



Invest Kadapa Launched To Accelerate Industrial Investments



Nagaraju @ Kadapa

The Kadapa district administration has established 'Invest Kadapa', a dedicated investment facilitation centre at the Kadapa Collectorate, to accelerate industrial investments and strengthen the district's investor ecosystem. The initiative is being implemented under the aegis of Minister for Education, IT & Electronics and Human Resources Development Nara Lokesh.

The centre aims to position YSR Kadapa district as an attractive destination for national and international investments by providing end-to-end investor support through a single platform. It brings information on land availability, sectoral opportunities, government permissions, infrastructure and other project requirements under one roof.

District Collector Cherukuri Sridhar is spearheading the initiative to create better coordination between investors and government departments and ensure faster resolution of implementation-related bottlenecks.

'Invest Kadapa' will operate through five key verticals. The Land Bank Desk will provide digital information on available land parcels, including location, extent, connectivity and project suitability, besides coordinating site inspections. The Opportunities Desk will identify and package investment opportunities in priority sectors and connect them with prospective investors.

An Investor Handholding Team will offer personalised assistance, identify suitable locations, facilitate site visits and coordinate with departments to resolve project-related issues. Through Departmental Convergence, nodal officers will work as a single interface for investors, facilitating faster processing and communication.

The Project Tracking and Facilitation vertical will monitor proposals from concept to commissioning, tracking land, approvals, clearances and infrastructure requirements while proactively identifying bottlenecks.

The centre will focus on high-potential sectors including manufacturing, agriculture and food processing, mining and mineral-based industries, solar and wind energy, renewable energy, pumped storage projects, tourism and hospitality, real estate and infrastructure.

A digital kiosk will provide investors with information on Kadapa's industrial potential, available opportunities and project-related details.

The district administration expects the initiative to attract micro, small, medium and large-scale industries, generate employment and self-employment opportunities and create greater avenues for Kadapa's youth. It aims to make investment facilitation more efficient, transparent and time-bound.

Jagan Announces Statewide Padayatra For September-October 2027

Tadepalli, September 9 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy announced that he would undertake a statewide Padayatra in September or October 2027, asserting that people were already comparing the five-year YSRCP rule with the present government.

Addressing YSRCP local body representatives and leaders from Parchur Assembly constituency at the party central office, Jagan said his government had fulfilled 99 per cent of its manifesto promises. He alleged that the present government had failed to honour several election promises.

Jagan highlighted YSRCP initiatives including village secretariats, volunteer services, Nadu-Nedu, bilingual textbooks, digital classrooms, TOEFL training, tablets for Class VIII students, expanded Aarogyasri coverage, Village Clinics, Family Doctor services and 18 new medical colleges. He also cited Rythu Bharosa Kendras, e-Crop registration and price-monitoring mechanisms as measures supporting farmers.

He alleged that the government was delaying local body elections by citing BC reservations and electoral roll revision. He also accused it of misusing police machinery against political opponents.

Describing the next political contest as a "Kurukshetra Sangramam", Jagan urged party cadres to remain with the people and resist any misuse of official machinery.

He asserted that YSRCP would contest elections whenever they were held and emerge victorious if the polls were conducted fairly.



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16 Lakh Acres Freed From 22-A List, Says Naidu



P. Gannavaram, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said welfare, development and good governance were the core principles of the Alliance government, asserting that he regularly interacted with people to understand their problems and ensure effective delivery of government services.

Addressing the 'Mee Bhumi - Mee Hakku' (Your Land - Your Right) Gram Sabha at Panduvaripeta in P. Ganna varam constituency of Kona seema district on Tuesday, Naidu said true good governance meant improving peo-

ple's lives rather than remaining confined to the State Secretariat.

He said the government was working to strengthen welfare and development through initiatives such as NTR Bharosa pensions, 'Swarnandhra - Swachhandhra' and the P4 (People-Public-Private Partnership) model. He said wealth creation was possible only through development and that the government's objective was to ensure people lived with dignity.

On land security, Naidu said the 'Mee Bhumi - Mee Hakku' programme was being conducted on the ninth of every month to distribute pattadar

passbooks bearing the official state seal. He alleged that the previous administration had tampered with revenue records and misused the land re-survey process. He said the Alliance government repealed the Land Titling Act immediately after assuming office.

Naidu said the re-survey had been completed in 8,234 villages and 3.6 million pattadar passbooks had been distributed. The government aims to distribute 5.6 million passbooks across 8,582 villages by March next year. The new passbooks include security features such as e-KYC, QR codes and blockchain technology. He said auto-mutation

was being provided immediately after registration, while stamp duty on partition of ancestral lands had been capped at RS.1,000, benefiting 125,000 families. Errors in the '22-A' restricted list had been rectified, resulting in the removal of 1.6 million acres from the list.

The Chief Minister said 244 critical land disputes pending for decades had been resolved. He also announced measures to resolve restrictions on lands in Machavaram (Amalapuram), Mummidi varam and Ramachandrapuram, which had remained under the '22-A1' category since 1908. The move would benefit 1,410 people covering 56.37 acres.

Naidu said water and land security remained top priorities. Despite El Niño's impact, more than 1,000 TMC of Godavari water flowed into the sea this year, he said, adding that better utilisation could have benefited the state.

Earlier, Naidu unveiled a plaque for RS.240 crore power grid modernisation works undertaken by the Eastern Power Distribution Company (EPDCL) to provide three-phase electricity. Ministers Atchannaidu, Anagani Satyaprasad and Vasamsetti Subhash, MP Ganti Harish and local MLA Giddi Satyanarayana attended the event.

Lokesh Calls On Global Telugu Diaspora To Become Partners In AP Growth



Mangalagiri, September 9 | TPN Bureau

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) marked a milestone with the swearing-in of the Global NRI TDP Executive Committee, bringing the Telugu diaspora onto a common platform to contribute to Andhra Pradesh's development and strengthen the party's network ahead of the 2029 elections. Addressing the ceremony, TDP National Working President and Minister Nara Lokesh recalled the 53-day imprisonment of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Rajahmundry Central Jail. He described his visits to the jail as painful and recalled seeing foundation stones bearing Chandrababu's name for development works undertaken during his tenure. Lokesh said Chandrababu remained resolute

despite adversity, while the TDP continued its fight with the support of party workers and the Telugu community. He recalled the "I Am With CBN" campaign across Bengaluru, Chennai, Karnataka and other regions, besides the "Gratitude Concert" in Hyderabad, which brought together nearly 50,000 Telugu people. He urged the Global NRI TDP leadership to carry forward that spirit of unity and called upon the global Telugu diaspora to become active partners in public service and state-building. He said professionals, entrepreneurs and NRIs could contribute their knowledge, expertise and global experience to Andhra Pradesh's growth. Union Minister of State Pemmasani Chandrasekhar congratulated Guru Raja on assuming charge as Global NRI TDP president and



1,416 Families To Benefit As 'Ground Rent' Lands Freed From 22A List

Amalapuram, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced relief to families residing on 'ground rent' lands in Amalapuram and Konaseema district by removing the properties from the Section 22A(1) prohibited list.

During his visit to Jayanthi Nagar in Machavaram, Ambajipeta Mandal, the Chief Minister met families residing on the lands and interacted with the beneficiaries. He subsequently released the properties, which had remained under restrictions for nearly 120 years, and handed over the relevant documents to beneficiaries.

Naidu said the government had decided to treat 'ground rent' sites on par with 'Gramakantham' (village settlement) lands and remove them from the Section 22A(1) prohibited list. He said the move would enable residents to enjoy secure ownership rights over their properties.

The Chief Minister stated that the decision would benefit 1,416 residents across Amalapuram, Machavaram, Mummidiavaram and Ramachandrapuram. A total of 57.37 acres spread across 1,281 survey numbers have been released from the restrictions.

Naidu said the government was committed to resolving long-pending land issues and providing greater security to families who had been living on the properties for generations.

AP Showcases Urban Water Security Strategy At IFAT India 2026

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Andhra Pradesh showcased its approach to urban water security and sustainable development at IFAT India 2026 in Mumbai, highlighting integrated planning, wastewater reuse, climate resilience and digital innovation for future-ready cities. A high-level State delegation from the urban development, public health and sanitation sectors is participating in the three-day event. The delegation is led by S. Suresh Kumar, Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department, along with B.



Sunil Kumar Reddy, Managing Director, Swachha Andhra Corporation. Suresh Kumar addressed the opening plenary, "One Water, One City, One Future: Reimagining Urban Water for Viksit Bharat 2047," and stressed the



importance of integrated water management. He said urban water security required a shift from a conventional linear approach to a circular model based on conservation, capture, treatment, reuse, recharge and retention. He said water sup-

ply, drainage, roads, lakes and public spaces should be planned as interconnected components of urban systems. Sharing Andhra Pradesh's experience, Suresh Kumar said gap assessments and infrastructure investment plans had been com-



pleted across all 121 Urban Local Bodies, providing a basis for investments in water supply, sewerage and stormwater infrastructure. He said works were underway to strengthen distribution networks, household connections and sewage

treatment facilities, while drainage was being integrated with road development. At Amaravati, the approach is being incorporated in the planning stage, with the master plan targeting net-zero liquid discharge, treated wastewater reuse and a ded-

Cabinet Approves Five Rail Multitracking Projects Across Four States

New Delhi, September 09 | TPN Bureau

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved five railway multitracking projects costing approximately RS.10,021 crore across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana. The projects will add about 540 km to the railway network and cover 17 districts.



The approved projects include the 77-km Arakkonam-Renigunta third and fourth lines, 47-km Whitefield-Bangarpet third and fourth lines, 147-km Hosur-Omalur doubling, 159-km Salem-Karur-Dindigul doubling and 110-km multitracking of the Secunderabad (Ghatkesar)-Kazipet section. The projects are targeted for completion by 2029-30.

Planned under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan, the projects are expected to ease congestion, improve operational efficiency and strengthen rail connectivity for passengers and freight. They will benefit around 2,121 villages with a combined population of nearly 52 lakh and improve access to tourist destinations including Tirupati, Tiruttani, Kodaikanal, Hogenakkal Falls, Yada girigutta and Bhongir.

The routes will support transportation of coal, cement, iron and steel, containers, automobiles, food grains, petroleum products and fertilisers. The capacity augmentation is expected to generate

additional freight traffic of 47 million tonnes annually.

Pawan Kalyan Hails Rail Projects

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan welcomed the approval, particularly the Arakkonam-Renigunta third and fourth lines, saying they would strengthen connectivity to Tirupati and Rayalaseema while easing congestion and boosting tourism, trade and logistics. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for supporting Andhra Pradesh's infrastructure development.

The projects are also expected to save around eight crore litres of oil imports and reduce nearly 42 crore kg of CO2 emissions, equivalent to planting around two crore trees.

Truth Triumphed, Integrity Prevailed

Undavalli, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Desam Party National Working President Nara Lokesh lit 53 candles at his Undavalli residence to mark three years since the midnight arrest of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in a case he described as politically motivated.

Naidu was confined for 53 days following his arrest, with the TDP alleging that the case was orchestrated by Jagan out of political vendetta. People across Andhra Pradesh are observing the day by lighting candles under the slogan "Truth



Triumphed" and expressing solidarity with Chandrababu. Lokesh said Naidu, a towering figure of five decades of selfless political values, emerged from the cases with his integrity intact and with the

blessings of crores of Telugu people worldwide. He expressed confidence that the strength and support of the people would remain the ultimate safeguard for both the Telugu Desam Party and Chandrababu.

Pedapenki Development Works Near Completion, Says Pawan Kalyan



Pedapenki, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Pawan Kalyan directed officials to ensure quality and public convenience in development works being undertaken in Pedapenki village of Parvathipuram Manyam district.

Development works worth RS.4.68 crore are nearing completion, with officials reporting that most infrastructure and sanitation works have reached the final stage. The works include 27 internal cement roads, 12 cement drains and six combined drain-and-road structures. About two kilometres of 'magic drains' have been completed, while seven more covering 670 metres are nearing completion.

Pawan Kalyan said government facilities should provide long-term benefits without causing inconvenience to residents. He directed officials to complete pending works promptly and prevent maintenance problems after construction.



As part of sanitation and water conservation measures, individual and community soak pits and compost pits were taken up. Beautification works include planting around 3,000 saplings under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, besides coconut plantations along roads and development of the village pond.

Pawan Kalyan has also focused on addressing the decades-old filariasis (elephantiasis) problem in Pedapenki. Individual health data of residents has been collected to prepare digital health profiles and issue digital health cards. He called for greater public awareness on sanitation and urged officials to adopt measures that improve living standards.

Pawan Kalyan commended officials for progressing with the works despite challenges and said he would soon visit Pedapenki to personally inspect the quality of the newly constructed roads and drains. He said his objective was to transform Pedapenki into a model village through improved sanitation, infrastructure and healthcare.

icated water utility, supported by World Bank and Asian Development Bank financing. Suresh Kumar also highlighted digital technologies for predicting water losses, pipe failures and flooding risks. He called for the Mega Cities Water Alliance to become an action-oriented platform for sharing proven solutions.

The State's sanitation initiatives are also being showcased through an AILSG stall featuring Swarna Andhra-Swachha Andhra, Operation Clean Sweep, Waste-to-Energy, Integrated Solid Waste Management, capacity building and IEC activities.

Teachers Question Public Display Of Pending Tasks On LEAP App

Ravi Podili

The Andhra Pradesh School Education Department developed the LEAP (Learning Excellence in Andhra Pradesh) app to bring students, teachers, parents and school administrators onto a common digital platform. However, teachers have expressed strong dissatisfaction over its implementation, particularly the public display of their names in lists showing pending tasks. Teachers said they were being held responsible even when tasks remained incomplete due to technical

glitches in the app. They questioned the fairness of publicly naming teachers for pending work without first determining whether the delay was caused by negligence, technical problems or inadequate supervision. They pointed out that teachers were being listed for failing to mark attendance by 9 am, complete toilet inspections and reports, or update mid-day meal inspections. They questioned why similar accountability measures were not applied to officials responsible for monitoring and supervising the system. Teachers demanded that authorities

clearly identify where work is pending and establish whose jurisdiction the delay falls under. They said accountability and transparency should apply equally to teachers and officials, rather than creating separate standards. They also urged the department to resolve technical issues before assessing teachers' performance. Publicly displaying pending lists, they said, could affect teachers' dignity and self-respect. They called for permanent solutions to LEAP-related technical problems and an end to making teachers scapegoats for system failures.



8th District Collectors' Conference To Focus On Development, Welfare

Amaravati, September 09 | TPN Bureau

The 8th District Collectors' Conference, chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, will be held at the State Secretariat on September 10 and 11. Ministers, Special Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Heads of Departments and District Collectors will participate in the two-day meeting. The first day will begin with a review of action taken on decisions from the 7th Collectors' Conference. Discussions will cover economic growth, welfare, human development, technology, investments and law and order, besides government

service delivery. The first day's 19 agenda items include GSDP, district roadmaps for the Swamandhra vision, 'Super 6' schemes, drinking water, housing, health, education, Ease of Doing Business and Jaladhara. Collectors will also showcase district-level best practices. On the second day, reviews will focus on e-governance, file clearance, RTGS, public grievance redressal, district rankings, land administration, utilisation of Central funds, skill development, welfare of SCs, STs, BCs and minorities, and law and order. The Chief Minister will issue directions based on ground-level requirements.

Atchannaidu Hits Out at YSRCP Over Garividi Veterinary College

Amaravati, Sep 9 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu questioned the YSRCP's criticism of the Alliance government over the Garividi Veterinary College's failure to secure renewed Veterinary Council of India (VCI) permission, attributing the issue to the previous government's negligence. He said the Telugu Desam government established the college in 2016, with ₹81.72 crore sanctioned in April 2017 and construction beginning in February 2018 on 90 acres. He questioned whether the YSRCP government had filled teaching posts, procured labo-

ratory equipment, completed VCI-compliant infrastructure or cleared contractors' bills during its five-year tenure. Atchannaidu said a VCI inspection on July 27-28 found the infrastructure satisfactory, with permission denied only due to shortages of four professors and eight associate professors. He said equipment had since been procured and key buildings and hostels completed. The Finance Department approved 253 teaching posts, while contract faculty appointments raised staff strength to 77. He said regular recruitment would be completed within six months to secure VCI renewal.

AP Waqf Board Enters International Book of Records

Amaravati, Sep 9 | TPN Bureau

The State Waqf Board has achieved international recognition for its innovative education initiative, 'Taleem-e-Hunar'. The International Book of Records has officially registered the Board as a record holder under the category "Most Meritorious Students Got Free Residential Education" (MASS). The programme provides quality free residential education to meritorious students from underprivileged Muslim backgrounds, aiming to ensure that financial constraints do not prevent talented students from pursuing their educational goals. AP Waqf Board Chairman Abdul

Azeez welcomed the recognition, describing it as a significant milestone for the Board and the students supported through 'Taleem-e-Hunar'. He said the achievement would strengthen the Board's resolve to introduce more initiatives in education and skill development. Abdul Azeez said the programme was receiving encouragement and cooperation under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Nara Lokesh and Minority Welfare Minister N.M.D. Farooq. He congratulated Waqf Board members, officials, educational institutions, teachers, students, parents and others who contributed to the achievement.

Free Power For Ganesh Chaturthi Pandals In AP, Says Lokesh

Vijayawada, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Minister Nara Lokesh announced that all Ganesh pandals across Andhra Pradesh will be provided free electricity during this year's Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. Lokesh said the initiative was aimed at supporting communities celebrating the festival across the state and making the festivities more vibrant. He also extended his wishes to families, praying that Lord Ganesha bless them with prosperity, happiness and success. Reacting to the announcement, AP BJP Chief PVN Madhav thanked Lokesh for

responding to the community's request and extending the free electricity facility to Vinayaka Chavithi pandals. Madhav said BJP leaders across Andhra Pradesh had submitted representations to all District Collectors under the BJP's 'Janata Varadhi' programme, through which public issues are brought to the government's attention every Monday. He appreciated the government for responding promptly to the representations and deciding to provide free electricity to the pandals. Madhav said the decision reflected the government's responsiveness to public faith and aspirations and once again thanked State Minister Nara Lokesh for the initiative.

State Speeds Up Measures To Accelerate Electric Vehicle Adoption

Amaravati, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Transport, Youth and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said the Andhra Pradesh government was taking strong measures to accelerate electric vehicle (EV) adoption in line with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's vision for sustainable transport. Under the 2024-29 Sustainable Electric Mobility Policy, incentives are being provided to EV manufacturers and buyers. A rebate of up to 5% on the ex-showroom price is available for electric two-wheel-

ers, auto-rickshaws, buses, transport vehicles and tractors until March 2027, along with a five-year road tax exemption. The government is also offering an incentive of up to 25% of establishment costs, capped at ₹3 lakh, for the first 5,000 charging stations. Reddy said the State aims to promote two lakh electric two-wheelers, at least 10,000 three-wheelers and 20,000 electric cars by 2029, besides expanding EVs in public transport. Plans include establishing charging stations every 30 kilometres, developing e-mobility cities and supporting startups.

