



BUZZ POINTS

APNRTS Appoints 292 Coordinators In Second Phase

Amaravati : The Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society (APNRTS) has appointed 292 coordinators in the second phase to strengthen support for non-resident Andhras across the world. The coordinators will work voluntarily with APNRTS to address the needs of NRIs in their respective regions and coordinate with Indian Embassies and local authorities to improve support services for the Telugu diaspora. NRI Affairs Minister Kondapalli Srinivas and APNRTS President Ravi Kumar Vemuru congratulated the newly appointed coordinators and expressed confidence that their efforts would further strengthen the relationship between Andhra Pradesh and its global NRI community while enhancing welfare initiatives and outreach programmes.

HM Anitha Reaffirms NDA's Commitment to Amaravati



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Lokesh Launches PV Sindhu Sports Academy



Visakhapatnam, August 05 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the PV Sindhu Sports Academy in Visakhapatnam, describing it as a landmark initiative to nurture future champions and strengthen Andhra Pradesh's sports ecosystem. Addressing the gathering, Lokesh praised Olympic medalist PV Sindhu as one of India's greatest sporting icons and said her journey of dedication, discipline and perseverance should inspire young athletes. He acknowledged the contribution of Sindhu's parents and coaches in shaping her career. The Minister said the academy would develop into a multi-sports centre with world-class facilities for badminton,

swimming, gymnastics, shooting, weightlifting, basketball and football. He credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu with expanding the vision of a badminton academy into a comprehensive sports excellence centre. Lokesh said the government aims to make Andhra Pradesh a destination for sports excellence and stressed the need to identify and nurture the talent of every child. He highlighted initiatives like 'No Bag Day' to promote sports participation, discipline and teamwork among students. He urged parents to encourage children, especially girls, to pursue sports and assured that the government would provide support to talented athletes. Lokesh expressed confidence that the academy would produce Olympic-level athletes and inspire future generations.

PVN Madhav Calls for Global Recognition of World Handloom Day

Vijayawada, August 05 | TPN Bureau

BJP Andhra Pradesh President PVN Madhav on Wednesday called for international recognition of World Handloom Day, saying that protecting the handloom sector is essential to preserving India's cultural heritage, rural economy and the livelihoods of lakhs of weaver families. Addressing a state-level Handloom Day conference in Vijayawada, Madhav described handloom as a symbol of India's traditions, craftsmanship and self-reliance. He said the Swadeshi Movement launched on August 7, 1905, gave a major boost to indigenous textiles and laid the foundation for India's freedom struggle, with Mahatma Gandhi making the charkha a symbol of self-reliance. Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's rich handloom legacy, he said products such as Dharmavaram silk, Uppada, Mangalagiri, Venkatagiri, Chirala, Bobbili and Ponduru Khadi have earned global recognition. He also stressed the significant contribution of women to the handloom sector. Madhav said the Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has



strengthened the sector through Mudra loans, welfare schemes and marketing support, while the Andhra Pradesh coalition government is extending annual financial assistance of RS.25,000 and free power to handloom families. He said the proposed mega handloom cluster at Dharmavaram would create new opportunities in production, marketing and exports. He also urged young entrepreneurs to leverage digital technology and e-commerce to promote Indian handloom products globally. The conference, chaired by Rongala Gopi Srinivas, BJP OBC Morcha State President, was preceded by a rally of weavers from Raghavayya Park to Tummalapalli Kalakshetram, led by PVN Madhav. Several BJP leaders, handloom representatives and weavers participated in the event.



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Health Minister Unveils Draft Rules for Private AYUSH Hospitals



Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday instructed officials to prepare micro-level plans for the comprehensive development of the Visakha Economic Region (VER), stressing the need to integrate all areas, tourism destinations and economic sectors for balanced growth. Reviewing VER development proposals at his camp office, Naidu said the strategy should cover the entire stretch from Mulapeta Port in Srikakulam district to the Akhanda Godavari project in Rajamahendravaram, creating investment opportunities across North Andhra. He said the Visakhapatnam Bay City Project would be the anchor project and instructed officials to establish a Special Executive Committee for its implementation. The Chief Minister directed officials to converge funds from government schemes for the Bay City project and seek greater financial support from the Centre. He also called for transforming the six Urban Development Authorities in the region through world-class infrastructure and integrated planning. Officials informed Naidu that VER has the potential to attract investments worth RS.9.5 lakh crore, including 75.3 lakh

crore from the private sector, while government investment of RS.3.5-4 lakh crore may be required. They highlighted projects like the Google AI Data Centre and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel Plant as key investments strengthening Visakhapatnam's economic potential. Naidu stressed that development should match local aspirations and create employment opportunities for youth. He called for upgrading skill development programmes to meet the needs of emerging sectors such as Global Capability Centres, fintech, logistics and data centres.

He suggested officials to ensure compliance with Coastal Regulation Zone norms, promote Public-Private Partnership models and explore Viability Gap Funding support. He also emphasised the role of educational institutions, particularly Andhra University, in planning and execution. The Chief Minister called for stronger road, rail, airport and port connectivity linking Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and western India. He also directed officials to develop Visakhapatnam Zoological Park into an international-standard tourism destination.



PM Narendra Modi Marks Seven Years of Article 370 Abrogation

New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday marked the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A), describing the decision taken on August 5, 2019, as a historic milestone that ushered in a new era of inclusive development for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. In a message shared on X, the Prime Minister said the past seven years had witnessed significant transformation across the two regions, with major improvements in infrastructure, education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and sports. He stated that the full application of the Constitution of India had empowered women and members of marginalized communities who had been denied several constitutional rights for decades. Modi noted that this year's anniversary carries added significance as India is

commemorating the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. He said Dr. Mookerjee's lifelong commitment to national unity continues to inspire generations and that his vision found historic fulfilment with the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A) in 2019. Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the Prime Minister said the government remains focused on creating opportunities for every citizen to pursue their aspirations and contribute to the vision of a Viksit Bharat. Articles 370 and 35(A), which granted special status and privileges to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, were revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019. The move was accompanied by the reorganisation of the state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

YS Jagan Demands Markfed Tobacco Procurement to Support Farmers

Devarapalli, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP Chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy criticised the coalition government over the problems faced by tobacco farmers, alleging that rising cultivation costs and declining procurement prices have pushed farmers into distress. Speaking to the media after interacting with tobacco farmers on Wednesday, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said traders had formed a cartel and were manipulating market prices, forcing farmers into distress sales. He alleged that the Tobacco Board, which had assured procurement, failed to protect farmers' interests, while the government was supporting the syndicate. He said during the YSRCP government's tenure in 2023-24, the average tobacco price was RS.289 per kg, whereas it declined to around RS.220 per kg within 27 months of the coalition government taking office. Farmers informed him that they were being forced to sell tobacco at prices as low as RS.170 per kg. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said his government had brought Markfed into procurement to create competition and maintain better prices. He added that farmers were provided RS.1 lakh zero-interest loans. He alleged that the coalition government discontinued such support, worsening the situation as cultivation costs increased.



Referring to the suicide of tobacco farmer Venkateswar Rao due to financial losses, he alleged that the government failed to support the bereaved family. He warned that buyers may shift to Karnataka auctions, causing further price decline. He said the RS.20 subsidy announced by the government would only benefit traders by enabling them to reduce purchase prices. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy demanded that Markfed be brought back into tobacco procurement and alleged that farmers across sectors, including paddy, banana and pulses, were facing hardships due to government policies. Farmers told him that tobacco prices increased by RS.10 after his visit was announced and recalled that low-grade tobacco was also procured during the YSRCP government.



Zuckerberg Apologises to PM Narendra Modi Over Video Removal

New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has apologised to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the temporary removal of the Prime Minister's video from Facebook sparked criticism. The apology came amid growing scrutiny over the platform's content moderation practices and its handling of sensitive political content. During discussions with Indian authorities, Meta also expressed concern over the spread of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and AI-generated deepfake content, acknowledging that these pose serious challenges to digital platforms worldwide. The company said it is strengthening its detection systems and investing in advanced technologies to curb the circulation of harmful and manipulated content. Meta further admitted that it had accepted significant payments for boosting cer-

tain categories of content on its platforms, drawing attention to the transparency of its advertising and content promotion policies. The disclosure has intensified calls for greater accountability and stricter oversight of social media companies operating in India. The controversy over the removal of Prime Minister Modi's video had triggered political reactions, with lawmakers demanding an explanation from Meta. Zuckerberg's apology is seen as an effort to address the concerns raised by the Indian government and Parliament while reaffirming the company's commitment to respecting local laws and improving its content moderation standards. The developments have renewed the debate over balancing free expression, platform accountability, and digital safety in the rapidly evolving social media landscape.

BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting Concludes



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the BRICS Experts Network on Asset Recovery concluded successfully in Hyderabad on Wednesday under India's BRICS Presidency. Organised by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the two-day meeting brought together policymakers, anti-corruption experts, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence officials from BRICS nations. Inaugurating the meeting, DoPT Secretary Rachna Shah reiterated India's zero-tolerance approach towards corruption and stressed the importance of integrity, transparency and accountability for effective governance and sustainable development. She highlighted the role of technology-driven governance, timely information exchange and global cooperation in tackling cross-border corruption. India

proposed establishing a dedicated BRICS network of law enforcement experts to help identify, trace and extradite fugitive economic offenders. The proposal received support from member countries, which agreed to continue discussions on creating a practical platform for direct cooperation among experts. The participants welcomed a BRICS information repository to strengthen cooperation in locating fugitives and supporting extradition efforts. They also agreed on standard procedures for improving asset recovery and early-stage investigations. Discussions covered the use of artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data analytics in preventing corruption, along with concerns over misuse of fintech platforms and virtual digital assets for money laundering. The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthen cooperation in anti-corruption measures, asset recovery and technology-based governance.

Deputy CM Spearheads Road Infrastructure Drive



ARN Mahesh

Pithapuram : Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has accelerated road infrastructure development across the Pithapuram Assembly constituency, with projects worth over RS.207 crore aimed at improving connectivity in rural and urban areas. According to official figures, a total of 307 kilometres of roads have been planned under schemes funded by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Roads & Buildings Department, Panchayat Raj Department and other agencies. Over the past two years, 611 roads covering nearly 152 kilometres

have been completed at a cost of around 7100 crore, while work on more than 70 additional roads is currently in progress. The projects include roads connecting schools, hospitals, temples, agricultural fields and coastal fishing villages. Cement concrete roads and drainage systems have been laid in rehabilitation colonies at Kotha Mayapatnam and Kotha Suradapeta, benefiting hundreds of fishing families. Roads damaged by repeated cyclones, including the Amaravilli-Ramannapalem Beach Road, have been restored, while the long-pending Kondevaram Road has been reconstructed, providing relief to nearly 8,000 residents. Permanent road access has

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CS Orders Ghat-Wise Plans For Godavari Pushkaralu 2027

Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad on Wednesday directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the successful conduct of Godavari Pushkaralu 2027, with special emphasis on effective crowd management and public awareness. Reviewing the preparations at the State Secretariat, the Chief Secretary said devotees should be made aware that taking a holy dip at any designated bathing ghat along the Godavari would carry equal spiritual significance. He instructed officials to dispel misconceptions that only a few specific ghats offer religious merit. Sai Prasad asked departments to prepare ghat-wise crowd management plans and launch a large-scale



awareness campaign highlighting the spiritual significance of the festival through slogans such as "Snanam-Danam-Pitratarpanam." He also directed officials to consult seers, pontiffs and renowned spiritual speakers and incorporate their suggestions into the Pushkar communication

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Minister Sets September 15 Deadline for AgriGold Refund Process

Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The state government has announced measures to expedite the resolution of the long-pending AgriGold depositors' issue, with compensation to victims scheduled to begin from September 15. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nandendla Manohar, a member of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on AgriGold, announced the decision after a meeting at the State Secretariat on Wednesday. Manohar said the government was committed to a transparent and time-bound process to provide justice to depositors. He said auction procedures for identified properties would be completed by August, while a dedicated website and public dashboard would be launched to provide updates on the process. He said nearly 6,330 acres of AgriGold land in Andhra Pradesh have been identified for public auction out of over 20,450 acres traced across the state. Nationwide, the company is estimated to own around 23,430 acres. The minister said AgriGold collected deposits of RS.6,380 crore through nearly 5.85 lakh agents, including RS.3,944 crore from Andhra Pradesh. Investigations found that promised land allotments did not match the actual availability of plots. He announced that a special court building for AgriGold cases would be ready by August 15, with a request to the High Court for judicial officers and staff. Special collection cells will also be established in various states to recover bonds worth nearly RS.2,000 crore held by agents. Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha and Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad also attended the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting.

APCRDA Holds Village Sabhas on Amaravati Master Plan



Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) conducted Village Sabha meetings in Ananthavaram and Nekkalu villages under the West Central-1 Grid on Wednesday to discuss the Amaravati Master Plan and village road network planning. The meetings focused on preparing the Village Circulation Plan and Village Integration Plan, while creating awareness among residents about proposed road connectivity and infrastructure development. APCRDA officials explained the master plan features and invited suggestions from villagers to incorporate local requirements into future planning. Special Deputy Collector P. Padmavathi explained the integration of existing village roads with the road network planned under the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) zones. Officials said surveys are being conducted to map existing roads and connectivity patterns to design efficient village road networks. Villagers actively participated and shared their views. APCRDA officials said feedback received from residents would be considered while finalising village-level plans. Similar meetings will be held across capital region villages in a phased manner.

CR Media Academy Announces Diploma in Journalism Course

Vijayawada, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The CR Media Academy has invited applications for its six-month Diploma in Journalism, aimed at working journalists as well as graduates interested in pursuing a career in media. Academy Chairman Alapati Suresh Kumar said the course has been designed to enhance professional standards in journalism. The curriculum was prepared by a Board of Studies led by Prof. D.V.R. Murthy, Vice-Chancellor of Andhra Kesari University, while Prof. P. Bobby Vardhan will serve as Course Director and Prof. K. Jyothirmayi as University Coordinator. Online classes will be conducted from Monday to Friday, between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., by experienced professors and senior journalists. Candidates will also complete assignments and examinations, with successful participants receiving a Diploma Certificate from Acharya Nagarjuna University. Applications must be submitted by August 20, and classes will begin in the first week of September. The fee is RS.2,000 for working journalists and RS.2,500 for other eligible graduates.

Minister Announces Expanded Support for Fishermen

Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Wednesday said the coalition government has taken several landmark decisions to strengthen the welfare of fishermen, including clearing all pending insurance claims, expanding insurance coverage, increasing electricity subsidies and enhancing the fishing ban period allowance. The minister alleged that the previous YSRCP government had left insurance compensation pending for deceased fishermen's families, while the present government settled all dues after assuming office. He said the fishermen's insurance scheme has been expanded by increasing the eligible age from 18-60 years to 18-70 years and extending coverage to inland fishermen and workers engaged in allied fisheries sectors such as shrimp farms and feed industries. Atchannaidu said the state and central governments together are spending over RS.6.76 crore on the insurance programme, which now aims to benefit nearly eight lakh people. He added that electricity subsidies have been increased from RS.724.67 crore under the previous government to RS.845 crore in 2025-26, with a proposal of RS.1,150 crore for 2026-27. The fishing ban period allowance has also been doubled, benefiting over 1.34 lakh fishermen, he said, while challenging the opposition to a public debate on fishermen's welfare.

Pawan Kalyan Hails Seven Years of Article 370 Abrogation

Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan hailed the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, calling it a historic decision that transformed Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. In a post on X, he said the move, once considered impossible, became a reality under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, leading to improved connectivity, infrastructure, healthcare, education and investment. Recalling Syama Prasad Mookerjee's vision of "One Nation, One Constitution," he said the aspiration was fulfilled with the revocation of special status. He highlighted projects like the Chenab Rail Bridge, Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, Zojila and Z-Morh tunnels, and investments in AIIMS, roads and power. He thanked Narendra Modi and Amit



Shah, and appreciated the armed forces and officials for ensuring stability.

Train Services Regulated Through Vijayawada Division



Vijayawada, August 05 | TPN Bureau

South Coast Railway (SCoR) announced temporary regulation of several long-distance trains passing

through Vijayawada Division due to infrastructure upgrade works at Jaulkhera station in Nagpur Division of Central Railway. Vijayawada Division PRO Nusrat M. Mandrupkar said the changes are being implemented for non-interlocking works related to third-line connectivity and commissioning of a new Electronic Interlocking (EI) system. The regulation will remain in effect from August 7 to August 23. Trains will be regulated at stations including Amla, Malkhed, Bhonayasi, Betul, Multai and Hatora, with delays ranging from 10 minutes to 1 hour 25 minutes. Affected services include Chandigarh-Madurai Express, Hazrat Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam Express, Ernakulam-Barauni Express, Hazrat Nizamuddin-Yeshwantpur Express and other long-distance trains. Passengers have been advised to check updated schedules and running status before travel.

TDP MP Calls for Speedy Justice in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

TDP Rajya Sabha MP Chintakayala Vijay on Wednesday supported the Supreme Court Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which proposes increasing the strength of Supreme Court judges from 33 to 37, saying the move would help deliver timely justice. Participating in the debate in the Rajya Sabha, Vijay welcomed the Centre's efforts to strengthen the judicial system through e-Courts and fast-track courts. He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for their initiatives to improve judicial infrastructure. Emphasising that everyone is equal before the law, the MP said justice delayed amounts to justice denied. Referring to the alleged disproportionate assets cases against former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Vijay claimed the CBI and ED cases registered in 2013 were yet to



reach a conclusion due to prolonged legal delays. He urged the Centre to strengthen High Courts, subordinate courts and special CBI courts to ensure speedy and transparent justice and enhance public confidence in the judicial system.

BC Welfare Minister Leads Drafting of BC Protection Law

Vijayawada, August 05 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare Minister S. Savitha on Wednesday said the State Government is finalising the BC Protection Bill, aimed at safeguarding the dignity, welfare and rights of Backward Classes (BCs) and making caste- and occupation-based insults punishable under law. Addressing the media after a consultation meeting in Vijayawada with BC ministers, MLAs, MLCs and MPs, Savitha said the proposed legislation fulfils a key election promise of the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. She described it as the first law in the country focused exclusively on protecting BC communities.



