



Pawan Kalyan-Led Forest Push Delivers Major Gains

Amaravati, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Konidala Pawan Kalyan has spearheaded a series of initiatives over the past two years aimed at strengthening wildlife protection, mitigating human-animal conflict, expanding green cover and improving the welfare of forest personnel, according to the achievements report of the Forest Department.

A key initiative is the HANUMAN Foundation (Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife), constituted through G.O. Ms. No. 75 in December 2025. Pawan Kalyan launched its statewide rollout in March 2026 with 23 rapid-response rescue vehicles, seven wildlife ambulances and 78 pooled vehicles, equipped with rescue gear, tranquilisation kits and GPS tracking systems.

Significant progress has also been made in managing human-elephant conflict. Andhra Pradesh strengthened cooperation with Karnataka and trained elephant trackers as mahouts and kavadi. Four trained Kumki elephants were inducted at the Musalimadugu Elephant Camp near Palamaner, Chittoor district, and have participated in 13 conflict-elephant operations. A new elephant holding area at Gutchimi in Parvathipuram Manyam district was established at a cost of Rs.3 crore and inaugurated by Pawan Kalyan in July 2026.

Between June 2024 and the present, the Forest Department reported 199 wildlife rescues, including tigers, elephants, leopards, crocodiles, snakes and birds, besides 40 wildlife-driving operations. Human deaths linked to wildlife conflict fell from 12 to four during 2025-26, a 66.7% reduction.

Compensation for victims of human-wildlife conflict was also enhanced. Human death compensation was doubled from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh, while grievous injury compensation increased from Rs.75,000 to Rs.2 lakh, besides medical expenses. Under community-based eco-tourism, 16 new centres were

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Vijayawada Mayor Race Heats Up Ahead of Local Body Polls

Ravi Podili

The political heat has intensified in Vijayawada following the coalition government's announcement on the conduct of local body elections. With the announcement raising hopes among aspirants, the race for the prestigious Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Mayor post has already begun.

The Jana Sena Party is reportedly eyeing the Mayor's post this time. Party leaders have been insisting that the position be allotted to Jana Sena, arguing that the party has not received nominated posts, MLA or MLC positions, or other key posts from NTR district. There are also reports that an understanding was reached during the last Assembly elections to give the Vijayawada Mayor's post to Jana Sena after the Vijayawada West Assembly seat, which the party had expected, was unexpectedly allotted to the BJP.

The stakes have risen further with the government announcing that the Mayor will be elected directly by the people. Unlike the earlier system, under which the Mayor was generally chosen from among elected corporators based on the majority strength, voters will now directly elect the Mayor. This has prompted political parties to exercise greater caution



while selecting their candidates.

No party is willing to take a risk by fielding an unsuitable candidate for such a high-profile direct election. While Jana Sena leaders have openly claimed that an agreement has already been reached to allot the Mayor's post to their party, leaders of the TDP and BJP have remained silent on the issue. Although coalition leaders publicly maintain that they will follow the directions of their respective party leaderships, there are indications that sections within the TDP would prefer the Mayor's post to be allotted to the party.

The BJP, meanwhile, is also seeking to strengthen its political presence in Andhra Pradesh. Party leaders are reportedly keen to capture the Mayor posts in both Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada in the upcoming local body elections. While senior coalition leaders have largely refrained from making public statements, leaders at the second tier have been

voicing their respective positions.

The Jana Sena leadership's aspirations have particularly encouraged several second-rung leaders to enter the race. Potential contenders are already assessing their political strength, financial resources and organisational support as they prepare for the contest. Unlike an indirect election, where intense lobbying would typically determine the candidate, the direct-election system has prompted aspirants to begin their groundwork much earlier.

From Jana Sena, the names of Ammishetti Vasu and Baditha Shankar are reportedly gaining prominence in the race for the Mayor's post. Around ten aspirants from the Telugu Desam Party are also said to be in the fray, with the list expected to grow further. Several hopefuls are reportedly making efforts to win the confidence of their respective party leaderships.

The growing influence of Generation Z is also emerging

as a factor in political calculations. With political parties increasingly seeking to connect with younger voters, some senior leaders are reportedly looking at younger faces and their successors as potential candidates for prominent positions such as Mayor.

Among Jana Sena aspirants, Ammishetti Vasu and Baditha Shankar are currently being discussed prominently. Both leaders are said to have good relations with Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan and are independently working to strengthen their claims for the prestigious Vijayawada Mayor's post.

With the election notification yet to be issued, the contest is already generating considerable political activity in Vijayawada. The final decision on which coalition party will get the Mayor's post-and who will be its candidate-is expected to become one of the key talking points of the upcoming local body elections.



Chandrababu Pledges Narsapuram Development

Narsapuram, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said the coalition government was giving equal priority to welfare, development and good governance, with the economic empowerment of the poor at the centre of its policies.

Addressing a programme for the distribution of NTR Bharosa pensions at Mogalthur in the Narsapuram Assembly constituency on Tuesday, Chandrababu recalled that September 1 marked 31 years since he first became Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh. He said his governments had introduced several reforms aimed at improving public participation and governance.

The Chief Minister said Rs.73,507 crore had so far been distributed to beneficiaries through pensions, while Rs.1.50 lakh crore had been spent on welfare programmes over the past two years.

Highlighting women's empowerment, Chandrababu said DWCRA savings groups had created a strong foundation for economic independence. Under Deepam-2.0, women were being provided three free LPG cylinders annually. He said 33 per cent reservation had also been introduced to encourage greater participation of women in various sectors.

He said nearly one lakh DWCRA women became MSME entrepreneurs last year, with the government planning to expand the initiative further. Marketing support would be provided for their products through the 'Swayam' brand, he added.

Chandrababu said the government was taking steps to improve the economic and social conditions of SCs, STs and minorities. He also highlighted reservations for Vadderas in mining and today

tappers in liquor shops, along with the implementation of SC categorisation.

On irrigation, the Chief Minister said Krishna waters had been taken to drought-prone areas through the Veligonda Project. Efforts were underway to divert Godavari waters towards North Andhra, with plans to ensure water reaches Anakapalli and Visakhapatnam next year and subsequently the Vamsadhara region.

He said the government was working to attract major investments and create employment opportunities for youth. Power was being supplied to aqua farmers at Rs.1.50 per unit, while steps were being taken to make Andhra Pradesh's aquaculture products more competitive globally.

Chandrababu assured that the Narsapuram region would receive special attention. An Aquaculture University, dump yard and Delta Modernisation works would be taken up, he said.

He also said efforts were underway to expand online delivery of government services to families across the State and promote rooftop solar power under the PM Surya Ghar scheme.

The Chief Minister said strong local bodies were essential for rural development and called on sarpanches, ward members, MLAs and MPs to actively participate in governance. He alleged that attempts were being made to obstruct local body elections and development in the State.

Ministers Nimmala Ramanaidu and Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju, Union Minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, Whip Boliseti Srinivas and other leaders attended the programme.

Lokesh Sets September 2027 Target for 100% Literacy



Amaravati, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Education, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh has directed officials to work in mission mode to achieve 100 per cent literacy in the state by September 2027, citing significant progress under the government's Akshara Andhra programme. Lokesh reviewed the functioning of the School Education and Intermediate Education departments at his Undavalli residence and called for greater coordination among departments to accelerate literacy and school enrolment. Officials informed the minister that Andhra Pradesh's literacy rate, which stood at 72.6 per cent in 2024, has risen to 82.1 per cent, with around 25 lakh people becoming literate during the

past year. The Centre has reportedly appreciated the state's progress in adult literacy.

According to officials, plans are in place to make another 25 lakh people literate by March 2027 and the remaining 27 lakh by September. The programme is being implemented through coordination among 11 government departments. Lokesh asked officials to involve MLAs and local elected representatives in the initiative and undertake wider public awareness campaigns. Reviewing Intermediate Education, officials said admissions had increased by around 10,000 students this year compared with the previous year. Intermediate Education CommiAssioner Ranjit Basha said

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MP Bharat Slams Opposition Over Vizag Data Centre 'False Narratives'

Visakhapatnam, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Visakhapatnam TDP MP Mathukumilli Sribharat has criticised the Opposition over what he described as the spread of misinformation and false narratives surrounding the development of data centres in the city.

MP Sribharat said the rapid spread of information through social media has created a major challenge, with false claims often travelling faster than verified facts. He said the government and project stakeholders need to respond to such narratives with facts and transparent communication.

Referring to the ongoing development of data centres in Visakhapatnam, Sribharat said sites have already been allotted to Google and other upcoming projects. He added that he has been inviting critics, stakeholders and other interested parties to engage with him and examine the facts surrounding the projects.

However, the MP expressed concern that some critics have been reluctant to participate in fact-based discussions. He questioned whether such criticism was driven by genuine concerns, misinformation or vested interests.

Sribharat said governments have a responsibility to continuously communicate with citizens and provide clarity on issues concerning major development

projects. Addressing concerns over environmental clearances, he maintained that governments and companies are required to operate within the existing legal and regulatory framework.

He also pointed out that the law provides mechanisms through which certain projects can be processed and expedited. The MP questioned why a government should face criticism for completing legally compliant procedures quickly.

According to Sribharat, faster execution of projects and an improved ease of doing business environment should be viewed positively, provided all applicable laws and regulations are followed.

At the same time, he stressed that development cannot be measured only by the progress of projects. Public concerns and perceptions must also be addressed. He said authorities need to ensure that people not only benefit from development initiatives but also understand the positive impact such projects are expected to create.

The MP underlined the importance of continuous engagement with stakeholders and transparent communication in a democracy. He said his participation in a recent CNBC debate was also part of his effort to present facts, address concerns and maintain an open dialogue on Visakhapatnam's data-centre development

Rs.308 Crore Development Push for Pithapuram

Pithapuram, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Pithapuram town is set for a major infrastructure upgrade with development works worth Rs.308.24 crore being taken up under the special initiative of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The projects focus on underground drainage, drinking water supply, sewage treatment, waste management, roads, drains, parks and skill development infrastructure, with the objective of transforming Pithapuram into a modern and well-equipped town.

Rs.200 Crore Underground Drainage Project

The state government has sanctioned Rs.200 crore for an underground drainage system, covering nearly 120 km of underground sewage pipelines across Pithapuram municipality. Underground drainage lines will also be laid along both sides of the main Cheruku canal.



The project is expected to provide a long-term solution to the town's sewage problems, while improving sanitation, reducing mosquito-related risks and strengthening public health conditions.

Pawan Kalyan thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for allocating the funds and Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana for his support.

Rs.59.52 Crore for Drinking

Water Drinking water infrastructure is being strengthened with an investment of Rs.59.52 crore, including Rs.57.37 crore under AMRUT 2.0 and Rs.2.15 crore for supplying water to TIDCO housing units.

A new 82.29-km pipeline network has been proposed, while existing damaged pipelines are also being

replaced. A 600-kilolitre elevated water storage tank is under construction, with another 400-kilolitre tank planned. Nearly 5,000 new household tap connections will be provided. A major pipeline is also being laid to bring 55 lakh litres of water per day from Eleswararn reservoir. The overall objective is to meet the town's daily requirement of around 80 lakh litres and ensure safe water supply

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Lokesh: Aim to Make Mangalagiri No. 1 in All Sectors



Undavalli, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Education and IT Minister and Mangalagiri MLA Nara Lokesh has said his goal is to make Mangalagiri the number one constituency across all sectors, stressing that continued cooperation from officials will be crucial to achieving the objective. Lokesh hosted a special felici-

tation and dinner meeting at his Undavalli residence for officials, Mangalagiri Tadepalli Municipal Corporation (MTMC) and Revenue Department staff, and their family members who contributed to the successful distribution of permanent house pattsas to poor families in the constituency. Thanking the officials on behalf of the people of Mangalagiri,

Lokesh recalled his political journey in the constituency. He said he had neither been born nor raised in Mangalagiri and entered the constituency shortly before the 2019 elections. After losing that election by around 5,300 votes, he spent five years closely interacting with residents and understanding their problems.

He identified the demand for permanent house pattsas among families living for decades on government land as one of the constituency's major issues. Lokesh said he promised to provide permanent land rights during the 2024 elections and, after the coalition government came to power, fulfilled the commitment. The people of Mangalagiri subsequently elected him with a majority of 91,000 votes, he said.

According to Lokesh, officials conducted the enumeration process transparently and efficiently, enabling permanent house pattsas to be distributed to around 6,000 families in two phases.

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CM Praises Collector Nagarani as Women's Leadership Role Model

Mogalthuru, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday praised West Godavari District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani for her dedicated efforts towards district development and public welfare, describing her performance as an example of women's leadership and empowerment. Speaking at the 'Praja Vedika in the Service of the Poor' programme in Mogalthuru, the Chief Minister appreciated Nagarani's efficiency, commitment and proactive approach to implementing government welfare and development programmes. Naidu said Collector Nagarani was performing her responsibilities with the same efficiency and dedication expected of any senior



administrator and was making a significant contribution to the district's progress. He particularly appreciated her accessibility to the public and efforts to address people's concerns. The Chief Minister said women possessed immense talent, strength and leadership capabilities and could achieve greater heights when provided opportunities to demonstrate their potential. He urged women to draw inspiration from Nagarani and come forward to take up responsibilities across different sectors. There was no field in which women needed to remain behind, he said. Naidu stressed that commitment, efficiency and dedication enabled women to successfully handle challenging responsibilities and contribute meaningfully to public service and social development. His remarks were welcomed by officials, public representatives and women's groups attending the programme.

PVN Madhav, Satya Kumar Yadav Call for Public Participation in Viksit Bharat



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

BJP Andhra Pradesh president PVN Madhav called upon people from all sections of society to actively participate in building a Viksit Bharat, announcing month-long 'Seva Sankalpa Utsav' programmes across the country. Launching a state-level workshop at the Ramarao Convention Centre in Vijayawada on Tuesday, Madhav said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had dedi-

cated himself to national development and was addressing challenges through forward-looking policies. He highlighted the government's response during the Covid-19 pandemic and various development initiatives. State Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar Yadav, who is the southern states in-charge for the Seva Sankalpa Utsav, urged party workers to nurture creativity among children and connect youth with the country's future. He called for creating awareness about Viksit Bharat among students from the age of 15. Yadav suggested conducting drawing, essay-writing, speech and leadership competitions and collecting students' ideas about India's future through videos. He stressed that building Viksit Bharat was not Modi's responsibility alone but a collective responsibility of every citizen. The workshop also discussed party programmes and preparations for the month-long celebrations.

AP One to Simplify Services - Prakhar Jain

Amaravati, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government is working to make all citizen services seamlessly accessible online. Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) CEO Prakhar Jain said on Tuesday. Speaking at the inauguration of a two-day RTGS workshop for officials, Jain said government services must be simple, convenient and easily accessible, eliminating the need for citizens to repeatedly visit government offices or approach officials. Workshop focused on creating awareness about the newly developed AP One mobile application, which will bring multiple government services onto a single digital platform. Jain said the initiative was being implemented under the guidance of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and RTGS Minister Nara Lokesh. He noted that the existing Mana Mitra WhatsApp Governance platform had already received a positive response, with more than 1,000 government services available



through it. The AP One application will initially be launched with around 150 services, with more services to be added based on public requirements. It will feature a dedicated search facility and support both Telugu and English. Citizens will also be able to download various certificates directly through the application. Jain directed officials to ensure smooth service delivery and create awareness about the platform. RTGS Executive Assistant P. Srihar and other officials participated in the workshop.

Governor Honours District Collectors with Red Cross Awards



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, who is also President of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Andhra Pradesh State Branch, presented Red Cross awards to District Collectors of Bapatla, Krishna, Nellore,

Kakinada, West Godavari, Nandyal and Srikakulam districts. The awards were presented during the IRCS Annual General Meeting for 2024-25 at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram on Tuesday. The Governor congratulated the Collectors for their contribution towards mobilising resources for humanitarian services and appreciated other awardees for supporting CSR-funded projects. Abdul Nazeer highlighted Red Cross collaborations with organisations including Sankalp Foundation for Thalassaemia care, LN4 Tangience and Rotary International for prosthetic hands, and LV Prasad Eye Institute for cornea collection. He also appreciated awareness initiatives with the Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for a drug-free Andhra Pradesh. He noted that the 'Mee Intiki Mee Doctor' project aims to cover five lakh families across seven districts with an Rs.8.50-crore budget over three years. The Governor urged universities to establish Youth Red Cross units and integrate Red Cross activities into academic curricula. He also called for active participation in climate action and campaigns against single-use plastic.

Kasali Apparao Seeks Hike in Hostel Food Charges

Amaravati, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairman Kasali Apparao has urged Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to increase menu charges for students staying in government welfare hostels, citing rising prices of essential commodities. In a representation to the Chief Minister, Apparao said thousands of economically and socially disadvantaged students depend on government welfare hostels for accommodation and education. He noted that prices of rice, pulses, vegetables, cooking oil, milk, eggs, fruits and cooking gas had increased significantly, making the existing menu charges inadequate to provide nutritious meals. He urged the government to immediately review and substantially revise hostel menu charges in line with prevailing market prices. He also called for ensuring



a adequate quantities of eggs, milk, fruits, vegetables, pulses and other nutritious food items. Apparao suggested introducing a mechanism to periodically revise menu charges based on price fluctuations. He also sought regular monitoring of hostel kitchens, food quality and menu implementation. He stressed that special attention should be given to the nutritional requirements of children and adolescents, stating that quality education must be complemented by nutritious food for their healthy and secure future.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta Launches AP Police Sports Meet



Amaravati, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, IPS, has stressed that physical fitness and mental alertness are essential for effective policing, urging police personnel to make sports an integral part of their professional lives. He inaugurated the first AP State Police Sports and Games Meet-2026 at the APSP 6th Battalion grounds in Mangalagiri on Tuesday. The four-day event, being held from September 1 to 4, has brought together 1,900 police sportspersons from various ranges and units across the State. Around 450 officers, coaches, technical officials, team managers and support staff are also participating. Addressing the participants,

the DGP said sports help police personnel develop physical and mental strength needed to work long hours, handle stressful situations, make quick decisions and function effectively as teams. He urged participants to accept victory with humility and defeat with determination. He also stressed that their conduct on and off the field should reflect the discipline, dignity and professionalism of the police department. Competitions are being conducted at VIT-AP University and Acharya Nagarjuna University grounds. Senior police officials, including Additional DGP N. Madhusudan Reddy and other IPS officers, attended the inaugural event.

