



VIJAYAWADA | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 161 | FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 4 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA □ HYDERABAD

## Nara Lokesh Announces New Pensions From October

Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

TDP working president and Minister Nara Lokesh has announced that new pensions will be sanctioned in phases from October to all eligible beneficiaries. He directed ministers to process applications promptly and ensure that eligible applicants receive pensions without unnecessary delays.

Lokesh held a meeting with ministers ahead of the Cabinet meeting and discussed several key issues, including the upcoming local body elections. He called upon party workers to prepare fully and ensure the victory of coalition candidates in all seats. He said the local election process would be completed by October and ruled out any possibility of postponement.

The government was taking steps to resolve pending legal issues and conduct elections across all local bodies, Lokesh said. Municipal elections would be held first, followed by MPCT and ZPTC elections and then panchayat elections.

Lokesh alleged that the opposition was attempting to delay local elections with the intention of causing financial losses to the state by blocking Finance Commission funds. He also urged ministers to remain vigilant against what he described as conspiracies targeting the Education Department.

He said alternative measures would be considered against officials who failed to follow directions or acted in ways that damaged the reputation of departments or ministers. Lokesh observed that some recent problems had arisen due to the performance of a few officials.

The minister also cautioned ministers about social media criticism, particularly in the health sector, where even minor lapses were being used to target the government.

Lokesh asked party leaders to organise a special programme on September 9, marking three years since alleged illegal cases were filed against party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and his detention. He said the programme should remind people of the challenges faced by Naidu and his efforts to put the state on the path of development. He also called for advance planning and water conservation measures to tackle possible shortages caused by El Niño conditions.

## ED Questions Viveka Case Approver Dastagiri



Kadapa, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

The Enforcement A (ED) has intensified its investigation into the murder of former Andhra Pradesh minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, focusing on alleged financial transactions linked to the case. Dastagiri, who turned approver

P3

# CM Directs Measures to Protect Every Acre from El Niño Impact

Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed ministers and officials to take all possible measures to ensure that not even a single acre of cultivated land dries up or suffers crop loss due to the impact of El Niño conditions.

The decisions were discussed at the State Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat on Thursday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Information and Public Relations and Housing Minister Koluasu Parthasarathi briefed the media on the government's plans to tackle the situation, particularly the shortage of rainfall and its impact on agriculture and drinking water.

Parthasarathi said the state had so far received 52 per cent less rainfall than normal, placing Andhra Pradesh among the two states in the country with the lowest rainfall. Under normal conditions, nearly 90 per cent of agricultural land would have been brought under cultivation by this time



of the year. However, only around 60-65 per cent of the area has been cultivated so far, reflecting the seriousness of the situation. The Chief Minister has asked ministers, elected representatives and officials to tour the field extensively, explain the El Niño situation to farmers and encourage them to adopt crop diversification and short-duration, low-water crops. The government has been directed to make 90,000 kg of seeds for such crops available for distribution. Naidu has also approved financial assistance of Rs 90 crore towards seed subsidies. The government will take

measures to address fodder shortages and protect livestock. Fodder cultivation will be promoted with the participation of Jeevan? Ram Ji, while efforts will also be made to safeguard horticultural crops. Where necessary, water may be channelled from nearby tanks through suitable works, including under government rural employment programmes. Farmers will also be encouraged to adopt drip irrigation. The Chief Minister directed agriculture universities and colleges to conduct awareness programmes to help farmers identify profitable crops requiring less water. Farmers

cultivating paddy, which requires substantial irrigation, will be advised to consider suitable alternatives where water availability is inadequate.

Drinking water security is another major priority. With 14,829 habitations across the state, officials have been asked to prepare habitation-wise proposals to ensure uninterrupted supply. Measures such as drilling borewells and transporting water through tankers will be taken wherever required. The state may also hire tankers from neighbouring states if necessary. Parthasarathi said the government would

P3

## TTD Deputy EO Lokanatham Arrested in DA Case



Tirupati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Deputy Executive Officer Mendu Lokanatham was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday in a disproportionate assets case after officials allegedly identified unaccounted assets worth around Rs. 5 crore.

The arrest followed searches conducted at Lokanatham's residence and other locations over the past two days. ACB teams also searched the houses of his relatives and examined property documents and other records. Officials reportedly seized gold, silver, cash and documents related to several properties.

According to the ACB, the investigation began after the CBI shared information regarding alleged disproportionate assets held by some TTD employees. The information emerged during the CBI probe into allegations concerning adulteration of ingredients used in Tirumala laddus. The CBI has since completed its investigation and filed a chargesheet.

Based on the information, the ACB had earlier registered a case on April 22, 2026, against K. Chinna Appanna, a personal

assistant to former TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy. Following further investigation and evidence collection, the ACB registered a separate case against Lokanatham under Sections 13(2) and 13(1)(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018. The case was registered as Crime No. 06/RCA-TCT/2026. ACB teams conducted searches at four locations early Wednesday and recovered several property documents and other evidence.

The properties identified during the searches reportedly include a house in PK Layout, Tirupati, and two house sites with buildings in Gollavanigunta, both registered in Lokanatham's wife's name. Another house site is located in Padiredu Aranyam village of Vadamalapeta mandal, while a site in Srinivasa Nagar was reportedly registered in his son's name. Four fixed deposits held in the names of Lokanatham and his son were also identified. A property document valued at Rs. 31.98 lakh was reportedly recovered from his brother-in-law's residence.

The ACB said it seized approximately 2 kg of gold, Rs. 12.5 lakh in cash and 6.5 kg of silver. The total value of assets and valuables identified so far is estimated at nearly Rs. 5 crore. Further searches and investigations are continuing.



## CM Flags Protocol Lapses in Government Ads

Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has expressed serious concern over protocol violations in government programmes, attributing them to a lack of coordination among departments and officials. Naidu said it was inappropriate for advertisements issued for foundation stone-laying ceremonies and inauguration programmes to omit photographs of the ministers concerned. He specifically objected to advertisements related to the Veligonda Project and Polavaram Left Main Canal that did not carry the photograph of Water Resources Minister Ramanaidu. The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure that such lapses were not repeated and stressed the need for better coordination between departments while organising government programmes. Referring to the inauguration of the Veligonda Project, he said the Water Resources and Finance departments had worked together to facilitate the programme. He also appreciated Minister Ramanaidu for his work and simplicity. Naidu said a shipbuilding unit would be established at Dugarajapatnam and called for Andhra Popcorn and Araku Coffee to be promoted extensively and made available across villages. The Chief Minister also reviewed the impact of El Niño conditions and said the state government would write to the Centre on the issue. He proposed submitting monthly reports to the Centre on ground-level conditions. He noted that rainfall deficiency had reached 76 per cent in Annamayya district and 70 per

P3

# Ministers Give Standing Ovation to CM



Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

A rare and notable moment was witnessed during the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting in Amaravati on Thursday, as Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu received a standing ovation from his Cabinet colleagues.

As Naidu entered the Cabinet hall, ministers reportedly rose from their seats and applauded, expressing their appreciation for his leadership and the decisions taken by the coalition government. The gesture became a talking point among Secretariat circles, with government sources viewing it as a reflection of the ministers' support for the Chief Minister's vision and governance.

The ministers particularly congratulated Naidu for the successful inauguration of the Veligonda Project and the Polavaram Left Main Canal, two major irrigation projects that have been long-awaited by the people of Andhra Pradesh.

The Cabinet colleagues thanked the Chief Minister for his efforts in completing the projects and said their inauguration would provide fresh momentum to the state's irrigation sector. Ministers presented Naidu with bouquets, offered sweets and conveyed their congratulations.

tions. During the meeting, the Chief Minister held detailed discussions with ministers on the progress of major projects as well as various welfare and development programmes being implemented across the state. He emphasised that the coalition government's objective was to overcome challenges and complete projects within the targeted timelines in the larger interests of Andhra Pradesh.

Naidu also stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among departments to ensure that development and welfare initiatives reach the people effectively. The Cabinet reviewed several issues concerning the state's development priorities and ongoing programmes.

The collective gesture by the ministers was seen by government sources as a demonstration of the coordination within the coalition government and the respect enjoyed by Naidu among his Cabinet colleagues. The standing ovation also highlighted the political significance attached to the completion of the Veligonda and Polavaram Left Main Canal projects, which are expected to strengthen irrigation infrastructure and support agricultural development in the state.

## Pawan Kalyan Revives Drinking Water Project in A. Konduru



A. Konduru, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has brought renewed hope to residents of A. Konduru mandal in NTR district, where chronic kidney disease has affected people across several villages, by completing a major protected drinking water project. The A. Konduru mandal has 21 gram panchayats and 38 habitations, most of which have reported kidney disease cases. The area also includes 15 tribal habitations. For years, residents struggled to access safe drinking water and were forced to depend on potentially contaminated sources despite the associated health risks.

According to the government, Pawan Kalyan took up the issue after it came to his attention ahead of the 2024 general elections. After assuming charge as Deputy Chief Minister, he directed officials to provide a sustainable source of

safe drinking water to the affected population. The project, implemented through the Rural Water Supply Department under the Jal Jeevan Mission-Amarajeevi Jaladhara funds, has been completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 49.94 crore. The project covers all 38 habitations with nearly 130 km of pipeline network and 12 overhead water tanks.

The scheme draws Krishna River water from the NTPC canal at Ibrahimpatnam, treats it locally and supplies around 75,000 people with 55 litres of safe drinking water per person per day through household taps.

Officials said the previous government had not even initiated the tender process for the project. The Jal Jeevan Mission project had also reached its deadline by March 2024. Following the Centre's extension of the mission by another four years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership,

P3



## APJAC Leaders to Meet CM on September 5

The GAD (SW) Section SO of the AP Secretariat informed APJAC representatives that a meeting with government-recognised employees' associations has been scheduled for September 5 at 11 a.m. at the Chief Minister's camp office. The official said a formal notice regarding the meeting would be issued on Friday. The meeting is expected to discuss issues concerning government employees and their associations.

# Leaders and Town Planning Officials: An Alleged Joint Business in Vijayawada

Vijayawada's town planning system is facing serious allegations of collusion between political leaders, builders and Town Planning officials, with illegal and unauthorised constructions allegedly continuing across several parts of the city. Under normal circumstances, when a builder violates approved construction rules, Town Planning officials are expected to stop the work. If officials fail to act, local leaders or higher authorities should intervene and ensure that the violations are stopped. However, allegations suggest that in Vijayawada, instead of preventing violations, some officials and leaders are allegedly joining hands with builders, taking their respective shares and allowing unauthorised constructions to continue. Additional floors, violations of set-

backs and other deviations are allegedly taking place in almost all circles of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. The allegations become more serious as even a Corporator is said to have constructed an additional floor in his own building. In another instance, the son of an MLA is alleged to have constructed a commercial building after obtaining approval for residential use.

Despite these alleged violations being known to many, there appears to be little opposition. Even Opposition leaders are allegedly compromising after receiving their cut. The Town Planning section is being accused of playing a key role in facilitating such irregular and illegal constructions. What is visible on the ground may only



be the tip of the iceberg. There could be many more violations that remain unnoticed or deliberately hidden from public view.

TDR Bonds: Another Alleged Scam

TDR Bonds provide an option to obtain additional construction area under applicable regulations. Town Planning officials are responsible for checking and verifying the TDR Bonds submitted for construction purposes.

However, allegations of misuse have emerged here as well. The same TDR Bond is allegedly being used for multiple buildings, sometimes two or three times. Since Town Planning officials are responsible for verification, ordinary people and

builders may not always be in a position to identify such alleged misuse.

Town Planning staff are also allegedly suggesting TDR Bonds to builders and, in some cases, procuring them on their behalf. The bonds are then allegedly being misused by utilising them multiple times. For a single additional floor, the Corporation could allegedly lose lakhs of rupees, while Town Planning officials are alleged to be personally receiving lakhs of rupees.

Alleged Demand for Money

Builders are alleging that the demand for money by some Town Planning officials has increased

P4

# Naidu, Lokesh Invited to Kanipakam Brahmotsavams



Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh have been invited to attend the annual

Brahmotsavams of Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy Temple at Kanipakam in Chittoor district. The annual festivities will be held from September 14 to October 4. Puthalapattu MLA Murli Mohan, Endowments

Department Commissioner Ramachandra Mohan and temple chairman Surendra Babu met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat and extended the invitation. The temple representa-



tives also met Minister Nara Lokesh at his residence in Undavalli and handed over the invitation for the celebrations. On both occasions, temple priests performed Vedic blessings for the leaders and presented

them with the Swamy's portrait and prasadam. The temple committee requested the Chief Minister and the minister to participate in the Brahmotsavams and seek the blessings of Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka

Swamy. The Kanipakam temple's annual Brahmotsavams are among the prominent religious celebrations in the region and attract devotees from across Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states.

## Minister Unveils Tourism Development Plans for AP



Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh directed officials to organise innovative programmes, mega events and district-level festivals to give further impetus to tourism development in Andhra Pradesh. At a Tourism Department Marketing Committee promotion meeting chaired by him at the Secretariat, the minister called for tourism festivals and roadshows throughout the year. He directed officials to design festivals reflecting Telugu culture based on 28 proposals received from districts. The meeting discussed preparations for World Tourism Day on September 27 and extensive publicity for the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams-2027. Officials presented a comprehensive branding and marketing

plan aimed at attracting pilgrims and tourists from across India and abroad. The minister suggested developing pilgrim information services, circuit maps, brochures and informative content. He also called for innovative digital content, social media campaigns and storytelling programmes highlighting the significance of the Godavari River, spiritual centres and historic ghats. Regular meetings with tour operators and hospitality workshops were also discussed. Durgesh directed officials to immediately prepare detailed project reports for tourism destinations. Special Chief Secretary S.S. Rawat, Tourism MD Pattan Shetty Ravi Subhash, AP Tourism Authority CEO Srinivas and other senior officials attended the meeting.

## Centre Approves Yoga-Naturopathy Research Institute

Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

The Centre has issued orders for establishing a Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN) with a 100-bed hospital at Nadimpalem in Prathipadu mandal near Guntur, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said. The Union AYUSH Ministry will provide a Rs 100 crore grant for the project, while the State Government has sanctioned Rs 9.94 crore for preliminary works, including land development, road construction, drainage and levelling. The state plans to complete the works within three months and hand over the land to the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN). The institute is expected to

begin operations by 2028. It will provide outpatient and inpatient services and specialised yoga and naturopathy treatment for diabetes, hypertension, obesity, metabolic disorders, chronic pain, respiratory and digestive problems, stress, anxiety and sleep disorders. Facilities will include hydrotherapy, massage, mud therapy, physiotherapy, acupuncture, yoga halls and a naturopathy diet kitchen. Research laboratories will conduct scientific and clinical studies on yoga and naturopathy. The project is expected to generate around 100-120 direct employment opportunities, including positions for BNYS doctors and other specialists. Health camps and public awareness programmes will also be conducted.

## Akshara Andhra Raises Literacy Rate to 82.1%: Minister

Tadepalli, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Transport, Youth and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said the Akshara Andhra programme, launched under the leadership of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, has delivered significant results in improving literacy across Andhra Pradesh. He said the state's literacy rate increased from 72.6% to 82.1% in the last two years, surpassing the national average of 80.9%. Through coordination among 11 government departments, the programme has provided literacy skills to 25 lakh people. The minister said the government was focusing on measurable outcomes rather than publicity and aimed to make Andhra

Pradesh a fully literate state by September 2027. Another 25 lakh people are targeted to become literate by March 2027, followed by 27 lakh more by September 2027. He also highlighted improvements in school education, with teacher attendance reaching 98.97% and student attendance 85.41%. Teachers contact parents when students remain absent for three consecutive days to reduce dropouts. Reddy appreciated AI-based teacher training and the establishment of 125 special centres for children with autism. He said ministers, public representatives, collectors, teachers, students, voluntary organisations and communities were being involved in the literacy campaign.