Vijayawada Division Commissions Automatic Block Signalling On Gudur-Vijayawada Route



Uday Balvanth

Vijayawada Division of South Coast Railway (SCoR) has commissioned Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) between Talamanchi, Alluru Road, Bitragunta and Sri Venkateswarapalem on the triple-line section, strengthening safety and operational efficiency on the Gudur-Vijayawada route. Executed by the Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Projects), Vijayawada unit, the project covers 22.13 Route Kilometres and 66.39 Track Kilometres. With the commissioning, the ABS network between Gudur and Sri Venkateswarapalem has expanded to 76.53 Rkm. The system uses MSDAC (Multi-Section Digital Axle Counter)-based train detection, advanced electronic signalling, upgraded communication and monitoring facilities, and enhanced

safety provisions at identified level crossings. The upgrade is expected to enable smoother train movements, reduce operational delays, increase line capacity and provide greater flexibility in handling passenger and freight services. The commissioning was carried out under the guidance of Sandeep Mathur, General Manager, South Coast Railway; O. V. Suresh Kumar, Principal Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, SCoR; Mohit Sonakiya, Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division; Narendra Singh, Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Projects, SCoR; and M. Veeraiah, Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Vijayawada. Officials appreciated the Signal & Telecommunication Projects team and associated departments and executing agencies for completing the project.

Govt Steps Up Multi-Pronged Strategy For Suicide Prevention

Amaravati, September 09 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Medical and Health Department is implementing a multi-pronged strategy for suicide prevention, focusing on mental health services, awareness programmes and early identification of warning signs. Minister for Medical and Health Satya Kumar Yadav, ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10, called for collective participation by families, educational institutions, healthcare personnel and communities. Between 2023 and 2025, awareness programmes were conducted in 463 schools and 308 colleges, reaching 40,740 school students and 35,598 college students. Counselling was provided to 17,308 students in 307 welfare schools and hostels,

while 3,086 teachers were sensitised to mental stress and suicide warning signs. Tele-MANAS has received 86,529 calls through the 14416 helpline, with 2.16% relating to suicide concerns. Centres operate at Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada, and Government Mental Hospital, Visakhapatnam, with another proposed in Tirupati. The government plans to develop all three as 24-hour hubs. A pilot at Nuzvid IIIT recorded no suicide cases during 2024-26 following continuous counselling and mental health support. Satya Kumar Yadav said ANMs, ASHA workers, teachers and field staff were being trained to identify warning signs. Awareness rallies, human chains, IEC programmes and the 'Start the Conversation' campaign will be held across the State on September 10.

PIL Seeks Permanent High Court Bench In Kurnool

Kurnool, September 09 | TPN Bureau

The Indian Union Muslim League has filed PIL No. 205 of 2026 in the State High Court seeking the establishment of a permanent High Court bench in Kurnool. The PIL was filed by the party's State Vice-Presidents Maulana Rafi Uddin and Maulana Salam and came up for hearing before the High Court on Wednesday. Bashir Ahmed, a High Court advocate and the party's State President, argued that Rayalaseema remains economically

and socially backward. He submitted that people from the region face significant hardship and financial burden when travelling to Amaravati for legal proceedings. Bashir Ahmed urged the court to facilitate the immediate establishment of a permanent High Court bench in Kurnool, stating that it would improve access to justice for people across Rayalaseema. The Bench comprising Chief Justice Lisa Gill and Justice Challa Gunarajan observed that the matter warranted consideration and issued orders transferring the case to another bench for hearing.

PARAKH Chief Calls For Stronger Competency-Based Assessment In AP

Vijayawada, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Prof. Indrani Bhaduri, CEO and Head, PARAKH, NCERT, stressed the need to strengthen assessment practices in line

with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 during her interaction at the Board of Intermediate Education, Andhra Pradesh (BIEAP). Prof. Bhaduri appreciated BIEAP's initiatives to align its academic and assessment practices

Gujarat Team Praises APCNF Natural Farming Model In Guntur

Guntur, September 09 | TPN Bureau

A Gujarat team visiting Guntur district on Wednesday praised the Andhra Pradesh Community-managed Natural Farming (APCNF) approach implemented by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS), citing improvements in crop diversity, biodiversity, soil health and income opportunities. The team comprised Achyut Kumar Hasmukhbhai Patel, Dixit Babulal Patel, Hitesh Jamnadas Vora, Jaydeepsingh Ratansingh, Ratilal Vitthalbhai Shethia, Vanrajsingh Dilipsingh Chauhan, Prafullbhai Mansukhbhai Thakor, Nikunj Singh Harendrasingh Thakor, Bhikhabhai Hirabhai Bhutka and Dilipsingh Solanki. APCNF representa-

tives Krishna Rao, TL, NRO Unit; Dadapeer, Project Executive, NRO; and Rajakumari, District Project Manager, Guntur, accompanied the team. At Pidaparathi, the team visited Vijay Kumar's POP model, where 35 crop and plant varieties are cultivated in 30 cents, generating ₹13,000-15,000 monthly. It also observed Ratnakumari's A-Grade okra model with over 10 intercrops. In Munnangi, the team inspected Mastan Bhi's five-acre Natural Farming paddy compact block and observed Azolla, sticky plates, pheromone traps and L-shaped bund plantations. At Athota, the team appreciated Bapayya's efforts to conserve indigenous paddy varieties and traditional seeds.

Free OHS, Environmental Specialist Training For Amaravati Youth

Amaravati, September 09 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), in collaboration with SRM University, Amaravati, will launch a free training programme for Amaravati youth from October 1 to create employment opportunities in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Environmental Specialist roles. The 45-day programme will be conducted daily from 10 am to 4 pm. Candidates aged 18 to 45 residing in villages of the Amaravati capital region and

holding a Diploma or B.Tech in Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering are eligible. The training will provide technical knowledge and practical skills required for employment in relevant fields. Based on performance and experience, trainees will be offered job opportunities with construction companies operating in Amaravati. APCRDA said free transportation would be provided to participants. Interested candidates can contact the CRDA facilitator in their respective villages and register by scanning the QR code provided on the programme poster.

80% Subsidy On Alternative Crop Seeds Under Contingency Plan

Amaravati, September 09 | TPN Bureau

The Agriculture Department has announced an 80% subsidy on alternative crop seeds to support farmers affected by rainfall deficit and prevailing El Niño conditions during the current Kharif season. Director of Agriculture, AP, Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon said the department was implementing a Contingency Crop Plan to encourage cultivation on lands left uncultivated due to inadequate rainfall. Short-duration and low water-requiring ID irrigated dryland crops are being sup-

plied under the scheme. A total of 90,222 quintals of seeds have been allotted, including horse gram, black gram, green gram, red gram, foxtail millet, finger millet and sesame. Major allocations comprise 54,036 quintals of horse gram, 17,953 quintals of black gram, 6,858 quintals of green gram and 2,852 quintals of red gram. Eligible farmers will receive seeds according to cultivable land, subject to a maximum of five acres per farmer. Farmers have been advised to contact local Agriculture Officers for subsidy rates, seed dosage and contribution details and collect seeds at the earliest.

AP To Host Online Session On Translating Research Into Real-World Impact

Amaravati, September 09 | TPN Bureau

The state government will organise a special online session on September 15 to help researchers and scientists translate their laboratory findings into practical applications for society and industry. Prof. Hanumanth Purushotham, Secretary, AP Science, Technology & Innovation (ST&I) Department, said the initiative aims to move research beyond laboratories and create opportunities for real-world impact. The 90-minute session, titled "Research Translation: From Lab to Real-World Impact", will be held from 3 pm to 4.30 pm. It is being organised jointly by the AP ST&I Department and CoCreate

Ventures. The programme will cover industry adoption, pilot projects, product development, technology licensing, funding and investment opportunities, venture creation and commercialisation strategies. Industry leaders and early-stage investors with experience in deep-tech ventures, research and innovation will provide expert guidance. Prof. Hanumanth Purushotham said researchers need not own a startup or have entrepreneurial experience to participate. Interested researchers and scientists can register for the free session through the Google Form, with limited slots available.

Vijay Sai Reddy Questions Rise In Single-Teacher Schools In AP

Amaravati, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Former YSRCP MP Vijay Sai Reddy has questioned the rise in the number of single-teacher schools in Andhra Pradesh, alleging that 3,445 more schools became dependent on a single teacher in one year. In a post on X, Vijay Sai Reddy said Andhra Pradesh had 16,357 single-teacher schools, the highest among all States, compared with 12,912 during 2024-25.

He questioned how the number had increased by 3,445 in a single year and said teacher recruitment alone would not address the issue. Vijay Sai Reddy urged Minister Nara Lokesh and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to ensure that teachers were deployed in schools where they were actually needed. He also called for a clear target to eliminate single-teacher schools across Andhra Pradesh, stressing the need for effective teacher deployment along with recruitment.

She also underlined the importance of the PARAKH Taxonomy in promoting competency-based assessment, urging a shift from traditional question-setting towards questions testing students' understanding, application, analysis and reasoning. Prof. Bhaduri said successful implementation required collaboration among education boards and stakeholders. The interaction marked an important step in strengthening cooperation between PARAKH and BIEAP to advance competency-based, technology-enabled and nationally aligned assessment reforms.

Naidu Rejects Political Vendetta, Vows To Focus On Development

P. Gannavaram, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said he had chosen patience and restraint over political vendetta despite the harassment he faced during the previous regime, asserting that his priority remained the welfare and development of Andhra Pradesh. Addressing a public meeting at Panduvaripeta in P. Gannavaram constituency of Konaseema district as part of the 'Mee Bhumi-Mee Hakku' programme, Naidu recalled his arrest three years ago and said the incident had strengthened his sense of responsibility towards the people. Naidu said officials arrived at midnight on September 9, 2023, while he was inspecting irrigation projects in Nandyal and arrested him despite there being no proven wrongdoing. He recalled being shifted to

Rajamahendravaram Jail and said the allegations made against him ultimately failed to stand, which he described as a testament to his integrity. The Chief Minister thanked the Telugu community for standing by him during his imprisonment, recalling protests by techies in Hyderabad and Telugu people across the country and abroad. He also remembered the support extended by Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, who, he said, was obstructed when he attempted to meet him. Naidu said he could have sought revenge within a minute after becoming Chief Minister but deliberately chose not to do so. He said he remained committed to value-based politics and would not compromise on law and order or the interests of the people. Recalling the Claymore mine attack at Alipiri, he said such incidents had never deterred him from serving the



public. Targeting the YSRCP, which he referred to as the 'Axe Party', Naidu alleged that the previous government had caused greater damage to Andhra Pradesh between 2019 and 2024 than the state had suffered during bifur-

cation. He accused the previous administration of damaging the Polavaram diaphragm wall, delaying projects and creating an atmosphere of fear. He alleged irregularities in APPSC Group-1 examinations and claimed that electricians and

drivers were involved in evaluating answer sheets. He also accused the YSRCP government of supplying substandard liquor, alleging that around 30,000 people died and many others suffered health problems. Naidu said public support for the Alliance in the 2024 elections had provided a vital lifeline to the state in Delhi, helping the government secure funds for Polavaram, Amaravati and other development projects. He urged opposition leaders to attend the Assembly and discuss public issues instead of creating obstacles through litigation and conspiracies. Referring to the Mega DSC recruitment, he alleged that 350 lawsuits were filed to stall teacher recruitment. Naidu said the government was collecting public feedback, guiding MLAs and coordinating with District Collectors to improve civic services and address shortcomings.

Pawan Kalyan's Decision Paramount, Says Nadendla Manohar



Tadepalli, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Janasena PAC Chairman and State Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar said the party would contest the upcoming local body elections without compromising the self-respect of its cadre, asserting that the decision of Party President Pawan Kalyan would remain paramount. Addressing the concluding session of the Janasena awareness programme on local body elections at Annapurna Convention Hall in Tadepalli on Wednesday, Manohar directed coordination committees to discharge their responsibilities with commitment and maintain constant contact with party cadre. He said Pawan Kalyan would oversee seat adjustments and allocations and urged party workers to prepare Janasainiks and Veera Mahilas for the elections. He asked committees to carefully complete the report proforma provided by the party's central office and convey ground-level information to Pawan Kalyan. Manohar said the Party President would be available by the 15th of the month and that periodic meetings, instructions and teleconferences would be held. He directed committee members

to attend them without fail and communicate party guidelines to the cadre. He also said three representatives would participate in NDA parliamentary meetings on behalf of Janasena and stressed that only the party's official position should be conveyed at such meetings. He directed all coordination committees to become fully operational from the following day. Janasena Party General Secretary and MSME Chairman Tammishetti Siva Shankar cautioned party workers against political adversaries attempting to create divisions through rumours and propaganda. He urged cadre to rely only on information issued by the party's central office. Siva Shankar alleged that the YSRCP was prepared to spend heavily on malicious propaganda and called upon Janasainiks and Veera Mahilas to counter such campaigns effectively. He warned party workers against complacency merely because Janasena was part of the government and urged them to formulate strategies based on local conditions. He advised cadre to coordinate with senior leaders, gain experience in election management and remain united in following Pawan Kalyan's decisions.

YSRCP Demands CBI Probe Into Alleged DSC Irregularities

Tadepalli, September 9 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into alleged irregularities in the DSC 2025 teacher recruitment process and sought accountability from Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh.

Kakani Questions Recruitment Process

Former Minister and YSRCP Nellore district president Kakani Govardhan Reddy alleged that the TDP-led coalition government changed its stand after irregularities surfaced. He demanded Lokesh's resignation and comprehensive verification of sports, EWS and other certificates.

Addressing the media in Nellore, Kakani questioned changes to service rules for sports-quota recruitment and asked why certificates were not independently verified before appointments. Citing a candidate in Kurnool, he alleged that Prabhakar secured 65 marks against the required 75 for BC eligibility but was appointed as an SGT. He also questioned EWS and sports certificates and alleged shortcomings in digitalisation, verification and traceability.

Kalyani Alleges Certificate Irregularities

YSRCP Women's Wing State president and MLC Varudu Kalyani also demanded a CBI inquiry. She alleged that the Mega DSC had become a "Daga DSC" and raised claims involving paper leaks, fake certificates, sports quota, EWS quota and document verification. Kalyani questioned the appointment of Prabhakar Goud over alleged TET ineligibility and raised claims regarding Judo and Kho-Kho certificates. She also questioned EWS certificates allegedly issued to BC, SC and ST candidates and sought clarity over whether Krishna district first-ranker Naveen benefited from a paper leak.

Veerasekhar Reddy Raises Other Cases

YSRCP spokesperson Veerasekhar Reddy criticised Chandrababu Naidu for allegedly focusing on personal attacks against Jagan instead of public issues. He raised questions over Skill Development, FiberNet, sand, liquor, Inner Ring Road alignment and Amaravati lands, besides the Vivekananda Reddy murder case.

Narendra Seeks Answers On Skill Development

YSRCP spokesperson Vangaveeti Narendra questioned the Skill Development case, including the alleged use of RS.371 crore and ED asset attachments worth RS.54.74 crore. He also raised questions over liquor-related GOs 216 and 217 and alleged a RS.25,000-crore revenue impact.

The leaders said YSRCP would continue raising the issues and demanded accountability from the government.

Alliance Failures Will Lead to YSRCP Victory: Leaders

Proddatur, Sept 09 | TPN Bureau

Kadapa District YSRCP President Ravindranath Reddy and former MLA Rachamalla Siva Prasad Reddy said the alliance government's failures would pave the way for YCP victory in the upcoming local body elections. Speaking at an extended-level constituency meeting in Proddatur on Wednesday, they urged party workers to explain the government's unfulfilled promises and alleged irregularities to the public. They alleged that the government had burdened the state with heavy debts without fulfilling its commitments. They also accused the alliance of allegedly unqualified candidates. They said alliance leaders were unable to answer questions from unemployed youth and the opposition. The leaders called on workers to work for the YSRCP candidate's victory and assured grassroots activists of their support. Proddatur observer Poola Srinivasulu Reddy, women leaders, YSRCP leaders and activists participated.

Ministers Recall Naidu's Arrest, Say Truth And Democracy Prevailed

Amaravati, September 9 | TPN Bureau

Ministers of the Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday marked three years since the arrest of then Leader of the Opposition and now Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, describing the episode as a dark chapter in democracy. Candle-lighting programmes were held at party offices and residences, with ministers recalling the solidarity extended by people and TDP cadres during his 53-day detention.

Atchannaidu: Justice Prevailed, Truth Triumphed

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said the arrest reflected political vendetta and authoritarianism. Lighting candles at his Vijayawada camp office, he said the conspiracies failed to stop Chandrababu's political journey. A leader could be confined in jail, but could not be removed from the hearts of the people, he said.

Atchannaidu thanked Telugu people and NRIs worldwide for standing by Chandrababu during the 53-day period. He said the Alliance government was now focused on development, welfare and good governance under Swamandhra Vision-2047.

Ravindra: Arrest Triggered Statewide Protest

Mines, Geology and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra described September 9 as a dark day in Andhra Pradesh's history. Speaking at a candle-lighting programme at the Machilipatnam TDP office, he said the arrest triggered protests involving students, employees, homemakers and people from different sections.

Ravindra credited Chandrababu with contributing to Andhra Pradesh's development and promoting the IT revolution through Vision 2020. He also defended the Mega DSC recruitment process, saying courts had dismissed around 30 cases seeking to stall it. He questioned demands for a CBI probe into DSC while similar demands were not made over other alleged irregularities.

Ramprasad: Naidu Emerged Unscathed Transport, Youth and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said

Chandrababu emerged untainted from cases he described as politically motivated. He said those who humiliated the TDP chief had subsequently been rejected by the people.

Reddy said Chandrababu chose development over revenge and was now steering Andhra Pradesh towards welfare, investment and infrastructure development.

Satyaprasad: A Turning Point In AP Politics

Revenue Minister Anagani Satyaprasad said the arrest and incarceration would remain a dark day in the history of Telugu people. He said the episode triggered widespread opposition to what he termed authoritarian governance and eventually became a turning point in Andhra Pradesh politics.

Swamy: YSRCP Cannot Return To Power

Social Welfare Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy said the YSRCP could not return to power even if Jagan Mohan Reddy undertook a padyatra. He alleged that people had not forgotten the previous government's record and expressed confidence in the Alliance government's continued support.

Party cadres and supporters also held candle-lighting programmes in Vijayawada, asserting that the people's electoral verdict had prevented attempts to politically suppress Chandrababu.