MP Lingamaneni Ramesh Seeks 13 JNVs

Amaravati, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha MP Lingamaneni Ramesh has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to provide budgetary support for establishing 13 new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) and two additional AIIMS institutions in Andhra Pradesh. In a representation to the Union Minister, Ramesh said Andhra Pradesh currently has 28 districts, but JNVs are operational in only 15, leaving 13 districts without the residential schools. He said around Rs.1,096 crore would be required over five years to establish JNVs in the remaining districts, based on the Centre's 2024 approval for 28 new JNVs nationwide.

The MP sought in-principle approval and multi-year budget allocations for the 13 schools, stressing their importance in providing quality residential education to talented students from rural and economically weaker sections. Ramesh also proposed establishing two more AIIMS in Andhra Pradesh, citing the healthcare needs of North Andhra, Rayalaseema and tribal regions. He sought initial funding for feasibility studies and DPR preparation, followed by capital allocations for the institutions. He said the proposals would strengthen access to quality education and advanced healthcare while supporting balanced regional development and the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.

Pawan Kalyan Sanctions Rs.100 Crore for Godavari Pushkar Works

Amaravati, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Panchayat Raj Minister Pawan Kalyan has sanctioned an additional Rs.100 crore for development works in villages along the Godavari river basin ahead of the Godavari Pushkarams. Under the theme 'Swachh Godavari - Pavitra Pushkaralu', Rs.90 crore from Panchayat Raj funds will be used for 111 road projects across seven Assembly constituencies in Dr B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema and West Godavari districts and the Polavaram region. The projects will cover around 141 km of CC and BT roads, including routes connecting villages with Pushkar ghats. Another Rs.10 crore has been allo-

cated through the Rural Water Supply (RWS) department to provide safe drinking water at Pushkar ghats and surrounding villages. The latest allocation is in addition to the Rs.100 crore already sanctioned through the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) for priority development works in the Godavari region. Pawan Kalyan is also developing Munikudali village in the Rajahmundry Rural constituency as a model Pushkar Panchayat at a cost of Rs.7 crore. Works include CC roads, tower lights, magic drains, soak pits and toilets at Pushkar ghats. The initiatives aim to ensure devotees can perform holy baths, prayers and rituals across villages along the Godavari basin.

Denmark Team Visits Amaravati to Discuss Power Infrastructure

Amaravati, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

A Danish delegation visited the APCRDA headquarters at Rayapudi on Tuesday as part of the India-Denmark Energy Partnership (INDEP), holding discussions on strengthening Amaravati's electricity infrastructure. The delegation and APCRDA officials discussed the planning and design of the 33 kV power grid, capacity expansion to meet future demand, integration of renewable energy, distributed energy resources, battery energy storage systems and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. They also explored adopting Denmark's best practices in the power sector to suit

Amaravati's requirements and discussed technical cooperation, knowledge sharing and future collaborative initiatives. APCRDA Additional Commissioner T. Rahul Kumar Reddy, IAS, later explained Amaravati's development plans to the delegation through a digital twin-based visual simulation at the Amaravati Integrated Command Control Centre (AICCC). The presentation covered ongoing works, proposed projects and infrastructure development, including the power sector. APCRDA officials and representatives from the Danish Energy Agency, Green Power Denmark and the Central Electricity Authority participated in the discussions.

Minister Announces Godavari Water Flow to North Andhra

Anakapalli, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said a major step towards fulfilling North Andhra's decades-old dream of receiving Godavari waters would be taken on Wednesday, with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu set to inaugurate the first phase of the Polavaram Left Main Canal (LMC). Inspecting arrangements at Payakaraopet, Ramanaidu said the coalition government had completed the first-phase works within two years despite land acquisition, construction and technical challenges. The canal crosses five major rivers-Yeleru, Pampa, Tandava, Sarada and Varaha-and 11 national high-



ways. He said the LMC would provide drinking water to Visakhapatnam, water security to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and meet the needs of future industries, boosting investment and employment in the region. The minister said water would be supplied to the LMC through the Purushothapatnam and Pushkara lift schemes without waiting for the entire Polavaram project to be completed. Reconstruction of the Pushkara lift is underway at Rs.29 crore, potentially adding 700-1,500 cusecs of water. He said 11 priority projects would receive Rs.2,500 crore over two years, while Neradi Barrage works would begin within three to four months.

Voter Roll Claims Deadline Extended to September 10

Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has revised the schedule for the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, extending the deadline for filing claims and objections to September 10 following requests from political parties. District Collector and District Election Officer Dr G. Lakshminisha said the deadline for disposal of claims and objections, including the notice process, has been extended from September 28 to October 5. The publication of the final electoral roll has also been rescheduled from October 3 to October 9.

Dr Lakshminisha urged eligible citizens to make use of the extended opportunity and submit their claims or objections by September 10. Applications can be filed with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at nearby polling stations, or at the offices of Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and Electoral Registration Officers. She said all applications would be examined as per the prescribed rules and eligible names would be included in the final electoral roll to be published on October 9. Citizens were advised to utilise the opportunity to ensure their details are correctly reflected in the voter list.

VCongress Demands Withdrawal of FIR Against Rahul Gandhi

Kadapa, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Congress leaders and workers held a protest rally in Kadapa on Tuesday, demanding immediate withdrawal of the FIR registered by Uttarakhand police against Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. The rally was organised from Mahaveer Circle to the Kadapa Collectorate under the leadership of Kadapa City Congress President Syed Ghaus Peer, following a call from the All India Congress Committee. Syed Ghaus Peer condemned



the FIR and alleged it was politically motivated. The protesters also demanded registration of an SC and ST Atrocities Act case against BJP and RSS. Kadapa City Congress Vice Presidents Anjan Kumar, Saudagar Sadiq and Fazarullah, District Youth Congress President Venkata Subbaiah, Division Incharges Mahbub Basha, Mubarak Bhasha, Siddique, Sheikh Anwar, Syed Anwar, Haji Bhai, Murad Bhasha, Sadiq, Arif, Jamil, Gangaiah, Subrahmanyam, Ghafar, Akram, Amida Khan and others participated.

Roop Kumar Yadav Rejects Anil Kumar's Allegations

Nellore, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Nellore Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav termed former Minister Anil Kumar Yadav's allegations baseless and said he had evidence to support every statement. Addressing the media, he said Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy had recommended a visa for Chinese businessman Dou on Dec 30, 2024, to facilitate a proposed Rs.1,000 crore high-purity quartz sand processing project in Nellore.



for his factory was allotted through APIIC at Dagadharthi SEZ in November 2019, during the YSRCP government. Roop Kumar said the project was aimed at creating employment for Nellore youth and alleged political controversy had cost thousands of job opportunities. He said Anil's allegations would be challenged legally and termed the suspension a political conspiracy ahead of local body elections.

Anil Kumar Yadav Seeks Probe into Chinese Traders' Nellore Mining Role

Nellore, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP PAC member and former Minister P. Anil Kumar Yadav has demanded a comprehensive probe into the alleged involvement of Chinese traders in the mining and quartz business in Nellore district.(Addressing the media on Tuesday, Anil displayed documents related to mining activities, visa correspondence and foreign visits and urged the government to verify their authenticity and make the findings public. He alleged that efforts were underway to create a syndicate in the quartz trade, potentially affecting local miners, small traders and exporters. He sought an inquiry into the alleged links involving Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy and Chinese trader Yang Jun Dow. Anil questioned the removal of furniture from Flat No. 101, which he described as an office allegedly connected to the quartz syndicate, after concerns were raised over its activities. He also sought a review of mining leases exceeding 50 years and verification of a purported visa-related letter issued on the MP's letterhead. Anil demanded details of a November 2024 visit to China's Sinoma company, including its purpose, participants, authorisation and expenditure. He urged Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Nara Lokesh and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to respond and said the issue would be taken up with the Centre and, if necessary, courts.

AP Employees' Association Seeks Action Against Jana Sena Leader

Guntur, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Government Employees' Association has urged Jana Sena Party president and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to condemn remarks allegedly made by the party's Guntur district president Gade Venkateswara Rao against government employees, teachers and pensioners. In a statement issued on September 1, association president Kashibhatta Rama Suryanarayana said Rao had reportedly questioned the need for employee associations and the rights of government employees drawing salaries during a television debate. He said the remarks had deeply hurt the sentiments of lakhs of employees, teachers and pensioners. The association reminded Pawan Kalyan that the Constitution provides citizens the right to form associations and express their views. It also referred to Article 309, under which service conditions of government employees are regulated through laws and rules. The association said it did not consider Rao's remarks to represent Pawan Kalyan's personal views or the Jana Sena's official policy, but argued that action was necessary since the comments were made by a party representative on a public platform. It demanded an official party statement condemning the remarks and disciplinary action against Rao within three working days. Otherwise, it warned of approaching constitutional authorities and taking the issue to the public.

YSRCP Demands Clearance of Employee Dues

Tadepalli, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Employees and Pensioners Wing State President Nalamaaru Chandrasekhar Reddy criticised Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad for allegedly threatening employee union leaders. He said employees would not be intimidated for demanding their legitimate rights and dues. peaking at the YSRCP Central Office, Chandrasekhar Reddy said no Chief Minister or Minister had treated employees in such a manner during his 40 years of service. He said employees were the backbone of administration and continued to serve people regardless of changes in government. He alleged that the coalition government had failed to fulfil its promises to employees and pensioners during 27 months. He demanded immediate clearance of nearly Rs. 40,000 crore in pending GFP, APGLI, retirement benefits, PRC and DA dues. He said 40 days had passed since the July 22 Group of Ministers meeting without a decision. Chandrasekhar Reddy also demanded abolition of CPS and restoration of OPS, implementation of the 12th PRC, at least 30% Interim Relief, timely DAs and restoration of the Employees Health Scheme. He warned that 13 lakh employees and pensioners could take to the streets if their demands remained unresolved.

Chevireddy Says Magunta Damaged His Political Standing

Ongole, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Former YSRCP MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy said MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy had damaged his political standing by making derogatory remarks against former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to the media in Ongole on Tuesday, Chevireddy said political criticism was natural, but personal and disrespectful comments reflected poor political culture. He said the people of Ongole were watching Magunta's conduct and would give him a fitting response. Chevireddy said Magunta had sought YS Jagan's support and was elected as an MP in 2019, but was now using insulting language against him. He alleged that Magunta was targeting YS Jagan to please Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He asked Magunta to explain his contribution to Ongole, utilisation of MP funds and the public issues he had resolved. He said details of fund utilisation would soon be placed before the public. Referring to the Veligonda Project, Chevireddy said the governments of Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy played key roles in its construction, funding and crucial works. He said people knew Veligonda's history and would reject attempts to distort facts.

Bharat Calls North Andhra Water Release a Drama



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP National Spokesperson and for-

mer MP Margani Bharat criticised the alliance government and Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu over the release of water to North Andhra. Speaking at a press conference in Rajahmundry, Bharat said water was not being released to Anakapalli through gravity from Polavaram. He said Godavari water was being diverted to Yeleru reservoir through the Purushothapatnam Lift Irrigation Scheme and then supplied to Anakapalli. Bharat accused Chandrababu of taking credit for the Polavaram works completed during the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy governments. He also alleged inflated estimates in Polavaram LMC packages and criticised the reduction of the project's height. Bharat further accused alliance leaders of claiming credit for the Morampudi Flyover, which he said was built during the YSRCP tenure.

YSRCP Accuses Naidu of Betraying People

Tadepalli, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP spokesperson Vangaveeti Narendra alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had repeated the politics of betrayal, earlier against his father-in-law N.T. Rama Rao and now against the people who voted for him. Responding to Naidu's remarks at Mogalthur, Narendra said the coalition government had completed more than two years without starting any major new development project. He alleged that instead of implementing the Super Six promises, Naidu was targeting Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and taking credit for projects substantially executed during the previous YSRCP government. Narendra cited the Veligonda Project and Bhogapuram Airport, claiming that crucial works and processes were completed during the YS Jagan government. He questioned the status of promises including Rs. 1,500 monthly assistance for women, Rs. 3,000 unemployment allowance, Rs. 4,000 pension for those above 50 and three free LPG cylinders annually. He said welfare schemes under Y.S. Jagan reached eligible beneficiaries without discrimination, including during Covid, while the coalition government had removed nearly five lakh pension beneficiaries through verification exercises. Narendra also questioned claims of Rs. 22 lakh crore investments and 23 lakh jobs, asking why unemployed youth and farmers were still struggling. He alleged an additional electricity burden of nearly Rs. 21,000 crore and criticised publicity programmes such as Yogandhra.

Lakshmi Parvathi Calls Chandrababu the Face of Betrayal

Hyderabad, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State General Secretary Nandamuri Lakshmi Parvathi alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had made political betrayal the defining feature of his career. Speaking to the media at her Hyderabad residence, she recalled that Naidu became Chief Minister on Sept 1, 1995, after removing N.T. Rama Rao from power and taking control of the Telugu Desam Party. Lakshmi Parvathi said NTR had empowered women, introduced reservations for them in employment and local bodies, abolished the Munasabu-Karanam system and contributed to building the National Front. She said NTR secured a historic mandate in 1994 but was removed from office within eight months. She alleged that Naidu had continued politics of deception by making welfare promises before elections and abandoning them after coming to power. She also accused him of taking credit for Bhogapuram Airport and Veligonda projects despite major works being completed by previous governments. Lakshmi Parvathi questioned claims about Nara Lokesh's Stanford education and challenged him to produce his academic certificate publicly. She further alleged that political methods used against NTR were now being applied against YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to isolate him and create divisions within his family.

Jagan Calls for Full-Scale Battle in Local Body Polls

Pulivendula, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy called on party leaders and cadre to prepare for the forthcoming local body elections and contest every seat, without allowing uncontested victories. During his visit to Pulivendula, YS Jagan held a Praja Darbar at the Bhakarapuram camp office. Party leaders, workers, supporters and members of the public met him and submitted their grievances. He heard their concerns and discussed local political conditions, organisational matters and election preparations with party leaders. YS Jagan directed the cadre to strengthen the party from the village level, remain connected with people and help resolve their problems. He urged leaders to identify candidates early and ensure YSRCP contests every local body seat. He warned that any misuse of official power or police machinery to threaten opposition candidates and workers should be faced firmly. He assured the cadre of the party's support. YS Jagan asked leaders to highlight welfare and development achieved during YSRCP rule, including village secretariats, the volunteer system, Nadu-Nedu, Aarogyasri expansion and support for farmers, women, students and poor families. He also asked them to expose the coalition government's failure to fulfil election promises.

Bharat Accuses Chandrababu of Taking Credit for Polavaram

Rajahmundry, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Former MP Margani Bharat accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of taking false credit for Polavaram works carried out during the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy governments. Speaking at the YSRCP office in Rajahmundry, Bharat said no water was currently reaching Anakapalli by gravity from the Polavaram reservoir. He claimed Godavari water was being lifted through Purushothapatnam, routed towards Yeleru and described as Polavaram water. Bharat recalled that YSR inaugurated the first phase of the Thota Venkatachalam Pushkara Lift Scheme near Purushothapatnam in 2008 and completed nearly 90% of the Right Main Canal and 70% of the Left Main Canal. He said the Jagan government completed the spillway, installed hydraulic and radial gates and advanced the cofferdams. He said Polavaram needed an FRL of 45.72 metres for gravity water to reach North Andhra, while the present framework was restricted to 41.15 metres. Bharat also questioned cost escalations in several Left Canal packages and demanded criminal cases over earlier failures that damaged the diaphragm wall. He alleged similar credit-taking in Pattiseema, Veligonda, Morampudi flyover and Bhogapuram Airport.



Rs.308 Crore Development Push for Pithapuram

Continue

twice a day.

Waste and Sewage Treatment

A Rs.4 crore wet-waste management centre and a Rs.1.43 crore faecal sludge treatment facility are being established. The wet-waste plant is expected to be completed within two months. The municipality currently collects around 25 tonnes of waste daily from 18,468 households. Two sewage treatment plants worth Rs.21.82 crore are also under construction. The facility at Drivers Colony will have a capacity of 42 lakh litres per day, while the plant at Masjid Manyam will process 30 lakh litres daily. Roads, drains and other civic infrastructure are being developed with funds from various central and state schemes. A Rs.2.10 crore skill development centre, a Rs.60 lakh CSR park and a Rs.1.50 crore model road are also planned or under execution. Officials said completion of the projects would significantly improve Pithapuram's civic infrastructure, sanitation and overall quality of life.

