after such a sharp rally, experts have advised investors to remain cautious. Market analysts said new investors should avoid chasing the stock during consec-



maintain its current growth pace. Overall, MTAR Technologies has attracted strong investor

interest due to robust financial performance and order visibility. While long-term prospects remain positive,

investors should consider valuation and market volatility before making fresh investment decisions.

Tech Startups Brace for Lower IPO Valuations



India's upcoming wave of new-age technology companies planning to enter the stock market is preparing for a more challenging fundraising environment, with firms likely to accept lower valuations and smaller issue

sizes compared with their earlier private market expectations. Industry executives told Moneycontrol that valuations in private markets are often negotiated among a limited group of investors,

rather than only growth potential. The shift marks a change from the earlier startup funding boom, when companies in sectors such as fintech, quick commerce, arti-

while public market valuations face wider scrutiny from institutional investors, retail shareholders, analysts and listed competitors. This makes it difficult for companies to justify the high valuation multiples they achieved during private funding rounds. Several technology startups that have recently moved towards public listings have already adjusted their expectations, either reducing their issue sizes or accepting more realistic valuations amid changing market conditions. Investors are increasingly focusing on profitability, revenue growth, cash flows and long-term business sustainability

ficial intelligence and digital services attracted large investments at aggressive valuations. However, public market investors are now comparing these companies with already listed peers and demanding stronger financial performance before assigning premium valuations. Experts said companies approaching IPOs need to demonstrate clear paths towards profitability and efficient business models. High customer acquisition costs, heavy cash burn and uncertain earnings projections are among the concerns that could affect investor sentiment. The changing environment has also influenced some major startups preparing for listings. Investors have become more cautious after seeing mixed post-listing performances from some new-age companies, leading funds to push for more reasonable pricing. For founders and early investors, lower IPO valuations could mean reduced returns compared with expectations set during private funding rounds. However, market observers believe realistic pricing could help companies build stronger long-term investor confidence and avoid excessive volatility after listing. India continues to have a strong pipeline of technology IPOs, but the current market trend suggests that companies will need to balance growth ambitions with realistic valuations. The focus is shifting from hype-driven pricing to fundamentals, profitability and sustainable expansion as investors demand greater accountability from new-age businesses.

LEAP India IPO Opens August 7 Amid Muted GMP

KKR-backed supply chain solutions provider LEAP India is set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on August 7, with the company aiming to raise ₹2,480 crore through the issue. Ahead of the opening, the grey market premium (GMP) remains subdued, indicating limited expectations of strong listing gains among investors. The LEAP India IPO has been priced in the range of ₹151 to ₹159 per equity share. The issue will remain open for subscription from August 7 to August 11, while the company's shares are expected to list on the stock exchanges on August 14. The IPO includes a fresh issue of ₹480 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) component worth ₹2,000 crore. The company's shares were trading at a grey market premium of around 2.5% over the upper price band, suggesting a modest listing expectation. Market observers said GMP is only an unofficial indicator of investor sentiment and actual listing performance will depend on subscription demand, market conditions and broader investor interest. LEAP India operates in the supply chain management and asset pooling segment, providing solutions such as reusable

packaging, pallets, containers and related logistics services. The company serves industries including e-commerce, fast-moving consumer goods, automotive and manufacturing sectors. The IPO is being closely watched as private equity firm KKR-backed companies continue to attract investor attention in India's capital markets. The funds raised through the fresh issue are expected to support the company's financial requirements, including repayment or reduction of borrowings and strengthening business operations. For retail investors, the minimum application requirement is expected to involve one lot of 94 shares, requiring an investment of approximately ₹14,946 at the upper price band. The IPO comes at a time when investors are showing selective interest in new market offerings, focusing more on company fundamentals, growth potential and valuations rather than relying only on listing gains.



Analysts said the muted GMP suggests that investors may adopt a cautious approach toward the issue. However, the company's position in the supply chain sector, its institutional backing and growth opportunities in logistics and asset management could remain key factors influencing investor decisions. The final response to the IPO will depend on subscription levels from qualified institutional buyers, non-institutional investors and retail participants during the three-day bidding window.

