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CM Naidu Calls For Data-Driven Citizen Services

Amaravati, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to improve government services based on public feedback and strengthen Real-Time Governance through data analytics. He issued the directions during a review meeting at his camp office on Monday.

Naidu highlighted the strong public participation witnessed during the inauguration of the Veligonda project and Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, saying similar engagement should be encouraged in other government programmes. He called for wider awareness campaigns on crimes against women, ganja control and sanitation.

The Chief Minister said sanitation standards should not be compromised anywhere and directed officials to improve cleanliness in urban and rural areas. Referring to his participation in the Swarnandhra-Swachhandhra programme, he stressed the need for sustained public awareness. He also called for better sanitation and facilities in welfare hostels and suggested inviting parents on the first Sunday of every month to review food, drinking water and hostel conditions.

Naidu asked officials to acknowledge donors supporting Anna Canteens and conduct periodic reviews at district and constituency levels. He directed the ranking of officials based on performance.

He further instructed all departments to expand online services through an integrated delivery system and facilitate online issuance of certificates. The AWARE system should be used to monitor cultivation and provide timely advice to farmers, he said.

The CM stressed promoting natural farming, optimising water resources and ensuring productive use of every acre, particularly the 5.70 lakh acres under focus. He also directed officials to address grievances received through the PGRS promptly. Chief Secretary Sai Prasad and senior officials attended.

Anjani Kumar, Sameer Sinha, Meenakshi Negi Receive Lifetime Achievement Award



Dehradun, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh cadre IPS officer Anjani Kumar, Uttarakhand cadre IFS officer Sameer Sinha and Karnataka cadre IFS officer Meenakshi Negi were conferred the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh at a ceremony held in Dehradun.

The award recognises their distinguished and long-standing contributions to public service, administration and the nation. The awardees were honoured for their dedication, integrity, professional excellence, leadership and sustained commitment to the responsibilities entrusted to them during their careers. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Gurmeet Singh appreciated the officers' sense of duty, leadership qualities and commitment to public service. He said officers who serve with distinction strengthen public institutions and inspire future generations to uphold professional excellence and dedication. The ceremony celebrated the distinguished careers and long-term contributions of the three officers in administration and policing. It also acknowledged their valuable service to society and the nation and their role in strengthening public service institutions through professionalism and commitment.

PCB Launches Special Drive to Control Aqua-Industry Pollution

Amaravati, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (PCB) has launched a special drive to assess and control pollution from aqua processing centres across the state, following directions from Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. PCB officials collected water samples from discharge systems

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We Are Working for Change, Not Votes, Says CM Naidu

- Veligonda Phase-I Dedicated to Nation After Three Decades

Gantavanipalle, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday dedicated Phase-I of the Veligonda Project to the nation at Gantavanipalle in Dornala mandal, marking the fulfilment of a three-decade-long dream of people in the drought-prone areas of Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts.

Sporting traditional attire, Naidu performed Jal Harathi as Krishna waters emerged from the twin tunnels in the Nallamala hills. He offered sashtanga namaskaram to the waters and later released them downstream by pressing a button along with farmers and local representatives. Local women and residents welcomed the waters with flowers.

Describing the occasion as an emotional moment in his life, Naidu recalled laying the foundation stone for the project on March 5, 1996. He said completing Phase-I exactly 30 years later was a "Bhagiratha effort", adding that the government had drilled through the Nallamala hills to bring Krishna waters to drought-hit lands.

Naidu paid tribute to residents of 11 villages who sacrificed their lands and homes for the project. He said RS.768 crore had been paid in compensation to



6,206 displaced families within 48 days, while another RS.169 crore was being provided to address their hardships. With the extension of the cut-off date, youth who attained 18 years of age were also given RS.2 lakh each.

The Chief Minister said the project was taken up at an estimated cost of RS.10,200 crore, with RS.7,983 crore spent so far. Phase-I includes completion of 18.8-km twin tunnels and 21.8-km feeder canals. He said 10.70 TMC of water would be diverted to Nallamala Sagar, providing irrigation to 1.19 lakh acres and drinking water to four lakh people.

After full completion, the project would provide irrigation to 4.47 lakh acres and

drinking water to 23 lakh people across 30 mandals in the erstwhile Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts. Naidu said Phase-II would be completed by 2028.

He alleged that the previous government had delayed the project after 2019 and claimed that works worth RS.4,000 crore remained pending when it declared the project completed before the elections. He said a TBM machine had also become stuck in the tunnels. The issues were resolved after the coalition government assumed office, he added.

Naidu said Markapuram had been made a district and included in the Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub. He said Polavaram would be completed by March 2027 and stressed that river interlinking was essential to address water shortages.

He said the 2028 Krishna Pushkarams would be celebrated grandly in Markapuram and asserted, "We are not working for votes, but for change." Ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, P. Narayana, Kandula Durgesh, Kolusu Parthasarathy, Anaganti Satya Prasad and Gummidandi Sandhya Rani, BJP State President PVN Madhav, MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy and public representatives from Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts participated.

Lokesh Calls for Greater Public Participation in Social Service

Visakhapatnam, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh praised the social service initiatives undertaken by the Hare Krishna Gokul Trust, Prema Udayam and Age Care Foundation in Visakhapatnam, saying such efforts demonstrate the power of collective action for public welfare. Lokesh participated in programmes organised by the three organisations at

Gambhiram in Anandapuram mandal on Monday. He performed Bhoomi Puja for the Hare Krishna Vaikuntham Cultural Complex and laid its foundation stone. He also inaugurated the new college building of Prema Group Institutions and the Geriatric and Palliative Care Centre of the Age Care Foundation, besides opening the fourth and fifth floors of the foundation's building. Praising the services of



Krishna Waters Bring Tears of Joy to Drought-Hit Markapuram



CH Kishor @ Yerragondapalem

For decades, the people of the drought-prone Markapuram region waited for a moment they could scarcely believe would arrive. On Monday,

that wait finally ended as Krishna waters flowed into the Nallamala Sagar through the Veligonda feeder canal, turning the historic inauguration of Phase-I of the Veligonda project into an unforgettable celebration.

The moment Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu lifted the gates to release the water, cheers and whistles erupted from the huge gathering. Farmers and villagers watched with excitement as the long-awaited waters

surged forward. For many, it was more than the completion of an irrigation project-it was the fulfilment of a decades-old dream. The sight of flowing Krishna waters brought visible emotion among farmers who had endured years of drought and uncertainty. Some captured the moment on their mobile phones, while others simply stood watching the water in silence. Many sprinkled the water over their heads, considering it sacred, while some filled bottles and containers to carry it home as a cherished memory. Women participated in the celebrations in large numbers, matching the enthusiasm of the men. Even after the official programme ended, hundreds of

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Lokesh Lays Foundation Stone for RS.2,000-Crore AIG Hospital

Visakhapatnam, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh said the Andhra Pradesh Government was placing special emphasis on education and healthcare and would extend full support to AIG Hospitals in establishing its new facility in Visakhapatnam.

Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony at Endada in Anandapuram mandal on Monday, Lokesh described AIG Hospitals as a Centre of Excellence and praised its commitment to providing quality healthcare to people from all sections of society. Calling medicine a sacred profession, Lokesh recalled the sacrifices made by doctors during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also praised AIG Chairman Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy for his discipline, dedication and contri-



bution to gastroenterology. Recalling Reddy's childhood in Visakhapatnam, Lokesh said his journey from a mischievous youngster to a globally recognised gastroenterologist reflected the impact of discipline and determination. He said Reddy had built AIG into an institution combining

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Special Sanitation Drives Held at Tirupati, Vizag Zoos



Tirupati, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Special sanitation drives were conducted at the Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park in Tirupati and the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam on Monday, following the directions of Deputy Chief Minister and Forest, Environment and Science & Technology Minister Pawan Kalyan. The initiative aims to maintain clean and eco-friendly



zoo premises, ensure a healthy environment for wildlife and improve facilities for visitors. Zoo officials undertook sanitation activities across animal enclosures, visitor pathways, gardens, water bodies, rest areas, food distribution points and waste collection zones. Special focus was placed on waste segregation, removal of plastic waste, maintaining greenery and improving overall sanitation standards.

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Lokesh Calls Roshaiiah 'Statue of Statesman', Seeks Museum on His Life

Visakhapatnam, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh described former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and former Tamil Nadu Governor Konijeti Roshaiiah as an embodiment of political values, integrity and statesmanship, saying his life and public service should inspire future generations. Lokesh unveiled a bronze statue of Roshaiiah at Siripuram Circle in Visakhapatnam on Monday. Speaking at the programme, he said the statue should be known as the 'Statue of Statesman', as Roshaiiah represented discipline, integrity, political knowledge, decency in speech and incisive criticism. Recalling Roshaiiah's role in the undivided Andhra Pradesh Assembly, Lokesh said he commanded respect across political parties and often acted as a bridge



between the government and Opposition. Despite political differences, he maintained personal relationships with leaders and worked to ease tensions, Lokesh said. He said Roshaiiah rose from a humble village background and entered politics under the guidance of Acharya N.G. Ranga. Without

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AP JAC Amaravati Announces Phased Agitation Over Employee Issues

Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

The AP JAC Amaravati has announced a phased agitation to seek the resolution of pending issues and outstanding dues of employees, teachers, and pensioners. As part of the first phase, the association's district units submitted notices outlining the action plan to District Collectors across Andhra Pradesh on Monday. AP JAC Amaravati State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, Secretary General Paliseti Damodara Rao, Associate Chairman T.V. Phani Perraju, and Treasurer Thimmasarathi Nageswara Rao said that the district leaders explained the employees' grievances to the Collectors and urged the government



to take immediate action. According to the schedule, employees will use the WhatsApp profile picture bearing the slogan "CM Sir... please give us our money" from September 1 to highlight their pending demands. They will also wear black badges while attending duties from September 1 to 5 as a mark of protest. The JAC will organise protests during lunch breaks at all Collectorates and Revenue

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CM To Visit Mogaltur For NTR Bharosa Pension Programme

Amaravati, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will visit Mogaltur in West Godavari district on Tuesday to participate in the NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme. He will leave Amaravati at 9:45 am and reach Narsapuram around 11 am. He will visit pension beneficiaries' homes in Ponnappalli and Wards 2 and 3 near the Godavari bund and distribute pensions. He will later address a public meeting in Mogaltur and interact with TDP cadre before returning to Amaravati by 5:20 pm.

Veligonda Project to Boost Markapuram Development

Markapuram, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh extended best wishes to the people of the Markapuram region on the inauguration of the Veligonda Project by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He said the project would end migration hardships and promote development in the drought-prone region. Lokesh said the project would provide safe drinking water to people affected by drought and fluoride contamination, besides supporting irrigation and horticulture. He expressed gratitude to displaced families who made sacrifices for the project. He said the inauguration would fulfil a 30-year-old dream and transform the region into a fertile landscape. Lokesh said the Alliance government was committed to completing irrigation projects and seeking the people's affection through development.



CM Chandrababu Naidu Offers Sashtanga Pranamam to Krishna Waters After Jalaharathi at Veligonda Project in Markapuram

AP Moves To Strengthen School Safety Systems

Mangalagiri, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

The School Education Department has launched an initiative to strengthen school safety systems and create a safe and student-friendly learning environment across Andhra Pradesh. A meeting of the State-Level School Safety Monitoring Committee, or State-Level Task Force, was held at Vidya Bhavan in Vijayawada on Monday under the chairmanship of School Education Director Tamim Ansariya A., IAS. UNICEF experts and officials from various departments discussed measures to improve safety preparedness and protection in schools. Tamim Ansariya unveiled the book 'School Safety and Security', designed to improve awareness and

preparedness among teachers, parents, school managements and officials while promoting shared responsibility for student safety. She stressed the need for coordinated action among departments handling disaster management, health, child welfare, police, transport, tribal and social welfare issues. She called for a simple, practical and dynamic model based on ground-level requirements without placing additional burdens on teachers. The Director said school safety should be treated as a continuous process, with regular reviews and improvements based on field-level feedback. Samagra Shiksha State Project Director B. Srinivasa Rao, IAS, said safety concerns such as under-construction build-



ings, damaged boundary walls and other infrastructure issues must be addressed promptly. He said school safety also covers protection from

harassment, abuse, cyber threats, narcotics, unsafe transportation and hostel-related risks. He called for social audits, field inspections

and coordination with parents and departments to ensure safe transportation and protect students from harmful digital content and substances.

Officials from APSDMA, Women Development and Child Welfare, Health, APSDRF, Police, RTC and other departments participated.

Veligonda Realises Three-Decade-Old Dream, Says Atchannaidu

Veligonda, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had realised the three-decade-old dream of the Veligonda project, calling its inauguration a historic milestone for drought-prone regions. He noted that Naidu, who laid the foundation stone in 1996, was now dedicating the project to the nation. Veligonda would provide irrigation to 4.47 lakh acres and drinking water to lakhs of people in drought- and fluoride-affected areas

across Prakasam, Markapuram, Nellore and Kadapa districts, he said. Atchannaidu said diverting Krishna floodwaters would revive farmland, replenish groundwater, fill irrigation tanks and boost agriculture. The project would also reduce drought-induced migration and accelerate regional development. He said the Alliance government had prioritised displaced families, with \$762 crore in compensation disbursed within 48 days. Veligonda, he added, would usher in a new chapter of irrigation, employment and prosperity.

Veligonda Ends Three-Decade Wait, Says Dola

Veligonda, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy described Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu as a modern-day Bhagiratha for bringing Krishna waters to drought-prone western Prakasam through the Veligonda project. He said the project had ended a three-decade wait and would transform the lives of people across four districts. The first phase will

provide irrigation water to 1.19 lakh acres and drinking water to four lakh people, he said. The Minister expressed confidence that Veligonda would create better livelihood opportunities and reduce migration from western Prakasam. He paid tribute to people of 11 villages who sacrificed their lands and homes for the project and thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for fulfilling their long-standing dream.

APSRTC To Introduce 750 E-Buses, First Batch By October

Anantapur, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao said the corporation was taking steps to introduce electric buses on a large scale to provide eco-friendly and comfortable public transport while reducing pollution. During his visit to the Anantapur garage on Sunday, he inspected various sections and reviewed the charging stations under construction before interacting with employees. He said replacing diesel buses with electric vehicles was part of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision for modernising public transport and protecting the environment. Narayana Rao said 750 electric buses had been sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh

under the PM e-Bus Sewa scheme. The first batch of 350 buses would be available by October, with the remaining buses to be introduced in phases by the end of the year. He added that the Chief Minister had requested the Centre to sanction another 300 e-buses. He directed officials to expedite construction of charging stations and electrical substations and complete the required infrastructure by October. The Chairman also highlighted the response to the Stree Shakti scheme, under which women are travelling free on APSRTC buses, with the government bearing an expenditure of over ₹3,000 crore. He said free travel for persons with disabilities and employee welfare were also being prioritised.

Vision Document Prepared to Transform Bandar, Says Kollu Ravindra

Machilipatnam, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra said a 30-year vision document was being prepared to transform Machilipatnam into a major hub for education, employment, industry and infrastructure. Addressing a grievance redressal programme at the TDP office in Machilipatnam, he said 29 petitions were received on Monday, of which 21 were resolved immediately. So far, 505 grievances had been received and 413 resolved, he added. Ravindra said the government was focusing on roads, drainage, drinking water and connectivity. He noted that \$74 crore had been sanctioned under HAM for municipal roads, while works worth \$75 crore under AMRUT and \$13 crore for drainage were underway. Proposals worth \$250 crore, including \$75 crore for sewage treatment plants, were also being pursued. He said the Machilipatnam port and fishing harbour would be completed soon, while a 5,000-acre mega industrial park and a shipbuilding facility were planned. Proposals for a 300-acre food park and Critical Mineral Park were also being pursued. Ravindra described the Veligonda project as proof of Chandrababu Naidu's commitment and said the Alliance government was prioritising irrigation and drinking water projects. He also said efforts were underway to restore 34% BC reservation in local bodies.

CM Can Rewrite AP's Development History, Says Gottipati

Markapuram, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had the vision and capability to create history and transform Andhra Pradesh's development landscape. He said the creation of Markapuram district, establishment of a horticulture hub and

completion of the Veligonda project reflected Chandrababu's commitment to regional development. Gottipati recalled that, while in opposition, MLAs and leaders from Prakasam district had travelled to Delhi and secured assured water allocation for the Veligonda project. He alleged that the previous YCP government neglected even basic maintenance of irrigation projects,

resulting in damage to the Anna mayya, Pulic hintala, Prakasam Barrage and Gund lakamma projects. Gottipati said Chandrababu's inauguration of Veligonda would fulfil the three-decade-old dream of people in the backward Markapuram region. He noted that ₹768 crore had been distributed to displaced families within 48 days and said the project would transform the region's future.

Govt Moves To Resolve Journalists' Housing Scheme In Amaravati

Amaravati, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

The state government has taken steps to resolve the long-pending housing scheme for journalists in Amaravati. Municipal Admi nistration and Urban Development Department Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar assured representatives of the Amaravati Journalists' Housing Society that appropriate directions would be issued to the CRDA Commissioner

and the proposal would be placed before the concerned Cabinet Subcommittee. Society representatives met Suresh Kumar at the State Secretariat in Velagapudi on Monday and submitted a legal opinion obtained from a former Registrar General of the Supreme Court. They explained that the opinion found no legal hurdles for eligible society members to construct houses under the scheme. Suresh Kumar assured



them that a memo would be sent to the CRDA Commissioner and necessary steps would be taken under G.O. Ms. No. 107. The representatives also met I&PR Comm

issioner Viswanathan, who assured them that the matter would be pursued with the concerned departments. The society welcomed the government's positive response.

Mandipalli Praises Scholarship Initiative for Transport Workers' Children

Tadepalli, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Transport, Youth Services and Sports Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy appreciated Shriram Finance for its educational scholarship initiative aimed at supporting children of transport and logistics workers. Representatives of the company met the Minister at his Tadepalli camp office and explained the scholarship programme, which provides financial assistance to eligible students studying in Classes 8 to 12. They said the initiative would help students continue their education and prevent dropouts caused by financial difficulties. After learning about the programme, Mandipalli appreciated



the initiative and commended such corporate social responsibility efforts aimed at supporting students and strengthening their educational prospects. Shriram Finance President M.

Venkateswara Rao, Zonal Business Head B. Gopal Rao, Zonal Sales Head M. Ramesh and Regional Business Head Sd. Usman participated in the meeting.

Health Department Holds Talks With Contract Employees

Tadepalli, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Senior officials of the Medical and Health Department held preliminary discussions with Joint Action Committee (JAC) representatives of contract employees on Monday over their long-pending demands. The meeting, held at the Office of the Director of Secondary Health in Tadepalli under the instructions of Health Minister Satya Kumar, continued for over three hours. Health and Family Welfare Commissioner Chakradhar Babu, Medical and Health Department Joint Secretary Ronanki Gopalakrishna, Director of Public Health Padmavathi and Additional Director of



Medical Education Dr Radhika Reddy participated. JAC representatives Koteswara Rao and Ajay Kumar explained the employees' concerns. The JAC sought regularisation of contract employees, 100% gross salary until regularisation, ₹50 lakh ex-gratia and a government job for a family member in case of an employee's death while on duty. They also demanded coverage

under the Employees' Health Scheme (EHS), request and mutual transfers, and enhanced security and dignity for staff nurses working night shifts. Officials said regularisation and other financial demands required a government-level decision. However, Commissioner Chakradhar Babu and Joint Secretary Gopalakrishna assured the JAC that non-financial issues

would be addressed promptly. They said an internal committee would examine transfer requests and mutual transfers, with proposals to be submitted to the government. Officials also assured measures to improve night-shift security for nurses and said the remuneration of contract staff involved in surgeries under the NTR Vaidya Seva scheme would be examined.

