



AP Government
Notifies New Rules for
Municipal Elections
Amaravati, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has notified new rules governing municipal elections following the implementation of the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026. The government has also finalised rules for conducting elections to mayor and ward member posts. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar issued two separate orders, GO 210 and GO 211, in this regard. Through GO 210, the government notified that the latest amendments to municipal laws came into force across Andhra Pradesh with effect from August 28, 2026. The municipal election process will henceforth be conducted under the amended legislation. GO 211 brought into immediate effect the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Corporations Mayor and Ward Members Election Conduct Rules, 2026. The rules cover the election process from filing nominations to counting of votes. Under the new provisions, candidates belonging to the general category contesting mayor or corporator posts will have to pay a nomination deposit of Rs 5,000. Candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Backward Class (BC) categories will have to pay Rs 2,500. An individual candidate can file a maximum of four sets of nomination papers for a single post. Candidates contesting the elections will also be required to submit an affidavit along with their nomination papers containing details of their criminal antecedents, assets, liabilities and educational qualifications. The affidavit must be sworn before a notary or a First Class Magistrate. The rules also empower the Presiding Officer to take action against voters who violate polling norms or disregard warnings issued at the polling station. In such cases, the Presiding Officer can withdraw the ballot paper from the voter. The ballot paper will then be marked on the reverse with an endorsement stating that it was cancelled for violation of voting rules and will be kept separately in a designated cover. Such a ballot will not be taken into consideration during the counting process. The government said the new framework was intended to ensure a systematic and transparent municipal election process across the state.

AP Releases Water to 68
Tanks Amid Concerns Over
Srisaillam Reservoir Levels



Bandike Srinivasu

Kurnool: The Andhra Pradesh government has responded to growing concerns over drinking water requirements in the western parts of Kurnool district by releasing water to 68 tanks and the Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Project (Gajuladinne Project) through the Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi canal. Under the latest arrangement, 150 cusecs of water per day is being released to 68 tanks, while another 300 cusecs per day is being diverted to the Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Project. Dhane MLA Kotla Jaya Surya Prakash Reddy, Pattikonda MLA KE Shyam Kumar and Handri-Neeva Project Superintending Engineer Rajan Babu, along with departmental staff, performed puja rituals for the Krishna waters before formally releasing the water. The government's decision follows sustained demands from ruling coalition MLAs, farmers and local residents, besides reports published in the media regarding the drinking water situation in western Kurnool. For nearly a month, demands had been raised to divert water from the Handri-Neeva canal to the tanks and the Gajuladinne reservoir. The issue had also reportedly been brought to the attention of ministers. Meanwhile, concerns have intensified over the declining water level in the Srisaillam reservoir. Since the first week of August, around 3,000 cusecs per day has been lifted from Srisaillam for drinking water requirements through the Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi canal. So far, around 7.11 TMC



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Succession Battle for
Vizianagaram ZP Chair

DSC 2025 Irregularities: Evidence
Emerges, Sports Quota Under Scanner

A Complaint Opens the Door to a Larger Inquiry

S. Sudarshan

At last, a specific piece of evidence appears to have emerged in connection with the alleged irregularities in the DSC 2025 recruitment process in Kurnool district. While the political agitation launched by the YSRCP failed to gain the expected traction, reportedly because it was perceived as having a political motive, an internal dispute within the family of one of the accused has now brought fresh allegations into the open. According to the information available, a relative of Prabhakar, who is among those facing allegations, reportedly approached the Kurnool District Education Officer and disclosed details of alleged irregularities. Following the complaint, the DEO initiated an inquiry and reportedly examined Prabhakar's certificates. The verification allegedly found that he did not possess a TET certificate, raising questions over how his recruitment was processed. The department has now reportedly expanded its scrutiny to other recruitments made in the same mandal.

24 Teachers Under the Same
JUDO Category

The focus has also shifted to 24 teachers recruited in the same mandal under the same JUDO category. Ground-level reports allege that these recruitments were managed by Prabhakar. More significantly, it is alleged that 10 of the 24 recruits are relatives of Prabhakar. These claims, if established through the official inquiry, could raise serious questions about the

recruitment, certificate verification and scrutiny mechanisms followed during DSC 2025. There is also a basic question surrounding the sports category itself. Judo is recognised as a martial art and sport, whereas karate is a separate discipline. Therefore, the classification of candidates and the certificates accepted under the sports quota require careful examination by the competent authorities.

Questions Surrounding SAAP
Chairman Ravi Naidu



Allegations have also been raised against Ravi Naidu, Chairman of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh. Ravi Naidu had participated in Lokesh Nara's Yuvagalam before the elections, and Prabhakar is alleged to be known to him. The recruitment-related verification, scrutiny of certificates and other procedures were reportedly handled at the state headquarters in Vijayawada. It is further alleged that several candidates arrived in Kowtalam with posting orders directly, despite reportedly belonging to different locations rather than the mandal where they were posted. These circumstances warrant an impartial investigation rather than political accusations from either side.

Why Only the Sports Quota?



Another important question is why allegations have remained concentrated largely on the sports quota. The YSRCP has also repeatedly raised concerns over this particular category. Allegations have suggested the possible involvement of Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy along with Ravi Naidu. However, such claims require documentary evidence and an official investigation before responsibility can be established.

JUDO Association
Connection Raises
More Questions

An additional point requiring scrutiny is the role of MP Bharat of Visakhapatnam, who is stated to be the Honorary President of the Andhra Pradesh JUDO Association. If JUDO certificates used in recruitment were issued through the association, the authenticity, eligibility and issuing procedures should be independently verified. The latest developments therefore present an opportunity for the government to conduct a transparent, comprehensive inquiry into all 24 recruitments, rather than limiting the investigation to one individual. If the allegations are baseless, the inquiry can clear those involved. If irregularities are established, responsibility must be fixed irrespective of political or personal connections. I can also make this more aggressive and investigative in tone, while keeping every allegation legally attributed.