The minister said suggestions from public representatives would be included in the draft, followed by consultations with BC organisations across districts. The final bill will be sent to the National Commission for Backward Classes for recommendations before being placed before the State Assembly. Savitha said the proposed law

would provide protection against discrimination and harassment and include provisions for special courts to ensure speedy justice. Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said the government had worked on the bill for two years and reiterated its commitment to increasing BC reservations in local bodies to 34 per cent.

RS.137.98 Crore Released for Samagra Shiksha Salaries



Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Government has released RS.137.98 crore for the payment of pending salaries of employees working under Samagra

Shiksha, including teachers, contractual staff, outsourcing personnel and other cadres, for the months of June and July. In a statement issued on Wednesday, B. Srinivasa Rao, State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, said the allocation also includes funds towards District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) charges. He stated that the salaries were released after both the Central and State governments completed the fund release process. The State Project Director said the amount covers the pending salaries for two months along with applicable allowances. He directed the concerned officials to ensure that the released funds are credited to the respective employees' bank accounts without delay. The release of funds is expected to provide relief to thousands of employees working under the Samagra Shiksha programme across Andhra Pradesh.

Agriculture Director Urges Farmers to Use Farmer App



Eluru, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Department Director Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon on Wednesday appealed to farmers to download and effectively utilise the Farmer App, a digital platform providing quick solutions for agricultural needs. During a surprise visit to Pedapadu and Pedavegi mandals in Eluru district, Dr. Samoon assessed farmers' requirements related to El Niño conditions, crop insurance, APAIMS fertiliser app and Farmer App services. At Koppaka village PACS in Pedavegi mandal, farmers expressed satisfaction with digital initiatives and sought modifications in DAP fertiliser allocation for coconut and cocoa intercrop cultivation. Dr. Samoon said the Farmer App provides crop information, farmer registration, crop booking, government schemes, technical advisories, and details of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. He said farmer feedback would help improve input planning and supply arrangements. DAO Eluru, PACS Chairman, DM Markfed, DPM APCNF, ADA officials, agricultural staff and progressive farmers participated.

WB, ADB Delegation Assesses Amaravati Development Works

Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) delegation continued its three-day visit to Amaravati on Wednesday with a series of review meetings at the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) headquarters in Rayapudi. The delegation held discussions with senior APCRDA officials on key aspects of the Amaravati Capital City Project, including occupational health and safety (OHS) measures for construction workers, environmental and social safeguards, road safety, and compliance with prescribed safety standards. The team also reviewed the implementation of the Capacity Strengthening and Environmental & Social Management Plan (C-ESMP) and stressed the need for refresher OHS training for contractors, Project Management Consultants (PMCs), and experts where necessary.



The meetings were attended by Velugoti Ramulu, Director (Social Development), APCRDA, and K.S. Bhagyarekha, Director (Lands-Capital City), APCRDA, along with other senior officials. The delegation also reviewed land pooling and land acquisition activities, the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) for farmers and residents, and the progress of green infrastructure, PPP projects, green buffer zones, and parks under AGICL and ADCL. The WB and ADB teams offered recommendations to strengthen project planning and implementation.

Syamala Rao Inspects Independence Day Arrangements



Guntur, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Principal Secretary (Political), GAD J. Syamala Rao on Wednesday reviewed preparations for the State-level Independence Day celebrations at the Capital Parade Grounds in Guntur and directed officials to ensure flawless coordination for the August 15 event.

Accompanied by senior officials, including Guntur District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma and Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal, the Chief Secretary inspected the venue and assessed arrangements for dignitaries expected to attend the celebrations. She instructed departments to complete invitation printing and parade preparations without delay and to provide adequate seating, drinking water, sanitation facilities and other public amenities. Syamala Rao also stressed the need for a comprehensive traffic and parking plan to prevent congestion. She directed all departments to complete their thematic tableaux and participate fully in the final rehearsal scheduled for August 13.

Minister Prioritises Drinking Water Security



Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu on Wednesday said the State Government has placed the highest priority on drinking water security in view of the anticipated El Niño conditions and announced the release of water from the Srisailem Reservoir for Rayalaseema. The minister said water

would be released through the Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) and Pothireddypadu projects exclusively for drinking purposes. Around 13 TMC of water will be supplied to HNSS reservoirs, while 10 TMC will be released to reservoirs under the Pothireddypadu system from Thursday. Ramanaidu said the Srisailem Reservoir currently holds about 119 TMC of water, with substantial inflows expected over the coming days. He added that the government plans to conserve reservoir water primarily for drinking needs until June 2027. The minister directed district collectors and officials from irrigation, revenue and agriculture departments to conduct weekly reviews and ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply across the state.

AP Law Minister Clears Drafting of Advocates Protection Bill



Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Law and Minority Welfare Minister NMD Farooq on Wednesday announced the initiation of the drafting process for the Andhra Pradesh Advocates Protection Bill, 2026, reaffirming the coalition government's commitment to the welfare and safety of lawyers. In a statement from Amaravati, the minister said Law Department Secretary

Pratibha Devi has been instructed to speed up the preparation of the draft legislation. He directed officials to hold consultations with concerned departments and complete the draft at the earliest. Farooq said the proposed bill, after finalisation, would be reviewed by the Advocate General and the Finance Department before being placed before the State Cabinet for approval. The legislation aims to provide stronger legal protection and welfare measures for advocates. Highlighting government support for the legal fraternity, the minister said 746.92 crore had been released to families of 1,173 deceased advocates, with each eligible family receiving 74 lakh assistance. He added that the Advocates Protection Bill would strengthen the justice system and create a safer working environment for lawyers across Andhra Pradesh.



AP TET June 2026 Begins With Over 91% Attendance

Amaravati : The Andhra Pradesh Teacher Eligibility Test (AP TET) June 2026 commenced smoothly across the state on Wednesday, with over 91% attendance recorded in both sessions of Paper 2A (Telugu Language). AP TET Convener M.V. Krishna Reddy said 7,453 out of 8,148 registered candidates appeared at 57 centres in the morning session, recording 91.4% attendance. In the afternoon session, 5,324 of 5,801 candidates attended the exam at 42 centres, with 91.78% attendance. Anantapur district recorded the highest morning attendance at 93.94%, while Kadapa topped the afternoon session with 94.8%. Officials said the examinations were conducted peacefully at all centres.

Applications Invited for New Private ITIs in AP

Amaravati : The Andhra Pradesh Department of Employment and Training has invited applications for establishing new private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and adding trades or units in existing private ITIs for the 2027-28 academic year. Director of Employment and Training G. Ganesh Kumar said applications will be accepted as per Directorate General of Training (DGT) guidelines. Registered societies, trusts, private limited companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) are eligible to apply. Interested organisations must submit applications by September 30, 2026. Applicants can contact the Directorate of Skill Development, Employment and Training, Vijayawada, for details.

CPI Welcomes Relief for Durga Co-operative Urban Bank Depositors

Vijayawada, August 5 | TPN Bureau



CPI Vijayawada City Secretary G. Koteswara Rao on Wednesday welcomed the approval for repayment of deposits exceeding RS.5 lakh, along with interest, to depositors of the Durga Co-operative Urban Bank.

In a press statement, Koteswara Rao recalled that the bank, which served the people of Vijayawada for several years, ceased operations after the Reserve Bank of India cancelled its licence in 2024, causing uncertainty among thousands of depositors. He said depositors with balances up to RS.5 lakh had already received payments through the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). Following sustained representations by the CPI and other public organisations, approval has now been granted to repay deposits exceeding RS.5 lakh, with interest calculated up to November 2024. Koteswara Rao urged eligible depositors to submit the required deposit certificates and applications to the concerned bank officials to receive their dues without delay. He said the decision would provide significant relief to affected families. The CPI leader said the development was the result of continuous efforts by the party and various people's organisations to safeguard depositors' interests. He reiterated that the CPI would continue to support the poor and middle class and strive to protect their financial rights. He also appealed to the authorities to ensure that the repayment process is completed in a transparent and time-bound manner without causing inconvenience to depositors. He expressed hope that all eligible account holders would receive their pending amounts at the earliest.

TDP MP Criticises Jagan's Tobacco Farmers' Tour

New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

TDP MP Sana Satish Babu on Wednesday alleged that YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's tour was driven by political motives rather than genuine concern for tobacco farmers. Addressing the media in New Delhi along with MPs Chintakayala Vijay and Bhashyam Ramakrishna, Satish Babu claimed the YSRCP was attempting to mislead farmers despite failing to support them during its tenure. He alleged that tobacco growers did not receive remunerative prices or adequate compensation for crop losses caused by cyclones under the previous government. The MP said the NDA coalition government has been extending support to farmers from cultivation to marketing. Despite challenging global market conditions, he said the government had allocated RS.188 crore for tobacco procurement, announced an incentive of RS.20 per kg, and was providing interest-free loans of RS.50,000 to 45,000 tobacco farmers to strengthen their livelihoods and ensure better returns.



Konakalla Praises Alliance Government's Welfare



Machilipatnam, August 5 | TPN Bureau

The "Intintiki Telugu Desam" campaign was held enthusiastically in Swarna Ward 45 (Sidimbi Agraharam) of the Machilipatnam Municipal Corporation

under the leadership of Brahmin Welfare Corporation Director and Telugu Desam Party in-charge for the ward, P.V. Phani Kumar.

APSRTC Chairman and former MP Konakalla Narayana Rao participated as the chief guest and went door-to-door explaining the Alliance government's welfare schemes and development initiatives while distributing informational leaflets. Addressing residents, Konakalla Narayana Rao alleged that the YSRCP government had damaged the state's development during its five-year tenure. He said the Alliance government led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is restoring investor confidence, accelerating the Polavaram project, promoting Amaravati as the state capital, attracting industries and creating employment opportunities for youth. He said the campaign aims to take the government's achievements to every household while gathering public grievances for resolution. Senior Telugu Desam Party leaders Gorepati Gopichand, Ganjala Ravikumar, Yarlagadda Sitaramaiah, Konakalla Bhanu Prasad and others participated in the programme.

Kolikapudi Shares Election Campaign Experience

Tiruvuru, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Tiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao shared his 2024 election campaign experiences through a WhatsApp status that has gone viral. Referring to political strategist Prashant Kishor's election victory from Bankipur in Bihar, he said his campaign also focused on people's issues rather than politics. Kolikapudi said he campaigned for more than 100 days as an Alliance candidate without criticizing YSRCP leader Jagan Mohan Reddy or his rival. Instead, he highlighted education, employment and basic village amenities. He said women frequently raised concerns over illegal liquor outlets, while one woman requested a road instead of money. He stressed that quality free education, free healthcare, skill training and basic infrastructure are essential for public welfare.

YSRCP Alleges Security Lapse During Jagan's Devarapalli Visit

Devarapalli, August 6 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders on Wednesday alleged that the coalition government reduced security arrangements during former Chief Minister and YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Devarapalli, terming it a serious security lapse. They claimed the alleged reduction in police deployment was aimed at disrupting his interaction with tobacco farmers. The party leaders said Jagan visited the Tobacco Procurement Centre and demanded remunerative prices for growers. YSRCP leaders said despite his Z+ security status, adequate arrangements were not made and announced that a complaint would be submitted to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs seeking action over the alleged lapse. They alleged that the government responded to tobacco farmers' issues only after Jagan announced his visit. The party demanded a minimum support price of RS.300 per kg for tobacco and procurement through MARKFED. YSRCP leaders said large numbers of farmers participated in the programme and extended support to Jagan. They alleged administrative failure in handling both security arrangements and farmers' issues, and vowed to continue raising concerns over tobacco growers' welfare.

Yanamala Dismisses YSRCP's Demand for Lokesh's Resignation



Amaravati, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Senior TDP leader, Former Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnu strongly criticised the YSRCP's demand for the resignation of Minister Nara Lokesh, calling it "baseless, senseless and politically motivated." He said the opposition was attempting to gain

political mileage through protests despite being rejected by the people in the 2024 Assembly elections. Yanamala remarked that while the YSRCP portrays itself as representing a new generation, the party has already been rejected by voters. He alleged that the party's agenda during its tenure was marked by destruction and corruption, and claimed that the public would not believe its campaigns or protests. Referring to YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, said several criminal and corruption cases against him have been pending in courts for years and urged the judiciary to expedite financial and criminal cases, stating that "justice delayed is justice denied." He described the YSRCP's demand for Lokesh's resignation over the Mega DSC issue as an impractical "Plan B" aimed solely at political gain. Yanamala also

referred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court's observations that no aggrieved DSC candidate had approached the court and that the petition lacked the necessary standing, arguing that the matter was political in nature. Accusing the YSRCP of obstructing Andhra Pradesh's development, Yanamala alleged that the party was discouraging investors from investing in the state. He said industrial investment is essential for generating employment, increasing tax revenue and funding welfare programmes. He further alleged that attempts to disrupt investment would ultimately harm the state's economy and weaker sections. He asserted that the Alliance government remains committed to promoting investment, development and employment, despite what he described as politically motivated campaigns by the opposition.

Agriculture Minister Challenges Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tobacco Farmers

Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Wednesday challenged former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to an open debate on the welfare of tobacco farmers, asserting that the YSRCP chief's allegations against the coalition government were "baseless" and contrary to facts. Addressing the media in Vijayawada, Atchannaidu said Jagan should participate in a public discussion backed by official data and statistics if he was genuinely concerned about tobacco growers. He claimed that TDP-led governments had consistently supported farmers during periods of crisis through timely interventions and financial assistance. The minister said the coalition government had purchased 25 million kilograms of burley tobacco last year at a cost of around RS.280 crore. He also recalled that during 2014-15, when FCV tobacco prices declined sharply, the TDP government provided



RS.20 per kilogram as financial assistance despite tobacco being a commercial crop. Criticising the previous YSRCP government, Atchannaidu alleged that although tobacco production exceeded 124 million kilograms in 2019, only 11.8 million kilograms were procured, while no procurement was undertaken the following year despite another bumper crop. He said the Tobacco Board's production target for the current season was 131 million kilograms,

but farmers produced nearly 241 million kilograms. To support growers affected by excess production, the State Government has announced RS.10 per kilogram assistance for around 100 million kilograms, involving an outlay of RS.100 crore, with payments beginning from Thursday. He added that assistance would also be extended for additional quantities beyond the estimate, alongside the Centre's interest-free loans of RS.50,000 for tobacco barn owners.

Minister Swamy Criticises Jagan Over Tobacco Issue

Amaravati, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Social Welfare Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy on Wednesday criticised former Chief Minister and YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his remarks on tobacco farmers, asserting that the Alliance government has been taking concrete steps to support growers. Addressing the media at the Secretariat, the Minister said the TDP has consistently stood by tobacco farmers during difficult times. He cited the viability gap fund extended in 2015, procurement of Burley tobacco worth RS.300 crore last year, and the



ongoing assistance of RS.1,000 per quintal for low-grade tobacco as examples of the government's support. Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been

holding regular discussions with Tobacco Board officials and the Central Government to secure better prices for farmers. He added that Ministers Atchannaidu, Gottipati Ravikumar, and he had also met Union Ministers in New Delhi to seek further assistance for the tobacco sector. The Minister alleged that YSRCP activists damaged tobacco bales during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Devarapalli, affecting farmers. He maintained that the Alliance government remains committed to protecting the interests of tobacco growers and would continue to extend all possible support to ensure remunerative prices and safeguard their livelihoods.

YSRCP Leader Slams Naidu Over Governance Claims



Kadapa, August 5 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State Official Spokesperson and former Proddatur MLA Rachamalla Siva Prasada Reddy on Wednesday criticised Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu over his recent PowerPoint presentation, alleging that the Alliance government has failed to fulfil its election promises. Addressing the media in Proddatur, Rachamalla Siva Prasada Reddy claimed the government's administration has been marked by increased financial burdens, welfare cuts and unfulfilled assurances. He questioned the Chief Minister's claim of spending

large amounts on welfare, alleging that people had not received the promised benefits. The YSRCP leader also accused the government of increasing public debt and criticised Chandrababu Naidu's remarks on wealth creation. He said the previous YSRCP government led by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had implemented welfare schemes effectively, including financial assistance through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), social pensions and other programmes. Rachamalla Siva Prasada Reddy urged the public to compare the Alliance government's promises with its actual implementation over the past two years.

Anantha Babu Bail Petition Rejected In Driver Murder Case



Rajahmohendravaram, August 5 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP MLC Anantha Babu suffered another setback after the Special Court in Rajamahendravaram rejected his bail petition in connection with the murder case of his driver Subramanyam. The court dismissed the bail plea after Special Public Prosecutor Muppalla Subbarao opposed the request, citing the accused's criminal history and other aspects related to the case. Accepting the arguments of the Special Public Prosecutor, the court refused to grant bail. Anantha Babu is currently lodged in Rajamahendravaram Central Jail as a remand prisoner. His bail petitions have been rejected on several previous occasions. The case pertains to the death of his driver Subramanyam, which had created political controversy. The court's latest decision continues the legal proceedings against Anantha Babu, while the investigation and trial-related process remain underway.



Lokesh Inaugurates IBM FutureNow Centre

Visakhapatnam, August 05 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Wednesday inaugurated the IBM Consulting FutureNow Centre in Visakhapatnam along with Sandeep Patel, Managing Director, IBM India and South Asia. The new facility will support IBM's global AI and digital transformation services while strengthening the state's technology ecosystem. The centre will deliver consulting and technology solutions in artificial intelligence (AI), hybrid cloud, software engineering, data analytics, cybersecurity and enterprise transformation. It will also serve as a hub for AI-driven cloud transformation, platform engineering

and quality engineering services. Speaking at the inauguration, Lokesh said the state aims to attract technology investments, create high-quality employment and build a future-ready workforce, enabling Andhra Pradesh's youth to participate in the global digital economy. He said Visakhapatnam is emerging as a leading destination for AI and digital innovation. Sandeep Patel said the centre reflects IBM's commitment to strengthening India's position as a global innovation hub. Usha Srikanth, Managing Partner, IBM Consulting FutureNow Centre India, said the facility will combine advanced technology with local talent to accelerate digital transformation and create better career opportunities for young professionals.