Anitha: People Could Not Erase Naidu From Their Hearts

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha said Chandrababu Naidu could not be suppressed through arrest or erased from the hearts of the people. Speaking at a candle-lighting programme in Vijayawada, she said people had taught a fitting lesson to those who celebrated his arrest, reducing them to just 11 Assembly seats. Anitha recalled the unity and courage shown by people and TDP cadres during Chandrababu's 53-day detention. She alleged that political opponents were now spreading malicious propaganda because they could not tolerate the development, investments, employment and infrastructure initiatives under his government. She said the people were witnessing development on the ground and would not be misled by false propaganda.

Sept 9 Remembered as Darkest Day in AP Politics Says Leaders



Chinni: People Will Never Forget Arrest

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) said people would never forget the alleged vindictive action against Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking at a candle-lighting programme, he said the event symbolised faith in democracy and the victory of truth. Chinni said the alliance government was focusing on development, welfare, Amaravati, Polavaram and industrial growth.

Uma: Truth And Justice Prevailed

Former Minister and TDP State General Secretary Devineni Umanaheswara Rao said September 9 would remain one of the darkest days in Andhra Pradesh's political history, recalling Chandrababu's arrest and 53-day detention during the previous YSRCP government. He said Chandrababu had stood as a symbol of

ethics and commitment for 45 years. Uma alleged that he was detained through false cases and said truth and justice ultimately prevailed. He also praised Minister Nara Lokesh for conducting DSC recruitment transparently and filling more than 16,000 posts. **Anuradha: Arrest Was Black Day** TDP leader Gadde Anuradha said Chandrababu's arrest was a "Black Day" in the history of democracy. Marking the third anniversary, she and Gadde Ramamohan lit 53 candles at their residence. She alleged the arrest was driven by political vendetta and said Telugu people across India and abroad had opposed it. Anuradha said the people rejected such alleged harassment by giving a strong mandate to the TDP-led alliance. She said the alliance government was now pursuing development and welfare and urged people to protect democracy.

Lokesh Calls On Global Telugu Diaspora To Become Partners In AP Growth

Continue

acknowledged his dedicated service. Guru Raja said he would unite NRI cadres worldwide and channel their expertise towards rebuilding Andhra Pradesh while continuing his profession as a medical doctor in the United States.

Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said Lokesh was creating platforms for highly educated professionals and diaspora members to contribute to public service and State development. Leaders credited Chandrababu's education and IT reforms with creating opportunities for Telugu youth to become global technology leaders and CEOs.

Guru Raja said the vision was now extending to Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing, with efforts to attract investments, startups and data centres to transform Amaravati into a world-class knowledge hub.

The Global NRI TDP plans to leverage Telugu families across 165 countries. Guru Raja called for every NRI family to influence at least 10 families in Andhra Pradesh, potentially reaching 50 lakh voters. The committee pledged to contribute expertise, entrepreneurship and capital to empower youth and support world-class infrastructure.

People's Support Strengthened My Resolve, Says Naidu



Amaravati, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday recalled his arrest and 53-day imprisonment three years ago, saying the support of the people had strengthened his resolve to stand firm against what he described as vindictive politics. In a post on X, accompanied by a photograph of supporters lighting candles across the globe, Naidu said he firmly believed that those who stood up for the people would receive their support, while those who stood for truth would be sustained by it. He said the events surrounding his arrest during the previous government had further strengthened this conviction. Naidu said he had been illegally arrested and detained despite committing no wrongdoing, but the imprisonment could

neither break his resolve nor silence the voices raised in his support across the country and abroad.

He recalled the solidarity shown by Telugu people, TDP workers and admirers, saying their support represented a fight for democracy, justice and truth. He said the 2024 elections further demonstrated the people's support through their votes, defeating what he termed vindictive politics and entrusting him with the responsibility of rebuilding Andhra Pradesh.

Naidu said statewide programmes under the banner "Nijam Gelichindi" (Truth Has Won), recalling the episode and subsequent struggle, had further strengthened his determination to work for the people. He thanked everyone who stood by him and pledged to work with their cooperation to realise his vision of making Telugu people number one.

Lokesh Holds Praja Darbar At TDP Central Office



Mangalagiri, September 09 | TPN Bureau

Following the swearing-in ceremony of the NRI TDP Central Committee, Minister Nara Lokesh conducted a public grievance meeting (Praja Darbar) at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office in Mangalagiri. Lokesh interacted with members of the public, party workers and leaders who had arrived from various parts of the state. He warmly greeted the visitors and personally received representations submitted on a range of public and individual issues.

People brought several requests and grievances to the Minister, seeking his intervention and assistance in resolving their problems. Lokesh patiently heard their concerns and assured them that he would examine the representations and take appropriate steps to address the issues.

The Minister reiterated the government and party's commitment to remaining accessible to the people and responding to their concerns. The Praja Darbar provided an opportunity for citizens and party workers to directly bring their issues to Lokesh's attention and seek necessary intervention.

Tiruvuru Municipal Election Sparks Political Heat

Tiruvuru, Sept 09 | TPN Bureau

Political activity has intensified in Tiruvuru following its upgrade from Nagar Panchayat to Municipality.

The upcoming municipal election is attracting attention as TDP and YCP have previously dominated the town at different times. In the first election after Tiruvuru became a Nagar Panchayat, TDP emerged victorious, while YCP won the second election. The new municipality will have 28 wards, increasing competition among political parties and aspirants. Major parties are discussing candidate selection, alliances and local political equations. Aspirants are also



eagerly waiting for the announcement of ward reservation categories, while several leaders are eyeing the Chairperson post. With hundreds of aspirants competing for 28 wards and only one Chairperson's position, political activity is expected to intensify further. The election has already generated considerable interest among residents, with parties preparing strategies to secure maximum seats.

NTR Police Personnel Win 74 Medals



Vijayawada, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu congratulated police personnel who won 74 medals at the Andhra Pradesh Police Sports and Games Meet 2026, held from Sept 1 to 4. The Commissioner personally met the medal-winning athletes at his office on Wednesday, examined their medals and certificates, and congratulated them on their achievements. He said it was commendable that police personnel, despite their demanding duties, participated in sports and excelled at the state-level

meet. Rajasekhara Babu said sports help reduce stress while improving physical fitness and mental well-being.

He expressed hope that the athletes would continue participating in state and national competitions and achieve greater success. East DCP Krishna Kanth Patel, Admin DCP K.G.V. Saritha, CSW DCP A.B.T.S. Udaya Rani, K. Krishna Prasanna, AR DCP Satyanarayana, AR Addl. DCP N.V. Ramana, AR ACP Prem Kumar, Police Association President Somayya, RIs Srinivas, Srikanth and Sudhakar Reddy attended.

Secretariat Employee Caught in ACB Trap

Vijayawada, Sept 09 | TPN Bureau

Swarna Secretariat Employee Vemula Sambasiva Rao, working as Ward Welfare and Education Secretary, was caught in an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) trap while allegedly accepting a ₹7,000 bribe. ACB Additional SP Sravanthi Roy said victims approached the ACB after Rao allegedly demanded the money in connection with a fee reimbursement matter.

Based on the complaint, ACB officials caught Rao red-handed while he was

accepting the ₹5,000 bribe from the victim at the 75th Secretariat in Krishnalanka.

The ACB took action following the complaint and laid the trap. Sravanthi Roy urged the public to approach the ACB whenever any government official demands a bribe. Complaints can be lodged through the ACB toll-free number 1064 or by contacting 9440446164. She appealed to citizens to report corruption and cooperate with the authorities in preventing bribery in government services.

Hotels Fined for Hygiene Violations

Vijayawada, Sept 09 | TPN Bureau

Acting on the orders of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanachandra, Public Health Department officials conducted intensive inspections of hotels and restaurants to check hygiene and food safety standards. Officials inspected establishments in KT Road, BRP Road and Governorpet, including Hotel Srinivas, Chintala Vari Bhojanam and Aithe Biryani. During inspections, officials found unhygienic conditions, including unclean kitchens, cobwebs, poor restroom maintenance and failure to

use quality drinking water. Fines of ₹2,000 each were imposed on Hotel Srinivas, Chintala Vari Bhojanam and Aithe Biryani, collecting ₹6,000 in total. Jathar Mandi was found complying with regulations. Notices were issued to two other hotels and managements were directed to rectify deficiencies within the stipulated time. Officials warned of legal action and possible trade licence cancellation for continued violations. Sanitary Supervisors D. Somaraju and Salim Ahmed, Sanitary Inspector Kota Gopayya, Ward Secretary Rahul and Public Health Department staff participated.

AMRUT Central Team Inspects Vijayawada Projects



Vijayawada, Sept 09 | TPN Bureau

A central team from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) visited Vijayawada on Wednesday to inspect development works taken up under the AMRUT scheme. The team comprising Dr. Avinash K. Verma, Technical Consultant, AMRUT/MoHUA, and Vipin Kumar Patel, Deputy Advisor, inspected the Sewage Treatment Plant at R.L. Nagar, Elevated Level Service Reservoir at Ranigarithota and AMRUT Park in HB Colony.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Additional Commissioner (Projects) Dr.

D. Chandrasekhar and Chief Engineer P. Satyakumari explained the project progress, construction quality, technical specifications and public services. Chandrasekhar said AMRUT was strengthening urban infrastructure, particularly sewage treatment and drinking water systems, and stressed completion according to prescribed quality standards. APUFIDC and PDMC representatives Mohammad Bhutto, Team Leader, South Region, and V. Jaya Prakash, Deputy Team Leader, North Region, VMC Superintending Engineer (Projects) K. Dushyanth, Executive Engineer Surekha and engineering staff participated.

Vamsi Complains to CP Over Alleged Police Harassment



Vijayawada, Sept 09 | TPN Bureau

Former Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi met NTR District CP Rajasekhara Babu and complained about alleged police interference in a civil dispute involving his lawyer. Vamsi alleged that Central ACP Damodar was threatening and harassing his lawyer over a property dispute in which neighbours had allegedly encroached on property worth ₹50

lakh.

He alleged that police took away workers who came for household repairs and registered cases based on phone complaints from Dehradun. He further claimed that CCTV cameras were being used to monitor visitors to his lawyer's house and that Damodar visited the residence, abused them and issued warnings.

Vamsi said he and his associates were already facing cases filed during the alliance government due to political vendetta.

He alleged that such actions were damaging public trust in the police system. He said all details had been submitted to CP Rajasekhara Babu and warned that officials would eventually face consequences for their actions.

Global Peace and Cultural Summit Held in Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

Korean Peace Ambassador Professor Liam Seo said international summits help strengthen cultural exchange, peace and relations among nations. The 'India-Malaysia Global Peace and Cultural 2026' summit and Global Inspiration Awards ceremony were held in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. The event was jointly organised by the Pan India Socio-Cultural Association and Telugu Experts Association of Malaysia under the leadership of founder Dr. Addanki Raja Yona. Kancharla Anand, founder of the Telugu Experts Association of Malaysia, presided. Chief guest Professor Liam Seo said such international programmes strengthen cultural ties. Special guest Dr. R.V. Shyam Prasad, President of the Tamil Nadu Arts and Cultural



Association, praised Addanki Raja's efforts to preserve Telugu culture abroad. Kashi Kanthirekha stressed education, personality development and social service. Dr. Addanki Raja said the programme aimed to promote Indian culture, social awareness and international relations. Six achievers were honoured with Global Inspiration International Awards. Recipients included Chiknikita, Kancharla Anand, Kanthirekha, Narala Somayya and Dr. Unnam Gnana Sundari. Telugu and Tamil association members and prominent Indians attended.

SRM University-AP, Springer Nature Join Hands on Open Access



Amaravati, Sept 09 | TPN Bureau

SRM University-AP has strengthened its global research visibility by entering into a new open access partnership with Springer Nature, aimed at providing wider access to high-quality international research publications. The partnership was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Dr. Vinayak Kalluri, Registrar of SRM University-AP, and delegates from Springer Nature in the presence of the University Librarian and other university officials.

The new Full Open Access agreement is expected to support researchers and faculty members in publishing their scholarly work through Springer Nature's international publishing platform.

The initiative will provide the university's research community with greater opportunities to disseminate academic findings and improve the global reach of their research.

During the programme, Rajneesh Appayya, Licensing Manager, Springer Nature, explained the Full Open Access agreement to attendees at SRM University-AP.

The session provided information on the agreement and its relevance to the university's academic and research community. University officials said the partnership reflects SRM University-AP's continued efforts to strengthen research infrastructure, promote academic collaboration and increase the international visibility of research produced by its faculty and scholars.

RISE Initiative Receives National Recognition

Vijayawada, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha expressed happiness over the national-level recognition received by the RISE (Rural Incubation, Skilling, and Entrepreneurship) initiative being implemented in NTR District for rural women. On Wednesday, Dr. Lakshmisha, along with officials, participated through video conference in the 'Skill Manthan' webinar organised by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship from the District Collectorate in Vijayawada. The webinar focused on creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, skill development, self-employment and entrepreneurship for women. The RISE initiative at Guntupalli was highlighted as an inno-

vative programme.

The Collector said the recognition was the result of collective efforts by the district administration, self-help group women and partner organisations. He said the RISE centre was helping women develop skills and convert them into income-generating opportunities, in line with the 'One Family - One Entrepreneur' vision of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

He said efforts were being made with support from NITI Aayog, SERP and other departments to expand the programme and develop NTR District as a model in women's empowerment and skill development.

DRDA Project Director A.N.V. Nanchara Rao and others participated.

Collector Directs Officials to Prioritize Public Issues



Vijayawada, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to make resolving public grievances their top priority and ensure timely action on petitions received through the Chief Minister's Office and PGRS.

At a meeting held at the Collectorate's Sri Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall on Wednesday, along with Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, he instructed officials to submit reports after proper inquiries. He directed officials to expedite permissions and monitor works under Jaladhara-Jalaharathi 2.0, conserve rainwater, recharge groundwater and closely monitor water levels.

He called for sanitation and plantation drives under Swarnandhra Swachhandhra and directed officials to promote solar panels, rainwater harvesting and quality saplings in schools and government institutions under the Net Zero goal.

RDOs and officials were told to inspect fertilizer shops and cooperative stocks weekly to prevent shortages and irregularities. He also ordered safety inspections at petrol bunk, multi-storeyed buildings, theatres, chemical industries and shopping areas.

Lakshmisha directed officials to update One Family-One Entrepreneur survey data. He also unveiled posters promoting clay Vinayaka idols. DRO M. Lakshmi Narasimham and others participated.

Maha Ganapathi Festival Arrangements Reviewed

Machilipatnam, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau



District Collector DK Balaji directed officials to coordinate and make comprehensive arrangements for the 14-day Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations featuring a 63-foot clay Maha Ganapathi idol at Manginapudi Beach. During a video conference on Wednesday, he prioritised devotee safety, traffic control, sanitation, drinking water, electricity and transport. Police were asked to plan entry, exit and parking arrangements. The alternative Machilipatnam-Manginapudi route should be strengthened and opened quickly. Barricades must be installed near the sea, with trained swimmers, lifebuoys and life jackets available.

The Electricity Department was told to prevent power interruptions, while municipal and panchayat staff must maintain sanitation continuously and provide dustbins, drinking water and

temporary toilets. The Fire Department was directed to keep fire tenders and extinguishers ready. Cultural programmes involving local artists, dance groups, theatre teams, Kala Jatha teams and Kuchipudi artists will be organised every evening. RTC officials were instructed to operate special buses between Machilipatnam and Manginapudi every 30 minutes, increasing frequency when required. Additional SP V.V. Naidu, RDO K. Sambasiva Rao, Hariharinath, Dr. J. Aruna, M. Dhanalakshmi, Bapiraju, Dr. Dayakar, Lokeshwara Rao, N. Siva Prasad Yadav, Saibabu, Yesuratnam, Ayya Nagaraja, Somashankar, G. Ramalakshmana Rao and other officials participated.

Skills Are More Important Than Degrees: Srinivasa Rao

Tiruvuru, Sept 09 | TPN Bureau

Tiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao said a degree alone does not guarantee employment in today's competitive world and stressed the importance of skills and expertise. Speaking at the inauguration of additional classes at Tiruvuru Government Degree College, he advised students to choose degrees and fields they are interested in and strive to excel in them. He said opportunities would reach people who possess knowledge and skills, regardless of where they live. He

also highlighted the importance of leadership qualities, saying those who understand people's problems and connect with society can rise to higher positions. Srinivasa Rao advised parents not to force children to pursue education merely for a degree. Instead, they should allow children to choose fields they are passionate about and encourage them to master those areas. He said students should develop exceptional talent and practical abilities so they can move from being job seekers to becoming job creators.

Notices Issued to 90 Hospitals Over Biomedical Waste

Vijayawada, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Acting on the instructions of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanachandra, Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Nirmala Glory inspected biomedical waste management practices at hospitals and clinics in Nakkala Road, Suryaraopet and Governorpet on Wednesday. Dr. Nirmala Glory directed hospitals and clinics to keep biomedical waste separate from general waste and follow prescribed regulations. She said notices had been issued to around 90 hospitals and clinics for awareness and compliance. She said large hospitals had

already entered agreements with authorised agencies and were managing biomedical waste according to regulations. Smaller hospitals and clinics were also being identified and sensitised on proper waste management. She warned that biomedical waste must not be handed over to the municipal corporation mixed with general waste and said legal action would be taken against violations. She stressed that proper disposal was essential for public health and environmental protection. Assistant Medical Health Officer Dr. Annapurma, public health staff, sanitary inspectors and others participated.

Janasena Strengthens Party Ahead of Vijayawada Civic Polls

Vijayawada, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Janasena President Samineni Udayabhanu said the party would welcome people committed to taking Janasena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's vision and ideology to the public. At the Janasena district office on RTC Workshop Road on Wednesday, Udayabhanu welcomed senior Vijayawada YCP leaders Pandiri Srinivas (Vasu) and Atmakuru Subbarao (Suresh) into the party by draping them with party scarves. He said Jana Sainiks were working to realise Pawan Kalyan's vision and that the party



would identify candidates who understand public issues and work to resolve them for upcoming local body elections. He said the district unit was being strengthened in line with alliance principles and assured party workers of opportunities to contest Vijayawada Municipal Corporation elections. Janasena state leaders Penugonda Subbarayudu, Baditha

Shankar, Koppireddy Suryanarayana Murthy, former corporators Mahadevapu Appaji, Marupilla Rajesh, Athuluri Pedababu, Ummadiseti Bahadur, Dr. Kondaveeti Santhosh Krishna, Lingam Siva Prasad, Domakonda Ashok, Tirupati Anusha Suresh, Advocate Kompalli Arun Kumar (Nani), activists and Veera Mahilas attended.