Wasim Jaffer Recalls Rare Moment KL Rahul Lost His Cool at Punjab Kings



Former India batter and ex-Punjab Kings batting coach Wasim Jaffer has recalled the only occasion when he saw KL Rahul visibly angry during their time together at the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise. According to Jaffer, a series of heartbreaking defeats from winning posi-

tions left Rahul deeply frustrated despite his normally calm and composed personality. Speaking on The Great Indian Cricket Show on Doordarshan, Jaffer described Rahul as a reserved leader who rarely displayed his emotions on or off the field. He

said the former Punjab Kings captain generally remained composed, even during difficult situations. "KL is naturally very composed, a bit reserved, and keeps to himself. It is very rare to see him lose his cool or get visibly angry on or off the field," Jaffer said. However, Jaffer recalled one particular match during his stint as Punjab Kings batting coach when the team suffered yet another narrow defeat after being in a commanding position. The repeated losses in close contests eventually tested Rahul's patience. "Every single game felt like a heartbreak. We were losing matches from winning positions, and almost every game was going down to the final over. After one of those close losses, I saw him get genuinely angry for the first time. He didn't say anything out of line, but you could see how deeply frustrated he was with how badly we had played," Jaffer said. Rahul represented Punjab Kings from 2018 to 2021 and captained the side during the 2020 and 2021 IPL seasons. Indiv-

idually, he enjoyed tremendous success, winning the Orange Cap in 2020 after scoring 670 runs in 14 innings at an average of 55.83, including one century and five half-centuries. He followed it up with another outstanding campaign in 2021, scoring 626 runs in 13 innings with six fifties. Despite Rahul's consistency with the bat, Punjab Kings narrowly missed out on the playoffs in both seasons. In 2020, close defeats against Delhi Capitals in a Super Over and Kolkata Knight Riders by two runs proved costly as the team finished with 12 points, two behind fourth-placed Royal Challengers Bengaluru. A similar story unfolded in 2021 when Punjab Kings suffered narrow defeats against Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, again finishing with 12 points and missing the playoffs. Rahul remains Punjab Kings' highest run-scorer, amassing 2,548 runs in 55 matches at an average of 56.62 and a strike rate close to 140, with two centuries and 23 half-centuries. Since leaving Punjab, he represented Lucknow Super Giants before joining Delhi Capitals, where he has enjoyed a resurgence in T20 cricket with an aggressive batting approach and consistent performances. Jaffer's recollection offers a rare glimpse into Rahul's competitive nature, showing how repeated narrow defeats affected even one of Indian cricket's calmest personalities.

Auqib Nabi's Selection Signals Tough Road Back for Mohammed Shami

The selection of Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi as Jasprit Bumrah's replacement for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka has raised fresh questions over Mohammed Shami's future in India's Test squad. Bumrah was ruled out of the two-match series due to injury despite featuring in the recent ODI series against England. Instead of recalling the experienced Shami, the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee opted for Nabi, signalling a greater emphasis on current form and fitness. Shami has not played a Test for India since 2023, while his last ODI appearance came against New Zealand in 2025. Although he returned to domestic cricket after recovering from fitness issues, he has yet to earn a place back in the national team. Earlier, chief selector Ajit Agarkar had indicated that Shami was not yet fit enough for the demands of Test cricket. However, the veteran pacer has produced impressive performances in domestic competitions. In his last seven Ranji Trophy matches, he bowled 1,383 deliveries, claimed 37 wickets at an average of 16.72, bowled 50 maiden overs and registered three five-wicket hauls, including career-best first-class figures of 8 for 90. Despite Shami's strong numbers, Nabi's exceptional domestic season appears to have influenced the selectors.



The young fast bowler finished the Ranji Trophy campaign with 60 wickets at an outstanding average of 12.56, making a strong case for his maiden Test call-up. Nabi's selection indicates that the Indian team management is rewarding consistent domestic performances and investing in emerging pace talent. For Shami, the path back into the Test side has become increasingly challenging. He will likely need to maintain top form in domestic tournaments, including the Duleep Trophy, while proving his full fitness to compete with a new generation of fast bowlers. With younger pacers now competing for regular places rather than reserve roles, India's pace attack appears to be entering a period of transition, making future selection increasingly competitive.