Lokesh Sets September 2027 Target for 100% Literacy

Continue

a roadmap had been prepared under the Sankalp Academic Support Programme to provide special classes for academically weaker students. Students across the state have already received around Rs.1,051 crore under the Thalliki Vandanam scheme, while steps are being taken to extend the benefit to first-year Intermediate students. Lokesh also instructed officials to ensure 100 per cent integration of APAAR IDs for Intermediate students. Focus on Out-of-School Children Lokesh directed officials to identify and enrol all school-age children currently outside the education system. The state has 1,64,821 out-of-school children, officials said. School Education Director Tameem Ansariya said around 33,000 children had been enrolled this year and details of the remaining children had been shared with headmasters through the LEAP app. Teacher attendance has reached 98.97 per cent, while student attendance stands at 85.41 per cent. Lokesh asked officials to improve student attendance and directed schools to contact parents when a child remains absent for three consecutive days. School Management Committees should also be involved in the effort. The minister reviewed the Mission March-2026 programme for Class 10 students and preparations for the special TET for in-service teachers in compliance with Supreme Court directions. Officials also briefed him on AI Samarth, an initiative to train teachers in the use of AI tools. Lokesh stressed that there should be no compromise on the quality of the midday meal programme and asked teachers and parents to provide feedback through the LEAP app. He further directed officials to establish autism centres at 125 locations across the state and urged teachers to focus on students' emotional development and stress-free learning methods. A total of 192 best teachers will be honoured in Vijayawada on September 5 on the occasion of Teachers' Day, officials said.

Lokesh: Aim to Make Mangalagiri No. 1 in All Sectors

Continue

He described the achievement as historic and attributed it to teamwork. "Anything can be achieved when everyone works together," Lokesh said, adding that several public representatives had asked him how the pattas were distributed and he had invited them to visit Mangalagiri and study the process. He said development works were progressing in multiple sectors, including parks, marriage halls, community centres and modernisation of Anganwadi centres. The Nidamaru school was developed without taking funds from the government, while initiatives under PM Surya Ghar were also being implemented. Underground drainage works and drinking water pipeline projects have been initiated, while the foundation stone for a model Rythu Bazaar was recently laid. Lokesh thanked the officials for their dedication and said Mangalagiri's transformation could not be achieved by one individual but through collective effort. He expressed confidence that officials would continue extending their cooperation. During the programme, Lokesh honoured officials and MTMC and Revenue staff by presenting them with new clothes in recognition of their contribution to the successful house-patta distribution programme.

Jagan Calls for Full-Scale YSRCP Fight in Local Polls

Continue

"Stay among the people, fight for their problems and remind them of the good done during the YSRCP government," Jagan told the party cadre, stressing that such an approach would help the party perform strongly in the local body elections. He called for continued political mobilisation against what he termed the anti-people policies of the coalition government and urged leaders and workers to work in unity. He also asked them to strengthen the party organisation from the village level and rebuild public confidence ahead of the local elections.

Pawan Kalyan-Led Forest Push Delivers Major Gains

Continue

established, taking the total to 48, while 122 trekking routes were identified. The government has also approved a Rs.4.83 crore gaur reintroduction project in the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, targeted for November-December 2026. The state has completed ground-truthing of 23,451 wetlands and demarcated 911. New animal enclosures were added at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam. Green initiatives have recorded substantial gains. During 2025-26, the department produced 833.35 lakh seedlings, against a target of 558.83 lakh. More than 2.83 crore seed balls were prepared in 2026, with 2.29 crore dispersed across 23,182.85 hectares. The Great Green Wall programme is expanding mangrove restoration, shelter belts and Palmyrah regeneration along Andhra Pradesh's 1,027.5-km coastline. Forest protection has also been strengthened through 227 base camps, 69 striking forces, 128 check posts and eight flying squads. In 2025-26, authorities registered 242 red-sanders cases, seized 98.956 metric tonnes of wood, confiscated 160 vehicles and arrested 494 persons, with the current conviction rate reported at 93.75%. The department has additionally enhanced protection-watchers' wages, strengthened welfare measures and initiated major training infrastructure, including the Rs.24-crore Aranyaramam centre and Rs.18.34-crore Phase-I expansion of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Academy. The government also constituted a State Level Steering Committee for the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve through an August 31, 2026 order, with the Chief Minister as chairperson, strengthening institutional oversight of tiger conservation.

Pawan Kalyan Birthday Celebrations Planned

Machilipatnam, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Janasena Party chief and State Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's birthday celebrations will be held at Lakshmi Talkies Centre in Machilipatnam under the leadership of Janasena leader Kotte Venkatrao. Organisers have planned several service activities along with celebrations. Fruits will be distributed to patients at various hospitals on Wednesday morning. A massive rally will begin at 3 pm from Zilla Parishad Centre, with farmers participating with tractors and youth, party workers, leaders and Veera Mahilas joining on bikes and cars.



The rally will pass through Chiralapudi, Parasapeta, Chinnapuram, Hospital area, Koneru Centre and Revathi Centre before concluding at Lakshmi Talkies Centre. Organisers said arrangements would ensure the rally causes no inconvenience to the public or motorists. Sarees will also be distributed to women sanitation workers of Machilipatnam municipality. A cake-cutting ceremony will be held at 6 pm, followed by a dinner for around 5,000 people. Janasena leaders Sayana Sivayya, Valishetti Malli, Chilankurthi Prudhvi Prasanna, Dr. Madhavi and others participated in the meeting.

Parents Seek Sports Certificates for Students



Guntur, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Parents have appealed to Commissioner of School Education Imam Ansari to facilitate the immediate issue of participation and merit certificates to students who competed in Under-19 fencing events during the 2025-26 academic year under the State School Games Federation (SSGF). They said the certificates were still pending despite the announcement of this year's SSGF schedule and alleged that the delay had caused some students to miss seats available under the sports quota. They said repeated appeals to the SSGF Secretary had not yielded results. The competitions were held at PM SHRI School in Anigandlapadu, Guntur district. Krishna district teams won bronze medals in girls' Sabre, boys' Epee and

boys' Foil events. Parents T. Ramesh, Srinivas and Raqeeb urged Imam Ansari to intervene. Meanwhile, Gudivada Deputy Educational Officer Konda Ravi Kumar said athletes receive true recognition when they win medals. He spoke at a prize distribution programme for students of Gannavaram Boys' High School, adopted by HEAL organisation. He said sports along with academics develop agility and enthusiasm and urged students to study with discipline and bring honour to their school and parents. He appreciated HEAL's support and distributed medals to winners. Gannavaram Mandal Educational Officer R. Kamala, in-charge Headmaster B. Nagendra Rao and Physical Education Teachers Dhaniyala Nagaraju, Shaik Meera Saheb and Hanish attended.

Training Programmes for SC Unemployed Youth

Machilipatnam, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

The NTR District Scheduled Castes Service Cooperative Society Limited, Vijayawada, conducted a review meeting on training programmes for educated SC unemployed youth on Tuesday. The meeting was held at the office of the Joint Krishna District Scheduled Castes Service Cooperative Society Limited, Machilipatnam, under the directions of the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes Cooperative Finance

Corporation Limited, Tadepalli. Directors Vasam Muniyappa and D. Rajeswara Rao presided over the meeting. Training opportunities include courses in various fields such as technician, electrician, mobile phone hardware technician, solar PV installer, general duty assistant, social media executive and other job-oriented skills. Eligible SC youth were advised to register through the APSC Corporation website with educational, caste, Aadhaar and ration card documents. For details, applicants may contact 9652057244 or 9848214161.

Alliance Government Fulfilling Promises: MP Chinni



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) said development and welfare were progressing under the alliance government. He participated in a pension distribution programme with Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao in the 24th Division. They personally distributed pensions to elderly benefi-

ciaries and listened to their grievances. Chinni said the government was fulfilling the promises made in its election manifesto and had increased pensions soon after assuming office, unlike the previous government, which took five years to raise them. He said welfare benefits were being delivered to eligible beneficiaries and another major promise would soon be fulfilled.

Chinni announced that house site pattas would be distributed to 40,000 people in the Central constituency at a programme to be presided over by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Division President Ijjada Durga Rao, Secretary Gudeti Murali, Damarla Rammurthy, Ramakrishna, Gajula brothers, Matrapu Banerjee, Durga Mounika, Sunitha, officials and beneficiaries participated

Pensions Distributed on Time to Beneficiaries



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra inspected the Arundelpet area on Tuesday and personally distributed 'NTR Bharosa' pensions to beneficiaries. He verified Aadhaar details and completed authentication through the Face Recognition System (FRS) before handing over the pension amounts. The Commissioner interacted with beneficiaries and enquired whether pensions were reaching

them on time and whether staff were delivering them to their doorsteps.

He personally distributed pensions to Alladi Meenakshi, Don gara Tirupatamma, Nagulapalli Satish and Chimakurthi Swarajyam. Beneficiaries said they were

receiving pensions regularly without difficulties. By 3 PM, 17,938 of 19,234 pensions had been distributed in Circle 1, 23,239 of 25,055 in Circle 2, and 18,083 of 19,652 in Circle 3. Overall, 59,260 of 63,941 pensions were distributed, achieving about 92%. Commissioner Dhyanaachandra directed officials to ensure timely distribution to every eligible beneficiary. Zonal Commissioner K. Prabhudas, CDO Jagadeshwari and others participated.

NTR Bharosa Pensions Delivered to 2.24 Lakh Beneficiaries



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said government welfare schemes are helping poor and weaker sections achieve social security and live with self-respect. He said steps were being taken to ensure every eligible beneficiary receives welfare benefits. On Tuesday, Lakshmisha participated in an NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme at Bavajipeta, Ward No. 27, in Vijayawada Urban and interacted with beneficiaries about their well-being. He said Rs 97.16 crore was being distributed to 2,24,235 beneficiaries across NTR district under the NTR

Bharosa pension scheme. The Collector said pensions were being delivered directly to the homes of elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities and other eligible beneficiaries. He urged eligible people to make full use of government welfare schemes aimed at improving social and economic security. He said beneficiaries should utilise the support effectively and fulfil the objectives of the welfare programmes.

DRDA Project Director A.N.V. Nanchara Rao, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Additional Commissioner Dr. D. Chandrasekhar and others participated.

Vijayawada Division Records Best-Ever Punctuality

Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Division of South Coast Railway achieved its best-ever monthly punctuality of 91.28% in Aug 2026, surpassing the previous record of 90.80% registered in July.

The division improved its benchmark by 0.48 percentage points through efficient train operations, close monitoring and coordination among operating and allied departments. Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division, Mohit Sonakiya congratulated officers and staff

for their teamwork and dedication. He said the achievement reflected the hard work of employees in managing train operations on one of the country's busiest railway routes while maintaining safe, reliable and timely services. The division stated that it would continue focusing on punctual train operations, better passenger services, efficiency, innovation and continuous improvement. The new 91.28% benchmark was described as a result of the collective efforts and commitment of the entire Vijayawada Division team.

Officials Inspects Vijayawada Utsav Venue



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Chinni and Rajya Sabha MP Sana Satish Babu inspected the venue at Punnami Ghat for the upcoming 'Vijayawada Utsav & SARAS' during the Devi Sarannavaratri festival. Vijayawada City Police Commissioner Rajasekhar Babu, City Municipal Commissioner Dhyana Chand and senior officials from various departments also participated. Kesineni Chinni said the event would provide entertainment and cultural programmes for people while creating a platform for rural artisans,

craftspeople and DWCR women's self-help groups to display and sell their products. SARAS will offer markets for handicrafts, traditional products, food items and rural goods.

Preparations are underway to establish 1,000 stalls across about 19 acres. Chinni directed officials to ensure proper parking, traffic control, security, electricity, sanitation and drinking water facilities.

He stressed special attention to the safety of women and families and asked departments to complete arrangements well in advance.

He said the event would promote rural products and provide visitors with an enjoyable experience.

Intensive Inspections of Food Outlets



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Acting on the orders of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra, public health staff conducted extensive inspections at hotels, tiffin centers and RO water plants on Tuesday. The inspections covered areas including Cholera Hospital, Milk

Factory, Dhobi Khana and Loyola College Road. Officials inspected Manikanta Tiffin Center, Sri Krishna Water Plant, Venus Chicken Shop, Madhuri Curries Point and Tirumala Tiffins, among other establishments. They checked hygiene, food waste management, dustbin facilities and cleanliness of premises. Deficiencies were found at some establishments, following which notices were issued to the owners. Officials directed them to rectify the issues within seven days and warned of fines and possible cancellation of trade licences for non-compliance. The VMC said inspections would continue regularly to protect public health. Assistant Medical Health Officer Dr. Annapurna, sanitary supervisors, inspectors and staff participated in the drive.

Special Sanitation Drive in Singh Nagar



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation conducted a special sanitation drive in the Singh Nagar area on Tuesday to remove plastic waste and garbage from drains. The drive was carried out by Biologist

Surya Naik following the directions of VMC Commissioner Dhyanaachandra. The operation covered VAMBAY Colony in the 60th Ward and the outfall drain area near Singh Nagar Yard Road under Circle-2. Accumulated plastic waste, debris and other refuse were removed from drain surroundings using a 'Long Arm 245 CC' mechanical machine. Officials urged residents not to dump garbage and plastic waste in drains or public places and to cooperate with municipal staff. They said regular cleaning would continue to ensure proper stormwater drainage and maintain sanitation standards across the city.

MBA Students Get Career Tips on MNCs and Startups

Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

The Department of Business Administration at P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science, Vijayawada, organised a programme on "Career Opportunities in MNCs and Startup Companies" for MBA students. V. Amit Teja, Chief Technology Officer, Genova Tech IT Services, Hyderabad, was the resource person.

He explained the career opportunities available in multinational companies and startups and advised students to develop technical knowledge, professional competencies and employability skills.

Amit Teja stressed the importance of continuous learning, adaptability, problem-solving, effective communication and keeping pace with emerging tech-



nologies and industry trends.

He encouraged students to prepare themselves according to changing corporate requirements and build skills that can help them secure suitable positions. Dean Prof. Rajesh C. Jampala and Senior Faculty Dr. MDS Rahaman honoured Amit Teja as the chief guest and resource person.

D.K. Balaji Receives Red Cross Gold Medal Again

Machilipatnam, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Collector and Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Krishna District Branch President D.K. Balaji received the 'Red Cross Seva Swarna Pathakam' for the second consecutive year. The award recognised his efforts to strengthen the Red Cross Society through membership drives, resource mobilisation, expansion of service activities and strategic guidance.

Andhra Pradesh Governor and State President of the Indian Red Cross Society, S. Abdul Nazeer, presented the award to D.K. Balaji at the Society's

Annual General Meeting held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

The honour recognised the Collector's support in expanding humanitarian services and strengthening the organisation in Krishna district. Krishna District Red Cross Chairman D.R.K. Prasad, Secretary Shankamath, executive committee members and Red Cross representatives congratulated Balaji.

They said priority would be given to blood donation drives, emergency assistance, disaster relief operations, and health and social service activities across the district.

Women Should Not Neglect Health Issues: Dr. Indraj



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Renowned obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Indraj Achanta said women's health is closely linked to the development of families and society. She advised women to identify health problems early and consult doctors without delay.

An awareness seminar on "Common Gynecological Problems in Women" was

organised by the KBN College UGC Women's Studies Center for female students and women. As the keynote speaker, Dr. Indraj discussed menstrual problems, hormonal imbalances, anemia, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and uterine ailments. She said changing lifestyles and dietary habits were contributing to increasing health problems among women. She stressed the importance of nutritious food, regular exercise, personal hygiene and periodic medical check-ups. She also urged young women to avoid misconceptions and seek accurate health information. Women's Studies Center Coordinator P. Gautami Devi said nutritional deficiencies could be managed through a proper diet. College Principal Dr. G. Krishnaveni advised students to openly discuss health issues and seek medical advice. V.S. Mani, Vanama Devi, IQAC Coordinator Shamim and others attended.

CPM Demands Permanent Budameru Flood Measures



Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

The CPM demanded immediate implementation of permanent flood mitigation measures for Budameru and release of Rs 5,222 crore proposed in the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Marking two years since the Budameru floods, the CPM Vijayawada Central City Committee held a protest and dharna near the Budameru bridge and Alluri Sitarama Raju statue on Tuesday.

CPM State Secretariat member Ch. Baburao said the floods during August 31-September 1 two years ago claimed 50 lives across Vijayawada, NTR and Krishna districts, displaced three lakh people and caused losses worth thousands of crores. He alleged that the Alliance government had failed to imple-

ment permanent measures despite official reports and the Chief Minister's assurances.

Baburao said the DPR includes widening and deepening Budameru, a 25-km parallel canal, retaining walls, strengthening the diversion channel, upgrading Velagalaru regulator and four upstream reservoirs. He demanded a high-level meeting and immediate release of funds. He alleged that public representatives had failed to press for funds and accused the government of neglecting the issue. He said CPM had supported flood victims by arranging meals for 1.75 lakh people through 15 centres. CPM State Committee member D. Kashinath, B. Ramana Rao, K. Durga Rao, T. Praveen, Ch. Srinivas, Peeru Saheb, Y. Subba Rao and others participated.

Welfare and Rural Development Are Alliance Government Goals: Ayyanna Patrudu

Narsipatnam, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu said the Alliance government was committed to public welfare and comprehensive rural development. He participated in the 'NTR Bharosa' pension distribution programme at Kotha Lakshmiapuram village in Narsipatnam Mandal along with Sriakulam MLA Gondu Shankar Rao. They personally visited beneficiaries' homes and distributed pensions while inspecting local issues with officials. Ayyanna Patrudu said the pension system introduced during N.T. Rama Rao's



tenure was being continued transparently by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

New Pensions to Be Sanctioned Soon: Minister Durgesh



Nidadavole, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kandula Durgesh said new 'NTR Bharosa' pensions would soon be sanctioned to eligible elderly and differently-abled persons. He participated in the pension distribution programme in Nidadavole town on Tuesday after travelling directly from Nandalay following the Veligonda project water release programme.