Veligonda Project Becomes Fully Operational



Markapuram, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project has become fully operational, fulfilling a three-decade-old dream of bringing Krishna waters to drought-prone regions. Speaking at the first-phase inauguration by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday, Ramanaidu said critical works were completed within two years after the Alliance government assumed office in 2024. He said the CM closely monitored

progress and ensured funds. The Minister said 4,924 metres of tunnelling and 6,988 metres of lining were completed. A major challenge was retrieving a 1,900-tonne TBM stuck for five years at the 11.8-km point, enabling tunnelling to resume. He said \$462 crore was allocated for feeder canal restoration, with 5.3 km of CC works and 11 km of lining completed. Ramanaidu thanked displaced families, noting \$900 crore was disbursed under R&R, with another \$169 crore proposed. He said Handri-Neeva and Polavaram were also being prioritised.

Veligonda to Emerge as Tourism Hub Alongside Irrigation Project

Markapuram, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh said the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project would be developed as both a major water resource and tourism destination. Participating in the first-phase water release near Gantavanipalli on Monday, Durgesh joined Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in performing Jalaharathi to the Krishna waters and unveiling the project pylon.

He called the occasion historic and recalled that Naidu had laid the foundation stone in 1996. Durgesh said a tourism circuit would connect Srisailem, Tripurantakam, Markapuram, Kamham Lake, Bhairavakona and Nallamala, boosting tourism and employment. He thanked Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for conveying his wishes while undergoing treatment in Kerala and praised the government for compensating displaced families before the inauguration.

NTR Revived Veligonda Through G.O. 409, Says Mandipalli

Mangalagiri, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Transport, Youth and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said late NTR played a key role in reviving the Veligonda project through G.O. 409, while Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu later advanced it with determination. Speaking at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri on Monday, he accused Sakshi media of distorting the project's history. He alleged that the YCP government undertook only about \$1,200 crore worth of earthwork while publicising it extensively.

Mandipalli alleged that several irrigation projects in Rayalaseema were neglected and Central funds were not properly utilised during the previous regime. He also accused the former government of irregularities in sand, liquor and mining sectors. He said the Alliance government was promoting drip irrigation and horticulture in Rayalaseema, targeting investments of around \$1 lakh crore. The Minister said the government was committed to completing pending irrigation projects and ensuring permanent water security for Rayalaseema.

Veligonda Will Transform Prakasam's Future, Says Kollu Ravindra

Veligonda, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra described the inauguration of the Veligonda project as a historic moment for the people of Prakasam district, thanking Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for realising their decades-old dream. He noted that Naidu had laid the foundation stone for the project three decades ago and was now dedicating it to the nation. Ravindra said Veligonda would provide irrigation water to hundreds of

thousands of acres, transforming drought-prone areas into fertile lands while improving drinking water availability. Calling Chandrababu Naidu a modern-day 'Bhagiratha', he alleged that the project had been neglected for five years, with previous inaugurations conducted despite incomplete works. Ravindra said the Alliance government completed the pending works on a war footing after assuming power. He particularly thanked the Chief Minister for personally monitoring the project and ensuring its completion.

State Police Sports Meet To Begin In Mangalagiri Today

Amaravati, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Preparations have been completed for the Andhra Pradesh State Police Sports and Games Meet-2026, scheduled to begin on Tuesday and continue till September 4. Around 1,900 police athletes from various ranges and units across the state will participate in the four-day sporting event. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta will inaugurate the meet at 4 pm on Tuesday at the APSP 6th Battalion premises in Mangalagiri. For the first time, ministerial staff of the Police Department will also participate in the competitions. The events will be conducted at VIT-AP University in Amaravati and Acharya Nagarjuna University. The closing ceremony will be held on September 4. The meet aims to identify sporting talent among police personnel while promoting physical fitness,



discipline, sportsmanship and team spirit. Police athletes who excel in the competitions will be shortlisted to represent Andhra Pradesh at national-level police sports events. Officials said all arrangements have been made for the smooth conduct of the meet.

Subrahmanyeswari's Disease Control Services Praised

Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

State Health and Family Welfare Commissioner Chakradhar Babu praised Additional Director Subrahmanyeswari for her commendable services in controlling mosquito-borne and other infectious diseases in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at her retirement farewell ceremony held at NTR University of Health Sciences in Vijayawada on Monday, Chakradhar Babu said Subrahmanyeswari had worked tirelessly across the State under the Directorate of Public Health to control Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis and Melioidosis. He congratulated her family members and noted that family support

and encouragement play an important role in helping women excel professionally. Fellow officials said the department would miss her services and camaraderie and conveyed their best wishes for her retirement. Chakradhar Babu stressed the importance of disease surveillance, containment and effective treatment protocols. He also urged people to focus on self-care and maintaining good immunity. Subrahmanyeswari thanked officials and colleagues for their cooperation throughout her service. Director of Public Health Padmavathi and senior Health Department officials, including Vijayalakshmi, D. Prakash Rao, B.V. Rao and Arjuna Rao, attended the event.

Sharmila Credits YSR for Veligonda Progress, Accuses Naidu of Taking Credit

Amaravati, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee President YS Sharmila welcomed the completion of the first phase of the Veligonda project after three decades, while crediting former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy with the major share of its execution.

In a post on X, Sharmila said the project would provide irrigation and drinking water to drought-prone areas of Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts. She claimed that 4.5 lakh acres would



receive irrigation water and 23 lakh people would benefit from drinking water under the project. Sharmila alleged that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was making exaggerated claims about Veligonda. She said Naidu had only laid the foundation stone for the project under 'Sankalpam' on March 5, 1996, while YSR, after assuming office in 2004, transformed it into a major project under Jalayagnam. She claimed that 82 per cent of the project was completed during YSR's tenure, including 22 km of tunnel construction,

land acquisition and compensation for the Gottipadu and Sunkesula dams. She further claimed that RS.4,000 crore was spent on the project during the YSR government. "While the hard work and sweat behind the Veligonda project belonged to YSR, Chandrababu is claiming credit," Sharmila said, adding, "If YSR was truly the light for Veligonda, then Chandrababu is the darkness." She urged the government to focus on the second phase and ensure comprehensive rehabilitation of affected people.



Krishna Waters Bring Tears of Joy to Drought-Hit Markapuram

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farmers and residents remained along the canal embankment, reluctant to leave the scene. The Veligonda waters symbolised renewed hope for a region long associated with water scarcity and migration. Farmers expressed confidence that the arrival of Krishna water would revive agricultural activity, replenish water sources and bring prosperity to their families. The extraordinary public response reflected the emotional significance of the project. After years of waiting, the question of whether Krishna waters would ever reach the region finally had an answer. As the waters continued their journey towards Nallamala Sagar, the celebrations gradually gave way to a sense of relief and hope. For the people of Markapuram, August 31 became a day to remember-a day when a long-held dream finally began flowing before their eyes.

Lokesh Calls for Greater Public Participation in Social Service

Continue

Padma Shri Dr S.V. Adinarayana Rao, Lokesh said a donation made by a single individual had grown into a major social service initiative benefiting thousands. He appreciated the Adinarayana Rao family for providing six acres of land for service activities, including a college, mid-day meal programme and elderly care centre. Lokesh said the state government would focus on providing value-based education to children and stressed that development should go hand in hand with ethics and social responsibility. He said a developed India without values could not be considered truly developed. He appreciated the donors supporting the 100-bed hospital and palliative care centre and urged civil society, government agencies and youth to work together to expand such initiatives. On Visakhapatnam's development, Lokesh said the government was committed to transforming the city into a leading economic centre while protecting public and environmental interests. He said concerns regarding data centres would be addressed and technologies that minimise water consumption would be encouraged. Lokesh said Visakhapatnam was undergoing rapid transformation and would be developed as one of the country's model cities. MP Mathukumilli Sri Bharat, TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao and MLAs Ganta Srinivasa Rao and Vishnu Kumar Raju attended.

Lokesh Calls Roshaiiah 'Statue of Statesman', Seeks Museum on His Life

Continue

political lineage or wealth, he reached the highest positions through hard work, discipline and commitment. Lokesh described him as an institution in politics and an inspiration for the younger generation. Lokesh said installing statues alone was not enough and stressed the need to preserve Roshaiiah's life story and make it accessible to future generations. He urged Arya Vysya community elders to identify land for a museum dedicated to Roshaiiah and proposed completing it within 18 months. The Minister also suggested preparing books and videos highlighting Roshaiiah's struggles, achievements, political values and social service. He said he would take responsibility for including a chapter on Roshaiiah in the academic curriculum, while TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao would facilitate inclusion of his political values in party cadre training programmes. Earlier, Lokesh met Roshaiiah's family members and assured them of government support in preserving his legacy. Ministers TG Bharat, MP Mathukumilli Sri Bharat, MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao, AP Arya Vysya Corporation Chairman Dundhi Rakesh and other public representatives attended.

AP JAC Amaravati Announces Phased Agitation Over Employee Issues

Continue

Divisional Officer offices across the state on September 3 and 5. The association has announced that the 'Work-to-Rule' programme will begin from September 15 if the government fails to respond to their demands. JAC leaders appealed to the government to consider the employees' legitimate grievances and clear outstanding dues. They said the agitation would continue in a phased and democratic manner. The leaders warned that the protests would be intensified in subsequent stages if the government failed to take favourable decisions on the issues. They said the action plan was aimed at securing a timely resolution while avoiding disruption beyond the announced programmes.

Sunitha Vows No Let-Up in Development and Service



Raptadu, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha said the alliance government was pursuing development without compromise and assured that service activities through the Paritala Ravindra Memorial Trust would continue expanding. Speaking at Kanaganapalli mandal headquarters on Monday, she said the programmes were organised to mark the 68th birth anniversary of former minister and senior TDP leader Paritala Ravindra. After paying floral tributes to NTR and Paritala Ravi, Sunitha distributed 50 pushcarts to small-scale vendors from Kanaganapalli, Ramagiri and Chennethapalli mandals. The Trust had procured 120 carts worth RS.18 lakh, with RS.7.5 lakh worth distributed

on the occasion. Sunitha said people had stood by the Paritala family for years and their affection would never be forgotten. She said development works had gained momentum in Kanaganapalli and called for the alliance's victory in the upcoming local body elections to begin from the mandal. She praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's welfare initiatives and said additional RTC buses and staff would be provided. Criticising YSRCP leader Jagan Reddy over the Mega DSC recruitment, she said 16,347 teacher posts were being filled and urged cadres to explain the government's development work and counter YSRCP propaganda. Market Committee President Boyapati Sudhakar, DCMS Chairman Nettekum Venkatesh and others attended.

Nomadic Communities Warn of Political Fight

Tadepalli, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of Most Backward Communities (MBCs) warned that they would launch a political fight against the TDP coalition government, alleging neglect of nomadic communities. They were speaking at the 74th Nomadic Tribes Day celebrations held at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli. Community leader Pendra Veeranna said former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had created a special corporation for 32 nomadic communities under BC-A and provided house sites, pucca houses and welfare benefits to lakhs of families. He said the YSRCP government had also given these historically marginalised communities greater recognition and dignity. Veeranna alleged that the present coalition government had not constituted the corporation's governing body. He demanded separate reservation for the 32 communities under BC-A, claiming stronger sections were receiving most benefits from the existing seven per cent quota. He said educated youth from Gangireddula, Budabukkala and Picchiguntla communities were struggling to secure jobs despite B.Tech and M.Tech qualifications. He said committees would be formed across districts to unite the communities and work for Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's return as Chief Minister. MLC Lella Appi Reddy, YSRCP SC Cell Working President Kommuri Kanaka Rao and former MLA TJR Sudhakar Babu also addressed the gathering.

YSRCP Accuses Naidu of Taking Credit for Veligonda

Tadepalli, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of taking credit for the Veligonda Project, claiming that major works were completed during the tenures of former Chief Ministers Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. They demanded immediate rehabilitation and compensation for displaced families. Speaking at the YSRCP Central Office, MLC Lella Appi Reddy, former MLA TJR Sudhakar Babu, former Minister Anil Kumar Yadav and YSRCP MLA Tatiparthi Chandrasekhara said YSR and YS Jagan had carried out most of the tunnel and related works. They said more than 31 km of the 37-km tunnel works were completed under the two governments, with Tunnel-1 completed in January 2021 and Tunnel-2 in January 2024. YS Jagan dedicated the tunnels to the nation in March 2024. Lella Appi Reddy said Naidu laid the foundation stone in 1996 but made little progress during his subsequent eight years in office. Anil Kumar Yadav said Chandrababu's claims were false and alleged that similar credit was being taken for other projects nearing completion. Chandrasekhara said the project also included Nallamala Sagar, Sunkesula, Gottipadi and Kakarla dams and feeder canals. He said the YS Jagan government increased the R&R package from around RS.6 lakh to RS.12.50 lakh. The leaders demanded compensation, house sites and permanent houses for eligible oustees and criticised Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy's remarks against YS Jagan. TJR Sudhakar Babu challenged Magunta to resign and seek a fresh mandate on the issue.

YS Jagan to Visit Pulivendula on September 1, 2

Tadepalli, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will visit Pulivendula on September 1 and 2 and participate in the death anniversary programme of former Chief Minister Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy at Idupulapaya on September 2. YS Jagan will reach Pulivendula at noon on September 1 and proceed to his camp office at Bhakarapuram, where he will meet the public. He will stay overnight at his residence in Pulivendula. On September 2, YS Jagan will leave his residence at Pulivendula and reach Idupulapaya at 7.45 am. He will pay floral tributes to Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy at the YSR Ghat and participate in the commemorative programme with family members, party leaders and others. After the programme, YS Jagan will leave Idupulapaya and return.

Employees Accuse Alliance Government of Neglect

Amaravati, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Around 11 lakh employees, teachers and pensioners who supported the alliance government led by Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan are reportedly distressed over unresolved service and financial issues. Critics alleged that each employee had suffered a financial loss of around RS.10 lakh since the government assumed power. They said Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan had promised to resolve employees' issues within six months, address health insurance card problems within 60 days and clear arrears worth RS.35,000 crore. However, they alleged that these assurances had not been fulfilled. They pointed out that no Pay Revision Commission (PRC) had been constituted and no new chairman appointed after the previous PRC chairman resigned. Five pending Dearness Allowance (DA) instalments, Interim Relief (IR), leave encashment, health insurance cards and fitment issues also remain unresolved, they alleged. Employees and pensioners demanded immediate action to address their long-pending concerns.

YSRCP Raises Visakhapatnam Civic Issues

Visakhapatnam, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Visakhapatnam District President K.K. Raju demanded immediate action on drinking water, healthcare, pollution, land protection and other civic issues in the city. He submitted a representation to the District Collector during the public grievance programme. Raju said several colonies and apartment complexes were facing drinking water shortages, forcing residents to buy water. He sought free tanker supply in areas without gravity-based supply and repairs to leakages in Tatipudi water system pipelines and reservoirs. He also raised concerns over medicine shortages at King George Hospital, alleging that poor patients were being forced to approach private hospitals. He demanded an inquiry into complaints regarding medicines, injections and oxygen supply. Raju sought action on port pollution, medical camps in affected areas and proper use of CSR funds. He demanded protection of 3.5 acres of government land in Kapparada Survey No.13 and warned of agitation against encroachments. He also sought release of registration documents under G.O. No.296 to eligible poor families, an inquiry into a suspicious death in Aganampudi, and resolution of compensation and TDR issues for road-widening victims. Raju criticised frequent GVMC commissioner changes and the midnight evacuation of tribal residential school students, urging officials to remain accountable and work without political pressure.

Janasena to Strengthen Grassroots Presence for Local Body Polls



Nandyal, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said the Janasena would strengthen its grassroots presence and contest the upcoming local body elections without compromising the principles of the alliance. Addressing a press conference in Nandyal, Durgesh said the party would assess its strengths and weaknesses across the State before deciding where to contest. He assured that the self-respect of Janasainiks and Veera Mahilas would be protected during the elections. Recalling the 2021 local body elections, he praised party cadres

for standing firm despite facing alleged irregularities and inducements from the YSRCP. He said their fighting spirit helped the party win in several places and strengthen its presence. Durgesh said Jana Sena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had constituted a 14-member committee to formulate the election strategy, of which he is a member. The committee would identify areas where the party has a strong organisational base and assess the prospects of victory. He said Janasena would move forward with a clear action plan under Pawan Kalyan's leadership while upholding alliance principles.

Lokesh Lays Foundation Stone for RS.2,000-Crore AIG Hospital

Continue

advanced technology, research and affordable healthcare. Lokesh said the government was working to transform Visakhapatnam into a trillion-dollar economic region and welcomed AIG's investment in the city. The new facility, being developed with an investment of RS.2,000 crore, will have 1,000 beds, 50 medical specialities and an outpatient block capable of handling 5,000 patients daily. It is expected to generate employment for around 9,000 people. Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu praised Reddy's medical expertise, research orientation and service, recalling his personal association with the doctor. Dr Nageshwar Reddy said establishing AIG in Visakhapatnam was an emotional

moment as he was born and spent his early childhood in the city. He said the project would focus on ethical, affordable healthcare along with research and training. Reddy said AIG aimed to make Visakhapatnam a major national healthcare hub, reducing the need for patients to travel to Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad for specialised treatment. Visakhapatnam MP Mathukumilli Sribharat, TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, Bheemili MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao, MLA Ganababu, AIG Hospitals Vice Chairman PVS Raju, Director GV Rao, CEO Sam Rizvi, Visakhapatnam Director K. Rakesh, Collector Abhijit Kishore, Police Commissioner Dr Shankhabrata Bagchi and COO Capri Jalota were among those present.

Special Sanitation Drives Held at Tirupati, Vizag Zoos

Continue

Pawan Kalyan directed officials to conduct such sanitation drives regularly and ensure sustained cleanliness across the zoological parks. The Deputy Chief Minister said zoos should not be viewed merely as entertainment centres but should function as important institutions for wildlife conservation, biodiversity protection and environmental awareness. He stressed the need to create greater public awareness about protecting animals and their habitats. Officials also appealed to corporate organisations, industrialists, voluntary organisations and members of the public to participate in animal adoption programmes at the Tirupati and Visakhapatnam zoos.

The appeal assumes significance following the recent birth of 128 animals at the Visakhapatnam Zoo through advanced incubation methods. Officials said public and institutional participation in animal adoption would help support wildlife conservation and biodiversity protection initiatives. Pawan Kalyan called upon citizens to actively participate in conservation efforts and contribute to the welfare of animals. He emphasised that protecting wildlife should be treated as a collective responsibility and urged people to support the zoos in their efforts to create healthier habitats for animals while promoting environmental awareness among visitors. The sanitation programme is expected to strengthen cleanliness and conservation practices at both zoological parks.