HM Anitha Reaffirms NDA's Commitment to Amaravati

Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Wednesday reaffirmed the NDA government's commitment to developing Amaravati into a world-class capital city, describing it as a symbol of the self-respect and aspirations of every Telugu citizen. Accompanied by Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana and Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, Anitha inspected several ongoing capital development projects, including the Ministers' residential complex, MLA and MLC housing, the Secretariat complex, iconic Heads of Department (HoD) towers, major arterial roads and other key infrastructure works. The ministers reviewed construction progress with officials and stressed the importance of maintaining quality and timely execution. Addressing the media, Anitha said Amaravati was unanimously approved as the capital of Andhra Pradesh after the state's bifurcation and criticised the previous YSRCP government for allegedly halting construction works, which she claimed delayed the state's development by five years. She said the decisive mandate given to

the NDA coalition in the 2024 elections had revived Amaravati's development, with construction now progressing rapidly under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Narayana. According to the Home Minister, the integrated development of the Assembly, High Court, Secretariat, HoD towers and residential complexes for ministers, legislators and All India Services officers would establish Amaravati as a model administrative capital for the country. Anitha also appreciated engineers and workers involved in the project, saying many had developed an emotional attachment to Amaravati and were proud to resume the capital's construction. Emphasising the government's resolve, she said adequate security, traffic management and law-and-order measures were being ensured to facilitate uninterrupted construction. She warned that any attempts to disrupt the capital's development would be dealt with firmly. The Home Minister said the government's goal is to complete the first phase of Amaravati's construction by 2028, transforming it into a globally recognised capital and a lasting symbol of Telugu pride.

Health Minister Unveils Draft Rules for Private AYUSH Hospitals

Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The state government has released draft regulations for the registration and regulation of private AYUSH healthcare institutions, marking the first comprehensive framework for Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani, Siddha, Yoga and Naturopathy establishments in the state. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Wednesday reviewed the draft rules and directed officials to seek suggestions from the public, medical professionals, experts and stakeholders before finalising them. Under the proposed Andhra Pradesh AYUSH Private Medical Care Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Rules, 2026, registration will be mandatory for all private AYUSH clinics, polyclinics, nursing homes, hospitals and diagnostic centres, ranging from single-doctor clinics to hospitals with over 200 beds.

Applications will be processed through an online portal, with inspections to be completed within 10 days. Permanent registration, valid for five years, will be granted only after institutions meet prescribed infrastructure, staffing, sanitation and patient care standards. The draft also proposes penalties for violations, including fines, suspension or cancellation of registration for unqualified practice or repeated non-compliance. Hospitals will be required to display treatment charges, doctors' qualifications and registration details in Telugu and English. The government said the regulations are aimed at eliminating unqualified practitioners, improving patient safety and ensuring quality healthcare services. The draft has been uploaded on the AYUSH Department website for public feedback, which will be accepted over the next two weeks before the rules are finalised.

CS Orders Ghat-Wise Plans For Godavari Pushkaralu 2027

Continue

strategy. The Chief Secretary said advisory centres and signboards should be installed at every bathing ghat, providing clear information on access routes, walking distances and transport facilities. He also called for daily publicity through newspapers and other media to guide pilgrims. Earlier, G. Veerapandian, Special Officer for Godavari Pushkaralu and Health Secretary, informed the meeting that more than 4.8 crore devotees attended the previous Pushkaralu and the turnout is expected to more than double in 2027. He said 4,695 infrastructure works worth RS.3,161 crore across six districts have been planned by 21 departments, with works worth RS.60 crore already underway. The Chief Secretary directed officials to review the preparations every 15 days to ensure timely completion of all arrangements before the festival.

Deputy CM Spearheads Road Infrastructure Drive

Continue

also been created for Mummadivaripadu village and the cremation ground at Kothapalli. Under the Palle Panduga 2.0 programme, gravel roads have been laid through agricultural fields in several villages to facilitate transportation of farm produce. Officials said these works have improved access to over 200 acres of farmland. Reviewing the ongoing projects, Pawan Kalyan directed officials to complete all pending road works within the stipulated timeframe and ensure strict adherence to quality standards. He reiterated his commitment to transforming Pithapuram into a model constituency with modern infrastructure and better connectivity for every village.

MP Vemireddy Raises Cyber Safety Issue in Lok Sabha



New Delhi, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy raised concerns over cyberbullying, online harassment, deepfakes, identity misuse, doxxing and trolling, in response to which Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan informed Parliament about the measures taken by the Centre to tackle such crimes. In a written reply, L. Murugan said the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, mandate social media platforms to remove obscene, harmful, privacy-violating and gender-discriminatory content. Platforms failing to comply may lose legal protection under Section 79 of the IT Act. The Minister said the IT Rules were amended on February 10, 2026, requiring intermediaries to implement technical safeguards against AI-generated harmful content, including deepfakes and impersonation. He added that the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal enables anonymous reporting of crimes against women and children. The Centre has released ₹132.93 crore under the CCPWC scheme, set up cyber forensic labs in 33 States and Union Territories, and trained over 24,600 personnel in cyber crime investigation.

Collector Flags Off Waste Collection Vehicles for Waste Pickers



Nellore, August 5 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Himanshu Shukla flagged off waste collection vehicles for 30 waste pickers on Wednesday as part of an initiative by the Navajeevan Organization to create employment opportunities. The event was held at the District Collectorate under the supervision of District Revenue Officer N. Vijayakumar. Speaking on the occasion, Navajeevan Organization President Kalvapalli Sahadevayya said the organization has been working for the welfare of waste pickers in Nellore district for the past 30 years through health, education and economic development programmes. He said the organization is currently implementing various initiatives for the upliftment of 2,059 waste pickers. Sahadevayya added that, in collaboration with NSKFDC across five South Indian states, the organization is promoting a shift from manual sanitation to mechanized sanitation while making waste pickers active partners in the process to improve their livelihoods. Organization Vice-President Victoria, Program Coordinator Vijay Bhaskar, Coordinator Penchalayya, and representatives of the organization and P4 attended the programme.

APSPDCL CMD Directs Officials to Ensure Uninterrupted Power for Industries



Tirupati, August 5 | TPN Bureau

APSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Shivashankar Lotheti directed officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply to industries across the corporation's jurisdiction during a monthly video conference with industrial consumers on Wednesday. He said the interaction, held on the first Wednesday of every month, aims to address electricity-related issues faced by industries. A total of 29 industrial consumers from nine districts registered their grievances, while 23 participated in the session conducted from the APSPDCL corporate office. The consumers sought quality and uninterrupted power supply, speedy modification of HT lines, and resolution of billing-related issues. Responding to the concerns, Shivashankar Lotheti assured that APSPDCL is committed to providing reliable electricity and prompt services to industrial consumers. He said the corporation is upgrading infrastructure to prevent power disruptions and instructed officials to resolve billing issues without delay. The CMD also directed field-level officials and staff to give top priority to resolving industrial electricity-related complaints. Director (Technical & HRD) K. Guravayya, Chief General Managers M. Murali Kumar and K. Sampath Kumar, General Managers Srikanth and Chakrapani, and other officials participated in the programme.

Collector Calls for Greater Awareness of 'My Bharat' Programmes Among Youth

Chittoor, August 5 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Sumit Kumar stressed the need to create widespread awareness among young people about the Central government's My Bharat programmes. He chaired a review meeting of the District Advisory Committee of My Bharat, functioning under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, at the Collectorate on Wednesday. The Collector directed officials to take My Bharat initiatives to every village and educational institution so that all eligible youth can benefit. He said skill development, volunteer opportunities and youth empowerment are essential for nation-building and urged government departments, educational institutions and voluntary organisations to work in coordination for the successful implementation of the programmes. The meeting reviewed the My Bharat Action Plan for 2026-27 and discussed initiatives related to skill development, volunteer activities, environmental protection, disaster management, health awareness and community service. Suggestions were invited from various stakeholders to strengthen programme implementation. District Youth Officer Pradeep Kumar, My Bharat Programme Supervisor G. Srinivasulu, District Advisory Committee member Harish Kalvakunta, NSS programme officers, officials from various departments, representatives of educational institutions and volunteers attended the meeting.

Bharat's Birthday Celebrated with Social Service Activities

Kurnool, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Industries, Commerce and Food Processing Minister T.G. Bharath on Wednesday reiterated the State Government's commitment to transforming Kurnool into a smart city with improved infrastructure and better traffic management. Speaking during his birthday celebrations, the minister said the government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is implementing planned initiatives to accelerate the city's development. He inaugurated a newly constructed road near Ballari Chowrasta, built at a cost of RS.1.5 crore, which will divert traffic from Hyderabad via SAP Camp Road to the New Bus Stand, easing congestion at one of the



city's busiest junctions. Bharath also inaugurated blood donation camps, distributed sarees to women beneficiaries, launched an annadanam programme, planted saplings, distributed fruits to patients at the Eye Hospital, and inaugurated a new Aadhaar Seva

Kendra. He said the government remains focused on strengthening urban infrastructure while continuing welfare initiatives, adding that improving connectivity and resolving traffic bottlenecks are key priorities for Kurnool's long-term growth.

Government Resolving Public Issues Says MLA Krishna Chaitanya Reddy

Kadapa, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Kamalapuram Putta Krishna Chaitanya Reddy said the Alliance government has been resolving public issues efficiently since assuming office in Andhra Pradesh. He made the remarks while participating in the "Intintiki Telugu Desam Party" programme at Veldurthi village in Veerapunayunipalle mandal on Wednesday. The MLA visited households, interacted with residents and explained the welfare and development initiatives implemented by the Alliance government over the past two years. He also received petitions from villagers and assured them that their grievances would be addressed. Addressing the gathering, Putta Krishna Chaitanya Reddy alleged that the previous YSRCP government had weakened several public systems, while the present Alliance government has restored them and is fulfilling its election promises through welfare and development programmes. The



MLA received a warm welcome from villagers on his arrival. Telugu Desam Party leaders, local representatives, party workers and supporters participated in the programme.

Coordinated Efforts Needed to Achieve Zero Maternal and Infant Deaths



Tirupati, August 5 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar directed all departments to work in coordination to achieve the goals of zero infant mortality (IMR) and zero maternal mortality (MMR) under a pilot project launched at the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Venkatagiri. Chairing a district-level review meeting, he said preventing maternal and infant deaths is a shared responsibility of all departments, not just the Health

Department. The Collector instructed field staff to closely monitor every pregnant woman, identify high-risk pregnancies at an early stage, and ensure timely medical care, nutritional support, and referrals to higher hospitals whenever required. He also stressed seamless coordination between ambulance services, hospitals, and medical personnel during emergencies. Highlighting the need to prevent child marriages and teenage pregnancies, Dr. Venkateswar directed officials from the Health, Women and Child Welfare, and Education departments to conduct awareness programmes and take immediate action wherever such cases are reported. He also instructed health workers to ensure continuous monitoring of mothers and newborns before and after delivery. Every maternal or infant death, he said, must be thoroughly reviewed to identify the causes and prevent similar incidents in the future. DCHS Dr. Anandamurthy, DIO Dr. Shanthakumari, CHC Superintendent Dr. Raghavendra, DSP Srinivas, DRDA Project Director Shobhan Babu, DPMO Dr. Tulasidas, DPHNO Manjula, medical officers, and other officials attended the meeting.

Arani Srinivasulu Prioritises Internal Road Development

Tirupati, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu said the Alliance government is giving top priority to the construction of internal roads to ensure smooth and safe travel for motorists and pedestrians. On Wednesday, he inaugurated cement concrete (CC) roads and drainage works worth RS.1.028 crore at Peddakapu Layout, Lakshimpuram Circle and Royal Nagar, along with Alliance leaders. The MLA said the government is not only constructing new roads but also taking steps to keep existing roads pothole-free. He added that drainage systems are being upgraded alongside road works to prevent leakages and improve public convenience. Arani Srinivasulu said the Alliance



government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, is focusing on balanced development and welfare. He also announced plans to strengthen sanitation by increasing the use of machinery and deploying sanitation workers

in three shifts to keep Tirupati clean. TTD Board member Panabaka Lakshmi, TDP leader J.B. Srinivas, Janasena city president Raja Reddy, municipal officials and public representatives attended the programme.

TUDA Plans Water Conservation to End Tirupati's Water Shortage



Tirupati, August 5 | TPN Bureau

TUDA Chairman Diwakar Reddy said plans are being prepared to conserve every drop of rainwater flowing from the Tirumala Seshachala hills to address Tirupati's

drinking water shortage. As part of the "City of Lakes" project, he, along with Municipal Commissioner Sarada Devi and officials from TUDA, Municipal Administration and Irrigation departments, inspected Divyaramam, Malvadi Gundam and Kapila Theertham. Diwakar Reddy said storing rainwater locally would improve groundwater levels and ensure a reliable water supply for residents. He noted that expanding three existing ponds near Kapila Theertham and constructing recharge pits along a 200-metre stretch would enhance water storage. He added that developing larger water bodies across a five-kilometre area could meet the city's future water needs while benefiting pilgrims visiting Tirumala. He said Peruru reservoir beautification tenders have been finalized and works will be taken up using state government funds without affecting the natural environment. Several TUDA, municipal, irrigation and police officials attended the inspection.

Surya Ghar Scheme Sees Strong Progress in State

Chittoor (New Delhi), August 5 | TPN Bureau

The Pradhan Mantri-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGBY), a flagship rooftop solar initiative of the Central Government, is making significant progress in Andhra Pradesh, according to Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasada Rao. Participating in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, Daggumalla Prasada Rao raised a question in the Lok Sabha seeking details about empanelled vendors under the scheme in Andhra Pradesh. Responding in a written reply, Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik shared the latest implementation data. According to the reply, as of July 31, 2026, a total of 9,04,508 households in Andhra Pradesh had applied for the scheme, while rooftop solar systems had been installed on 2,66,417 homes. As many as 2,70,932 households have benefited from free electricity, and the Centre has released financial assistance of ₹1,512.61 crore to the state. Nationally, the scheme has received 76.81 lakh applications, with 41.19 lakh installations completed. Around 49.62 lakh families have benefited, and subsidies worth ₹27,855.99 crore have been released.



The Union Minister said the Centre has introduced several measures to improve implementation, including online processing of subsidies within 15 days, collateral-free loans at 5.75% interest for 10 years, simplified vendor registration, automatic load enhancement up to 10 kW, awareness campaigns, technical training, and a multilingual toll-free grievance helpline (15555). Daggumalla Prasada Rao said the Minister informed Parliament that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and REC Ltd. are working closely with all DISCOMs to ensure effective implementation of the scheme across the country.

Avinash Reddy Urges Centre to Restore Railway Concession for Journalists

New Delhi, August 5 | TPN Bureau

YSR Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Railways, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw to restore railway travel concessions for accredited journalists. In separate letters, the MP said the concession scheme had been an important welfare measure for journalists for decades. He noted that the facility, introduced in the late 1950s, was expanded over the years, with a photo identity card-based system launched in 2009 and extended to spouses, dependent children and, in some cases, escorts in 2010. Journalists were also allowed to book concession tickets online through the IRCTC portal from 2016. Avinash Reddy pointed out that the concession was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but has



not been restored despite the resumption of normal railway services. He urged the Centre to direct the Ministry of Railways to reinstate the benefit at the earliest, considering the vital role journalists play in society. Several journalists welcomed the MP's initiative and thanked him for raising the issue.

Bypass Road Opened to Ease Traffic at Bellary Junction

Kurnool, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Industries, Commerce and Food Processing T.G. Bharat inaugurated a newly constructed bypass road at Bellary Junction on Wednesday, stating that the project will significantly ease traffic congestion and provide smoother travel for motorists in Kurnool city. The bypass road, built at a cost of ₹1.55 crore behind the Anjaneyaswamy Temple, was inaugurated in the presence of Municipal Corporation Commissioner Challa Obulesu, KUDA Chairman Somishetti Venkateswarlu and APSP 2nd Battalion Commandant Deepika Patil. Addressing the gathering, T.G. Bharat said the government is implementing traffic management measures in phases. He noted that the widening of the turn near Budhawarapeta Medical College has been completed, while road widening from Kids World to Kallur Darwaza will begin soon. The new bypass offers an alternative route for vehicles travelling from Hyderabad towards the bus



stand, reducing congestion and saving commuters valuable time. Commissioner Challa Obulesu said construction began in February and was completed with quality standards after obtaining necessary permissions from the Police Department. He said ₹69.50 lakh from general funds was used for a goshala and compound wall, while ₹85 lakh from the 15th Finance Commission funds financed the road and drainage works. APSP Battalion DSP Mahabooob Basha, SE Ramanamurthy, ACP Sirigiri Shabnam Sastry, MEs Manohar Reddy and Giriraj, AE Shashavali and other officials attended the programme.

HANUMAN Team Rescues Vulnerable Sambar Deer

Amaravati, August 05 | TPN Bureau

A Schedule-I Sambar Deer (Rusa unicorn), listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), was rescued by the Andhra Pradesh Government's HANUMAN emergency response team after it accidentally fell into the Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) Canal while searching for water. The Forest Department responded within 20 minutes of receiving the alert and safely rescued the animal from the canal. The deer was later shifted to the Karuna Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre for treatment and veterinary care. Officials said the operation highlights the efficiency of the HANUMAN emergency response system and the Forest Department's commitment to wildlife conservation. They added that the swift rescue ensured the protected animal received timely medical attention, reflecting the state's focus on rapid response and scientific care for wildlife.

YSRCP Demands CBI Probe Into Mega DSC Recruitment

Kadapa, August 5 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Kamalapuram constituency in-charge Naren Ramanujula Reddy alleged that there is concrete evidence of irregularities in the Mega DSC recruitment process and demanded a CBI investigation into the matter. Speaking at a programme titled "Daga DSC - Mega Mosalu" organised in Kamalapuram on Wednesday, he claimed the recruitment process was marred by serious irregularities and said the YSRCP would intensify its agitation, seeking the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh on moral grounds. Naren Ramanujula Reddy also urged the government to immediately release pending fee reimbursement funds for students and fulfil its election promise of providing a monthly unemployment allowance of RS.3,000 to unemployed youth. He said the YSRCP would continue its protests until justice is delivered to DSC candidates and announced a major public meeting in Kamalapuram on August 10 with the participation of students and unemployed youth. YSRCP leaders, public representatives, party workers and supporters attended the programme.