The Minister visited beneficiaries' homes in Indira Nagar (13th Ward) and distributed pensions worth ₹1.83 crore to 4,081 people. He said ₹14.97 crore was being distributed to 33,990 beneficiaries across the Nidadavole constituency. New widow pensions were also sanctioned for 28 persons, involving ₹1.12 lakh. Durgesh said pensions were being delivered on the first of every month and noted that the amounts were ₹4,000 for elderly and widows, ₹6,000 for persons with disabilities, ₹10,000 for dialysis patients and ₹15,000 for bedridden beneficiaries. Residents sought road and drain repairs, an Ambedkar statue shelter, BC community hall facilities and drinking water improvements. Durgesh assured them that the issues would be addressed and said Nidadavole would be developed as a model constituency.

Ayyanna Patrudu Congratulates National-Level Grappling Medal Winners

Narsipatnam, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu congratulated athletes from Narsipatnam who won medals at the 6th National Grappling Wrestling Championship held in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. The athletes, coach Priyanka and public representatives met the Speaker at his camp office in Narsipatnam on Tuesday. Ayyanna Patrudu appreciated the athletes for bringing recognition to Narsipatnam at the national level and assured them of full support and encouragement to participate in international-level competitions.

Eighteen athletes from Narsipatnam Ninjas Academy participated in the national championship, organised by the Wrestling Federation of India from the 21st to the 23rd of this month. Six athletes won medals. Coach Priyanka said the athletes qualified for the national championship after performing well at the 6th state-level competition held in Anakapalli under the Andhra Pradesh Grappling Committee. The Speaker praised the rural athletes for their achievement. Retired MEO Appala swamy Master, PD Bullabai, KGBV Principal Peta Eswaremma and others participated and thanked Ayyanna Patrudu for his support.

Alliance Government Advancing Development and Welfare: Minister Dola

Singarayakonda, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy stated that the Alliance government is advancing development and welfare programmes across the state. He distributed 'NTR Bharosa' pensions to beneficiaries in Kalikavavai village of Singarayakonda Mandal by personally visiting their homes. The Minister said the government was implementing not only the promises made during the elections but also several measures that were not specifically mentioned in the manifesto. He highlighted the completion of the Veligonda project and the supply of water to farmers within two years of the

Alliance government assuming office. Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy criticised former Chief Minister Jagan, alleging that the previous government dedicated the Veligonda project without actually providing water to farmers. He said farmers were now happy with the release of Veligonda water, while YSRCP leaders were worried about the development. The Minister further claimed that the YSRCP would fail to retain even its security deposits in the upcoming elections across the undivided Prakasam district. He reiterated that the government would continue giving equal importance to welfare and development.

20.95 Lakh Aid for Deceased Head Constable's Family



Eluru, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Financial assistance of ₹20,95,000 has been sanctioned by the AP Police Welfare Trust for the family of Head Constable Akula Bhaskara Rao, who died after sustaining severe injuries while on duty. Bhaskara Rao suffered serious injuries while performing his duties on June 20,

2026. He later passed away while undergoing treatment. Following the orders of SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore, Additional SP (Administration) Y. Prasad Rao handed over the assistance cheque to Bhaskara Rao's wife, Akula Jhansi Lakshmi, at the District Police Headquarters on Tuesday. Additional SP Y. Prasad Rao said the police department would stand by the families of police personnel during difficult times. He said the assistance reflected the department's support for the families of personnel who lost their lives in service. B-Section Superintendent P. Nageswara Rao, Syed Sunayana and others participated in the programme.

Quality Facilities Assured for Hostel Students



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

State Shetty Balija Corporation Chairman Kudupudi Sathibabu distributed government-supplied blankets, shirts and night track pants to students at the Social Welfare Department Boys' Hostel near the 'Y' Junction in the local

3rd Ward. He interacted with the students and enquired about food quality, drinking water, electricity, sanitation and accommodation facilities. He also inspected the hostel rooms, kitchen and surrounding areas. Sathibabu said he would identify students' problems and take them to the notice of officials for resolution with the support of Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Srinivas. He said the Alliance government, led by Nara Chandrababu Naidu, was working to provide quality education to poor and marginalized students. Education Minister Nara Lokesh had introduced several reforms to improve skills in government schools and colleges.

Ministers Review Jalaharathi Arrangements



Payakaraopeta, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Ministers Kollu Ravindra, Vangalapudi Anitha and Vasamsetti Subhash reviewed arrangements for the Polavaram Left Main Canal Jalaharathi programme at Payakaraopeta on Tuesday. The meeting was held at the Panchayat Raj Guest House, where they discussed public mobilisation, drinking water, food, traffic, security and other facilities. The ministers later inspected the programme venue at P.L. Puram and reviewed the stage, ramp, galleries and other arrangements. They directed officials and organisers to complete all arrangements without causing inconvenience to the public and party workers. Kollu Ravindra, Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise, said the Polavaram Left Main Canal would provide irrigation water to nearly four lakh acres of new ayacut in North Andhra and help meet drinking water needs. He thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for completing the prestigious project and described it as a golden chapter in regional irrigation development. Later, the ministers and leaders celebrated by bursting firecrackers and releasing sky lanterns. Zonal Coordinators Bendalam Ashok, Badeti Radhakrishna and Koonu Ravikumar, programme observers Battula Tataiah Babu, Pragada Nageswara Rao and Dadi Ratnakar, Anakapalli District Presidents and others participated.

Title Deeds Distributed to 812 Families

Vatticherukuru, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

A 120-year-old land issue in Prathipadu constituency was permanently resolved with the distribution of title deeds to 812 families from Vatticherukuru, Pullatagunta and Etukuru villages. Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad distributed the deeds under the 'Mee Bhumi - Mee Hakku' initiative for 41.46 acres earlier restricted under Section 22(A). Union Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Rajya Sabha Member Bhashyam Ramakrishna and Prathipadu MLA Dr. Burla Ramanjaneyulu participated in the programme. Anagani Satya Prasad said the Vatticherukuru model would help resolve land issues in another 300 villages and noted that more than 150 reforms had been introduced in the Revenue

Department. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar said 1.60 lakh acres would be freed from Section 22(A) restrictions and 67 lakh pattadar passbooks would be distributed between July 2026 and July 2027. He also highlighted reduced NALA charges and stamp duty on inherited property. District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma said the resolution was achieved with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's guidance. Beneficiary Muppa Ankamma Rao thanked authorities for the land reclassification.



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'Temple Essentials' Programme to Be Held in Kadiyam

Rajamahendravaram, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Rajamahendravaram MP Daggubati Purandeswari will inaugurate the 'Temple Essentials Entrepreneurship Development Program' in Kadiyam on Thursday, according to DRDA Project Director B. Nagesh. The programme is being organised under the aegis of the Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) at the Kadiyam Mandal Samakhyia office at 10:00 AM. Daggubati Purandeswari will attend the event as the chief guest and formally inaugurate the programme. B. Nagesh said the initiative aims to promote the manufacturing of products required by temples while creating employment and self-employment opportunities for women. He said the programme would provide women with opportunities to



develop entrepreneurial skills and explore income-generating activities. He explained that the programme has been designed to encourage women entrepreneurs and strengthen their participation in small-scale enterprises. The initiative is also expected to help women acquire practical skills related to producing temple-use items and develop sustainable livelihood opportunities. Officials said the participation of the MP would further encourage women taking part in the entrepreneurship development programme.

111.60 crore pensions distributed to 2.53 lakh beneficiaries



Eluru, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Collector K. Vetriselvi said ₹111.60 crore in NTR Bharosa social pensions was being distributed to 2,53,845 beneficiaries across Eluru district. On Tuesday, she visited households in Adivarupeta and the Rajakulapeta Swarna Ward Secretariat, interacted with beneficiaries, enquired about their well-being and handed over pension

amounts. The Collector advised beneficiaries to use the pension money carefully and save a portion for future needs. She also encouraged them to maintain good health through regular exercise and walking. Vetriselvi said steps had been taken to ensure 100 per cent pension distribution on the first day of every month with the support of 4,932 village and ward secretariat staff across the district. She added that pensions would be distributed on the second day to beneficiaries who could not receive them on the first day due to unavoidable reasons. RDO K. Lakshmi Prasanna, DRDA PD T.V. Vijayalakshmi, Additional Commissioner D. Srinivasa Rao and others participated in the programme.

Police Open Fire on Knife-Wielding Accused

Vijayawada, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

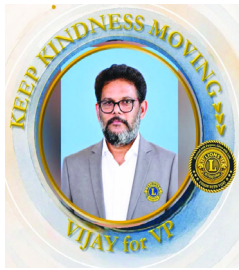
Police opened fire on an accused person who allegedly attacked them with a knife on the Komatikuntalaku Donka Road in Kankipadu Mandal of Krishna district around 11 p.m. The accused, Avinad, was reportedly wanted in connection with an earlier incident in which he injured a constable with a knife near Devaparalli, close to Nallajarla in East Godavari district. Acting on information about his

presence in the area, Kankipadu and Gannavaram CIs, along with their staff, reached the location. During the confrontation, Avinad allegedly attacked the police with a knife and also pelted stones at them. Kankipadu CI fired at his legs to stop the attack. Constable Srinivas sustained injuries to his chest during the incident. Avinad suffered bullet injuries and was shifted to Vijayawada Government Hospital for treatment.

International Leadership Award for Eluru Lion

Eluru, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

PMJF Lion Avinash Raju of Eluru has received the International President's Leadership Award from Lions International in recognition of his outstanding leadership and service to the organisation and Mission 1.5 initiatives during the 2025-26 term. The award was presented by A.P. Singh, International President, in appreciation of Avinash Raju's dedication, commitment and contribution to humanitarian service. The recognition was conveyed through an official letter issued in August 2026 by A.P. Singh. Avinash Raju, District GET Coordinator, Multiple District 316, was also informed that he would receive a limited-edition Presidential Strong Finish



Medal engraved with his name. According to the letter, the medal is scheduled to be mailed by Sept 15. Lions

members welcomed the recognition and appreciated Avinash Raju's contribution to the Lions movement. MJF Lion Ramanamurthy, along with district Lions leaders, congratulated Avinash Raju on receiving the prestigious international honour.

Three Arrested in Attack on Janasena Leader's House



Chirala, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Chirala Two-Town police solved the case involving an attack on the house of Cherukuri Lakshminarayana, an aqua farmer and Janasena leader, at Kothapeta in Vetapalem Mandal. Chirala DSP M.D. Moin announced the arrest of three accused at a press conference at the Two-Town Police Station.

The DSP said the attack was linked to a dispute between Lakshminarayana and Kondru Srinivasa Rao over the purchase of 4 acres and 50 cents of agricultural land at Akkayipalem. Police found that Srinivasa Rao allegedly hired Padmarao and Vijay Kumar to attack Lakshminarayana's house. CCTV footage showed masked persons damaging windowpanes and a car. Police used technical evidence to identify and arrest the accused. A car, sticks allegedly used in the attack and cellphones were seized. M.D. Moin said a case was registered and the accused would be produced before the court. He warned of strict action against those disturbing law and order.

Youth Connect Programme Expanding Across East Godavari

East Godavari, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

The 'Youth Connect Program' is yielding positive results and is being expanded across East Godavari district under the directions of District SP D. Narasimha Kishore. The initiative aims to guide youth towards a constructive path, promote social responsibility and keep them away from addictions and criminal activities. As part of the programme, police officers interact directly with young people and create awareness about the harmful effects of drugs, cybercrimes, traffic rules and the safety of women and girls. They also listen to youth concerns and provide suitable guidance.



The police encourage youngsters to set clear goals and focus on education, employment, career growth and skill development. Officials said the programme would help youth use their talents positively and develop confidence to achieve their aspirations. The department urged young people to stay away from crime and addictions and contribute actively to society's development.

Keerthi Chekuri Reviews Pension Distribution



East Godavari, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to ensure welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries transparently and on time. She participated in the distribution of NTR Bharosa social security pensions at beneficiaries' homes in Bommuru and

enquired about the delivery process and their concerns. She instructed officials to continuously monitor pension distribution and ensure beneficiaries face no inconvenience. For September, 2,66,554 pensions were released in the district. By 5 p.m., 2,43,651 pensions had been distributed, achieving 91.41% physical coverage. Of the ₹117.21 crore released, ₹106.53 crore had been distributed, recording 90.89% financial progress. Widow pension beneficiaries Reddy Satyavathi and Koppiseti Subbayamma said the ₹4,000 monthly pension helps meet household, medical and other essential expenses and appreciated doorstep delivery. Rural Tahsildar Srinivasa Rao, MPDO K.S. Armstrong, DDA/APD Y. Satyam Naidu and secretariat staff participated.

Eluru MP Holds Meetings with District Leaders

Eluru, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar continued his series of informal meetings with district public representatives at his newly built residence and camp office in Sitapuram Colony under Vaturlu limits. Former MLC Kamili Vitthal Rao and former MP Maganti Babu visited the MP's residence on Tuesday. Maganti Babu had breakfast with Putta Mahesh Kumar and discussed district politics in a friendly atmosphere. The MP later showed them his new residence and office building and honoured them. Minister Parthasarathi visited the MP's residence at 1 p.m. and held discussions on upcoming local elections and district politics before having lunch together. They felt that holding such informal meetings every month at a public repre-



sentative's residence would improve coordination and help resolve differences among alliance leaders. Polavaram MLA Chirri Balaraju also met Putta Mahesh Kumar and discussed Polavaram project works, constituency development, coordination among alliance leaders and preparations for local body elections. Earlier, Ungutur MLA Patsamatra Dharmaraju and former minister Peethala Sujatha had attended a similar meeting. The MP later received public petitions.

Blood Donation and Medical Camp Held for Pawan Kalyan's Birthday



Eluru, Sept 1 | TPN Bureau

As part of the early birthday celebrations of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, a blood donation and free medical camp was organised near Markandeya Swamy Temple at Dakshinapu Veedhi, Eluru. The programme was held under the leadership of City Honorary President Nagireddy Kasi Naresw for children suffering from Thalassemia. APSRTC Vijayawada Zonal Chairman and In-

charge Reddy Appalanaidu, senior leader Nara Seshu and former Deputy Mayor Shiripalli Prasad attended as chief guests and inaugurated the camps. Around 50 Janasainiks voluntarily donated blood. Reddy Appalanaidu appreciated the initiative and said it reflected Pawan Kalyan's spirit of public service. He said free medical check-ups and medicines were being provided in Cardiology, Neurology, Orthopedics and Gynecology. Nara Seshu said he had been donating blood on Chiranjeevi's birthday since 1995 and participated in the programme in the same spirit. Medical professionals Dr. P. Ritesh, Dr. P. Tejaswi, Donepudi Lovaraju and Kavuri Vanisri also participated.

Editorial

Veligonda Credit Should Be Based on Facts

Leaders should be transparent and honest while claiming credit for public service and development works. Development projects are not the personal property of any political party or leader. They are the result of public money, administrative efforts and the contributions of different governments over several years. Therefore, political parties should not create confusion among people by making exaggerated claims.

The ongoing political debate over the Veligonda Project in Andhra Pradesh is a clear example. Both the ruling and opposition parties are arguing over who deserves the credit for completing the project. Instead of continuing this political quarrel, the government and concerned officials should release a detailed fact sheet explaining the history, budget allocations and expenditure of the project under different governments.

The facts indicate that the foundation stone for Veligonda was laid twice by N. Chandrababu Naidu, and work continued during his earlier tenure from 2014 and again after 2024. However, the project did not begin with the present government. The first budgetary allocation for Veligonda was made in 2004 by the then Chief Minister Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy. During his tenure, steps were taken for canals and other important works connected with the project. Later, YS Jaganmohan Reddy's government spent around Rs.800 crore on the project. However, compared with the contributions made by Dr YSR and the present government, his share appears to be relatively smaller. Now, N. Chandrababu Naidu has taken up the project and completed it, giving his government a significant share of the credit.

Therefore, politically speaking, both Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu can legitimately claim substantial credit for Veligonda. The contribution of YS Jaganmohan Reddy should also be acknowledged according to the actual expenditure and work carried out during his tenure.

What matters finally is not who shouts the loudest, but what the official records establish. The government should publish the complete facts, including year-wise allocations, expenditure and works undertaken by every government. Such transparency will end unnecessary political confusion.

Ultimately, Veligonda should be seen as a project shaped by different governments, with Dr YSR and N. Chandrababu Naidu having major contributions.

Editor

The Home as the First School!

A Huge Paradigm Shift in Early Education

Nobel laureate James J. Heckman has stated that every one rupee invested in pre-primary education yields six to ten rupees in future benefits, contributing significantly to the country by creating a strong foundation for future learning, improving cognitive and social-emotional skills, and increasing earning potential. Studies have shown that 90% of brain development happens during the crucial age of 3-5 years. Early childhood programmes equip children with school readiness skills and also mitigate socioeconomic disparities in education by providing equal learning opportunities from a young age. Recognising this, the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as a key component in ensuring a strong foundation for children aged 3-8 years, with a firm commitment to a smooth transition from pre-school to primary school.

The policy has restructured education into a 5+3+3+4 model, where the first five years (ages 3-8) form the foundational stage, which includes three years of pre-school and Grade 1 and 2 in primary school. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has already rolled out a special curriculum, contextualising its content with local examples that connect to a child's familiar reality. Familiar contexts help children grasp concepts easily, anchoring abstract lessons such as basic literacy, numeracy, and social skills, and engaging them with activities for better learning. This fosters the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs, building a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing.



However, to fulfil the aspirational goals of the 21st century through the lens of SDG-4, it is essential to involve parents in children's learning processes especially at a young age. Parental involvement offers ample scope for shaping cognitive and language skills through conversations, curiosity, and enthusiasm woven into routine life, requiring no special toys or learning materials. Research indicates that 20-30 minutes of meaningful daily interaction with parents builds cognitive skills, with parents acting as the child's first teachers helping children identify colours and shapes and guiding simple problem-solving exercises. Back-and-forth conversations also build vocabulary and sentence formation and improve listening and speaking skills, supporting language acquisition.