Gottipati Ravi Kumar Reviews Development And Welfare Works

Addanki, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar reviewed several development and welfare initiatives during his visit to Addanki. He inaugurated a protected drinking water scheme supported by donors and stressed water conservation, prevention of encroachments on tanks and canals, and public cooperation to tackle El

Niño's impact.

The Minister also inaugurated an ART Centre at Addanki hospital, established with Reliance Foundation support at ₹65 lakh. He reviewed medical services and directed officials to address sanitation issues, construct a compound wall and provide additional beds. At the Anna Canteen, Ravi Kumar had lunch with the public and

reviewed food quality. He said the TDP government was committed to providing affordable meals to the poor.

He later distributed CMRF cheques and LoCs worth ₹1.04 crore to 128 beneficiaries and said assistance was being sanctioned promptly. He also distributed ₹19 crore to 64 farmers who provided land for REMZ and appreciated their contribution to the project.



East Godavari SP Backs Public Welfare Initiatives

Rajamahendravaram, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

East Godavari District SP D. Narasimha Kishore directed police officers to strengthen law and order, address public grievances and expedite investigations.

He issued the directions at the half-yearly crime review meeting held at the district police conference hall, attended by senior officers, Inspectors



and SIs.

The SP reviewed serious and non-serious crimes, property offences, POC SO, NDPS and road accidents.

He stressed courteous treatment of women and children, action against ganja, narcotics and public drinking, identification of road black spots and strict enforcement of traffic rules.

He also directed advance security arrangements for

local body elections and Ganesh Navaratri and urged the district to top Smart Policing rankings.

Meanwhile, Radhika Charitable Trust founder Radhika Tanguturu met the SP and offered collaboration on women's and children's rights, road safety and Home Guard welfare.

The SP assured cooperation and stressed coordination between police and voluntary organisations.

Bapatla SP Issues Guidelines for Ganesh Festival



Bapatla, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District SP B. Uma Maheswar directed officials and Vinayaka festival committees to ensure peaceful and safe Ganesh celebrations and idol immersions. At a meeting with DSPs, CIs, officials and committee members, he said prior police permission was mandatory for setting up mandapams and permission letters must be displayed.

He directed organisers to ensure pandals do not obstruct traffic or emergency vehicles and provide CCTV cameras, lighting, fire extinguishers and safety

arrangements. Gas cylinders, cooking materials and firecrackers were prohibited. Sound systems must remain within permitted limits, with high-volume DJs banned between 10 PM and 6 AM. Processions must follow approved routes, with only fit vehicles and licensed drivers allowed. Idol immersions must take place at designated locations before sunset in coastal areas. Police were directed to arrange barricades, rescue boats, cranes, trained swimmers and traffic diversions. The SP warned that violations would invite legal action and urged peaceful celebrations.

Three Bank Officials Arrested in Gold Loan Fraud Case



Eluru, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Police arrested three Bank of Baroda officials in connection with a gold loan fraud case at the bank's Jangareddygudem branch in Eluru district. The case was registered at Jangareddygudem Police Station under Crime No. 198/2026 on June 16. The investigation was conducted under Eluru District SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore and Jangareddygudem SDPO B.H. Venkateswarlu, with CI M.V. Subhash and SIs N. Veeraprasad and M. Kutumba Rao. The arrested officials were former Branch Manager Kumarapu Bhaskara

Rao, 35, Joint Manager Tanneru Ajay Babu, 40, and Credit Officer Jangala Sairaj, 33. Police found irregularities in 176 gold loan accounts. Gold appraiser Chalapakka Raju allegedly replaced customers' pledged gold with imitation jewellery, resulting in the disappearance of 6.449 kg of gold worth about \$10 crore. Raju was arrested on July 10, and 4.120 kg of gold and \$10 lakh cash were seized.

Police said the three officials were arrested after records and staff statements indicated negligence and possible collusion. The investigation continues to recover the remaining gold and identify others involved.

Man Sentenced To Life For POCSO Offence

Machilipatnam, September 9 | TPN Bureau

The Machilipatnam Special POCSO Court sentenced Kagita Gangaprasad, 63, to life imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life for sexually assaulting a three-year-old girl in 2019. The court also ordered ₹10 lakh compensation for the victim and imposed a ₹1,000 fine under Section 5(m) read with Section 6 of the POCSO Act. Special POCSO Sessions Judge Gajula Venkateswarlu delivered the judgment in Crime No. 230/2019 and Special Sessions Case No. 279/2022. The inci-

dent occurred on November 12, 2019, within Mandavalli Police Station limits, when the child was allegedly assaulted while her parents were away.

Gudivada DSP N. Satyanandam investigated the case and filed the charge sheet. Special Public Prosecutor Madivada Narasimha Rao examined 12 witnesses, while the Court Monitoring Cell closely monitored the trial. Eluru District SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore commended the police officers involved and announced a ₹500 reward. He said the CMC had helped secure convictions in 70 cases involving 83 accused so far.

MLA Chintamaneni Launches \$73 Lakh Road Works

Eluru, Sept 09 | TPN Bureau

Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar said he would extend full support for developing rural infrastructure and congratulated Dr. Gururaja on taking oath as Global NRI TDP president. Chintamaneni performed the ground-breaking ceremony for road works connecting the Punukollu bridge with the Kalaparru highway in Punukollu village of Pedapadu mandal. The ₹73 lakh project will be executed using AP RRSP-PRP

plain grant funds. He said the Alliance government was giving priority to rural road development and the new road would improve transportation and benefit farmers and villagers. Later, Chintamaneni congratulated Dr. Gururaja by presenting him with a bouquet and shawl. He said Gururaja had been working to strengthen the Telugu Desam Party while residing in the United States and wished him success in his new role. Alliance leaders, officials and villagers participated in the programmes.

Drinking Water Supply System Needs Improvement

Rajamahendravaram, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Commissioner Rahul Meena directed officials to further improve the drinking water supply system in the city. On Wednesday morning, he conducted a field inspection with engineering officials and reviewed the head water works, filter plant painting and pathway development at the CV Market pump house, taken up at a cost of ₹37 lakhs. He reviewed maintenance procedures,

filtration plant operations, water collection and purification methods, laboratory testing and chlorination dosage levels. He instructed officials to clean water tankers regularly and conduct daily water quality tests. He also ordered continuous monitoring to prevent leakage and contamination. Amenity Secretaries were directed to inspect the field daily and ensure clean drinking water reaches every household. SE Rita, EE Madhavi, DE Satyanarayana, AE Venkatesh and other staff accompanied him.

Malakondaiah Recalls Illegal Arrests Three Years Ago

Chirala, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Chirala MLA Madduluri Malakondaiah recalled the illegal arrests and detentions faced three years ago while protesting the arrest of their party leader and expressing solidarity with him during the previous government. In a statement, he said the incidents remained unforgettable. Malakondaiah alleged that those in power at the time created obstacles to suppress their movement through arrests and detentions. He said they continued

their struggle despite police harassment and being forcibly taken away in vehicles. He stressed that power and wrongdoing would not last forever and that truth and righteousness ultimately prevailed.

The MLA thanked activists, leaders and citizens who stood with their leader without fearing repression or illegal detention.

He said the collective strength of people supporting justice is now helping steer the state towards progress.

Meda Srinivas Questions Government Action on Paper Mill Pollution

Rajamahendravaram, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Rashtriya Praja Congress founding president Meda Srinivas questioned the government's handling of pollution allegations involving the AP Paper Mill in Rajahmundry. Speaking at a press conference at the Press Club on Wednesday, he alleged that Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's warnings and directives were being ignored by the mill management and officials. Srinivas questioned how the government could promise a "Swachh Pushkaram" in

2027 while permitting activities that could increase air and water pollution. He said dangerous chemicals, including phosphates and sulphites, were found in the mill's waste discharge and questioned the continuation of operations despite a ₹21 crore fine.

He demanded criminal cases against the management, a plan to clean the Godavari waters and closure of the mill three months before the 2027 Pushkar

ams. He warned that RPC would launch a people's struggle and legal battle if the government failed to act.

Junior Assistant Caught Accepting \$5,000 Bribe

Eluru, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials caught Matangi Pavithran, a Junior Assistant at the Eluru Zilla Parishad (ZP) CEO's office, while allegedly accepting a ₹5,000 bribe on Wednesday evening. Pavithran allegedly demanded the bribe from an individual to process an official task. The person approached the ACB

and lodged a complaint. Based on the complaint, ACB DSP Krishna Rao and his team laid a trap at the ZP CEO's office. Pavithran was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe.

ACB officials initiated further investigation following the trap. Details regarding the case and other possible involvement are being examined.

CMRF Aid Distributed to Eluru Beneficiaries

Eluru, September 9 | TPN Bureau

District TDP President and Eluru MLA Badeti Chanti directed municipal officials to ensure there were no sanitation lapses in the city and warned that negligence would not be tolerated. At a review meeting, he stressed sanitation management, uninterrupted drinking water supply, public cooperation in development and timely payment of municipal taxes. He congratulated officials and staff after Eluru secured fourth place nationally in the Swachh Vayu Survekshan. At a separate programme at his camp office, Chanti distributed 31 CMRF cheques worth ₹17.12 lakh and nine Letters of Credit worth ₹15.34 lakh to



Badeti Chanti Reviews Sanitation, Healthcare Support In Eluru

beneficiaries. He said the CMRF was providing crucial support to poor families facing medical expenses. He said ₹7.44 crore had been provided to 818 beneficiaries in Eluru constituency so far. Chanti assured continued assistance for medical needs and said efforts were underway to implement the Central government's Sanjeevani programme effectively.

Permanent NDPS Storage Room Inaugurated

Eluru, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

A permanent contraband storage room was inaugurated at the Armed Reserve office premises near the District Police Office in Eluru, following High Court directives. District Collector K. Vetrivel and District SP Pratap Shiva Kishore jointly inaugurated the facility. The new room will

securely store ganja, narcotics and other prohibited substances seized in NDPS cases across the district. Officials said the contraband earlier kept in a temporary facility at the Collectorate would be shifted to the new room and arranged police-station-wise. The facility has access control, CCTV surveillance and enhanced security arrangements. The Collector and SP

said it would ensure transparency and systematic management of evidence in NDPS cases.

Additional SP Y. Prasad Rao, Eluru DSP D., SB Inspector Malleshwara Rao, RI Pavan Kumar, Shravan Kumar, and officials from the Revenue and R&B departments participated. Representatives of Eagle and Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan also attended.



New Executive Committee Formed for All India Pastors Federation

Eluru, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Dr. P. Jeevan Kumar, Founding National Secretary of the All India Pastors Federation, announced the formation of the federation's new executive committee following elections. The federation operates across 14 states. Speaking in Denduluru on Thursday, Dr. Jeevan Kumar announced the new appointments. Bishop Rev. Emmanuel Rebba has been appointed as National President, while Caesar has been named National Mission Chairman and Rev. Solomon as National Treasurer. Rev. Arun Kumar has been appointed Delhi President. Dr. Y.S. Thomas Reddy has been appointed



National Advisor. At the state level, Rev. G. Samuel has been appointed Andhra Pradesh State General Secretary, while Rev. Dr. P. Israel has been appointed Telangana State President.

Dr. Jeevan Kumar said the newly elected committee would work to strengthen the federation's activities and coordination across the states.

APRO Satyanarayana Raju Felicitated on Retirement

Eluru, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

APRO K. Satyanarayana Raju was felicitated on Wednesday on his retirement after completing 33 years and two months of dedicated service in the Information Department of the undivided West Godavari district. The farewell programme was held at the District Information and Public Relations Department office in Eluru. District



Deputy Executive Information Engineer U. Surendranath said the Information Department serves as an important bridge between the government and the public. He praised Raju for helping take government programmes and welfare schemes to the people.

DPRO Ch. Kanakadurga Prasad Lingam described Raju as an exemplary employee who rose from a junior position to become an APRO through his

responsibility and dedication. He wished him a healthy and happy retired life.

Rajahmundry Divisional PRO Lakshmanacharyulu, retired officials D. Nagarjuna, R.V.S. Ramachandra Rao, I. Kasayya, AVS Chinchili Srinivasa Nehru, retired AVSs G. Venkateswara Rao and Baki Pitchayya, typist D. Shouri Prasad, record assistant T. Babu Rao, staff and retired employees attended.

Editorial

Screen Image Is Not Character

People often tend to believe and trust those they see on screen, assuming that visibility and popularity are proof of character, credibility and integrity. But this assumption can prove costly. Before placing faith in a celebrity, social-media influencer or any public personality, people must make an effort to understand the person behind the image. The latest Nandu's World case is a reminder of how dangerous blind trust can become.

Nandu reportedly gained popularity through reels and built a substantial following on social media. Over time, followers developed a sense of familiarity and trust with her. That trust, according to complaints, was allegedly exploited by collecting money from people on the promise of arranging visas. What began as online popularity eventually turned into a serious financial controversy, with people reportedly losing crores of rupees.

The disturbing question is not merely how such an alleged fraud could happen, but why people were willing to part with large sums of money without adequately verifying the credentials, promises and arrangements involved. It was only after complaints emerged that many apparently began questioning the claims and examining the reality behind the celebrity image.

Victims naturally deserve sympathy when they are deceived. However, sympathy cannot replace caution. Financial decisions, particularly those involving substantial amounts, cannot be based merely on social-media popularity, screen presence or personal familiarity created through reels and online content.

The lesson is straightforward: *a celebrity image is not a character certificate*. Popularity does not guarantee honesty, and followers are not necessarily friends who can be trusted with money. Whether the person is a celebrity, influencer or an ordinary individual, every financial promise must be independently verified.

People must stop treating social-media fame as proof of credibility. Blind faith can be expensive. Verification, documentation and due diligence are not signs of distrust; they are essential safeguards. The Nandu's World case should therefore serve as a warning that appearances, however convincing, must never replace evidence.

Jadavpur University: From Red Ideology to a New Cultural Awakening



Jadavpur University has never been an ordinary university. It has been one of India's most intellectually vibrant academic institutions, producing scholars, scientists, writers, engineers and public intellectuals of national and international reputation. Yet its campus has also been known for intense student politics and ideological contestation. For years, the walls of the university have carried revolutionary slogans, including slogans associated with Maoist politics and the rhetoric of "Azadi". The gradual disappearance of such slogans from the campus walls may therefore signify something more than routine cleaning. It may indicate the beginning of a larger cultural transition.

Swami Vivekananda, perhaps the greatest modern interpreter of India's spiritual heritage, wore the saffron robe. His saffron represented renunciation, strength, fearlessness and service to humanity. In India's national flag, saffron occupies the place of honour at the top. It symbolises courage and sacrifice. To celebrate saffron, therefore, need not mean celebrating a political party. It can mean celebrating an India that values courage, sacrifice, knowledge, spirituality and national responsibility. For decades, however, sections of India's student politics have been dominated by the vocabulary of the international

Left. Marx, Lenin and Mao became familiar. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 was a historic turning point. Communist governments disappeared from much of Eastern Europe. Political movements based on orthodox Marxism lost their earlier global momentum. Even where communist parties survived, they had to adapt to radically different economic and political realities. India's Left too has faced a serious crisis of imagination. West Bengal's electoral history tells an important story. The leftist ideology cannot be allowed to dictate educational policy at the expense of students' future opportunities. The situation becomes particularly significant when we look at university campuses. Students deserve political freedom, but universities cannot become ideological ghettos. A student may admire Marx, Lenin or Mao. Another may admire Vivekananda, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose or Sri Aurobindo. A third may prefer Ambedkar, Tagore or Gandhi. The university must provide space for all these intellectual traditions. But intellectual pluralism also demands historical honesty. Why should an Indian student be encouraged to memorise Maoist revolutionary slogans while knowing little about India's own revolutionary heritage? Why should Lenin occupy a larger symbolic space than Netaji

Subhas Chandra Bose? Why should Mao become an icon while Khudiram Bose, who sacrificed his life for India's freedom, remains comparatively underrepresented in some political narratives? These are legitimate questions. Netaji's relationship with the Left has always been historically complex. He represented one of the most powerful currents of Indian nationalism. His Indian National Army brought together Indians across religion, language and region under the call of freedom. To discuss Netaji seriously on an Indian campus is therefore not an act of ideological conformity. It is an essential part of understanding modern India. The same argument applies to Vivekananda. Vivekananda cannot be reduced to a symbol of contemporary political Hinduism. His vision was much larger. He spoke of the dignity of the human being, the strength of character, service to the poor, national regeneration and the universal dimension of Indian spirituality. His message—"Arise, awake"—continues to inspire generations of young Indians. A saffron renaissance at Jadavpur, if it is to have genuine meaning, should therefore be intellectual rather than merely electoral. It should encourage students to read the Upanishads alongside Marx, Vivekananda alongside Lenin, Tagore alongside Mao, Ambedkar alongside European



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

Former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

political thinkers, and Netaji alongside the history of global anti-colonial movements. This would not destroy the Left tradition. It would challenge its monopoly. A university becomes stronger when one ideology cannot claim ownership of intellectual space.

The question of "Azadi" also deserves serious examination. Freedom of expression is a fundamental principle of a democratic society. Students must have the right to debate Kashmir, nationalism, state power and minority rights. Freedom of expression cannot mean freedom from responsibility. A university should teach students the difference between dissent and disintegration. Jadavpur University's reputation also demands attention to campus safety. Reports and allegations concerning ragging, violence and substance abuse in educational institutions should never be dismissed as mere student politics. The real transformation of Jadavpur University must therefore occur at a deeper level. The campus should become a place where the Indian civilisational inheritance receives the same intellectual seriousness that is given to European revolutionary thought. Students should be able to explore India's philosophical traditions, scientific achievements, literature, art, freedom struggle and social reform movements without being labelled politically. There is no contradiction between patriotism and intellectual freedom. Indeed, genuine patriotism demands intellectual freedom. The celebration of saffron should thus be understood as an opportunity to reclaim a wider cultural vocabulary. Saffron can represent the courage of the freedom fighter, the renunciation of the monk, the sacrifice of the revolutionary, the dedication of the teacher and the service of the citizen. It should represent

Vivekananda's fearlessness, Netaji's determination, Khudiram's sacrifice and the civilisational confidence of India.

But there is one important warning. If saffron merely replaces red as another colour of political domination, the university will have learned nothing. The objective should not be to erase one ideology and install another. The objective should be to break ideological monopolies. Jadavpur University deserves walls that speak not merely of revolution but of knowledge. Let Marx remain available for study. Let Lenin remain available for historical analysis. Let Mao remain an object of serious scholarly examination. But let Vivekananda, Tagore, Netaji, Ambedkar, Nazrul, Vidyasagar, Sri Aurobindo and countless other Indian thinkers stand beside them. That is the true meaning of intellectual freedom. The future of Jadavpur University should not be a battle between red and saffron. Perhaps the time has come for Jadavpur's walls to tell a new story. A story in which Indian students do not merely inherit slogans from distant revolutions but discover the extraordinary intellectual and cultural resources of their own civilisation. A story in which nationalism is not the enemy of scholarship. A story in which dissent does not require contempt for the nation. A story in which Vivekananda can stand beside Marx, Netaji beside Lenin, and Tagore beside every thinker whose ideas have shaped the modern world. That would not be the end of Jadavpur University's radical tradition. It would be its intellectual renewal. In international Tagore Award, multilingual writer and poet Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University, USA, and President, Kolkata Indian American Society, USA.