Magunta Seeks Details on Marine Fish Feed Certification Funds

New Delhi, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy raised a question in the Lok Sabha regarding financial assistance provided under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for obtaining global-standard certification for marine fish feed. Responding to the query, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh said PMMSY has been implemented across the country, including Andhra Pradesh, since 2020-21 to strengthen fisheries infrastructure and quality standards. He said RS.4.50 crore has been sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam and Chhattisgarh to support fish hatcheries, inland fish farming and fish feed mills. Andhra Pradesh received RS.1.68



crore under the scheme. The Minister added that the Fishery Survey of India and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute undertake

resource monitoring, scientific research and certification-related activities to improve marine fish quality and boost exports.

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Seeks Relief for Jute Mill Workers

New Delhi, August 5 | TPN Bureau

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar on Wednesday urged the Central Government to release unemployment allowance to workers affected by the closure of Sri Krishna Jute Mill in Eluru and Krishna Hessians unit at Kothuru. Raising the issue under Rule 377 in the Lok Sabha, Mahesh Kumar said nearly 4,000 workers lost their livelihoods following the closure of the two units. He stated that the workers are eligible for unemployment assistance under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana of the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948. He said only around 200 workers from the Kothuru unit have received the benefit, while claims of others remain pending despite applications submitted after the final settlement agreement signed on



June 22, 2023. The MP urged the Centre to direct ESI authorities to consider the matter as a special case and expedite the release of pending allowances to provide relief to affected workers and their families.

Lokesh Receives Welcome During Visakhapatnam Visit



Visakhapatnam, August 5 | TPN Bureau

HRD Minister Nara Lokesh received a warm welcome during his visit to the IBM facility at Isuka Thota and the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the PV Sindhu Badminton Academy. Large numbers of people greeted him with placards saying "Thank you, Lokesh Sir" and raised slogans in support. AP Unemployed JAC State President Samayam Hemanth Kumar appealed to unemployed youth not to believe what he termed "artificial" unemployed JACs. He alleged that the previous YSRCP government harassed job aspirants and filed cases against those seeking employment. Hemanth Kumar said only one genuine AP Unemployed JAC exists and claimed that political forces were attempting to create confusion among youth. Referring to the Mega DSC recruitment process, he said a court questioned a YSRCP MLC over approaching it instead of affected candidates. He said another DSC notification and job calendar are expected soon and advised aspirants to prepare. He also urged the government to raise the upper age limit and fill Police Department and DSC vacancies.

Collector Inaugurates Subsidised Rice Sales Centre

Markapuram, August 5 | TPN Bureau

District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha on Wednesday said the state government has launched special subsidised rice sales centres to protect consumers from rising market prices due to deficient rainfall and El Niño impact. The Collector, along with Markapuram MLA Kandula Narayana Reddy and Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu, inaugurated a rice sales centre at Markapuram Estate and distributed 10-kg rice packets to beneficiaries. Vijaya Sunitha said the initiative was launched in coordination with the Civil Supplies Department and Rice Millers' Association to supply quality rice at affordable prices. She said BPT raw rice is being sold at RS.50 per kg against the market price of RS.58, while BPT steam rice is available at RS.52 per kg against RS.62. She urged ration cardholders to utilise the facility by producing Aadhaar or ration cards. Officials and millers' representatives attended the programme.

138 Acres Korukonda Inam Lands Removed From Section 22A List

Rajanagaram, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna on Wednesday said 138 acres of Korukonda Inam lands have been removed from the prohibited list under Section 22A in the first phase, marking progress in resolving the long-pending issue. Reviewing the matter with revenue officials, the MLA said the decision would allow farmers to exercise ownership rights and undertake land transactions without restrictions. He urged eligible farmers to complete mutation processes and assured that the remaining 106 acres would be removed from the list within 15 days. Balaramakrishna directed officials to expedite land re-surveys, resolve mutation cases, protect common sites in layouts and ensure transparent revenue services. He also instructed Civil Supplies officials to monitor biometric distribution of quality rice and essential commodities. The MLA reiterated that farmers' welfare remains the government's priority.

Purandeswari Seeks Centre's Support for Drought-Hit Farmers

New Delhi, August 5 | TPN Bureau

BJP Andhra Pradesh President and MP Daggubati Purandeswari on Wednesday urged the Centre to provide immediate support to farmers affected by deficient rainfall and drought-like conditions in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking under Rule 377 in Parliament, Purandeswari said weak Southwest Monsoon conditions and prolonged dry spells due to El Niño have severely impacted Kharif cultivation across the state. She said several districts recorded significant rainfall deficits by mid-July, affecting soil moisture and creating uncertainty among farmers. She expressed concern over rain-fed areas of Rayalaseema, where delayed sowing and inadequate irrigation have increased the risk of crop losses. She

urged the Centre to closely monitor the situation and take timely relief measures. Purandeswari sought technical and financial assistance for district-level crop contingency plans, supply of drought-resistant seeds, protective irrigation facilities, fodder support and speedy settlement of crop insurance claims. She also requested additional employment opportunities under the Viksit Bharat -



Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajivika Mission (VB-GRAMG) for farmers and rural workers affected by the situation.

Govt Focuses on Village Development, Says Ravikumar



Addanki, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravikumar participated in the "Two Years of Trust - Development and Welfare" programme

at Budhavada village in J. Panguluru mandal of Addanki constituency. Addressing villagers, Ravikumar highlighted the development and welfare initiatives implemented by the Alliance

government under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's leadership over the past two years. He interacted with residents and received their suggestions. The Minister inaugurated an SC community hall constructed at a cost of 730 lakh and said new roads and side drains are being developed to improve public amenities. He inspected an Anganwadi centre and reviewed the quality of eggs supplied to children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Ravikumar urged eligible SC families to utilise the PM Surya Ghar scheme and said the government's aim is village development and welfare for every family. Later, he conducted a grievance redressal programme, received petitions from residents and directed officials to resolve issues promptly. Several TDP leaders participated.

Minister Kandula Durgesh Orders Swift Relief After Heavy Rains



Nidadavolu, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Wednesday directed officials to take immediate relief measures after heavy rains caused waterlogging at Sri Kota Sattamma Temple in Thimmarajupalem and inundated stretches of the Nidadavolu-Ernagudem and

Nidadavolu-Kamsalipalem roads. Acting on the Minister's instructions, officials rushed to the spot, assessed the situation, and launched relief operations. Water hyacinth blocking the irrigation canal was removed using JCBs, while floodwater that entered the temple premises was pumped out to restore normalcy. The Minister also instructed officials to complete sanitation works and disinfect the affected areas with bleaching powder and other disinfectants. He directed them to ensure that devotees could continue to have Antaralaya darshan without inconvenience during the restoration work. Durgesh further asked officials to maintain uninterrupted traffic on the affected roads and remain on high alert throughout the monsoon season to prevent inconvenience to the public. Residents and devotees appreciated the swift response of the Minister and the district administration in resolving the issue promptly.

AITUC Demands Withdrawal Of GOs On Vehicle Fines

Eluru, August 5 | TPN Bureau

AITUC Eluru District General Secretary Reddy Srinivas Dange on Wednesday demanded immediate withdrawal of GO Nos. 21 and 31, alleging that they impose heavy fines on auto-rickshaws and motor transport vehicles. Speaking at the poster launch of the 4th State Conference of Andhra Pradesh Auto and Motor Transport Workers Union at Mother Teresa Auto Stand near Eluru railway station, Dange said the conference will be held in Visakhapatnam on August 20 and 21. He demanded a welfare board for auto drivers with PF, ESI and pension benefits, besides a minimum monthly wage of RS.36,000 for heavy vehicle drivers. AITUC leaders Bandi Venkateswara Rao and A. Appalaraju sought reduction of insurance and taxes, while Kasi Krishna highlighted livelihood concerns due to declining passengers after Rapido services.

ABVP Shutdown Over Student Issues

Chirala, August 6 | TPN Bureau

The educational institution shutdown called by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) was observed peacefully in Chirala on Wednesday as part of a statewide protest over student issues. ABVP leaders persuaded several government and private schools and colleges in the town to remain closed and urged the government to address pending demands of students. The organisation demanded immediate release of fee reimbursement and scholarship arrears, withdrawal of GO No. 77, better amenities and quality food in government welfare hostels, and action against high fees charged by corporate educational institutions. ABVP activists and students took out a rally through the main streets of Chirala, raising slogans in support of their demands. Leaders said the protest was peaceful and warned that the agitation would be intensified if the issues were not resolved soon.

Police Participate in Haritandhra Plantation Drive

Markapuram, August 5 | TPN Bureau

The Haritandhra programme, an initiative of the Andhra Pradesh government to promote greenery, was observed at the Kambham Police Station on Wednesday with a tree plantation drive. Kambham Circle Inspector Mallikarjuna supervised the programme, while Kambham Mandal Sub-Inspector Sivakrishna Reddy planted saplings on the police station premises. Addressing the gathering, the officials stressed the importance of planting and nurturing trees to protect the environment and increase green cover. They said conserving nature is a collective responsibility and urged citizens to actively participate in plantation drives. The officials also directed police personnel to ensure proper care and protection of the newly planted saplings so they grow into healthy trees and contribute to a cleaner environment. The officials said the Haritandhra initiative aims to increase green cover across the state through active public participation. They appealed to educational institutions, government offices, and voluntary organisations to take part in plantation drives and ensure the survival of every sapling planted for a greener future.

MLA Prabhakar Distributes CMRF Cheques to Beneficiaries

Eluru, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques to two families at his camp office on Wednesday, extending financial support for medical treatment expenses. Akkina Anantha Lakshmi and U. Krishna Kishore of Kondaraovapalem village in Pedavegi Mandal had recently undergone medical treatment. The MLA secured CMRF assistance and handed over cheques worth RS.1.40 lakh and RS.80,158 respectively. The beneficiaries' families expressed gratitude for the timely support. Later, during the regular Praja Darbar programme, alliance leaders, officials and members of the public met Prabhakar and submitted representations on various civic issues. The MLA directed officials to resolve grievances promptly and assured that eligible beneficiaries would continue to receive support through government welfare schemes. He said the government is committed to addressing public issues through continuous outreach and improving services across the constituency.

Eluru Leaders Get Key Posts in Mega Youth Force

Eluru, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Mega Youth Force, established by Konidela Sushmita to expand the service activities of Chiranjeevi Blood Bank, announced its new executive committee with three leaders from Eluru receiving key responsibilities. Katta Adi was appointed as State Joint Convener, Ramiseti Kalyan as Joint District Official Spokesperson, and Devabathula Aravind as Eluru City Convener. APSRTC Vijayawada Zonal Chairman and Eluru In-charge Reddy Appalanaidu felicitated the newly appointed office-bearers at the Jana Sena Party office in Eluru on Wednesday. Appalanaidu said Mega fans have been actively involved in social service activities, including blood and eye donations, and appreciated Chiranjeevi's encouragement to youth towards community service. He expressed confidence that the new leaders would strengthen welfare activities in Eluru. State Handloom Secretary Donepudi Lovaraju, State Kamma Corporation Director Kavuri Vanisri, district and city Jana Sena leaders, activists, Veera Mahilas, Janasainiks and Mega fans participated.

MLA Chanti Distributes CMRF Aid Worth RS.76.81 Lakh

Eluru, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MLA and District Telugu Desam Party President Badeti Chanti distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) assistance and Letters of Credit (LoCs) worth RS.76.81 lakh to 62 beneficiaries at his camp office in Powerpet on Wednesday. The MLA handed over 55 CMRF cheques worth RS.49.80 lakh and seven LoCs worth RS.27.01 lakh to families facing medical emergencies. The assistance will help beneficiaries meet treatment expenses. Badeti Chanti said the Alliance government's priority is the health and welfare of poor families and assured that eligible beneficiaries would continue to receive timely support. He said CMRF has provided major relief to families during medical crises. He informed that 778 beneficiaries in Eluru constituency have received CMRF assistance of RS.7.12 crore so far. Meeravali, Mamillapalli Parthasarathi, Peddiboyina Sivaprasad, Chode Venkataratnam and others attended the programme.

Padmavathi Inaugurates RS.1.13-Crore Development Works

Narsipatnam, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Development works worth RS.1.13 crore were inaugurated in Ward No. 14 of Narsipatnam Municipality on Wednesday in the presence of Chintakayala Padmavathi, wife of Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyannapratrudu, and TDP town president Chintakayala Rajesh. The projects include newly constructed CC roads, drains and a pilot water supply scheme in Jogunadunipalem, Subbarayudupalem and Appanadorapalem. Foundation stones were also laid for additional infrastructure works. Speaking on the occasion, Padmavathi said the municipality is witnessing rapid development under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Speaker Ayyannapratrudu. She said 189 roads, culverts and drains have been completed over the past two years, while RS.32 crore has been sanctioned for municipal development. She added that the government is improving drinking water supply, street lighting and sanitation infrastructure while implementing welfare schemes, assuring residents that the remaining development works in the ward would also be completed on schedule.



CREDAI Welcomes AP Building Rule Reforms

Amaravati, August 5 | TPN Bureau

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) Andhra Pradesh has thanked the Andhra Pradesh government for issuing G.O. Ms. No. 161, introducing key amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017. A delegation led by State President Bayana Srinivasa Rao, Chairman Buddiga Srinivasu, and Secretary D. Rambabu met Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana in Amaravati to express its appreciation. The delegation, comprising office-bearers and representatives from all 22 CREDAI city chapters, said the reforms would simplify building approval procedures, improve ease of doing business, and support planned urban development across the state. CREDAI also thanked Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar, IAS, the Director of Town and Country Planning, and MA&UD officials for their role in implementing the amendments. Srinivasa Rao described G.O. Ms. No. 161 as a landmark reform that addresses long-pending industry concerns while ensuring faster, transparent, and citizen-friendly approvals. He also thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister P. Narayana for their support to the real estate sector.

Udaya Sena Invites Applications for Brahmin Committee Posts

Visakhapatnam, August 5 | TPN Bureau

Udaya Sena founding president Vaddadi Udaya Kumar on Wednesday announced that applications are invited for the post of State Convener of the party's Brahmin Empowerment Committee. He said members of the Brahmin community committed to the welfare, empowerment and development of Brahmins are eligible to apply. Candidates must be below 60 years of age. Udaya Kumar said District Coordinators will also be appointed in all 28 districts of Andhra Pradesh to strengthen the party's organisational structure and expand welfare initiatives. He added that after forming state and district committees, mandal, village and ward-level committees will be constituted to build a strong grassroots network and address community issues. Interested persons can contact Vaddadi Udaya Kumar for details regarding the application process and eligibility criteria.

Collector, SP Review Arrangements for CM Naidu's Bapatla Visit

Chirala, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District Collector Vinod Kumar V. and Superintendent of Police B. Uma Maheswar on Wednesday reviewed administrative and security arrangements for Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's visit to the district on August 7 to mark National Handloom Day. The officials inspected the helipad, public meeting venue, stage, seating arrangements, parking areas, barricading, drinking water facilities and the Chief Minister's convoy route. They directed all departments to coordinate closely to ensure smooth conduct of the programme. During the visit, Chief Minister Naidu will launch the Nethanna Seva scheme, providing RS.25,000 financial assistance to eligible handloom weavers, and interact with beneficiaries at Jandrapeta in Chirala mandal. SP Uma Maheswar instructed police to implement foolproof security, establish double-line barricading, strengthen CCTV surveillance and ensure effective traffic management. Officials said elaborate arrangements have been made as thousands of weavers, beneficiaries, public representatives and party workers are expected to attend the event.

Editorial

August 5: A Date That Redefined NDA's Political Journey

August 5 has emerged as one of the most significant dates in India's recent political history, associated with two landmark decisions taken during the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In two consecutive years, this date witnessed developments that transformed the country's constitutional and cultural discourse.

In 2019, the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A marked a historic turning point in Jammu and Kashmir's political journey. The decision removed the region's special constitutional provisions and reorganized it into two Union Territories-Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The NDA government described the move as an effort to achieve greater national integration, ensure equal rights, improve governance, and accelerate development in the region.

The decision also reflected a long-standing ideological demand associated with the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and other organisations of the broader Sangh Parivar, which had advocated the removal of Article 370 for decades. While the final decision was taken by the elected government through constitutional procedures, the issue had remained an important part of their ideological agenda. Supporters viewed it as the fulfilment of a historic commitment, while critics raised concerns over federal principles, democratic consultation, and the manner of implementation. A year later, on August 5, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the bhoomi puja for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, marking the beginning of construction after a prolonged legal and social dispute. The Ram Janmabhoomi movement, in which the VHP played a central organisational role, had been one of the most prominent campaigns in India's modern political history. The temple construction was seen by supporters as the fulfilment of a decades-old cultural aspiration following the Supreme Court verdict, while also marking the conclusion of a significant chapter in India's political discourse. Together, these two decisions gave August 5 a special place in the NDA's political narrative. However, in the years that followed, no other decision of similar historical and ideological significance has been taken by the NDA government. The changing political landscape, increased dependence on alliance partners after the 2024 elections, and the participation of parties with different ideological perspectives have influenced the government's approach towards major policy decisions. August 5 therefore remains unique-a date remembered for decisive actions that shaped debates on national integration, identity, culture, and governance, leaving a lasting impact on India's political journey.

Editor

The Timeless Legacy of the "Diviseema Gandhi"

Centenary Tribute to Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao (1926-1997)

Dr. Arja Srikanth



Commissioner,
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The birth centenary of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao is not merely the commemoration of a remarkable individual; it is a celebration of an enduring philosophy of public service rooted in compassion, integrity, and Gandhian values. Revered across Andhra Pradesh as the "Diviseema ma Gandhi," he exemplified a rare blend of political wisdom, moral courage, and cultural vision. His life remains a shining testament to the belief that leadership derives its greatness not from authority or power, but from selfless service to humanity.