Neeraj Chopra Set for Lausanne Diamond League Challenge



Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra will compete in the Lausanne Diamond League on August 21, where he will face a world-class men's javelin field led by Commonwealth Games champion and current world leader Rumesh Pathirage of Sri Lanka. The competition will feature five athletes who recently competed at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, where Chopra claimed the silver medal with a season-best throw of 85.83 metres. It was his second event after returning from a lower-back injury that kept him out of action since September last year. Apart from Pathirage, Chopra will compete against Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan, reigning world champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago, former world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, and former Olympic champion Thomas Rohler of Germany. The strong field also includes Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic, Germany's Julian Weber, Switzerland's Simon Wieland and American Curtis Thompson, currently ranked world No. 2 this season. Announcing the elite lineup, the organisers said the competition would feature the stars who have won the last four Olympic and World Championship javelin titles, promising a contest of exceptional quality. The Lausanne meet will be Chopra's third event since his comeback. He began the season by finishing fourth at the Doha Diamond League with a throw of 85.69 metres before improving to 85.83 metres to secure silver at the Commonwealth Games. Following his Glasgow performance, Chopra expressed satisfaction with his progress, saying he was pleased with his season's best throw and believed his comeback was moving in the right direction. Chopra won the Lausanne Diamond League title in 2022 with a throw of 89.08 metres and finished runner-up in 2024 with 89.49 metres. Meanwhile, Pathirage enters the meet in outstanding form after winning Commonwealth Games gold with a throw of 89.75 metres. The Sri Lankan also holds the season's best mark of 92.62 metres, achieved in Rome in June, making him the only javelin thrower to cross the 90-metre mark this year.

Mohammed Shami Picks Ravi Shastri as His Favourite Coach

Veteran Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami has named former India head coach Ravi Shastri as his favourite coach, praising the freedom and aggressive mindset he encouraged among players. Shami's remarks come at a time when his chances of returning to the Indian team appear increasingly uncertain despite impressive performances in domestic cricket. Shami has not represented India since March 2025, when he last played an ODI. His most recent Test appearance came in 2023. Although he has consistently performed in domestic competitions, the 35-year-old pacer has struggled to regain his place in the national squad. Speaking in an interview with Times Now Navbharat, Shami was asked to choose his favourite coach from among

Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and Ravi Shastri. "It's a bit difficult to compare. I haven't played much under Gauti bhai. I've spent a good amount of time with Rahul bhai and Anil bhai. But if I have to choose one, I would choose Ravi bhai because of the freedom and aggression he brought into the team. You could see that fighting spirit in the players," Shami said. Shami also reflected on his memorable campaign in the 2023 ODI World Cup, where he emerged as the tournament's highest wicket-taker with 24 wickets in just seven matches. However, he admitted that India's defeat to Australia in the final remains the biggest regret of his career. He said the disappointment of losing the title still stays with him, adding that personal



When it came to Ashwin, Arshdeep explained that the off-spinner was placed fifth only because there were no positions left. He was quick to clarify that the ranking did not reflect Ashwin's stature as a cricketer. "I wouldn't want to rate Ash bhai last, but there were no positions left. He is great. Ash bhai was also my first captain



in the IPL with Punjab. Sorry, Ash bhai, I'll personally message you," Arshdeep said. Arshdeep was last seen in India's three-match ODI series against England, where the visitors lost the series 2-1. The pacer had a difficult outing in the deciding match, conceding 72 runs without taking a wicket.

Before the ODI series, India endured a disappointing T20I series against England, winning only one match. Despite the team's struggles, Arshdeep emerged as India's leading wicket-taker with four wickets. He was later rested for the T20I series against Zimbabwe, which India won 3-0 under the captaincy of Shreyas Iyer.



records mean little compared to winning the World Cup. Shami also expressed regret over the international matches he missed due to injuries, saying he often wonders how many more wickets he could have taken had he remained fit throughout ICC

tournaments. The experienced pacer said those missed opportunities still come to mind whenever he sees statistics or highlights from past World Cups. Despite an uncertain international future, Shami remains one of India's most accomplished

fast bowlers. His performances in domestic cricket continue to demonstrate his quality, but with younger pacers establishing themselves in the national setup, his path back into the Indian team has become increasingly challenging.

BCCI Thanks Ryan ten Doeschate and T Dilip After Coaching Stints End

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has expressed gratitude to assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate and fielding coach T Dilip after deciding not to extend their contracts with the Indian men's cricket team. In a post on X, the BCCI thanked both coaches for their dedication and contribution to Team India's recent success. "Thank you, Assistant Coach Ryan ten Doeschate and Fielding Coach T Dilip, for your invaluable contributions to Team India. Your dedication, professionalism and tireless efforts behind the scenes have played a big role in the team's journey and success. Wishing you both every success in the next chapter of your careers," the board said. Earlier, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia clarified that the departures were purely due to the expiry

of their contracts and not resignations. Saikia said T Dilip's contract had already been extended by one year after its original term ended, while Ryan ten Doeschate's contract expired on June 10. Both continued in their roles until the conclusion of India's tour of England on July 19 before being officially relieved. He added that the BCCI is in the process of appointing replacements and an announcement is expected shortly. Dilip first joined the Indian team as fielding coach in 2021 and earned praise for significantly improving the team's fielding standards. He also introduced the popular "Best Fielder of the Match" medal ceremony during the 2023 ODI World Cup, a feature that became widely appreciated by fans and players alike.