The One Above the Sky and The Other Below the Ground - Two Disruptive Technologies



Part 1 - The One Around Us and Above

Looking up used to be an exercise in imagination. When I was a child of five or six years old, looking at the sky was my favourite pastime. Anyhow, in those days, for a child, homework was unheard of, and we were not always forced to look down, do homework, no play and think (only thinking, no imagination) of scaling high. How is it possible? The skies over Kerala boasted a pristine, bright blue, framed by silver clouds and the striking green combs of coconut leaves. Today, however, that vibrant contrast has been replaced by a chaotic canopy. The modern child's vision in Kerala or elsewhere in urban India is strangled by a web of electric wires and cable TV lines, rendering the simple act of watching the sky nearly impossible without the intrusion of overhead cables. We lost the mighty chances of finding the horse-shaped or duck-shaped clouds and the Divya Velicham (divine aura) beneath the clouds.

This visual pollution in our skies perfectly mirrors a more insidious, hidden menace beneath our feet. The slow poisoning of our groundwater by obsolete sewage networks. We find ourselves caught in an infrastructural paradox where disruptive technologies threaten to make old networks obsolete, yet we remain stubbornly tethered to systems that endanger our health and our environment. Anyhow, we will discuss the one beneath our feet in tomorrow's column.

A Laser Mesh in the Sky

While our local streets remain tangled, the broader horizon of connectivity is undergoing a massive transformation overhead. SpaceX's Starlink is redefining internet infrastructure through a vast and ever-expanding network. Since 2019, Starlink has deployed



Ram Kamal

Social Engineer

12,800 low-Earth orbit satellites, which travel at an astonishing 25 times the speed of sound. The company's ultimate target is an ambitious 42,000 satellites to provide flawless, uninterrupted internet service globally. Because these "baby satellites" communicate with one

another via laser links, they remain unaffected by ground-level catastrophes or natural calamities. If physical undersea fibre cables are severed, the Starlink network continues to function without a hitch.

"Elon Musk claims that Starlink is like a laser mesh network that creates a network that is immune to ground-level disruptions. Musk has pitched Starlink's satellite internet services as a way to connect underserved parts of India, particularly rural areas."

This resilience is a game-changer for disaster relief. During the devastation of the Tsunami, my friends and colleagues at the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) across India had to scramble to restore urgent communication after affected areas lost all communication channels, communication towers, and electrical connectivity. Students from the IEEE Trivandrum chapter were heavily relied upon to self-build hand-cranking battery chargers for mobile phones and set up alternative WANs to replace failed cell towers in the affected areas.

Today, Starlink provides free disaster relief and rural access, as demonstrated during the flash floods in Nepal. Musk has emphasized that while vast sums of money are spent launching these satellites, the company does not act opportunistically to charge users during calamities.

However, physics still applies; Starlink's broad satellite beams struggle with accessibility issues in densely populated high-rise concrete jungles. Therefore, while it cannot entirely replace cell towers in urban centres, it serves as the ultimate complementary network connecting wireless to these towers, excelling in natural disaster zones and previously underserved rural communities in Himalayas, hillocks, Rajasthan deserts or the fishermen in the deep waters.

This new disruptive technology is already with us. But we are yet to know about its environmental hazard. SpaceX's Starlink is not considered entirely environmentally friendly, as scientists and researchers warn that frequent rocket launches and the mass destruction of re-entering satellites cause notable atmospheric and light pollution. Starlink satellites have a short lifespan of about five years. When they retire, they intentionally burn up upon re-entering Earth's atmosphere, releasing aluminium oxide and other metallic particles that can harm the ozone layer. All scientists and poets used ozone layer too much. Who now cares? Ozone or uninterrupted internet is the choice.

Starlink (Internet Provider), Connects your home or device to the global internet, similar to a traditional cable or fibre provider. It assigns local or shared network addresses but does not encrypt your browsing traffic or mask your IP address by default. Eventually the VPN (Virtual Private Network) and the software or service that encrypts your internet traffic and routes it through an external server to hide your real IP address and secure your data have to be used with a third-party VPN services (such as OpenVPN, WireGuard, or commercial VPN apps) over Starlink connection.

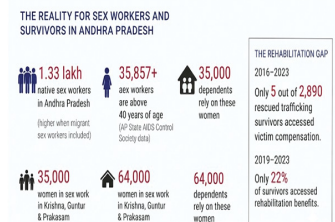
Standard residential Starlink plans use CGNAT (Carrier-Grade Network Address Translation), which means outbound VPN connections on individual devices work fine, but hosting your own incoming VPN server can be difficult without a specialized business plan.

Opinions on Facebook are mixed regarding whether a VPN is strictly necessary for daily use, as basic network security relies on your router settings, though a VPN adds extra encryption. Additionally, users on Reddit generally agree that a VPN cannot spoof your physical location to bypass Starlink's regional restrictions, because the dish uses its own internal GPS.

But one thing is sure: our children or us are going to lose our skies in the day and the Night Sky is going to have Interference from thousands of reflective satellites disrupt astronomical observations and change the natural appearance of the night sky. Tomorrow, let us look at another disruptive technology that can give us relief if # Modiji, Naidu Garu and Reddy Garu do something!

Development Must Reach Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent

40 Years of the Right to Development



Rammohan NVS

Secretary HELP, Ongole

ic life. The consequences are particularly severe for women and girls. They experience the intersection of caste or descent discrimination with gender inequality, poverty, violence, trafficking, insecure livelihoods and exclusion from decision-making. UN Women has highlighted that women from communities discriminated on work and descent face multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination affecting education, health, justice, political participation and economic opportunity.

This means that development programmes cannot claim to be inclusive simply because they are available to everyone. Equal access on paper does not automatically produce equality in reality. When generations of discrimination have denied a community education, land, financial resources, skills and decent employment, additional measures are necessary to create genuine equality of opportunity.

The principle of "leaving no one behind" must therefore move beyond a slogan. Development planning must identify who is being left behind, understand why they are excluded, and place their voices at the centre of decision-making. Communities discriminated on work and descent should not be treated merely as beneficiaries of welfare programmes. They must be recognized as rights-holders, development partners and leaders. Their lived experiences are essential evidence for designing effective policies. Governments must strengthen implementation of anti-discrimination laws, improve access to quality education and healthcare, create decent and dignified employment opportunities, expand financial inclusion, protect land and livelihood rights, and ensure meaningful representation in institutions and development planning. The private sector also has an important role. Corporate social responsibility and responsible business practices should

actively address structural barriers faced by marginalized communities through skills development, entrepreneurship, employment, supply-chain inclusion and access to markets and finance.

Civil society organizations and community-led institutions can bridge another critical gap. They can help communities understand their rights, access government schemes, document discrimination, build leadership and hold institutions accountable.

The Right to Development also requires us to rethink the meaning of development itself. A new road, industrial project or economic investment cannot be considered successful if the communities living beside it remain without decent housing, education, healthcare, secure livelihoods or a voice in decisions affecting their lives. Development must be measured not only by what is built, but by whose lives are improved.

The 40th anniversary provides an opportunity to renew the commitment made four decades ago. The international community has repeatedly affirmed equality, dignity and participation. The challenge now is implementation.

For Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, the demand is neither charity nor special privilege. It is equality, justice, dignity and the right to participate fully in development.

If the world is serious about achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building inclusive societies, the people who have experienced exclusion for generations must be at the centre of the solution. The true test of the Right to Development is not how far the most privileged have progressed. It is whether those who have been left behind for generations are finally able to move forward with dignity, equality and freedom.

On its 40th anniversary, that must become the unfinished promise-and the urgent agenda-of the Right to Development.

Cabinet Approves Three Railway Multitracking Projects Worth Rs 10,783 Crore

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved three railway multi-tracking projects with a total estimated cost of Rs 10,783 crore. The projects, which are planned for completion by 2029-30, will strengthen rail infrastructure across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The approved projects include the Kharagpur-Jharsuguda (Bagdehi) fourth line, the Katni-Pendra Road fourth line and the Bilaspur (Uslapur)-Pendra Road third line. Together, the projects will increase

the existing Indian Railways network by about 656 kilometres and cover 14 districts across the five states. The additional capacity is expected to improve mobility, enhance operational efficiency and strengthen service reliability. The multitracking works will also help streamline train operations and ease congestion on important railway routes. The projects are being developed under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan, with emphasis on improving multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency through integrated planning and consultations with stakeholders. The



enhanced railway network is expected to facilitate smoother movement of passengers, goods and services.

The projects will improve rail connectivity to around 4,790 villages with a combined population of about 56 lakh. The expanded net-

work is also expected to support comprehensive development in the region by creating better opportunities for employment and self-employment. Several important tourist and religious destinations will benefit from improved connectivity. These include Taratarini Temple, Shri Khetra Jagannath Temple, an ancient temple near Jharsuguda, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Virateshwar Temple, Amarkantak Temple, Jwaleshwar Dham, Achanakmar Tiger Reserve, Khutaghat Dam, Malhar Archaeological Site and Ratanpur Mahamaya Temple.

The railway routes are also important for transporting major commodities such as coal, cement, iron and steel. The capacity augmentation is expected to generate additional freight traffic of around 27 million tonnes per annum. The Railways, as an energy-efficient and environment-friendly mode of transportation, is expected to contribute to the country's climate goals while reducing logistics costs. The projects are estimated to reduce oil imports by around 12 crore litres and lower carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 62 crore kg, equivalent to planting about 2.48 crore trees.

Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati Takes Oath As J&K, Ladakh High Court Chief Justice



Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Wednesday, with Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena administering the oath of office at the Shalimar Auditorium of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir. Saxena, who was discharging the functions of the J&K Lieutenant Governor during the leave of Manoj Sinha, administered the oath to Justice Bhati. The ceremony began with the rendition of the national song, followed by the National Anthem. The Registrar General of the High Court read out the President's warrant of appointment before Justice Bhati took the oath. Justice Bhati and Saxena subsequently signed the oath roll, following which the warrant of appointment was formally handed over to the new Chief Justice. The ceremony concluded with the national song and the National Anthem. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather, senior judges of the High Court, Cabinet ministers, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat and other senior civil and police officials were present at the ceremony. Born on September 21, 1970, Justice Bhati served as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court before being elevated as Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court. He holds law degrees, including an LL.M. in Mercantile Law and a Ph.D. focusing on public employment and the role of the Supreme Court of India. Justice Bhati enrolled as an advocate in 1992 and practised for nearly 25 years before the Rajasthan High Court. His legal practice covered writ jurisdiction, criminal law, public interest litigation and revenue law. During his legal career, he served as Additional Advocate General for Rajasthan and as Standing Counsel for the Indian Railways for 16 years. Justice Bhati was appointed an Additional Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on November 16, 2016, and became a permanent judge on March 16, 2018. His appointment as Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court marks his elevation to the leadership of the high court serving the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Global Dryland Congress 2026 To Begin In Delhi



More than 800 scientists, policymakers, farmer representatives and development partners from across Asia, Africa and the Americas will convene in New Delhi for the three-day Global Dryland Congress 2026 from September 10 to 12. The Congress, themed "Transforming Dryland Agriculture with South-South Cooperation", is being jointly organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). It will be held at the National Agricultural Science Complex and will also mark 50 years of the ICAR-ICRISAT partnership. The Congress comes at a crucial time for dryland agriculture, with drylands accounting for around 45 per cent of the world's land surface and supporting more than two billion people. A large section of these communities comprises smallholder farmers facing challenges including climate variability, land degradation, water scarcity and changing markets. Over the three days, participants will deliberate on six key themes covering breeding, climate resilience, nutrition and markets, farming systems, seed systems, and gender and youth inclusion. Discussions will be conducted through panel discussions, keynote and lead presentations, parallel sessions and poster exhibitions. The Congress will also commemorate the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation on its concluding day. A special ceremony and dedicated sessions will focus on strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation in agricultural research, in association with CGIAR. The proceedings will conclude with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration on Dryland (3D). The event will also witness the announcement of new partnerships, memorandums of understanding and awards recognising significant contributions to dryland science. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan will address the Congress as the Chief Guest. The event will bring together Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT; Cathy Reade, ICRISAT Board Chair; Dr M.L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR; CGIAR Chief Scientist Dr Sandra Milach; former ICAR Directors General Dr R.S. Paroda, Dr Panjab Singh and Dr T. Mohapatra; Prof. S.G. Mohammed, Director, Centre for Dryland Agriculture, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria; former ICRISAT Director General Dr William Dar; and other global experts and leaders working to advance dryland agriculture.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development on Wednesday launched the ninth Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026 at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre in Varanasi, beginning a month-long nationwide Jan Andolan for nutrition under the theme "Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari". The launch was attended by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur, Uttar Pradesh Minister for Women Welfare, Child Development and Nutrition Baby Rani Maurya, senior officials, development partners, frontline workers and beneficiaries. Addressing the event, Yogi Adityanath highlighted the role of Anganwadi Centres in strengthening grassroots nutrition services under Poshan Abhiyaan. He said sustained coordination between departments, community participation and the commitment of frontline workers were essential to achieving a malnutrition-free India. Yogi Adityanath said Anganwadi



Centres had been upgraded and renovated into vibrant community institutions with improved infrastructure and learning environments. Anganwadi Workers have also been equipped with smartphones for real-time data entry and digital monitoring. He highlighted the regular provision of Hot Cooked Meals and Take Home Ration to eligible beneficiaries, saying investment in nutrition provides lifelong benefits through healthier children, empowered families and a stronger nation.

Annpurna Devi reiterated the government's commitment to improving nutrition outcomes through Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. She said more than 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres are currently providing nutrition, health and early childhood care services to over 7.5 crore children, 1.10 crore pregnant and lactating women and nearly 16 lakh adolescent girls. She said the government is upgrading two lakh Anganwadi Centres into Saksham Anganwadis, with around 24,000

Supreme Court To Hear Marital Rape Pleas; Centre Says Parliament Must Decide

The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that criminalising marital rape is a matter for Parliament and the executive, and not for the judiciary to decide. The Supreme Court was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the marital rape exception under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana directed that the matter be listed for final hearing after three weeks, on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that any decision to criminalise marital rape falls within the domain of Parliament rather than the Supreme Court. The challenge centres on Exception 2 to Section 63 of the BNS, which carries forward the marital rape exception contained in Section 375 of the earlier Indian Penal Code. Under the provision, sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife, pro-



vided she is not below 18 years of age, do not constitute rape. During the hearing, Justice Joymalya Bagchi stressed that the protection, safety and physical security of women are crucial concerns. He questioned whether the State's definition of an offence should determine whether a woman subjected to involuntary sexual intercourse within marriage is considered a rape victim. "A woman subjected to involuntary sexual intercourse [in marriage] is undoubtedly a victim. We

will protect victims. Only question is whether State defines it as rape," Justice Bagchi observed. He further said marriage cannot mean the "extinction of a woman's autonomy". The court said it would examine two key questions - whether prosecution can be sustained even if the marital rape exception continues to remain in force, and whether the exception itself is constitutionally valid. Senior Advocate Karuna Nundy, appearing for one of the petitioners, argued that a husband

should not receive legal immunity for causing grievous injury to his wife merely because of the marital relationship. Nundy submitted that marriage cannot provide a licence to engage in sexual acts against a wife's will or to inflict severe physical harm. The Centre had earlier stated in its affidavit that it was not in favour of making marital rape a separate criminal offence. The government has maintained that criminalising marital rape could have serious repercussions for the institution of marriage and affect the stability of marital relationships. The Centre has also argued that sexual relations within marriage should be addressed through existing legal provisions rather than being treated on par with ordinary rape. The issue reached the Supreme Court after the Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict in 2022 on whether marital rape should be criminalised. The matter is now before the apex court for consideration.

Meta India Executives Appear Before NCPCR in Child Abuse Ad Probe

Senior executives of Meta India, which operates Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, appeared before the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on Wednesday in connection with an inquiry into alleged advertisements related to child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM) on its platforms. The details of the questioning were not immediately available. The NCPCR had on July 3 taken suo motu cognisance of a media report by BBC Eye regarding alleged advertisements related to CSEAM and sought an explanation from Meta Platforms, Inc. Meta submitted its response to the commission a week later. Following the response, the NCPCR decided to institute an inquiry to establish the facts. As part of the proceedings, the commission summoned the Managing Director and Head of Meta India to appear before it on Wednesday, officials said. The inquiry comes amid growing concerns over the alleged availability and promotion of child sexual exploitation material through online platforms and the effective-



ness of safeguards put in place by technology companies. In July, the government issued a stern notice to Meta over alleged CSEAM appearing in paid advertisements on Instagram. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) directed Instagram to disable advertisements and content promoting or facilitating access to such material and sought a detailed explanation from the company.

The action followed a direction from IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to MeitY officials to summon Meta over Instagram advertisements allegedly promoting child sexual abuse material. The regulatory scrutiny came after a BBC report alleged that Meta's recommendation algorithm had promoted videos containing child sexual abuse material, raising concerns over gaps in the platform's safeguards. The BBC investigation also

allegedly found advertisements of this nature appearing on Facebook and Instagram despite Meta's advertising policies prohibiting nudity and sexually explicit content. According to the allegations, Instagram displayed paid advertisements using search terms such as "rape video" and "child video", which directed users towards Telegram channels where such material was reportedly being offered for sale. The NCPCR's inquiry is aimed at examining the allegations and determining the extent to which such content and advertisements may have been accessible through Meta's platforms. The appearance of senior Meta India executives before the child rights body marks a significant step in the ongoing examination of the platform's compliance and child-safety mechanisms.