Among his many contributions, his response to the catastrophic Diviseema cyclone of 1977 stands as one of the finest examples of humanitarian leadership in independent India. At a time when over 10,000 lives were lost, and entire villages lay devastated, Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao chose duty over office. Setting aside political considerations, he immersed himself in relief and rehabilitation,

often wading through floodwaters to comfort survivors. His unforgettable conviction-"We must first go forward to console those in pain"-captured the essence of his leadership. He proved that in moments of crisis, people seek not merely administrators but compassionate leaders who stand beside them. His commitment to social justice was equally transformative. Understanding that poverty could not be eradicated without economic empowerment, he pioneered the distribution of nearly 15,000 acres of barren land to landless families in the Diviseema region. This visionary initiative gave thousands an opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity and self-reliance, demonstrating that genuine governance creates opportunities rather than dependence.

Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao was also a distinguished champion of Telugu language and culture. As the chief architect of the First World Telugu Conference in 1975, he united Telugu-speaking communities from across the world, fostering a renewed sense of linguistic pride and cultural identity. His efforts ultimately led to the establishment of the International Telugu Centre, preserving and promoting Telugu heritage for future generations. As Education Minister, he introduced the culturally meaningful tradition of Guru Poojotsavam, reaffirming the timeless Indian reverence for teachers and learning. His life offers invaluable lessons for contemporary society. In an age when politics is often judged by electoral success, he demonstrated that the highest purpose of public office is public welfare. In an era of sophisticated disaster management technologies, he reminded us that empathy, physical presence, and human connection remain irreplaceable.

His philosophy of respecting one's mother tongue while embracing global knowledge continues to inspire a balanced vision of cultural confi-

dence and international engagement. Mandali Venkata Krishn a Rao also taught that true leadership transcends divisions. He united political rivals, intellectuals, and cultural leaders in pursuit of common goals. He proved that character outweighs credentials, that values endure beyond positions, and that one can remain deeply rooted in local traditions while nurturing a global outlook. As we celebrate the centenary of



ence and international engagement. Mandali Venkata Krishn a Rao also taught that true leadership transcends divisions. He united political rivals, intellectuals, and cultural leaders in pursuit of common goals. He proved that character outweighs credentials, that values endure beyond positions, and that one can remain deeply rooted in local traditions while nurturing a global outlook. As we celebrate the centenary of

this extraordinary son of Andhra Pradesh, we do more than honour his memory-we reaffirm the ideals he lived by. His legacy is a timeless blueprint for ethical governance, compassionate leadership, and cultural renaissance. The "Diviseema Gandhi" may no longer walk among us. Still, his ideals continue to inspire every generation that believes politics can be a noble mission of service, humanity, and nation-building.

Taslima Nasrin Reopening of a Long Silenced Window

Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee



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She came, She saw and She conquered the mind of Kolkata people. Taslima Nasrin's return to Kolkata was like a physical homecoming and more like the reopening of a long silenced window. After decades of exile, debate, and distance, her footsteps on the city's old pavements echoed with the unresolved questions of freedom, identity, and dissent. Kolkata, a city that has always carried the pulse of rebellion in its veins, greeted her not merely as a writer but as a symbol of unfinished conversations. Her presence stirred the air of Rabindra Sadan where the mind was without fear and the head was held high. It roused the dormant College Street, where arguments rise like incense, and Park Street, where nostalgia walks beside modernity.

In this return, the city's cultural conscience was once again tested. Taslima's voice-sharp, unyielding, and rooted in human rights-met a Kolkata that has changed yet remains emotionally porous. For many, her arrival is not the coming of a Swedish citizen or that of a Bangladeshi writer in exile but a restoration of moral courage; for others, a reminder of controversies that once divided public sentiment. But beyond all reactions, her return would reaffirm the city's historic commitment to dialogue. Kolkata has always embraced complexity, and Taslima's reappearance will deepen that legacy, turning

the city once more into a living forum where literature and life confront each other without fear.

Taslima Nasrin is one of the most controversial and influential writers of contemporary South Asian literature. A physician by training and a writer by passion, she has become internationally known for her fearless advocacy of women's rights, secularism, freedom of expression, and human dignity. Born in Mymensingh, Bangladesh, in 1962, Nasrin began her literary career as a poet before expanding into fiction, memoir, essays, and journalism. Over the decades, her works have sparked intense debate, admiration, criticism, and censorship, making her one of the most widely discussed Bengali authors of modern times. Nasrin's literary career began with poetry in the early 1980s. Her poems often express loneliness, love, rebellion, and the emotional struggles of women living in patriarchal societies. Unlike traditional romantic poetry, her verse frequently challenges social conventions and questions the unequal treatment of women. Her poetry established her distinctive literary voice-direct, emotionally charged, and uncompromising. Her reputation grew substantially with the publication of the novel Lajja (Shame) in 1993. Set against the backdrop of communal violence in Bangladesh following the demolition of the Babri Masjid in India, the novel fol-

lows a Hindu family facing persecution and insecurity. Rather than presenting a conventional political narrative, the novel explores the human cost of communal hatred through the lives of ordinary people. Lajja was translated into numerous languages and gained international recognition, while also becoming the center of intense controversy in Bangladesh. The novel remains an important work in discussions of communal conflict, minority rights, and the responsibilities of literature in times of crisis. Another significant novel is Shodh (Revenge), which examines marriage, betrayal, and female self-respect. The novel portrays a woman who refuses to remain a passive victim of patriarchal injustice and instead asserts control over her own life. Through psychological depth and realistic characterization, Nasrin questions traditional expectations imposed upon women. French Lover presents a different aspect of her literary vision.

Set partly in Europe, the novel explores migration, loneliness, cultural identity, and the search for personal freedom. It examines how geographical distance does not necessarily free individuals from emotional isolation or social expectations. The novel also reflects on the experiences of immigrant women negotiating between different cultures. Equally important are Taslima Nasrin's autobiographical writings. Interesting it is to note that Taslima Nasrin did not write a single word against Islam in her novel Lajja. The very novel for which she was driven out of her homeland contains no direct criticism of Islam. She wrote an article in which she argued that reli-



gious minorities in those countries had little protection and describes a situation in which extremists targeted Hindu communities. It also referred to more recent incidents of attacks on Hindu temples and homes in Bangladesh, citing the case of Dipu Das as an example. Her memoirs form one of the most remarkable autobiographical projects in modern Bengali literature. Beginning with Amar Meyebela (My Girlhood), she recounts her childhood, education, family life, and early intellectual development. The memoir presents a vivid picture of Bengali society while tracing the evolution of a young girl

determined to think independently. Subsequent volumes such as Uttal Hawa, Ka, Dwikhandito, Sei Sob Andhokar, and Nirbasan continue the story of her literary career, public controversies, exile, and personal struggles. These memoirs combine intimate recollections with reflections on politics, religion, literature, and freedom of expression. They have become valuable documents for readers interested in contemporary South Asian cultural and political history. Nasrin has also written numerous collections of essays and newspaper columns. Her non-fiction addresses issues such as

women's education, legal equality, domestic violence, secular democracy, minority rights, and freedom of speech. She argues that societies progress through reason, education, scientific thinking, and equal rights rather than through intolerance or discrimination. Whether or not readers agree with her conclusions, her essays consistently encourage critical discussion of social institutions and cultural traditions. By transforming personal experience into literary expression, she has expanded the scope of contemporary Bengali writing and encouraged readers to engage critically with

questions of justice, equality, and social responsibility. Today, Taslima Nasrin occupies a distinctive place in world literature. Her writings remain an important part of contemporary discussions on literature, feminism, secularism, and the universal quest for human freedom.

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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.

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.

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-



taineers. 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.



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 Mekeledatu 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 Feroz 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.

Iran War Drains US Missile Defences

The prolonged conflict with Iran has placed unprecedented pressure on the United States' missile defence capabilities, with reports suggesting that a significant portion of America's advanced interceptor stockpile has been consumed during months of military operations. The development has sparked concerns among defence analysts about the country's preparedness for any future large-scale conflict involving other major powers.

According to recent reports, the United States has used a substantial number of its most advanced missile interceptors, including the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system and Patriot air defence missiles. These systems have been deployed extensively to protect American forces and allied nations from repeated missile and drone attacks during the conflict. The high operational tempo has reportedly placed enormous strain on existing inventories. Apart from missile interceptors, reports indicate that the US military has also expended a large portion of its long-range precision weapons, including Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS), Precision Strike Missiles (PrSM)



and a significant number of Tomahawk cruise missiles. Defence experts believe the pace of missile usage has exceeded normal production levels, making replenishment a major challenge for the Pentagon. Military analysts warn that shrinking stockpiles could reduce America's ability to respond quickly if another major conflict were to emerge elsewhere, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region or Europe. The possibility of simultaneous security challenges involving countries such as China or Russia has intensified discussions about the need to rapidly

expand defence manufacturing capacity. The Pentagon, however, maintains that the US military remains fully capable of carrying out its global commitments. Officials have acknowledged the heavy use of missile inventories but insist that operational readiness has not been compromised. At the same time, the US government has accelerated efforts to increase the production of missile interceptors and precision-guided weapons through new defence contracts with major manufacturers. The reported depletion of

advanced missile systems has also reignited debate in Washington over long-term military planning and industrial preparedness. Several experts argue that modern warfare consumes precision weapons at a much faster pace than previously anticipated, highlighting the importance of maintaining larger strategic reserves and strengthening the defence supply chain. The conflict has demonstrated the growing role of missile defence systems in modern warfare, where intercepting ballistic missiles, drones and cruise missiles has become as important as offensive operations. Countries around the world are closely watching these developments as they reassess their own defence strategies and procurement plans. While questions remain over the exact size of the remaining US missile inventory, the reports underscore the immense logistical and financial demands of sustained high-intensity warfare. The situation is expected to influence future American defence policy, military budgeting and weapons production as Washington seeks to restore stockpiles while maintaining its global security commitments.

Seven Explosions Rock Dubai Amid Conflict



A series of powerful explosions shook Dubai within a span of just 20 minutes, raising fresh concerns over the widening impact of the ongoing Iran conflict across the Gulf region. Videos circulating on social media captured massive fireballs, thick black smoke and loud blasts near the Jebel Ali industrial area, prompting authorities to launch an immediate investigation into the incident. According to reports, at least seven explosions were heard in quick succession late Tuesday night. The blasts were followed by a large fire, with smoke visible from several parts of the city. Residents reported hearing loud booms and feeling vibrations as emergency services rushed to the affected area to contain the blaze and secure the surroundings.

The explosions occurred amid heightened tensions in the Middle East as the conflict involving Iran continues to escalate. While speculation quickly emerged on social media linking the incident to missile or drone attacks, officials had not immediately confirmed the exact cause of the explosions. Authorities were working to determine whether the blasts resulted from an external attack, an industrial accident or another factor. Emergency response teams, including firefighters and civil defence personnel, were deployed to the site soon after the explosions. Efforts were focused on extinguishing the fire, preventing further damage and ensuring the safety of nearby residential and commercial areas. No immediate

information was released regarding casualties or injuries, while officials urged the public to avoid spreading unverified information. The incident has renewed concerns about the vulnerability of strategic infrastructure in the Gulf. Jebel Ali is one of the region's most important industrial and logistics hubs, housing major port facilities, warehouses and energy-related infrastructure. Any disruption in the area has the potential to affect regional trade and supply chains.

The dramatic visuals shared online quickly went viral, with videos showing flames lighting up the night sky and thick plumes of smoke rising above the industrial zone. Authorities have cautioned that many videos and claims circulating on social media during the conflict may be misleading or lack verification, urging people to rely on official updates. The latest explosions come at a time when several Gulf nations remain on high alert because of the regional security situation. Governments across the region have strengthened air-defence measures and emergency preparedness amid fears that the conflict could spread further. As investigations continue, officials are expected to provide more details about the cause of the explosions and the extent of the damage. The incident highlights the growing uncertainty facing the Gulf region, where escalating geopolitical tensions continue to raise concerns about the security of critical infrastructure and the safety of civilians.

Pakistan Tightens Rules For Foreign Journalists

Pakistan has introduced stricter regulations for foreign journalists, making it mandatory for them to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) before travelling outside designated cities for reporting assignments. The move comes amid heightened international attention on protests and unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), prompting fresh debate over press freedom and media access in the country.

Under the new Foreign Media Facilitation Guidelines, foreign journalists, media professionals and other accredited personnel must now secure prior approval from the government's External Publicity Wing before travelling to other cities to produce news reports, documentaries, videos, films or official media content. The requirement applies even to journalists who already hold valid accreditation to work in Pakistan. The revised rules are seen as a significant tightening of media regulations. Earlier, accredited foreign correspondents could travel more freely for reporting assignments. With the new system in place, journalists will need official clearance before undertaking work outside



the major urban centres, adding another administrative layer to news gathering. The policy has attracted widespread attention because it comes at a time when protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have drawn increasing international coverage. Demonstrations in several parts of the region have focused on political and governance-related issues, leading to heightened scrutiny from foreign media organisations and international observers. Media rights advocates have expressed concern that the new guidelines could

make it more difficult for international journalists to independently report from sensitive regions. They argue that requiring prior government approval may delay or restrict access to important developments, particularly during fast-moving events. On the other hand, Pakistani authorities maintain that the new framework is intended to improve coordination, enhance security and streamline the movement of foreign media personnel across the country. The guidelines also outline procedures for obtaining permission, with journalists expected to submit

details of their travel plans and reporting assignments before receiving clearance. Authorities have indicated that the measures are aimed at ensuring proper administrative oversight rather than limiting legitimate journalistic activities. The announcement has generated considerable discussion among international media organisations, many of which regularly deploy correspondents across Pakistan for political, economic and security-related reporting. Press freedom groups are expected to closely monitor how the new regulations are implemented and whether they affect independent reporting on sensitive issues. The development reflects the growing challenges faced by journalists working in conflict-prone and politically sensitive regions around the world, where governments often balance national security concerns with media access. As Pakistan begins implementing the new rules, the impact on international reporting and press freedom will be closely watched by global media organisations, diplomatic observers and human rights groups.

Apple Alleges Trade Secret Theft Against OpenAI

A legal dispute involving OpenAI has intensified after Apple accused the artificial intelligence company of benefiting from the alleged theft of confidential information related to Siri and future hardware projects. The allegations have surfaced as part of an ongoing court battle over an injunction request, adding another high-profile chapter to the growing competition within the AI industry.

According to court filings, Apple claims that confidential company information, including details related to Siri's development and future hardware strategies, may have been improperly accessed and transferred by a former employee who later became associated with OpenAI. The iPhone maker argues that the information constitutes valuable trade secrets developed over several years through extensive research and investment.

Apple has urged the court to issue an injunction aimed at preventing any possible use or disclosure of its confidential information while the legal proceedings continue. The company maintains that the alleged misuse of trade secrets could result in irreparable harm by exposing proprietary technologies and product plans that are central to its future business strategy. OpenAI has strongly denied the allegations and argued that there is no evidence showing it possesses or has used any of Apple's confidential information. The company maintains that it has implemented internal safeguards to ensure proprietary information belonging to other organisations is not incorporated into its research or product development. OpenAI has also stated that it intends to vigorously defend itself against the claims during the legal process.

The dispute highlights the increasing legal and commercial tensions surrounding artificial intelligence as technology companies compete to develop advanced AI models and next-generation consumer products. As AI becomes more deeply integrated into smart



phones, digital assistants and personal computing devices, intellectual property has emerged as one of the industry's most valuable assets.

Legal experts note that trade secret disputes often focus on whether confidential information was actually transferred, whether it was used in developing competing products and what measures companies took to protect sensitive data. Courts generally require substantial evidence before granting injunctions that could restrict business activities during ongoing litigation. The case also reflects broader concerns across the technology industry regarding employee mobility. As experienced engineers and researchers move between major technology companies, businesses are placing greater emphasis on protecting proprietary information through confidentiality agreements, internal security measures and legal action where necessary.

If the court grants Apple's request for an injunction, it could temporarily restrict certain activities while the lawsuit proceeds. If the request is denied, the litigation will continue with both sides presenting evidence during the trial process. Regardless of the outcome, the case is expected to attract close attention from the global technology industry because of its potential implications for intellectual property protection in the rapidly evolving AI sector. The legal battle underscores the increasingly competitive nature of artificial intelligence development, where innovation, confidential research and strategic planning have become critical factors in determining long-term leadership in one of the world's fastest-growing technology industries.

Strong Earthquake Jolts Southern Philippines Coast



A powerful magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck off the southern coast of the Philippines on Wednesday, sending residents rushing outdoors as strong tremors were felt across parts of Mindanao. Although the quake caused panic among local communities, authorities said there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage, and no tsunami warning was issued.

According to seismic monitoring agencies, the earthquake occurred at around 12:14 p.m. local time. Its epicentre was located approximately 32 kilometres southwest of Sarangani Island at a depth of about 62 kilometres beneath the seabed. The moderate depth of the quake helped reduce the risk of widespread surface destruction, though the tremor was felt strongly in nearby areas.

Residents described the shaking as intense but brief. Many people immediately evacuated homes, offices and public buildings as a precaution. On Sarangani Island, the earthquake struck while a large number of people had gathered to receive government financial assistance. Witnesses reported scenes of panic as people ran to open spaces, but local rescue officials said everyone appeared to be safe after initial assessments. Emergency response teams were placed on alert and local authorities began inspecting roads, bridges, public buildings and other infrastructure for possible structural damage. Officials urged residents to remain cautious and stay away from buildings that might have been weakened by the tremor until safety inspec-

tions were completed. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center confirmed that the earthquake did not generate a tsunami threat, easing fears among coastal communities. Authorities nevertheless advised residents to remain alert for possible aftershocks, which commonly follow earthquakes of this magnitude. The Philippines is one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries because it lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a region where several major tectonic plates meet. As a result, the country experiences thousands of earthquakes every year, although most are too weak to be felt. Stronger earthquakes occasionally cause significant damage, particularly in the southern and central regions. The latest tremor comes just weeks after powerful earthquakes affected parts of Mindanao, making local communities especially sensitive to seismic activity. Disaster management agencies continue to encourage households to maintain emergency preparedness kits and follow official safety guidelines during earthquakes. While there were no immediate indications of serious destruction, authorities said damage assessments would continue throughout the affected areas. Seismologists are also monitoring the region for aftershocks and any changes in seismic activity. The incident serves as another reminder of the Philippines' vulnerability to natural disasters and the importance of preparedness, rapid emergency response and resilient infrastructure in reducing the impact of future earthquakes.