PCB Launches Special Drive to Control Aqua-Industry Pollution

Continue

at aqua processing facilities in East Godavari, West Godavari, Konaseema and Nellore districts on Monday. The samples have been sent to laboratories for scientific analysis. Samples will be collected from centres in Krishna, Bapatla and Prakasam districts on Tuesday. Officials also inspected waste management practices at the facilities. Parameters including nitrogen, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical

Oxygen Demand (COD) and solid waste will be examined to determine pollution levels and identify sources. Based on the test results, PCB officials will advise facility managements on corrective measures. Awareness programmes will also be conducted to sensitise aqua industry operators about controlling pollutants and protecting groundwater, rivers and streams. Officials said the initiative seeks to promote sustainable growth of the aquaculture sector while ensuring environmental protection.

NTR Police Intensify War On Ganja With Drones

Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

The NTR District Police have intensified their campaign against cannabis by deploying advanced "Matrice 4T" drones to spread awareness about the "Eagle Challenge" across the district. The initiative is being carried out under the vision of Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu to make NTR District free from cannabis and curb the activities of "Blade Batches" and "Ganja Batches."

The police have adopted several measures, including "War on Drugs 1.0," "Action After Awareness (2.0)" and "Another Chance for Change," as part of their efforts to prevent drug-related activities and encourage behavioural change. Under the Eagle Challenge, citizens are encouraged to provide concrete and evi-



dence-based information about drug sellers and users. A cash reward of ₹5,000 will be given for information leading to

the identification of drug or ganja sellers, while ₹1,500 will be offered for information leading to the identification of drug

users.

Police officials at all stations are conducting awareness programmes within their respective jurisdictions through public announcements and community outreach. The Matrice 4T drones, equipped with advanced voice and loudspeaker systems, are being deployed at major junctions, busy public places, crowded areas and hilly settlements to communicate the Eagle Challenge directly to residents. The Police Department has appealed to citizens to actively support the campaign and share reliable information regarding the sale or consumption of cannabis. People can immediately contact the police by dialling 112 or 172. Officials said public cooperation and vigilance are essential to achieve the goal of a cannabis-free NTR District.

Police Launch Campaign Vehicles Against Marijuana and Cybercrimes



Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

City Police Commissioner S.V. Raja Sekhara Babu launched three campaign vehicles and horses at the Police Commissionerate office to create awareness about marijuana use and cybercrimes.

The NTR Police Commissionerate will conduct an extensive campaign across all police station limits through posters, public meetings, auto-rickshaws, short videos and Matrice 4T drones. The Commissioner said the initiative aims to

prevent crimes through awareness and make the city drug-free.

Under the Eagle Challenge, citizens providing credible information on drug sellers and users will receive rewards of ₹5,000 and ₹1,500 respectively. He said 32 persons had been arrested under the PIT NDPS Act, while nearly 15,000 people were tested and 1,287 marijuana users identified. Following reformative measures, 72% of those who initially tested positive later tested negative. The three digital-screen vehicles will tour the Commissionerate for a week. Horses will spread awareness in hilly areas, while drones with loudspeakers will make announcements. The Khaki Studio initiative will promote cybercrime awareness through short videos. Senior police officials and staff attended.

NTR District Focuses on Investment and MSME Growth



Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said NTR District offers a favorable environment for investments and that efforts are being made to provide better facilities for entrepreneurs. He stressed the need to establish a district land bank and simplify land allotment procedures according to government rules.

The District Industrial and Export Promotion Committee (DIEPC) meeting was held on Monday at the Sri Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall in the District Collectorate, chaired by Collector Lakshmisha. Officials said 258 applications for industrial clearances were received through the Single Desk Portal

between May 26 and August 29, 2026, of which 226 were approved. The Collector directed officials to clear the remaining applications within the stipulated timeframe. The DIEPC approved 22 incentive claims worth ₹3.24 crore, covering investment subsidies, interest subventions and electricity bill reimbursements for MSMEs under various industrial policies.

With the 31st CII Partnership Summit scheduled in November in Visakhapatnam and a Regional Partnership Summit planned in Vijayawada in October, Lakshmisha called for coordinated efforts for their success. Under the RAMP programme, he urged participation in the MSME Growth Workshop scheduled in Vijayawada on September 2. District Industries Officer M. Madhu, APIIC Zonal Manager K. Babji, V. Muralikrishna (FAPSIA), Kanakadurga (ALEP), RDOs and others attended.

NTR Children's Park Inaugurated in Challapalli



Challapalli, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District SP Vidyasagar Naidu praised the establishment of a children's park in Challapalli, describing it as a commendable initiative that provides children a joyful space to play. He inaugurated the NTR Children's Park at the existing NTR Park on Monday evening. The modern facility was developed by Srimanthu Club with donor support at a cost of ₹13 lakh. Speaking at the gather-

ing, Vidyasagar Naidu said Challapalli was special for its community spirit and urged Srimanthu Club to conduct programmes encouraging youth, including awareness campaigns and socially conscious plays promoting good conduct and skill development. He appreciated the donors for contributing their time and money for children's welfare.

Dr. DRK Prasad, leader of Swachh Challapalli, requested the SP's support for banning DJs and flexi-banners. Avanigadda DSP Abhishek and Dr. Padmavathi also spoke.

Former DC Chairman Veeramachaneni Bhavani Prasad presided over the meeting, organised by former Deputy Sarpanch Mummaneni Nani, and others were felicitated.

13 Police Officers Retire from NTR Commissionerate

Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Thirteen police officers retiring on August 31, 2026, were given a heartfelt farewell at the Police Commissioner's office in Vijayawada. Admin DCP K.G.V. Saritha, along with other officials, appreciated their sincere and dedicated service within the NTR District City Police Commissionerate limits and hon-

oured them with shawls and police protocol. The retired personnel are CAO C.P.O. I.V.R. Nagavardhan; Sub-Inspectors of Police J. Gnanadev (V.R.), S. Saibaba (C.T.C.), P.S.S. Reddy and M. Srinivasa Prasad (C.S.B.), and M. Sridhar (C.C.R.B.); Assistant Reserve Sub-Inspectors of Police G.S.N. Murthy, B. Prasad and Ch. Shivaji (C.A.R.); Head Constable B.N.V.K.D. Prasad (P.C.R.); Assistant Reserve

leading to a scuffle with police. Later, they submitted representations and explained their grievances to Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya. District Revenue Officer (DRO) Narasimham assured them that the issues would be examined and resolved. CPM State Secretariat member Ch. Babu Rao and State Committee member Donepudi Kasinath alleged that the government had failed to fulfil housing promises made to the poor. They questioned the



CPM Stages Protest Over Housing Issues

Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

The CPM Vijayawada City Committee staged a massive protest at the NTR District Collectorate on Monday, demanding house-site registrations, patas and the immediate distribution of TIDCO and JNNURM houses to eligible poor families. Hundreds of protesters gathered at the Collectorate and staged a sit-in. Tension prevailed briefly as protesters attempted to enter the premises,

Chakradhar Babu Praises Subrahmanyeswari's Disease Control Services



Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

State Health and Family Welfare Commissioner Chakradhar Babu praised Subrahmanyeswari for her commendable services as Additional Director in controlling mosquito-borne diseases in Andhra Pradesh.

He said she worked tirelessly under the Directorate of Public Health, travelling across the state to combat Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis and Melioidosis.

Chakradhar Babu was the chief guest at her retirement farewell ceremony held at NTR University of Health Sciences in Vijayawada on Monday. He congratulated her family and stressed that family support and encouragement are essential for women to excel professionally. Officials said the department would miss her services and companionship, while conveying their best wishes for her future. Chakradhar Babu highlighted the importance of containment, surveillance and effective treatment protocols in disease control and advised people to focus on self-care and maintaining good health. Subrahmanyeswari thanked everyone who supported her during her service. Director of Public Health Padmavathi and senior NHM officials, along with others, attended.

NTR District Athletes Win 25 Medals At State Championship



Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Athletes from the NTR District Sports Authority won 13 gold and 12 silver medals at the Amaravati State-Level Championship held in Tirupati from August 24 to 27.

The athletes secured medals in athletics, archery, badminton, basketball, boxing, weightlifting and yoga. The medal winners were felicitated at the District Collectorate on Monday, where Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha congratulated them on their performance. Speaking on the occasion, Lakshmisha said the achievements

reflected the talent, dedication and hard work of district athletes. He urged them to make effective use of government-provided training, incentives, sports facilities and other resources. He stressed that discipline, perseverance and regular practice were essential for success in sports. The Collector expressed hope that the athletes would build on their state-level achievements and compete successfully at national and international events, bringing greater recognition to NTR District. District Sports Development Officer K. Koteswara Rao, coaches and athletes participated in the programme.

Nine-Year-Old Dolika Nagasai Selected for Global Inspiration Award

Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Nine-year-old Ponugupati Dolika Nagasai of Vijayawada has added another international honour to her growing list of achievements, being selected for the Global Inspiration-2026 International Award for her talent in arts and culture.

A fourth-grade student of Narayana English Medium School, Kanuru, Dolika has demonstrated her skills in education, Kuchipudi dance and fashion modelling. She has already earned more than 40 national and international awards and records, including the 'Pride of Southern India' and 'State Icon' titles, besides receiving an honorary doctorate. The young performer currently serves as Global Brand Ambassador for the All India Association for Author, Artist, and Educational Forum (AIAAEF), Brand Ambassador for Shubhashree Creations and child model for Blitz Today



Association and Telugu Expats Association of Malaysia at a ceremony in Kuala Lumpur on September 9. Dolika expressed happiness over receiving the international recognition.

Head Constable S. Pandu Rangayya (C.A.R.); and Home Guards K. Lakshmi Narayana and P. Ramana (Home Guard Unit).

Speaking at the event, DCP K.G.V. Saritha said serving and protecting people for 30 to 35 years was a divine blessing. She highlighted the unique opportunity police personnel have to understand society, assist victims and serve the public directly.

ACP Prema Kumar, RIs Srinivasa Rao and Sudhakar Reddy, NTR District Police Association President M. Somaiah, association members, officers, CPO staff and police families attended.

delay in handing over TIDCO houses despite deposits being collected from beneficiaries years ago. The leaders demanded title deeds for poor families living in hilly areas, along the Krishna river and canal bunds, and other localities. They also sought immediate registration of 1,158 houses at Bhramarampuram and distribution of pending houses. Setting September 15 as a deadline, they warned of intensified protests, including a Collectorate blockade and a land rights struggle, if their demands were not addressed. CPM leaders Boyi Satyababu, B. Ramana Rao, P. Krishna, K. Durga Rao, EV Narayana, Adilakshmi and Jhansi participated.

International Conference Websites Launched

Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

The special website for the two-day international conference on Artificial Intelligence for Smart and Sustainable Technologies, scheduled from December 18 at P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science, Vijayawada, was launched on Monday.

Nimmagadda Lalithaprasad, Convener of P.B. Siddhartha College and Joint Secretary, Siddhartha Academy, launched the website at the college board room. Dr. M. Manoranjani, Vice Principal, Vemuri Baburao, Director, Prof. Rajesh C. Jampala, Dean, Dr. L.K. Mohanrao, Academic Advisor, Dr. T.S. Ravikiran, HoD, and faculty member Samrat Krishna Gaddam participated. Dr. Ravikiran said Atlantis Press (Netherlands), Springer Nature and P.B. Siddhartha College are jointly organising the conference. Research papers should



be submitted by October 30. Further details can be obtained by contacting 9441176980. Meanwhile, Lalithaprasad also launched the website for the 7th Annual International Conference of the Indian Economics and Allied Sciences Association, to be held from November 19 to 21 on the theme "Vikasit Bharat @2047."

Dean Prof. Rajesh C. Jampala said complete details are available on the conference website.

MP Paka Satyanarayana Calls For Policy For Nomadic Tribes



Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha Member Paka Venkata Satyanarayana called for a special policy to ensure social justice and constitutional benefits for nomadic, semi-nomadic and de-notified tribes, saying these communities continue to face social and economic challenges nearly 80 years after Independence.

Speaking at a programme at the BJP state office in Vijayawada, Satyanarayana said these communities had played an important role in preserving Indian culture and traditions. He said British-era policies that branded them "criminals by birth"

had contributed to their continued backwardness.

He said the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken several initiatives over the past decade, including forming commissions and committees to study their socio-economic conditions. However, lack of clarity over their classification under SC, ST and BC categories was preventing many families from accessing welfare schemes, he said.

Satyanarayana stressed the need for permanent settlements while protecting traditional occupations through financial assistance. He called for a special action plan by the Centre and State governments during the upcoming census and caste-wise data collection.

He said the BJP would submit a report on the issues discussed to the Central Government and work towards policies protecting their rights and livelihoods. BJP leaders and representatives, including Madhukar-ji, Adduri Sriram, Subrahmanyam, Bitra Sivanarayana and Kilari Dilip, attended.

Sankashtahara Chaturthi Ganapati Homam Held

Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Special rituals were performed for Lord Ganapati atop Indrakeeladri on Monday to mark Sankashtahara Chaturthi. According to Puranic belief, observing Sankashtahara Chaturthi helps devotees overcome troubles and remove obstacles from their lives. Temple priests conducted Abhishekam and Ganapati Homam with grandeur at the temple's Yagashala in the morning. The rituals were performed in the divine presence of Goddess Sri Kanaka Durga, revered as Adi Parashakti and Jaganmata. The priests offered spe-



cial prayers seeking the well-being and prosperity of people across the world. Devotees believe that performing Sankashtahara Chaturthi rituals can help resolve horoscope-related issues and bring success in various endeavours.

Officials Inspect Indrakeeladri Development Works



Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Endowments Department Secretary K. Kannababu and Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan inspected development works at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam on Indrakeeladri on Monday. The officials reviewed the elevated queue complex, Maha Mandapam and newly inaugurated Kanakadurga Annaprashada Sadanam. Temple Executive Officer (EO) V.K. Seena Naik and priests welcomed

Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan, who offered prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga and received Ashirvachanam, Sessa Vastram and Teertha-Prasadam. The officials inspected the elevated queue complex and held detailed discussions with Chennai-based expert planners on integrating it with the main temple pathway to ensure smooth movement of devotees. They also walked through the queue lines at the Maha Mandapam and reviewed crowd management and safety arrangements. Kannababu and Ramachandra Mohan directed engineering officials to speed up construction works and complete them on time ahead of the Sri devi Sarannavaratri Dasara Mahotsavams, when lakhs of devotees are expected. Endowments Department Chief Engineer (CE) Sekhar, Temple Executive Engineer (EE) L. Ramadevi, DEEs, AEOs, Chennai planning team members and other engineering officials participated in the inspection.

Devotee Offers Gold Necklace to Durga Temple



Vijayawada, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

A devotee offered a gold necklace to the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam on Monday as an offering to Goddess Durga.

Upadrashta Srinivas of S.N. Puram, Vijayawada, presented the ornament along with his family members. He formally handed over the gold necklace to

temple Chairman Radhakrishna Gandhi and Deputy Executive Officer Kishore Kumar during a programme held on the temple premises.

The intricately designed necklace weighs 20,020 grams and is valued at approximately ₹1.20 lakh. Temple priests blessed Srinivas and his family and presented them with Shesha Vastram and Teertha Prasadam.

16 Years, One Station, Many Questions

Chukkala Venkataramana's Long Association With Kadiyam Police Station Raises Eyebrows

CH Raju @ Rajamahendravaram

While police personnel are generally transferred periodically as part of administrative practice, the prolonged posting of a police constable at one station has raised questions in Kadiyam. Chukkala Venkataramana, who recently rose to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), has reportedly served at Kadiyam Police Station for nearly 16 years across different periods, despite transfers and changes in senior officers.CIs and SIs have changed over the years, but Venkataramana's association with Kadiyam Police Station has continued. His prolonged stay has reportedly become a topic of discussion among police personnel and local circles under the Rajahmundry Rural jurisdiction. According to his service details, Venkataramana first served at Kadiyam from 2002 to 2008.After postings at Rajahmundry 3-Town, he returned to Kadiyam from 2011 to 2013. Following



further postings, he again returned to the station in 2018 and continued there until 2025.Questions have also been raised over his continuation at Kadiyam even after his transfer to Dowleswaram following promotion. He reportedly continued working at Kadiyam under an 'attachment' arrangement.Allegations have surfaced that political influence and links with local public representatives may have played a role in his prolonged continuation at the station. However,

Station	From	To	Years of Service	Designation	Kadiyam PS Service
Kothapeta PS	1991	1997	6	Constable	
Gollaprolu PS	1997	2002	5		
Kadiyam PS	2002	2008	6		6
Rajahmundry PS III Town L&O	2008	2011	3		
Kadiyam PS	2011	2013	2		2
Bommuru PS	2013	2014	1		
Rajahmundry PS I Town L&O	2014	2018	4		
Kadiyam PS	2018	2025	7		7
Dowleswaram PS	2025	2026	1		
Kadiyam PS	2026	Till Date	0.7		1
Total Service Years			35.7		15.7

these allegations have not been independently established.The matter has reportedly caused resentment among some police personnel, who feel that transfer norms should apply uniformly to all members of the department. The issue has also raised questions over how an individual could remain attached to the same station for such an extended period.Whether district police authorities will examine the circumstances behind

Venkataramana's prolonged association with Kadiyam Police Station and take any administrative decision remains to be seen.

Infographic | Chukkala Venkataramana's Service Journey

- 1991-1997: Constable, Kothapeta Police Station
- 1997-2002: Gollaprolu Police Station
- 2002-2008: Kadiyam Police Station
- 2008-2011: Rajahmundry 3-Town Police Station
- 2011-2013: Kadiyam Police Station
- 2013-2014: Bommuru Police Station
- 2014-2018: Rajahmundry 1-Town Police Station
- 2018-2025: Kadiyam Police Station
- 2025-2026: Transferred to Dowleswaram after promotion; continued at Kadiyam under an 'attachment' arrangement.

Farewell Held for Retiring DPRO Peddinti Ravi

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

A retirement farewell was held on Monday at the DIPRO office in the YTC premises in Rajamahendravaram for East Godavari District Public Relations Officer (DPRO) Peddinti Ravi, who retired on August 31 after 39 years and six months of service in the Information and Public Relations Department.District Information and Public Relations Officer K. Lakshminarayana, who presided over the programme, praised Ravi for his dedicated service and ability to discharge responsibilities with composure and coordination. He highlighted Ravi's contribution in communicating government programmes, development initiatives and welfare schemes to the public and media.Divisional PRO M. Lakshmana Charyulu praised Ravi for efficiently



handling media accreditation duties for nearly three decades and maintaining cordial relations with media representatives.Ravi thanked senior officials, colleagues, media representatives, family members and well-wishers for their support throughout his career. He said the relationships built during his long service would remain memorable.Divisional PRO M. Lakshmana Charyulu, Assistant Information Engineer K. Shanthakumari, Librarian Basheer and other staff attended.

Veligonda Project Marks Historic Milestone: Rammohan Naidu



Rajamahendravaram, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu described the realization of the Veligonda Project as a historic milestone in Andhra Pradesh's history. He extended special thanks to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for fulfilling a three-decade-old dream of the people of the state. Rammohan Naidu said the arrival of Krishna river water through the

Veligonda tunnels into drought-prone areas marked the fulfilment of a dream shared by generations and successive administrations. He said the project would bring renewed confidence to farmers and offer fresh hope to drought-affected regions. He stated that Krishna waters would help address irrigation problems in Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts, opening a new chapter in agriculture and development. The project would improve the living standards of local people and provide a major boost to the agricultural sector, he said. The Union Minister congratulated the engineers, officials, public representatives and workers who contributed to the project over the years. He also praised local farmers who sacrificed their lands for the project and helped create better prospects for future generations.