US Destroys Five Iranian Tankers After Attacks on Warship

The United States military has destroyed five Iranian crude oil tankers following attacks on an American warship by Iran's Revolutionary Guard, US Central Command said, marking a sharp escalation in the confrontation between Washington and Tehran. US Central Command said the strikes were carried out after Iran made two attempts over two days to attack the American warship with ballistic missiles. The latest tit-for-tat attacks come as the United States and Iran move closer to renewed fighting during a war that has lasted more than six months. Iranian state television also reported the strikes, saying US forces attacked at least three Iranian oil tankers near the southern port of Jask and the Kharg Island anchorage area in the Persian Gulf. The crews were reported to have been evacuated. An Iranian state television reporter in Jask said one tanker was struck near the coast of Yekbeni, while another explosion was heard in the area. The source and exact location of the second explosion were initially unclear. State television later reported that



a second tanker had been attacked near waters off Jask and said the crews of both vessels were being evacuated by lifeboat towards the Jask coast. Separately, another Iranian tanker was reportedly attacked near the Kharg Island anchorage, with its crew safely evacuated after the strike. "Iran continues to try to hit US naval ships. And for every time they do that or try to do that, they're going to lose tankers. And I think you'll see that again today," Rubio told reporters while visiting Colombia. Danny Citrinowicz, an Iran expert at Israel's Institute for

National Security Studies, warned that continued retaliation could further destabilise the region and hurt the global economy. "There is no kinetic solution to the Strait of Hormuz problem," he said on social media, warning that repeated military action could push Washington and Tehran towards an escalation that becomes increasingly difficult to control. Iran's Revolutionary Guard Navy also warned oil tanker crews near ports in Kuwait and Bahrain to immediately leave their vessels, saying the ships could be targeted in retaliation. It

accused Kuwait and Bahrain of hosting US forces and assisting American attacks. The United States had previously struck three Iranian oil tankers and warned it would destroy Iran's "limited and exposed oil fleet" if necessary. President Donald Trump's administration has combined military pressure with economic measures. On Tuesday, Washington imposed additional sanctions on Iran's aviation industry, targeting more than two dozen commercial and private airlines and foreign cargo service providers. The confrontation is centred heavily on the Strait of Hormuz, through which about one-fifth of global oil passed before the war. Brent crude briefly reached \$99.46 a barrel on Tuesday, adding to concerns over energy prices ahead of the November midterm elections. A US blockade of Iranian ports has restricted Tehran's oil exports, while American forces have helped some ships transit the strait via a route off Oman. Iran, meanwhile, wants vessels to follow a route chosen by Tehran through waters previously regarded as an international waterway.

India Flags UN Map Anomalies Over Arunachal, Aksai Chin



India has raised concerns over "anomalies" in a new world map issued by the United Nations after it depicted Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as separate regions positioned between Indian and Chinese territorial claims. The clarification came after a map first published by the United Nations on July 1 was widely used during discussions surrounding a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on improving the accuracy and fairness of maps representing different regions of the world. India's Foreign Ministry said the country had supported the UNGA resolution, but stressed that its vote should not be interpreted as an endorsement of any particular map. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated India's position while responding to questions about the UN map and the resolution. "On your question about the UNGA resolution, when this resolution was adopted, we favoured the resolution and voted in favour of the resolution. When the resolution was adopted in the United Nations General Assembly, we also made a statement where we clarified our position," Jaiswal said. He emphasised that the resolution was based on the principle of using equal-area maps and did not amount to recognition or approval of maps produced by any private party or particular entity. "The resolution is focused on the principle of having, giving weightage or giving credence to equal-area maps," Jaiswal said, explaining that such maps are intended to preserve the relative sizes of continental landmarks more accurately. The Indian government's response comes against the backdrop of long-standing territorial disputes between India and China. India regards Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as integral parts of its territory, while China has contested India's claims in both areas. Jaiswal indicated that the United Nations may maintain different maps for consultation and said India had already raised the issue through appropriate channels. "We have taken up the anomalies with the concerned persons," he said. The Indian government's clarification also underlines the distinction between supporting a general cartographic principle and accepting the territorial representations contained in an individual map. New Delhi's position is that its support for the UNGA resolution was intended to advance more equitable and geographically accurate mapping practices, rather than validate depictions concerning disputed or claimed territories. The issue highlights the diplomatic sensitivity surrounding international maps, where the portrayal of borders and territories can carry significant political implications, particularly in regions involving competing territorial claims.

Putin, Trump Discuss Trilateral Meeting With Xi

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump discussed the possibility of holding a trilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping during an upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in China, the Kremlin said Wednesday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed that the idea was discussed during a phone call between Putin and Trump on Tuesday. Asked whether the two leaders had discussed a potential trilateral meeting in Shenzhen, Peskov replied, "Undoubtedly." "This potential possibility has been mentioned before, and there will be such an opportunity," Peskov told reporters, including Agence France Presse. The APEC summit is scheduled to take place in the Chinese city of Shenzhen on November 18 and 19. Russia has indicated that Putin will attend the gathering, although the White House has not yet announced whether Trump will participate. A meeting involving Putin, Trump and Xi would bring together the leaders of three of the world's most influential powers at a time



of heightened geopolitical tensions and shifting international alliances. Russia, China and the United States are all members of APEC, one of the major intergovernmental forums for economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The possibility of a trilateral meeting also comes as Washington continues efforts to persuade Moscow to end the war in Ukraine. US envoys visited both Moscow

and Kyiv last week, but the visits did not produce a breakthrough in negotiations aimed at ending the conflict. Relations between Moscow and Beijing have also deepened in recent years, with Russia and China strengthening economic, diplomatic and strategic cooperation. The war in Ukraine has further complicated Russia's relationship with Western nations while increasing the importance of its

ties with China. For Washington, direct engagement with both Moscow and Beijing would carry wider implications beyond the Ukraine conflict, particularly amid competition with China and continuing tensions over global security and trade. APEC dates back to the 1980s and has developed into a major platform for economic dialogue among countries and economies across the Asia-Pacific. Its November summit could therefore provide an important setting for high-level diplomatic contacts. However, the Kremlin's comments indicate only that the possibility of a three-way meeting has been discussed. There has been no confirmation that Putin, Trump and Xi will hold formal talks together in Shenzhen. The potential gathering nevertheless signals the possibility of high-level engagement among Washington, Moscow and Beijing at a crucial moment for international diplomacy, particularly as efforts continue to address the Ukraine war and broader global tensions.

Rajnath Singh Meets Sri Lankan President on Regional Security



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday met Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Disanayake and discussed ways to strengthen the multi-faceted partnership between India and Sri Lanka, with a focus on regional safety, security, peace and prosperity. Singh arrived in Sri Lanka on Tuesday for a three-day visit, marking the first visit by an Indian defence minister to the island nation in 38 years. During his meeting with Disanayake, Singh conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's greetings and congratulated the Sri Lankan president on the successful completion of two years of his government. The Ministry of Defence said both sides reaffirmed their commitment to working together as "civilisational twins, close neighbours and maritime partners" for the development and welfare of their people and for regional stability. Disanayake recalled his interactions with Modi and reiterated that Sri Lanka would never allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's security interests. The Sri Lankan president also expressed gratitude for India's relief assistance under Operation Sagar Bandhu during Cyclone Dittwah, as well as a comprehensive rehabilitation package extended by New Delhi to support reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. Singh said India considered assistance to Sri Lanka not a favour but a responsibility. As a close friend and neighbour, he said, India would continue to stand with Sri Lanka and act as a first responder during times of crisis. Both leaders virtually inaugurated three Bailey Bridges constructed by Indian defence forces. The two countries also exchanged Memoranda of Understanding covering the upgradation of L70 guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force and cooperation between the National Cadet Corps and National Defence Colleges of India and Sri Lanka. Under the agreement, six L70 guns earlier provided by India to the Sri Lanka Air Force will be upgraded through an Indian government grant. The Ministry of Defence said the modernisation would significantly strengthen the air defence architecture protecting critical assets in Sri Lanka. The academic cooperation agreement between the National Defence College of India and the National Defence College of Sri Lanka is intended to facilitate knowledge sharing and strengthen institutional ties between the two defence establishments. The NCC cooperation agreement will formalise the youth exchange programme between India and Sri Lanka. The programme provides opportunities for NCC cadets from several countries to visit New Delhi and participate in NCC events. During an interaction with the Indian diaspora on Tuesday, Singh said India would always stand firmly with Sri Lanka during times of crisis. He said the relationship between the two countries was rooted in shared history, culture and faith.

Singapore PM Gets \$1 Million Salary Hike, Plans to Donate Increase



Singapore will raise the salaries of its political leaders, with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong set to receive a substantial increase that will push his benchmark annual pay to Sg\$3.6 million (\$2.8 million), making it one of the highest salaries for a political leader in the world. Wong announced the revision in parliament on Tuesday, saying his benchmark salary would rise from Sg\$2.2 million (\$1.7 million), an increase of more than 60 per cent. He added that he plans to donate the entire increase to suitable good causes during his term. The deputy prime minister's benchmark annual salary will increase from Sg\$1.87 million to Sg\$3.06 million. Cabinet ministers will receive between Sg\$1.80 million and Sg\$2.88 million, depending on their seniority and the responsibilities associated with their portfolios. Singapore has long defended its high political salaries, arguing that competitive pay helps attract capable people to public service and ensures effective governance. However, the issue remains politically sensitive because ministerial salaries are considerably higher than the earnings of most ordinary Singaporeans. "Political salaries are a difficult and emotive issue," Wong said, acknowledging that the sums involved are significantly higher than what most citizens earn. He said he understood why Singaporeans closely scrutinise the issue and why many feel strongly about it. Wong argued that the debate ultimately concerns whether Singapore can maintain the quality of political leadership needed to guide the country in the coming decades. "Good government depends on good leadership," he said. The Southeast Asian city-state last revised ministerial salaries 15 years ago and is regularly ranked among the world's least corrupt countries. The latest increases were recommended by an independent committee, according to Wong. Wong said any further changes would be linked to individual performance and responsibilities. Even before the latest revision, Singapore's prime minister earned substantially more than many other national leaders, including those of the United States and other G7 countries. The government maintains that attracting and retaining high-quality political leadership is essential for Singapore's long-term stability and prosperity. Wong's decision to donate the full increase is likely to draw attention as Singapore begins implementing the revised pay structure for its political leadership.

Rubio Warns US Will Keep Hitting Iranian Tankers



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has warned that the United States will continue targeting Iranian oil tankers in retaliatory strikes as tensions between Washington and Tehran escalate. Speaking to reporters during a visit to Colombia on Tuesday, Rubio said the US response would continue as long as Iran attempts to attack American naval vessels. "Iran continues to try to hit US naval ships, and for every time they do that or try to do that, they're going to lose tankers, and I think you'll see that again today," Rubio said. His comments came after US authorities said five Iranian oil vessels had already been hit in American strikes, marking a significant escalation in the confrontation between the two countries. The latest US actions were described as retaliation for Iranian attacks targeting American warships. The United States has maintained that its military response is intended to deter further attacks by Iran and protect its naval forces operating in the region. Iran, however, has continued to challenge US military operations and has warned vessels operating near strategically important waterways. The confrontation has raised concerns over the potential impact on the global oil market, particularly because of the importance of the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for international energy shipments. Rubio's remarks suggest that Washington is prepared to maintain military pressure on Tehran rather than limit the response to the strikes already carried out. The warning also increases the possibility of further retaliation from Iran, raising fears of a broader confrontation between the two countries. The latest escalation comes amid a prolonged conflict between Washington and Tehran, with both sides facing growing pressure over the military and economic consequences of the fighting. For the United States, targeting Iranian tankers represents both a military response and an attempt to impose additional economic pressure on Tehran by disrupting an important source of revenue. Iran's response to the latest US strikes will be closely watched, particularly for any further attacks against American naval assets or moves affecting commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Rubio's statement makes clear that the Trump administration currently sees Iranian attacks on US naval forces as grounds for continued strikes against Iranian oil infrastructure at sea.

Markets Hit 3-Month Low; Nifty Below 23,450

Indian equity markets extended their decline on September 9, with the benchmark indices ending sharply lower amid sustained selling pressure. The Nifty slipped below the 23,500 level and closed below 23,450, while the Sensex declined 813 points, falling 1.08%. The latest decline pushed the Nifty to a three-month low, highlighting continued weakness in investor sentiment. Selling pressure remained visible across key sectors, with IT and realty stocks leading the market decline. The broader market also remained under pressure, although it performed relatively better than the benchmark indices. The Nifty Midcap and Nifty Smallcap indices declined 0.5% each, indicating that selling was not limited to large-cap stocks but was comparatively less intense in the broader market. The sharp fall in the Sensex and Nifty comes amid heightened caution among investors, with global and domestic factors continuing to influence market sentiment. The recent weakness in equities has increased concerns about the



near-term direction of the market, particularly as benchmark indices remain below important technical levels. IT stocks were among the major contributors to the decline. The sector remains sensitive to global economic conditions, currency movements and expectations surrounding interest rates in major economies. Weakness in technology shares therefore added to the pressure on the benchmark

indices. Realty stocks also witnessed selling, reflecting concerns around interest rates, financing costs and broader market sentiment. A sustained period of weakness in the equity market can affect investor confidence in interest-rate-sensitive sectors. Despite the decline in the broader market, the relatively smaller fall in the Midcap and Smallcap indices suggests that selling was

concentrated more heavily in benchmark and large-cap stocks. Investors may be adopting a selective approach as volatility remains elevated. The Nifty's close below 23,450 is likely to keep the technical outlook under pressure. Market participants will closely monitor whether the index can regain key support levels or whether continued selling pushes it towards lower levels in the coming sessions. The Sensex's 813-point decline further underlined the intensity of Wednesday's selling. With both major indices extending their recent losses, investors are likely to remain cautious until stronger positive triggers emerge. Market participants will now track global cues, foreign fund flows, sectoral trends, currency movements and upcoming economic developments for signs of stabilisation. Until buying support returns decisively, the market could remain volatile, with investors focusing on risk management and stock-specific opportunities.

SEBI Lifts Ban on JPMorgan Unit Copthall, Mansi



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has lifted restrictions on JPMorgan unit Copthall and Mansi over allegations related to index manipulation, allowing both entities to regain broader access to the securities market. However, the entities will continue to remain barred from participating in the equity segment's cash-settled futures and options auction process (CAS), either directly or indirectly, until further orders. The market regulator had earlier imposed restrictions on the two entities in connection with alleged manipulation of an index. The latest decision provides the entities with wider market access while retaining the specific restriction relating to CAS participation. The development comes after the impounded amount linked to the matter was deposited with the regulator on August 20, a day after SEBI issued its order against the two entities. The deposit of the impounded funds appears to have been an important step in the subsequent easing of the broader restrictions.

While Copthall and Mansi can now participate in the wider market, the continuing CAS restriction means they cannot directly or indirectly take part in the specified equity-market segment. The restriction will remain in force until SEBI issues further directions. The action highlights the regulator's approach of using targeted restrictions while proceedings concerning alleged market manipulation continue. Such measures are intended to protect market integrity and prevent entities under regulatory scrutiny from influencing market activity in areas connected with the alleged violations. Index manipulation allegations are particularly significant because benchmark indices serve as reference points for a wide range of financial products and investment strategies. Any attempt to influence index-linked instruments can have implications beyond individual securities and potentially affect broader market participants. For investors, the case also underlines the importance of regulatory oversight in maintaining transparency and orderly functioning of India's capital markets. SEBI has increasingly focused on preventing practices that could distort prices or provide unfair advantages to market participants. The lifting of the broader restrictions does not, however, amount to an unconditional removal of all regulatory measures against Copthall and Mansi. Their continued exclusion from CAS participation indicates that SEBI has retained specific safeguards while allowing them greater access to other market activities. The entities will therefore remain subject to the CAS restriction until further orders from the regulator. The latest decision represents a partial easing of the action taken against them, while leaving the regulator's specific concerns regarding participation in the equity segment's CAS unresolved. The development is expected to be closely watched by market participants as SEBI continues its regulatory proceedings and assesses the implications of the alleged index manipulation.

Enviro Infra Shares Jump 10% on Fresh Order

Shares of Enviro Infra Engineers rose nearly 10% to a one-month high of Rs 215 on Wednesday after the company announced that its step-down subsidiary, Suyog Urja, had secured a fresh order worth Rs 190 crore. The new order triggered buying interest in Enviro Infra, with investors responding positively to the subsidiary's latest business win. The announcement also lifted sentiment across the water and wastewater infrastructure sector, leading to gains in other listed companies. Shares of VA Tech Wabag rose 7%, benefiting from the positive sentiment generated by Enviro Infra's order announcement. Denta Water also witnessed a rub-off effect as investors turned their attention towards companies operating in the water infrastructure and treatment space. The sharp movement in Enviro Infra shares came against a weak broader market backdrop. Indian equity benchmarks were under

pressure during the session, with the Sensex and Nifty extending their recent declines. Against this backdrop, the gains in water-infrastructure stocks stood out as investors focused on company-specific developments. The Rs 190 crore order secured by Suyog Urja is expected to strengthen the order pipeline of the Enviro Infra group. Fresh orders are closely tracked by investors in infrastructure companies because they provide visibility over future revenue and execution activity. The water and wastewater management sector has attracted increasing attention as governments and urban authorities expand investments in sewage treatment, water supply, recycling and related infrastructure. Companies with established execution capabilities and strong order books are expected to benefit from continued spending in the sector. The positive response in VA Tech Wabag and Denta Water indicates



that investors were also willing to reassess other sectoral opportunities following the order announcement. Such moves can occur when a new contract highlights improving business prospects across an industry, although individual companies may have different order books, financial profiles and execution risks. For Enviro Infra, the immediate focus will remain on the execution of the newly secured order and its impact on the company's future financial performance. Investors

are likely to monitor additional order wins, revenue growth and margins for further confirmation of the company's business momentum. The nearly 10% rise in Enviro Infra shares therefore marked a strong outperformance during a weak market session. Meanwhile, the gains in VA Tech Wabag and Denta Water reflected broader sectoral optimism, with investors betting on continued opportunities in India's water and wastewater infrastructure market.

Sonaselection India IPO to Open on September 17

The initial public offering (IPO) of Sonaselection India is set to open for subscription on September 17, with the company expected to announce the price band for the issue in the next few days. The IPO comprises entirely a fresh issue of 1.43 crore equity shares. Since the offering consists only of newly issued shares, the proceeds raised through the issue will accrue to the company, subject to issue-related expenses and other applicable costs. The upcoming public issue is expected to draw attention from investors looking for new opportunities in the primary market. The company's decision to proceed with the IPO comes amid continued activity in India's equity capital markets, where several companies have been tapping investors to raise funds for expansion and other corporate requirements. The price band will be a key factor for investors assessing the issue.



Once announced, investors will be able to evaluate the offer price against the company's financial performance, valuation, business prospects and industry peers before deciding whether to subscribe. According to the issue schedule, the Sonaselection India IPO will open on September 17. The shares are expected to begin trading on the stock exchanges

from September 24, following completion of the subscription, allotment and listing process. The fresh issue structure means the IPO will increase the company's equity base after listing. The funds raised could provide additional financial resources to support the company's business plans, depending on the stated objectives of the issue.