US Lawmaker Raises FCRA Bill Concerns

A proposed amendment to India's Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) has drawn attention in the United States, with a Republican lawmaker associated with former President Donald Trump's political camp expressing concern that the legislation could affect India-US relations. The remarks have added an international dimension to the debate surrounding the proposed changes to India's foreign funding regulations.

The proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 seeks to introduce a new mechanism under which a government-appointed "Designated Authority" would be empowered to take over the management of foreign contributions and assets created using such funds when an organisation's FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered or expires without renewal. The bill also proposes reducing the maximum punishment for violations of the Act from five years' imprisonment to one year.

The US lawmaker criticised the proposal, alleging that the amendments could negatively impact churches, faith-based organisations and charitable institutions that receive foreign funding. He described the proposed legislation as an attack on Christian organisations and warned that it could create friction in the strategic relationship between India and the United States if enacted in its current form.

The comments have sparked discussions in diplomatic and policy circles, particularly because India and the US have significantly expanded cooperation in defence, technology, trade and the Indo-Pacific region over the past several years. Observers note that while individual lawmakers in the US Congress often express views on international human rights and religious freedom issues, such statements do not necessarily reflect the official position of the US administration. Supporters of the proposed amendments argue that the changes are intended to improve



transparency, accountability and oversight in the use of foreign contributions. They contend that stronger regulatory mechanisms are necessary to ensure that foreign funds are utilised for their intended purposes and in accordance with Indian law.

The proposed legislation also includes provisions stating that if the assets involved are places of worship, the designated authority must ensure that their religious character is preserved while administering them. The government has maintained that the objective of the amendments is to strengthen regulatory oversight rather than interfere with religious institutions.

The bill is expected to be debated further before Parliament, and its final provisions could undergo changes during the legislative process. Meanwhile, the remarks from the US lawmaker have intensified international attention on the proposed reforms.

As discussions continue, the issue highlights the balance governments often seek between strengthening regulatory control over foreign funding and addressing concerns related to civil society, charitable organisations and religious institutions. The eventual outcome of the legislation is likely to be closely watched both within India and by international observers because of its potential implications for governance, non-governmental organisations and bilateral relations.

69-Year-Old Chooses Helicopter Over Long Drive

A 69-year-old man from Wisconsin in the United States has gone viral after choosing an unusual way to go shopping. Instead of driving nearly an hour to his favourite outdoor retail store, he decided to fly his personal helicopter, saying the road journey was simply "too long."

The incident took place on a Saturday evening when the man flew from Rosendale to Richfield, where a Cabela's store is located. Rather than spending close to an hour behind the wheel, he landed his helicopter safely in an empty section of the store's parking lot, surprising shoppers and passers-by.

A video of the helicopter parked outside the store quickly gained attention online. Local law enforcement officers arrived at the scene to ensure everything was in order. When they asked the pilot why he had chosen to arrive by helicopter, his straightforward response left everyone amused: "The drive was too long."

Despite the unusual mode of transport, authorities confirmed that the man had done nothing illegal. He was a licensed pilot, the helicopter was operated in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, and the landing was carried out safely without putting anyone at



Image credit: Facebook/@Wisconsin Sheriff's Office

risk. Officials said the pilot fully cooperated during their interaction, and after verifying that all aviation rules had been followed, they allowed him to continue without issuing any citation or penalty. The Washington County Sheriff's Office later shared details of the incident on social media, describing it as a "unique way to make a shopping trip." The post quickly attracted thousands of reactions, with many users finding the story entertaining. Some joked that the man had found the ultimate shortcut, while others admired his creativity and ability to avoid road traffic. The incident has also sparked conversations about the

growing popularity of private aviation among hobbyists in the United States. While helicopters are occasionally used for emergency services, business travel, and aerial work, privately owned aircraft are occasionally used for personal errands by licensed pilots. Although flying a helicopter to a shopping centre is far from an everyday sight, the Wisconsin man's unconventional decision has become an internet sensation. His simple explanation for taking to the skies instead of the highway has added a humorous twist to an otherwise routine shopping trip, proving that sometimes the shortest route isn't on the road—it's in the air.

CEO Sacks Employee Over Wedding Snub Adopted Woman Reunites With Birth Family

A wedding is usually a celebration of family, love and gratitude. But in China, one such wedding has become the centre of a heated debate after a company founder fired an employee for refusing to invite his own mother to the ceremony because he felt embarrassed by her appearance. The incident has sparked widespread discussions online about the limits of workplace authority and the importance of family values.

The controversy came to light after Cui Peijun, founder of a well-known crane manufacturing company in China's Henan province, shared the story during a public event. According to him, the employee deliberately excluded his mother from his wedding because he believed her looks would embarrass him in front of guests.

Cui said he was shocked after learning the reason behind the decision. He reminded the employee that his father had passed away when he was just two years old and that his mother had single-handedly raised him despite numerous hardships. Calling the employee's behaviour unacceptable, Cui announced that he had decided to terminate his employment immediately.

Reports suggest that the employee later apologised, even pleading for another opportunity. However, the company founder refused to



reverse his decision, saying that a person who cannot respect the sacrifices of their own parents lacks the character expected in the organisation.

In a surprising move, Cui also decided to support the employee's mother. Since she had previously worked at the company, he offered her a new position in the logistics department with the assurance that she could continue working for as long as she wished.

The episode quickly spread across Chinese social media, where opinions were sharply divided. Many users praised the CEO, saying that gratitude toward parents reflects a person's integrity and moral values. They argued that someone who humiliates the person who raised them cannot be trusted in other aspects of life either.

Others, however, questioned whether an employer should inter-

fere in an employee's personal relationships. Critics argued that family matters belong to an individual's private life and that employment decisions should be based solely on professional performance rather than personal conduct.

The incident has reignited a broader debate over whether companies should evaluate employees only on workplace performance or also consider personal ethics and values. While many admired the CEO's stand on filial respect, others warned that allowing employers to police private behaviour could set a troubling precedent.

As the debate continues, the story has become a striking example of how personal choices can sometimes have unexpected professional consequences, especially when they clash with deeply rooted cultural values.

An emotional family reunion in China has captured hearts around the world after a 23-year-old woman, who was adopted by a Swedish couple as an infant, finally met her biological parents for the first time. The long-awaited reunion marked the end of a decades-long search and offered both families a chance to heal from the past.

Born in China in 2003, Lisa was abandoned shortly after birth. According to reports, her biological parents, facing severe financial hardship, entrusted her to a caretaker, who later left the infant near a sports stadium. Local authorities rescued the baby and discovered that she was suffering from an inguinal hernia. She was admitted to a children's welfare home, where caregivers named her Gao Jianquan, meaning "in good health." When she was about one year old, she was adopted by a loving couple from Sweden and began a new life overseas.

Growing up in Sweden, Lisa's adoptive parents were always honest about her origins. Rather than hiding her past, they encouraged



her to learn about her roots and fully supported her wish to locate her biological family. Their unwavering support eventually helped turn her dream into reality.

Earlier this year, Lisa registered with a Chinese non-profit organisation that helps reunite separated families through DNA testing. Within a few months, the organisation successfully identified her biological parents, making it possible to arrange an emotional meeting in Anhui province.

Lisa travelled to China accompanied by her Swedish parents, where her birth family welcomed her with open arms. They greeted her with a large banner celebrating her homecoming, while her

biological mother presented her with a traditional red qipao and a jade gift as symbols of love and good fortune. Overcome with emotion, Lisa embraced her mother and expressed her happiness at finally meeting the family she had spent years searching for.

Speaking after the reunion, Lisa said she finally felt at peace with her past. She explained that understanding where she came from had always been important to her and that meeting her birth family had given her a sense of completeness. At the same time, she expressed deep gratitude to her Swedish parents, whose love and encouragement made the journey possible.

The touching story has resonated with people across social media, with many describing it as a powerful reminder that family is defined not only by birth but also by love, compassion and unwavering support. Lisa now considers herself fortunate to have two families—one in Sweden that raised her with care, and another in China that welcomed her home after 23 years.

Startup Founder Regrets Tattoo Job Interview Stunt

A San Francisco-based artificial intelligence startup has found itself at the centre of an online controversy after its co-founder apologised for offering guaranteed job interviews to people who agreed to get tattoos during a company networking event. The unusual recruitment idea quickly attracted criticism, prompting the founder to admit that the concept was poorly judged.

Jordan Zietz, co-founder of AI startup LemonLime, had organised a networking event featuring a professional tattoo artist. In a social media post that was later deleted, he revealed that attendees who chose to get tattooed would receive guaranteed job interviews with the company. According to him, seven people accepted the offer and got inked during the event.

The initiative was intended to identify bold and unconventional individuals who matched the startup's culture of taking risks. Zietz said he believed the idea would create a memorable experience and help the company connect with exceptional talent. However, the campaign soon trig-



gered widespread backlash across social media.

Many users argued that linking a permanent body modification to employment opportunities was unethical. Critics said the proposal placed unnecessary pressure on job seekers, especially in a highly competitive technology job market where candidates may feel compelled to take extreme steps to improve their chances of getting hired. Some described the stunt as manipulative and questioned the message it sent about modern hiring practices.

Following the criticism, Zietz removed the original posts and issued a public apology. He admitted that he had "messed up" and

acknowledged that, regardless of his intentions, connecting tattoos with hiring decisions created an unhealthy power dynamic. He said the company should never have made job opportunities appear dependent on a permanent personal decision.

The startup founder also clarified that participants were free to choose any tattoo they wanted and were never required to get the company's logo. He further stated that interviews were available to everyone, regardless of whether they chose to get tattooed. To address concerns from participants, he promised that the company would cover the full cost of tattoo removal for anyone who later regretted their decision.

The incident has reignited discussions about ethics in recruitment, workplace culture and the responsibilities of startup founders. While some appreciated the founder's willingness to apologise and accept responsibility, others believe the episode serves as a reminder that creative hiring strategies should never blur the line between innovation and professional integrity.

Ankur Warikoo Praises Driver's Loyalty And Trust

Entrepreneur, author and content creator Ankur Warikoo has sparked a lively discussion on social media after revealing that he pays his long-time driver ₹53,350 per month, along with several additional benefits. Calling the expense "one of the best investments" he has ever made, Warikoo said the value lies not just in the driver's work but in the deep trust and reliability he has earned over the years.

In a LinkedIn post, Warikoo introduced his driver, Dayanand, who has been working with his family for the past 13 years. When Dayanand first joined the household, his monthly salary was ₹15,000. Over the years, his responsibilities and contributions grew significantly, leading to steady salary hikes and additional perks.

Today, apart from earning ₹53,350 every month, Dayanand receives health insurance for his family, a one-month Diwali bonus and a scooter provided by Warikoo. According to the entrepreneur, the driver has become much more than an employee. He transports the family's children, manages important errands, keeps duplicate house keys and is trusted with responsibilities that require complete confidence.

Warikoo said he trusts Dayanand "blindly" with the safety of his family. Warikoo also praised Dayanand's personal discipline, describing him as punctual, hardworking and



humble. He shared that the driver wakes up at 4:30 every morning, goes to bed by 8:30 at night, is never late and always carries a positive attitude. According to Warikoo, these qualities have made him an indispensable part of the household, saving the family valuable time, effort and mental stress.

The entrepreneur concluded his post by encouraging people to be generous towards hardworking employees. He said investing in trustworthy people often delivers far greater value than many financial investments and expressed hope that Dayanand's salary would eventually reach 1 lakh per month. The post quickly went viral, drawing mixed reactions online. Many users appreciated Warikoo for recognising the dedication of his

employee and treating him with respect, saying it highlighted the importance of rewarding loyalty. Others, however, argued that the real investment had come from Dayanand, who devoted years of service and earned the family's trust through consistent hard work. Some also questioned whether the salary was sufficient considering his long service and extensive responsibilities.

Despite the differing opinions, the discussion has reignited conversations about fair wages, employee welfare and the role of trust in long-term professional relationships. For many, the story serves as a reminder that strong employer-employee relationships are built not only on salaries but also on mutual respect, appreciation and confidence earned over time.

Techie Seeks Advice On Buying Home

A 28-year-old software engineer from Bengaluru has ignited an online discussion after seeking advice on whether he should continue renting his apartment or purchase it for around ₹1.2 crore. Despite earning an annual salary of nearly ₹70 lakh and having substantial savings, the young professional admitted he was uncertain about making one of the biggest financial decisions of his life.

The software engineer shared his dilemma on social media, explaining that he currently lives in a 1.5 BHK apartment in a well-maintained residential society and pays a monthly rent of ₹44,000. The same apartment is available for purchase at a price ranging between ₹1.1 crore and ₹1.25 crore. He wondered whether owning the

property would be a smarter long-term financial decision than continuing to rent.

According to the post, the techie has built an impressive investment portfolio despite being just 28 years old. His assets include ₹45 lakh in mutual funds, ₹70 lakh in fixed deposits, ₹15 lakh worth of physical gold, ₹35 lakh in vested company shares, ₹15 lakh in his Public Provident Fund (PPF), and nearly ₹20 lakh in savings accounts. Altogether, his investments exceed ₹2 crore, and he has no outstanding loans, debts or family responsibilities.

He calculated that purchasing the apartment would require a down payment of around ₹40 lakh while taking a home loan of approximately ₹80 lakh. Based on current



interest rates, the monthly EMI would come to nearly ₹65,000. Although this is around ₹21,000 more than his current rent, he felt the difference was manageable considering his income and financial stability. However, he remained unsure whether locking a large portion of his savings into real estate was the right choice.

The post quickly attracted hundreds of responses from internet users, many of whom offered contrasting opinions. Several people encouraged him to buy the apartment, arguing that EMI payments would help him build ownership in a valuable asset instead of paying rent every month. Others pointed out that owning a home also provides greater security and protection from rising rental costs.

However, many users advised caution. They suggested that renting provides flexibility, especially in the fast-changing technology industry where career opportunities often require relocation. Some also argued that his existing investments could potentially generate better long-term returns than investing heavily in a single property.

The discussion reflects a growing dilemma faced by many young professionals in India's major cities, where soaring property prices and increasing rents make the decision between buying and renting more complicated than ever. For many, the choice is no longer just about finances—it is also about balancing long-term security, investment goals and lifestyle flexibility.

Rahul Rejects Centre's Delimitation Bill Request

Efforts by the Centre to end the ongoing deadlock in Parliament suffered a setback after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reportedly declined Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju's request for support on the proposed Delimitation Bill and the Women's Reservation Amendment Bill. The development came during a high-level meeting aimed at restoring normal functioning in both Houses of Parliament amid repeated disruptions during the Monsoon Session.

According to sources, Kiren Rijiju met Rahul Gandhi for nearly 50 minutes in an attempt to secure the Congress party's cooperation on two key constitutional reform measures that the government is keen to introduce. However, Rahul Gandhi is said to have made it clear that the Congress would not extend immediate support and would instead consult its senior leadership and alliance partners before taking any decision. The proposed Delimitation Bill seeks to redraw parliamentary and assembly constituencies while



increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats based on population changes. The issue has become politically sensitive, particularly among southern states, which argue that states that successfully controlled population growth should not lose political representation in Parliament. Alongside the Delimitation Bill, the government is also pushing for the Women's Reservation Amendment Bill, which aims to operationalise



33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies through the revised delimitation framework. The Centre believes both reforms are important constitutional measures that require broad political consensus. The meeting between Rijiju and Rahul Gandhi was part of the government's wider effort to resolve the impasse that has repeatedly disrupted Parliament during the Monsoon

Session. Frequent protests by Opposition parties have led to repeated adjournments, delaying discussions on several important bills and legislative business. Congress leaders have maintained that such major constitutional changes require extensive consultation with Opposition parties and regional allies. The party is also expected to discuss the issue within the INDIA bloc before announcing its final stand. Meanwhile, several regional parties, especially from southern India, have already expressed reservations about the proposed delimitation exercise, citing concerns over federal balance and political representation. Despite the setback, the Centre is expected to continue discussions with Opposition parties in an attempt to build consensus. Reports suggest the government is considering convening a special three-day session of Parliament later this month to take up the Delimitation Bill and related constitutional amendments if sufficient political support can be secured.

Parliament Witnesses Stormy Debate Over Key Bills



Parliament witnessed another eventful day during the Monsoon Session as the government pushed ahead with several important legislative proposals despite continued disruptions by the Opposition. The Lok Sabha took up key financial and legal reform bills, while political disagreements over the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) and other issues dominated proceedings.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026, which seeks to replace the colonial-era 1891 legislation with a modern legal framework that recognises digital and electronic banking records as valid evidence in courts. The proposed law aims to align banking regulations with the country's rapidly expanding digital financial ecosystem and reduce reliance on physical records.

The Finance Minister also introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, proposing changes to multiple financial laws, including taxation provisions and the Payment and Settlement Systems Act. The government said the amendments are intended to simplify legal procedures, improve regulatory efficiency and support the evolving financial sector. Meanwhile, the Opposition continued to raise objections over the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). Opposition parties demanded a detailed discussion, expressing concerns that some

provisions could have a significant impact on non-governmental organisations and institutions receiving foreign contributions. The government, however, maintained that the proposed changes are aimed at strengthening transparency, accountability and oversight in the utilisation of foreign funds.

Repeated protests and slogan-shouting disrupted proceedings in both Houses, forcing temporary adjournments during the day. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju held discussions with Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi in an effort to break the ongoing deadlock and ensure smooth functioning of Parliament. There were also indications that the government could make further clarifications on the FCRA amendments to address concerns raised by Opposition members. In the Rajya Sabha, members discussed additional legislative business, including amendments related to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act. The government reiterated its commitment to passing key reform measures during the current session despite frequent disruptions. With several important bills still awaiting discussion and approval, the Monsoon Session is expected to remain politically charged in the coming days. The government is focusing on advancing its legislative agenda, while the Opposition continues to press for wider debates on issues it considers critical, setting the stage for more intense discussions as the session progresses.