Tirumala Brahmotsavams to Be Held Twice This Year



Tirumala, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

The annual Brahmotsavams of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala will be celebrated twice this year due to the occurrence of an Adhika Masam (extra lunar month). The Salakata Brahmotsavams will be held from September 15 to 23, while the Navaratri Brahmotsavams are scheduled from October 12 to 20.

The morning Vahana Sevas will be conducted from 8 am to 10 am and the night Sevas from 7 pm to 9 pm. The Garuda Vahana Seva will be held from 6:30 pm to midnight. Preparations will begin with Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam on September 8 from 6 am to 11 am. Ankurarpanam is scheduled for September 14, followed by Dhvajaroahanam on September 15. The Vahana Sevas include Pedda Sesha, Chinna Sesha, Hamsa, Simha, Mutyapu Pandiri, Kalpavriksha, Sarvabhupala, Mohini, Garuda, Hanumantha, Swarna Ratham, Gaja, Suryaprabha and Chandraprabha Vahanams. Srivari Rathotsavam and Ashva Vahanam will be held on September 22, while Chakra Snamam and Dhvajavarohanam will mark the conclusion on September 23.

Putta Mahesh Kumar Starts From New Camp Office



Eluru, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar hosted an informal dinner for district MLAs and senior TDP leaders at his newly built residence in Sitapuram Colony under Vatlur Panchayat on Sunday evening. Eluru MLA and district TDP president Badeti Chanti, Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar, Kaikalur MLA Kamini Srinivas, Chintalapudi MLA Roshan Kumar, former MLA Ghanta Murali, APCA Chairman Ganni Veeranjanyulu, Tricar Chairman Boragam Srinivasulu and TDP leader

Kodali Vinod attended the gathering. The leaders interacted over dinner and discussed various issues concerning the district. Mahesh Kumar personally saw the guests off after the meeting. Meanwhile, the MP's new camp office adjacent to his residence became operational on Monday. Mahesh Kumar conducted a public grievance programme and received petitions from people, TDP leaders and activists. He said the affection and blessings of the people were his greatest strength and assured that he would remain accessible while working for the development of the Eluru Parliamentary constituency.

No Helmet No Entry Rule To Be Strictly Enforced In City



Eluru, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Collector K. Vetriselvi and SP K. Pratap Siva Kishore directed officials to strictly enforce road safety measures, including the "No Helmet - No Entry" rule, at a road safety committee meeting held at the Eluru Collectorate on Monday. The officials stressed the need to prevent even a single road fatality and urged people to follow traffic rules under the slogan, "Let us follow traffic rules and reach home safely."The SP said the helmet rule would be enforced in government and private offices and colleges, beginning with the Police Department. Officials

identified 25 black spots on the Eluru highway and decided to install CCTV cameras in coordination with the NHAI to improve safety at accident-prone locations. Cases would be registered against agencies found negligent in road repairs. Strict checks will be conducted on fitness certificates of buses and lorries, with unfit vehicles liable for seizure and criminal action. Drunk driving, speeding, mobile phone use and wrong-route driving will also be monitored. Meanwhile, the PGRS programme received 403 petitions, with the Collector directing officials to provide permanent solutions within stipulated timelines.

Pawan Kalyan Birthday Celebrations Planned



Eluru, August 31 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena Eluru constituency in-charge Reddy Appalanaidu announced that various service activities and celebrations would be organised in Eluru on

September 2 to mark the birthday of Jana Sena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.He said a grand bike rally would begin at 9 am from the party office and pass through 12-Pumps Centre, Subbammadevi School Road, DMart, Vijaya Vihar, RR Peta and Power Peta before returning to the office. At 11 am, the youth wing would be launched across 175 constituencies, followed by Pawan Kalyan's video message. Annadanam, flag hoisting, clothes distribution to sanitation workers and sapling distribution would continue until 10 pm.Appalanaidu urged Janasainiks, Veera Mahilas and youth to participate in large numbers.

CM To Perform Jalaharati To Godavari Waters On September 2

Eluru, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha and Eluru District TDP President Badeti Chanti announced that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu would visit the Tandava Sugar Factory at Payakaraopeta on September 2 to perform Jalaharati to the Godavari waters. Speaking at a cadre meeting on Monday after reviewing arrangements with Minister Anitha, Badeti Chanti said the arrival of Godavari waters through the

Polavaram Left Canal would lead to the confluence of the Tandava, Varaha and Sarada rivers in Anakapalli district.He said the development would fulfil the long-cherished dream of farmers in the Uttarandhra region and provide a major boost to irrigation. He called upon TDP leaders, cadres and people to participate in the programme and make the Chief Minister's visit successful.Prathipadu MLA Varupula Satyaprabha and others attended the meeting.

Minister Subhash Receives 39 Petitions at Praja Darbar



Ramachandrapuram, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Labour Minister Vasamshetti Subhash said the 'Praja Darbar' provides a platform to directly understand the hardships and needs of people and ensure quick solutions to their problems. He said the Alliance government was committed to public welfare and development.On Monday, Minister Subhash conducted the Praja Darbar at his camp office in Ramachandrapuram and received 39 representations from people of various villages and urban areas in the constituency. The petitions mainly concerned ration cards, pensions, house sites, roads, drink-

ing water, electricity, drainage and welfare schemes.The Minister personally examined each petition and discussed the issues with officials concerned. He directed officials to resolve every eligible person's problem without negligence and ensure justice.Subhash said the Alliance government aimed to bring administration closer to people and reduce the need for repeated visits to government offices. He said every representation was being accepted responsibly and efforts were being made to strengthen public trust and take welfare and development programmes to villages.Alliance leaders, activists and petitioners from various villages attended the programme.

327 Crore Power Works to Be Accelerated in Konaseema



Amalapuram, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Dr B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District Collector Dr Ravirala Mahesh Kumar directed Electricity Department officials to expedite power infrastructure works worth ₹327 crore and ensure quality, uninterrupted supply ahead of summer. The Collector held the third Electricity Committee meeting at the Collectorate on Monday with Amalapuram MP Ganti Harish Madhur and MLA Aithabathula Anandaroo. Superintending Engineer B. Rajeshwari briefed them on works sanctioned across 19 mandals and 362 villages.The project includes converting single-phase lines into three-phase net-

works, increasing line capacity from 360 Amps to 650 Amps and replacing old wiring with Panther conductors. Over 2,000 damaged distribution transformers were replaced last year. Mahesh Kumar directed officials to create wider awareness about the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which offers subsidies up to ₹78,000 for a 3-kilowatt solar system. Of 7,924 applications received, systems have been installed in 5,735 homes, generating about 17.8 MW. The MP sought village-wise analysis of PGRS and 1912 complaints, while the MLA urged faster maintenance of Pushkaram ghats and action on low-voltage issues in Lanka villages.

Vemireddy Donates 1 Crore To Support Welfare Hostels

Nellore, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

The "Vidya - Vasati - Vikasam" (Education - Accommodation - Development) programme launched by District Collector Himanshu Shukla is receiving a strong response from donors. The initiative aims to improve infrastructure and provide essential facilities to welfare hostels and residential schools across Nellore district. MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy announced a donation of ₹1 crore on Monday at the District Collector's chamber in the Collectorate. He said the amount would be used to purchase and supply computers to 155 welfare hostels and residential schools serving around 19,000 students from SC, ST, BC, Tribal and Minority communities. Collector Himanshu Shukla thanked Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy for his con-



tribution and said donations of around ₹5 crore had been received so far under the programme. He appealed to more donors to come forward and support efforts to provide better accommodation and educational facilities for poor and underprivileged students.Donors interested in supporting the programme can contact the Collector or District BC Welfare Officer Venkatalakshmi. They can also reach out through dbcwco.nlr.18@gmail.com and cpo_nlr@yahoo.co.in.

Dr. R.V. Kumar Calls for Stronger Doctor-Public Trust



Tirupati, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

Former SVIMS Director Dr. R.V. Kumar called for efforts to bridge the growing gap between doctors and society and rebuild public trust in the medical community. He was felicitated at a programme organised by Vemana Vignana Kendram at Vemana Vignana Kendram in Yashoda Nagar, Tirupati, on Monday. Recalling his 40-year medical career, Kumar said his father's advice to treat every patient like one's own father remained his guiding principle. He said his medical service was shaped by seeing divinity in every person, beyond caste, religion and gender.Kumar said the perception that doctors focus mainly on earnings had affected public trust and stressed that doctors, institutions and society must work together to bridge the

divide. He recalled that three organ transplant surgeries performed in a single day during his tenure at SVIMS was a national medical record, but credited more than 100 doctors, nurses, technical staff and support workers for the achievement.He expressed confidence in new SVIMS Director Dr. Jagadeesh and urged doctors, staff and people to support SVIMS in providing advanced healthcare to the poor.The programme was presided over by Mallarapu Nagarajuna, General Secretary, Vemana Vignana Kendram. AP Medical Council Chairman Dr. Srihari Rao, SV Medical College Principal Dr. Ravi Prabhu, Ruia Hospital Superintendent Dr. Manohar, DMHO Dr. Balakrishna Naik, Sakam Nagaraju, Tenkayala Damodaram, Rani Sadasiva Murthy, Dr. Satyavathi and Chandra Kishore attended.

1.38 Crore Road Works Launched in Challachintalapudi

Eluru, Aug 31 | TPN Bureau

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar and MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar said rural infrastructure development was a key priority of the Alliance government. On Monday, they performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the Challachintalapudi-Timmanagudem-Kandrika-Narasapuram road, being constructed at a cost of ₹1.38 crore under the AP RRSP-PR Plain Grant. They later interacted with villagers and discussed local issues.MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar said a quality asphalt road would be completed within two to three months. He assured villagers that steps would be taken within a month to address

issues including construction of a cremation shed, a survey for house-site pattas and drainage problems. He also outlined the implementation of welfare schemes, including pensions, Thalliki Vandanam, free gas cylinders and fine-quality rice at ₹52 per kg.MP Putta Mahesh Kumar said the MLA's initiative had paved the way for repairing the dilapidated road. He said development works were progressing rapidly in Denduluru constituency using NREGS and MP funds. Market Committee Chairperson Garapati Ramasita, TDP Vice President Boppana Sudha, Mandal Presidents Naganaboyina Satyanarayana and Penuboyina Mahesh Yadav, MPDO Veera Pratap and others attended.

Editorial

When Leaders' Strategies Shake the Global Economy

The control over global stock markets and crude oil prices appears to have increasingly fallen into the hands of political leaders and powerful nations. Their decisions, actions and even public statements have become major influencers of financial markets. A single announcement, warning or strategic move can create uncertainty across the world, affecting crude oil prices, stock markets, currencies and, ultimately, the daily lives of ordinary people. In a closely connected global economy, the strategy of a few leaders can influence the economic future of millions.

The recent attacks by the USA on Iran have once again ignited tensions in the region, immediately creating concerns over oil supplies and pushing crude oil prices higher. Stock markets also reacted sharply to the renewed uncertainty. Such developments demonstrate how geopolitical conflicts are no longer confined to battlefields. Their economic consequences travel rapidly across borders and reach households far away from the actual conflict zones.

The Russia-Ukraine war is another example of how military conflicts can become intertwined with economic and strategic interests. Sanctions, energy supplies, trade restrictions, defence contracts and shifting alliances have all contributed to major changes in global business conditions. While powerful countries pursue their strategic objectives, ordinary people often bear the consequences through higher fuel prices, transportation costs, food prices and inflation.

Wars may be fought in the name of national security, territorial interests or strategic objectives, but their economic impact cannot be ignored. Every disruption in energy supplies affects industries, transportation and household budgets. Investors become cautious, businesses postpone decisions and governments face greater pressure to control inflation.

Therefore, global leaders must understand that their words and strategies carry enormous economic responsibility. Political statements should not unnecessarily create panic in markets, while military decisions must consider their wider humanitarian and economic consequences. The global economy cannot be treated as a chessboard where strategic moves are made without considering those who suffer the consequences. Peace and stability remain the strongest foundations for sustainable economic growth.

Editor

Internal Turmoil in Telangana Congress?

Konda Surekha Row Raises Questions in Delhi

It has been over two and a half years since the Congress government came to power in Telangana, ending a decade of BRS rule. But is the political momentum that fueled its initial victory now giving way to mounting internal friction? Friction between the Chief Minister and cabinet ministers, growing discontent among ministers themselves, coordination gaps between party and government, and a public spat sparked by comments from Minister Konda Surekha's daughter together raise a pressing question: is all well within the Telangana Congress? Is this merely a dispute confined to one minister's family, or has an isolated incident brought long-simmering discontent out into the open?

Differences Are Not New Discussions surrounding internal rifts in the Telangana Congress are hardly unprecedented. Dissatisfaction among several cabinet ministers regarding departmental jurisdiction, decision-making authority, and protocol has surfaced before. As early as 2025, reports emerged of ministers expressing frustration over perceived interference in their portfolios. In June this year, conflicting completion deadlines announced for the SLBC project by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy fueled public questions about governmental coordination, ultimately forcing the Chief Minister to clarify that the project would finish ahead of elections. Simmering resentment over ministerial berths, pend-



ing cabinet expansion, and nominated posts has further kept tensions alive.

Surekha's Daughter's Remarks Bring Rifts into the Open

Against this backdrop, public remarks made by Konda Surekha's daughter, Konda Sushmitha, targeting Chief Minister Revanth Reddy triggered fresh turbulence within the party. Her statements could not be easily dismissed as routine political commentary, as she openly questioned the Chief Minister's decision-making authority-particularly concerning political developments in the Parkal constituency. Consequently, nearly 20 Congress MLAs and MLCs petitioned the party leadership demanding disciplinary action. Surekha, however, clarified to the party leadership that holding her accountable for her daughter's remarks was unfair. This brings the core political question to the fore: How did a minister's family member

reach the point of publicly criticizing the Chief Minister? Is this purely the outcome of personal political ambition, or does it mirror deeper dissatisfaction in the relationship between the Minister and the Chief Minister?

What Does the Chief Minister's Silence Signal?

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's handling of the issue has drawn close attention. Instead of engaging in a direct confrontation with Surekha, he has maintained that the matter falls under the purview of the party's internal disciplinary committee and the AICC. This posture appears to be a calculated, strategic silence: taking unilateral, public action against a sitting minister could ignite wider conflict across both the government and the party apparatus. While resolving the matter through organizational channels minimizes immediate collateral damage, prolonged indecision carries risks of its



Chennu Peddiraju

Senior Journalist

own-potentially emboldening other disgruntled factions. Why the High Command's Silence?

The Congress High Command faces a delicate balancing act in Telangana. Revanth Reddy is the Chief Minister who delivered an electoral victory to the party. At the same time, the state unit features several senior leaders and ministers with long-standing political experience, distinct backgrounds, and independent mass bases whom Delhi cannot afford to alienate. Conversely, frequent micro-management from New Delhi risks eroding the Chief Minister's authority. This delicate dynamic suggests Delhi's current posture is deliberate: listening to all factions without fully casting anyone aside, while reserving the final verdict for itself.

Cabinet Expansion: The Real Litmus Test?

The pending cabinet reshuffle is closely tied to these internal dynamics. Proposals under consideration include filling two vacant cabinet berths, reallocating existing portfolios, and drafting select senior ministers into national AICC responsibilities. Moving certain state leaders into national party roles could clear the path for a broader cabinet reorganization. Consequently, the upcoming reshuffle will likely serve not merely as a routine filling of vacancies, but as a crucial restructuring of the power balance between Revanth Reddy and senior state leaders-making Delhi's final word decisive. Two and a Half Years to

Elections: Why the Urgency Now?

While the 2029 Assembly elections are still two and a half years away, Congress has little room for complacency. The party faces immediate demands: upcoming local body elections, organizational restructuring, cadre mobilization, and countering aggressive campaigns from both the BRS and the BJP. If leadership rivalries overshadow development and welfare delivery in the public narrative, it risks undermining the government's image and handing ready ammunition to the opposition.

The Real Challenge Ahead for Congress

The primary test facing the Revanth Reddy administration extends beyond countering opposition attacks-it lies in sustaining administrative cohesion and enforcing party discipline. A Chief Minister must effectively resolve friction with cabinet colleagues, while ministers must rise above factional and regional agendas to uphold collective cabinet responsibility. Concurrently, the High Command must offer clear, timely direction rather than letting disputes drift unresolved in Hyderabad.

The central question facing the Telangana Congress is no longer whether internal differences exist, but whether the party possesses the political coherence to resolve them. The upcoming cabinet expansion, the AICC's ruling on the Konda Surekha episode, and inter-ministerial coordination will ultimately provide the answer.

Do Rising Indices Really Mean a Stronger Market?

A rise in the share market on a particular day creates hope among investors. But it is not right to judge the future of the market merely by looking at how many points the Sensex and Nifty have gained. The reasons behind the rise are equally important. The recovery seen in the Indian stock market on August 25 once again

This indicates that confidence among investors has not completely weakened.

Another important aspect is the difference in performance among various sectors. While some sectors witnessed gains, certain stocks continued to face pressure. Government stake-sale decisions, for instance, can affect individual

Chitikena Kiran Kumar



Poet, Writer and Noted Editorial Columnist

prices also provided some relief

therefore move in a different direction even when the broader indices are rising. Market optimism should not automatically become an individual investment decision.

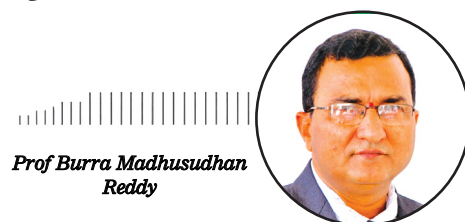
The fluctuations in the market also reflect the changes taking place in the economy. When investors believe that economic growth will remain strong, money flows into the market. When uncertainty increases, the same money can move out. Therefore, the market should not be viewed merely as a table of profits and losses. It is also a reflection of collective expectations about the economy.

The recent recovery can certainly be viewed as a positive signal. But it would be too early to consider it a permanent change in direction. Global market conditions, expectations regarding interest rates, movements in the rupee, crude oil prices, domestic economic data and corporate results may influence the market in the coming days.

The real strength of a market is not visible in the points gained in a single session. The real test is how steadily it can hold its ground after a fall, how well it can withstand adverse conditions and how broadly buying interest continues. From this perspective, the latest recovery is an encouraging step, but it cannot yet be treated as a final verdict.

The stock market always tests the patience of investors. Instead of seeking quick profits, those who understand information, assess risks and maintain a long-term perspective are more likely to benefit in a sustainable manner. Therefore, whenever the indices move upwards, the focus should not be merely on celebration. What matters more is understanding the signals behind the rise. The bigger question is not whether the market has risen, but how strong the foundation behind that rise really is.