At an institutional level, ECCE is provided by different institutions. The public sector provision by the Government of India covers approximately 32% of all children in the 3-6 years age group for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). Besides this, a large number of NGOs are also working with government departments to enhance the quality of ECE like Pratham, standalone NGO-run ECE centers including the nursery school of the

Andhra Mahila Sabha and multinational philanthropic organizations such as the Aga Khan Foundation etc. Most NGO-run facilities develop their own curriculum, and a number of them have been instrumental in guiding the framing of the National ECCE Curriculum Framework as well.

Bal Raksha Bharat(also known as Save the Children), one of the leading organisations working in ECCE focuses on early learning through its own "Ready to Learn" approach focusing on three core components - emergent literacy and emergent math at the institution (Anganwadi Centre/pre-school) and at Home as well as assessment. The modules help integrate over 100 play-based activities into daily schedules, along with 25 sample hands-on games caregivers can play at home with young children. The approach gives parents/caregivers a wider role in ECCE by focusing on children's early learning at home. The capacities of parents/care-givers are built to conduct pre-literacy and numeracy sessions for children aged 3-6 years within their regular household routine. Ready to Learn Approach:

Given that different stakeholders have a role to play in children's learning, Bal Raksha Bharat focuses on four dimensions



Malladi Sree Nagesh

Education Analyst

sions of school readiness - getting the children ready, getting the family (parents/caregivers and community) ready, getting Anganwadi Centres/Schools ready, and system ready to provide 3-6-year-old children with early learning opportunities and school readiness skills in Centres as well as at home which is done through Ready to Approach. This Approach supports 3 - 6-year-old children to develop the foundational literacy (talking and listening; understanding print; knowing what books are; knowing about alphabets; and understanding sounds and words) and math skills (numbers and counting; pattern; sorting and classification; comparison and measurement; and geometry) the need to learn and succeed in life. Ready to Learn focuses on five emergent literacy skills and five emergent math skills. ECCE practitioners and caregivers are trained to use common objects for counting and sorting, drawing on a resource bank of play-oriented activity cards in the toolkit, enabling teaching at home with low- or no-cost household materials. The approach has been formalised through a set of cards with relevant pictures, a daily calendar of activities for teaching young children sequentially at home. At home over a period, the parents/care-givers continue school readiness sessions at home under the supervision of Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors.

Assessment
The International Development and Early Learning

Assessment (IDELA) is an easy-to-use assessment measuring children's progression in a standardised manner, allowing comparison across multiple contexts. The tool is developed by Save the Children International; it comprises 30-35 play-based tasks that evaluate standard ECCE milestones across four pillars: motor development, early language and literacy, early numeracy, and socio-emotional skills. It also captures how gender, poverty or special needs affect early development, helping policymakers design relevant programmes for marginalised and vulnerable children.

Conclusion

These interventions are creating immense impact among young children and have led to a special Resource Centre in Karnataka, supported by the Women Welfare and Child Development Department, to replicate this proof of concept across many geographies in the state. Similar examples exist in almost 10 Indian states, drawing on the experiences of countries including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi and Rwanda, while research is underway in five more countries, Bhutan, Bolivia, Mali, Nepal and Vietnam, for further replication. The success of the ELM at Home and centre, has yielded better results, contributing to ECCE under NEP 2020 as the most critical foundation of India's entire education landscape.

(Writer is an Education Analyst, views are personal, not related to his organisation)

Rabindranath Tagore as a Teacher and the Natural Environment of Santiniketan



Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

Former Affiliate Faculty of English Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

Rabindranath Tagore occupies a unique place in the history of Indian education. He was not merely a poet, philosopher, novelist and Nobel laureate; he was also a visionary teacher who challenged the conventional system of education. He believed that education should not imprison a child within four walls, nor should it be reduced to memorisation, examinations and discipline imposed through fear. For Tagore, education was a joyful process of discovering oneself, understanding nature and developing a harmonious relationship with the world. Santiniketan was the living embodiment of this educational philosophy. Here, trees became classrooms, the open sky became a roof, nature became a teacher, and learning became a celebration of life.

Tagore's own childhood experiences played an important role in shaping his educational ideas. He disliked the mechanical atmosphere of conventional schools and felt that children were often separated from the natural world in the name of education. He believed that the child's mind was naturally curious and creative. Instead of forcing children to learn within rigid structures, education should provide them with freedom to observe, question, imagine and create. This conviction ultimately inspired him to establish an educational institution where learning could take place in close contact with nature.

In 1901, Tagore established the Brahmacharyashrama at Santiniketan with a small group of students. The institution later developed into Visva-Bharati, one of India's

most celebrated centres of learning and culture. From its very beginning, Santiniketan was different from an ordinary school. Classes were often conducted beneath trees rather than inside enclosed classrooms. Students and teachers sat together in the open air, surrounded by greenery, bird-song and changing seasons. The environment itself became an essential component of the educational process.

For Tagore, nature was not merely a beautiful background to education. It was a living textbook. A child could learn science by observing plants, birds and insects; geography by understanding the landscape; literature by experiencing the changing moods of the seasons; and art by observing colours, forms and light. Such direct contact with the natural world stimulated curiosity and encouraged children to learn through experience rather than through memorisation alone.

The landscape of Santiniketan had a profound influence on Tagore's educational experiment. The red earth, groves of trees, flowering plants, open fields and vast skies created an atmosphere of simplicity and freedom. The students could experience sunrise, sunset, rain, spring, autumn and winter as part of their daily lives. The changing seasons became an integral part of the cultural calendar of Santiniketan.

Tagore transformed the natural cycle of the year into occasions for education and celebration. Spring was welcomed through Basanta Utsav, while the monsoon inspired Varshamangal.



Sharadotsav celebrated autumn, and Poush Mela brought together culture, community and tradition. These festivals were not merely recreational events. They helped students understand the relationship between human life, nature, art and culture. Learning became something to be experienced with the whole personality rather than something confined to books. Tagore also placed great emphasis on music, dance, painting, drama and literature. He believed that education should develop the imagination and aesthetic sense of the learner. In Santiniketan, artistic activities were not treated as secondary subjects. They were essential to the development of a complete human being. The natural environment provided an ideal setting for artistic expression. Songs were sung beneath trees, plays were performed in open spaces, poems were recited in the midst of nature, and festivals brought together music, dance and visual beauty. Another important feature of Tagore's educational philosophy was the relationship

between teacher and student. He did not consider the teacher merely an authority who dictated information. The teacher was a guide, companion and source of inspiration. The relationship was based on affection, trust and mutual respect. In the open environment of Santiniketan, teachers and students could interact naturally. Such an atmosphere encouraged students to ask questions and express their ideas without fear. Tagore also believed strongly in the individuality of every child. Each student, he felt, possessed a unique personality and a distinct creative potential. Education should therefore not attempt to make every child identical. Instead, it should provide opportunities for individual growth. The freedom of Santiniketan allowed students to develop their interests in literature, music, art, science, agriculture and other areas according to their abilities. His educational philosophy also included a strong sense of responsibility towards nature. Long before environmental protection became a

global concern, Tagore understood that human civilisation could not survive by destroying its natural surroundings. He encouraged tree planting and introduced Vriksharopan Utsav as a cultural celebration of the relationship between humanity and the earth. Planting a tree was not simply an environmental activity; it was an expression of gratitude and affection towards nature. Tagore's environmental vision has acquired even greater significance today. The modern world is facing climate change, deforestation, pollution, loss of biodiversity and increasing alienation from the natural world. Children spend increasing amounts of time with digital screens and decreasing amounts of time outdoors. In this context, Santiniketan offers an important lesson: education must reconnect the learner with the earth. Technology can provide information, but nature provides experience, wonder and a sense of belonging. Santiniketan also reflected Tagore's larger philosophy of internationalism. He wanted the institution to become a

meeting place of cultures. His famous vision of Visva-Bharati was expressed through the ideal of making the world a single nest-"Yatra Visvam Bhavatyekanidam." Students and scholars from different parts of India and the world were encouraged to meet, exchange ideas and learn from one another. The open natural environment of Santiniketan symbolised this universal vision. Nature knows no political boundaries, and Tagore wanted education to transcend narrow nationalism and cultivate a sense of global humanity.

The greatest contribution of Tagore as a teacher was perhaps his understanding that education must develop the whole person. Intellectual growth alone was not enough. A truly educated individual should possess sensitivity, creativity, compassion, social responsibility and an awareness of beauty. Nature, art, literature and human relationships all had a role in this process. Today, when education is increasingly dominated by competition, examinations, grades and career anxiety,

Tagore's educational philosophy deserves renewed attention. His model reminds us that education is not simply preparation for employment. It is preparation for life. A child should learn not only how to earn a living but also how to appreciate beauty, respect nature, understand other cultures and become a responsible human being.

Santiniketan therefore remains much more than a historical educational institution. It represents a philosophy of learning that seeks harmony between human beings, nature and culture. Tagore's experiment demonstrated that a school could be both a place of knowledge and a place of joy, freedom and creativity.

The teacher Tagore and the natural environment of Santiniketan were inseparable. The poet who celebrated nature in his songs and poems brought that same love of nature into his educational practice. Beneath the trees of Santiniketan, he created a classroom without walls and a curriculum without narrow boundaries. His message remains relevant: education becomes meaningful when the mind is free, the heart is open and the learner remains connected with the living world.

In an age of technological advancement and environmental crisis, Tagore's Santiniketan offers us a powerful reminder that the future of education may depend not on building higher walls around classrooms, but on opening those classrooms to the sky, the trees, the seasons and the wider world.

Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee, an International Tagore Award-winning multilingual poet and writer, is an Affiliate Faculty Member of Virginia Commonwealth University, USA, and the President of the Kolkata Indian American Society (KIAS).

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PM Modi Calls for Stronger SCO Cooperation Against Terrorism



Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for stronger regional cooperation on security, connectivity, trade and people-to-people relations while addressing the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. His address focused on practical cooperation among member countries and the need to respond collectively to terrorism, organised crime and geopolitical conflicts.

Modi said the SCO should strengthen its three key pillars of security, connectivity and opportunity. He stressed that member countries should move beyond broad visions and work towards outcomes that can be measured and deliver tangible benefits to people.

A major focus of his address was terrorism. Modi called for dismantling the entire terrorism ecosystem, including terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens. He stressed that there should be no double standards in the fight against terrorism and urged SCO members to speak with one voice.

He also called for a strong regional message against state-supported terrorism. According to Modi, countries that use terrorism as an instrument of state policy or provide shelter and support to terrorists must face a clear response. Terrorism, he said, should never be allowed to become a strategic asset.

On Afghanistan, Modi emphasised the importance of peace, stability, development assistance and humanitarian support. He said India's contribution to Afghanistan's development and humanitarian needs would continue, linking stability in the country with the wider goal of a peaceful and secure Eurasia.

The Prime Minister urged stronger cooperation against drug trafficking, organised crime and other emerging security threats. He called for better coordination between SCO mechanisms and timely action against such challenges.

Connectivity and trade also featured prominently in his speech. Modi called for reliable and inclusive connectivity while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in accordance with the SCO Charter. He proposed more efficient trade and logistics through simplified customs procedures, digital documentation and improved logistics networks.

The Prime Minister said SCO cooperation should remain people-centric, with greater opportunities for youth, entrepreneurs, farmers and citizens. He also highlighted the importance of scientific, cultural and civilisational exchanges among member countries.

Initiatives such as the SCO Start-up Forum, Young Authors' Conclave and Young Scientists' Forum were cited as examples of cooperation. Modi also referred to the proposed SCO Civilizational Dialogue Forum, with its first session set to be held in India.

The SCO was established in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became full members in 2017, followed by Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024. The summit was held in an expanded SCO-Plus format, involving leaders from associated countries including Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Mongolia, Laos and Togo.

Rahul Gandhi Targets EC Over Maharashtra Voter Roll Exclusions



Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has stepped up his attack on the Election Commission and the BJP after more than 2.06 crore electors were excluded from Maharashtra's draft electoral roll following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Gandhi described the development as "vote theft" and referred to the Election Commission as the "Vote Chori Aayog", alleging that the BJP and the poll body were changing their tactics while pursuing the same objective of ensuring a BJP victory.

"The BJP and the 'Vote Chori Aayog' keep changing their tactics, and they will continue to do so - the goal remains just one: BJP's victory at any cost, and the end of India's democracy," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer, 2,06,88,487 electors, representing 21.14 per cent of Maharashtra's previous voter base, did not figure in the draft electoral roll. Their enumeration forms could not be collected because they were untraceable, deceased or had shifted their residences. The draft roll contains more than 7.71 crore voters, representing 78.86 per cent of the previous electorate. It includes around 3.95 crore men, 3.75 crore women and 3,087 third-gender voters.

He also referred to Bengal 2026, claiming that 91 per cent of names removed during the SIR were restored following appeals. Gandhi questioned the differing voter figures recorded during the Lok Sabha 2024, Vidhan Sabha 2024 and SIR 2026 exercises.

"For a government built on vote theft, the people are not important - that's why this BJP neither listens to the people nor obeys their command," he said.

Before the SIR exercise, Maharashtra had 9.78 crore voters. Among districts, Pune recorded the highest number of uncollectable enumeration forms at 28.6 lakh, followed by Thane at 28.5 lakh and Mumbai Suburban at 26.5 lakh. Nagpur recorded 14.43 lakh, Nashik 10.27 lakh and Mumbai City 9.5 lakh.

The electoral process now provides an opportunity for eligible voters missing from the draft roll to seek inclusion. Claims and objections can be filed between August 31 and September 30. Form 6 can be used for inclusion, Form 7 for objections and Form 8 for corrections to details such as name, address, age or gender.

Electoral registration officers and their assistants will process claims, objections and notices between August 31 and October 29. The final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on November 4, according to the Election Commission's timetable.

Bank Unions Set Strike Dates

Banking operations could face disruption as the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), representing more than 90 per cent of the banking workforce, announced a series of strikes over unresolved issues concerning the five-day banking week and the government's revised Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. The UFBU has called a one-day strike on September 11, followed by a three-day strike from September 28 to 30. If the issues remain unresolved, the unions have warned of an indefinite strike beginning October 26, 2026. The forum comprises seven unions - AIBEA, AIBOC, NCBE, AIBOA, BEFI, INBOC and INBEF - representing employees across public sector, private, foreign, regional rural and cooperative banks.

According to the unions, their four principal demands are implementation of a five-day banking week, withdrawal of the revised PLI scheme, modification of the incentive structure through bilateral negotiations and settlement of pending residual issues.

The five-day banking week has been a long-standing demand. The unions said banks agreed in principle to the proposal in 2015, when the second and fourth Saturdays were declared holidays. The matter was subsequently revisited in 2020 and formalised through a wage settlement signed on March 8, 2024.

Under the arrangement, employees agreed to work an additional 40 minutes every day from Monday to Friday in exchange for all Saturdays being declared holidays. The unions said the recommendation was sent to the Finance Ministry more than two years ago but is still awaiting approval.

They also pointed out that five-day working weeks are already followed by institutions including the Reserve Bank of India, LIC, GIC and NABARD, besides several government and private organisations. According to the unions, customer service hours would not be affected because employees have agreed to longer working hours during weekdays.

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Congress Targets Modi Government Over MGNREGA, Job Guarantee

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Modi government of weakening the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), calling the rural employment programme a lifeline for the country's poor and alleging that its replacement was aimed at taking away the statutory employment guarantee.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh made the allegations while sharing a media report on X about the situation of job card holders in Ballia district. The report claimed that workers were becoming increasingly disillusioned with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), with departmental statistics also reflecting the trend.

Ramesh alleged that the Modi government had destroyed MGNREGA in the name of "VB G RAM G", despite the BJP making what he described as grand claims in Parliament about the new employment framework.



According to Ramesh, the changes went beyond simply renaming an existing programme. He alleged that the government had deliberately planned to end what he described as one of the country's

most successful and historic poverty alleviation schemes.

"The Modi government has destroyed the lifeline of the country's poor, MGNREGA, in the name of 'VB G RAM G'," Ramesh said in a post in Hindi on X.

He further claimed that the government had ended the right to employment for poor and deprived sections that had been guaranteed under the Congress-backed MGNREGA framework.

Ramesh cited figures from Ballia to underline his criticism. Against a target of 1.76 lakh man-day work, only 10,669 days of employment were reportedly provided over a period of two months. He claimed that similar conditions were being seen across districts in the country.

The Congress leader alleged that the new system would ultimately weaken employment opportunities for rural workers at a time when households were already facing pressure from inflation.

"In this back-breaking era of inflation, snatching the last morsel of

bread from the poor to fill the coffers of crony capitalists is the real policy of the anti-poor Modi government," Ramesh said.

The dispute follows the implementation of the VB-G RAM G Act earlier this year. The Congress had opposed the replacement of the rural employment scheme and demanded that the new law be repealed and a strengthened version of MGNREGA restored.

The party has also criticised what it described as unjustifiably low wages under the new legislation, arguing that rural workers could be adversely affected if employment opportunities and wage protections are reduced.

For the Modi government, the new VB-G RAM G framework represents a different approach to rural employment and livelihood support. The contrasting positions have turned the issue into a broader political debate over poverty alleviation, rural wages and the nature of employment guarantees available to India's poorest households.

She had been employed as a clerk at Bolpur High School but lost the job following a Calcutta High Court order in March 2023.

At the time, her father Nihar Ranjan Mukherjee had maintained that she had secured the position on the basis of her own merit.

The latest incident has brought renewed attention to Bristi's personal and professional circumstances. However, police have not announced any conclusion regarding the cause of death and are continuing their investigation.

The postmortem examination is expected to provide further information as investigators seek to establish the circumstances leading to the death. Authorities are also expected to examine the statements of family members and other available evidence before determining the next course of action.