## Cabinet Sub-Group Orders Market Intervention to Control Essential Prices

Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Sub-Group on market intervention has decided to take immediate measures to control rising prices of essential commodities and reduce the burden on consumers. Civil Supplies Minister Nandula Manohar, Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu and Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav participated in the meeting held at the State Secretariat on Thursday. The sub-group decided to supply onions to consumers at Rs 35 per kg and asked officials to seek adequate stocks from the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF). It also urged the Centre to allocate 1.20 lakh metric tonnes of tur dal for Andhra Pradesh. The government plans to process the pulses and sell them at afford-



able prices through Rythu Bazaars and special counters. Officials were directed to explore procurement of palm oil through NCCF and make it available to consumers at subsidised prices. Rice market intervention is already being implemented through 651 special counters and Rythu Bazaars. About 10,163

quintals have been sold, benefiting nearly one lakh consumers. The sub-group ordered procurement of 10,000 metric tonnes of KNM variety rice from mills in Nellore district for affordable sale. Officials were directed to closely monitor prices, stocks and supplies and prevent artificial shortages through coordinated action.

## Surveyipalli Canal Residents Get Permanent House Titles After 60 Years

Nellore, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved permanent house titles for 1,215 poor families residing along the Surveyipalli canal bund in Nellore, bringing relief to a six-decade-old issue. The residents had long lived under uncertainty over possible eviction and removal of their houses. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana had assured them during his visit to the canal bund last

month that the issue would be resolved. He subsequently coordinated with the Municipal, Irrigation and Revenue departments to expedite the process and secure Cabinet approval. The titles are expected to be distributed soon. Residents celebrated the decision by performing milk abhishekams to the portraits of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Nara yana and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, distributing sweets and bursting crackers. Nellore Mayor Devara konda Sujatha, State Waqf Board chairman



Abdul Aziz, Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav, former Municipal chairperson Tallap aka Anuradha, city TDP president Mamidala Madhu and several corporators and party leaders participated in the celebrations.

Residents expressed gratitude to Minister Narayana for fulfilling his assurance within a month. The decision follows a similar resolution of permanent title issues for 1,400 families in Bhagat Singh Colony.

## Minister Launches Mines Directorate Office



Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Mines, Geology and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra inaugurated the Directorate of Mines and Geology office at Mayuri Tech Park in Mangalagiri on Thursday and directed officials to ensure transparent public services along with revenue generation.

Ravindra inspected the chemical laboratory, conference hall, command control room, record room and mines exhibition before reviewing the department's performance with district mining officials. He asked officials to achieve district-wise targets and publicise key decisions benefiting people. The department collected Rs 3,416 crore

in mineral revenue during 2025-26, registering 32% growth over the previous year. Including DMF, MERIT, NMET and security collections, total revenue reached Rs 4,339 crore, a 40% increase. From April to August 2026, revenue stood at Rs 1,287.33 crore, up 12.9%. Ravindra said the mining sector's share in the state's Gross Value

Added rose to 2.09% and set a target of 3.5-3.7% by 2028-29. He highlighted auctions of 21 major mineral mines, free sand distribution, AI-based mineral exploration and gold production at Jonnagiri. The government is also planning 18,000 ANPR cameras and AI-based systems to curb illegal mining and transportation.

## Rammohan Naidu to Tour Ichchapuram Constituency

Ichchapuram, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu will tour the Ichchapuram constituency on Friday and participate in several development programmes and Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations. He will be accompanied by Ichchapuram MLA and Government Whip Bendalam Ashok.

Rammohan Naidu will begin his tour at 9 am by inaugurating a BT road in Poleru village of Kanchili Mandal. He will later attend a programme in Gundam village as chief guest, where several people are expected to join the Telugu Desam Party. In Ichchapuram, he will lay the foundation stone for a badminton sports complex at Raja Vari Maidan, funded through Coal India's CSR initiative. He will also lay the foundation stone for a railway



underpass within the municipality. The Union Minister will subsequently participate in development programmes at Bhairipuram and Rajapuram villages. From 3 pm, he will attend Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations and MP Cup 2026 events at Pragadaputtiga in Kaviti Mandal. The programmes will include Uti Kottu and weightlifting competitions.

## APJAC Amaravati Holds Statewide 'Demands Day' Protests

Vijayawada, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

The APJAC Amaravati's statewide 'Demands Day' protests, held during the lunch break on Thursday, witnessed strong participation from employees, teachers and pensioners demanding immediate resolution of their pending financial issues. APJAC Amaravati State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and Secretary General Paliseti Damodara Rao said employees participated in large numbers at district and divisional offices and HOD offices across the state, raising slogans demanding payment of pending dues and implementation of their legitimate rights. They said the demands were not new and mainly concerned assurances given before the coalition government came to power. Employees were seeking salary and allowances legally due for the period they had already worked, they said. The leaders demanded immediate payment of pending DA arrears, financial benefits related to the PRC, thousands of crores in pending bills, surrender leave payments, gratuity and leave encashment

due to retired and deceased employees. They said employees and pensioners had suffered financially for nearly a decade but continued cooperating with the government for the past two-and-a-half years. They warned that employees' patience also had limits. Bopparaju and Damodara Rao urged the government to immediately hold talks with employee associations and announce a time-bound action plan for resolving the pending issues. They said employees were not against the government and were only seeking their rightful financial benefits. If the government responded positively, employees would continue cooperating, but further delay could force them to intensify their agitation. The APJAC Amaravati leadership appealed to employees, teachers, pensioners and association leaders to unite for the movement. Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, Paliseti Damodara Rao, T.V. Phaniperraju, Timmasarthi Nageswara Rao, Pare Lakshmi and Ponnuru Vijayalakshmi demanded immediate negotiations and clear assurances from the government.

## APJAC Amaravati Employees Protest Over Pending Dues



NTR District, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Employees under the APJAC Amaravati banner staged a lunch-break protest for the third consecutive day on Thursday, demanding settlement of long-pending issues and payment of outstanding dues. The protest was held at the NTR District Collectorate and all RDO offices under the leadership of APJAC Amaravati NTR district chairman Battina Ramakrishna and General Secretary YS Rao. Employees from various departments participated, holding placards and raising slogans. State Secretary General Palishetti Damodhar Rao said employees and their families were facing difficulties due to

unpaid dues. He urged the government to resolve their demands at the earliest. The employees sought implementation of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), release of Interim Relief (IR) and payment of five pending Dearness Allowances (DAs). They also demanded details of outstanding dues through pay slips. Ramakrishna said the agitation would be intensified as per the state leadership's call. Leaders Ponnuru Vijayalakshmi, VS Sailakshmi, R Srinivasa Rao, Sampath, Mohan Rao, Jayakar, Praveen Kumar Reddy and Narayana Rao participated. I can also make it more newspaper-style and sharper if needed.

## Teachers to Wear Black Badges on Teachers' Day Over TET Exam

Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Primary Teachers Association (APTA) has called upon teachers across the state to wear black badges and attend schools on Teachers' Day, September 5, in protest against the conduct of TET examinations for in-service teachers. APTA state president Kaki Prakash Rao and state general secretary M.G. Mehdi said teacher associations and the teaching community had repeatedly appealed to the Central and State governments to withdraw the TET requirement for serving teachers, but no concrete action had

been taken. They said the protest was being held in response to the All India Primary Teachers Federation (AIPTF) call, with teachers in several states observing the demonstration. The APTA leaders urged teachers to participate in the protest and convey their opposition to the TET requirement. They appealed to all teacher associations in Andhra Pradesh to join the movement and collectively press the governments to take steps to withdraw the examination requirement for in-service teachers.

## Minister Invites Applications for Tourism Excellence Awards

Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh has announced that the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority will present the State Annual Tourism Excellence Awards 2025-26 on September 27 to mark World Tourism Day. The awards will recognise outstanding contributions across 38 categories, with 46 awards covering classified hotels, restaurants, travel agents, tour operators, tourism projects, educational institutions, guides, writers, filmmakers and digital creators. The event will be held under the theme "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism", focusing on improving tourist experiences, management efficiency and technology adoption. The initiative aims to encourage quality, innovation and healthy competition in the tourism, hospitality and travel sectors under the guidance of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Winners will be selected based on performance between April 2025 and March 2026, including tourist footfall, revenue, service quality, cleanliness, environmental protection and visitor satisfaction. Special focus will be given to eco-friendly hotels and Blue Flag-standard beaches, besides digital creators and social media influencers. Applications must be submitted by 5 pm on September 18. Applicants can obtain forms and details from the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority's official website, aptourism.gov.in.

# Plans reviewed for Orange Economy

Vijayawada, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

State Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh reviewed plans to develop the 'Orange Economy' in NTR district by integrating creativity, digital media, tourism and cultural sectors. He met MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha and officials at the NTR District Collectorate to discuss a content creation studio, academy and lab. Kandula Durgesh said the initiative would identify creative talent among youth and provide training in filming, editing, storytelling, digital content and responsible social media use, creating employment and self-employment oppor-



tunities. He stressed promoting Vijayawada and NTR district tourism through videos, reels and documentaries showcasing the Krishna River basin, temples, heritage sites and local culture. The Minister also called for digitally documenting folk arts, traditions, festivals, cuisine and local artists to preserve cultural heritage. Kesineni Sivanath said the content lab would train women from self-help groups, students and rural youth. Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said Rs.10 lakh had been secured through the District Tourism Council for the lab. District Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya and other officials participated.

## Jagan Attends S.V. Mohan Reddy's Son's Reception



Kurnool, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy visited Kurnool and attended the wedding reception of Janak, son of former MLA S.V. Mohan Reddy. The reception was held at St. Joseph's College grounds. Jagan blessed the newlyweds, Shriya and Janak, and conveyed his best wishes to the couple. He expressed hope that they would lead a

happy and prosperous life. Shriya is the daughter of Medapati Anil Reddy and Sharmila, former Chairperson of Rajahmundry RUDA. Senior YSRCP leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, former Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, senior TDP MLA Varadarajula Reddy, former MLAs M.A. Gafoor and Katasani Rambhupal Reddy, and several other political leaders and prominent figures attended the reception.

## Sudhakar Yadav Denies Kidnapping Allegations



Maidukuru, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Maidukuru MLA Putta Sudhakar Yadav on Thursday dismissed the kidnapping

allegations leveled against him by YCP, terming them baseless and part of a political drama. He alleged that YCP leaders were spreading malicious propaganda against him to gain political mileage. Sudhakar Yadav said he came to know about the kidnapping case filed against him only through social media. He questioned how he could have committed a kidnapping in Bengaluru when he was in Hyderabad at the time. He also questioned the basis of the allegations, pointing out that police had already arrested Dr. Ravi Prakash. Sudhakar Yadav alleged that the accusations were intended to tarnish his image and create political controversy. He maintained that there was no truth in the allegations and criticised YCP leaders for making unfounded accusations against him.

## MLA warns against compromising students' health



Anaparthi, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy warned that strict action would be taken against anyone compromising students' health. He conducted a surprise inspection of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukula School (Boys) at Lakshminarasapuram in Anaparthi Mandal on Thursday and inspected the food served to students. The MLA found rotten vegetables, worm-infested chikkis

and over-ripe bananas at the school. He also tasted the meals and found the rice undercooked and curries unfit for consumption. He expressed anger that the evening meal was being prepared as early as 10 AM, forcing students to throw away food. Ramakrishna Reddy was also upset over the absence of a mess stock register, with the caretaker reportedly keeping it at his home in Kakinada. He alleged that the principal and caretakers were ignoring the prescribed nutritious food menu and misusing the mess committee system. He said he would bring the issue to the District Collector, Social Welfare Department and concerned ministers and seek strict action. He also promised to address infrastructure problems, including fans and lights, through government or CSR funds.

## Godavari Waters to Transform North Andhra: Minister Dola

Visakhapatnam, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Visakhapatnam district in-charge Minister Dola Sri Bala Veeranjanyaswamy said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was determined to transform the face of North Andhra by bringing Godavari waters to the region. He described the release of water to North Andhra through the Polavaram Left Main Canal as a historic development. The project is expected to provide irrigation water to an additional four lakh acres across five districts, besides meeting the drinking water requirements of 9.23 lakh people and supporting the water needs of industries. The Minister said Chandrababu Naidu was working like an "Apara Bhagiratha" by completing irrigation projects that had remained pending for decades and making the state more prosperous and agriculturally productive. He alleged that during the YSRCP government, the irrigation sector had suffered severe neglect, to the extent that even basic maintenance of project gates was not properly undertaken. He further claimed that some leaders who served as Irrigation Ministers during the previous government were not even aware of the number of irrigation projects in the state. Dola said the coalition government had ushered in a new phase of development in the agriculture and irrigation sectors. The availability of Godavari water through the Polavaram Left Main Canal would strengthen irrigation, drinking water supply and industrial development in North Andhra, he added. He said the government was committed to completing major irrigation projects and ensuring that water resources were effectively utilised for the benefit of farmers and people across the state.

## Chandrababu focused on state development and farmer welfare: Devineni Uma



Vijayawada, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao said state development and farmer welfare were Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's priorities. Speaking to the media at Gollapudi on Thursday, he alleged that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy treated farmers' hardships as publicity opportunities and could not mislead people through false tweets. Devineni Uma said Chandrababu was steering Andhra Pradesh forward with 48 years of political and administrative experience. He credited the Chief Minister with ensuring irrigation and drinking water supplies despite El Niño

conditions and supplying 33 TMC of water to the Krishna Delta through Pattiseema. He criticized Jagan over Polavaram, Amaravati, Veligonda and Purushothapatnam projects, alleging that the previous government delayed development. Uma said the Chandrababu government was restoring Polavaram and would ensure storage at 135 feet, with 150-foot storage planned later. He said completion of Neredu Barrage could divert water to lakhs of acres in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts. He said Chandrababu aimed to transform North Andhra into Uttamandhra and accused Jagan of using regional sentiments for political gain.

## Nagababu Assures Jana Sena Representation in Local Body Polls

Bapatla, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena Party general secretary and AP Green Executive Committee chairman Nagababu said the party would ensure appropriate representation for its leaders and workers in the upcoming local body elections while adhering to coalition dharma. Addressing a meeting with Jana Sena workers from the Bapatla constituency on Thursday, Nagababu urged leaders and cadres to maintain discipline and work collectively for the victory of the alliance. He said Jana Sena had made several sacrifices by prioritising the interests of the people and the state over party interests during the general elections. He said party president and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan was carefully considering local conditions, the services rendered by workers and their sacrifices while deciding representation in local bodies. Nagababu said the dedication and hard work of Jana Sena workers were the party's greatest strength. He noted that Pawan Kalyan wanted grassroots work-



ers to be heard and valued. He said it was his privilege to work towards Pawan Kalyan's environmental vision as AP Green Executive Committee chairman. Nagababu also stressed that public service should remain above political differences and that people must be treated equally irrespective of their political affiliations.

## Undavalli Arun Kumar stresses equality before law

Rajahmundry, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Former Rajahmundry MP and senior leader Undavalli Arun Kumar said the law must apply equally to everyone while discussing the long-running Margadarsi Financiers case. Speaking at a press conference at Dharmam Chara Community Hall in Rajahmundry on Thursday, he said his legal battle was aimed at protecting Margadarsi depositors and highlighting violations of RBI regulations. Undavalli said RBI rules governing financial transactions and deposit mobilisation were clear and applied equally to common citizens, businesspeople and organisations. He explained the background of the case, the petitions filed in courts and the final orders issued by the Supreme Court. He said the objective was to protect public funds and promote transparency rather than target any individual or organisation. He urged governments and



regulatory bodies to maintain greater transparency and protect depositors' interests. Undavalli clarified that the case had no political agenda or personal motive and said his actions were based on concerns over constitutional rights and RBI guidelines.



## CM Directs Measures to Protect Every Acre from El Niño Impact

Continue

regularly inform the Centre about the El Niño situation and seek greater drought assistance. Andhra Pradesh ranks sixth nationally in weather-based crop insurance coverage, he said. Meanwhile, Parthasarathi dismissed reports that NIELIT was being shifted from Tirupati, calling them baseless. He said the government was working to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position in artificial intelligence and was establishing a Quantum AI University in Amaravati. Approval had also been received for establishing three universities in the state.