Let's Preserve the Art of Letter Writing



Prof Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

Education Expert 9949700037



For hundreds of years, communication took place either through personal conversations or through letter writing. In this digital era, the habit of letter writing is fading away with the advent of emails and text messages through internet access. Unfortunately, the art of letter writing is slowly dying. Postcard culture is nearly extinct. Letter writing is an art. It will unleash your writing skills and knowledge. You can communicate your thoughts and emotions to loved ones. The receiver may treasure your letter for years to come. People who write letters of gratitude feel happier and more satisfied. Letter writing strengthens friendships and relationships. It can help someone better understand your views. Friendships and human relationships never fade away when we continue the letter-writing tradition. With a handwritten letter, you are forced to be more careful with the words you choose.

World Letter Writing Day : To encourage people worldwide to pick up a pen and paper to draft an effective letter, "World Letter Writing Day" is observed annually on 01 September since 2014. It is also a day to learn about the art of letter writing. In the age of the internet revolution, people are losing patience to communicate with their relatives, friends, and colleagues through letter writing. The best way to observe the day is to write a letter to your old friend, loved one or a person who is so special in your life. The receiver may also be your spouse, a parent, children, favourite teacher, guide, or best friend. It is time to rediscover the timeless joy of letter writing. Exchanging letters is a wonderful way of strengthening bonds. The joy of letters can be cherished forever. Letter writing is a chance to spread happiness not only on this day but also throughout the year.

Art of Letter Writing : Fast, instant, modern digital forms of communication often involve mindless chitchat or exchange of useless or meaningless, irrelevant information. When it comes to the age-old form of communication that is writing a letter, we tend to reflect and think twice before we communicate with someone. Let your letter sound more than your voice. Our handwritten letters are truly from the bottom of our hearts. Our genuine thoughts and feelings flow through our letter. The art of letter writing is the skill and practice of crafting well-thought-out, meaningful written messages that convey information, emotions, and personality, fostering connection and understanding with the recipient. It goes beyond simply writing a message: it involves a mindful approach to content, style, tone, and the overall presentation of thoughts that will create an everlasting impact on the receiver. The key aspects of letter writing are personal expression, careful crafting, purposeful communication, empathy, and timelessness. The art of letter writing requires skills, finesse, intention, effort, and timelessness. Let's revive the art of letter writing to our good old friends or loved ones to surprise the recipient. Receiving a similar type of letter from your unexpected old buddy is ecstatic and joyful. Don't allow the art of letter writing to fade away. Preserve our old treasured practice.



reminds us of this fact. The Sensex gained nearly 287 points, while the Nifty once again crossed the 24,300 level, creating a positive sentiment among investors.

However, the market is not merely a game of numbers. Behind every rise, there are several factors such as investor expectations, global developments, domestic economic conditions, corporate performance, crude oil prices and the movement of the rupee. Therefore, assuming that the market has completely changed its direction because of a one-day rise would be premature.

The market initially remained under pressure that day. The Nifty slipped to around 24,115 during the session. But buying interest emerged at lower levels and the situation gradually changed. Increased buying in pharmaceutical, media and public sector banking stocks supported the recovery.

companies. Therefore, instead of simply saying that the entire market has risen, it is important to understand that investments are also moving from one sector to another.

The fact that several stocks in the broader market touched new highs is also significant. This gives a different signal from the movement of the major indices. When investors show interest not only in large companies but also in mid-cap and small-cap stocks, it indicates wider participation in the market. At the same time, investors should remember that entering weak or poor-quality stocks merely out of excessive enthusiasm can be risky.

The movement of the rupee is another factor influencing the market. The slight strengthening of the rupee against the US dollar supported domestic investor sentiment. The decline in crude oil

to the Indian economy. Since India imports a major portion of its crude oil requirements, changes in international oil prices can affect several areas, from inflation to the trade deficit.

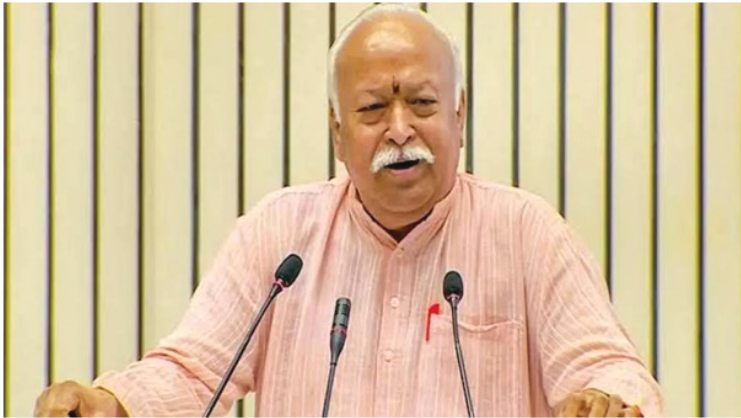
Investor psychology also plays a major role in a market recovery. When prices fall, some investors sell out of fear. At the same time, there are others who see lower prices as an opportunity and start buying with confidence in the future. The buying seen during the session reflected this second trend to some extent. It shows that a section of investors continues to look for opportunities in the market. This is precisely where small investors need to remain cautious.

A rise in the Sensex or Nifty does not mean that every stock will rise. The financial position, debt, income and future business prospects of every company are different. Individual stocks can

India's Global Role Lies In Service, Not Superpower Status: Mohan Bhagwat

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat said India's civilisational importance should not be measured only by economic or military strength, arguing that Bharat became "Vishwaguru" through its character, traditions and service to humanity rather than by becoming a "Mahashakti" or superpower. Addressing members of the Indian community in Canada, Bhagwat said India had historically used its strength to serve and share knowledge rather than conquer other countries or convert people. He cited the journeys of Indians across regions stretching from Mexico to Siberia and Southeast Asia as examples of this tradition. "Whenever it became big, it never became a superpower. It became a glorious country... one might call it a superpower then. But it served the world. By its character, it became vishwaguru, not mahashakti," Bhagwat said. He said India's contribution to the

world included knowledge of mathematics, Ayurveda and civilisational values. According to him, the country's traditional outlook was based on acceptance and sharing rather than domination. Bhagwat linked this worldview to what he described as the Hindu understanding of unity underlying diversity. He said India had always contained multiple castes, creeds, languages and religions because diversity was natural, while unity represented a deeper reality. "The inanimate and animate, both are ours. That is what a Hindu feels. They have been trained to see the unity underlying the diversity," he said. The RSS chief also referred to India's history of providing refuge to persecuted communities. He cited the arrival of Parsis and Jews in India and said the country had repeatedly helped communities facing difficulties. He also referred to India's assistance dur-



ing crises abroad, including the evacuation of citizens from other countries during conflicts in the Middle East. "Whenever there was a crisis anywhere in the world and help was sought, Bharat provided help. It provided help even when it was not asked. This is the DNA of Bharat," Bhagwat said.

His remarks came a day after his address at New York's Madison Square Garden, where he had spoken about Bharat's "destiny" and the need to demonstrate that unity can coexist with diversity. He had emphasised that such an idea should be demonstrated through practice rather than merely preached.

In Canada, Bhagwat similarly described India's global role in terms of civilisational values rather than its economic or military capabilities. He invoked the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, saying it represented a broad-minded outlook in which people are regarded as members of one family rather than divided by ideas of ownership and possession. "Thinking that this is mine, that is his is narrowness. Those who are broad-minded believe in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," he said. Bhagwat also presented his understanding of the word "Hindu" as civilisational rather than limited to a particular form of worship, language or lifestyle. He said Hindus accept and respect different ways of life. The RSS chief connected these ideas to modern global challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation and weapons of mass destruction. He questioned devel-

opment models in which the prosperity of one section comes at the expense of another. "If an individual has to be happy, society has to suffer. If we try to create a happy society, individuals have to be curbed. What is the way? There has to be a third way. That way is the ancient way of Hindustan," he said. Bhagwat said Dharma, in the Indian understanding, goes beyond worship and involves sustenance, balance and treating others as one's own. He argued that such an approach could allow individuals, society and the environment to progress without one harming another. He urged Hindus to pay attention to these values because, in his view, the world needs such an approach. At the same time, he stressed that the worldview should not be imposed on others. "But not be forced. We are leaders who lead from within and by example," Bhagwat said.

16-Year-Old Allegedly Gang-Raped On Moving Bus, Abandoned In Delhi



A 16-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped inside a moving sleeper bus after she boarded the vehicle while trying to reach her cousin's home in Noida. The two men accused in the case, bus driver Kuldeep and conductor Sandeep, have been arrested by the police. The incident has raised serious concerns over the safety of women and minors travelling in public and private transport. According to the police, the incident occurred on August 4 after the teenager left her home in Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri and travelled towards Noida. The girl had reportedly left without informing her family after her mother scolded her over her studies. She intended to reach her cousin's residence in Noida. The teenager reportedly got down at Pari Chowk in Noida amid heavy rain and darkness. By then, it was around 9 pm and she realised that she had not yet reached her destination. Her cousin's residence was still about 25 kilometres away, leaving her looking for a way to continue her journey. According to her complaint, an approaching sleeper bus stopped near her. The vehicle had no passengers and was equipped with berths for long-distance travel. The conductor allegedly told her that the bus was also heading towards Noida Sector 63, following which she boarded it. Police later found that the bus was actually returning from a workshop in Greater Noida's Surajpur. The vehicle was associated with Vishwanath Travels, and an employee of the company said that both accused had been working with the private firm for more than two years. The girl alleged that the conductor began behaving inappropriately shortly after the bus started moving. She told police that both men sexually assaulted her and threatened to kill her if she resisted. The alleged crime took place inside the sleeper section of the bus, where curtains covered the berths. Police suspect that the curtains provided the accused with an opportunity to conceal their actions while the vehicle was moving. After the alleged assault, the two men reportedly abandoned the teenager near Ring Road in Delhi's Kashmere Gate area. She subsequently approached the police and filed a complaint, following which an investigation was launched to identify and locate the accused. The police arrested bus driver Kuldeep, 39, and conductor Sandeep, 26, from a parking lot in north Delhi's Timarpur. The arrests were made on the same day as the alleged assault, according to the police. Investigators have also seized the bus as part of the probe. A forensic team examining the vehicle reportedly recovered strands of the survivor's hair, which could form part of the evidence being examined by investigators. The case has drawn comparisons with the December 2012 Nirbhaya case because the alleged sexual assault occurred inside a moving bus. The earlier case had triggered nationwide protests and led to significant changes in India's laws relating to sexual offences and the safety of women. The latest incident has once again brought attention to the vulnerability of passengers travelling alone, particularly minors, and the need for stronger safeguards in private transport services. Questions are also likely to arise over verification, monitoring and supervision of drivers and conductors employed by private travel companies. The investigation is continuing, with police examining the survivor's complaint, forensic evidence and circumstances surrounding the movement of the bus. The allegations against Kuldeep and Sandeep will be subject to the legal process, while investigators are expected to establish the complete sequence of events leading up to and following the alleged assault.

3-Year-Old Allegedly Assaulted At Delhi Day Care, Father Says Child Is Traumatised

The father of a three-year-old boy who was allegedly assaulted at a day care facility in Delhi has described the severe emotional and physical trauma his son is facing following the incident. The child is reportedly anxious, cries continuously and has become frightened even in the presence of his own family. The alleged assault took place at a children's day care facility in the Maujpur area of Northeast Delhi. The incident came to light after the boy's parents accessed classroom CCTV footage, which they said showed the child being tied to a chair and repeatedly assaulted by staff members. According to the father, his son has been struggling to recover from the alleged abuse. "He cries every morning when he wakes up. He thinks we will send him to school, he can't stop crying. He is in a very bad condition. He is anxious and cries non-stop," he said in an interview. The father, who concealed his identity with a white handkerchief, said he was uncertain how long it would take for his son to overcome the trauma. The family has also raised concerns about the child's physical condition. The father said the boy's eardrums remain inflamed and that he continues to experience pain. Doctors reportedly advised further examination, including a CT scan, but the child



has been too frightened by the sound of the scanning machine to undergo the procedure. "I took him to the doctor again yesterday; the doctor said his eardrums are still inflamed. The swelling just isn't going down," the father said, adding that his son was unable to cope with the pain. The family first became concerned after the child returned home from the facility on the 18th, when he reportedly vomited and complained of dizziness. His parents rushed him to a doctor, who advised them to consult an ENT specialist after noticing swelling around both his eyes. According to the father, the ENT specialist described the child's condition as extremely critical and recommended hospitalisation. The family subsequently returned

home with the child and examined the CCTV recordings from the day care facility. The footage allegedly showed the boy being restrained with an apron for several hours. The father claimed that from around 9:45 am until 12:30 pm, the child was repeatedly beaten, had his ears pulled and was prevented from leaving his chair. He alleged that whenever the child attempted to move, a caretaker would approach him and hit him. When the boy reportedly asked the teacher to untie him, the teacher allegedly assaulted him and forced him to remain seated. The father further alleged that the child managed to loosen the apron at one point, but the teacher tied him up again. He claimed the boy was subsequently left alone while

still restrained, before the caretaker returned and allegedly assaulted him again. Delhi Police has registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Four people have been named as accused: school director Sunita Bansal, principal Neelam, and teachers Simran and Pooja. Police have also arrested a caretaker in connection with the case. The family has alleged that the school did not accept responsibility for the incident. The father claimed that similar alleged mistreatment had occurred on the 17th and that the child was sometimes kicked. According to the father, the child's mother contacted the school owner after learning what had allegedly happened. He claimed that the response from the school was that the child was at fault and did not fit in with the facility. The alleged abuse has reportedly affected the child's behaviour at home. The father said that when family members ask him to recite "123" or "ABCD" and he forgets something, the child immediately holds out his hands and touches his ears, apparently expecting to be hit. The family is now focused on the child's recovery as the police investigate the allegations. The CCTV footage and statements from the family are expected to form important parts of the investigation into the alleged assault.

Kerala Women Killed In US, Friend Held In Double Homicide Case



Two women from Kerala were killed in California in what police are investigating as a double homicide, days after they had reportedly celebrated Onam with their families. A woman who was known to both victims and lived in the same apartment complex has been taken into custody in connection with the deaths. The victims have been identified as Ann Mary Mathew, 40, originally from Kesavadasapuram in Thiruvananthapuram, and Anjana Hari, 35, from Mudikkode in Thrissur. The incident took place on August 28 at the Mill Creek Apartments complex in Milpitas, California. According to Milpitas Police, officers were initially called after receiving a report of a hit-and-run incident on Dixon Landing Road, near the apartment complex. When officers arrived, they found a woman with severe injuries lying in the parking area. Witnesses told police that a blue SUV had left the scene immediately after the collision.

The vehicle was later traced to a nearby parking lot, where officers arrested its 32-year-old driver, a Milpitas resident. Relatives of the victims identified the woman in custody as Anila, 32, from Moonnillavu in Kottayam, according to news agency IANS. Anila was reportedly known to both Ann Mary and Anjana and is believed to have been living in the same apartment complex with her family. Police said Ann Mary was allegedly stabbed inside an apartment before Anjana was struck by a vehicle in the parking area. However, no motive has been established so far, and investigators have not released detailed findings regarding the circumstances leading to the deaths. Anjana's relative Vinod said the families had known Ann Mary through video calls but had never personally met Anila. He said the three women were employed in different professions. Based on information received by the families from people in the US, Vinod said

Anila allegedly attacked Ann Mary inside the apartment and later rammed a car into Anjana. Anjana had moved to the United States in 2021 and was working as a school teacher in California. She is survived by her husband Vijeesh, a software engineer, and their six-year-old daughter; PTI reported. Ann Mary worked as a computer teacher at a school in the US. She was married to Jacob, who is from Chingavanam, and the couple had two daughters. The deaths have caused shock among the families and relatives in Kerala, particularly because the women had reportedly spent time together celebrating Onam with their families shortly before the incident. The circumstances of the killings and the relationship between the victims and the woman arrested are now part of the investigation. Union Minister Suresh Gopi confirmed the deaths and said efforts were under way to bring the bodies of the two women back to Kerala. Gopi and Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan have spo-

ken with the families of the victims. Gopi said he had also spoken with the Consul General at the Indian Consulate in San Francisco and was in regular contact with the diplomatic authorities. According to Gopi, the bodies were expected to be handed over after completion of the autopsy. They would then be released to registered funeral homes, after which the families would have to inform the authorities about the destination to which the bodies should be transported. Gopi said the deaths had been officially confirmed as homicides. However, he clarified that the specific motive and detailed findings would become known only after formal reports from the US authorities are sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs and NORKA. The investigation is continuing, while the families await further information from US authorities and arrangements for the repatriation of the bodies to Kerala.

Nepal Floods: Blast Used To Rescue Trapped Hydropower Workers

Nepal has intensified rescue operations to reach hundreds of workers believed to be trapped inside hydropower tunnels after massive flash floods and mudslides caused widespread destruction across the country. Rescue teams have been working against difficult conditions, with authorities carrying out a controlled explosion at the Trishuli hydropower site to create access to underground facilities. Nepal's disaster management authority said at least 939 people have died in the disaster, while 3,925 remain unaccounted for. Among those missing are 592 foreign nationals. The number of hydropower workers believed to be trapped has been revised to 639. Authorities said 11,379 people have been rescued so far. Prime Minister Balendra Shah said the Nepali Army had rescued 279 people from several affected hydropower

projects. This included 254 people from the Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project, two from the Rasuwagadhi Hydropower Project and nine from the Maillung Khola Hydropower Project. Rescue operations are also continuing at Langtang Khola, Chilime, Upper Trishuli-3A, Upper Trishuli-3B, Trishuli, Solar Project and Devghat Hydropower Project sites. At the Langtang Hydro tunnel, rescuers recovered one body after reaching 65 metres inside. At Trishuli-3A, teams located the tunnel entrance and began supplying air through a compressor while efforts continued to drain water. An alternative route behind the tunnel has also been cleared to improve access. Professor Arnold Dix, who is advising the rescue operation from Melbourne and is a former head of the International Tunnelling

Association, said the force of the floods had almost erased visible signs of several power stations. Dix has been using satellite information, ground photographs and helicopter observations to help teams identify the locations of tunnels. Dix described the destruction as extraordinary, noting that boulders larger than houses had blocked access routes. Despite the devastation, he said there was still hope for workers underground because the tunnels could have protected them from the full force of the flooding. The Nepali Army has deployed 8,900 personnel across affected areas, stretching from Timure in Rasuwa to Nawalparasi East. The troops are searching for survivors, clearing blocked roads and providing emergency medical assistance. On Monday, 109 people, including one German national,



workers were rescued using aerial assets. The disaster has also created a severe humanitarian crisis.

Climate activist Rosnee Bhattarai, who travelled from Kathmandu to flood-hit Nuwakot, said around 200

displaced people were staying on a school floor, including children whose parents remain missing. She said

many children were traumatised and silent, while shortages of nappies and sanitary products were worsening conditions. Families abroad are also waiting for information. Jyoti Upadhyay, who lives in Wales, said she had lost hope of finding Jit Bahadur Chaudhary, who worked at the Trishuli-3B site. Chaudhary is considered part of her family and has lived with her mother-in-law for 25 years. His wife is Gita and their 13-year-old son is Karan. Funerals have begun for identified victims. Ayush Khadka, 21, was among those cremated, while his mother Monac Khadka mourned his death. With further rain forecast, rescue teams face additional difficulties as Nepal races against time to locate trapped workers and support communities recovering from one of the country's deadliest recent natural disasters.