Police are examining the statements provided by relatives along with other circumstances surrounding the incident. Bristi's name had earlier figured in the controversy surrounding the School Service Commission recruitment scam during the Trinamul Congress government.

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Mamata Banerjee's Niece Found Dead at Bengal Home

Bristi Mukherjee, 28, niece of Trinamul Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, was found hanging at her ancestral home in Kusumba village of Rampurhat in West Bengal on Tuesday morning. Police said the circumstances surrounding her death are under investigation.

Bristi Mukherjee was the daughter of Nihar Ranjan Mukherjee, Mamata Banerjee's cousin brother from her mother's side. She had been staying at the family's ancestral house following her separation from her husband.

According to police, Bristi was found at around 9 am on the first floor of the house. A long white piece of cloth was found tied around her neck and attached to a ceiling fan.

Police sent the body to Rampurhat Medical College and Hospital for postmortem examination. Officials said no suicide note was

found at the residence.

Investigators have spoken to family members as part of the inquiry into the circumstances of her death. Family members told police that Bristi had been suffering from depression following her separation and had been undergoing medication for the past four years.



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SC Quashes FIRs Against CJP Student Protesters

The Supreme Court has given major relief to student protesters associated with the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), ordering the quashing of FIRs registered against protesters in connection with demonstrations held between July 20 and 25. The court's intervention also led the CJP to withdraw its proposed September 5 protest march.

The order followed assurances from the Centre that cases filed against protesters would be withdrawn and that no fresh FIRs would be registered in connection with the protest-related events during the specified period.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta told the court that the Centre, through Delhi Police, and the states of Bihar, Assam, West Bengal and Maharashtra had filed applications seeking quashing of the FIRs. He said the applications were submitted to honour the



assurance given by the Centre to CJP leaders on July 25.

However, the Supreme Court made an exception for protesters with criminal antecedents. The Delhi Police has been allowed to pursue one FIR involving 2,873 individuals who were present at the Jantar Mantar protest and were identified as having serious criminal antecedents.

CJP spokesperson Saurav Das welcomed the court's decision and said the organisation had decided to withdraw its September 5 march following the positive assurances from the Government of India and the Supreme Court's order.

The court proceedings also covered compensation for families of students who died by suicide fol-

lowing the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 examination. Tushar Mehta said the Centre remained committed to honouring its assurance but requested three months to work out the modalities. The Supreme Court directed the Centre to complete the compensation modalities within three months.

The CJP had announced the September 5 protest accusing the Centre of failing to fulfil commitments concerning the withdrawal of cases against students and compensation for families of NEET aspirants who died by suicide following the paper leak.

With the latest order, the dispute has moved from the streets to the legal and administrative process, while the CJP's decision to cancel its planned march marks a significant de-escalation between the student group and the authorities.

Nepal Flood Death Toll Crosses 1,000

The death toll from catastrophic flooding and landslides in Nepal and neighbouring China has crossed 1,000, while rescue teams continue searching for thousands of people reported missing after a massive disaster in the Himalayan region. Nepal's disaster agency said 987 deaths had been recorded, while 3,916 people remained missing, including 583 foreigners. Chinese authorities had reported 16 deaths in their latest update. At least 11,814 people have been rescued so far, according to Nepalese authorities. The disaster began on August 26 following a chain of events in the high Himalayas. Scientists studying satellite imagery said a collapse involving bedrock beneath a glacier triggered a massive rock, ice and meltwater surge into valleys. The rockfall was powerful enough to register as a magnitude 5.2 seismic event. The resulting surge entered rivers flowing through Tibet and Nepal,



causing water levels to rise rapidly. Powerful floods and landslides swept away homes, buildings, roads and bridges, carrying mud, rocks and other debris downstream. Rescue operations remain focused on reaching communities cut off after roads and bridges were destroyed. Emergency crews are using helicopters and other aircraft to reach stranded people and deliver assistance to survivors in difficult-to-access areas.

One of the most urgent tasks is locating at least 900 workers reported missing from 12 hydropower projects damaged by the flash floods. About 500 of them are believed to be trapped inside tunnels, raising concerns over their survival. Visuals released by Nepal's army showed rescue teams entering dark, debris-filled tunnels while wading through mud and water and climbing over rocks in search of survivors.

Bimal Sharma, a helicopter pilot who has been involved in rescue missions since the disaster began, described the devastation in Timure, a border town near Tibet that he has known for years. "It felt like I was flying over an entirely different landscape," Sharma said, describing the scale of destruction. He said there had been little opportunity to speak with many of the people rescued during the operations, but their expressions reflected the trauma caused by the disaster. "I can see the pain in their eyes. It's heartbreaking," Sharma said. Authorities continue to face major challenges as thousands remain unaccounted for and transportation links have been severely damaged. Rescue teams are concentrating on locating missing people, reaching isolated communities and providing immediate support to those affected by the floods and landslides.

Trump Keeps 2028 Republican Succession Race Open



US President Donald Trump has kept speculation over his political successor alive while declining to endorse any potential candidate for the 2028 presidential race. Asked about reports that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had discussed a possible White House campaign, Trump praised Hegseth's performance but said it was too early to discuss the next presidential contest. Trump described Hegseth as doing a "fantastic job" but stressed that the immediate political priority for the Republican Party was the upcoming US congressional midterm elections. "We have to get through the midterms first," Trump told reporters, as Republicans prepare to defend their control of both chambers of Congress. Hegseth, an Army National Guard veteran and former Fox News Channel television host, has emerged as a prominent figure within the Trump administration. His appearance at the Iowa State Fair, where he campaigned for Republican candidates, further fueled speculation that he could have political ambitions beyond his current role as Defense Secretary. Trump is constitutionally limited to two terms as president and is expected to leave office in 2029. However, he has not formally identified a successor who could take charge of his "Make America Great Again" movement and carry his political influence into the next presidential cycle. Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio have already attracted support from Republicans interested in seeing them compete for the presidency in 2028. Hegseth's name has now entered the wider discussion, although he has denied having plans to run for president. Trump also suggested that the potential field could be larger than currently understood, indicating that several Republican figures may be considering presidential ambitions without making them public. He said there could be "a lot of people considering it" who were not yet known to the public. Trump has also strongly emphasised the value of his political backing. In a Truth Social post, he described his political endorsement as "the strongest endorsement in the History of Politics," underlining the influence he believes he continues to hold within the Republican Party. With the midterm elections approaching, attention inside the Republican Party is expected to remain focused primarily on protecting its congressional majority. At the same time, speculation over who could inherit Trump's political movement is likely to intensify. For now, Trump has kept the 2028 field open while refusing to publicly favour Hegseth, Vance, Rubio or any other potential successor.

Indians May Face 179-Year Wait For US Green Card

Indian professionals seeking US employment-based green cards could face extraordinarily long waits, with some new applicants potentially waiting up to 179 years, according to an analysis by the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAF). The report examined backlogs in the employment-based EB-1, EB-2 and EB-3 categories using US Citizenship and Immigration Services data. It found that Indian nationals face the longest delays due to visa backlogs, country-specific statutory limits and strong demand for foreign-born scientists and engineers in the United States. US immigration law limits employment-based green cards to about 140,000 annually, with no more than 7 per cent allocated to nationals of any one country in a year. As of December 2025, nearly one million Indians were waiting



in the employment-based immigration backlog. The overall backlog across EB-1, EB-2 and EB-3 increased by 20.6 per cent over five years, reaching an estimated 1.26 million people in December 2025, compared with about 1.05 million in April 2020. EB-3 accounted for 30.1 per cent of the backlog, followed by EB-2 at 22.9 per cent and EB-1 at 16.6 per cent.

NFAF estimates that a new highly skilled Indian worker could face a wait of up to 179 years under EB-2, 38 years under EB-3 and four to five years under EB-1. Many applicants remain in temporary H-1B status during the prolonged immigration process. The foundation warned that such delays could undermine US companies' ability to attract and retain skilled talent while creating seri-

ous hardships for workers and their families. The situation has become more complicated under US President Donald Trump, who returned to the White House for a second term and has pursued an aggressive immigration crackdown. His administration has intensified deportations and made visa and green card procedures more difficult, including by imposing new and expensive fees for certain work visas. Indian immigrants, numbering about 3.2 million in 2024, are the second-largest foreign-born group in the United States. Human rights groups have criticised Trump's immigration policies as discriminatory and harmful to free speech and due process, adding to concerns among Indian professionals waiting for permanent residency.

Climber Rescued After Spending Night On 6-Inch Ledge In California

Climber Rescued After Spending Hours On Six-Inch LedgeA climber stranded on a tiny six-inch ledge in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range was rescued after an overnight high-angle operation by emergency responders. The climber, identified as Rob Martin, became trapped on the Mendenhall Couloir, a steep alpine rock-climbing gully on the east face of Laurel Mountain. Martin contacted the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team at around 1:20 pm after taking a wrong turn and finding himself unable to move safely. The drop below the narrow ledge was considered too dangerous for Martin to climb down. Authorities said the route is a complex alpine gully containing loose rock and thousands of feet of vertical exposure, making any fall potentially fatal. Clay Tyson, owner of local climbing service Ground Up Climbing Guides, told The New York Times that the route can be difficult to follow because climbers may believe they are in the correct area

while navigating its tricky sections. The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team faced difficult terrain, steep angles and dangerous nighttime conditions while planning the rescue. The dangerous drop meant that rescuers could not simply approach Martin from below, forcing them to organise a specialised high-angle operation. The rescue team extended its operational timeline and worked through the night to reach Martin before he could suffer a potentially fatal fall. Emergency personnel established specialised rope systems and carefully lowered a technician down the mountain face toward Martin's location. After reaching a position above Martin, the technician secured him with a rope and harness system. The climber and rescuer then moved together as a tandem unit down the precarious offshoot gully and toward the main climbing route. The rescue technician reached Martin by early morning and helped bring him safely out of the



hazardous section of the mountain. Emergency responders examined Martin at the scene and reported that, despite being exhausted after spending hours stranded on the tiny ledge, he had avoided major injuries. The rescue highlighted the extreme risks involved in navigat-

ing complex alpine routes, where a wrong turn can quickly leave climbers exposed to dangerous drops and unstable terrain. Authorities and local climbing experts stressed the difficulty of the Mendenhall Couloir and the importance of careful route-finding while climbing in such challenging mountain environments.

India Steps In To Identify Nepal Flood Victims



More than 1,000 people have been killed and 3,916 remain missing after devastating floods near Nepal's border with Tibet, as rescue operations continue into the seventh day. The death toll is still rising as authorities recover more bodies from affected areas. According to the Foreign Ministry, 275 Indian nationals and 128 people of Indian origin are among those missing. Most of them are believed to be pilgrims who were travelling for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Nepalese authorities are facing major difficulties in identifying and storing the bodies being recovered. Morgues have reportedly run out of space, while the exact number of foreigners among the recovered bodies remains unclear. To help relatives identify their missing family members, the Nepal government has prepared a PowerPoint slideshow containing photographs and descriptions of recovered bodies. The move is aimed at speeding up the identification process amid the growing number of casualties. The Indian Embassy in Nepal has now issued a step-by-step guide to help Indian families identify and claim the bodies of their loved ones. The embassy said the Nepal government has been releasing photographs and descriptions of the deceased through an online portal. Families who recognise a missing relative through the photographs can approach the Indian Embassy for assistance. The embassy will coordinate with local authorities to facilitate the procedures required for handing over the mortal remains and repatriating them to India. The Nepalese government has also established a nine-step procedure for families seeking to claim the remains of victims. The process is intended to ensure proper identification and documentation before the bodies are handed over. The initiative comes as Nepal authorities struggle to manage the humanitarian consequences of the floods, with large numbers of people still unaccounted for and bodies continuing to be recovered. For Indian families anxiously waiting for information about missing relatives, the identification mechanism and assistance from the Indian Embassy could provide an important route to confirm the fate of their loved ones and bring the remains home.

Indian Among 12 Killed In Russian Attack On Kyiv

At least 12 people, including an Indian citizen, were killed and dozens injured in an overnight Russian air assault on Kyiv and surrounding areas, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said. The attack marked the sixth consecutive day of strikes on the Ukrainian capital, with residential buildings and other civilian infrastructure damaged. Emergency crews were deployed to several locations to tackle fires and assist those affected by the strikes. Zelensky said a large number of jet-powered drones and ballistic missiles were used in the assault. Expressing condolences to the families of those killed, he said the attacks were designed to cause maximum loss of life. The Ukrainian president said Russia had continued guided aerial bomb and drone strikes against Odesa and the surrounding region since Monday evening. He alleged that Moscow's attacks were calculated to destroy as many lives as possible and argued that the damage becomes particularly severe when Ukraine lacks sufficient air



defence resources. Ukraine has been at war with Russia since February 2022 and is currently facing a shortage of interceptor missiles. The shortage is particularly significant for US-made Patriot systems, which are used to counter ballistic missile threats. According to Zelensky, Moscow has been taking advantage of the global shortage of air defence interceptor missiles, which has been largely attributed

to the United States' war in Iran. Russia has subsequently increased the scale and intensity of its air attacks against Ukraine. Russian strikes have also intensified against export infrastructure in the Odesa region, which contains Ukraine's major Black Sea ports as well as the Danube river ports of Reni and Izmail. The attacks have effectively disrupted the country's maritime export routes. The Black Sea ports previously handled

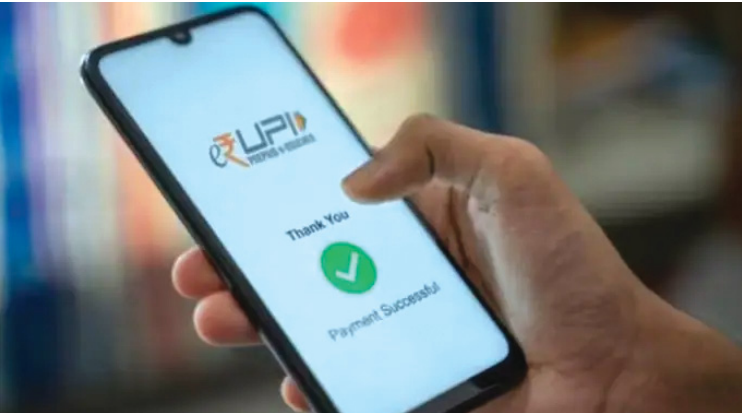
around 90 per cent of Ukraine's exports, but continuing attacks have forced Kyiv to redirect cargo through lower-capacity Danube river ports and railway crossings along the western border. The latest casualties add to the growing human cost of the prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict, while Ukraine continues to seek stronger air defence capabilities to protect civilians and critical infrastructure.

Nifty Holds Above 24,000 Amid Volatility



Indian equity markets witnessed a volatile trading session, with the Nifty managing to hold above the crucial 24,000 mark despite weakness across several key sectors. The broader market, however, remained under pressure as selling emerged in multiple sectors, limiting the overall performance of the indices. The Nifty faced fluctuations during the session but succeeded in maintaining its position above the psychologically important 24,000 level. Market activity remained cautious as investors assessed sectoral trends and looked for signs of stability following recent market movements. Sectoral performance remained mixed, with several important indices recording declines. Nifty Pharma emerged as the biggest laggard, falling 1.5 per cent. Nifty Consumer Durables and Nifty Realty followed, declining 1.4 per cent each. The automobile and public sector banking segments also witnessed notable selling pressure. Nifty Auto and Nifty PSU Bank dropped 1.2 per cent each, reflecting weakness across both consumption-linked and financial stocks. Nifty Bank declined 1 per cent, while Nifty Private Bank fell 0.9 per cent. The weakness in banking stocks remained an important factor influencing the broader market. Financial companies carry significant weight in the benchmark indices, and declines across banking segments can affect overall market sentiment. The selling also contributed to the underperformance of broader indices during the session. However, some sectors managed to buck the negative trend. Nifty FMCG and Nifty IT gained 0.9 per cent each, providing support to the benchmark. The performance of information technology stocks offered some relief amid the wider market weakness, while FMCG stocks also attracted buying interest. The contrasting performance among sectors indicated that investors were becoming increasingly selective rather than taking a broad-based approach to equities. While some areas witnessed selling, others continued to attract interest based on their individual growth prospects and market expectations. The Nifty's ability to remain above 24,000 was viewed as an important feature of the session. The level has emerged as a key psychological zone for market participants, with traders closely watching whether the index can sustain itself above the mark in subsequent sessions. At the same time, the underperformance of broader indices suggested that market sentiment remained cautious. Declines in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, consumer durables, real estate, automobiles and banking showed that the selling pressure was spread across several parts of the market. Overall, the session reflected a market caught between volatility and selective buying. While the Nifty succeeded in protecting the 24,000 level, weakness in several major sectors kept the broader market under pressure. The gains in FMCG and IT provided some support, but a sustained improvement in market breadth may be necessary for a stronger recovery.