## Pawan Kalyan Revives Drinking Water Project in A. Konduru

Continue

the state released its share of funds and expedited the works. Pawan Kalyan reportedly coordinated with the Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Revenue, Forest, Environment and Railways departments, besides the National Highways Authority of India, to secure necessary permissions and accelerate pipeline construction. Previously, the government spent around Rs. 2.5 crore annually to supply drinking water to A. Konduru through tankers. The completed project is expected to provide a long-term solution to the drinking water crisis and help reduce exposure to unsafe water linked to kidney-related health concerns. aPawan Kalyan is expected to visit A. Konduru soon to inspect the quality of the project works. Officials have been directed to prepare his tour schedule.

## CM Flags Protocol Lapses in Government Ads

Continue

cent in Prakasam district, describing the current rainfall situation as the lowest witnessed in three decades. Naidu directed ministers and officials to focus on ensuring adequate drinking water and fodder supplies and to take up seed-ball initiatives. He said the government was prepared to spend whatever was necessary to ensure drinking water availability. He instructed authorities to explore water-storage measures wherever possible and assess groundwater levels regularly. If necessary, additional borewells should be permitted, he said. The Chief Minister stressed that not even one acre of agricultural land should be allowed to dry up due to the El Niño impact. He called for comprehensive arrangements to transport drinking water to areas facing shortages. Naidu further directed the government to take measures to prevent any decline in the Gross State Domestic Product from agriculture and allied sectors. He said the impact of El Niño would be reviewed at every Cabinet meeting to ensure timely corrective action.

## ED Questions Viveka Case Approver Dastagiri

Continue

in the murder case, appeared before ED officials for questioning. The agency is reportedly examining the financial angle and possible money-laundering aspects of the case, particularly alleged transactions among individuals accused of playing key roles in the murder. ED officials are questioning Dastagiri about allegations of a Rs. 40 crore deal involving Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy murder case accused Errangangi Reddy, Devir?ddy Shivasankar Reddy and others. Investigators are examining bank transactions that allegedly took place before and after the murder to determine the source and movement of funds. As directed by the officials, Dastagiri appeared for questioning with statements of his bank accounts. The ED is reportedly comparing the financial records with details that emerged during the earlier investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). During his previous questioning by the CBI, Dastagiri had reportedly stated that he was offered Rs. 5 crore to carry out the murder of Vivekananda Reddy. The ED is now seeking details about the alleged payment, including the source of the money and whether funds were transferred through different bank accounts. The agency is examining the financial trail to establish whether money connected to the alleged conspiracy was routed through intermediaries or disguised through other transactions. The questioning is being conducted as part of the ED's probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The agency's focus on financial transactions is expected to shed further light on the alleged roles of key individuals in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. The ED is continuing to collect financial records and other evidence as part of its investigation.

## YSRCP condemns police action in Rajahmundry



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party State Secretary and former corporator Vasamsetti Gangadhara Rao alleged that democracy was being undermined in Rajahmundry and criticised the police for their treatment of former MP and YSRCP national spokesperson Margani Bharat Ram. Speaking at the Rajahmundry Press Club on Thursday, he alleged that police were obstructing YSRCP programmes while allowing TDP events without similar restrictions. Gangadhara Rao said police initially permitted a programme in the 40th Division

where 300 people were expected to join YSRCP, but later revoked permission and stopped the event. He alleged that Bharat Ram was assaulted and injured before being taken to the police station. He said the party would approach the High Court with evidence over the incident. He also criticised City MLA Adireddy Srinivas, alleging political vendetta and police interference. He questioned the sudden imposition of Section 144 and demanded an explanation from the SP. 40th Division representative Kolli Nani said he would continue his political journey with Margani Bharat Ram in YSRCP. Several local YSRCP leaders attended the meeting.

## Dasara Celebrations to Be Held on Grand Scale

Vijayawada, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

The Durga Temple Trust Board on Indrakeeladri has decided to conduct this year's Dasara-Sarannav aratri celebrations on a grand scale, expecting around 2.5 million (25 lakh) devotees to visit the temple. Several important resolutions were passed at the board meeting regarding arrangements for the festival.

Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna said systematic plans were being prepared to ensure smooth and grand celebrations. He said around 2 million devotees attended last year's festivities and the number is expected to increase to 2.5 million this year. He said Rs.25 crore has been sanctioned for provid-

ing facilities to devotees and assured that there would be no compromise on the quality of amenities. He added that the board would meet CM Chandrababu and seek government funds for the celebrations, besides making efforts to mobilise substantial donations for the temple.

Radhakrishna clarified that guests are invited to temple programmes strictly according to protocol and there is no scope for political interference.

Temple Executive Officer Seena Naik said officials of all departments would coordinate to conduct Dasara as a state-level festival. Measures are being taken to ensure hassle-free darshan and prevent a recurrence of minor lapses reported in the past.

## Collector reviews services at Jaggayyapeta Area Hospital



Jaggayyapeta, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha directed medical officers and staff at Jaggayyapeta Area Hospital to provide better medical services to the poor and general public and maintain cleanliness throughout the premises.

During a surprise inspection on Thursday, the Collector reviewed the dialysis centre, laboratory, Outpatient (OP) department, ABHA ID generation process, wards and other medical units. He interacted with patients and enquired about the quality of treatment, availability of medicines and diagnostic tests, and the presence of doctors.

Dr. G. Lakshminisha said

quality treatment in government hospitals would reduce the financial burden on poor families. He instructed doctors and staff to provide timely, efficient and compassionate care, listen patiently to patients and avoid negligence.

The Collector also directed officials to maintain continuous sanitation in wards, patient rest areas, restrooms and hospital grounds. He stressed punctuality among doctors and staff and said government healthcare facilities, medicines and equipment should fully benefit the poor.

Hospital Superintendent Dr. A. Harikrishna, Dr. Hari, Dr. Lakshmi prasanna, Dr. Aruna, Dr. Rajakumari, Dr. Jyotsna, RDO Anil Kumar and others participated.

## Dental college facilities to be further improved : Gadde Rammohan



Vijayawada, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MLA Gadde Rammohan said efforts were being made to further improve infrastructure and facilities at the Vijayawada Government Dental College and Hospital for students and the public.

Speaking on the occasion of the inauguration of new facilities, he said the dental college had a rich history and had been serving people for several years. Rammohan recalled that before 2014, the area used to face knee-deep waterlogging during rains, causing

severe inconvenience to students, patients and the public.

He said CC roads were subsequently laid and several other basic amenities were provided to improve the surroundings.

He said additional services had now been introduced at a cost of Rs.60 lakh. Rammohan assured that more facilities would be developed in the future based on the requirements of students and patients.

He said efforts would also be made to increase the hospital's outpatient services, with a long-term target of reaching 5,000 OP patients.

## Special voter campaign on Sept 5 and 6

Vijayawada, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Special campaign programmes will be conducted at 1,936 polling stations in the district on Sept 5 and 6 as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR-2026) of the electoral roll, District Collector and District Election Officer Dr. G. Lakshminisha said.

CEO Vivek Yadav reviewed the progress of claims and objections received on the draft electoral roll and the preparation of the final list through a Zoom meeting with Collectors and election officials. He said the Election Commission had

revised the SIR-2026 schedule on Sept 1. The deadline for filing claims and objections has been extended to Sept 10, while their disposal deadline has been extended to Oct 5. The final electoral roll will be published on Oct 9.

Dr. G. Lakshminisha said BLOs, along with Booth Level Agents, would be available from 10 am to 5 pm at all polling stations. Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8, draft rolls and other lists will be available. Eligible adults and 18-19-year-olds can apply for voter registration. BLOs will verify applications and forward them to EROs.



## Leaders and Town Planning Officials: An Alleged Joint Business in Vijayawada

**Continue**

considerably in recent times. According to these allegations, officials earlier demanded money mainly for construction deviations and additional floors. Now, money is allegedly being demanded even for routine plan approvals.

A Town Planning Officer is alleged to be demanding money for every file. If the payment is not made, builders claim that files are kept pending under the pretext of verification. As a result, builders allegedly pay without hesitation to avoid delays.

The alleged charges for permitting illegal constructions have also increased substantially, according to builders.

"Our budgets have changed because of all these things," a builder said.

**Are Politicians Calling the Shots?**

The allegations do not end with the Town

Planning department. Politicians are also alleged to be playing a major role in unauthorised constructions. Corporators and MLAs are allegedly influencing or leading such activities in their respective wards and constituencies.

The alleged illegal income generated through these constructions has reportedly become a source of financial benefit for some politicians.

In Vijayawada, one MLA is alleged to be exercising influence over the Corporation on almost all fronts. Two other MLAs are allegedly restricting their involvement to securing personal benefits or benefits for their close associates.

The allegations raise a larger question: If builders, officials and political leaders are allegedly benefiting from violations, who is left to protect the Corporation's revenue, planning regulations and public interest?



## SRM University-AP honours nine faculty on Teachers' Day

Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

SRM University-AP celebrated Teachers' Day 2026 by honouring faculty members for their contributions to teaching, research and institutional development. Chief Guest Prof G P Raja Sekhar, Vice Chancellor of Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Prof V S Rao, Vice Chancellor Prof CH Satish Kumar, Deans and Directors attended the event.

Prof CH Satish Kumar



recalled the life of Dr S Radhakrishnan and highlighted the lasting influence of teachers on his outlook. Prof G P Raja Sekhar discussed Dr Radhakrishnan's concept of Abhedha, the National Education Policy and National Credit Framework, and stressed teamwork, adaptability and innovation in leadership.

University Outstanding Faculty Awards 2026 were presented to Dr V M Manikandan, Dr Ayesha Parveen Haroon, Dr Manjesh Kumar, Dr Elakkiya E, Dr

Priyanka, Dr Siddhartha Ghosh, Dr Debajyoti Kundu, Dr Anuj Deshpande and Dr Ramanjaneya Reddy for achievements in their respective fields.

The Prof V S Rao Foundation-Prof H P Tiwari Best Faculty Award 2026 was presented to Dr V M Manikandan. Five-Year Service Awards were given to 18 faculty members, while the Popular Faculty Award was also presented. The event concluded with alumni video messages and a group photograph.

## Varla Ramaiah felicitated in Ibrahimpatnam

Ibrahimpatnam, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

A grand felicitation ceremony was held at MVR Kalyana Mandapam in Ibrahimpatnam for newly elected TDP MLC Varla Ramaiah. Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad honoured Ramaiah with a shawl and bouquet. Earlier, both leaders paid tributes to former Chief Minister NTR by garlanding his statue.

Vasantha Krishna Prasad praised Ramaiah for his dedicated service to the TDP for two and a half decades, saying he remained committed to the party during difficult times. He appreciated his loyalty to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, efforts to strengthen the party and his role in raising public issues. He expressed hope that Ramaiah would serve effectively as MLC and rise to higher positions. Responding, Varla Ramaiah

expressed confidence that alliance candidates would secure a major victory in the upcoming local body elections. He claimed the YSR Congress Party lacked public support in Mylavaram and said Vasantha Krishna Prasad had no strong political rival. He said elections would be conducted freely and democratically. Janasena Mylavaram in-charge Akkala Rammohan Rao (Gandhi), party workers and supporters attended.



## Farm ponds should benefit farmers: Collector



Jaggayyapeta, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha directed officials and field-level staff to ensure that works taken up under the VBG Ramji scheme meet quality standards and provide long-term benefits to farmers.

The Collector inspected various works under the scheme at Jayanthipuram in

Jaggayyapeta Mandal on Thursday. He examined the excavation of farm ponds in farmers' fields and enquired about the progress, quality and benefits of the works. He said the scheme should not be limited to employment generation and stressed that farm ponds must help conserve rainwater and recharge groundwater. Dr. G. Lakshminisha instructed officials to

construct ponds scientifically and ensure their durability. He later interacted with a farmer cultivating lime on 1.80 acres and planted a lime sapling. He said farmers cultivating horticultural crops could receive financial assistance of up to Rs.2.60 lakh in phases over three years for activities including pit digging, plant maintenance and water usage. The Collector advised farmers to grow suitable intercrops to earn additional income until orchards reach full production. He directed Agriculture and Horticulture officials to provide technical guidance and create awareness about the scheme. He said eligible farmers would be provided necessary assistance, including saplings, free of cost.

Nandigama RDO G. Anil Kumar, Jaggayyapeta Tahsildar S. Shirisha, DWMAAPO K. Ramakrishna, DLDO Lakshmi Kumari, MPDO Aruna Kumari and other officials participated.

## Yoga, Aadhaar and Blood Services Reviewed in Krishna



Gudivada, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

State Government Advisor Dr. Manthena Satyanarayana Raju and Krishna District Collector DK Balaji participated in a mass yoga event at NTR Stadium in Gudivada on Thursday. Students, yoga practitioners and members of the public performed various asanas.

Dr. Manthena Satyanarayana Raju said yoga promotes a healthy lifestyle and should be practised from childhood. He said regular yoga improves concentration, critical thinking, mental peace and discipline. Collector DK Balaji stressed the importance of developing healthy habits early in life and said yoga, pranayama and meditation improve physical fitness and alertness. He highlighted government preventive healthcare initiatives such as Sanjeevani and Yogandhra.

At a District-Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meeting, Balaji directed officials to make Aadhaar enrolment and updating

services easily accessible. He stressed mandatory biometric updates for children at ages five and 15 and ordered monthly camps at schools and colleges to prevent difficulties in admissions, welfare benefits and competitive examinations.

Balaji also directed officials to strengthen blood stock management and donation camps. At a district HIV/AIDS committee meeting, officials reviewed blood banks, donation drives and prevention measures. Eleven blood banks are functioning in the district. He ordered timely updating of blood stocks on the e-RaktKosh portal and linking donors' ABHA IDs. Meanwhile, Balaji announced a 'One Family-One Entrepreneur MSME Growth Workshop' at Krishna University on September 7. The programme will feature experts from organisations including Walmart and Meta (WhatsApp), bankers and business professionals. He urged entrepreneurs, traders and youth to participate. There will be no entry fee.



Vijayawada, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

State Food Commission member B. Kantharao conducted inspections in NTR district for the second day as part of the implementation of the National Food Security Scheme. He inspected ration shops, Anganwadi centres, hostels and schools in Nunna (Vijayawada Rural), Pothapadu and Singh Nagar areas.

At a ration shop in Nunna, he directed officials to ensure timely distribution of food grains. At Anganwadi centres, he reviewed the quality of nutritional food and instructed staff to maintain attendance and stock

records properly. He also reviewed the implementation of Matru Vandana Yojana for pregnant women. During his visit to a social welfare hostel, Kantharao stressed cleanliness and regular sanitation. He

instructed cooks to prepare rice without draining kanji to retain nutritional value. At Zilla Parishad School, Nunna, he questioned the absence of the Headmaster's signature in stock records and appreciated donors supporting

development.

At M.K. Beg High School, he checked midday meals, planted saplings and urged students to protect the environment. District Civil Supplies Officer P. Vani and officials from various departments participated.

# Chandrababu committed to developing Andhra Pradesh : Badeti Chanti

Eluru, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

District TDP President and Eluru MLA Badeti Chanti said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was working with determination to transform the bifurcated Andhra Pradesh into a developed state. Speaking to the media at his camp office in Powerpet on Thursday, he welcomed the launch of major projects, including the Veligonda project and the initiative to supply water to Uttara Andhra Sujala Sravanthi through the Polavaram Left Canal.

Badeti Chanti said Andhra Pradesh wit-



nessed development between 2014 and 2019, while the YSRCP government from 2019 to 2024 caused losses and deprived farmers of benefits. He said Chandrababu, after returning to power in 2024, had brought renewed focus to the state within two years. He remarked that Chandrababu was capable of turning impossible tasks into possible ones and said his leadership was essential for Andhra Pradesh's progress. AMC Chairman Mamillapalli Parthasarathi, EADA Chairman Peddiboyina Siva Prasad and SMR Pedababu participated in the meeting.