US and Iran Exchange Strikes, Raising Fears of Wider Conflict



The United States and Iran have exchanged strikes for the first time in weeks, raising fresh concerns about an escalation of the conflict and its impact on shipping and global energy markets. The latest confrontation began after US forces attacked two rocket launchers on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said the strikes killed two people and injured two others and vowed to respond. US Central Command (Centcom) said it had taken "limited, precise action" after detecting preparations by Iran to launch rockets and deploy sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz. The US strike is the first known American attack on Iran since President Donald Trump paused a renewed military campaign in late July. Iran subsequently said it had targeted US military bases in Jordan with ballistic missiles. Jordan's army said it intercepted eight missiles early on Monday. Iranian state television also reported that the Iranian army had targeted Al-Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates with drones. The UAE Ministry of Defence rejected the report that the air base had been targeted, describing the claim as unfounded. However, the UAE confirmed that it had shot down a drone. Larak Island lies near Bandar Abbas and directly on the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important shipping routes. Before the war, around 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas shipments travelled through the waterway. The conflict has effectively closed the strait since February, contributing to sharp fluctuations in global oil prices. Iran is currently demanding that tanker traffic pass near Larak Island for checks and has reportedly required vessels to pay \$2 million to cross. Iranian news agency Tasnim, affiliated with the IRGC, reported that the attack on Larak was carried out using drones. Iranian media later carried an IRGC statement saying that US bases at King Hussein and Al-Azraq in Jordan had been attacked in retaliation. Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned what it called American military aggression against Larak and described the strikes against US bases in Jordan as "legitimate defence". President Donald Trump later warned that the US would "hit them hard" in response. Tensions were also heightened by conflicting claims about commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. The IRGC claimed that a supertanker had struck sea mines and caught fire while attempting to use a route not authorised by Iran. Centcom rejected the claim, describing it as an attempt to intimidate regional commercial shipping through disinformation. Tasnim published an image of what appeared to be a burning vessel, but did not identify the tanker or establish when the photograph was taken. The BBC said it could not independently verify the claim. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran was not seeking war but would deliver a "decisive response" to what he called aggression. The latest exchange of attacks has intensified uncertainty over the future of the conflict, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, where any further military escalation have serious consequences for global shipping and energy supplies.

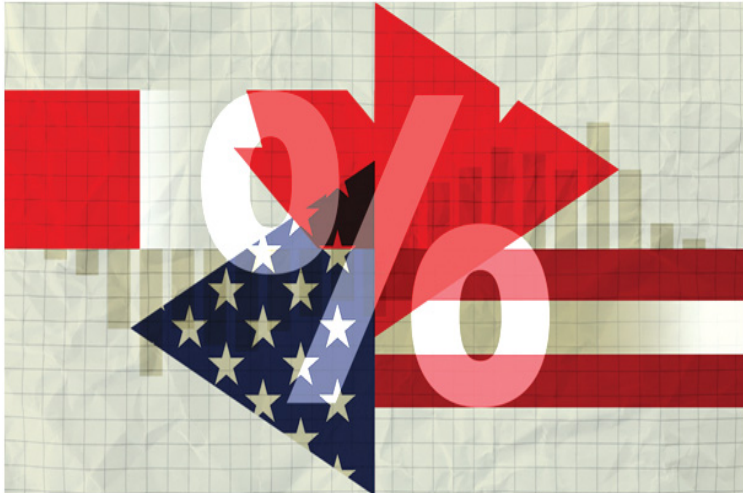
Modi Meets Iran President Pezeshkian Amid West Asia Tensions

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, amid continuing tensions in West Asia. The meeting marked the first in-person interaction between the two leaders since the war involving Iran began in February. Modi and Pezeshkian reviewed the latest developments in bilateral relations and discussed ways to strengthen and expand cooperation between India and Iran in areas of mutual interest. Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and other senior Iranian officials also attended the meeting. The talks assume significance as the conflict between the United States and Iran continues to create uncertainty across the region. India has maintained longstanding relations with Iran while also balancing its strategic and economic interests with developments in the wider Middle East. India was among Iran's top ten trading partners, but economic activities have been affected by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and US sanctions against Tehran. The strategically important waterway is a major route for global energy supplies and international shipping. Modi and Pezeshkian had earlier spoken by telephone on March 21 and discussed the security situation in West Asia in detail. During another telephone conversation in June, Pezeshkian briefed Modi about developments in the Middle East and the possible way forward. Modi welcomed the understanding reached to end the conflict and reiterated the need for continued efforts towards lasting peace and stability in the region. Pezeshkian, who has favoured a negotiated end to the conflict, has maintained that Iran does not seek war but would respond decisively to aggression. He stressed that instability in the region would be harmful to all countries and emphasised the need for greater convergence to advance economic and security objectives.



US-Canada Trade War Hits Jobs, Trade and Prices

Trade tensions between the United States and Canada have intensified since President Donald Trump returned to the White House and introduced a wide-ranging tariff programme affecting several trading partners. Canada was among the first countries targeted by US tariffs and has responded with reciprocal measures, raising concerns over jobs, trade, prices and economic growth on both sides of the border. The United States has imposed tariffs on major Canadian sectors, including steel, aluminium, lumber, automobiles and vehicle parts. Washington has also recently imposed an additional 50% tariff on about C\$28 billion (\$20 billion) worth of Canadian goods, increasing pressure on industries closely linked to the US market. Canada has responded with what it describes as "dollar-for-dollar" and "strategic" counter-tariffs on American products. The measures cover a wide range of goods, including steel, furniture, cosmetics and toilet paper, as Ottawa seeks to offset the impact of restrictions imposed by Washington. Ontario has emerged as the Canadian province most exposed to the trade conflict because of its large manufacturing and automobile industries. Several automobile parts and assembly plants



have announced layoffs and production cuts, while the province is estimated to have lost tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs since early 2025. Canada's retaliation is expected to have a smaller overall impact on the much larger US economy, but some states could face considerable losses. Ohio is expected to be among the hardest hit, with C\$3.2 billion, or about 12%, of its exports facing Canadian tariffs. Illinois and Pennsylvania are also expected to experience significant effects. Derek Holt, an economist at Scotiabank, said Canada's counter-tariffs appeared to be deliberately

directed at several US swing states that could play an important role in the upcoming midterm elections. The dispute is also forcing Canada to reconsider its long-standing dependence on the US market. The United States has historically purchased more than 70% of Canadian exports, creating deeply integrated economies. However, Canadian businesses are increasingly looking for customers and markets elsewhere. Prime Minister Carney has pledged to double Canada's non-US exports over the next decade. Matteo Sgaramella, owner of Toronto-based menswear

company Outclass, said he had started attending trade events in Paris instead of New York to expand his European customer base. Despite the trade tensions, Canada's economy has shown resilience. Foreign direct investment reached C\$96.8 billion in 2025, the highest annual inflow since 2007. GDP also grew 3.3% in the second quarter of 2026, supported by stronger exports and domestic investment. However, employment remains a major concern. About 55,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in Canada between January 2025 and January 2026, according to Bank of Canada data. Calgary-based economist Trevor Tombe estimates that another 90,000 jobs could be lost if the latest US tariffs remain in place. American workers and consumers are also facing consequences. The Center for American Progress has linked US tariffs to job losses in manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, while higher tariffs have contributed to increased prices for everyday goods. As companies adjust supply chains and search for alternative markets, the prolonged trade dispute could have lasting consequences for employment, prices, investment and the economic relationship between the two neighbours.

Stray Kids' Lee Know Donates 100 Million Won For Nepal Flood Relief

Stray Kids member Lee Know has donated 100 million won, approximately \$72,600, to support emergency relief efforts for families affected by devastating floods in Nepal. The K-pop star made the contribution through World Vision and asked that the funds be used for immediate assistance as well as livelihood support for communities whose lives have been severely disrupted by the disaster. Lee Know made the donation through World Vision on August 28 as rescue and relief operations continued in flood-affected areas. The contribution is expected to support families who have lost homes, belongings and sources of income following widespread flooding and mudslides. Speaking through his agency JYP Entertainment, Lee Know expressed hope that his contribution would provide some comfort and strength to people facing the crisis. He also extended his support to those working on the ground as relief operations continue under difficult conditions. "I hope my support can offer a little strength to those going through this difficult time. I sincerely hope that those affected by the floods and everyone working on relief efforts in the field can return to peaceful daily life as soon as possible," Lee Know said, according to a translation published by The Chosun Daily. World Vision said the donation would be directed towards urgent needs among families displaced by the floods. The assistance is expected to include food, temporary shelter, clean water and basic sanitation facilities. The donation comes as Nepal faces a major humanitarian emergency following severe flash floods and mudslides that have caused exten-



sive damage in several parts of the country. Rescue teams have been searching for missing people while providing emergency assistance to survivors and displaced communities. The disaster has also affected

infrastructure, including hydropower projects, with hundreds of workers believed to be trapped inside underground tunnels. Rescue teams have been working to reach those stranded while dealing with blocked roads, flooded tunnels, debris and unstable terrain. The scale of the disaster has left many families dependent on temporary relief facilities. Displaced people are facing shortages of essential supplies, while children and vulnerable groups require immediate support. Lee Know's contribution adds to the growing humanitarian response to the disaster and highlights the role of international organisations in providing assistance to affected communities. World Vision plans to use the funds not only for immediate relief but also to help families recover their livelihoods after the emergency phase. For communities that have lost

homes and income, recovery is expected to take considerably longer than the initial rescue operation. Support for food, shelter, water, sanitation and livelihood restoration will therefore remain important as Nepal moves from emergency response towards rebuilding. Lee Know's appeal also drew attention to the wider needs of both flood victims and relief workers. His message called for those affected by the disaster, as well as people working in difficult field conditions, to be able to return to normal life as soon as possible. The donation from the Stray Kids member comes at a critical time for Nepal, where rescue operations and humanitarian assistance remain ongoing. With affected families continuing to depend on external support, contributions such as the World Vision donation are expected to help provide immediate necessities while supporting longer-term recovery efforts.



AI And Virtual Twins Transform India's Engineering And Manufacturing Landscape

India's engineering and manufacturing ecosystem is entering a new phase as artificial intelligence (AI), simulation and virtual twins increasingly move beyond conventional computer-aided design. The technologies are reshaping how products are designed, tested, manufactured and operated across automotive, electronics, defence, aerospace, railways and data centres.

Dassault Systèmes is seeing the shift accelerate as companies look for faster product development and more efficient manufacturing processes.

Ramakrishnan Venkataraman, Director - SOLIDWORKS & 3DEXPERIENCE Works, Dassault Systèmes India, said the company has evolved from offering a 3D design tool to providing an integrated environment covering product design, simulation, manufacturing and operations.

Venkataraman said AI should function as a virtual companion for engineers rather than replace human expertise. In vehicle develop-

ment, for instance, engineers can provide parameters such as speed and road conditions, allowing AI-enabled simulation to generate multiple possible outcomes. Engineers can then assess those results and make the final decisions. The technology can also extend into procurement and production planning. AI agents can examine an organisation's historical knowledge, identify relevant information for new requests for quotation and assist engineers in assessing materials, suppliers, production schedules and compliance requirements.

However, Venkataraman cautioned companies against adopting AI merely because it is a popular technology. Businesses, he said, should first identify a specific problem and determine whether the technology can generate measurable returns.

Shree Harsha, Senior Official - Growth Industries at Dassault Systèmes, said digital continuity is becoming equally important. Maintaining a common digi-



tal thread across design, manufacturing, testing, sourcing and supply chains can reduce the data gaps traditionally created when departments use separate software platforms. The development is particu-

larly significant for India's next manufacturing growth cycle. Semiconductors, electronics and original design manufacturing are expected to create opportunities not only in final products but also in components, automa-

tion, machinery, fixtures and supply chains.

Automotive is undergoing another major transition with the shift towards electric mobility, while aerospace and defence are benefiting from efforts to increase indi-

genisation and develop more components domestically.

Drones and unmanned aerial vehicles are also emerging as important applications. Dassault Systèmes is working with Indian drone companies, with Delhi-based drone maker Raphe cited by Harsha as an example of a startup using digital engineering to accelerate product development.

Railways could become another major technology market as India expands metro networks, modernises conventional railways and develops high-speed and hydrogen trains, alongside systems such as Kavach.

Virtual twins are also finding an unusual application in data centres. As AI workloads increase demand for computing power and cooling, digital models can simulate energy consumption, water requirements, thermal loads, land utilisation and operational risks before physical infrastructure is constructed.

The next major change could be in product design itself.

Venkataraman expects engineering interfaces to increasingly rely on voice and natural-language interaction, allowing engineers to turn ideas and specifications into 3D models and design alternatives with AI assistance. This transformation will also demand new skills. Venkataraman and Harsha highlighted the gap between academic education and practical engineering requirements, stressing the need for greater exposure to industrial problems, design thinking, simulation and emerging technologies.

For India, the larger opportunity could be a shift from simply "manufacturing in India" towards designing products in India for domestic and global markets. The convergence of AI, simulation and virtual twins could reduce dependence on physical prototypes, shorten development cycles and enable engineers to make better-informed decisions, strengthening India's position in global engineering and manufacturing.

Rupee Recovers As RBI Support Offsets Oil And Rate Hike Pressures

The Indian rupee recovered from early losses to end 26 paise higher at Rs 95.17 (provisional) against the US dollar, with possible Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervention helping the currency withstand pressure from rising crude oil prices, higher US Treasury yields and renewed geopolitical uncertainty.

The rupee opened at Rs 95.56 and moved between Rs 95.11 and Rs 95.56 during the session. Forex traders said the central bank may have stepped in at weaker levels to contain volatility and prevent further depreciation.

The currency also faced pressure from growing expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate hike in September. Such expectations have strengthened the dollar and pushed US Treasury yields higher, making emerging-market currencies more vulnerable.

Adding to the pressure was a sharp rise in international crude prices. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, gained 3.70 per cent to USD 91.36 a barrel in futures trading. Renewed concerns over Middle East oil supplies affected



market sentiment following a US strike on Iran's Larak Island and subsequent Iranian retaliation, raising concerns over crude flows through the Strait of Hormuz. For India, higher crude prices remain a major economic concern because of the country's dependence on imported oil. A sustained increase in energy costs could raise imported inflation and put pressure on the country's external balances.

"Going ahead, the rupee will take cues from key US economic data, particularly Non-Farm Payrolls

and Unemployment numbers, which could influence the Dollar Index and emerging-market currencies. FII flows and crude oil prices will also remain important for the domestic currency. The Rupee range can be seen between 94.75 to 95.75," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

The dollar index, which measures the US currency against six major currencies, was trading 0.18 per cent lower at 99.52. Apart from possible RBI intervention, stronger foreign exchange inflows through

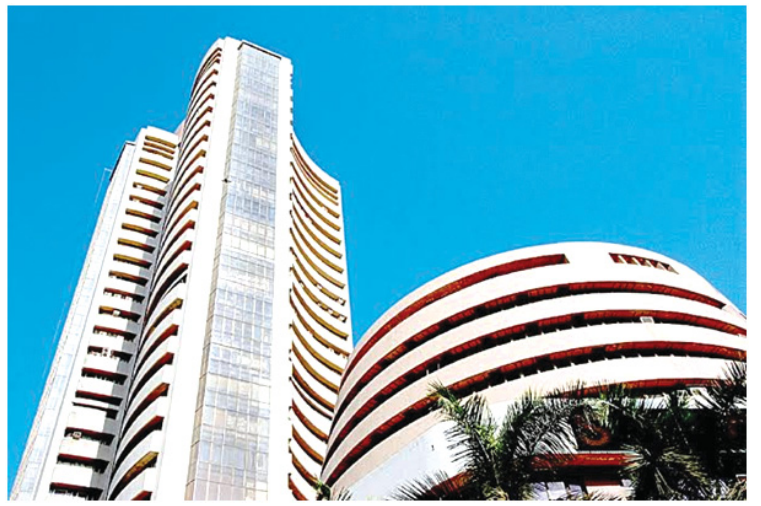
the FCNR(B) deposit scheme also supported the rupee.

The RBI's special USD-INR foreign exchange swap facility covering FCNR(B) deposits, Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings and External Commercial Borrowings had mobilised USD 73 billion in foreign exchange inflows as of August 21. The strong participation from non-resident Indians provided additional support to India's foreign exchange position. August 31 was the final day for mobilisation of deposits under the RBI's FCNR(B) scheme.

India's foreign exchange reserves also increased by USD 12.422 billion to a record USD 729.328 billion in the week ended August 21, according to RBI data.

Meanwhile, the commerce ministry is scheduled to meet industry associations and representatives of export promotion councils on September 1 to review India-US trade performance. The meeting will be chaired by Additional Secretary Darpan Jain, who is also India's chief negotiator for the India-US bilateral trade agreement.

Markets Under Pressure As Adani Stocks Slide After MSCI Rejig



Indian equity markets extended their losses on Monday, with benchmark indices ending lower as heavy selling in Adani Group stocks added pressure to the broader market. The Nifty fell 95 points to close at 24,080, managing to stay above the psychologically important 24,000 level, while the BSE Sensex declined 307 points to 76,957.

The broader market offered some relief, with the Nifty Midcap index rising 155 points to 64,225. However, overall market sentiment remained weak, with the advance-decline ratio standing at 1:2, indicating that declining stocks significantly outnumbered gainers.

Adani Group companies were at the centre of the selling pressure following the latest MSCI index rejig. Adani Enterprises plunged 10 per cent, while Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone dropped 7 per cent. Adani Energy Solutions, Adani Green Energy and Adani Power also declined sharply, with losses ranging between 7 per cent and 10 per cent. HDFC Bank added to the pressure on benchmark indices after failing to hold its early gains. On the other hand, ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries offered some support. Reliance Industries gained 1 per cent after witnessing a strong upward move during the final hour of trading. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said rising crude oil prices and bond yields had revived concerns about energy-driven inflation and a potentially higher interest-rate environment. He added that recent comments by the Fed chair following the Jackson Hole address had increased expectations of a possible September rate hike, keeping global yields elevated and adding to volatility in emerging markets.

The Nifty Bank index witnessed a significant adjustment following the Closing Auction Session (CAS). It finished 529 points higher at 58,025, around 600 points above its 3:15 pm level. The unusual adjustment comes amid continuing market attention on how CAS movements affect closing prices and index levels.

Among Sensex constituents, Bajaj Auto, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, TVS Motor Company and Coal India emerged as major gainers. Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Hindalco Industries and InterGlobe Aviation were among the biggest laggards.

Auto stocks largely ended higher ahead of the release of monthly sales data, with Bajaj Auto emerging as the strongest performer in the segment. Ather Energy also continued its recent rally, gaining more than 6 per cent following the launch of its new scooter on the EL platform.

In the mid-cap space, Indian Hotels, Aurobindo Pharma, Nykaa and Paytm were among the notable gainers. Keynes Technology, however, fell 7 per cent after concerns were raised by Investec following its review of the company's annual report. Eternal was also among the major Nifty losers, while sources indicated that Zomato is set to lay off 250 employees, adding another corporate development for investors to track amid an already cautious market environment.

India Eyes 7% Plus Growth In FY27 Despite Global Shocks: Sitharaman

India is likely to sustain economic growth of 7 per cent or more in the financial year ending March 2027, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, underlining the resilience of the economy despite geopolitical tensions, supply-chain disruptions and weaker foreign investment inflows.