Ryan ten Doeschate, the former Netherlands captain, joined India's coaching staff when Gautam Gambhir became head coach after Rahul Dravid stepped down following India's 2024 T20 World

Cup triumph. During his tenure, India won the 2025 Asia Cup and successfully defended the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup title. However, the Test team struggled during the same period,

suffering defeats in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Australia and home Test series against New Zealand and South Africa. Following his departure from the national team, ten Doeschate

has taken up the role of Head of Cricket Strategy with Kolkata Knight Riders. The BCCI is expected to name the new assistant and fielding coaches in the coming days.

Five Names Emerge as Possible Successors to FIFA President Gianni Infantino



FIFA President Gianni Infantino is facing growing opposition ahead of the next FIFA presidential election after the football federations of Serbia, Sweden and Wales withdrew their support following a controversial proposal to sell a stake in the FIFA World Cup to private investors. The election for the 2027-2031 presidential term is scheduled to be held in Morocco on March 18. Amid increasing criticism of Infantino's leadership, five prominent football administrators have emerged as potential candidates to contest the post. Among them is CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani, the Canadian football administrator who is reportedly considering entering the race. Although CONCACAF opposed Infantino's private equity proposal, it stopped short of joining UEFA's stronger protest. UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin is another possible contender. The Slovenian official has been one of Infantino's strongest critics and even boycotted the FIFA World Cup final following a series of disagreements between UEFA and FIFA. Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Salman Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa

has also emerged as a potential candidate. A senior FIFA Council vice president from Bahrain, he opposed expanding the FIFA World Cup to 64 teams and criticised FIFA's decision-making process over the private investment proposal. Another name being discussed is Paris Saint-Germain President Nasser Al-Khelaifi. According to reports, several European football officials view the Qatari sports executive as a strong challenger capable of leading world football. The fifth potential candidate is Norwegian Football Federation President Lise Klaveness, one of the most influential women in global football. Klaveness has been outspoken in opposing Infantino's World Cup investment proposal and has previously questioned FIFA's governance on several issues. The controversy surrounding the proposed World Cup investment deal has intensified scrutiny of Infantino's leadership, making the upcoming election one of the most closely watched in FIFA's recent history. With support from several national federations weakening, the race for the presidency is expected to become increasingly competitive in the months leading up to the vote.

With just days left for its theatrical release, Varun Tej's upcoming horror-comedy Korean Kanakarakaju is generating strong buzz, thanks to encouraging reports from censor board and trade circles. Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, the film is set to hit theatres this Friday and is expected to be one of the major Telugu releases of the week.

The recently released theatrical trailer has been well received by audiences, creating excitement around the film. The combination of horror and comedy, along with Varun Tej's makeover, has drawn attention from moviegoers and industry observers alike.

According to reports emerging from trade circles, Korean Kanakarakaju has impressed viewers who watched it ahead of release. Merlapaka Gandhi's writing and screenplay are said to deliver a steady mix of humour, suspense and entertainment throughout the film.

The director, known for his comedy entertainers, is reportedly returning with another engaging commercial entertainer.

One of the biggest highlights is said to be Varun Tej's performance in two distinct roles. Industry insiders suggest that the actor has undergone noticeable transformations for the characters, offering audiences a fresh on-screen experience. If the positive early feedback translates into strong public response after release, the film could emerge as one of Varun Tej's successful outings in recent years.

Another major attraction is comedian Satya, who has earned a reputation for consistently delivering memorable performances in recent Telugu films. Reports indicate that his comic timing, witty one-liners and scenes with Varun Tej are among the film's strongest assets. Their on-screen chemistry is expected to provide several laugh-out-loud moments, making the comedy portions a key selling point.

The film has completed the censor formalities and received a U/A certificate. It has an approved runtime of 2 hours and 36 minutes, suggesting a full-length commercial entertainer packed with horror, comedy and action elements.