## Temple waste to create livelihoods for women

Rajamahendravaram, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Rajamahendravaram MP Daggubati Purandeswari said women should become independent entrepreneurs and contribute to the country's development. She made the remarks while attending the third day of the five-day Temple Essentials Entr epreneurship Development Program at GNR Kalyana Conv enti on Hall in Kadiyam. ALEAP and the district administration organised the programme with technical support from FFDC, Kannauj, under the



MSME Ministry. Thirty-five women from self-help groups are receiving training. Purandeswari announced

the Temple Essentials- Rajamahendravaram initiative to use floral waste from temples to produce attars, perfumes, incense

sticks and other aromatic products. She said support would continue beyond training through machinery, land, bank loans and

marketing assistance. She urged that the products be made available to devotees and tourists during the 2027 Godavari

Pushkaram. District Collector Keerthi Chekuri said women were being trained to make incense sticks, perfumes and essential oils using flowers, Tulasi, lemon-grass and roses. Rural MLA Gorantla Butchiah Chowdary said a 20-acre women's industrial park was being developed. FFDC Director Shakti Vinay Shukla and ALEAP President K. Ramadevi said technical support and market opportunities would be provided. The programme aims to groom 1,000 women entrepreneurs in the region.

# Kambala Srinivasa Rao seeks approval for mass BJP inductions



Amaravati, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Executive Committee member Kambala Srinivasa Rao has sought the state leadership's approval to organise a mass induction of women and youth into the BJP in several constituencies of East Godavari and Kakinada districts. He met BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav and State General Secretary (Organization)

N. Madhukar at the party's state office in Vijayawada on Thursday and submitted a representation. Kambala Srinivasa Rao said thousands of women and youth were ready to join the BJP after being influenced by the spiritual, cultural and service-oriented programmes he had conducted in Gokavaram, Jaggampeta, Rajanagaram and Polavaram constituencies. He said people from

Gokavaram, Jaggampeta, Rajanagaram, Kakinada, Rampachodavaram and Polavaram were showing interest in joining the party. He requested permission to organise large-scale induction programmes across these constituencies to strengthen the BJP. Kambala said the state leadership responded positively to his request and assured him that a favourable decision would be taken.

## Collector inspects arrangements for CM's visit

Amalapuram, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

In preparation for Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district on Sept 9, District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar directed officials to make necessary arrangements. On Thursday, the Collector, District SP Rahul Meena and P. Gannavaram MLA Giddi Satyanarayana inspected locations for the public meeting, helipad and Pattadar passbook distribution programme. The team inspected vacant sites in Machavaram village of Ambajipeta Mandal and areas near K. Pedapudi and Irusumanda villages. Later, the Collector inspected the Rs.72-crore Lolla Sluice works at Lolla village in Atreyapuram Mandal and instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan.



He urged officials to ensure the Pattadar passbook distribution programme is conducted successfully. Kothapeta RDO G.V.V. Satyanarayana, Ambajipeta Tahsildar G. Chinna Babu, alliance leaders, revenue staff and others accompanied the officials during the inspection.

## Tadikalapudi police recover Rs.19.54 lakh in cyber fraud



Eluru, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Tadikalapudi police have recovered Rs.19.54 lakh in a cyber fraud case involving Rs.67.67 lakh, Eluru district police said. The victim, Mallempalli Jeevan Kishore, 32, of Sagipadu in Kamavarakota Mandal, was allegedly lured through WhatsApp with a VL Book Link and promises of high returns before being drawn into gaming betting.

A case was registered as Crime No. 194/2025 under Section 318(4) of the BNS and Section 66(D) of the IT Act. Following the complaint, NCRP No. 30207250010738 was registered through the 1930 helpline and police launched an investigation. Police have recovered Rs.19,54,600 and handed it over to the victim. Another Rs.16 lakh has been frozen in various bank accounts, with

court orders awaited for its return. Fifteen accused have been identified and notices issued under Section 35(3) of the BNSS. Sagiraju Chaitanya Varma of Ardhavaram, Ganapavaram Mandal, was identified as the prime accused and is reportedly operating from Bengaluru. Police advised people to avoid unknown links and high-return schemes and call 1930 immediately after fraud.

## Tuni Municipality corruption inquiry continues

Tuni, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

The investigation into alleged corruption in the revenue department of Tuni Municipality has raised concerns over the prolonged delay in completing the inquiry. A team led by Ramachandrapuram Municipal Commissioner K.V.R.R. Raju visited the Tuni Municipal Office for the third time on Thursday to investigate alleged irregularities involving municipal shop lease renewals, rent collection and re-tendering under the Town Planning Department. Commissioner Raju said irregularities had been identified in the renewal of expired shop leases and that a previous inquiry report had already been submitted to higher authorities. He said rents for around 100 shops were reportedly being collected at old rates without formal renewals. Following the report, the then



municipal council conducted an auction and updated computer records. Raju said the latest inquiry would assess the involvement of officials and promised to submit a final report to higher authorities within two weeks. He said the earlier inquiry had been stopped after Rs.2 crore of the alleged Rs.6 crore irregularities was reportedly recovered. Ramachandrapuram Municipal Manager P.S.R. Murthy, Senior Assistant V.S. DPO Prabhakar, K. Anil and staff participated.

## National Nutrition Week held at BR&D Nursing College



Eluru, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

National Nutrition Week celebrations, being observed from Sept 1 to 7, were held at BR&D School of Nursing in Denduluru, Eluru district. The programme aimed to create awareness about healthy eating habits and the importance of proper nutrition. Students L. Prasanna, V. Adilakshmi, B. Indumathi and P. Anjali participated in the programme and explained the importance of a balanced diet, adequate protein

intake and measures to prevent anemia. An exhibition was also organised to highlight the nutritional value of milk, eggs, leafy vegetables such as amaranth, spinach and sorrel, and pulses. The students explained that a nutritious and balanced diet plays an important role in maintaining good health. National Nutrition Week was launched by the Food and Nutrition Board in 1982 to promote awareness about healthy dietary practices.

## Eluru Police achieve 80% mobile recovery rate

Eluru, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

Eluru SP K. Pratap Siva Kishore, IPS, said the district police have set a benchmark in recovering lost mobile phones. He said Eluru district recorded an 80% recovery rate, compared with the statewide average of 35%. In August 2026 alone, police recovered 206 lost mobile phones valued at Rs.51.50 lakh and returned them to their owners. So far, a total of 4,266 mobile phones worth Rs.10.66 crore have been recovered through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal. The SP said the achievement reflected



the efforts of Eluru police in helping people recover their lost phones. He advised the public to immediately report missing mobile phones through the CEIR portal or approach the nearest police station. He urged people not to delay reporting the loss, as prompt complaints can help police trace and recover the devices.

## APNGO Association urges talks on employees' demands

Ongole, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

APNGO Association Prakasam District President K. Sarath Babu urged the government to immediately invite employee representatives for talks and resolve their long-pending demands. An executive committee meeting of the undivided Prakasam district was held at NGO Home in Ongole at the invitation of District Secretary R.C.H. Krishna Reddy. The meeting demanded immediate constitution of the PRC, due from July 1, 2023, along with Interim Relief, release of five pending DA installments and payment of DA arrears and surrender leave encashment. Members also sought abolition of CPS and effective health cards. The committee thanked the government for sanctioning 16% HRA for Markapuram and State President and JAC Chairman A. Vidyasagar for secur-



ing the benefit. It resolved to follow the decisions of the State JAC Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Sept 5 in Vijayawada. Sarath Babu said dialogue was the only way to permanently resolve employee issues. He said the association would be prepared for agitation if the government failed to respond positively. District Treasurer K. Sivakumar, Organizing Secretary B. Krishna Kishore, Vice-Presidents and other office-bearers participated.

## Encroachments reported on Epurupalem Straight Canal bank

Chirala, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

The bank of the Straight Canal in the Epurupalem area of Chirala Mandal has reportedly become a hotspot for encroachments. Local residents alleged that influential individuals were attempting to occupy valuable government land along the canal bank by using poor people as fronts to put up huts and tin-roofed structures. Locals complained to Chirala RDO Narasimha Rao, seeking protection of the canal land. Responding to the complaint, the RDO conducted a field inspection and directed the local Village Revenue Officer (VRO) to remove the illegally erected huts and structures immediately. However, residents alleged that several days after the orders were issued, the VRO had neither inspected the site nor taken steps to remove the encroachments.



They questioned the official's silence despite the alleged encroachments continuing openly. Local residents and civic organisation leaders urged the district administration and RDO to intervene immediately, clear the encroachments and take legal action against those responsible for occupying the canal bank.

## Erukula group opposes ST certificates for BCs

Chirala, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

National President of the All India Erukula Rights Struggle Committee N. Mohan Kumar Dharma, along with state committee members Baliga Brahmayya and Baliga Srinivasa Rao, attended a caste verification hearing at the Chirala RDO court on Thursday. They submitted a complaint to RDO Narasimha Rao alleging attempts to obtain fraudulent caste certificates in the Chirala area. The leaders alleged that members of the Kammara community, classified as BC, had applied for certificates identifying themselves as ST Kammara and urged authorities to stop such applications. They also sought legal action against Chirala Women's Degree College Principal Vidudala Sridevi, alleging that she obtained an ST Lambadi certificate despite belonging to the OC Kapu community.



RDO Narasimha Rao assured them that the Kammara certificate issue was under consideration and said Tahsildars would be directed not to issue ST Kammara certificates to BC applicants from plain areas. As Sridevi is from Chilakaluripet in Palnadu district, he said the inquiry into her certificate would be referred to Palnadu officials.

## Call to protect medicinal plants and forest resources



Rajahmahendravaram, Sept 3 | TPN Bureau

AP Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Board (APMAP) CEO Avula Chandrasekhar called for collective efforts to protect medicinal plants and forest biodiversity. He made the appeal while delivering a guest lecture at the AP Forest Academy in Rajahmundry on Thursday during training for the 15th and 16th batches of Forest Beat Officers. Chandrasekhar said medicinal grasses, plants, creepers and shrubs in forests were valuable natural resources and urged officials to protect them from fires and other threats. He advised farmers to cultivate suitable medicinal crops to reduce pressure on forests and prevent smuggling. He explained the functioning of the APMAP Board and highlighted research on around 22 plant varieties, which have been made available with QR codes. He also discussed the cultivation and marketing of Ashwagandha and other medicinal plants. Chandrasekhar urged Forest Beat Officers to assess their areas and conserve medicinal plants and grass species. He also called for awareness on food adulteration, venomous creatures and dangerous insects. He was felicitated for receiving an international award from the World Book of Records at the British Parliament in London.

Editorial

Congress Politics:  
Revanth Reddy Faces  
Growing Trouble

Congress politics in Telangana has once again turned into a surprise, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy appearing to face growing resistance from within his own party. One by one, leaders and groups are raising their voices, creating an atmosphere of internal tension that could become a serious challenge for the government. The political developments in Warangal are particularly significant. Konda Surekha, who has been trying to strengthen her political grip over Warangal district along with Konda Murali, is reportedly facing resistance from sections of the local Congress leadership. Though the Konda family has continued to manage its political affairs, the latest developments indicate that differences within the party are becoming increasingly visible. Revanth Reddy's political journey from the Telugu Desam Party to Congress is well known. His decision to announce a seat for Hariswara Reddy for the Parakala Assembly constituency has reportedly angered the Konda family. Hariswara Reddy is considered a close associate of Revanth Reddy from his TDP days and also belongs to the same community. The decision has therefore been viewed by the Konda camp as politically significant. The Konda family's response, particularly through their daughter Sushmita, has further exposed the growing friction. What was initially an internal political disagreement now appears to be developing into a larger challenge for the Congress leadership in Telangana. Against this backdrop, reports that Revanth Reddy persuaded the Congress High Command to initiate action against Konda Surekha have added another dimension to the controversy. If the objective was to control dissent within the party, disciplinary action could instead intensify the resentment among local leaders. Congress is already facing criticism and what its opponents describe as negative public sentiment. Continued internal conflicts, rebellion and leadership disputes could further weaken the government's political position. Revanth Reddy now faces the difficult task of balancing party discipline with regional leaders' ambitions. How he handles the Konda issue could have wider consequences for Congress politics in Telangana.

-Editor

Journalism Is Not a Profession-  
It Is a Crusade for Truth



Journalism is often described as a profession, just like medicine, law, teaching or business. But at its highest and noblest level, journalism is much more than a means of earning a livelihood. It is a public responsibility, a commitment to truth and, in many circumstances, a crusade for justice. A journalist does not merely report what happened. A responsible journalist tries to discover why it happened, who was affected, who is responsible and what the public has a right to know. Beyond a Paycheck A journalist may receive a salary, but the real reward of journalism is not the monthly paycheck. It is the knowledge that one's work can bring an injustice to light, expose corruption, give a voice to the voiceless and help society correct its mistakes. A doctor treats the illness of an individual. A journalist, in a different way, can diagnose the ailments of society. When a poor person's land is illegally occupied, when a widow is denied justice, when public money is misused or when an innocent person is wrongly accused, journalism can become the bridge between suffering and justice. That is why journalism cannot

be reduced to a commercial transaction. Truth Is the First Loyalty The first loyalty of a journalist should be to truth, not to a political party, business house, government, advertiser, powerful individual or even the journalist's own personal preferences. A journalist may make mistakes because journalism is performed by human beings. But deliberate distortion of facts destroys the very foundation of journalism. The journalist's duty is not to manufacture a convenient truth. It is to search for the truth, verify it and present it honestly. Sometimes the truth may be uncomfortable. It may embarrass those in power. It may anger influential people. It may even create difficulties for the journalist. Yet, if a journalist retreats whenever truth becomes inconvenient, journalism loses its purpose. Giving a Voice to the Voiceless One of journalism's greatest responsibilities is to speak for people who cannot easily speak for themselves. A wealthy businessman can hire lawyers. A powerful politician can hold a press conference. A large corporation can employ public-relations agencies. But an ordinary citizen whose voice is ignored may have only one hope-the conscientious journalist. Consider a daily-wage worker who has not received wages for several months. His complaint may remain unnoticed in an office file. But a newspaper report can bring the matter to the attention of officials and the public. Similarly, a neglected government hospital, a dangerous road, an uncompleted public project or an injustice against a vulnerable citizen may become a matter of public concern only after a journalist reports it. In such situations, journalism becomes an instrument of social accountability. The Courage to Question Power Democracy does not merely require elections. It requires people and institutions capable of questioning authority. That is why journalism is often called the watchdog of democracy. A journalist should be willing to ask uncomfortable questions: Where did the money go? Why was this decision taken? Who benefited? Why was this promise not fulfilled? Why was this person denied justice? The journalist's role is not necessarily to oppose the government or support it. The role is to

question power wherever necessary and acknowledge good governance wherever it exists. A journalist who praises everything becomes a propagandist. A journalist who criticises everything also loses credibility. The true journalist follows evidence. Journalism Has a Price A genuine crusade for truth is rarely without a price. There may be pressure from political authorities, advertisers, proprietors, social groups or influential individuals. There may be threats of professional isolation. Sometimes there may even be financial consequences. This is where the character of a journalist is tested. It is easy to report a popular story. It is much harder to report an unpopular truth. The history of journalism across the world demonstrates that many courageous journalists have endured hardship because they refused to compromise their conscience. Their greatest legacy was not wealth or position but credibility. Technology Has Changed Journalism-Not Its Mission The digital age has transformed journalism. News now travels through smartphones and social media within seconds. Anyone with a mobile phone can become a content creator. But speed is not journalism. A forwarded message is not journalism. A viral post is not necessarily journalism. An opinion presented as fact is not journalism. The basic principles remain unchanged: verification, accuracy, fairness, independence and accountability. Technology can change the tools of journalism, but it cannot change its moral foundation.