PM Modi Shares Tips With New MPs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a breakfast meeting with more than 30 newly elected NDA Rajya Sabha members, using the informal interaction to offer practical advice on parliamentary conduct, public life and personal discipline. The meeting took place amid the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, with the Prime Minister encouraging first-time members to uphold high standards of public service and legislative responsibility.

During the interaction, the Prime Minister cautioned the MPs about the complexities of political life in the national capital. He reportedly described Delhi as a place where public representatives should remain alert and avoid becoming entangled in unnecessary controversies or political intrigue. He advised them to be mindful of their meetings and interactions



while maintaining focus on their responsibilities as lawmakers. PM Modi also stressed the importance of ethical conduct. He asked the MPs to ensure that their official letterheads are never misused and urged them to remain polite and respectful while speaking to citizens over the phone. According to him, public representatives should always maintain dignity and humility in their interactions, as their behaviour reflects on both Parliament and the government.

Encouraging a spirit of learning, the Prime Minister told the new members that they should not hesitate to learn from experienced parliamentarians, including those from Opposition parties. He also urged them to strive for 100 percent attendance in Parliament and actively participate in debates and legislative discussions, emphasising that Parliament is the most important platform for serving the people. The discussion also touched upon

PM Modi's personal work habits. When asked about his routine, he said he focuses completely on the task at hand and believes in living in the present moment. He shared that this approach helps him remain productive despite a demanding schedule. On handling jet lag during overseas visits, he explained that he resets his watch to the destination's local time as soon as he boards a flight, allowing his body to adapt more quickly. The breakfast meeting was aimed at preparing the new Rajya Sabha members for their parliamentary responsibilities while reinforcing the values of discipline, accountability and effective public service. The Prime Minister's guidance reflected the NDA leadership's emphasis on professionalism, ethical conduct and active participation in the functioning of Parliament.

Sharad Pawar's NCP Dissolves Spokespersons Panel

Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) has dissolved its entire panel of party spokespersons with immediate effect as part of a major organisational restructuring ahead of key political developments in Maharashtra. The move, which affects all 22 authorised spokespersons of the party, is being viewed as an effort to streamline communication and strengthen the party's organisational structure. The decision was announced through an official order issued by the party leadership. According to the directive, all existing appointments to the post of spokesperson stand cancelled until further orders. The party has stated that the move is part of a broader organisational exercise aimed at improving coordination and communication. Following the decision, only two senior leaders-Vidya Chavan and Mahesh Tapase-have been entrusted with the responsibility of handling the party's interactions with the media. Until a new panel is constituted, they will serve as the official voices of the party on public and political issues. The restructuring comes at a politically significant time in Maharashtra, where speculation over possible political realignments and organisational changes has intensified in recent weeks. Although the party has not officially linked the decision to any specific political development, observers believe it reflects an effort to tighten internal discipline and ensure a more coordinated public messaging strategy. Party leaders have maintained that the decision is purely organisational and should not be interpreted as a sign of internal differences. They said the restructuring is intended to improve efficiency and prepare the organisation for upcoming political challenges, including local body elections and future electoral contests. Political analysts note that spokespersons play a crucial role in shaping a party's public image, particularly in an era of continuous television debates and social media engagement. By limiting official communication to a smaller group of authorised leaders, the party may be seeking to present a more unified and consistent position on important political issues. The Sharad Pawar-led faction has been working to strengthen its organisational network since the split in the Nationalist Congress Party. Several changes have already been made to the party's leadership structure, and the latest move is seen as another step in that direction. The decision has generated considerable interest in Maharashtra's political circles, with many awaiting the announcement of a new spokesperson panel. Party workers have expressed confidence that the restructuring will improve coordination and help the organisation communicate its policies more effectively. As Maharashtra's political landscape continues to evolve, the organisational overhaul is expected to play an important role in shaping the party's strategy. The appointment of a new media team and further organisational changes are likely to be announced in the coming weeks as the party prepares for future political battles.



Assam Flood Toll Climbs To Eighty-Eight

The flood situation in Assam has turned increasingly grim, with the death toll rising to 88 as relentless rainfall continues to batter the state. Sivasagar district has emerged as the worst-affected region, accounting for 48 of the total fatalities. Continuous downpours, overflowing rivers and widespread inundation have disrupted normal life across several districts, leaving thousands of families displaced and causing extensive damage to homes, roads and agricultural land. State disaster management authorities said heavy rainfall over the past several days has caused major rivers to overflow, submerging villages, towns and large stretches of farmland. Floodwaters have entered residential areas, forcing people to abandon their homes and seek shelter in relief camps set up by the government and local administration. Rescue operations are being carried out on a large scale by teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Army and local agencies. Personnel are using boats and specialised rescue equipment to evacuate stranded residents from flooded localities and transport them to safer places. Emergency teams are also distributing food, drinking water, medicines and other essential supplies to affected families. Authorities have established numerous relief camps and temporary shelters to accommodate displaced people. Medical teams have also been deployed to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases, while veterinary officials are working to protect livestock affected by the floods. The government has urged people living near rivers and low-lying areas to remain alert and follow evacuation advisories issued by district administrations. Transportation has been severely affected in several parts of the state. Many roads have been submerged or damaged, disrupting road connectivity and delaying the movement of relief materials. Rail services on certain routes have also been impacted due to waterlogging and damage to railway infrastructure. Educational institutions in several flood-hit districts have remained closed as a precautionary measure.



Vijay Government Unveils Welfare-Focused First Budget

The first Tamil Nadu Budget presented by the Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay-led government placed a strong emphasis on welfare, education, youth empowerment and infrastructure, while outlining an ambitious roadmap to transform the state into a \$1.5 trillion economy. The budget introduced several new schemes alongside expanded social welfare programmes, reflecting the government's focus on fulfilling key election promises.

One of the biggest announcements was the launch of a large-scale free laptop scheme for college students. The government allocated ₹2,000 crore for the initiative, aiming to improve digital access and prepare students for technology-driven careers. School students will also benefit from a programme that provides free bicycles equipped with helmets and water bottles to encourage higher enrolment and reduce dropout rates. The budget also unveiled several welfare measures targeting women, children and economically weaker sections. Babies born in government hospitals will receive gold rings under a newly announced scheme. The marriage assistance programme has been expanded to provide eligible brides with an eight-gram gold coin and a silk saree. The government also increased financial assistance for first-time Haj pilgrims and announced new measures to strengthen women's self-help groups through interest subsidies. Education emerged as one of the government's highest priorities, with substantial allocations for modernising government schools, upgrading educational infrastructure and expanding residential schools. Funds have also been earmarked for cleaner campuses, drug-free schools and improved hostel facilities. The government announced plans to establish a dedicated corporation to improve student hostel infrastructure across the state. Beyond welfare, the budget focused on economic growth through investments in roads, urban development, artificial intelligence, digital governance and sports infrastructure. Major allocations were made for highways, school education and youth development, while the government reiterated its commitment to attracting investments, creating employment opportunities and accelerating industrial growth.

The budget has generated mixed political reactions. While the ruling party described it as a people-centric roadmap focused on inclusive growth and youth empowerment, opposition parties argued that several schemes resemble earlier welfare initiatives introduced by previous governments. Despite the criticism, the budget marks the new government's first comprehensive policy statement and sets the direction for its governance agenda over the coming years.



Udhayanidhi Targets Vijay After Arrest Row

Tamil Nadu Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, alleging that his arrest was a politically motivated attempt to divert public attention from important state issues and the presentation of the government's first Budget. The remarks came a day after Udhayanidhi was arrested over his controversial comments involving actor Trisha and was later released following court intervention. Addressing reporters outside the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Udhayanidhi claimed the entire episode was carefully orchestrated to shift the public discourse away from pressing governance issues. He alleged that the government used the arrest as a political distraction instead of addressing matters affecting the people of the state. When asked about Chief Minister Vijay's silence on the controversy, Udhayanidhi responded by saying that the question should be directed to the Chief Minister himself. He criticised Vijay for not making any public statement regarding the arrest and questioned the government's approach to handling the issue. The controversy stems from remarks Udhayanidhi allegedly made at a public event, which led to a complaint from the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). Based on the complaint, police arrested him from his Chennai residence before taking him in for questioning. The Madras High Court later directed the police to complete the questioning process and release him, after which he walked free. The arrest has intensified the political confrontation between the ruling TVK government and the opposition DMK. The DMK has accused the government of misusing law enforcement agencies to target political opponents, while the ruling party has maintained that legal action was taken strictly in accordance with the complaint received and the applicable laws. The political war of words continued inside and outside the Assembly, where the government's first Budget was presented. Udhayanidhi dismissed the Budget as lacking originality and alleged that several announcements were merely repackaged versions of earlier schemes introduced by previous administrations. He also argued that the government had failed to address major concerns such as the Cauvery water dispute, the Mekedatu project and other key public issues. The latest developments have further heightened political tensions in Tamil Nadu, with both the ruling party and the opposition exchanging strong allegations. As the legal proceedings continue and the political debate intensifies, the controversy is expected to remain a major issue in the state's political landscape over the coming days. The episode has once again highlighted the sharp political rivalry between the ruling TVK and the DMK, with both sides using the issue to strengthen their respective political narratives.



Centre Eyes Special Session For Delimitation Bill



The Centre is planning to convene a special three-day session of Parliament later this month to revive its push for the Delimitation Bill and the proposed Women's Reservation Amendment Bill. According to sources, the government has informed the Congress about its intention to hold the special session and has begun consultations with Opposition parties to build support for the legislation. Sources said the proposed session is likely to be held over three days, during which the government intends to introduce the Delimitation Bill once again. The Congress has reportedly told the government that it will take a decision only after consulting senior party leaders and other constituents of the Opposition INDIA bloc. The Delimitation Bill seeks to redraw parliamentary and assembly constituencies while increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats to reflect population changes. The issue has become politically sensitive, with several southern states expressing concerns that a fresh delimitation exercise based on population could reduce their relative representation in Parliament despite their success in population control. The proposed Women's Reservation Amendment Bill is also expected to be part of the government's legislative agenda. The Centre aims to operationalise the constitutional provision providing 33 percent reservation for

women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies through a revised delimitation framework before the 2029 general elections. The government has intensified efforts to build political consensus after an earlier attempt to secure parliamentary approval for similar legislation failed to obtain the required support. Senior ministers have been reaching out to Opposition leaders in an attempt to break the political deadlock and secure broader backing for the proposed measures. However, the Opposition remains divided over the proposal. While some parties have indicated they are willing to discuss the legislation, others have voiced concerns about its impact on the political representation of southern states. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has reportedly declined the government's request for immediate support, insisting that the party would first consult its allies before taking a final stand.

If the special session is convened, the debate is expected to be one of the most significant political events of the year. The outcome could shape the future composition of the Lok Sabha and determine the roadmap for implementing women's reservation ahead of the next general election. With both the government and the Opposition preparing for intense negotiations, the proposed session is likely to witness heated discussions over one of India's most consequential electoral reforms.

Agarkar's Position Under Cloud Amid Controversy

Team India chief selector Ajit Agarkar is reportedly facing an uncertain future following the controversy surrounding Rohit Sharma's ODI career. According to recent reports, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reviewing the leadership of the national selection committee, with former India cricketer VVS Laxman emerging as a strong contender to replace Agarkar if changes are made. The speculation comes after the much-discussed developments involving Rohit Sharma during India's ODI tour of England. Reports claimed that the selectors

were looking beyond the veteran opener as part of their long-term plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup, leading to widespread debate over communication between the selection committee, team management and senior players. The episode generated significant criticism and placed Agarkar's decisions under intense scrutiny. Agarkar's tenure as chief selector was initially scheduled to conclude in June 2026. However, it was reportedly extended by three months until September. While many expected another extension that would allow him to continue until the

2027 World Cup, fresh reports suggest the BCCI is now considering a leadership change in the selection panel. Among the names being discussed, former India batter and current cricket administrator VVS Laxman is said to be the leading candidate. Laxman has earned widespread respect for his work with the National Cricket Academy and for guiding several India A and junior teams. His experience in talent development and player management is believed to make him a strong option if the BCCI decides to appoint a new chief selector. Despite the growing specula-

tion, there has been no official confirmation from the BCCI regarding Agarkar's future or any decision to replace him. The reports remain based on sources familiar with the developments, and the board has not issued a public statement on the matter. The uncertainty has sparked widespread discussion among cricket fans and experts. While some believe a change in leadership could help restore confidence in the selection process, others argue that such decisions should be based on the committee's overall performance rather than a single controversy.



Many have also pointed out that handling transitions involving senior players is one of the most challenging responsibilities for any selec-

tion panel. With India's preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup already underway, the BCCI's next move will be closely

watched. Whether Ajit Agarkar continues in his role or a new face takes charge of the selection committee, the decision is expected to have

a significant impact on the future direction of Indian cricket and the team's long-term planning.

Brett Lee Ends Preity Zinta Rumours

Former Australian fast bowler Brett Lee has finally addressed the long-running rumours linking him romantically with Bollywood actress and Punjab Kings co-owner Preity Zinta. The speculation, which began during the early years of the Indian Premier League (IPL), persisted for years as the two were frequently seen together at matches and team events. Lee has now categorically denied the rumours, saying their relationship has always been based on friendship and mutual respect. The rumours gained momentum between 2008 and 2011 when Brett Lee represented Kings XI Punjab, now known as Punjab Kings, in the IPL. During that period, Preity Zinta was actively involved with the franchise and regularly interacted with players on and off the field. Their public appearances together fuelled widespread speculation, with many assuming they were more than just friends. Despite repeated gossip, neither of them had seriously addressed the issue until now. In a recent interview, Lee made it clear that there was never any romantic rela-

tionship between him and Preity Zinta. He said they were, and continue to be, "great friends," adding that people were free to speculate but that the rumours never affected him personally. The former pacer also stated that he has never dated a Bollywood actress, putting an end to years of speculation surrounding his personal life. Lee also spoke warmly about his association with India, describing the country as his "second home." He recalled fond memories of playing in the IPL, interacting with Indian fans and spending time in Mumbai during his cricketing career. According to him, his friendship with Preity developed naturally through their association with the franchise and remained strictly professional and cordial throughout. Interestingly, Preity Zinta had also dismissed the dating rumours years ago, maintaining that she and Brett Lee shared only a friendly relationship. Her earlier clarification, combined with Lee's latest statement, has effectively put the long-standing speculation to rest. The revelation has generated significant



interest on social media, where many fans expressed relief at finally hearing the truth from Lee himself. While some reminisced about the early IPL days and the rumours that dominated entertainment headlines, others appreciated the former cricketer's straightforward response and his emphasis on respecting genuine friendships. The episode is another

reminder of how public personalities often become the subject of speculation simply because of frequent professional interactions. With Brett Lee now setting the record straight, the rumour that lingered for nearly two decades appears to have finally reached its conclusion, leaving behind a story of friendship rather than romance.

Mohammad Amir Opens Up On IPL



Former Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Amir has addressed growing speculation over his possible participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL) after officially becoming a British citizen. The change in his nationality has made him eligible to register for the IPL under the league's regulations, sparking widespread discussion among cricket fans about whether the left-arm pacer could finally feature in the world's biggest T20 tournament. Amir recently completed all the legal formalities required to obtain British citizenship. The new status has already benefited him in England, where he is representing Trent Rockets in The Hundred as a domestic player instead of occupying an overseas slot. The development has also opened new opportunities for him in franchise cricket around the world. When asked about the possibility of playing in the IPL from the 2027 season, Amir gave a measured response. He confirmed that he intends to play in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in 2027 as an overseas player but said he has not yet decided whether he will enter the IPL. According to Amir, no final decision has been made regarding his participation in the Indian tournament, and he is keeping his options open for the future. For years, Pakistani players have been absent from the IPL because of political tensions between India and Pakistan. However, Amir's acquisition of British citizenship changes his eligibility status

under the tournament's player registration rules, making him technically eligible to register for the league. Whether any franchise chooses to sign him, however, will depend on future auctions, team requirements and the prevailing cricketing and administrative circumstances. Amir remains one of the most experienced T20 bowlers in world cricket. Having retired from international cricket, he has continued to feature in franchise leagues across different countries and remains a sought-after pace bowler because of his ability to swing the new ball and deliver under pressure. His performances in global T20 competitions have helped him stay relevant despite stepping away from international cricket. The prospect of Amir appearing in the IPL has generated mixed reactions among fans. Some believe his experience and skill would make him a valuable addition to any franchise, while others feel the issue extends beyond cricket because of the long-standing absence of Pakistani players from the tournament. His British citizenship may have removed one hurdle, but it does not guarantee an IPL contract. For now, Amir's immediate focus remains on his commitments in The Hundred and his plans to feature in the PSL. As for the IPL, the former Pakistan pacer has made it clear that he is yet to make up his mind. Whether fans eventually see him in the IPL will depend on decisions taken over the coming months by both the player and the franchises.

BCCI Rift Over Rohit Sparks Fresh Debate



Fresh reports of differences between the BCCI leadership and the national selection committee have triggered widespread discussion in Indian cricket. The reported disagreement centres on veteran batter Rohit Sharma's future in One-Day Internationals, with claims that senior board officials and selectors are not on the same page regarding the former cap-

tain's role in India's plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup. The controversy gained momentum during India's recent ODI series against England. Before the final match, media reports suggested that Rohit had been informed by the selectors and team management that he was no longer part of the long-term roadmap for the 2027 World Cup. However, just two days

before the decisive ODI, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia publicly dismissed the speculation, stating that Rohit continued to remain in India's plans. His statement surprised many observers and appeared to contradict the earlier reports. According to subsequent reports, the secretary's public clarification created unease within the Ajit Agarkar-led

selection committee. It is claimed that several selectors believed the board's leadership had altered its stance following strong public and social media reactions. The report further alleges that some members of the selection panel felt "betrayed" because they believed discussions regarding Rohit's future had already taken place internally before the public statement was issued. The report also claims that a section of the selectors continues to believe India should begin preparing a younger squad for the next ODI World Cup and that moving beyond senior players would better serve the team's long-term interests. However, these claims remain based on media reports, and neither the BCCI nor the selection committee has officially confirmed any internal disagreement. The developments come at a time when questions are already being raised about the future of chief selector Ajit Agarkar. His tenure, which was extended beyond its original expiry, has

become the subject of speculation, with reports suggesting that the BCCI may consider changes in the selection committee before the next World Cup cycle. However, no official announcement has been made regarding his position. The reports have generated mixed reactions among cricket fans and former players. While some believe experienced campaigners like Rohit Sharma still have an important role to play, others argue that India should focus on grooming the next generation well ahead of the 2027 World Cup. Many observers have also stressed that clear communication between the board, selectors and players is essential to avoid unnecessary controversies. For now, the reported differences remain unverified beyond media accounts. Until the BCCI issues an official clarification or announces its future plans, the discussion surrounding Rohit Sharma, the selection committee and the board's leadership is likely to continue dominating headlines in Indian cricket.