UPI Transactions Hit Record 24.51 Billion in August



Transactions through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) reached a record 24.51 billion in August, highlighting the continued rapid expansion of digital payments in India. According to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), transaction volumes increased significantly from the previous month, while the total value remained close to the record levels seen earlier this year. UPI transactions stood at Rs 29.82 lakh crore in value during August, compared with Rs 24.85 lakh crore in the same month a year ago. This represents annual growth of around 20 per cent in transaction value. In volume terms, UPI transactions rose to 24.51 billion in August, compared with 23.66 billion in July. The figure was also higher than the 23.2 billion transactions recorded in May and 22.72 billion in June. The latest numbers underline the growing dependence of consumers, merchants and businesses on instant digital payments. UPI enables real-time transactions between individuals as well as payments to merchants, making it an important part of India's retail payment infrastructure. The transaction value in August remained close to the record Rs 29.9 lakh crore registered in May and July 2026. The combination of strong volume growth and sustained transaction value indicates that digital payments are becoming increasingly embedded in routine economic activity. On an annual basis, UPI transaction volume increased by 22 per cent, rising from 19.63 billion transactions in August last year to 24.51 billion this August. The increase reflects both the expansion of the digital payment user base and the growing frequency with which existing users conduct transactions. Festive activity also contributed to the increase in transaction volumes. Cashfree Payments co-founder Reejuu Datta said occasions such as Raksha Bandhan naturally resulted in a surge in everyday peer-to-peer (P2P) transfers and small-value gifting transactions. Datta said the consistent aggregate transaction value, together with rising volumes over the past three months, demonstrated the expanding reach and depth of the UPI ecosystem. NPCI is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). It is an umbrella organisation responsible for operating retail payment and settlement systems in India and runs the UPI platform. With transaction volumes continuing to rise, the August performance reinforces UPI's growing role in India's digital economy. The platform's ability to handle billions of transactions while maintaining strong annual growth is likely to remain a key indicator of the country's shift towards real-time digital payments.

Sensex, Nifty Slip As Crude Prices And US-Iran Tensions Weigh



Indian benchmark indices opened lower on Tuesday as rising crude oil prices, renewed tensions between the United States and Iran and expectations of tighter US monetary policy kept investors cautious. The weak opening followed a decline in the previous session, with foreign fund selling adding to pressure on domestic equities. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 121.48 points to 76,835.79 in early trade, while the 50-share NSE Nifty declined 52.6 points to 24,027.80. The movement reflected growing concerns that higher crude prices and geopolitical uncertainty could affect inflation, corporate earnings and overall market sentiment. Among the 30 Sensex companies, Bajaj Finserv, InterGlobe Aviation, Titan, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and Axis Bank were among the major laggards. ITC, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel and Infosys were among the stocks that gained, providing some support to the broader market. Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said Indian equity markets were expected to remain cautious as renewed US-Iran tensions and the resulting rebound in crude prices continued to cloud investor sentiment. He also pointed to growing expectations that the US Federal Reserve could keep monetary policy tighter for longer. Such expectations can reduce risk appetite in emerging markets as investors reassess the attractiveness of equities and other assets outside the US. However, domestic economic strength is providing some cushion to the Indian market. India's real GDP expanded 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of FY27, comfortably exceeding the Reserve Bank of India's 7 per cent projection as well as market expectations. Ponmudi said the strong growth performance demonstrated resilience in India's domestic economy despite global uncertainty. The robust expansion could help offset some of the external pressures currently affecting investor sentiment. Asian markets also reflected a cautious mood. South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng traded lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index moved higher. US markets had ended lower on Monday. Foreign Institutional Investors sold equities worth Rs 7,985.88 crore on Monday, according to exchange data, adding to the pressure on domestic benchmarks. In the previous session, the Sensex declined 307.24 points, or 0.40 per cent, to close at 76,957.27, while the Nifty dropped 95.25 points, or 0.39 per cent, to end at 24,080.40.

Tim Cook Bids Farewell to Apple, Passes Baton to John Ternus

Apple CEO Tim Cook has formally stepped down from the top post after nearly three decades with the technology giant, marking the end of a leadership era that began in 2011. In his final memo to employees, Cook paid tribute to Apple founder Steve Jobs and praised the company's workforce as an "extraordinary" team. Cook, who took charge just weeks before Jobs died from pancreatic cancer, reflected on his long association with Apple and the transformation the company underwent during his tenure. He said the company had succeeded in making its "dent in the universe", echoing a phrase Jobs had used while describing Apple's broader mission. Jobs hired Cook in 1998, and Cook rose through the company's ranks, becoming chief operating officer in 2005. He built a strong reputation for managing Apple's complex global supply chain before succeeding Jobs as CEO. Under Cook, Apple grew into one of the world's most valuable companies. Its market value crossed \$4.5 trillion on Monday, highlighting the scale of the business he leaves behind. In his farewell message, Cook credited Apple's employees for the company's achievements. "Whatever there is to say about my success, I know it is all because of you," he wrote. He described the opportunity to lead Apple as "the privilege of a lifetime" and said he loved both the company and the team behind it. Apple has around 166,000 employees worldwide, according to its latest annual report. Cook will now take on the role of executive chairman, allowing him to remain involved with the company while handing day-to-day leadership to John Ternus. Ternus will have little time to settle into his new position. Apple is scheduled to hold its annual iPhone event on September 9, where it is expected to unveil its first foldable handset. Apple must additionally navigate a complicated political environment in Washington and manage the risks surrounding its global manufacturing network. Cook's departure therefore marks more than a change at the top. It signals the beginning of a new phase for Apple, with Ternus expected to preserve the company's enormous strengths while addressing the technological and geopolitical challenges shaping its future.



Rupee Gains 26 Paise to 94.96 Against US Dollar

The Indian rupee strengthened 26 paise to 94.96 against the US dollar, supported by robust domestic economic growth, contained fiscal slippage and portfolio-related inflows. The currency's recovery came despite continued volatility in global markets and concerns over geopolitical tensions and elevated crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.06 against the US dollar before gaining ground to touch 94.96. The currency had closed at 95.22 on Monday after recovering from its initial losses and gaining 21 paise during the session. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair appeared to have established a strong near-term base around the 95.10-95.20 levels. Portfolio-related inflows, including those linked to MSCI, have provided temporary support to the domestic currency. The dollar index, which measures the strength of the US currency against a basket of six major currencies, was trading at 99.46, up 0.03 per cent. Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.63 per cent to USD 91.06 per barrel in futures trade. Domestic equity markets were also weak during early trading. The Sensex declined 121.48 points to 76,835.79, while the Nifty fell 52.6 points to 24,027.80. Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 7,985.88 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data. Despite the recent selling, foreign portfolio investor flows showed improvement in August. FPIs invested around USD 3.1 billion during the month, marking their strongest monthly inflow in 23 months and the second consecutive month of net buying. However, foreign investors



remained net sellers of around USD 24.6 billion so far in 2026. Pabari said the direction of foreign flows had improved, although the broader picture remained uncomfortable. On the economic front, India's economy expanded 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter, exceeding expectations and demonstrating resilience despite Middle East tensions and uncertainty in global markets. Amit Pabari, MD of CR Forex Advisors, said the strong growth was particularly significant because it came during a period of elevated crude prices and geopolitical tensions. He said robust growth does not automatically strengthen the currency

but reinforces the perception that India's domestic economy remains resilient despite global turbulence. Fiscal conditions have also supported sentiment. According to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the central government's fiscal deficit for 2026-27 stood at 26.8 per cent of the full-year target at the end of July. This was lower than the 29.9 per cent of Budget Estimates recorded during the corresponding period of 2025-26. The combination of strong economic growth, controlled fiscal slippage and improved portfolio inflows has provided support to the rupee, even as global risks continue to keep currency markets volatile.

Gold Futures Fall Rs 208 to Rs 1.54 Lakh Per 10 Grams

Gold prices declined by Rs 208 to Rs 1,54,252 per 10 grams in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), weighed down by weaker spot demand. The decline came as global gold prices also edged lower, indicating subdued buying interest in the precious metal. On the MCX, gold contracts for October delivery were trading at Rs 1,54,252 per 10 grams, down Rs 208, or 0.13 per cent, from the previous level. The contracts recorded a business turnover of 2,452 lots during the trading session. Market analysts attributed the decline primarily to weaker demand in the spot market. Spot demand is an important factor influencing gold prices, particularly when traders and consumers reduce purchases at elevated

price levels. The latest movement suggests that buyers remained cautious despite gold continuing to trade at historically high levels. The decline in domestic futures prices also followed a marginal weakness in international gold markets. Globally, gold futures fell 0.12 per cent to USD 4,432.26 per ounce in New York. Gold has remained under close watch among investors and consumers as prices have stayed at elevated levels. The precious metal is influenced by several factors, including international prices, currency movements, interest-rate expectations, geopolitical developments and physical demand. The latest fall, however, remained relatively modest, with the October contract declining only 0.13 per cent.

This indicates that the broader market continued to remain closely balanced, even as immediate spot demand weakened. The turnover of 2,452 lots on the MCX showed continued participation in gold futures despite the decline. Futures contracts allow market participants to take positions based on their expectations about future prices and are closely tracked as an indicator of sentiment in the commodities market. The international movement also remained important for domestic prices. Since gold is globally traded in US dollars, changes in international prices and currency movements can influence domestic futures rates. The marginal fall in New York therefore provided an additional factor contributing to the softer



domestic trend. For consumers, gold prices remain significantly higher

than levels seen in previous years, making affordability an important consideration

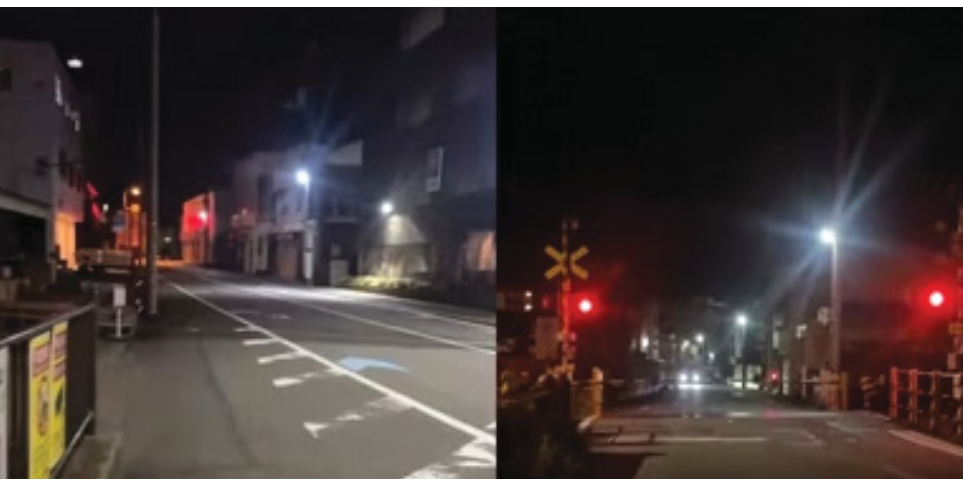
for jewellery buyers. Higher prices can also influence purchasing patterns, particular-

ly when spot demand weakens. For investors, the precious metal continues to remain a closely watched asset amid changing global economic conditions. Any renewed demand in the spot market or movement in international prices could influence domestic futures prices in the coming sessions. The latest trading session therefore reflected a combination of weak spot demand and marginal softness in global prices. While gold futures remained above Rs 1.54 lakh per 10 grams, the Rs 208 decline highlighted the cautious sentiment currently visible in the precious metals market. Market participants will continue to monitor international price movements and domestic demand for further direction.

Indian Woman's 11 PM Japan Walk Sparks Safety Debate

An Indian woman living in Japan has shared her experience of stepping out for a walk at 11 pm, saying the sense of security she experienced there felt significant to her. The woman, identified as Sheetal, shared a video on her Instagram handle in which she spoke about her late-night walk in Japan. The video attracted attention on social media, with users reacting to her observations about safety and the freedom to move around alone at night. In the video, Sheetal said it was 11 pm and that she had come outside for a walk. She explained that while walking in Japan, she did not feel the

need to constantly distinguish between late night and daytime or worry about what could happen while she was outside. Sheetal said that, as an Indian woman, being able to take such a walk at 11 pm without the same level of concern was a "very big deal" for her. Her comments appeared to highlight how everyday experiences can feel very different when people move between countries with different public environments and perceptions of safety. The video struck a chord with several social media users, who connected with Sheetal's broader point about women being able to use pub-



lic spaces freely after dark. Rather than describing the walk as an extraordinary adventure, her account focused on the simplicity of being outside late at night without feeling that the timing itself was a major concern. Her observation also

sparked discussion about the meaning of safety in everyday life. For women, the ability to walk, travel or spend time outdoors alone can be influenced by concerns about harassment, crime and the surrounding environment. A routine activity such as taking a walk can therefore carry a very different meaning depending on where a person lives. Sheetal's experience in Japan offered a personal perspective on that contrast. Her reaction suggested that what may appear to be an ordinary late-night activity can represent a considerable sense of independence for someone accustomed to being more cautious about going out alone at night.

Social media users responded to the video by discussing their own experiences and perceptions of safety in different countries. While individual experiences can vary, Sheetal's post drew attention to the importance of creating public spaces where people, particularly women, can move around without feeling restricted by the time of day. The video has consequently become a conversation about more than just an 11 pm walk. It has highlighted how safety, freedom and access to public spaces can shape everyday experiences, and why something as simple as taking a walk alone at night can feel meaningful to many women.

Indian Parents Amazed by Food Delivery Robot During US Visit



An Indian woman in the United States captured a heartwarming moment when her parents encountered a food delivery robot for the first time, leaving them visibly surprised, confused and excited by the unfamiliar technology. The wholesome incident was shared on Instagram by Priyanka, who was taking her parents around India Square in Jersey City, New Jersey, when they came across a small autonomous delivery robot moving along a pedestrian walkway. In the video, Priyanka's parents are seen walking along the street when the driverless machine quietly rolls past them. The couple immediately turns around to get a second look at the unusual sight. Their expressions appear to reflect a mixture of curiosity, amusement and disbelief as they watch the robot continue along the pavement. The unexpected encounter soon became a memorable part of their visit to the US. Priyanka explained that her parents could hardly believe that a small machine moving independently was delivering food. Sharing the video, she described their reaction as one of "shock, confusion, and excitement". She said they were amazed that a "little box on wheels" could deliver food without a person operating it. Priyanka also imagined what her parents might have been thinking as they watched the machine, writing, "Mummy Papa like, 'What on earth is that?!'" She described the moment as an "absolute core memory". The video has attracted attention on social media, particularly among viewers who found the parents' reaction relatable. Many people have experienced similar moments while introducing parents or older family members to technologies that have become routine in other parts of the world. For Priyanka's parents, the delivery robot appeared to be more than simply another machine on the street. It represented an unfamiliar form of technology that is increasingly becoming part of modern urban life. Priyanka said the experience was especially memorable because she could watch her parents discover such technology for themselves during their US trip. "Taking my Desi parents around the USA and seeing them experience these everyday futuristic things for the first time is truly priceless," she wrote. The incident also offered a glimpse into how technology is changing ordinary activities such as food delivery. Autonomous delivery vehicles are designed to transport orders without a conventional driver, navigating designated routes before reaching customers. However, it was not the technology alone that attracted viewers. The parents' spontaneous decision to turn around and watch the robot transformed an ordinary street encounter into an amusing family moment. The viral video ultimately offered a lighthearted reminder that even familiar technology can seem extraordinary when encountered for the first time. For Priyanka and her parents, a routine walk through a US neighbourhood became an unexpectedly memorable experience.

Indian-Origin Creator Sparks Debate Over Indians "Stealing" US Jobs

A 23-year-old Indian-origin digital creator based in Seattle, Yuvaan Ibanez Garware, has sparked an online conversation after challenging the familiar claim that Indians moving to the United States "steal" jobs from American workers. In a video shared on social media, Yuvaan questioned the idea that Indian immigrants are taking away employment opportunities, arguing that many Indians move to the US without established networks, local connections or familiarity with the country and still manage to build careers through their qualifications and determination. Addressing the argument directly, Yuvaan said, "If someone can move across the world to a country where no one speaks their native language, has zero connections, is on a visa, and within a few months, take your job... you did

not deserve that job. Yuvaan specifically referred to Indian students studying at institutions such as IIT Kharagpur, contrasting their academic preparation with the lives of some American college students. His argument was that the professional success of Indian immigrants should be viewed through the lens of their qualifications and hard work rather than simply being described as competition for jobs. According to Yuvaan, Indians often take up such roles because they are willing to work hard and persist despite challenging circumstances. He rejected the perception that Indians are lazy, arguing that their willingness to work long hours and adapt to difficult situations demonstrates the opposite. "Indians do it because they work hard and refuse to lose," he said,



adding that calling Indians lazy while they are "outworking you" is contradictory. Towards the end of the video, Yuvaan drew from his own experience of living in the US. He described Indians as "one of the most adaptable species on the planet", pointing to their ability to adjust to unfamiliar surroundings, navigate a new culture and establish careers far from their homeland. His comments have brought renewed attention to the wider debate surrounding immigration and employment in the US. While the question of immigration remains politically and socially sensitive, Yuvaan's video focuses on the effort, adaptability, education and willingness to work that he believes many Indian immigrants bring to their new lives abroad.

Air India Express Crew's Rakhi Gesture Wins Hearts Online



The short clip did not attract attention only because of the Rakhi exchange. Social media users also noticed several passengers visible

in the background and began sharing light-hearted observations about their reactions to the unusual celebration taking place inside the aircraft. One user joked that the passenger receiving the Rakhi should have given a gift in return. Another focused on a passenger in a white T-shirt who appeared to be sleeping through the entire incident. Other viewers noticed another passenger sitting behind the pair and humorously suggested that remaining uninvolved was the best way to avoid the "drama." Some users were amused by how casually other passengers appeared to react, with several seemingly unfazed by the festive interaction happening around them. The gesture also received appreciation from viewers who found it a sweet and unexpected way to celebrate Raksha Bandhan. One commenter described the moment as a warm gesture that made the passenger feel included

in the festivities. Raksha Bandhan is traditionally celebrated by siblings, with sisters tying a Rakhi around their brothers' wrists as a symbol of affection and protection. While the festival is generally associated with family gatherings, the Air India Express interaction offered an unusual version of the celebration at cruising altitude. The passenger's "bro-zone" comment added another layer of humour to the moment, making the brief exchange even more entertaining for viewers. What began as a simple festive gesture by the cabin crew eventually became a viral social media moment, with users discussing both the Rakhi ceremony and the seemingly relaxed reactions of people around them. The incident also highlighted how small, spontaneous gestures during travel can create memorable experiences for passengers.