The Journalist's Real Identity A journalist may work for a newspaper, television channel, radio station, digital platform or independent publication. Those are professional platforms. But the deeper identity of a journalist comes from a different place. It comes from conscience. When a journalist sits before a blank page or an empty screen, the fundamental question should not be, "What will make this story popular?" It should be, "What does the public need to know?" That distinction separates journalism from mere content production. A Crusade, Not a Commodity Journalism certainly needs money, institutions, technology and professional management. Journalists deserve fair salaries and secure working conditions. Newspapers and media organisations must remain economically sustainable. But when journalism becomes only a commodity, its soul is endangered. The true journalist understands that every report carries a responsibility. A careless sentence can damage a reputation. A suppressed fact can perpetuate injustice. A courageous investigation can change a life. Therefore, journalism is not merely a profession. It is a public trust. It is not merely a trade in information. It is a crusade for truth. And whenever a journalist chooses truth over convenience, public interest over personal gain and conscience over pressure, journalism rises above a career and becomes a form of public service. The journalist may earn a living through journalism-but the true journalist lives for the truth.

THE HIMALAYAN WARNING

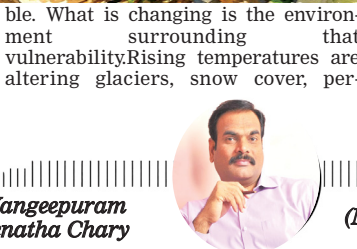
Nepal's flash floods remind us that in a fragile climate, preparedness is no longer optional.



Mountains give us an illusion of permanence. They stand unchanged across generations, while glaciers appear frozen in time and rivers quietly follow ancient paths through their valleys. But in the Himalayas, permanence can be deceptive. On 26 August 2026, Nepal witnessed how quickly a familiar landscape could turn into a corridor of destruction. A violent surge of water, ice, rock, mud and debris swept through Himalayan valleys, destroying homes, roads and vital infrastructure. More than 1,100 deaths had been reported within a week, while thousands remained missing. Entire communities were left confronting a painful question: how could something so enormous happen so suddenly? For the rest of South Asia, however, there is another question to ask: what is Nepal's tragedy trying to tell us?

When the Mountains Change Scientists are still investigating the exact chain of events behind the disaster. Preliminary evidence points to a major high-altitude collapse involving ice and rock that generated an extraordinary downstream surge. Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Chitwan, Gorkha and Tanahun were among the affected districts. The physical scale is staggering. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimates around 2.2 million tonnes of debris in the areas assessed, while government figures cited by the agency indicate that more than 84,000 people across 17 municipalities were affected. Power infrastructure, roads, bridges and public facilities were also damaged. Yet numbers cannot capture what a flash flood takes away. A house is not merely concrete and timber. A field is not merely acreage. A village is memory, livelihood, identity and belonging. When a torrent erases them in minutes, rehabilitation requires much more than rebuilding walls.

A New Himalayan Reality The Himalayas have always been geologically young and naturally vulnera-



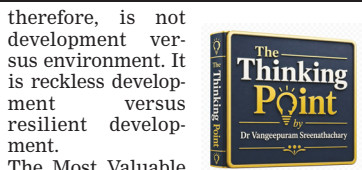
Dr Vangeepuram  
Sreenatha Chary

(Mobile: 9848023090)

mafrost and high-altitude slopes. Extreme precipitation can add another layer of instability. Scientists rightly caution against attributing every individual disaster to climate change alone. But climate change increasingly acts as a risk multiplier, intensifying conditions in an already fragile mountain system. This distinction matters. Climate change need not create every hazard to make disasters worse. When warmer conditions, unstable slopes, intense rainfall, expanding settlements and vulnerable infrastructure intersect, yesterday's rare event can become tomorrow's recurring emergency.

Development Must Understand Geography

There is another uncomfortable lesson. The Himalayan region needs roads, electricity, tourism, communication networks and economic opportunities. Mountain communities cannot be denied development in the name of conservation. But development that ignores the character of the mountains can ultimately defeat its own purpose. Roads cut into unstable slopes, construction near river corridors, poorly planned settlements and infrastructure placed without sufficient hazard assessment can magnify exposure. Nepal's disaster disrupted hydropower installations and damaged health infrastructure. It reminds policymakers that a project cannot be called sustainable merely because it produces economic value or even renewable energy. True sustainability also means surviving the environment in which it is built. The choice,



therefore, is not development versus environment. It is reckless development versus resilient development. The Most Valuable Minutes Perhaps the most important lesson lies in something disasters rarely provide: time. We cannot command a glacier not to collapse. We cannot stop extreme rainfall from reaching a mountain. But technology can sometimes detect danger before destruction reaches communities below. Satellite observation, glacial-lake monitoring, river sensors, automated alerts and scientifically prepared hazard maps can provide precious warning. Equally important are evacuation routes, community drills, trained local responders and communication systems that work even when electricity and mobile networks fail. In a flash flood, ten minutes can be worth more than ten years of compensation. That is why disaster management must move from relief after tragedy to anticipation before tragedy.

Nepal Is Not Far Away For India, Nepal's catastrophe cannot remain a neighbour's misfortune. The Himalayas are one interconnected ecological system. Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and other mountain regions live with similar combinations of glacial hazards, landslides, intense rainfall and rapidly expanding infrastructure. Rivers cross borders; climatic processes do not carry passports. Every major Himalayan disaster should therefore become a shared classroom for South Asia. Scientific data must cross borders as freely as rivers do. India, Nepal, Bhutan and other Himalayan stakeholders need deeper cooperation in glacier monitoring, river-basin management, early-warning systems and disaster research. Nepal will rebuild. Roads will reopen. Power will return. Homes will rise again. But reconstruction should not simply restore what existed before. To rebuild vulnerability is to prepare the ground for the next tragedy. The floods of Nepal have left behind more than debris. They have left a message for every government, planner and citizen living in the shadow of the Himalayas. The mountains are changing. Our thinking must change faster. (The Author is a Consultant Psychologist, Rehabilitation Professional - RCI, Academic & Research Mentor, and Guinness, Asia, Limca & India Book Records Holder)

Teachers' Day:  
The Master Profession that Shapes Every Profession



A doctor saves lives. An engineer builds bridges. A scientist discovers new possibilities. A lawyer upholds justice. An administrator governs society. But who shapes the people who become doctors, engineers, scientists, lawyers and administrators? - The teacher. Every great profession begins in an ordinary classroom. Every successful person once sat before a teacher who taught not merely lessons, but also discipline, confidence, perseverance and the courage to dream. This is why teaching is often described as "the profession that creates all other professions."

Teachers' Day, therefore, should be more than a celebration with greetings, flowers and speeches. It should be a moment of reflection: What kind of human beings are our schools, families and society creating? When Knowledge Increases but Wisdom Declines We live in an age overflowing with information. A child can find an answer to almost any question within seconds. Yet, strangely, some of the most essential lessons-respect, patience, empathy, gratitude, self-control and responsibility-are becoming increasingly difficult to teach. Marks, ranks and competitive examinations are important, but education cannot end with a certificate. A brilliant mind without a good heart is not the ultimate achievement of education. As the saying goes, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." Its purpose is not merely to make children employable, but to make

them responsible, thoughtful and compassionate human beings. The Screen That Is Stealing Childhood Technology has transformed our lives, and the mobile phone can certainly be a useful educational tool. But uncontrolled screen use is quietly changing childhood. Short videos, online games and social media can consume hours that once belonged to books, playgrounds, conversations and family life. The greatest danger is not simply the time spent on a screen, but the valuable things being replaced by it. When instant entertainment becomes a habit, patience becomes difficult. When virtual approval becomes important, real relationships may lose their value. Technology should remain our servant-not become our master. Behind Every Disturbing Incident Is a Child Who Needed to Be Heard Cyberbullying, online dangers, violent conflicts, emotional distress and other disturbing incidents involving young people should not be treated merely as news headlines. They should become warnings for parents, teachers and society. Children do not always say, "I am struggling." Sometimes they become silent. Sometimes anger is their language. Sometimes withdrawal is their cry for help. A sudden change in behaviour, disturbed sleep, loss of interest or



Kasula Ravi Kumar

Poet | Teacher | Founder,  
LEAD Rural Libraries

isolation should invite conversation-not immediate punishment. Before correcting a child, let us first understand the child. Parents: Give Them Presence, Not Just Presents Parents provide food, clothing, education and every possible comfort. But children need something even more valuable-their parents' time and attention. If we want children to read, let them see us reading. If we want them to control their phones, we must examine our own dependence on them. If we want respect, let respect begin at home. Instead of repeatedly asking, "How much did you score?", let us sometimes ask, "How are you feeling?" One honest conversation can sometimes achieve what a hundred instructions cannot. Teachers: Moulders of Minds, Builders of Character The teacher's responsibility does not end with completing the syllabus. A true teacher teaches students how to think, how to accept failure, how to respect differences and how to distinguish success from mere achievement. "A teacher affects eternity; one can never tell where his influence stops." The lesson taught in a classroom today may influence a decision made by a student twenty years later. If Education Is Good, Everything Else Will Follow Parents cannot do it alone. Teachers cannot do it alone. Society cannot do it alone. Children need classrooms that inspire, homes that listen and communities that provide books, libraries, sports, nature and positive role models. For if education is good, professionals become better; institutions become stronger; families become healthier; and society becomes more humane. So, on this Teachers' Day, let us salute those silent nation-builders who mould minds, nurture character and light the path of generations. Their greatest reward is not a gift or a garland, but the sight of their students becoming good human beings. To every teacher who teaches with knowledge, leads with values and inspires with love-this is not merely a celebration; it is a heartfelt tribute to you.

# India, Belgium Agree to Double Trade, Boost Defence Ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever held bilateral talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, focusing on strengthening cooperation in defence, security, trade and investment. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral relations. Addressing a joint press conference after the meeting, Modi described defence and security cooperation as a key pillar of the relationship between India and Belgium. He said both countries had agreed to enhance military exchanges and training cooperation.

Modi said agreements reached between the governments and defence industries of the two countries would create new opportunities for defence co-development and co-production. He also announced plans to further strengthen intelligence sharing and cooperation between the respective agencies in combating crime. The Prime Minister highlighted the strong foundation of India-Belgium relations, pointing to shared democratic principles, robust market economies and close people-to-people connections. He said these factors had made the two countries "natural partners". Trade and investment



emerged as another major focus of the discussions. Modi and De Wever agreed on measures aimed at doubling bilateral trade over the next five years. As part of the effort, the two sides agreed to establish a business forum and an investment forum to provide greater opportunities for companies and investors from both countries. The leaders also agreed to initiate a consular dialogue, which is expected to strengthen institutional engagement and address issues concerning citizens, businesses and mobility between India and Belgium. The defence agreements are expected to provide greater scope for collaboration

between the two countries' defence industries, particularly in joint development and production. Enhanced military exchanges and training programmes are also likely to expand cooperation between their armed forces. The talks reflected an effort by India and Belgium to broaden their partnership beyond traditional economic engagement and build stronger cooperation in security, defence, investment and institutional dialogue. Both Modi and De Wever reiterated their resolve to further deepen bilateral ties while working together on regional and international matters of shared interest.

## Mamata Warns BJP of Delhi Protests



Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday condemned the alleged vandalism at the Trinamool Congress (TMC) office on Camac Street in Kolkata and warned that her party would stage demonstrations outside the residences of BJP leaders in New Delhi if such incidents continued. Addressing the issue through a Facebook Live session, Banerjee accused BJP-backed men of vandalising the party office, looting documents and removing electronic equipment. She alleged that the attackers carried out the incident after taking the Kolkata Police "in confidence". "We condemn the vandalism at our party office early in the morning in Kolkata. If this is the law and order situation in Kolkata, just imagine what is prevailing in rural areas," Banerjee said. The former three-term chief minister accused the BJP of promoting what she described as "total lawlessness" in West Bengal. She also condemned the alleged violence at Jadavpur University, calling the incident "hooliganism of the BJP". "What happened at Jadavpur University was the hooliganism of the BJP. We condemn this," Banerjee said. She further alleged that an atmosphere was being created to restrict her movement and claimed that she was being threatened with being prevented from leaving her home. The TMC supremo warned that her party would not remain silent if attacks against its leaders and offices continued. "If these atrocities on the TMC don't stop, we will stage dharnas outside BJP leaders' homes in New Delhi," she said. Her remarks came hours after TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee alleged that BJP-backed armed men had vandalised the party's Camac Street office during the early hours. Mamata Banerjee also shared purported CCTV footage on social media that showed several masked and helmeted men leaving the premises while carrying electronic equipment, including television sets and a printer. The footage also showed a room inside the office with damaged furniture and electronic equipment. Police subsequently detained six people in connection with the incident, according to an officer. The allegations have triggered another political confrontation between the TMC and BJP in West Bengal, with both parties trading accusations over law and order and political violence. The latest dispute comes amid continuing political tensions in the state, with Banerjee accusing the BJP of targeting her party and its leadership, while the incident and subsequent police action are likely to remain a major point of political debate.

## ISRO Set to Launch EOS-5 on GSLV-F17

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing for a crucial return to the launch pad with the planned launch of EOS-5, one of its most ambitious Earth observation satellites, aboard the Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV F17). The launch is scheduled for 2:55 am on September 4 from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The mission comes after nearly eight months away from the launch pad and two consecutive failures involving the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). EOS-05 is designed to provide India with a continuous bird's-eye view of the country from nearly 36,000 kilometres above Earth. If the mission succeeds, the satellite will strengthen India's ability to monitor its territory, coastline, weather systems and disaster-prone regions. The satellite will also support border surveillance through its high-resolution imaging capability. EOS-05 is India's first imaging satellite designed to operate from Geosynchronous Orbit, expanding the country's Earth-monitoring capabilities from a much higher vantage point. The satellite has an estimated launch mass of about 2,367 kilograms. The mission is designed to place EOS-05 into a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. The GSLV-F17 stands 51.7 metres tall and has a liftoff mass of 420.5 tonnes. The launch vehicle uses a three-stage configuration and features a composite four-metre-diameter payload fairing designed to accommodate large spacecraft. Its first stage combines an S-139 solid rocket motor with four liquid strap-on boosters. The S-139 stage carries 138 tonnes of solid propellant, while the four liquid boosters collectively carry about 170 tonnes of UH25 and nitrogen tetroxide propellants. The second stage uses liquid propulsion technology and carries 42 tonnes of UH25 and dinitrogen tetroxide propellants. It takes over after separation of the first stage and continues accelerating the vehicle towards the targeted transfer orbit. The third stage is the indigenous CUS-5 cryogenic upper stage, powered by liquid hydrogen (LH2) and liquid oxygen (LOX). It carries 15 tonnes of cryogenic propellant and performs the crucial orbital insertion manoeuvre required to place EOS-05 into its intended orbit. The satellite will remain enclosed within the vehicle's payload fairing during ascent and will be deployed after the cryogenic upper stage completes its mission.



## India Offers Help to End Russia-Ukraine War

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India is ready to assist in efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war, stressing that lasting peace can only be achieved through dialogue, diplomacy and negotiations. During his visit to Kyiv, Jaishankar held discussions with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, with the ongoing conflict and its wider consequences forming a key part of the talks. Jaishankar said India has consistently maintained that this is not an era of war and that solutions cannot emerge from the battlefield. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks in Bishkek, he said endless war must give way to an end to war. He said every passing day of conflict brings more deaths and destruction and that it is ultimately for the parties involved to find a way forward. However, he made it clear that India is prepared to contribute in any manner if its involvement can help end the conflict. The discussions also covered



attacks affecting commercial shipping. Jaishankar noted that Indian seafarers work on vessels flying the flags of several countries and have been among those affected. Shipping disruptions have also created wider concerns for Global South countries, particularly regarding the availability of fuel, fertilisers and food. Jaishankar highlighted India's humanitarian assistance to

Ukraine since the beginning of the war. India has sent 19 consignments containing around 160 tonnes of supplies, including generator sets, medicines and medical equipment. He said further humanitarian assistance would also be discussed with Sybiha. Bilateral economic relations were another focus. Jaishankar said India and Ukraine have trade ties in pharmaceuticals, food and agri-

culture, fertilisers, machinery, chemicals and consumer goods. While the war and logistical difficulties have disrupted trade over the past four years, he said the relationship has shown resilience and new possibilities have emerged. Education was also discussed, with Jaishankar noting that many Indian students continue to study in Ukraine. He thanked Ukrainian authorities for taking care of them. Looking beyond the conflict, Jaishankar said India sees scope for cooperation in digital capabilities, innovation, startups and artificial intelligence. He identified healthcare, education, agriculture and governance as areas where AI could create new opportunities. On Russian oil purchases and possible US sanctions, Jaishankar said the conflict cannot be resolved through decisions on buying or selling oil, alumina, minerals, metals or fertilisers. He reiterated that the war will ultimately require dialogue, diplomacy and negotiation.