Investors will also closely watch the response from qualified institutional buyers, non-institutional investors and retail investors once the subscription window opens. Subscription levels across these categories can provide an indication of overall investor appetite for the issue. The announcement of the price band in the coming days is likely to be the next major development for the IPO. The final offer price, issue size in rupee terms and valuation will allow investors to make a more detailed assessment of the public offering. With the IPO scheduled to open on September 17 and listing expected on September 24, Sonaselection India is set to become one of the companies attracting attention in the primary market this month. Market participants will now await the price-band announcement and further details of the issue before subscription begins.

Gold Posts One of Its Strongest August Rallies in 25 Years



Gold prices surged 13% in August 2026 to \$4,563 an ounce, marking one of the precious metal's strongest monthly rallies in 25 years, according to the World Gold Council. The sharp increase was driven primarily by strong inflows into gold-backed exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and a weaker US dollar. The rally highlights renewed investor interest in gold as global markets navigate economic and geopolitical uncertainty. Gold is traditionally viewed as a safe-haven asset, with demand often increasing when investors seek protection from currency volatility, geopolitical risks and concerns over economic growth. ETF inflows provided a significant boost to prices during August. Increased purchases through gold-backed investment products indicate stronger institutional and investor demand for the metal. Such inflows can amplify price movements by adding financial-market demand alongside physical consumption. The weaker US dollar also supported the rally. Since gold is primarily priced in dollars, a decline in the US currency generally makes the metal more affordable for investors holding other currencies. A softer dollar can therefore encourage demand and provide additional upward momentum to gold prices. With gold reaching \$4,563 an ounce, attention is now turning to the Federal Reserve's September interest-rate decision. Expectations surrounding US monetary policy are likely to remain a major influence on gold's near-term trajectory. Interest rates are particularly important for gold because the metal does not generate interest income. Expectations of lower interest rates can reduce the opportunity cost of holding gold compared with interest-bearing assets, potentially supporting demand. Conversely, expectations of higher rates can strengthen the dollar and put pressure on gold. The Federal Reserve's September decision will be assessed against changing economic and geopolitical signals. Investors are likely to closely monitor inflation, employment and broader economic data for clues about the future path of US monetary policy. The August rally has strengthened gold's position as one of the key performers in global commodity markets this year. However, after such a sharp monthly increase, price volatility could remain elevated as investors reassess their positions ahead of the Fed decision. For gold investors, the combination of ETF demand, dollar movements, monetary-policy expectations and geopolitical developments will remain crucial. A continuation of strong ETF inflows and expectations of easier monetary policy could provide further support, while a stronger dollar or hawkish signals from the Federal Reserve could trigger profit-taking. The September rate decision therefore represents an important test for gold after its exceptional August performance.

Innovision, Enviro Infra Shares Rise on Contract Wins

Stock-specific buying remained in focus on Dalal Street on September 9, with investors reacting to fresh corporate developments even as broader market sentiment remained weak. Shares of Innovision surged 12% after the company received a Letter of Award (LoA) worth Rs 243 crore. The contract win triggered strong buying interest, with investors viewing the order as a positive development for the company's business prospects and future revenue visibility. Enviro Infra Engineers was another stock that attracted attention, rising 6% after the company announced a new contract win. The gains reflected investor optimism over the company's order pipeline and prospects for stronger business activity. The positive movement in the two stocks came against a backdrop of weakness across several sectors. The IT index declined 3%, emerging as the biggest sectoral laggard during the session. The IT sector remained under pressure as investors continued to assess global economic conditions and their potential impact on technology



companies. Auto, FMCG, media and realty indices also traded lower, declining almost 1% each. The weakness across these sectors indicated that selling pressure remained relatively broad-based, rather than being confined to a single segment of the market. However, metal and energy stocks bucked the broader trend. Both the metal and energy indices gained around 1%, providing some support to the market. The strength in these sectors came as investors continued to track commodity

prices and developments in global markets. The contrasting sectoral performance highlighted the importance of company-specific triggers in the ongoing volatile market environment. While broader indices remained under pressure, stocks announcing new contracts or orders attracted buying interest as investors focused on earnings visibility and potential business growth. For Innovision, the Rs 243 crore LoA represents a significant business development and is likely to

remain a key focus for investors as they assess the company's order book and execution capabilities. The market will track the company's progress in implementing the contract and its potential contribution to future financial performance. Similarly, Enviro Infra Engineers' contract win strengthened sentiment around the stock, with investors looking for further order inflows and sustained growth in the company's infrastructure business. The sharp gains in both stocks demonstrate how fresh orders can drive stock-specific momentum even when the broader market is weak. Investors, however, are likely to remain cautious as sectoral volatility persists and benchmark indices face continued selling pressure. With IT stocks leading declines while metal and energy shares gained, trading remained highly selective. Corporate order announcements such as those from Innovision and Enviro Infra Engineers provided pockets of strength amid a largely subdued market.

Tim Cook Replies To Tech Founder In 4 Days

Melvin Hagberg, founder and CEO of Scape, was left stunned after Apple executive Tim Cook personally replied to an email he sent just four days earlier. The unexpected exchange quickly attracted attention on social media, with Hagberg using the experience to encourage people to simply reach out to influential figures. Hagberg said he decided to email Cook after the Apple executive stepped down as CEO and passed the role to John Ternus. The message was not a business proposal or request. Instead, Hagberg wrote to express his admiration and thank Cook for his contribution to Apple. "I have such massive respect for

you as a CEO, and everything you've done for Apple as a company," Hagberg wrote. "You are a huge inspiration for me. Thanks for everything!" To his surprise, Cook responded with a short but personalised message: "I appreciate your very kind note. Thanks so much." Hagberg later shared the exchange online, writing, "I emailed Tim Cook last week. He replied." He added a simple observation that resonated with many users: "You can literally just email people." The interaction prompted social media users to share their own experiences of contacting prominent business leaders and receiving unexpected responses.



One user recalled emailing Mark Cuban on a Sunday morning about getting his daughter's inhaler listed on Cost Plus Drugs. According to the user, Cuban replied within hours, connected them with an employee and helped them purchase the medicine at a significantly lower price. Another person said they were continually surprised that email could provide access to almost anyone, regardless of whether the recipient was a CEO or another public figure. However, another user noted that responses are not guaranteed. They said they had previously contacted Cook about a safety issue involving an Apple device but did

not receive a response, highlighting the element of chance involved in reaching high-profile executives. Cook has led Apple since 2011 and will become the company's executive chairman. John Ternus, who succeeds him as CEO, has described Cook as an important mentor. The exchange between Hagberg and Cook has therefore become more than a brief email conversation. For many online users, it served as a reminder that reaching out directly can occasionally result in an unexpected response from even the most prominent figures in the technology industry.

Samsung's Advice To Apple On Foldable iPhone

As Apple prepares to enter the foldable smartphone market, rival Samsung has offered some advice based on its own experience: keep the device as light as possible. Reports suggest Apple is preparing to launch its first foldable iPhone, rumoured to be called the iPhone Ultra. The device is expected to be unveiled as the company enters a category that Samsung has been developing for years. Speaking to WIRED, Samsung welcomed Apple's entry into the foldable market and said competition was "absolutely welcome". However, the company emphasised that weight remains one of the biggest challenges for foldable smartphones and could determine how easily consumers adopt the technology. Samsung has spent seven years working on the engineering challenges associated with foldable devices. Hee-Cheul Moon, head of Samsung's Advanced Mechanical R&D Group, said the company was proud to see other brands entering a category it helped pioneer. "The key to providing the highest



customer value in this market is all about the weight of the device. As you know, it's not easy," Moon said. Foldable phones generally require additional components compared with conventional smartphones. A large internal display, specialised hinges and extra structural elements can all add weight, making the devices heavier to carry and use.

Samsung reportedly made extensive changes while developing its latest Galaxy Z Fold line. Engineers re-evaluated approximately 270 core components and more than 180 support parts in an effort to reduce the device's overall weight. The company ultimately brought its flagship book-style foldable down to around 201 grams, making it lighter than many conventional

premium smartphones. Apple's upcoming foldable iPhone could be considerably heavier. Leaks suggest the device may weigh between 230 and 241 grams, putting it above Samsung's latest foldable in terms of weight. The expected device is also rumoured to carry a premium price tag. According to Bloomberg, Apple has targeted a price of around \$1,999, positioning the phone just below the psychologically important \$2,000 mark. With Apple now reportedly preparing to enter the segment, the competition between the two technology giants is set to intensify. While Samsung has years of experience with foldable smartphones, Apple's entry could bring significant attention to the category. For consumers, the focus may ultimately come down to whether Apple can combine its design approach with the durability and portability expected from a premium foldable phone. Samsung's message is clear: when it comes to foldables, every gram matters.

BYD Claims 12-Minute EV Charging In Extreme Cold



Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD has claimed that its latest Flash Charging technology can charge an electric vehicle from 20% to 97% in just 12 minutes at temperatures as low as -30 degrees Celsius. The company says the technology is aimed at addressing one of the biggest challenges for electric vehicles in extreme weather: slower charging and reduced battery performance in very cold conditions. According to information published by BYD, its second-generation Blade Battery is designed to maintain strong charging performance even in severe cold. Under normal-temperature conditions, BYD says its Flash Charging system can charge a battery from 10% to 97% in nine minutes. In a separate test conducted at -30 degrees Celsius, the battery reportedly reached 97% from a starting level of 20% in 12 minutes. BYD has clarified that these figures are based on its own testing. They should therefore be viewed as company-reported performance figures rather than independently verified benchmarks. The company is also rapidly expanding the infrastructure required to support its high-speed charging technology. BYD said it opened its 10,000th Flash Charging station in China on August 28, 2026. The network had reached 332 cities across the country, while the company has set a target of building 20,000 Flash Charging stations in China by the end of 2026. BYD says its Flash Charging system can deliver charging power of up to 1,500 kW. However, the actual charging speed experienced by a vehicle can vary depending on factors such as the battery, charging system and operating conditions. The development comes as Chinese EV manufacturers compete to reduce charging time, one of the major concerns among potential electric vehicle buyers. While EV technology has advanced significantly, long charging times compared with conventional refuelling remain a barrier to wider adoption. The company's cold-weather claim is particularly significant because low temperatures can reduce battery efficiency and increase charging times. If BYD's reported performance can be consistently reproduced under real-world conditions, the technology could make electric vehicles more practical in colder regions. At the same time, the 12-minute figure should not be interpreted as a universal charging time for every BYD vehicle. It represents a specific performance claim involving the company's Flash Charging technology and second-generation Blade Battery under stated test conditions. BYD's push reflects the growing race among EV manufacturers to deliver faster charging, stronger battery performance and greater usability across different climates.

Greater Noida Man Gets Cow Dung Instead Of Android Device

A resident of Greater Noida was left shocked after an online order for an Android device worth Rs 1,999 arrived with cow dung instead of the electronic product he had paid for. The incident has been reported as a suspected case of online shopping fraud, with police now investigating how the parcel was substituted. The victim, identified as Akash Nagar, lives in the area under Dankaur police station. According to Nagar, he had ordered an Android device through an online website a few days earlier for work purposes. He made the full payment online and expected the product to be delivered within the promised period. The parcel reached his home by courier at around 5:00 PM on Monday. However, when Nagar opened the package, he was stunned to discover cow dung manure inside instead of the device. "I ordered a device worth Rs 1,999, but received a packet of cow dung manure instead," Nagar said. He added that he had lodged a complaint with the cyber crime police and sought strict action against those responsible. The unusual delivery has raised concerns over the risks associated with purchasing products from unfamiliar online platforms. While fraudulent websites and fake sellers can advertise electronic products at attractive prices, buyers can sometimes receive counterfeit goods, unrelated items or, in this case, material bearing no resemblance to the product ordered. Police officials confirmed that an investigation into the incident is underway. Authorities are examining the website through which the order was placed, along with the payment transaction and courier delivery details. Investigators are also expected to verify the credentials of the seller and trace the movement of the parcel to determine where the alleged substitution occurred. Further legal action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation, police said. The incident also highlights the importance of exercising caution while shopping online, particularly when purchasing expensive electronic products. Cybersecurity experts regularly advise consumers to verify the credentials of sellers before making payments and to prefer established companies or official websites. Buyers are also advised to be cautious about unverified third-party sellers and unfamiliar shopping platforms. Checking website details, payment security measures, seller ratings and return policies can help reduce the risk of falling victim to online fraud. For Akash Nagar, however, the online shopping experience ended with something far removed from the Android device he had ordered - a parcel containing cow dung instead of the product for which he had already paid.



Meta Layoff Made Employee Richer

Losing a job is generally considered a major financial setback, but one former Meta employee claims that being laid off actually left them financially better off. In an anonymous post on career platform Blind, the former tech professional explained how a carefully timed job switch allowed them to earn income from two employers at the same time. According to the employee, they received a termination notice from Meta but managed to secure a new job almost immediately. They then joined the new company a couple of months before their official departure period from Meta ended. As a result, they continued receiving salary from Meta while also collecting paychecks from their new employer for around three months. The employee also received a scheduled stock payout from Meta during the notice period, further increasing the financial benefit of the unexpected job loss. "I started a new job a couple months before the end of my termination period and collected about 3 months of meta paychecks



while collecting paycheck from new job," the former employee wrote in the post. They added that they also received their August stock vest and invested about an additional \$30,000. According to the employee, this left them with considerably more money in their accounts than they would have had if they had not been laid off. "Isn't this kind of ironic or does this mean that getting laid off from big tech can be a good thing if you play your cards right," the

employee questioned. The post quickly attracted attention and sparked a debate among technology workers and social media users. While some appeared to congratulate the former Meta employee on turning an unpleasant situation into a financial opportunity, others questioned whether the experience could be considered representative of the broader technology job market. One commenter argued that the situation was not something to celebrate, claiming that layoffs and

workplace uncertainty can have serious consequences for employees and their families. Another user congratulated the employee but warned against viewing the experience as typical. The commenter pointed to what they described as survivorship bias, saying that the current job market is unusually difficult and competitive. "The top 20% are doing well, the rest are in cutthroat positions," the user wrote. The discussion highlights how the financial impact of a technology layoff can vary significantly depending on circumstances. While severance arrangements, notice periods, stock vesting schedules and the ability to secure another job quickly can cushion the impact for some workers, others may struggle to find new employment after losing a position. For the former Meta employee, however, an unexpected layoff appears to have temporarily created an unusual financial advantage rather than the setback normally associated with losing a job.

Piyush Goyal, Kiren Rijiju Join AI 80s Photo Trend

A wave of nostalgia is taking social media by storm as users turn to artificial intelligence to recreate their photographs in the style of the 1980s. The viral trend, often called the ChatGPT 80s photo trend, has now attracted celebrities, influencers and Indian politicians, who are sharing AI-generated images featuring the fashion, hairstyles and photography styles associated with the decade. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was among the political figures to embrace the trend. Sharing an AI-generated retro image, Goyal wrote, "Vibing to the 80s trend." In the picture, Goyal appears in a tailored grey suit, white shirt and aviator sunglasses. The image uses sepia tones, film grain and a faded texture to give it the appearance of an old studio portrait. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also joined the trend, sharing his own retro-inspired image on X. His picture shows him wearing sunglasses, a blazer and an open shirt while posing beside a car. Rijiju accompanied the image with a tongue-in-cheek caption about the sudden return of 1980s nostalgia. "Why is everyone going back to the 80s vibes? I'm also forced to 80s



nostalgia," he wrote. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also joined the viral trend by sharing an AI-generated throwback image. He wrote, "Getting to any trend which has nostalgia attached to it. Back to

the 80s eh!" The concept goes beyond simply applying a vintage filter to an existing photograph. Users can ask an AI image-generation tool to recreate their appearance as though the photograph had actually been taken during the

1980s. Prompts can instruct the AI to retain recognisable facial features while changing clothing, hairstyles, accessories, poses, backgrounds and lighting. The resulting images can resemble old family photographs, Bollywood publicity stills, magazine portraits, wedding pictures or classic studio photographs. For an Indian 1980s aesthetic, users commonly choose colourful sarees, statement jewellery, voluminous hairstyles, mustaches, wide-collared shirts, high-waisted trousers and retro sunglasses. Vintage studio backdrops, warm lighting, soft focus, faded colours and analogue-style film grain are also used to strengthen the period look. The trend draws heavily from 1980s Bollywood, where dramatic poses, elaborate costumes, bold hairstyles and studio photography were prominent features of popular visual culture. The participation of political figures such as Piyush Goyal, Kiren Rijiju and Himanta Biswa Sarma shows how quickly AI-generated nostalgia has moved beyond entertainment and influencer circles. By recreating familiar personalities through a distinctly retro lens, the trend has given social media users a playful way to revisit the visual style of a bygone era.

Courtois Puts Belgium Career on Hold Until 2027

Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois has decided to put his international career on standby until September 2027, meaning he will miss the upcoming Nations League campaign under new head coach Mark Van Bommel.

The 34-year-old Real Madrid goalkeeper has made 115 appearances for Belgium and played his most recent international match at this summer's World Cup. However, he has opted not to take part in the entire Nations League campaign and plans to return to the Red Devils squad for the Euro 2028 qualifiers next year.

Belgium's Nations League campaign begins with a match against Italy on September 25. Courtois will not be available for the fixture or the remainder of the competition unless an injury crisis forces Van Bommel to call him up.

"I have made the choice not to play the entire Nations League campaign with the Red Devils," Courtois told Belgian newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws after Real Madrid's 2-1 Champions League



victory over Inter Milan on Tuesday.

"Unless the national coach runs into injury problems; then I can be called up exceptionally," he added.

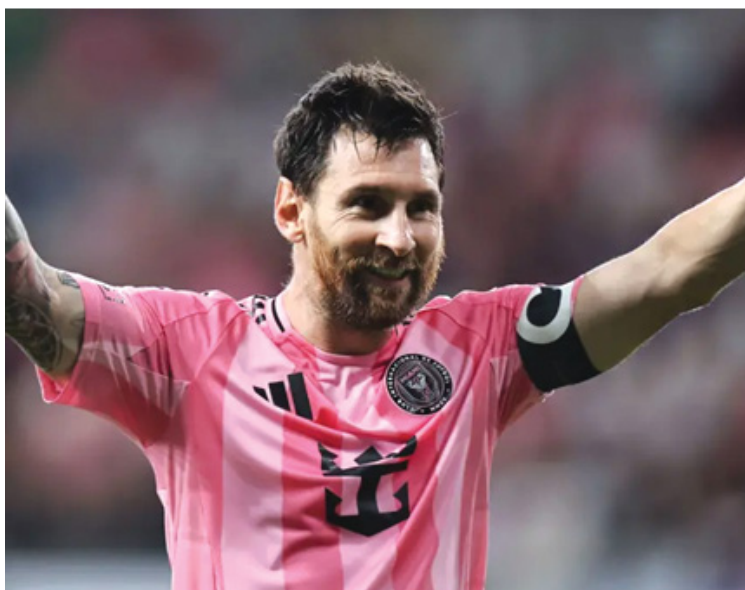
Courtois' decision follows a conversation with Van Bommel, who had informed the goalkeeper that he could not guarantee him the starting No. 1 position. Rather

than competing for the role during the Nations League, Courtois has chosen to step away temporarily and return when Belgium begins its European Championship qualifying campaign. "I am making myself available again for the European Championship qualifiers," Courtois said. The decision could provide an opportunity for

younger goalkeepers to establish themselves in the Belgium team. Among the options available to Van Bommel are Manchester United's 24-year-old Senne Lammens and Chelsea's 21-year-old Mike Penders.