India's Memorable Test Records In Sri Lanka

India and Sri Lanka have shared a fiercely competitive Test rivalry for decades, with many unforgettable performances unfolding on Sri Lankan soil. From monumental batting displays to match-winning bowling spells and dominant team victories, Indian cricketers have produced several historic moments in the island nation. As the two teams prepare for another chapter in their rivalry, a look back at India's finest Test records in Sri Lanka highlights the country's rich cricketing legacy. India have enjoyed considerable success in Test cricket in Sri Lanka over the years, registering several memorable victories and producing world-class individual performances. Legendary batters such as Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag and Virat Kohli have all left their mark, while bowlers including Anil Kumble, Ravichandran Ashwin and Harbhajan Singh have played crucial roles in

India's achievements. Their consistent performances have helped India establish itself as one of the most successful visiting teams in Sri Lanka. One of India's most iconic batting performances in Sri Lanka came from Virender Sehwag, who smashed a magnificent 293 in Colombo in 2008, narrowly missing a triple century. The explosive opener dominated the Sri Lankan bowling attack with his trademark aggressive stroke play, producing one of the finest innings by an Indian batter in overseas Test cricket. Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Virat Kohli have also registered multiple centuries in Sri Lanka, underlining India's batting strength in challenging subcontinental conditions. India's bowlers have been equally impressive. Spin legends Anil Kumble and Ravichandran Ashwin have repeatedly troubled Sri Lankan batters with their accuracy and variations. Kumble's match-winning spells and



Ashwin's ability to exploit turning tracks have contributed significantly to India's victories. Harbhajan Singh and Ravindra Jadeja have also delivered crucial performances, ensuring India maintained control in several memorable Test matches. India have also recorded some commanding team performances in Sri Lanka. The team has posted massive first-innings totals on several occasions, putting oppo-

nents under sustained pressure. Under captains such as Sourav Ganguly, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli, India developed into a formidable touring side capable of winning consistently in Sri Lankan conditions. Strong partnerships, disciplined bowling and sharp fielding have often been the hallmarks of India's success in the country. The rivalry has also witnessed several closely contested encounters that

have tested the skills and temperament of both teams. Sri Lanka have produced legendary performers of their own, making every Test series a challenging contest despite India's impressive overall record. The competitive spirit between the two neighbours has contributed significantly to the history of Test cricket in Asia. As India prepares for future Test assignments in Sri Lanka, these records serve as a

reminder of the team's consistent excellence over the years. The blend of batting brilliance, spin dominance and memorable victories has helped India build an outstanding record in the island nation. Fans will now be hoping the next generation of Indian cricketers can add more memorable performances to this impressive legacy and continue the team's success in one of Asia's most competitive cricketing rivalries.



Indian domestic cricket has produced several outstanding performers who dominated the first-class circuit but never enjoyed long international careers. Among them, Faiz Fazal's story stands out as one of the most remarkable. Despite scoring 9,184 runs in first-class cricket and making an unbeaten half-century on his ODI debut, the left-handed batter never played for India again, making his career one of the game's biggest "what if" stories. Fazal built an impressive domestic career representing Vidarbha and Railways. Known for his consistency and calm approach at the crease, he amassed 9,184 first-class runs in 138 matches at an average of over 41, including 24 centuries and 39 half-centuries. His performances over two decades earned him widespread respect as one of India's finest domestic batters. His breakthrough finally came in 2016 when he was selected for India's ODI tour of Zimbabwe. At the age of 30, Fazal became the first Indian in 16 years to make his ODI debut after turning 30. In the third ODI at Harare, he made an immediate impact, scoring an unbeaten 55 off 61 balls while opening the batting alongside KL Rahul, who also remained unbeaten with 63. The pair guided India to a comfortable 10-wicket victory while chasing a modest target. Despite such a promising debut, Fazal was never picked for India again. The fierce competition for places in the national side, coupled with the emergence of younger opening batters, meant his international journey ended after just one appearance. His case remains one of the most unusual examples of a player delivering on debut but never receiving another opportunity. Although his international career was brief, Fazal continued to serve Vidarbha with distinction. He captained the team during one of the most successful periods in its history, leading the side to back-to-back Ranji Trophy titles and an Irani Cup triumph. His leadership and consistency played a crucial role in transforming Vidarbha into a domestic powerhouse. In 2024, Fazal retired from professional cricket, bringing an end to a remarkable 21-year career. In an emotional farewell, he expressed pride in representing both India and Vidarbha, describing it as the greatest honour of his life. Though his international record consists of just one ODI, his contribution to Indian domestic cricket remains immense. Faiz Fazal's journey is a reminder of the intense competition in Indian cricket, where even exceptional domestic performances do not always translate into extended international careers. Yet his unbeaten debut, outstanding first-class record and lasting impact on Vidarbha cricket ensure that his name will continue to be remembered with admiration by cricket followers across the country.

Actresses Unite Against Rising AI Deepfakes

The growing misuse of artificial intelligence to create deepfake images and videos has become a serious concern for celebrities, particularly female actors. In recent months, several Indian actresses have begun taking a firm stand against the unauthorised use of their identities, signalling a major shift in how the entertainment industry is responding to digital abuse. Public warnings, legal notices and court cases are now replacing silence as actors fight to protect their privacy and personality rights. The latest actress to speak out is Mrunal Thakur, who recently issued a strong warning against individuals creating or circulating AI-generated deepfake content using her image. She described such material as "illegal and unacceptable" and made it clear that any further misuse of her likeness would invite legal action. Her public statement prompted several social media accounts to remove the objectionable content, while many fellow actors extended their support. The conversation around deepfakes had already gained nationwide attention after actress Rashmika Mandanna became the victim of a viral AI-generated video. That incident sparked widespread debate about online safety, digital consent and the urgent need for stronger safeguards against identity misuse. Since then,

awareness about the dangers of deepfake technology has grown significantly within the film industry and among the public. The issue has now reached the courts. Veteran actress Tabu has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection for her personality and publicity rights. Her petition aims to prevent the unauthorised use of her name, voice, photographs and likeness through AI-generated content and digital impersonation. The legal move reflects increasing concern over how rapidly advancing technology can be exploited to spread misleading or harmful content. Tabu is not alone in seeking legal protection. Actress Shruti Haasan has also approached the Delhi High Court over similar concerns, while Kajol and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan have previously secured judicial relief against AI-generated misuse and fake digital content. These legal actions highlight a growing determination among celebrities to defend their identities and establish stronger legal safeguards in the digital era. The increasing number of legal challenges shows that the entertainment industry is adapting to the new realities created by artificial intelligence. Experts



believe that while AI offers enormous creative opportunities, it also raises complex questions about consent, privacy and ownership of a person's identity.



For many actresses, the message is now clear: technological innovation should never come at the cost of personal dignity or privacy. By speaking out publicly



and pursuing legal remedies, they are encouraging stronger accountability while reminding content creators that a person's image, voice and identity can-



not be used without permission. Their collective stand is expected to influence future discussions on digital ethics and AI regulation in India.

Nani, Keerthy Set For Box Office Clash



After winning audiences' hearts with their on-screen chemistry in Nenu Local and the blockbuster Dasara, actors Nani and Keerthy Suresh are now preparing to compete against each other at the box office. The popular duo's upcoming films are expected to release during the same period in September, setting



the stage for an exciting battle between two much-awaited projects. Nani will be seen in The Paradise, one of the most anticipated Telugu films of the year. Directed by Srikanth Odela, who previously delivered the critically acclaimed Dasara, the film has generated massive buzz ever since it

was announced. The recently released promotional material has further heightened expectations, with fans eagerly awaiting another intense performance from the Natural Star. On the other hand, Keerthy Suresh is gearing up for the release of Adarsha Kutumbam, a family entertainer that has also attracted considerable attention. The film is expected to showcase the National Award-winning actress in a refreshing role, and the makers are confident that its emotional storyline and family appeal will strike a chord with audiences across all age groups. The coincidence of both films arriving around the same time has become a major talking point among movie lovers. While Nani's film is expected to attract audiences looking for a large-scale action drama, Keerthy's movie is likely to appeal to families seeking wholesome entertainment. Trade analysts believe the contrasting genres could allow both films to coexist successfully, depending on audience response and word-of-mouth publicity. Nani and Keerthy have previously shared the screen in Nenu Local and Dasara, with both films receiving positive responses from audi-

ences. Their performances and chemistry were widely appreciated, making them one of Telugu cinema's most admired on-screen pairs. This time, however, they will be competing as rivals at the ticket counters rather than appearing together on screen. Industry observers point out that festival seasons often witness multiple major releases, giving audiences a variety of choices. If both films receive positive reviews, the competition could ultimately benefit the Telugu film industry by drawing larger crowds to theatres and boosting overall box-office collections. The success of each film will largely depend on content, audience reception and sustained momentum after release. Although the makers have yet to officially confirm the final release dates, the possibility of Nani and Keerthy Suresh locking horns at the box office has already created excitement among fans. Whether one film emerges as the bigger winner or both succeed simultaneously, September promises to be an eventful month for Telugu cinema, with audiences eagerly waiting to see which former Dasara co-star enjoys the stronger run at the box office.

RAPO23 Shoot Intensifies With Grand Action Sequences

Ram Pothineni's ambitious project RAPO23 is progressing at a rapid pace, with the latest shooting schedule currently underway in Puducherry. The film has generated considerable excitement among fans, not only because of its grand scale but also because it marks Ram's directorial debut. The actor is simultaneously handling the responsibilities of lead actor, writer and director, making it one of the most significant ventures of his career. The ongoing schedule in Puducherry is one of the film's most crucial phases. The team is filming a series of high-octane action sequences, along with an energetic song that is expected to be a visual highlight of the movie. Large-scale sets, elaborate stunt choreography and extensive production planning have been put in place to ensure the sequences meet the makers' ambitious vision. Produced by Krishna Pothineni under the Rapo Cinematics banner, RAPO23 is being mounted on a lavish budget and is expected to be one of the biggest productions in Ram's career. Reports suggest that no compromises are being made in terms of technical quality, action design or visual presentation, with the team aiming to deliver a theatrical spectacle for audiences. The film has already attracted attention for Ram's willingness to take on multiple creative responsibilities. Industry observers believe directing while also playing the lead role is a challenging task, but the actor is said to be personally supervising every aspect of the production to ensure that his vision is translated effectively onto the screen. This commitment has further increased curiosity surrounding the project. Although the makers have remained tight-lipped about the storyline, the project is expected to blend intense action, emotional drama and commercial entertainment. The decision to shoot key portions in Puducherry has also added a fresh visual appeal, with picturesque locations expected to feature prominently in the film. Fans are eagerly awaiting the release of the first teaser or glimpse, hoping it will offer a better idea of the movie's scale and style.



The production has been moving steadily since its launch, and the current schedule is considered an important milestone in completing the film. Once the Puducherry schedule concludes, the team is expected to move on to the next phase of filming before entering post-production. With an impressive budget, large-scale action episodes and Ram Pothineni taking charge behind the camera for the first time, RAPO23 has become one of the most anticipated Telugu films in production. Fans and trade analysts alike are now looking forward to official promotional material that will provide the first glimpse into what promises to be a high-energy cinematic entertainer.

Mahesh Birthday Glimpse Unlikely For Varanasi

As Superstar Mahesh Babu's birthday on August 9 approaches, fans have been eagerly waiting for a major update on his highly anticipated film Varanasi, directed by acclaimed filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli. Speculation had been rife that the makers would unveil a special glimpse or teaser to mark the occasion. However, the latest reports suggest that fans may have to wait a little longer for a visual update. According to industry buzz, the team behind Varanasi is unlikely to release a birthday glimpse this year. Instead, the filmmakers are reportedly planning a much larger promotional campaign at a later stage, believing that the project deserves a grand launch rather than a routine birthday reveal. While there has been no official confirmation from the production team, the current indications point towards a delay in unveiling fresh footage from the film. Despite the

absence of a glimpse, excitement surrounding the film remains exceptionally high. Directed by S.S. Rajamouli, Varanasi marks his first collaboration with Mahesh Babu and is regarded as one of the biggest Indian films currently in production. The movie also stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran in pivotal roles, adding to its nationwide appeal. Reports indicate that a significant portion of the shooting has already been completed, with the production progressing smoothly across multiple international locations. Rajamouli recently revealed that the film is an ambitious globe-trotting adventure spanning diverse locations, including Varanasi, Antarctica and even ancient Rome. The film is also being designed for IMAX presentation, highlighting its massive visual scale. Fans have flooded social media with requests for a



birthday surprise, hoping the makers will reconsider and release at least a short promotional video. However, industry observers believe Rajamouli is known for meticulously planning every promotional event and is unlikely to compro-

mise his long-term marketing strategy simply to coincide with a birthday celebration. Even without a fresh glimpse, Mahesh Babu's birthday is expected to be celebrated in a grand manner by fans across the globe. Special screenings of his earlier films, social

media trends and charity initiatives are already being planned by fan associations, ensuring the occasion remains memorable. While the wait for Varanasi continues, anticipation for the film has not diminished. With Rajamouli's reputation for delivering cinematic

spectacles and Mahesh Babu leading one of the most ambitious projects in Indian cinema, expectations remain sky-high. Whenever the first major promotional material is finally unveiled, it is expected to become a landmark event for movie lovers across the country.

Trisha's Shelved Film Returns To Limelight

Actress Trisha Krishnan is currently enjoying a successful phase in her career with several prestigious projects across multiple languages. Amid the excitement surrounding her upcoming films, an old and long-forgotten project has once again become a topic of discussion. The film, titled Rambha Urvashi Menaka (RUM), was announced more than a decade ago but never made it to theatres, leaving fans wondering what had happened to the ambitious venture. The film was to be directed by veteran filmmaker and producer M.S. Raju, who had planned it as a female-centric entertainer featuring an impressive ensemble cast. Trisha was cast as Rambha, while Nikesha Patel and Isha Chavla were signed to play Urvashi and Menaka, respectively. Actress Charmme Kaur was also expected to make a special appearance in the movie, making it one of the most talked-about projects at the time. Production on Rambha Urvashi Menaka began with considerable enthusiasm, and the team even completed an initial shooting schedule in locations such as Muscat and Dubai. Promotional stills from the sets created curiosity among

movie lovers, who were eager to see Trisha in a refreshing, women-oriented role. However, despite the promising start, the project gradually lost momentum and eventually came to a standstill. Although the makers never officially announced the reasons behind the delay, industry reports suggested that production-related challenges and changing priorities resulted in the film being shelved indefinitely. As the years passed, the cast members moved on to other projects, and the movie quietly faded from public attention without receiving a theatrical release. The forgotten film has resurfaced in discussions because director M.S. Raju has remained active with new projects, prompting fans to revisit some of his unfinished works. Many movie enthusiasts have expressed disappointment that Rambha Urvashi Menaka never reached audiences, believing the unique concept and star cast had the potential to create something memorable. For Trisha, however, the shelved project has become just a small footnote in an



illustrious career. Over the years, she has established herself as one of South India's most successful actresses, delivering acclaimed performances in both Telugu and Tamil cinema. Today, she continues to headline big-budget films and remains one of the industry's most sought-after stars. While Rambha Urvashi Menaka is unlikely to be revived after so many years, its story serves as a reminder that not every ambitious film reaches the big screen. In the film industry, even projects with popular stars, experienced directors and promising concepts can sometimes remain unfinished, becoming intriguing "what could have been" chapters in cinema history.

Korean Kanakaraju Advance Bookings Begin Strong

Varun Tej's upcoming horror-comedy Korean Kanakaraju is steadily building momentum ahead of its theatrical release, with advance bookings officially opening in several regions. Backed by encouraging promotional material and positive early reactions, the film has generated decent pre-release buzz, raising expectations among moviegoers and trade circles. The film is directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, known for blending comedy with engaging storytelling, while UV Creations and First Frame Entertainment have jointly bankrolled the project. The movie features Varun Tej in the lead role alongside Ritika Nayak, with comedian Satya expected to provide a major dose of entertainment through his comic timing. Music has been composed by S. Thaman, whose background score is expected to play a crucial role in enhancing the film's horror-comedy atmosphere. The recently released trailer has received a favourable response from audiences, with many appreciating its mix of supernatural elements, humour and commercial entertainment. Fans have particularly praised Varun Tej's refreshing makeover and energetic screen presence, while the chemistry between the lead cast has also drawn positive attention. The promotional campaign has successfully created curiosity without revealing too much about the storyline. With the promotional activities gaining traction, advance ticket bookings have now commenced in selected territories. Industry observers believe the opening of advance sales reflects the confidence of the makers in the film's box-office prospects. Although the initial response has been described as decent rather than extraordinary, trade analysts expect bookings to

improve further as the release date approaches and word-of-mouth surrounding the trailer continues to spread. The horror-comedy genre has enjoyed considerable popularity among Telugu audiences in recent years, especially when backed by entertaining performances and engaging humour. This trend is expected to work in favour of Korean Kanakaraju, which combines spooky situations with light-hearted comedy in a unique setting. The film's Korean backdrop has also added freshness to the promotional campaign, making it stand out from conventional commercial entertainers. For Varun Tej, the film is seen as an important release as he looks to bounce back with a solid commercial success. Fans are optimistic that the combination of Merlapaka Gandhi's direction, Thaman's music and an entertaining screenplay will deliver a memorable theatrical experience. With advance bookings now underway and promotional buzz continuing to grow, all eyes are on Korean Kanakaraju to see whether it can convert the positive pre-release response into a strong opening at the box office. Trade experts believe the coming days will be crucial in determining the film's commercial momentum ahead of its release.