## Heavy Rain Kills Five in UP, Flood Alerts Across States

Heavy rain disrupted normal life across several states, leaving five people dead in Uttar Pradesh, pushing the Ganga towards its highest flood mark in Bihar, triggering landslides in Himachal Pradesh and affecting train services in West Bengal. In Uttar Pradesh, five people, including three members of a family, were killed in separate rain-related incidents in Chitrakoot, Amethi and Barabanki districts. In Chitrakoot, a mud house collapsed in Barachhi village during heavy rain, killing a 32-year-old man and his two children, aged five and one. His wife and daughter were injured in the incident. A 66-year-old man in Amethi died after a mud wall collapsed amid heavy rain in Naya Purwa village. In Barabanki, a 62-year-old man was killed and his son-in-law injured after a mud wall collapsed on them in Dhanouli village. Barabanki is among 23 districts in Uttar Pradesh affected by floods. In Bihar, authorities intensified



vigilance as the Ganga continued to rise. The river was expected to breach its highest flood mark at Patna's Gandhi Ghat. Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary inspected the rising water level along JP Ganga Path and directed officials to take measures to ensure public safety. Residents in riverbank and low-lying areas of Bhojpur, Patna, Saran, Vaishali, Nalanda,

Begusarai, Lakhisarai and Jehanabad were advised to remain alert and avoid unnecessary movement near ghats and embankments. Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, who also holds the Water Resources Department portfolio, reviewed the flood situation through a video conference. He said severe erosion by the Ganga in Kajikoraia-Raghopur and adjoining areas of Bhagalpur had

been brought under control. The river was also expected to cross its highest flood mark at Hathidah in Mokama. In Himachal Pradesh, heavy rain brought debris onto the Chandigarh-Shimla highway in Solan, affecting traffic. Landslides in Kangra damaged gravity pipelines supplying drinking water to Dharamshala. As many as 95 roads remained closed. Bilaspur's Naina Devi recorded 130.6 mm rainfall. In West Bengal, the Damodar Valley Corporation issued flood alerts after releasing water from Maithon and Panchet reservoirs. Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Bankura, Hooghly and Howrah were identified as likely affected districts. Train services were also disrupted after soil beneath tracks between Tilpara and New Farakka eroded. Several long-distance trains were delayed, while repair work was undertaken by railway teams.

## Raghav Chadha's Rajya Sabha Seat Safe, Says Expert

The deletion of Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha's name from Punjab's draft electoral rolls has triggered a political controversy, but constitutional and parliamentary experts have clarified that the development will not by itself affect his membership of the Upper House. Chadha's name was included in the Absent, Shifted, Deceased and Duplicate (ASDD) list published on August 13, with "permanently shifted" recorded as the reason for deletion. He is among around 20.66 lakh voters, or approximately 9.7 per cent of Punjab's pre-Special Intensive Revision (SIR) electorate, whose names have been excluded from the draft rolls. The deletion led to speculation that Chadha could face a threat to his Rajya Sabha membership. However, former Lok Sabha Secretary General PDT Acharya said there was no such constitutional or legal consequence. "It's not that if his name was deleted from the draft electoral roll, his Rajya Sabha membership will be jeopardised," Acharya said. He explained that Rajya Sabha election rules do not require a candidate to be registered as a voter in the state from which the person is elected.



Under the existing law, a person contesting a Rajya Sabha election only needs to be registered as an elector in any parliamentary constituency in India. The requirement was changed in 2003 through an amendment to the

Representation of the People Act, 1951. Acharya also pointed to the Rajya Sabha's election-related guidelines issued in 2016, which clarify that a candidate seeking election from a particular state does not necessar-

ily have to be an elector of that state. Chadha, who was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Punjab as an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate in 2022, questioned his classification as "permanently shifted". He said his voter registration is in Mohali and indicated that he was pursuing remedies available under the SIR guidelines. "This does not seem like a mere clerical mistake. This is a clear case of political vendetta," Chadha said in a detailed social media post. He alleged that the AAP government was using the state's administrative machinery against leaders who had left the party. Chadha claimed that since leaving AAP, its leadership had targeted him and alleged the use of the Punjab Police and state administration against those who refused to remain silent. He further alleged that other MPs who left AAP and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had also faced similar targeting by the Punjab government. The controversy is now focused on the electoral roll revision process, while Chadha's Rajya Sabha membership remains unaffected by the deletion under the applicable election rules.

# Trump Says He Is 'Happy' Harry and Meghan Left US

US President Donald Trump said he was "happy" that Prince Harry and his family had left the United States and relocated to Britain, while criticising Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, over their treatment of the royal family. Speaking in the Oval Office, Trump said he had not been a fan of the couple and believed they had shown "great disrespect" toward the British royal family. Harry and Meghan had moved to California six years ago but have now returned to Britain. "I am happy about it. I was not a fan," Trump said when asked about their relocation. Trump said he had a "good relationship" with the late Queen Elizabeth and her successor, King Charles, who is undergoing treatment for cancer. He specifically criticised Meghan, saying he disliked the way she had behaved and considered her "terribly disrespectful". Harry and Meghan stepped back from royal duties and moved to the



United States after publicly discussing their difficult relationship with the royal family. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey, Harry accused members of the royal family of neglect, while Meghan spoke about concerns allegedly raised within the family over the possible

skin colour of their son before his birth. Prince William, Harry's older brother, defended the royal family following the allegations and said, "we're not racist." Harry also cited intense press scrutiny and concerns over security arrangements for his family as

reasons for relocating to California. The couple are now expected to remain non-working royals after returning to Britain. A person close to the family said last month that Harry and Meghan planned to live somewhere outside London for an extended period with their children, Prince Archie, 7, and Princess Lilibet, 5. The children are expected to attend school in Britain. The reason behind the couple's decision to relocate remains unclear, although Harry has previously expressed a desire for his children to spend more time in Britain. Trump questioned the decision by the royal family to maintain ties with Harry and Meghan. "If I were the royal family, I would not have taken them back," he said. His comments add another chapter to the public discussion surrounding Harry and Meghan's relationship with the British monarchy, which has remained strained since their departure from royal duties and move to the United States.

# Russia to Shut German Cultural Centres



Russia will shut German cultural centres across the country following a diplomatic escalation with Berlin over an alleged drone attack near Leipzig/Halle Airport, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Thursday. The announcement came after Germany blamed Moscow for an attempted attack at the airport and announced plans to close the Russian Consulate in Bonn and the Russian House cultural centre in Berlin.

Lavrov said German cultural centres operated by the Goethe-Institut would be closed in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg. He added that Russia would need to take the step, as failing to respond would demonstrate a lack of "self-respect".

Speaking at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Lavrov said Germany "could not have failed to understand" that the closure of Russian House would mean the end of Germany's cultural presence in Russia.

The dispute follows the discovery of a drone laden with explosives near a Ukrainian aircraft at Leipzig/Halle Airport on August 4. The device was later defused. The airport is a major international freight hub and has been used to provide support to Ukraine.

Western officials have repeatedly accused Russia of conducting sabotage and disruption campaigns aimed at weakening European support for Ukraine and destabilising European countries. Russian President Vladimir Putin has rejected the allegations, arguing that Berlin is attempting to divert attention from its own problems and dissatisfaction among voters. Putin said any evidence being presented had been "planted". The European Union also discussed possible measures in response to the attempted attack. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the incident had the hallmarks of state-sponsored terrorism and questioned how the bloc should respond without resorting to military action.

EU foreign ministers considered options including additional sanctions, visa restrictions and the closure of Russian consulates. The EU has already imposed almost two dozen packages of sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine, targeting more than 3,000 officials, oligarchs and entities, including banks, energy companies and drone manufacturers. Kallas said the EU was preparing further travel bans and asset freezes targeting another 1,600 people. Germany said it was "not at war" but had become a daily target of what it described as the Kremlin's hybrid campaign. German Foreign Minister Johan Wadephul said Berlin had carefully prepared its response and that Russia would have to face the consequences. Wadephul also urged Moscow to demonstrate readiness for reasonable talks and negotiations, particularly concerning the situation in Ukraine.

# New York Restricts AI Use for Students



New York has announced a one-year restriction on student use of artificial intelligence through eighth grade, with Mayor Zohran Mamdani saying the move is aimed at protecting children's education, mental health and human connections.

The restriction will affect nearly 600,000 public school students through eighth grade and is expected to draw attention across the United States, given that New York City's school board is the largest in the country. Under the new rules, only high school students, typically aged 14 and above, will be allowed to use AI through limited pilot programmes. They will also receive AI literacy classes twice a year. Companion chatbots specifically designed to provide emotional support will be prohibited across all grades.

Mamdani said the technology industry was trying to present AI-based early education as inevitable and necessary, but his administration did not agree. He stressed that children need teachers and human interaction to learn, develop skills, build relationships with educators and work through difficult problems independently.

Teachers, however, will still be allowed to use AI for lesson planning and administrative work.

A task force comprising students, teachers, parents, elected officials and industry experts will assess the impact of the restriction throughout the 2026-2027 school year. The group will study how the policy affects education and publish its findings after completing its review.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul supported the move, saying authorities have a responsibility to ensure rapidly changing technology helps children and their learning instead of interfering with their development.

The new restrictions follow an AI framework released in March that had permitted students to use artificial intelligence for research, exploration and creative projects. The earlier approach faced strong criticism from parents and teachers, many of whom considered the rules too permissive.

Following the backlash, New York City Schools Chancellor Katar Samuels acknowledged that school leaders had "missed the mark" in communicating the policy. He said his office would review the feedback received from parents and teachers and consider it while developing future regulations.

The latest decision reflects growing concerns over how quickly AI is entering classrooms and the potential effects on students' learning habits, emotional development and interpersonal relationships.

New York's year-long restriction will provide education officials with an opportunity to examine whether limiting student access to AI can strengthen traditional learning while allowing educators to explore controlled uses of the technology.

# US Strike Hits Wedding in Southern Iran

A US missile struck a home in southern Iran where dozens of people had gathered for a wedding celebration, according to Iranian state media and a rights group, raising fresh concerns over civilian casualties in the six-month war.

The strike hit the coastal town of Kuhestak near the Strait of Hormuz during the latest round of US bombardment in southern Iran. Iranian state media reported that four people, including two women and two children aged four and 16, were killed and at least 68 others wounded. An earlier statement from provincial Deputy Governor Ahmad Nafisi had put the death toll at five, with no immediate explanation for the change.

The home belonged to Ali Mallahi, a fisherman who was celebrating his daughter's wedding. Mallahi told Iranian state television that the missile destroyed the ceiling of the house and that another missile struck a neighbouring home sharing the same yard. Mallahi belongs to Iran's Baluch ethnic minority.



Images released by Iranian media showed a large crater, heavily damaged walls and roof, a smashed car and debris scattered across the site. Wedding guests' shoes were also seen among the debris. At a hospital in nearby Minab, Iranian media showed wounded women and children receiving treatment. One injured man said he heard aircraft overhead while travelling to the wed-

ding and arrived as the explosion occurred. He described blocks falling and striking people, particularly children and women. The nearby port of Kuhestak was also reportedly targeted. Iranian state media said a communications tower was hit, while Moein Arjomand, director of the Balochistan Human Rights Documentation Network, told The Associated Press that witnesses

reported at least two missiles striking the tower and another hitting a pier.

The rights group said the 16-year-old victim was killed by shrapnel while riding a motorcycle near the communications tower rather than at the wedding.

The US military said the strikes targeted air defences, radar systems and maritime assets. US Central Command spokesman Capt. Tim Hawkins said the military was looking into reports about the wedding strike but did not say whether a formal investigation had been launched.

Weapons expert N.R. Jenzen-Jones, director of Armament Research Services, examined images of weapon fragments and identified them as pointing to an American air-delivered guided weapon. He initially assessed it as a SLAM-ER cruise missile but later said it was more likely a JSOW guided bomb, while not ruling out a SLAM-ER or multiple weapons.

US Central Command declined to comment on the findings

# Iran Launches Missiles, Drones at Kuwait

Iran launched missiles and drones toward Kuwait on Thursday, escalating regional tensions as the conflict with the United States intensified. Kuwait said its air defence systems were intercepting the attacks, describing the strikes as a "blatant Iranian aggression."

The attacks came as Iran continued retaliatory operations following US bombardments earlier in the week. Kuwait's Ministry of Defence said sirens sounded early Thursday as its air defences responded to incoming missiles and drones.

The latest attacks followed similar developments in neighbouring countries. US allies Bahrain and Jordan said their air defence systems intercepted several Iranian aerial attacks on Wednesday, highlighting the widening regional impact of the conflict.

Fighting between the US and Iran has intensified this week after the United States struck Iranian rocket launchers on an island in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday. The US said the launchers were being prepared for use in an Iranian



plan to deploy mines in the strategically important waterway. The escalation has increased concerns over the security of Gulf countries and vital shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz, a major corridor for global energy supplies. The conflict is unfolding alongside political developments in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu is seeking to consolidate the country's fragmented right wing ahead of the October 27 election.

With his political legacy at stake, Netanyahu is urging allied right-wing parties to unite into larger blocs that have a stronger chance of entering parliament. Several small pro-Netanyahu parties are competing ahead of the election,

but their presence could divide support among his traditional voter base.

Among the groups posing a challenge are hard-line blocs led by Cabinet ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. Their parties have significant support among Netanyahu's right-wing allies but could weaken his electoral prospects if votes are split among multiple groups.

The election is expected to serve as a major test of Netanyahu's nearly uninterrupted 17-year political rule. His tenure has been shaped by mass protests, the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, and nearly three years of war.

A victory would strengthen Netanyahu's political comeback after years of controversy and pressure. A defeat, however, could bring an end to the rule of the leader who has played a central role in shaping Israeli politics for three decades. The latest Iranian attacks on Kuwait add another layer of uncertainty as the wider Middle East faces continuing military and political tensions.

# Rubio Warns India Over Iran Trade

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has warned that countries helping Iran evade US sanctions could themselves face sanctions, while saying he does not believe India and Iran are currently negotiating a trade deal.

Rubio's remarks came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations, trade and the prevailing situation in West Asia.

Speaking to Brian Kilmeade on The Brian Kilmeade Show, Rubio was asked whether India and Iran were working toward a trade arrangement. "Well, I don't think there's a trade deal between India and Iran," he said.

The US Secretary of State acknowledged that countries for-

mulate their own foreign policies and that several nations maintain contact with the Iranian regime. However, he cautioned against helping Tehran bypass American sanctions.

Rubio said countries assisting Iran in creating mechanisms to generate revenue and circumvent US sanctions could face sanctions themselves. His comments come amid heightened tensions in West Asia and Washington's continued pressure on Tehran.

During his meeting with Pezeshkian, Modi reiterated India's commitment to strengthening its long-standing friendship with Iran across diverse sectors. He also said New Delhi wanted to expand and diversify bilateral trade.

Met President Masoud Pezeshkian in Bishkek. Reiterated our commitment to strengthening India's long-standing friendship



with Iran across diverse sectors. We want to expand and diversify our trade basket in the times to come," Modi said in a post on X. The two leaders also discussed recent developments in the region and reaffirmed support for efforts aimed at achieving lasting peace. The Ministry of External Affairs described the meeting as "fruitful" and said the discussions covered

bilateral ties and developments in West Asia.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Modi reiterated India's consistent position that regional issues should be addressed through "dialogue and diplomacy". He also stressed the need for continued efforts to promote peace and stability.