Speaking to the Indian diaspora in Chicago, Sitharaman said India had maintained growth of 7 per cent or more since the economic disruption caused by COVID-19 and expected the momentum to continue through FY27. Her assessment came ahead of the release of official gross domestic product (GDP) data for the June quarter.

The Economic Survey has projected FY27 growth between 6.8 per cent and 7.2 per cent, while the Reserve Bank of India has estimated growth at 6.7 per cent. India's economy contracted 5.8 per cent in FY21 as the pandemic disrupted economic activity. However, the economy has subsequently expanded by more than 7 per cent in each of the past five years. Sitharaman said India had been

able to maintain its growth momentum despite disruptions associated with the US-Iran conflict and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, an important global shipping route for energy supplies. The disruptions initially affected shipments of petroleum products, natural gas and fertilisers, but India was able to reroute supplies and limit the impact.

The government also protected farmers from higher international fertiliser prices by maintaining domestic prices through subsidies, Sitharaman said. She added that fertiliser stocks were adequate for the next planting season beginning in November.

"Continuously keeping in touch with global uncertainties as much as understanding India's own requirements have kept us floating," Sitharaman said, highlighting the importance of balancing global developments with domestic economic requirements.

While the government's focus on capital expenditure has helped private investment begin to recover, Sitharaman said India would require significantly larger inter-



national capital inflows to meet its investment ambitions. The government is therefore engaging with global investment funds to showcase opportunities in India and understand their concerns regarding policy and regulatory issues.

The emphasis on overseas capital comes as net foreign direct investment (FDI) into India has declined sharply. Net FDI fell to USD 6.95 billion in FY26, compared with an annual average of around USD 40 billion between FY20 and FY22.

Sitharaman said the government was seeking to provide greater clarity to international investors while also taking their expectations into account. The effort

forms part of a broader strategy to strengthen India's position as an investment destination.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was also in Japan the previous week, where he sought to mobilise investments of USD 60 billion by 2035. The initiative is aimed at deepening India's trade and investment relationship with one of the world's major economies.

India is simultaneously negotiating bilateral investment treaties and trade agreements with several countries, Sitharaman said. These negotiations, along with structural reforms and efforts to attract foreign capital, are expected to support the country's longer-term economic ambitions.

The government's approach is therefore focused on maintaining domestic growth while building stronger international investment connections. Despite uncertainty in global markets, geopolitical tensions and softer FDI inflows, Sitharaman's projection signals confidence that India can continue to expand at a relatively strong pace in FY27.

Semicon 2.0 Targets One Lakh More Semiconductor Engineers: Vaishnaw

India plans to develop another one lakh semiconductor engineers under the second phase of its semiconductor programme, Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, as the government seeks to strengthen domestic capabilities across the rapidly expanding chip industry.

Speaking after the launch of Semicon 2.0, Vaishnaw said the programme would expand efforts across chip design, semiconductor manufacturing, equipment, materials, advanced packaging, research and development (R&D) and skilled manpower. The objective is to create an end-to-end semiconductor ecosystem rather than focus

only on chip fabrication. India has already developed 85,000 semiconductor engineers under the earlier programme, achieving the target in four years instead of the original 10-year timeline. The government now aims to add another one lakh engineers as the global semiconductor industry is projected to face a workforce shortage of around one million workers by 2032.

The talent-building push is also reaching educational institutions beyond major cities. Semiconductor design programmes have been expanded to 355 universities, including institutions in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. Students participating in these pro-

grammes have so far designed 255 chips, reflecting growing domestic capabilities in chip design.

Semicon 2.0 has identified six priority semiconductor categories: compute, memory, radio frequency (RF), power, networking and sensors. Around 100 chips have been prioritised for development, with potential applications spanning aviation, transportation, consumer electronics and strategic industries.

The programme carries a total budget outlay of Rs 1.275 lakh crore across the semiconductor value chain. Its core areas include chip design, machines and materials, new fabrication facili-

ties, assembly, testing, marking and packaging (ATMP), outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT), research and development, and talent development.

India has also set longer-term targets for the sector: The programme aims to support more than seven additional operating fabs or specialty fabs by 2030-32. The chip-design ecosystem is expected to produce hundreds of fabless semiconductor companies, 5-10 globally scaled semiconductor product companies and more than 500 indigenous semiconductor intellectual property (IP) products.

Under Semicon 1.0, the government has approved 12



semiconductor manufacturing projects across six states. The projects include a silicon fabrication plant, compound

semiconductor and display facilities, along with nine ATMP/OSAT projects. Implementation is now

becoming a key measure of the programme's progress. Three of the approved projects have already started commercial production in 2026, while two additional projects are expected to begin production during the year. With Semicon 2.0, the government is attempting to move beyond project approvals and build a broader industrial ecosystem supported by engineers, domestic design capabilities, manufacturing facilities, specialised equipment and research. The one lakh additional engineers are expected to form a significant part of that expansion as India seeks a larger role in the global semiconductor supply chain.



Man in Europe Says This Salary Makes Moving Abroad Worth It

For many Indians, moving abroad is often associated with higher salaries, better career opportunities and a more comfortable lifestyle. But Manish Yadav, an Indian man living in Europe, has offered a different view, arguing that a bigger foreign salary does not automatically mean a better life.

Yadav shared his thoughts in an Instagram video posted through his account @rao.in.malta. He said Indians earning between Rs 70,000 and Rs 1 lakh a month in India may not always gain financially by moving overseas. According to him, someone already earning Rs 1 lakh in India may have little reason to leave the country purely in search of money. He extended the argument to people earning around Rs 70,000 to Rs 80,000 a month,

while acknowledging that salaries abroad can be significantly higher. His point, however, was that comparing salaries without considering expenses can create a misleading picture of life overseas.

Rent, groceries, transportation and other everyday costs can quickly consume a large share of an overseas income. Yadav said that even a person earning around Rs 1.5 lakh abroad might end up saving only Rs 40,000 to Rs 50,000 after covering regular expenses. For that reason, he suggested that people should consider moving abroad only when the financial difference is substantial enough to make the transition worthwhile. He cited salaries of Rs 2 lakh, Rs 2.5 lakh or Rs 3 lakh as levels that could potentially offer a stronger

financial incentive, while admitting that such jobs are not available to everyone. But Yadav's argument goes beyond salary calculations. He also pointed to the emotional price of living thousands of kilometres away from home. Missing family members, children and relatives can become a difficult part of overseas life, particularly when major events happen in India.

Weddings, deaths and other important family occasions can be especially painful, he said, because people living abroad may not always be able to return home when their presence matters most. Loneliness was another issue highlighted by Yadav. He said that people abroad can sometimes find themselves without anyone nearby to care for them, meet them or simply



sit and talk. He compared such an experience to being alone in a room like a statue. His comments have brought

attention to an often-overlooked aspect of migration. The decision to move abroad is frequently presented as a

straightforward calculation involving salary and career growth, but the reality can involve higher expenses, dis-

tance from loved ones and changes in social life.

For some Indians, overseas employment can still provide valuable professional exposure, career advancement and long-term financial benefits. But for those already earning a reasonable income in India, Yadav's argument raises a different question: how much additional income is enough to compensate for the financial and emotional costs of leaving home? Ultimately, Yadav said the decision is personal. His message is that prospective migrants should calculate not only their foreign salary, but also living expenses, potential savings, family responsibilities and the emotional consequences of being away from home before deciding whether the move is genuinely worthwhile.

Dimple Kapadia's Hair Care Secrets: Oil, Protein And Even Onion Juice

Dimple Kapadia's appearance at the 25th anniversary press event of Dil Chahta Hai once again caught attention for her distinctive screen presence-and unexpectedly, for her shiny, bouncy hair. At 69, the veteran actor's healthy-looking locks became a talking point, prompting curiosity about how she has maintained them over the years.

Kapadia, who played Tara, the melancholic artist in the 2001 film Dil Chahta Hai, has previously spoken about her hair-care routine. In a 2021 interview with Vogue India, she revealed that regular oiling has remained an important part of her approach to maintaining her hair.

According to Kapadia, she oils her hair overnight before having a head massage and applying a homemade hair pack. The unusual-sounding mixture contains five egg whites, one whole egg and a banana. She leaves it on her hair for around 10 to 30 minutes before washing it with lukewarm water. The actor has also shared her recipe for what she calls her "secret hair oil". Almond and sandalwood oil form the base, while geranium, rosemary and lavender essential oils are added to the mixture. Kapadia has credited the long-standing practice of oiling for



helping maintain her hair and joked that it is a tradition she would like to pass on to her grandchildren.

Her views on hair care also extend to diet. Recalling her childhood in a coastal area, Kapadia said she ate plenty of fish and believed it contributed to the quality of her hair. She has advised including adequate protein, balanced meals, seeds and nuts in the diet.

But one of her most memorable hair-care stories involves onion

juice. Kapadia recalled that a few years ago, while travelling with her children and grandchildren, she applied onion juice to her hair. Even after shampooing four times, the strong smell reportedly refused to disappear.

With her hair still wet, she opened the car window to help it dry. Instead of simply solving the problem, the moving car became an unexpected onion chamber. Kapadia recalled that the fumes caused tears to stream down the

faces of those travelling with her, followed by complaints from her family.

Despite the incident, she maintained that onion juice was excellent for hair. However, she suggested that commercially available onion-extract oils could provide a more convenient alternative without turning a family journey into a tearful experience.

Kapadia also remembers her mother heavily oiling her hair during childhood and tying it into two tight braids with a side parting for school.

She said her mother followed the routine religiously.

Kapadia's film career began with Bobby when she was just 16. She has long said that her naturally dry, thick and coarse hair benefited from oiling, while acknowledging that years of professional styling have also contributed to the glossy appearance seen today.

Her routine may not be a magic formula, but it combines traditional oiling, protein-rich food and homemade treatments. And perhaps the biggest lesson from her story is that celebrity hair secrets can sometimes involve ingredients as ordinary as eggs and bananas-and, occasionally, enough onion fumes to make an entire car cry.

Sleeping Till 9 AM Is Not Laziness, Says Startup Founder



A social media post by startup founder Jasveer Singh has sparked a discussion over sleep, discipline and the long-standing Indian household belief that waking up early is automatically a sign of success.

Singh questioned why sleeping until 9 am is often treated as a character flaw, while waking up at 5 am is praised as an achievement even if a person has slept for only five hours. His comments have prompted social media users to reconsider whether early rising should really be viewed as a measure of discipline.

In a post on X, Singh said Indian parents have somehow connected sleep with a person's character. A child sleeping until 9 am may quickly be labelled lazy, undisciplined or lacking ambition. But the same child waking at 5 am after just five hours of sleep may receive praise.

Singh questioned what is actually achieved by waking up early when the body has not received enough rest. "Waking up early is not an achievement. Sleeping properly is more important than waking up early," he said.

He also criticised what he described as a misconception about sleep passed down through generations by parents and teachers. Referring to the childhood saying, "He who sleeps, loses," Singh argued that such attitudes may have contributed to an unhealthy obsession with early mornings.

According to Singh, children who are sleeping are often disturbed by parents opening curtains, slamming doors, switching on lights or creating household noise. He questioned why people rarely ask what time the child went to bed, how many hours they slept or whether the sleep was of good quality.

His argument is that many Indian households focus more on the clock than on the amount and quality of sleep. The body, he suggested, does not operate according to a parent's definition of discipline but requires adequate rest.

Singh pointed out that sleep is important for concentration, memory, mood, recovery, metabolism and overall health. He also argued that individuals have different sleep clocks and naturally wake up once they have received sufficient rest. The post received varied reactions online, with several users agreeing with his observation. One user said waking up at 5 am after only five hours of sleep should not be considered discipline. Another called Singh's point "very true", while a third noted that parents often insist on both sleeping early and waking early.

The debate has ultimately shifted attention from the time on the clock to the quality and duration of sleep. For Singh, the question is simple: if waking up early comes at the cost of adequate rest, is it really discipline-or simply sleep deprivation dressed up as success?

Shilpa Shetty's 'Tiger Pose' Brings Yoga, Balance and Flexibility Into Focus

Shilpa Shetty has once again turned attention towards yoga and fitness after showcasing Vyaghrasana, popularly known as the Tiger Pose, in a new video. The actress, who regularly shares exercises and yoga asanas focused on strength, flexibility and mobility, demonstrated the movement as part of her fitness routine.

In the video, Shilpa begins in a tabletop position, keeping both hands and knees firmly on the floor. She raises her right foot while keeping the knee grounded and then lifts her left leg, balancing it over the raised leg while maintaining control and coordination.

"Living on the edge.. of the stretch," Shilpa wrote in the caption, adding a playful touch to the demonstration. However, the exercise itself involves more than simply creating an impressive pose for the camera.

Vyaghrasana combines stretching, controlled movement and balance, requiring coordination between the upper and lower parts of the



body. Unlike workouts that depend on heavy equipment, the movement can be included in a regular yoga routine with minimal preparation.

One of its key benefits is improved spinal flexibility. The gentle arching and rounding of the back can help release tension from stiff back muscles. This may be particularly useful as part of a broader fitness routine for people who spend long hours sitting or work-

ing at desks.

The Tiger Pose also engages the lower back, glutes, hamstrings and core. Strengthening these muscle groups can support posture, stability and everyday movement.

The movement may also help ease stiffness around the lower back and legs and reduce tension around the sciatic nerves. However, people experiencing persistent or severe pain should seek medical advice instead of relying

solely on yoga.

Balance is another major component of Vyaghrasana. Holding the position requires concentration and stability, encouraging coordination between body movement and awareness. This mind-body connection remains one of the defining features of yoga.

The movement also gently engages the abdominal region and may support digestion and help ease bloating. With consistent practice, it can also contribute to toning the hips and abdominal area when combined with an active lifestyle and balanced diet.

Shilpa Shetty's demonstration is a reminder that fitness does not always require hours in a gym. Simple movements, performed correctly and consistently, can work on flexibility, strength, balance and mobility.

For beginners, proper form is important. The stretch should never be forced, and controlled movement should take priority over attempting an advanced posture immediately.

Porsche Cayenne Electric Brings 1,156 HP And 642 Km Range To India

Porsche is preparing to add another high-performance electric SUV to its Indian portfolio with the arrival of the Cayenne Electric on September 30. The luxury electric SUV will become the third Porsche EV in the country after the Taycan and Macan Electric, and will occupy the flagship position in the company's electric vehicle line-up.

The Cayenne Electric has already been listed with ex-showroom prices of Rs 1.77 crore for the standard variant and Rs 2.27 crore for the Turbo Electric. Once launched, the model will compete with premium electric SUVs including the BMW iX, Audi Q8 e-tron and Lotus Eletre.

What makes the Cayenne Electric particularly notable is the combination of SUV

practicality and sports-car-like performance. Both versions use a 113 kWh battery pack and a dual-motor, all-wheel-drive setup.

The standard Cayenne Electric produces 408 hp and 835 Nm of torque. Porsche claims it can accelerate from 0 to 100 kmph in 4.8 seconds and deliver a claimed range of up to 642 km on a single charge.

The Turbo Electric takes performance to another level. It develops a massive 1,156 hp and 1,150 Nm of torque, allowing it to complete the 0-100 kmph sprint in just 2.5 seconds. Despite this extraordinary performance, Porsche claims a range of 623 km for the Turbo variant.

Both versions come with adaptive air suspension as standard, while rear-axle steering is available as an

option. Porsche also says the Cayenne Electric can recover up to 600 kW of energy through regenerative braking. The electric motors are capable of handling up to 97 per cent of the braking duties.

Another unusual feature is wireless charging. The Cayenne Electric becomes the first Porsche model to offer an optional 11 kW wireless charging system, adding another layer of convenience to the luxury SUV.7

Although the Cayenne Electric is clearly designed as an EV, Porsche has retained the familiar silhouette associated with the Cayenne family. The front end, however, receives a major makeover. The conventional grille gives way to a cleaner fascia, while slim HD Matrix LED headlights,

active aerodynamic vents and redesigned air intakes give the SUV a distinct electric identity.

The vehicle gets gloss-black body cladding, distinctive lighting elements and alloy wheels measuring between 20 and 22 inches. At the rear, a full-width LED light bar stretches across the tailgate, incorporating illuminated Porsche lettering. The Turbo Electric additionally receives active aerodynamic components and a body-coloured skid plate.

The Cayenne Electric measures 4,985 mm in length and has a 3,023 mm wheelbase, making it slightly larger than its combustion-engine counterpart. Its aerodynamic design helps achieve a drag coefficient of 0.25.

Despite its performance-oriented character, the SUV has



been designed with practicality in mind. It offers a 90-litre front trunk and a 781-litre rear boot. Folding the rear seats increases the available luggage space to 1,588 litres. Inside, the Cayenne Electric takes a technology-heavy approach. The dashboard features a curved digital instru-

ment cluster and a 14.5-inch infotainment touchscreen. Buyers can also opt for a 14.9-inch passenger display and an augmented reality head-up display.

The Porsche App Centre allows access to third-party applications, while an AI-powered voice assistant can

be used for navigation and selected vehicle functions. Other equipment includes electrically adjustable front seats, four-zone climate control, ventilated seats, a panoramic sunroof and wireless phone charging.

For entertainment, the SUV gets a 14-speaker Bose audio system as standard, while a 20-speaker Harman Kardon system is available as an upgrade. Porsche's Digital Key feature allows compatible smartphones and smartwatches to lock, unlock and start the vehicle.

With supercar-like acceleration, long claimed range, luxury features and SUV practicality, the Cayenne Electric is positioned as a high-performance alternative for buyers seeking an electric vehicle without giving up the character associated with Porsche.

Pakistan Shake-Up After England Rout, Six Players Called Up

Pakistan cricket is heading for a major shake-up after a disastrous 2-0 Test series defeat to England, with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) preparing sweeping changes ahead of the third and final Test at Edgbaston. White-ball head coach Mike Hesson is expected to take charge of the Test side, while as many as six players are being called up from Pakistan, according to sources.

The changes follow two heavy defeats that exposed serious weaknesses in Pakistan's Test team. England won the opening Test at Headingley by an innings and 103 runs before completing a 194-run victory at Lord's. The results left Pakistan searching for answers, particularly after their batting repeatedly struggled against England's seam attack.

Mohammad Rizwan is reportedly set to return to Pakistan following a poor run with the bat. Imam-ul-Haq is also expected to leave the England tour, although his calf injury is likely to be assessed before a final decision is taken. The possible departures would force Pakistan to make further changes to their batting combination for the final Test.

Saim Ayub and Arafat Minhas are among the players summoned by the PCB as part of the emergency changes. The remaining replacements are expected to join the



squad once their visas are cleared. The move highlights the urgency within the Pakistan camp as the team attempts to strengthen its squad before the series concludes. Pakistan's batting collapse in the second Test further exposed the problems facing the side. The team was dismissed for only 110 in the first innings and 194 in the second. England bowlers Ollie Robinson, Josh Tongue and Jofra Archer repeatedly found ways to trouble Pakistan's batters, particularly with seam movement and disciplined bowling.

The coaching structure is also under review. Hesson, who currently serves as Pakistan's white-

ball head coach, is reportedly set to oversee the Test side at Edgbaston. Sarfaraz Ahmed is expected to remain around the squad, but his position as red-ball coach is facing serious scrutiny. The PCB has not formally announced the proposed coaching changes.