Tim Cook to Step Down as Apple CEO After 15 Years

Tim Cook is set to hand over the leadership of Apple to hardware chief John Ternus after 15 years at the helm, marking a major transition for one of the world's most valuable technology companies. Cook, who succeeded co-founder Steve Jobs, leaves behind a dramatically larger company, having helped transform Apple from a business valued at around \$350 billion into a technology giant worth more than \$4.5 trillion. Cook will become executive chairman on September 1, while Ternus will take charge as Apple enters an increasingly competitive artificial intelligence era. Cook is expected to remain involved in Apple's engagement with policymakers, particularly as relations between the United States and China remain complicated. Unlike Jobs, whose leadership was closely associated with product design and innovation, Cook built his reputation around operations, supply-chain management and long-term business strategy. He followed Jobs' advice to focus on doing what was right rather than attempting to replicate his predecessor. Under Cook, Apple expanded its recurring-revenue businesses by turning its enormous customer base into a major source of income beyond hardware sales. Its installed base of around 2.5 billion iPhone users has supported strong growth in services and related businesses. Apple's annual revenue increased from \$108 billion when Cook began



as CEO to \$416 billion in the latest fiscal year, while profit rose more than fourfold to \$112 billion. Its wearables business, including Apple Watch and AirPods, generated \$35 billion in sales in fiscal 2025. Christopher Brown, a financial adviser at private wealth management firm Synovus Securities, which holds Apple shares, said Cook combined operational and supply-chain success with a values-driven culture. Bill Birmingham, managing director at REX Financial, said Cook developed a broader leadership team and transformed Apple into an institution, allowing greater focus on strategy and resource allocation. Yet Cook's tenure has also attract-

ed criticism over innovation. Apple has struggled to identify a product capable of eventually replacing the iPhone as its central consumer device. The company abandoned its decade-long electric vehicle project in 2024, while Apple Maps suffered a troubled launch in 2022. The \$3,499 Vision Pro augmented-reality headset, launched in 2023, has also failed to generate strong sales. The bigger concern is artificial intelligence, where Apple has lagged rivals and faced delays in its planned Siri overhaul. Ternus will also inherit the challenge of reducing Apple's dependence on China while protecting margins. Rising US-China tensions, tariffs and supply-chain disruptions have pushed Apple to

Meta Fixes Smart Glasses Recording Loophole

Meta is rolling out an update to its AI-powered smart glasses after users discovered a loophole that allowed them to continue recording even after covering the device's front-facing capture LED. The LED is designed as a privacy safeguard. It flashes when the glasses are being used to capture photos or videos, alerting people nearby that recording is taking place. Previously, the glasses prevented users from starting a recording when the LED was blocked. However, some users found that they could begin recording first and then cover the light, allowing the camera to continue operating without the visible signal. Meta's latest software update is aimed at closing that gap. Alex Himel, Meta's vice president of augmented reality, said the company was introducing changes to improve the reliability of the capture LED and ensure it functions as a meaningful warning for bystanders. Himel said the camera would now stop recording if the LED was covered while a recording was already underway. The change is intended to prevent users from deliberately bypassing the privacy protection. The latest change follows another privacy-related measure introduced by Meta a month earlier. The company had enabled its smart glasses to shut down when users tampered with the capture light. The issue has emerged amid grow-



ing concerns about the privacy implications of camera-equipped and AI-powered wearable devices. Unlike smartphones, smart glasses can potentially record people without making the act of filming immediately obvious, raising questions about consent and awareness in public spaces. Concerns have also extended beyond individual users. A German advocacy group recently filed a criminal complaint against Meta and other companies selling AI glasses in the country, arguing that such devices raise privacy and legal concerns. Cinema operators in the UK are also introducing policies to prohibit or restrict camera-enabled smart glasses,

including Meta's AI-powered glasses. The measures are linked to concerns over privacy as well as potential film piracy. Courts in England and Wales have similarly prohibited the use of Meta's smart glasses because of restrictions governing the capture of images and videos inside court premises. Meta's latest update highlights the growing challenge faced by technology companies as wearable cameras become more sophisticated. While the devices offer hands-free photography, video recording and AI-powered features, ensuring that people nearby can clearly understand when they are being recorded remains a major privacy concern.

Hardik Pandya's Mumbai Indians Captaincy Safe Despite Poor IPL Run

Hardik Pandya's position as Mumbai Indians (MI) captain is reportedly safe despite the team's disappointing campaign in IPL 2026. The five-time champions are currently placed ninth with six points from 10 matches, putting their playoff hopes under considerable pressure.

Pandya's leadership has come under scrutiny following Mumbai Indians' inconsistent performances, but the franchise management is understood to have retained its faith in the all-rounder. According to a report in The Indian Express, MI does not consider captaincy to be the main reason for the team's underwhelming campaign. Instead, the management reportedly believes that Mumbai Indians have been slow to adapt to the changing nature of T20 cricket. The franchise is understood to be focusing on how the players and team strategy can respond to the evolving demands of the tournament rather than immediately changing the captain. Mumbai Indians have traditionally been among the most successful teams in the Indian Premier League, having won the title five times. However, their IPL 2026 campaign has fallen significantly below expectations, with the side struggling to establish consistency during the league stage. Pandya has faced considerable attention since taking over the captaincy, particularly because of the franchise's previous success under Rohit Sharma. His leadership has been closely examined as MI have struggled to produce a sustained winning run. The latest report, however, suggests that the management is not currently considering a change at the top. Pandya is therefore expected to remain captain as the team enters a crucial phase of the season. Mumbai Indians' ninth-place position means their remaining matches have become increasingly important. With only six points from 10 games, the team needs a strong run of results to stay in contention for the playoffs. It may also need favourable results from other matches to improve its qualification chances. The recent victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) offered some relief, but it did not completely resolve concerns about the team's overall performance. MI will need greater consistency and improved displays across batting, bowling and fielding in their remaining fixtures. The management's decision to continue backing Pandya indicates that it is examining the team's difficulties from a broader perspective. Rather than blaming the captain alone, MI is reportedly assessing how effectively the squad has adapted to changes in the tournament. For Pandya, the continued support could provide valuable stability during the decisive stage of IPL 2026. His contributions as both captain and all-rounder will remain important if Mumbai Indians are to revive their campaign. Unless there is a dramatic change in circumstances, Pandya is expected to continue leading the five-time champions. The immediate challenge for him and the team will be to turn the management's confidence into consistent performances and keep their playoff hopes alive.

Hyderabad E-Champions Felicitated After TG20 League Triumph

Hyderabad E-Champions, winners of the inaugural TG20 League, were felicitated by Truzon Solar, the flagship brand of Suntek Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd. and a leading solar energy company. Truzon Solar is the Title Sponsor of the Hyderabad E-Champions franchise. The felicitation ceremony brought together the full playing squad, support staff and senior leadership of the company to recognise the team's successful debut season. Hyderabad E-Champions produced an impressive campaign, winning 10 of their 11 matches to lift the inaugural TG20 League trophy. The TG20 League was organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association with the approval of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. The tournament featured eight franchises and was played at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal. It was the first tournament of its kind staged in Telangana and was designed to provide young cricketers with a professional platform alongside established players. The Hyderabad E-Champions franchise is owned by Ushodaya Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. Team captain Abhirath Reddy, who finished the season as the tournament's leading run-scorer, and vice captain Ajay Dev Goud were felicitated along with their teammates and support staff. V. Chamundeswaranath, former Andhra Cricket Captain, former IPL Governing Council Member, current BCCI Apex Council Member and an investor in Truzon Solar, attended the event as Chief Guest. Charugundla Bhavani Suresh, Founder and Managing Director, and Jakkula Srinivas, Chief Executive Officer, represented the company. Speaking at the ceremony, Charugundla Bhavani Suresh said the team's achievement reflected preparation, discipline and belief. He said Truzon Solar's association with Hyderabad E-Champions was aimed at providing meaningful support to young players rather than being limited to brand visibility. He also highlighted the need to create professional opportunities for sporting talent across the country, particularly for young players from smaller towns and districts. "Talent is distributed everywhere. Opportunity is not," he said, emphasising that exposure, infrastructure and confidence could make a significant difference to emerging sports persons. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of mementos to the players and support staff. The company reiterated its intention to remain associated with sport and support emerging talent through future



Delhi HC Seeks WFI Response On Vinesh Phogat's Disciplinary Challenge

The Delhi High Court has sought the response of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to a petition filed by Olympian Vinesh Phogat challenging two show-cause notices and the disciplinary proceedings initiated against her. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said the court was not issuing a formal notice at this stage and directed WFI counsel to obtain instructions. The matter will next be heard on September 29.

Phogat has challenged show-cause notices dated May 9 and June 17, alleging that they form part of a continuing course of arbitrary, discriminatory and mala fide disciplinary action by the federation. She has claimed that the proceedings have affected her return to competitive wrestling following maternity. According to her petition, the International Testing Agency (ITA), through a communication dated July 3, 2025, confirmed that she would be eligible to compete from January 1, 2026. Phogat has claimed that despite complying with the requirements for her return, WFI later introduced an eligibility framework that effectively prevented her from entering the selection process.

She has argued that the first show-cause notice is legally unsustainable as it relies on the superseded UWW Anti-Doping Rules, 2015 and refers to a "Rule 56", which she says does not exist. She has also contended that the alleged whereabouts violation does not satisfy the requirements for an Article 2.4 violation under the World Anti-Doping Code.

The first notice also concerns her participation in two weight categories during the March 2024 Selection Trials. Phogat has said the WFI's Ad-Hoc Committee expressly permitted her to compete in both categories.

She has further alleged that WFI later changed its selection framework by recognising a tournament in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, as an additional qualifying event. According to Phogat, this was despite WFI having defended before the Supreme Court a fixed pool of qualified wrestlers. She claimed the change was not disclosed during the May 29 hearing.

Phogat participated in the Selection Trials on May 30 and raised objections over the selection process, including the draw. WFI subsequently issued the second show-cause notice on June 17 regarding her conduct. She described the allegations as vague and insufficiently detailed. In her June 30 response, she explained the circumstances and cited similar incidents involving other wrestlers, alleging selective application of disciplinary standards. The petition has also challenged the constitution of the WFI Disciplinary Committee. Phogat claims its composition was disclosed only on July 30 after repeated requests and objections and was not supported by a formal order, resolution or signed federation document. She has sought quashing of both notices and consequential disciplinary proceedings. The court also considered her separate plea seeking a fair framework for women athletes returning after pregnancy, childbirth and post-partum recovery. Justice Sharma issued notice to WFI, the Union Government and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), with the matter listed for hearing in November.

Messi Retires From International Football

Lionel Messi has announced his retirement from international football, bringing the curtain down on an extraordinary career with Argentina that spanned more than two decades, 207 matches and 125 goals. His journey featured early setbacks, painful defeats in major finals and, ultimately, the World Cup triumph that completed his remarkable international story.

Messi began his Argentina career in 2005 as an 18-year-old. His first appearance came in a friendly against Hungary in Budapest, but lasted only 90 seconds after he was sent off as a substitute when the referee judged that he had used his elbow.

A year later, Messi made his World Cup debut in Germany. He scored Argentina's final goal in the 6-0 victory over Serbia and Montenegro, beginning a historic association with the tournament.

At the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, Messi captained Alejandro Sabella's Argentina side. The team had endured several disappointments, including World Cup quarter-final defeats to Germany in 2006 and 2010, when Diego Maradona was coach. Argentina had also lost the 2007 Copa America final to Brazil and struggled at the 2011 Copa America on home soil.

Messi scored in every group match in Brazil and helped Argentina reach its first World Cup final since the era of Maradona. However, Germany defeated Argentina at the Maracana.

The following year brought another setback as Argentina lost the Copa America final to Chile on penalties. At the 2016 Copa America Centenario, Argentina again reached the final against Chile at MetLife Stadium. Messi missed his penalty in the shoot-out as Argentina suffered another defeat.

Heartbroken, Messi announced his international retirement. "For me the national team is over," he said after suffering his fourth final defeat. Six weeks later, however, he reversed his decision.

The appointment of Lionel Scaloni as coach in 2018 transformed Argentina's fortunes. In 2021, Messi finally won a major international title when Argentina defeated Brazil 1-0 in the Copa America final, with Angel Di Maria scoring the decisive goal.

The defining achievement came at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Messi, then 35 and playing for PSG, scored seven goals and provided three assists in seven matches. He scored twice in the final against France and converted his penalty during the shoot-out as Argentina won the World Cup for the third time.

Messi continued with Argentina and captained the team to another Copa America title in 2024. He then featured in his record-equalling sixth World Cup, scoring eight goals in his team's first five matches and helping Argentina reach another final.

Messi became the player with the most World Cup appearances, with 34 matches, and scored 21 goals in the tournament. He also became only the second player to appear in three World Cup finals. However, Argentina lost to Spain in extra time, ending his international career on an anticlimactic note.



Kalki 2: Nag Ashwin Reveals Progress on Prabhas Starrer



Director Nag Ashwin has shared a fresh update on Kalki 2, the highly anticipated sequel to the successful science-fiction epic Kalki 2898 AD. The filmmaker revealed that a portion of the sequel has already been shot and said a major shooting schedule will be planned once lead actor Prabhas becomes available. Nag Ashwin spoke about the progress of Kalki 2 during the pre-release event of I Am Game. His comments have given fans a glimpse into the current stage of the much-awaited project, which is expected to continue the story and futuristic world established by Kalki 2898 AD. According to Nag Ashwin, the team has completed 10 days of shooting for the sequel so far. While the initial schedule has been completed, the director indicated that a larger shooting programme will be organised after Prabhas has time in his schedule. "We have shot for 10 days so far. Once Prabhas gets time, we will plan a big schedule," Nag Ashwin said while discussing the project at the event. The update suggests that Kalki 2 is being developed on a long-term production schedule, with the availability of Prabhas playing an important role in determining the next major phase of filming. As one of the most prominent actors in Indian cinema, Prabhas has several projects in different stages, making scheduling a key aspect of the production. Kalki 2898 AD, the predecessor to the sequel, created considerable attention with its ambitious futuristic setting, large-scale visuals and a storyline that connected mythology with science fiction. Directed by Nag Ashwin, the film featured Prabhas in the lead and established a larger cinematic world that is expected to be explored further in Kalki 2. The sequel has consequently become one of the most closely watched projects among Prabhas fans and followers of Indian big-budget cinema. The confirmation that filming has already begun adds to the anticipation surrounding the project, even though the makers have not yet revealed details about the upcoming major schedule. For Nag Ashwin, Kalki 2 represents the next stage of a story that combines futuristic technology, mythology and large-scale action. The director is expected to expand the narrative while maintaining the distinctive visual world introduced in Kalki 2898 AD. The completion of the first 10 days of filming also indicates that the production has moved beyond the planning stage. However, the next substantial phase will depend on Prabhas' availability, according to Nag Ashwin. While details regarding the plot, additional cast members, production scale and release plans remain closely guarded, the latest update provides a clear indication that work on Kalki 2 is progressing. For now, fans will have to wait for the announcement of the next major shooting schedule. With 10 days of filming already completed and Nag Ashwin preparing for a larger schedule once Prabhas is available, Kalki 2 is gradually taking shape as the next major chapter in the Kalki universe.



Rashmika Double Treat : Mysaa Locks Release Date

Rashmika Mandanna is preparing for a packed theatrical schedule, with her upcoming pan-Indian film Mysaa officially locking its release date. The actress is set to appear in a dramatically different role after portraying the innocent Anu in The Girlfriend. Mysaa is scheduled to arrive in cinemas on November 27, 2026. The makers announced the release date with an intense poster featuring Rashmika holding a spear, offering a glimpse of the fierce character she will portray in the film. Rashmika plays a Gond tribal woman and rebel in Mysaa, marking a significant departure from some of her recent roles. The film is expected to present her in a rugged and intense avatar, with the makers positioning the project as a major pan-Indian release. Tarak Ponnappa is playing a key role in the film, while Rawindra Pulle is making his directorial debut with Mysaa. The director is currently filming the project, which is being mounted under the UnFormula Films banner. Mysaa is produced by Anil, Ajay Sayyapureddy and Srikanth Sathi. Music for the film is being composed by Jakes Bejoy, adding another important element to the project's technical lineup. The release announcement has also created interest because of Rashmika's unusually busy theatrical calendar. Before Mysaa reaches theatres, she will be seen opposite Vijay Deverakonda in Ranabaali. Ranabaali is scheduled for release on October 16, 2026. With that film arriving first and Mysaa following on November 27, Rashmika will have two theatrical releases within a span of just 42 days. The back-to-back releases are expected to give the actress a strong presence at the box office during the latter part of the year. More importantly, the two films appear to offer contrasting roles, allowing audiences to see Rashmika in different shades. In Ranabaali, she shares the screen with Vijay Deverakonda, continuing the interest surrounding their pairing. Mysaa, meanwhile, shifts the focus towards a character rooted in tribal identity and rebellion, with the actress expected to carry a physically demanding and intense role. The announcement also comes at a time when Rashmika continues to strengthen her presence across multiple Indian film industries. Her ability to move between different genres and character types has made her one of the prominent actresses associated with pan-Indian cinema. For the Mysaa team, the November 27 release date provides a clear target as filming progresses. The combination of a new director, an unconventional lead character, a strong supporting cast and Jakes Bejoy's music has generated curiosity around the project. The spear-holding poster has further amplified the film's visual identity, suggesting that Mysaa will rely heavily on its central character's strength and rebellious nature. For Rashmika, however, the immediate attraction is the unusual prospect of appearing on the big screen twice in a little over six weeks. Ranabaali will open the run on October 16, followed by Mysaa on November 27, making the period a significant theatrical stretch in her career.