Ritika Nayak plays the female lead opposite Varun Tej, while the film is jointly produced by Rajeev Reddy and Sai Baba Jagarlamudi under the banners of UV Creations and First Frame Entertainments.

The music has been composed by Thaman, whose songs and background score are expected to add further appeal to the film.

While the encouraging reports have significantly raised expectations, the film's ultimate success will depend on audience reception after its theatrical release. For now, Korean Kanakarakaju appears to have generated the right momentum, with positive pre-release buzz positioning it as one of the most anticipated Telugu films arriving in cinemas this week.

Positive Buzz Builds Ahead of Varun Tej's 'Korean Kanakarakaju' Release



Ranbir Kapoor Says 'Ramayana Part Two' Is Already 50% Complete



Actor Ranbir Kapoor has shared a major update on Ramayana, director Nitesh Tiwari's ambitious mythological epic, revealing that Ramayana: Part Two is already 50 percent complete. The announcement has further heightened excitement sur-

rounding one of the most anticipated Indian film franchises in recent years. Ranbir, who will portray Lord Ram in the two-part epic, spoke about the project's progress while promoting the film in the United States. According to the actor, work

material that could easily span ten films. However, he noted that director Nitesh Tiwari and the creative team carefully selected the most significant portions of the story while remaining faithful to the original epic.

The film boasts a star-studded cast featuring Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman and Ravi Dubey as Lakshman. The ensemble has generated considerable interest among audiences, with fans eager to see these actors portray some of the most iconic characters from Indian mythology.

The ambitious project is being produced by Namit Malhotra under the banner of Prime Focus Studios in association with Yash's Monster Mind Creations. The collaboration between the two production houses has enabled the makers to mount the film on a grand scale with cutting-edge visual effects and world-class production values.

The recently released trailer for the first installment has already created strong buzz across social media and among cinema enthusiasts. The visuals, especially those designed for the IMAX format, have received widespread appreciation for their scale and technical quality, raising expectations ahead of the film's release.

With the first film set to release later this year and the sequel already halfway through production, the makers appear confident of delivering the story as planned. Ranbir Kapoor's latest update has reassured fans that the massive production remains on track, making Ramayana one of the biggest cinematic events to look forward to over the next two years.

Aditi Shankar and Arjun Das' 'Once More' to Release Worldwide



The makers of the upcoming romantic drama Once More, starring Arjun Das and Aditi Shankar, have officially announced that the film will release in theatres worldwide on August 28. The announcement has generated excitement among movie lovers, with fans eagerly awaiting the fresh pairing of the two actors.

Aditi Shankar, who made her acting debut as the daughter of acclaimed filmmaker Shankar, has steadily built a place for herself in the Tamil film industry with her performances. Once More marks another important project in her growing career and is expected to showcase her in a romantic role alongside Arjun Das, who is known for his distinctive voice and impactful screen presence.

The film is directed by Vignesh Srikanth, while Yuvaraj Ganesan is producing it under the Million Dollar Studios banner. Confirming the release date, the production house shared a special message on social media that read: "This is the day of celebration. Where the wait ends and love begins. We've found the favorite date on our love calendar. Once More is releasing worldwide on August 28."

One of the biggest attractions of the film is its music, composed by Hesham Abdul Wahab, who is making his Tamil cinema debut

with Once More. The composer has earned widespread appreciation for his memorable soundtracks in films such as Hridayam and Hi Nanna. The songs released from Once More have already received a positive response from music lovers, raising expectations for the film's complete album and background score.

Apart from the lead pair, the film also features model and actor Sona Olickal in a pivotal role. The supporting cast and technical team are expected to play an important role in bringing the romantic drama to life.

The film's visuals have been handled by cinematographer Aravind Viswanathan, while Nash is in charge of editing. Raj Kamal has worked as the art director, contributing to the film's visual design and production aesthetics. Harish Durairaj serves as the executive producer, while Vijay MP is the creative producer. With an experienced technical crew, an appealing lead cast and music from Hesham Abdul Wahab, Once More has emerged as one of the notable Tamil romantic films scheduled for release this month. The official release date announcement has further increased anticipation, and the film will now compete with other major releases when it arrives in cinemas across the world on August 28.