Hesson and High-Performance Director Aqib Javed had already travelled to London before Pakistan's defeat at Lord's. The PCB had said their visit was connected to a dinner hosted by King Charles for the Pakistan team on September 2.

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, COO Sumair Ahmed and PSL chief

Salman Naseer are also expected to be in London. A PSL meeting is scheduled for September 1, meaning several senior PCB officials are set to be in the United Kingdom while the national team attempts to recover from its poor Test performances.

The presence of the PCB leadership in London has attracted attention, particularly because the team is facing significant pressure following its comprehensive defeats. However, the King Charles engagement was planned before the Test series, and Buckingham Palace has confirmed that the King is expected to meet the Pakistan team this week.

The immediate priority for Pakistan will now be to rebuild confidence and find a combination capable of competing with England in the final Test. The changes to the playing squad and coaching setup indicate that the PCB is unwilling to continue with the same approach after the first two matches.

With just over a week remaining before the third Test begins at Edgbaston on September 9, Pakistan face a difficult rebuilding exercise. The team will need significant improvement in batting, better resistance against England's seam attack and greater consistency if it is to avoid a 3-0 series defeat.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Breaks 57-Year-Old Duleep Trophy Record



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi continued his remarkable rise in domestic cricket by creating history in the Duleep Trophy, becoming the youngest player to score a half-century in the tournament. The 15-year-old opening batter achieved the feat at the age of 15 years and 157 days while representing East Zone in the semifinal against defending champions Central Zone. Sooryavanshi produced an aggressive batting display and completed his half-century in just 42 balls. His innings included three sixes and five fours, underlining the fearless approach that has become a feature of his batting despite his young age.

The achievement saw Sooryavanshi break a 57-year-old record previously held by Laxman Singh. Singh had scored a Duleep Trophy half-century in 1969 at the age of 16 years and 23 days. Sooryavanshi surpassed the mark by almost a year to become the youngest player to reach a fifty in the history of the competition. Piyush Chawla occupies third place on the list after scoring a Duleep Trophy half-century at the age of 16 years and 307 days in 2025. The current record list is headed by Sooryavanshi, followed by Laxman Singh and Piyush Chawla. Sooryavanshi also came close to creating another record during the same innings. He was dismissed for 92, just eight runs short of becoming the youngest player to score a century in Duleep Trophy history. Despite missing out on the three-figure mark, his performance further strengthened his reputation as one of the most promising young batters in Indian cricket. The teenager's contribution came after East Zone captain Ishan Kishan won the toss and elected to bowl first. The decision proved effective as East Zone's bowlers restricted Central Zone to 266 runs in 80.1 overs. Veteran seamer Mukesh Kumar and right-arm medium pacer Abhijit Sarkar were the leading wicket-takers for East Zone, claiming three wickets each. Mukesh Kumar finished with figures of 3/56, while Abhijit Sarkar returned 3/38. Mohammed Shami and off-spinner Md Kounain Quraishi also made important contributions with the ball. Shami claimed 2/42, while Quraishi finished with 2/49 as Central Zone struggled to build a bigger total. Ishan Kishan was forced to leave the field during the morning session after being hit on his right wrist. With the East Zone captain receiving treatment, Sooryavanshi temporarily took over leadership duties. Sooryavanshi served as East Zone captain for around an hour on either side of lunch before Kishan returned to the field and resumed charge of the team. The brief leadership responsibility added another notable moment to an already memorable match for the young batter. Sooryavanshi's latest achievement adds to a rapidly growing list of milestones in his early career. Breaking Laxman Singh's long-standing record at just 15 years of age highlights his exceptional progress and ability to perform at a high level against experienced domestic opposition. Although he narrowly missed the chance to score a record-breaking century, his 42-ball fifty demonstrated his attacking intent and ability to take on bowlers. His performance has once again placed the spotlight on one of Indian cricket's youngest emerging talents.

ETPL Draws Global Attention as Boult, Santner and Nortje Set Career-Best T20 Figures

The inaugural European T20 Premier League (ETPL) is continuing to attract global attention after three leading international bowlers produced career-best T20 bowling figures within four days, underlining the quality and competitiveness of the tournament.

New Zealand pacer Trent Boult started the remarkable sequence with a five-wicket haul for Edinburgh Castle Rockers against Glasgow Cosmic. Boult returned impressive figures of 5/24, surpassing his previous best T20 figures of 4/13, which he had recorded against Sri Lanka in 2022.

South Africa fast bowler Anrich Nortje followed with another outstanding performance for Rotterdam Dockers. Nortje claimed 5/11 against Belfast Wolves, improving on his previous T20 career-best figures of 4/7 against Sri Lanka in 2024.

New Zealand all-rounder and Edinburgh Castle Rockers captain Mitchell Santner then completed the sequence by taking 5/16 against Dublin Guardian. Santner bettered his previous best of 4/11, which he had achieved against India in 2016.

The three performances have added a major highlight to the opening season of ETPL, with established international stars



making a strong impact alongside emerging European players. Boult said his focus was not on personal records but on reading the conditions, executing his plans and giving his team the best possible chance of winning. He added that producing such a performance during the first season of ETPL made the achievement particularly special.

Santner said ETPL was quickly developing its own identity by bringing together international players, local European talent and

different playing styles. While acknowledging the value of personal performances, he said being involved in building something new in European cricket made the experience especially enjoyable.

Nortje also reflected on his five-wicket performance, describing it as a significant achievement in T20 cricket. He said five-wicket hauls are not common in the shortest format and explained that the conditions suited his bowling on the day. His focus, he added, was on making the most of the opportuni-

ty and contributing wherever the team required.

The performances by Boult, Nortje and Santner have strengthened the growing momentum around the tournament. Their spells have also demonstrated the ability of ETPL to attract experienced international cricketers and provide a competitive platform for players from different cricketing backgrounds.

The league features six city-based franchises across Europe and aims to establish a new platform for elite T20 cricket in the region. It is also intended to give emerging European players an opportunity to compete alongside and against some of the biggest names in international cricket.

With the inaugural tournament still underway, the successive five-wicket hauls have created a memorable phase in ETPL's first season. The achievements of Boult, Nortje and Santner have not only rewritten their individual T20 career records but have also added to the tournament's growing profile. The continued presence of international stars and the emergence of local European talent could further enhance the league's appeal as ETPL seeks to establish itself as a significant stage for high-quality T20 cricket in Europe.

Ricky Ponting Calls for Changes in Australia Team

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting has called for major changes to the Test team ahead of the three-match tour of South Africa, saying Marnus Labuschagne's place in the side is now "almost untenable" after a long period of poor form.

Labuschagne, 32, has struggled to score consistently in recent Tests. During Australia's 1-1 Test series draw against Bangladesh at home, he managed scores of only one, 31 and four. The No. 3 batter has now gone 43 Test innings without scoring a century. His last Test hundred came against England during the Ashes at Manchester in July 2023.

With Australia preparing for the South Africa tour, Ponting believes the selectors must make bold decisions. The three-match Test series is scheduled to begin on October 9 in Durban. Ponting said Australia had remained a dominant Test side for a long period but had continued with some players for the last few years, making changes necessary.

He specifically pointed to the No. 3 position and suggested that Labuschagne's continued place in the playing XI could no longer be assured. According to Ponting, Australia must consider fresh options if the team wants to remain competitive in the coming series.

Ponting also suggested moving Travis Head back to his familiar position at No. 5 instead of opening the innings. Such a change, he said, could create an opportunity for a younger batter to open the innings and bring fresh talent into the Australian Test team.

The former Australia captain



acknowledged that a young opener would face a difficult challenge against South Africa's bowling attack. However, he believes Australia have reached a stage where they need to try something different. A change in the batting order could help the team discover a player capable of becoming a long-term option.

Ponting also spoke about his former teammate Mike Hussey and reports linking him with a possible role as England's new Test batting coach under newly appointed

head coach Stephen Fleming. Ponting revealed that he jokingly warned Hussey against accepting the position. He said he had told Hussey that he would never speak to him again if he took the job.

However, Ponting admitted that he was unsure about Hussey's plans. He said there were reports that Hussey could have a coaching role within the Australian setup. There has also been speculation that Hussey could become the next head coach of Chennai Super Kings, which could rule him out of

other coaching opportunities. Ponting said coaches ultimately want to contribute wherever they can and added that Hussey, who has already worked in coaching roles, could easily return to such a position. Australia now face an important period of transition before the South Africa tour. Ponting's comments are likely to increase pressure on the selectors to make changes to the Test batting line-up, particularly at No. 3, and give younger players an opportunity.

SLC Vows Reforms to Keep Women's Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka Cricket's (SLC) interim administration has expressed hope that the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy will remain in the country, amid speculation that the International Cricket Council (ICC) could consider relocating the tournament over concerns about government interference in cricket administration.

Interim Committee chair Eran Wickremaratna said the committee was committed to introducing fundamental reforms in the functioning of Sri Lanka Cricket. He said the administration was determined to correct the system "from the very foundation" and would continue its efforts without stepping back from the reform process.

The issue has gained importance as uncertainty surrounds Sri Lanka's hosting rights for the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy. Concerns over the independence of cricket administration and the involvement of the government in sporting matters have raised questions about whether the ICC would allow the tournament to remain in the country.

Wickremaratna, who was appointed chair of the interim committee by Sri Lanka's sports minister, said the committee remained determined to reform the administration of SLC. However, he did not disclose specific details of the proposed reforms or explain how the measures would address the concerns raised over the governance of cricket in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Cricket has faced continued scrutiny over its administration, particularly over its relationship with the government. The concerns have created uncertainty around the country's ability to host major international events, with the possibility of losing the Women's Champions Trophy representing a significant setback for Sri Lankan cricket.

The interim committee's decision to focus on reforms is being seen as an attempt to reassure the international cricket community and protect Sri Lanka's position as the host of the tournament. The administration will need to demonstrate that cricket operations can function independently and effectively while addressing concerns raised by international authorities.

The Women's Champions Trophy is expected to be an important tournament for women's cricket, bringing leading international teams together in a major global competition. Hosting the first edition would provide Sri Lanka with an opportunity to showcase its cricket infrastructure and strengthen its position as an international cricket destination.

Wickremaratna said the interim administration was "very committed" to correcting the system and stressed that it was "not backing out". His comments indicate that the committee intends to continue with its reform programme despite the uncertainty surrounding the tournament's hosting arrangements.

The final decision on the venue will depend on assessments by the relevant cricket authorities and the ICC. Until then, SLC is hoping that its reform efforts will satisfy concerns surrounding cricket administration and enable Sri Lanka to retain the hosting rights for the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy.

The tournament's future in Sri Lanka could therefore depend not only on the country's cricket infrastructure but also on the interim administration's ability to implement credible reforms and establish confidence among international cricket authorities.

Rashmika Mandanna Set To Return To Work After Hip Injury

Rashmika Mandanna has reassured fans about her recovery from a hip injury and indicated that she will soon return to work. The 30-year-old actor had taken a break from shooting after sustaining the injury on the sets of her upcoming film Mysaa. Rashmika recently gave her followers a glimpse of how she has been spending her time away from film sets. Instead of her usual hectic schedule, the actor has been enjoying quieter moments at home, including performing puja, spending time with her dog, solving picture puzzles and relaxing in her garden. The unexpected break appears to have given Rashmika an opportunity to slow down and spend more time with her loved ones. However, with her return to professional commitments approaching, she acknowledged that she would soon have to leave behind these peaceful routines. "I am getting back to work soon, and I am definitely going to miss all of this!" Rashmika wrote in her social media post. Her message has brought relief to fans who have been following developments surrounding her injury. The actor first became the subject of concern in July, when reports emerged that she had been injured while filming Mysaa. Rashmika later addressed the reports herself on August 3 and explained why she needed to step away from work. The actor had revealed that one of the four tendons connecting the hip to the leg on the right side had detached. The injury required time to heal, forcing her to put her professional commitments on hold. Her latest update suggests that the recovery period is now nearing its end. While she has not indicated an exact date for her return to the sets, her statement that she is "getting back to work soon" has generated optimism among fans. The recovery period has also offered a rare glimpse into Rashmika's life away from the cameras. Her activities during the break were largely simple and personal, with time spent with her pet, family and hobbies replacing the demanding routine associated with film shoots. For an actor with multiple professional commitments, an injury can disrupt production schedules and require adjustments from both the performer and filmmaking teams. Rashmika's decision to allow herself adequate time to recover before returning to work reflects the importance of healing properly after an injury. Her return is particularly significant for Mysaa, one of the projects that has kept audiences interested. The film's production schedule had to accommodate Rashmika's recovery, making her latest update relevant not only to her followers but also to those awaiting her next appearance on screen. Rashmika's social media message also carried an emotional element. While she is looking forward to returning to work, she admitted that she will miss the slower pace of her recovery days. The combination of puja, gardening, puzzles, time with her dog and family has apparently become comforting routine during her break. The actor's latest pictures have therefore served as more than a health update. They have shown a quieter side of a star whose professional life is usually dominated by shooting schedules, promotions and public appearances. As Rashmika prepares to resume filming and return to her professional commitments, fans will be watching for further updates on her comeback. For now, her message indicates that her recovery has progressed positively and that a return to the sets of Mysaa is getting closer.

Viral Video Fuels Dating Buzz Around Kavya Kalyanram And Kaala Bhairava

A viral video featuring actors Kavya Kalyanram and Kaala Bhairava has sparked fresh speculation about a possible relationship between the two, with fans eagerly waiting for an official confirmation. Kavya Kalyanram rose to prominence with the success of Balagam in 2023. Before making her mark as a lead actor, she appeared as a child artist in several films. Her performance in Balagam brought her wider recognition, followed by her appearance in Masooda. Kaala Bhairava, meanwhile, is the elder son of legendary music director MM Keeravani. He has established himself in the Telugu film industry through his work in music and playback singing. Over the past few days, reports have circulated suggesting that Kavya Kalyanram and Kaala Bhairava are dating. While neither has publicly confirmed the reports, the speculation has gained momentum following their recent public appearances together. The latest buzz intensified after the two were spotted at a book launch. Pictures and videos from the event began circulating widely on social media, with fans closely examining their interaction. The viral visuals have since triggered a fresh round of discussions about whether the two are more than friends. Reports also claim that the families of Kavya Kalyanram and Kaala Bhairava have accepted their relationship and given their blessings. However, these reports remain unconfirmed, as the actors have not made any public statement regarding their personal lives. The growing interest has also highlighted how quickly celebrity appearances can become the subject of online speculation. A simple appearance at a public event, followed by photographs or videos, can lead to widespread discussions among fans, particularly when the celebrities involved already have a strong following. Kavya's growing popularity after Balagam has kept her in the spotlight, while Kaala Bhairava's association with the family of MM Keeravani has also made him a familiar name among Telugu cinema audiences. For now, fans appear to be waiting for the rumored couple to address the speculation themselves. Until then, the viral video and their appearance at the book launch continue to provide fuel for dating rumors surrounding Kavya Kalyanram and Kaala Bhairava.



Mahesh Babu's Heartfelt Birthday Message For Son Gautam Ghattamaneni

Mahesh Babu marked a special family milestone by celebrating his son Gautam Ghattamaneni's 20th birthday with an emotional social media post. The actor shared a warm picture of himself with his eldest child and offered a message encouraging Gautam to follow his dreams with courage and kindness. Mahesh Babu celebrated a special family milestone by sharing an emotional birthday message for his son Gautam Ghattamaneni, who turned 20. The Telugu actor marked the occasion with a warm photograph of the father and son enjoying a leisurely walk surrounded by greenery and flowers. Alongside the picture, Mahesh Babu shared a message reflecting his affection and pride as Gautam enters another important stage of his life. "Happy 20 GG!! As you step into this new chapter, may you always chase your dreams with courage and kindness..... Proud of you today and every day...." he wrote. The post quickly attracted affectionate reactions from fans, who joined Mahesh Babu in celebrating Gautam's milestone. Many followers filled the comments section with birthday wishes, while some turned the occasion into a playful tribute to the father-son relationship. Several fans compared Mahesh Babu and Gautam to a lion and its cub, a reference that appeared to draw on the actor's powerful screen image and his association with Mufasa in the Telugu version of Disney's The Lion King. Mahesh Babu has also been popularly referred to as "Bob" by his fans, and the nickname appeared in the birthday reactions. One follower described the duo as "Lion and his cub", while another wished Gautam as "Simba", adding heart emojis to the message. The responses highlighted the affection fans have for Mahesh Babu beyond his film career and their interest in his family moments. Gautam's 20th birthday also brought back memories of his previous birthday celebration. When Gautam turned 19 last year, Mahesh Babu had shared a nostalgic throwback photograph of his son. The picture showed a much younger Gautam standing on a footpath pillar. At the time, Mahesh Babu spoke about missing the birthday celebration in person. He described it as the only birthday of Gautam's that he had ever missed and reassured his son that his love would remain with him at every step. "Happy 19 my son!! Each year you amaze me a little more...Missing your birthday this year; the only one i have ever missed... my love is with you every step of the way..." Mahesh Babu had written in that post. The latest birthday message, however, carries a more reflective tone. With Gautam now entering his 20s, Mahesh Babu focused on the future and the aspirations his son may pursue. His advice was not limited to success or professional achievement.



Prabha Bangarigalla's Folk Voice Wins Praise In Nani's The Paradise

The folk song "Yeshya Nagula Kattu Meeda..." from Natural Star Nani's upcoming movie The Paradise is gaining strong attention following its recent release. While the song has attracted listeners with its energetic folk flavour, the voice of singer Prabha Bangarigalla has emerged as one of its major highlights. Prabha, who has built recognition through folk singing, is now finding a wider audience through film music. Her distinctive voice has already earned appreciation among listeners, particularly those familiar with her performances during popular festivals and local celebrations. During occasions such as Vinayaka Chavithi and Dasara, Prabha's folk songs are widely heard. Unlike many professional singers who undergo years of formal musical training, she learned singing from her mother. Her journey into music began within her family and gradually developed through performances at local events and songs released on YouTube. Her growing popularity on social media eventually brought her talent to the attention of people from the film industry. Opportunities to lend her voice to movie songs followed, giving the folk singer a chance to reach audiences beyond traditional village and festival platforms. Prabha recently lent her voice to the song "Muchataina..." featured in a film, further establishing her presence in the entertainment industry. However, her latest opportunity with The Paradise has taken her popularity to another level. "Yeshya Nagula Kattu Meeda..." has already crossed 35 million views, marking a significant milestone for the song and adding to the growing recognition of Prabha's voice. The response has also highlighted the continuing popularity of folk-based music among Telugu audiences. The success of the song is particularly notable because Prabha's singing journey has largely developed outside the conventional formal music-training system. Her performances at local events and presence on YouTube helped her build an audience, eventually creating opportunities in mainstream cinema. For The Paradise, the song brings a strong folk character, while Prabha's voice adds a distinctive local flavour to the composition. The response to the track also demonstrates how singers who build their careers through grassroots performances and digital platforms can increasingly find opportunities in films. With more than 35 million views already recorded, "Yeshya Nagula Kattu Meeda..." has become an important talking point around Nani's upcoming movie. At the same time, the song is giving Prabha Bangarigalla a bigger platform and introducing her voice to a much larger audience. Her journey from learning songs from her mother and performing folk music at local events to singing for a major film reflects the changing path to recognition in the music industry. For Prabha, The Paradise could prove to be another significant step in a growing musical journey.