The talks also covered the safety of commercial shipping, seafarers and civilians amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Modi reiterated India's readiness to cooperate closely with Iran through multilateral platforms, including BRICS and the SCO.

Modi also said he looked forward to welcoming Pezeshkian to India for the BRICS Summit scheduled in New Delhi from September 12 to 13. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and other senior Iranian delegates were also present during the bilateral meeting.



# Big Tech PM Quits Six-Figure Job to Build His Own Path

After six years as a Product Manager at a Big Tech company, Teja has walked away from a six-figure salary and a stable corporate career to explore a future on his own terms. Teja revealed on social media that July 31, 2026, was his last working day. One month into unemployment, he explained that the decision was driven by a desire to discover what he could build independently after spending

years helping develop someone else's vision. For Teja, the timing felt important. He said that as people grow older, responsibilities increase and making a major career change can become more difficult. Rather than Teja believes 2026 offers more opportunities to earn a living through different paths than ever before. Instead of watching that transformation from the sidelines, he wants to par-

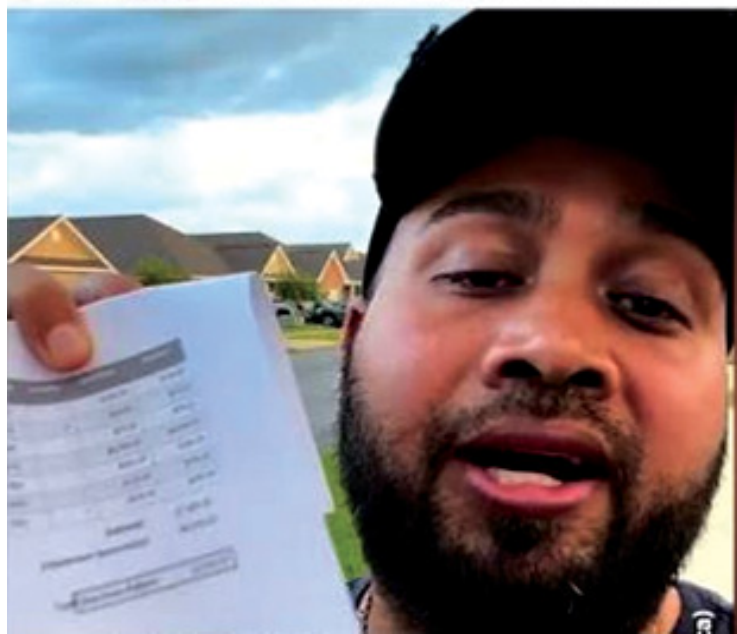


ticipate in it by building something himself. His decision, however, is not focused entirely on professional ambitions. Teja also wants greater freedom in his personal life. He said his family and friends are in India and that he deeply values the time spent with them. At the same time, he wants to meet new people, visit different places and create a network based on his own experi-

ences. He described his goal as having a "life without borders", allowing him to travel, stay wherever he chooses for as long as he wants and return home whenever he wishes. For Teja, being a global citizen does not mean losing his connection with his roots. Despite leaving a lucrative position, Teja does not claim to have a detailed plan for the future. He openly

admitted that he is still figuring out what his next chapter will look like. For now, he intends to document the journey and take it one step at a time. His decision reflects a growing willingness among technology professionals to reconsider traditional career paths and experiment with independent work, entrepreneurship and greater personal freedom.

## NRI Shocked by \$2,500 Quote for One Tooth Extraction



A social media video by Nitin Malhotra, an NRI who has lived in the US for around 15 years, has gone viral after he shared his experience of being quoted \$2,500, approximately Rs 2.37 lakh, for extracting a single tooth despite having health insurance.

Malhotra regularly shares content about NRI life and recently posted a video on Instagram describing his experience at a US dental clinic. What he expected to be a routine procedure instead became a major expense, prompting him to compare the cost with dental treatment in India.

According to Malhotra, the dentist quoted him approximately \$2,500 for extracting one tooth even after insurance coverage. He said a similar procedure in India would cost around Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000, highlighting what he described as one of the less-discussed financial challenges of living abroad.

In his social media post, Malhotra questioned whether such a high bill was justified or whether patients were being overcharged. He also described the expense as a "hidden cost" of being an NRI that people often do not discuss when comparing life in India and the US.

The video quickly attracted attention, with several social media users sharing their own experiences of dental treatment in both countries.

One user stressed that having good dental insurance in the US is important and said people should choose their insurance plans. At the same time, the commenter suggested that India can remain a much more affordable option for dental treatment, while Mexico could also be considered by some patients.

A third commenter shared a personal experience involving a root canal. The user claimed the procedure had cost less than \$100 in India and was completed with a same-day appointment, while a similar treatment in the US had resulted in a bill of around \$3,500.

Other users advised patients to understand their dental insurance coverage before agreeing to procedures, noting that unexpected expenses can arise even when insurance is available.

Some also said India has become a practical destination for overseas residents seeking dental treatment, particularly for procedures that can cost thousands of dollars in the US.

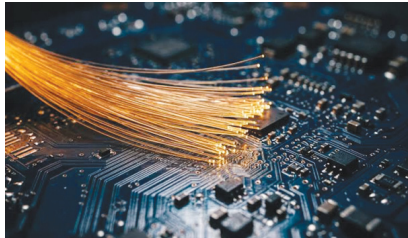
However, another commenter offered a more cautious perspective, pointing out that dental charges can vary depending on the insurance plan, treatment and individual circumstances.

The viral discussion has ultimately drawn attention to the striking difference in dental costs experienced by some patients in India and the US, while also highlighting the importance of understanding insurance coverage before undergoing treatment.

## Google Launches Gemini

### 3.8 Flash With Cyber Security Focus

Google has launched Gemini 3.8 Flash, just weeks after introducing Gemini 3.7 Flash, positioning the latest model as a more capable option for complex reasoning, engineering tasks and professional applications. The technology giant has introduced Gemini 3.8 Flash at the same introductory price as Gemini 3.7 Flash. The model costs \$0.75 per million input tokens and \$3.75 per million output tokens, keeping its pricing accessible while Google highlights improvements in performance. According to Google, Gemini 3.8 Flash is designed to "work harder" on complicated tasks. The company said the model demonstrates greater diligence by carrying out additional reasoning steps and repeatedly using tools when required. At higher effort levels, the model may use more tokens in an attempt to maximize performance. Google said Gemini 3.8 Flash has outperformed most larger frontier models in autonomously solving complex engineering problems from beginning to end. The company cited results from the DeepSWE v1.1 software engineering benchmark, where it said the new model achieved strong performance at a fraction of the cost of larger models. The model has also reportedly surpassed Gemini 3.7 Flash and other frontier models on benchmarks focused on specialized professional tasks. These include the Vals Finance Agent V2 benchmark and Harvey's Legal Agent Benchmark, indicating that Google is targeting applications beyond general-purpose chatbot use. Gemini 3.8 Flash also recorded 54.9 per cent on HLE-Verified, according to Google. The company said the result demonstrates the model's ability to handle multi-step reasoning across areas including science, technology, humanities and professional fields. Alongside the standard model, Google has introduced Gemini 3.8 Flash Cyber, a version aimed specifically at cybersecurity-related applications.



## South Indian Doctor Falls for the Sweetness of Awadhi

After moving from South India to Uttar Pradesh, Dr Anitha Punyodaya Misra has found herself developing a special affection for Awadhi, the traditional language of the region. The experienced obstetrician and gynaecologist, who now lives in Gonda and practices and operates at Gonda Medical Centre, recently shared her unusual language journey in a video posted on Instagram.

Dr Anitha said she is originally from South India and learnt Hindi after marriage. However, it was Awadhi that eventually captured her attention and became her favourite language.

She said she feels particularly happy when her patients speak to her in Awadhi while explaining their health problems. For her, listening to the language has become more than simply understanding what a patient is saying.

Dr Anitha described the experience as being similar to listening to poetry, highlighting the softness and expressive quality she finds in



the regional language.

At the same time, her affection for Awadhi comes with a humorous challenge. Although she has learnt to understand much of the dialect, she admitted that conversations can sometimes leave her struggling to follow what a patient is saying. Recalling one such interaction, Dr Anitha said a patient spoke entirely in Awadhi, leaving her temporarily "trapped" because she could not understand the conversation properly. Her light-hearted account showed that even her growing familiarity with the language does not guarantee that every conversation will be easy.

Rather than being discouraged, however, she sees learning Awadhi as a continuing journey. Dr Anitha said it is not something that can be mastered by completing a course or studying it for a short period. Instead, she believes understanding the language develops gradually through everyday interactions and experiences.

Her story also reflects how lan-

guage can become a bridge between people from different regions. Having moved from South India and established her life in Gonda, Dr Anitha has embraced a local form of expression that is deeply connected with the area's culture and everyday life.

Awadhi is traditionally spoken across much of Uttar Pradesh's Awadh region and has a rich literary history. It is closely associated with works such as Goswami Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas and Malik Muhammad Jayasi's Padmavat. The language is often appreciated for its musical, soft and expressive character.

For Dr Anitha, however, Awadhi appears to have become personal rather than merely cultural. Her enthusiasm for hearing patients speak it has turned everyday medical conversations into opportunities to experience the language.

She ended her video with a cheerful celebration of her adopted home and its language: "Jai Awadhi! Jai Gonda!"

# Anthropic Back in Trump's Favour, Says US Commerce Chief



US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has said artificial intelligence company Anthropic is "back on the right side" with the Trump administration, signaling a possible easing of tensions between the AI firm and the US government.

Lutnick made the remarks in an interview with Axios, according to a report cited by Reuters. His comments come after a dispute between Anthropic and the US military over restrictions on how its artificial intelligence technology could be used.

The disagreement intensified after US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth blocked Anthropic from certain military contracts. The decision followed the company's refusal to permit the US government to use its Claude AI models for domestic surveillance or autonomous weapons.

Anthropic challenged the government's position in court, filing a lawsuit in California. The dispute has focused on how advanced AI systems should be used in military operations and the limits companies can place on government access to their technology.

On August 27, a US judge sided with Anthropic in its legal battle

with the American military over AI safety on the battlefield. The ruling added another layer to the increasingly high-profile debate surrounding the use of artificial intelligence in national security and defense.

The disagreement between Anthropic and the Trump administration has also highlighted a broader tension facing major AI companies. While governments are seeking access to increasingly powerful AI systems for defense and security purposes, technology companies are attempting to estab-

lish boundaries around applications they consider particularly risky.

Anthropic and the US Commerce Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment from Reuters regarding Lutnick's remarks.

Meanwhile, Anthropic co-founder Tom Brown appeared at a technology-focused G20 event in North Carolina on Wednesday morning. His appearance came as the company continues to engage with policymakers and officials over the development and deployment of

AI infrastructure.

Brown emphasized the importance of data centers during the gathering and urged officials to provide permits for their construction in their respective countries. The availability of large-scale data centers has become increasingly important as AI companies expand their models and require substantial computing infrastructure.

Lutnick's statement that Anthropic is once again viewed positively by the Trump administration could mark a change in the relationship following the military contract dispute. However, the underlying questions about AI safety, government surveillance and autonomous weapons remain central to the debate.

The episode reflects the growing importance of negotiations between governments and AI companies as advanced models become increasingly relevant to defense, national security and critical infrastructure. It also shows how disagreements over the acceptable uses of AI can quickly develop into legal and political disputes involving some of the world's most powerful technology firms.

# Chinese Entrepreneur Turns Itch-Scratching Into Unusual Business

A 32-year-old Chinese entrepreneur has turned an everyday need for comfort into an unusual business, offering customers professional back-scratching and itch-relief services for a fee.

Zhang Xiaojiao, from Hubei province, launched the service in Shenzhen under the brand Suma. Customers lie on beds in an environment similar to a massage parlour, while trained staff use specially designed pointed nails to gently scratch different parts of the body.

The service costs 300 yuan, around Rs 4,200, per hour and is marketed as a way to relax, reduce stress and improve sleep. Customers can also tell staff which areas are particularly itchy, allowing them to focus on specific spots. The sensation can sometimes be ticklish enough to make customers laugh.

Zhang believes the unusual service has found a market among stressed urban residents. "In first-

tier cities, people generally experience high levels of stress. As a result, this service is in great demand," he said.

Zhang opened his first Suma outlet in Shenzhen's Baoan District in May. A second branch followed in Futian District a month later. Together, the two outlets reportedly generate around 100,000 yuan, approximately Rs 14 lakh, in monthly gross revenue and have reached the break-even point.

The business attracts both men and women, with male customers accounting for about 70 per cent. Zhang said some customers have described the service as more relaxing than a conventional massage, helping the business build a strong base of repeat clients.

The idea reportedly came from a combination of social media and Zhang's childhood memories. Last year, he watched a short video showing a woman scratching her husband's back. Comments under



the video caught his attention, with several people saying they would be willing to pay someone to scratch an itch for them.

The idea also reminded Zhang of his childhood, when his father

would scratch his back to help him fall asleep. He began wondering whether the simple act of comfort could become a professional service.

Since there was little precedent for such a business in China, Zhang said he developed the service from scratch, experimenting with techniques and methods to make the experience comfortable for customers.

The venture marks another turn in Zhang's entrepreneurial journey. After university, he tried seven different jobs in one year before founding two cross-border e-commerce companies. He later moved into the social media industry, but his earlier ventures did not achieve the success he expected.

His latest idea, however, appears to be gaining traction. Zhang now hopes to expand Suma to 100 outlets across China and turn professional itch-scratching into a recognised service profession.



## Teenager Vishesh Sharma Takes Four-Shot Lead At Telangana Golconda Masters

Local favourite Vishesh Sharma strengthened his position at the top of the leaderboard with a six-under 64 in the third round of the Rs 1 crore Telangana Golconda Masters golf tournament, opening up a four-shot advantage ahead of the final day. The 19-year-old Sharma, who began the round tied for the lead with Amardeep Malik, produced a composed display featuring seven birdies and just one bogey to move to 20-under 190. Playing on his home course, Vishesh has maintained at least a share of the lead in every round of the tournament. His impressive sequence of 60, 66 and 64 has put him in a commanding position going into the final round. His opening 60 had equalled the course record. Amardeep Malik remained Vishesh's closest challenger after carding a two-under 68 to reach 16-under 194. The 41-year-old from Noida, a two-time winner on the PGTI, made three birdies but dropped a shot on the par-three ninth. Delhi's Honey Baisoya climbed one place to third at 14-under 196 after another 68. Starting the day two shots behind the joint leaders, Baisoya mixed four birdies with two bogeys to stay within striking distance of the leading group. Dhruv Sheoran of Gurugram, who had shared the opening-round lead, slipped to fourth at 13-under 197. Sheoran carded an even-par 70, making three birdies and three bogeys during his third round. The biggest move of the day came from current PGTI Rankings leader Saptak Talwar. Beginning the round tied for 17th, Talwar fired the lowest score of the day, a seven-under 61, to surge into fifth place at 12-under 198. Vishesh's four-shot cushion gives him a significant advantage, but Malik, Baisoya and the chasing pack will look to mount a challenge in the final round. With the teenager already showing remarkable consistency across three rounds, attention will now be on whether he can convert his dominant position into his biggest title yet.



## Messi To Receive Mid-Game Tribute Across Argentina

Football teams across Argentina will pay tribute to Lionel Messi with a special mid-game minute of applause following his decision to retire from international duty after a remarkable 21-year career with the national team. Referees will pause play at the 10-minute mark of every match in the upcoming round of the Clausura tournament, as well as fixtures in other men's and women's leagues across Argentina. The tribute is being organised in recognition of Messi's extraordinary contribution to the national team, the Argentine Football Association said. The 39-year-old Messi, who famously wore Argentina's No. 10 jersey, announced on Monday that he would no longer represent the national team. His decision brings an end to an international career that has made him one of the most celebrated figures in Argentine sporting history. Messi made 207 appearances for Argentina and scored 125 goals, both national records. His international career reached its greatest moment in 2022, when he captained Argentina to the FIFA World Cup title in Qatar. He also led the team to two other World Cup finals during his career. The forward has become an iconic figure in Argentina, where he is idolized by millions of supporters. His achievements with the national team eventually ended years of debate over his legacy after he delivered the World Cup trophy in 2022. Despite his legendary status in Argentina, Messi never played professional football in his home country. He moved to Barcelona at the age of 13 and went on to build a once-in-a-generation career in European football. His performances, records and trophy haul have led many to regard him as the greatest player of all time. While his international career is coming to an end, Messi will continue playing at club level. He currently represents Inter Miami in Major League Soccer, where he remains a major attraction and one of the sport's most influential players. The nationwide tribute will give supporters across Argentina an opportunity to collectively honour Messi and celebrate his extraordinary service to the national team. The 10th-minute pause is a symbolic gesture reflecting the shirt number that became inseparable from his identity and legacy.