Courtois, however, made clear that his temporary absence does not mean he has given up his ambitions with the national team. He intends to compete for his place when he returns. "If the goalkeeper playing in the Nations League performs well, Van Bommel might continue with him," Courtois said. "However, I want to fight for my place. I want to prove that I can be the first-choice keeper again." The move gives Van Bommel an opportunity to assess Belgium's younger goalkeeping options while Courtois focuses on his club commitments with Real Madrid. The experienced goalkeeper is expected to return to international duty in September 2027, with his sights firmly set on reclaiming the starting position.

Messi Agrees to Buy Spanish Second-Tier Club Eldense



Argentine football great Lionel Messi has reached an agreement in principle to become the new owner of Spanish second-tier club C.D. Eldense, marking another major step in the Inter Miami forward's growing involvement in football club ownership.

Eldense said Messi is close to completing a deal to purchase 100% of the shares held by Colombian investment group TH Soluciones Group S.A.S., the club's current majority shareholder. The transaction is expected to be completed in the coming days, although several legal and regulatory procedures remain pending.

"At this time, the operation is pending completion of the final legal and contractual procedures, including the corresponding due diligence process, as well as the mandatory authorisation from the High Council for Sports (CSD)," Eldense told Reuters.

The club said it could not provide a fixed date for the completion of the takeover. TH Soluciones Group has also been contacted for comment.

Messi, 39, is poised to become the majority owner of a second Spanish club. Earlier this year, on April 16, he purchased UE Cornellà, a club competing in Spain's fifth tier. His latest move involving Eldense further underlines his interest in football beyond his playing career.

Messi is also expected to receive a stake in Inter Miami after his current playing contract with the Major League Soccer club expires.

Eldense were taken over by TH Soluciones Group last October and currently occupy 20th position in the Segunda standings. The club's recent history has been marked by a significant rise through the Spanish football pyramid, having spent years competing in regional divisions before reaching the country's second tier.

A takeover by Messi would bring global attention to a club currently battling near the bottom of the Segunda table. It would also add another prominent name to the growing list of footballers investing in clubs and taking on ownership roles while still active in the sport.

For Messi, the Eldense deal represents an expansion of his football portfolio in Spain, where he spent the majority of his illustrious playing career with Barcelona. With the final legal procedures and CSD authorisation still required, the formal completion of the acquisition is now the remaining step before Messi can officially take control of Eldense.

Akram Says Pakistan Cricket Problems Run Too Deep



Pakistan great Wasim Akram has admitted that he does not believe he can single-handedly help revive the country's cricketing standards, arguing that the problems within the system run far deeper than the performances of the national team or decisions made by the cricket board.

Pakistan's cricket team is enduring a difficult period and is facing England in the third and final Test of the three-match series at Edgbaston. Akram said he would not be surprised if Pakistan suffered another defeat and completed a 3-0 series sweep by England.

The former Pakistan captain believes the team's struggles are the result of problems at multiple levels, including the mentality of some players and weaknesses in the domestic system.

Akram said Pakistan has a saying that two hands are needed to clap, underlining that improvement requires collective effort rather than depending on one individual.

"I knew before the series we were going to lose 3-0 to England," Akram said. "Our batting is struggling, our bowling is below average and our fielding is worse. It's not rocket science."

Akram has repeatedly been asked whether he could play a role in helping Pakistan cricket recover. However, the legendary fast bowler believes the difficulties are too deep and widespread to be solved simply by his involvement.

"I get asked all the time, 'Can you do something to help Pakistan cricket?' But the issues are a lot deeper. These are the top players, there's nothing else there. The systems aren't there below that," he said.

According to Akram, Pakistan's domestic first-class structure has suffered from a lack of consistency and patience in recent years. He believes those problems eventually affect the national team because there is not a strong and stable system consistently producing quality players.

"The first-class structure domestically has been all over the place the last few years and there's no consistency, no patience," Akram said.

He also pointed to the reaction of supporters, saying repeated changes and frustration following defeats had contributed to a situation in which little stability remained.

"That dribbles down to the fans, too. They see the team lose and they want to rip it all up, too. We've done that so many times and now there is nothing really left," he said.

Pakistan are set to field multiple debutants in the third Test against England, beginning Wednesday. The match comes at a critical juncture for a side struggling for consistency across batting, bowling and fielding. Akram's comments highlight the scale of the challenge facing Pakistan cricket, with the former fast bowler suggesting that rebuilding the game will require long-term structural reforms, patience and a stronger domestic pathway rather than another short-term change at the top.

Indian Cricketers to Stay at Asian Games Hotels in Nagoya

Indian cricketers competing at the upcoming Asian Games in Japan will stay at accommodation designated by the Games organisers in Nagoya, BCCI vice-president Rajiv Shukla said, dismissing concerns over the quality of hotels arranged for the team.

Shukla said the accommodation issue arose because Nagoya has a limited number of top-rated hotels. While the players will not be staying in the five-star properties normally used by the Indian team on overseas tours, he said the arrangements were comfortable and had been reviewed by the BCCI.

"Whatever they (organisers) are providing, we are staying there and we are keeping a watch what kind of accommodation is being given so that our players are comfortable. Definitely those are not of five-star but a good accommodation," Shukla said at the send-off ceremony of the Indian contingent.

He added that the BCCI had received photographs and videos of the proposed accommodation and was satisfied with the facilities. Sending the players to Tokyo



or Osaka was considered impractical because both cities are located away from Nagoya.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha also said the accommodation issue had been resolved, although there was some lack of clarity over which organisation had booked rooms for the cricketers. "No problem, I think. We have already booked. For every player, we cannot book hotel rooms because the accommodation is not like (Athletes') Village. They (organisers) are providing a ship and small villas also," Usha

told PTI.

Usha said the IOA had arranged hotels for other athletes, while the BCCI had also made arrangements for the cricketers. Shukla clarified that Indian players would not stay in twin-sharing rooms and would instead have separate rooms.

The team will leave for Tokyo on September 20 and play a historic T20 match against Japan on September 22. India will begin their Asian Games campaign on September 28.

Shukla said the more important concerns had been related to the

playing conditions, including the ground, wickets and dressing rooms. An Asian Cricket Council (ACC) team had inspected the facilities and was satisfied with the arrangements.

"The big issue was the ground, wicket and dressing rooms. They (organisers) have addressed those things. Asian Cricket Council's team had gone there and now they (ACC team) are satisfied with the ground, the wickets and dressing rooms, everything is fine," he said. According to Shukla, accommodation is being organised by the Indian Olympic Association, Asian Games Organising Committee and Japan Cricket Association. He said assurances were given at an ACC meeting in Bangkok that player comfort would be prioritised.

India are the defending champions in both the men's and women's competitions from the last Asian Games in China. Shukla also rejected speculation that India were sending a second-string team, saying the country would field a strong and talented contingent with hopes of winning in Japan.

Iyer to Miss West Indies ODIs for Asian Games Duty

India batter Shreyas Iyer will miss the upcoming ODI series against the West Indies as he leads the country's men's cricket team at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan, creating an unusual situation for Indian cricket in October.

Iyer, who serves as the T20I captain for the Asian Games squad, is also the vice-captain of India's ODI team. He was appointed to the ODI vice-captaincy in October 2025. However, his Asian Games commitments mean he will be unavailable for the ODI series against the West Indies, which takes place at the same time as the continental event.

India's men's cricket team will directly enter the Asian Games quarter-finals on September 28 in Aichi-Nagoya. The semi-finals are scheduled for October 1, while the medal matches will be played on October 3. The third ODI between India and the West Indies is also scheduled for October 3 in New Chandigarh.

If India reach the Asian Games final, two Indian cricket teams could therefore be playing on the same day in different countries.



The Asian Games matches will be played in the T20 format, with Iyer leading the Indian side.

The Indian men's team is expected to reach Japan before September 22. On that day, Iyer-led India will face Japan in a historic T20 match. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Mithun Manhas has backed both the men's and women's cricket teams to per-

form strongly at the Asian Games. He expressed confidence in the entire Indian contingent and said the athletes' preparation and enthusiasm could help them win gold medals.

"I wish them all the very best, not just the cricket teams, but our entire contingent heading to the Asian Games. I hope they give their best performance. The entire

country is behind them, and so are we. I wish them every success and hope they win gold medals and bring glory to the nation," Manhas told ANI.

He added that the hard work put in by the players had created confidence within the squad.

"Absolutely, there will be a full effort from the team. Given the hard work they have put in and the enthusiasm within the squad, I am confident they can win gold and make the country proud," he said.

India's Asian Games squad includes captain Shreyas Iyer, Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Shivam Dube, vice-captain Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

India are the defending champions in both the men's and women's cricket competitions from the previous Asian Games in China, and the team will be aiming to retain its title in Japan.

Shelton Knocks Out Defending Champion Alcaraz

Ben Shelton stunned defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling five-set quarter-final at the US Open 2026, ending the World No. 2's bid to retain his title and securing the biggest win of his career against the Spanish star.

Shelton defeated Alcaraz 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(7) in a dramatic contest that featured huge momentum swings and lasted deep into the early hours. The American claimed his first career victory over Alcaraz and advanced to his second Grand Slam semi-final.

Alcaraz, returning to competitive action after a four-month injury absence, showed signs of rust throughout the match. The Spaniard struggled to reach several shots that he would normally cover comfortably, while Shelton consistently pressured him with powerful serving, aggressive returns and blistering forehand winners.

The opening set was tightly contested, with Alcaraz eventually edging Shelton in the tiebreak. However, the American responded emphatically in the second set.



Moving forward on returns and taking control of rallies, Shelton raced through the set 6-1 before continuing his momentum into the third.

Shelton broke early in the third set and maintained his advantage to win it 6-3, leaving Alcaraz facing elimination. The defending cham-

pion refused to surrender, however, raising his level in the fourth set with precise baseline hitting and greater consistency.

Alcaraz dominated the fourth set 6-1 to force a deciding set, setting up a tense finish on Arthur Ashe Stadium. The match continued past 2:50 am local time and eventu-

ally ended at 3:33 am, making it the latest finish in US Open history.

The final set was another closely fought battle, with neither player able to secure a break. The contest ultimately went into a deciding tiebreak, where Shelton kept his composure under immense pressure.

The American closed out the tiebreak 10-7 to complete a memorable victory. Backed by a passionate home crowd, Shelton's fearless shot-making and powerful serving proved crucial at the decisive moments.

For Alcaraz, the defeat brought a disappointing end to his first tournament following his extended injury layoff. Although he produced flashes of the form that helped him win the previous US Open, his lack of match sharpness appeared costly against an opponent playing with confidence.

Shelton now moves into the semi-finals with considerable momentum and the belief that he can challenge for his first Grand Slam title after eliminating the defending champion in one of the tournament's most dramatic matches.

Vijay Deverakonda's Ranbali Teaser Creates Buzz

Vijay Deverakonda is back in a powerful mass avatar with Ranbali, a period action drama directed by Rahul Sankrityan. The teaser of the upcoming film has been released, creating considerable buzz on social media and raising expectations among fans. The teaser combines emotion, action and intense drama, with the story set against the backdrop of the British era and a devastating famine. The visuals depict the people of Annapurna Desh struggling with starvation and desperately fighting for a handful of grains. The scenes underline the suffering of ordinary people during one of the darkest periods in the region's history.

Vijay Deverakonda's introduction is one of the major highlights of the teaser. His imposing screen presence, body language and dialogue delivery showcase a different intensity compared with his recent films.

His character's fierce determination is reflected in a mass dialogue about protecting every grain from crossing the border while the people struggle for food.

The teaser indicates that Ranbali draws inspiration from real events between 1854 and 1878, particularly the devastating famine of 1876-78. References to the enormous loss of life caused by hunger and the anger that followed suggest that the film will explore the resistance and fighting spirit of people facing extreme hardship.

The teaser also features powerful lines conveying the scale of the tragedy, including a reference to millions of people who died of hunger and the anger left behind by their deaths. These elements indicate that the film aims to combine its action-driven narrative with an emotional and historical backdrop.

Ranbali is produced by Mythri Movie Makers and presented by T-Series. Rashmika Mandanna is paired opposite Vijay Deverakonda, while Hollywood actor Arnold Vosloo plays a ruthless antagonist. The film has been mounted on a large scale, with elaborate sets, action sequences and an intense background score adding to its visual impact. The combination of Vijay Deverakonda's mass image, Rahul Sankrityan's period setting and the historical backdrop has further increased curiosity around the project. The makers have announced that Ranbali will be released worldwide on October 16 as a Dussehra special. With the teaser receiving a strong response, expectations are high that the film could become an important milestone in Vijay Deverakonda's career.

Is Amitabh Bachchan Quitting KBC?

Superstar Amitabh Bachchan has sparked speculation about his future on Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) after sharing an emotional note about his experience hosting the popular quiz show. In a recent blog post, Bachchan reflected on the deeply personal stories shared by contestants who appear on the programme. He said some participants arrive carrying serious and painful experiences, making it emotionally difficult for him to continue hosting the show. "Some contestants come with such grave personal stories, that it becomes difficult to conduct not just our feelings for them but also to continue hosting the show," Bachchan wrote. He added that he would not elaborate further, saying it could affect the understanding between a host and the channel. Bachchan described the experience as "heart-breaking", leaving fans wondering whether his remarks could indicate that he is considering stepping away from KBC. However, his post did not explicitly confirm that he is quitting the show. Kaun Banega Crorepati currently airs Monday to Friday at 9 pm on Sony Entertainment Television. The programme is the Indian adaptation of the British quiz show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? KBC marked Bachchan's first major television appearance and played an important role in strengthening his connection with audiences across generations. Since its launch, the show has evolved beyond a

conventional quiz programme, largely because of the emotional stories and personal journeys of its contestants. Bachchan's distinctive hosting style, memorable interactions with participants and his iconic "lock kiya jaye" line have become closely associated with the programme. The actor has hosted most seasons of KBC, turning the show into one of the most enduring television properties in India. His latest emotional comments have therefore generated considerable curiosity among viewers. For now, there is no official confirmation that Bachchan is leaving KBC. His remarks appear to reflect the emotional impact of listening to contestants' personal struggles rather than a confirmed announcement about his departure.

Suriya's

Film With Jithu Madhavan Titled Scene

Suriya's much-awaited collaboration with director Jithu Madhavan has been titled Scene, with the makers announcing that the film will hit worldwide screens on November 6 for Deepavali 2026.

Suriya shared the title teaser on his X timeline, introducing the project that was until now being referred to as Suriya 47. The actor wrote that the film would arrive in cinemas on November 6, adding to the excitement surrounding the Deepavali release.

The teaser opens with a voice-over questioning whether Suriya's character's talent is being used to hide his allegedly unpleasant nature. The film then introduces Suriya as a police officer named Inbaraj, who arrives at a crime scene and asks a constable who was killed. The constable replies that Inbaraj is there to find out.

The teaser presents Inbaraj as an intimidating and unpredictable police officer. A character describes him as someone who sits casually, smokes and displays an attitude, while a jail warden says suspects begin behaving erratically whenever they see him.

The warden is also shown warning prisoners to remain inside their cells because Inbaraj is arriving. In another striking sequence, Inbaraj tells a constable to look closely at his face, explaining that while he may be the only police officer who has arrested him, the constable is merely one among nearly 900 criminals he has sent to prison.

These glimpses suggest that Scene will revolve around a police character with an unconventional and intimidating personality. The teaser has already generated curiosity among fans eager to see Suriya in a new role under Jithu Madhavan's direction.

The film went on floors with a traditional pooja ceremony in December last year. It is produced by Zhagaram Studios and has been among the most anticipated projects since the collaboration between Suriya and Jithu Madhavan was announced.

Nazriya Nazim plays the female lead, while rising actor Naslen has an important role. The cast also includes John Vijay and Anandaraj, among others.

Scene also features a strong technical team. Vineeth Augustian is handling cinematography, while Sushin Shyam is composing the music. Ashwini Kale is responsible for production design and Ajmal Sabu for editing. Chethan D Souza is the stunt choreographer.

With Suriya portraying the intense police character Inbaraj and Jithu Madhavan at the helm, Scene is expected to be a major Deepavali release.

The film is scheduled to reach theatres worldwide on November 6.

Nivetha Thomas Returns With Women-Centric Film Srimathi

Actress Nivetha Thomas is set to return to the big screen after a gap of nearly two years with a women-centric film titled Srimathi. The makers have unveiled the first look of the project, featuring Nivetha in the role of a middle-class homemaker.

The first look presents the actress in a kitchen setting, offering a glimpse into the character and the family-oriented world of the film. The makers have described Srimathi as a family entertainer that revolves around the life, experiences and challenges of a homemaker. The story is expected to explore everyday emotions and situations in a way that connects with audiences across households.

Srimathi is directed by Vishvak Khanderao, who previously helmed Skylab. The film is produced by Niranjana Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under the PrimeShow Entertainment banner.

Nivetha Thomas was last seen in the 2024 film 35 - Chinna Katha Kaadu, where her performance received appreciation from audiences. Following the film, the actress took a brief break from movies.

With Srimathi, Nivetha is returning with a story that places a female character at the centre of the narrative. Her portrayal of a homemaker marks a different setting and character space for the actress, who has previously appeared in a variety of roles across Telugu and other South Indian films. The makers are expected to announce further details about the cast, technical crew and release date in the coming days. With Nivetha Thomas leading a women-focused story and Vishvak Khanderao at the helm, Srimathi has already generated interest following the release of its first look.

Gandhari Review: Taapsee Leads a Routine Thriller

Taapsee has increasingly become a dependable choice for women-oriented stories in Bollywood, with several films proving her ability to carry a narrative on her shoulders. Gandhari, directed by Devashish Makhija, is another attempt in that space. The film has been streaming on Netflix since September 3 and is available in Hindi and other languages. The story follows Bani (Taapsee), who is travelling by train with her husband Gokul (Ishwak Singh) and their five-year-old daughter Misti. When the train stops at Jaipur station, an unidentified woman kidnaps Misti. In the attempt to save her daughter, Bani suffers severe damage to her eyesight. Despite repeatedly approaching the police for help, Bani finds little support.