Nani's 'Bloody Romeo' Likely to Begin Shooting in October

Natural Star Nani is currently focused on The Paradise, one of the most ambitious projects of his career. While work on the film is progressing, reports suggest that its production schedule has been delayed, leading to changes in the timeline of his next film, Bloody Romeo, which will be directed by Sujeeth. According to the latest industry reports, the shooting of Bloody Romeo is now expected to begin in October. Nani is said to have allocated dates for the project from that month, allowing the makers to move ahead with principal photography after adjustments to the production schedule.

A significant portion of the film is reportedly planned to be shot in London, where the production team intends to film several major sequences. The overseas schedule is expected to play an important role in shaping the film's visual



appeal and narrative. Bloody Romeo has generated considerable interest since its announcement, primarily because it marks the first collaboration between Nani and director Sujeeth. The filmmaker is best known for stylish action entertainers

and is expected to present Nani in a completely new avatar. According to reports, Nani will portray a gangster-turned-chef, a role that is expected to combine action, drama and emotional depth. The unusual character has already sparked curiosity

among fans, who are eager to see the actor take on another unconventional role. The project has also witnessed a change in production. Initially, DVV Entertainment was expected to bankroll the film. However, the project later shifted to Niharika

Entertainment, headed by producer Venkat Boyanapalli, who will now finance the ambitious venture. Meanwhile, Nani continues to oversee the work on The Paradise, a film that has been creating strong expectations ever since it was announced. As

the actor remains committed to completing that project, the revised schedule for Bloody Romeo is expected to ensure that both films receive adequate attention during production. Although the makers are yet to make an official announcement regarding the shooting dates, the latest reports indicate that preparations are progressing steadily for an October start. If everything goes according to plan, the London schedule will kick off the film's production before additional portions are filmed in other locations. With Sujeeth at the helm, a fresh storyline, an intriguing lead character and a new production banner backing the project, Bloody Romeo has already emerged as one of the most anticipated upcoming Telugu films. Fans are now eagerly awaiting an official confirmation on the shooting schedule and further updates from the makers.

The makers of #RAPO23, the upcoming big-budget entertainer starring Ram Pothineni, are currently filming some of the movie's most important sequences in Pondicherry. Mounted on a lavish scale with a reported budget of over ?100 crore, the film has already generated significant buzz among fans and the Telugu film industry.

According to the latest reports, the production team has begun an extensive 15-day shooting schedule in the scenic coastal town of Pondicherry. Several key portions of the film are being shot during this schedule, with the makers aiming to capture visually rich sequences that match the film's grand scale and high production values.

One of the major highlights of the ongoing schedule is a lavishly mounted song featuring the lead cast. The musical sequence is being choreographed by renowned dance choreographer Brinda Master, who is known for creating memorable songs across multiple Indian film industries. The makers are reportedly focusing on delivering an eye-catching visual experience, with elaborate sets, colourful locations and stylish choreography expected to enhance the song's appeal.

Apart from the musical portions, the team is also filming a series of high-intensity action scenes that are expected to become one of the film's biggest attractions. These sequences are being designed by acclaimed action choreographer

Vikram Mor, who has earned recognition for his work in block-buster films such as KGF: Chapter 1, Kantara, and Karuppu. Industry sources suggest that the action episodes are being planned on a grand scale with a focus on realism, technical excellence and powerful visuals.

The makers are reportedly leaving no stone unturned to ensure that every frame reflects the ambitious vision behind the project. With large-scale production design, carefully planned action blocks and elaborate song sequences, #RAPO23 is shaping up to be one of the most expensive and technically advanced films in Ram Pothineni's career.

Ever since the project was announced, expectations have

remained high among fans, who are eager to see the actor in a new commercial entertainer. The film's large budget, experienced technical crew and ambitious execution have further increased curiosity about the project. Although the makers have not yet revealed many details about the storyline or the complete cast, regular updates from the shooting locations continue to keep audiences engaged. The ongoing Pondicherry schedule is considered one of the most important phases of production, with several crucial scenes expected to be completed over the next two weeks.

With Brinda Master handling the choreography, Vikram Mor overseeing the action sequences and the production progressing at a brisk pace, #RAPO23 appears to be

'RAPO23' Shoots Grand Song and Action Sequences

moving steadily toward completion. As filming continues, fans are now eagerly waiting for the makers to unveil the film's official title, teaser and release date. The combination of grand visuals, high-energy action, melodious songs and a substantial production budget has positioned #RAPO23 as one of the most anticipated Telugu films currently under production. If the ongoing shoot lives up to expectations, the film could emerge as one of the biggest cinematic spectacles in Ram Pothineni's career.