## VVS Laxman To Coach India At Asian Games 2026



VVS Laxman, Director of Cricket at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE), will take charge of the Indian men's cricket team at the upcoming Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Laxman will be supported by a coaching team comprising Sunil Joshi, Hrishikesh Kanitkar and Subhadeep Ghosh, according to the list of coaches released by the Sports Ministry. The appointment marks another Asian Games assignment for Laxman, who previously coached the Indian men's team at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. India went on to win the gold medal in cricket at the continental event under his guidance. Laxman's experience with the Asian Games campaign is expected to be valuable as India prepares to compete in the 2026 edition. The tournament will bring together leading sporting nations from across Asia, with cricket again forming part of the programme. As Director of Cricket at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence, Laxman has remained closely involved in the development and preparation of Indian players. His appointment also provides continuity from the previous Asian Games campaign, where he successfully guided the men's side to the top of the podium. Sunil Joshi, Hrishikesh Kanitkar and Subhadeep Ghosh will form part of Laxman's support staff for the campaign. Their collective experience in Indian cricket is expected to help the team manage the demands of a major multi-sport event. The Asian Games 2026 will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, later this month. India's cricket team will enter the competition with expectations of defending its gold-medal success from Hangzhou. For Laxman, the assignment adds another significant responsibility to his role with the BCCI. Having already experienced the pressure and expectations surrounding an Asian Games campaign, he will now look to guide another Indian squad towards success in Japan. The inclusion of cricket in the Asian Games provides players with an opportunity to represent India on a major continental stage. With Laxman leading the coaching setup and supported by Joshi, Kanitkar and Ghosh, the Indian men's team will aim to build on its gold-medal-winning performance from 2023.

## North Delhi Strikers Crown DPL 2026 Women's Title



North Delhi Strikers (Women) were crowned champions of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2026 Women's competition after defeating South Delhi Superstarz (Women) by six wickets in the final at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Chasing a modest target of 123, North Delhi Strikers kept their composure and reached 128/4 in 19 overs to secure the coveted title. The successful chase capped a disciplined all-round performance from the Strikers, who controlled key moments of the final and prevented South Delhi Superstarz from building enough pressure. Earlier, South Delhi Superstarz posted 122/6 in their allotted 20 overs

after being put under sustained pressure by the Strikers' bowling attack. Captain Shweta Sehrawat top-scored for the Superstarz with 31 runs from 32 balls. She struck three boundaries during her innings but was unable to provide the acceleration needed to push the team towards a challenging total. Wicketkeeper Nishika Singh provided crucial resistance at the other end, remaining unbeaten on 39 from 30 deliveries. Her innings included four boundaries and a six, helping South Delhi Superstarz cross the 120-run mark and give their bowlers a target to defend. However, North Delhi Strikers' bowlers delivered a disciplined performance throughout the innings. Priya Mishra, Nazma, Archana, Reshika Beniwal and Apeksha Anand claimed one wicket each as the Strikers consistently kept the Superstarz batters under pressure. The controlled bowling effort proved decisive as South Delhi Superstarz struggled to accelerate during the middle and closing stages of their innings. Their total of 122/6 ultimately left North Delhi Strikers with a manageable chase. The Strikers then approached the run chase with confidence, reaching 128/4 in 19 overs. Although they lost four wickets during the pursuit, they maintained control of the required run rate and avoided a late collapse. The six-wicket victory secured the DPL 2026 Women's championship for North Delhi Strikers and marked a successful conclusion to their campaign. South Delhi Superstarz, despite their determined effort in the final, had to settle for the runners-up position. The final also highlighted the importance of disciplined bowling in restricting an opposition side in a title contest. North Delhi Strikers' collective effort with the ball ensured that their batters were presented with a modest target, which they ultimately chased down with an over to spare. The Arun Jaitley Stadium witnessed the Strikers complete their campaign with a convincing six-wicket victory and lift the DPL 2026 Women's trophy.

## BCCI Backs Rohit Sharma, Clarifies Agarkar Position After Review Meeting

The BCCI has offered a clear indication of its stance on Rohit Sharma while ruling out any immediate discussion over the tenure of chief selector Ajit Agarkar following a crucial review meeting involving India's senior cricket leadership.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia addressed the media after the meeting and dismissed speculation surrounding Rohit's future. He said the veteran opener has been performing superbly and questioned the need for continued speculation over his international career.

Rohit, who has been linked with uncertainty over his place in India's plans for the 2027 World Cup, recently scored 130-140 runs in his last match. Saikia said there was no reason to fuel rumours about the player while praising his current form.

Ajit Agarkar did not attend the meeting, with Saikia explaining that the review was called at short notice. Although there had been speculation that Agarkar's tenure as chief selector could come under discussion, the BCCI secretary clarified that no such discussion took place.

The meeting was attended by India head coach Gautam Gambhir, Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, T20I captain Shreyas Iyer and VVS Laxman, Director of Cricket at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE). India's recent white-ball defeats in Ireland and England, along with the Test series win over Sri Lanka, were among the key matters reviewed.

Player injuries, particularly those involving Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya, also emerged as an important concern. Saikia said the heavy schedule, including two months of IPL before international commitments, was taking a toll on players.

The BCCI is considering changes to future Future Tours Programmes to provide players with adequate rest, acclimatization and practice matches before major series in SENA countries. The board is also taking feedback from captains and the head coach to develop a strategy for managing injuries.

The vacant head of sports science position at the CoE was another issue discussed. Saikia said

around 16 people are currently handling fitness and rehabilitation facilities, but the board is seeking a highly qualified person to supervise the programme.

Meanwhile, there are no plans to appoint a new Director of Cricket. VVS Laxman will coach India at the Asian Games 2026, while Gambhir will remain with the senior team for the home ODI series against the West Indies.

## Mana Panel Promises Welfare Push in Producers Council Polls

With the Telugu Film Producers Council elections approaching, members of the contesting Mana Panel held a press meet and outlined their plans for the welfare of producers and other members of the film industry. C. Kalyan said the panel was unanimously choosing him as President and that he had also spoken with Bandla Ganesh. He alleged that the Guild, despite receiving support from the Council, was now working against the organisation, appearing mainly during elections, taking commission amounts that should come to the Council and denying membership to eligible producers. Kalyan said the panel was following the path of Dasari Narayana Rao and had held a positive discussion with Balakrishna. He said the panel would meet both Chief Ministers of the Telugu states to explain industry-related issues. He recalled that they had introduced medical insurance and promised to increase coverage from Rs.4 lakh to Rs.5 lakh after winning, while providing insurance cards immediately where possible. He said the panel would support small producers and explore insurance coverage even for producers who had made only one film. It would also provide Rs.30,000 for education and marriage assistance, including financial support for the marriage of a producer's daughter. A pension committee would be formed to assist senior citizens and families of deceased producers. Kalyan said discussions were underway with APFDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan on industry properties in both Telugu states. He praised Bharat Bhushan's performance and said he would raise the issues with both Chief Ministers. From 2032, the panel proposed using 30% of rental income from an earlier constructed building for the benefit of industry members. It also plans to create OTT opportunities for small films through a dedicated website. Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao said producers were like farmers in the film industry because of their hard work. He defended the nomination process and responded to Ashok Kumar's allegation that he was deliberately forced to withdraw his nomination. Srinivasa Rao said Ashok Kumar approached the court and urged him to respect the industry and withdraw the allegations. He explained that Ashok Kumar had filed three nominations and became ineligible after failing to withdraw additional nominations within the stipulated period. Other candidates who filed multiple nominations withdrew the extras within the deadline. Thummala Prasanna Kumar said the panel's medical insurance and welfare services were documented in official records. He said Mana Panel had also supported struggling senior citizens as a charity initiative. Prasanna Kumar maintained that the nomination process followed the rules and said the panel respected the court. He also acknowledged the support and services provided by Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao, Sunil Narang and actor Shivaji.



## Mahesh Babu Praises Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Romanchakam

Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu has extended his support to director Venu Gopal Reddy's romantic drama Romanchakam, produced by ace director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, describing the film as "entertaining and promising." Mahesh Babu shared his reaction on X, wishing Sandeep Reddy Vanga, Pranay and the entire team success. He praised the love, passion and hard work invested in the project and expressed hope that the team would receive the same enthusiasm back from audiences. The unexpected endorsement delighted the Romanchakam team, with Sandeep Reddy Vanga's production house Bhadrakali Pictures expressing its gratitude. Responding to Mahesh Babu's post, the production house called the moment special and said the team would cherish the superstar's gesture for a long time. Romanchakam has generated considerable curiosity ahead of its worldwide theatrical release. Interest increased further after the makers released a glimpse video a few weeks ago, offering a glimpse into the unusual romantic storyline. The video initially presents the characters played by Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar as deeply in love. However, the relationship takes a dramatic turn, with the couple eventually appearing to develop hatred for each other. This sudden shift has added an element of mystery to the film. Another point of intrigue is the role played by Upendra Limaye, who appears to portray a police officer. His character has further contributed to speculation about the direction of the story. Apart from Sumanth Prabhas, Ananthika Sanilkumar and Upendra Limaye, the cast includes Venkatesh Kakumanu, Narendra Ravi, Mani Aegurla and Sai Sohan among others. Romanchakam is produced by Pranay Reddy Vanga, while Pavan Pappula has handled cinematography and Vasuki Vaibhav has composed the music. Gobind Kotap has choreographed the dance sequences, with Akunur Keerthana responsible for the costumes. Mahesh Babu's public appreciation has added another layer of attention to the film, particularly because the endorsement came ahead of its theatrical arrival. With its contrasting portrayal of romance and conflict, Romanchakam is now entering cinemas with heightened expectations from audiences.

## Virender Sehwag Gets Emotional Over Hanuman Ansh



Former India cricketer Virender Sehwag has shared an emotional reaction after watching the recently released Hindi film Hanuman Ansh, which is based on the life and teachings of spiritual guru and Hanuman devotee Neem Karoli Baba, popularly known as Maharajji. Hanuman Ansh has reportedly achieved strong box-office success despite featuring no major stars. The film has crossed Rs.70 crore in collections in Hindi, with positive word of mouth playing a major role in its theatrical performance. Directed by Vishal Chaturvedi, the film explores the life, personality and spiritual teachings of Neem Karoli Baba. After watching the movie, Sehwag described it as a devotional tribute to Maharajji and reflected on his own long-standing interest in the spiritual teacher. Sehwag said some experiences and personalities cannot be adequately described through words. He recalled that some of his friends were devotees of Neem Karoli Baba and had introduced him to the spiritual guru about a decade ago. Since then, he said, he had continued to hear and read about Maharajji. The former cricketer said Maharajji's personality and devotion had deeply attracted him and that his blessings had transformed the lives of many people. According to Sehwag, portraying an entire life in a single film is impossible, but Hanuman Ansh has presented Maharajji's story beautifully. A particular scene involving snakes surrounding Maharajji reportedly moved Sehwag deeply. He also highlighted a dialogue in which a devotee describes Maharajji as innocent like Lord Shiva. Maharajji responds that the devotees themselves are innocent because people see through their eyes what exists in their hearts. Sehwag suggested that the statement could carry a message for everyone and described saints like Maharajji as rare figures in India's history. He said understanding such a personality completely may be impossible, but people can still experience a glimpse of his life and teachings through the film. His post has added further attention to Hanuman Ansh, which has been relying heavily on audience response rather than star power. The film's reported Rs.70-crore-plus collection has already made it a notable success. Sehwag urged those familiar with Neem Karoli Baba to watch the movie and encouraged those who had never heard of him to watch it as well. His heartfelt endorsement has given the film an unusual connection with cricket fans and audiences interested in spirituality.

## రోమాంచకం



## Prabhu Deva's Moonwalk Set for Diwali Release

Prabhu Deva's upcoming film Moonwalk is set to arrive as a Diwali treat this year, with the makers officially announcing its festive release. The film has already attracted attention for bringing together dance, music and comedy, while also marking Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman's acting debut. A.R. Rahman, who is composing the music for Moonwalk, will reportedly appear in a special guest role. His first appearance on the big screen as an actor has become one of the film's major talking points. Directed by Manoj N.S. and produced by Behindwoods Productions, Moonwalk is being presented as a complete family entertainer built around entertainment, music and dance. The makers have said the film is designed to offer a festive experience that can be enjoyed by audiences across age groups. One of the film's unusual attractions is comedian Yogi Babu, who is playing as many as 16 different characters. The movie also features a large ensemble cast, including Aju Varghese, Arjun Ashokan, Nishma, Susmitha, Redin Kingsley and Motta Rajendran. Director Manoj said the film was conceived with the festive atmosphere of Diwali in mind. He explained that Diwali strengthens family bonds and expressed his hope that Moonwalk would similarly become a celebration filled with laughter, dance and music for families. The film has already generated interest through its songs. Tracks including Yethu, Tinga and Macarena have received a strong response from listeners. The makers are now preparing to release a fourth song titled Mayile, which will feature Prabhu Deva and A.R. Rahman together. The combination of Prabhu Deva's dancing and acting, A.R. Rahman's music and screen debut, and Yogi Babu's multiple roles has given Moonwalk a distinctive promotional appeal. The film is expected to target family audiences during the festive season. Anup V. Shailaja is handling cinematography, while Romeo Pictures has acquired the worldwide distribution rights. Lahari Music has secured the audio rights. Moonwalk will be released simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi, giving the film a wider reach beyond its primary Tamil audience. With its Diwali release, the makers are positioning the project as a colourful family entertainer built around music, comedy and dance, while A.R. Rahman's acting debut adds an additional reason for audiences to watch the film.

## Yeshanagula Sets YouTube Record in Five Days

Nani-starrer The Paradise is generating growing excitement, and the film's second song Yeshanagula has added another major milestone to its promotional journey. The song has crossed 50 million views on YouTube within just five days of its release, with the makers announcing that it has become the fastest Telugu song to reach the mark. Directed by Srikanth Odela, The Paradise has Nani in the lead role, while Keerthy Suresh also appears in the Yeshanagula song. Released on August 29, the track combines the flavour of Telangana folk music with a contemporary musical treatment and has quickly attracted attention from listeners. The song has been trending not only on YouTube but also across social media platforms, where fans have been sharing reels and dance videos inspired by it. The makers have said the song has received a strong response from audiences since its release. Yeshanagula has also made an impact on YouTube's global charts. The official account of The Paradise stated that the song was trending at number one on the global chart, adding to the significance of its rapid viewership. The track has music by Anirudh Ravichander, lyrics by Kasarla Shyam, and vocals by Prabha Bangarigalla and Addula Jangireddy. The combination of folk-inspired elements, modern production and the presence of Nani and Keerthy Suresh has helped the song gain momentum among Telugu cinema audiences. Interest surrounding the song was further boosted during its release phase when Nani made a surprise appearance at Anirudh Ravichander's concert in Dallas. Nani's presence on stage created excitement among fans and added to the buzz surrounding Yeshanagula. The song's quick rise on YouTube comes at a time when expectations around The Paradise are steadily increasing. With Srikanth Odela directing the project and Nani playing a key role, the film has already attracted considerable attention. For Yeshanagula, crossing the 50-million-view mark in five days has turned the song into a notable digital success even before the film reaches audiences. Its continued presence on global charts and the growing number of fan-made reels indicate that the track has moved beyond a conventional film-song release to become a social media trend.