Chandrababu Gives Green Signal
for PRC, DA Hike for Employees

Amaravati, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has given the green signal for the constitution of a Pay Revision Commission (PRC) and agreed to address several long-pending demands of state government employees. The Chief Minister held discussions with representatives of employee associations on various issues and assured them of action on key demands. The government agreed to release two pending Dearness Allowances (DAs) from October 1. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Andhra Pradesh Government Employees Association president Suryanarayana said the discussions with Naidu were held in a positive atmosphere. He said the Chief Minister had given assurances on the PRC, payment of two DAs, release of one year's surrender leave, restoration of the Additional Quantum of Pension for retired employees and regular monthly payment of Employee Health Scheme (EHS) dues to the trust. Suryanarayana said employee rep-



resentatives had urged the Chief Minister to adopt a favourable approach towards their demands. On the issue of Interim Relief (IR), he said Naidu had sought some more time, citing the state's financial position. The government has also decided to clear surrender leave dues pertaining to 2022 in January, according to the employee representatives. Later, APNGOs state president Vidyasagar said the meeting with the Chief Minister was conducted in a cordial and positive atmosphere. He said the association had requested that outsourcing personnel be included as ben-

eficiaries under government welfare schemes. The association also sought notional increments for employees working in village secretariats. The employee association leaders welcomed the assurances given by the Chief Minister and expressed satisfaction over the decisions announced following the discussions. They said the government's willingness to address major financial and service-related issues had created a positive atmosphere among employees, while also urging authorities to take an early decision on the pending IR demand.

Naidu Targets 100% Literacy
in Andhra Pradesh by 2027

Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday set a target of achieving 100 per cent literacy in the state by 2027 and called for sweeping reforms in the education sector to prepare students for challenges posed by rapid technological advancements. Addressing Teachers' Day celebrations organised by the Andhra Pradesh government, Naidu said teachers would have a crucial role in shaping students and preparing them for the future. He observed that while artificial intelligence (AI) could provide information, human beings, particularly students, would remain central to development. Naidu called for restructuring educational courses from school to higher education in accordance with emerging industrial requirements. He said students should be introduced to advanced fields such as AI, quantum technology, robotics and data analytics from an early stage. The Chief Minister stressed that AI could not replace teachers and said education must continue to focus on values, culture, patriotism and respect for nature. Teachers, he said, should nurture leadership qualities, creativity, innovation and the ability to overcome challenges among students. Naidu said education should go beyond textbooks and classrooms, with greater emphasis on experiential learning. He urged teachers to develop their schools as distinctive brands and suggested that students should acquire basic proficiency in AI by Class VII. He also emphasised the importance of integrating education with sports, nature and healthy living.



Schools should observe every Saturday as "No Bag Day" and use the occasion for activities including tree plantation, spirituality, yoga and meditation, he said. Naidu said his government was taking several steps to transform classroom teaching through technologies such as Clicker and AI Tutor. He reiterated the government's commitment to modernising the education system while ensuring wider access to quality education. Referring to teacher recruitment, Naidu said the coalition government's first signature after assuming office was to undertake recruitment through the Mega DSC. He claimed that despite more than 350 petitions filed by YSRCP leaders seeking to obstruct the recruitment process, the government overcame the legal and administrative hurdles and provided jobs to teachers. The Chief Minister said teachers could play a decisive role in helping India regain its position as "Vishwaguru" by shaping students into capable future leaders. During the celebrations, Naidu visited an exhibition showcasing initiatives of the School Education Department. Education Minister Nara Lokesh explained the reforms and programmes being implemented in the sector.

Endowments Portfolio Under 'Jinx' Shadow

Ravi Podili

Politics is widely regarded as a world where trust carries limited weight and promises are not always honoured. History has repeatedly shown members of the same family competing against one another for political power and positions. Yet, despite the unpredictable nature of politics, politicians continue to attach considerable importance to auspicious timings, sentiments and traditional beliefs. Before beginning an important task, many leaders carefully select a muhurtham. Similarly, anything considered unlucky or inauspicious is often avoided. One such long-standing belief in the Telugu states concerns the Endowments portfolio.

A political sentiment dating back to the era of united Andhra Pradesh holds that becoming the Endowments Minister can bring misfortune to a politician's career. According to this belief, ministers handling the department frequently encounter controversies, lose their positions or struggle to continue their political careers. Even those who complete their tenure are sometimes believed to face defeat in subsequent elections. The belief has continued after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The recent removal of Konda Surekha from the Telangana Cabinet has once again revived discussions surrounding the so-called "Endowments curse". Several political careers are cited in support of this sentiment. During the tenure of N.T. Rama Rao in united Andhra Pradesh, Endowments Ministers such as Eeli Anjaneyulu and N. Yathiraja Rao reportedly faced political difficulties. The pattern was also discussed in connection with the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy government. M. Satyanarayana Rao, J. Ratnakar Rao and Gade Venkata Reddy, who handled the



Endowments portfolio, subsequently did not get opportunities to contest elections. Jupally Krishna Rao, who served as Endowments Minister in Kiran Kumar Reddy's cabinet, later resigned from the government and became associated with the movement for a separate Telangana state. C. Ramachandraiah subsequently took charge of the department and later changed political

affiliations following the bifurcation of the state. In Andhra Pradesh, Paidikondala Manikyalu Rao, a BJP leader and MLA from Tadepalligudem, served as Endowments Minister in the Chandrababu Naidu-led government formed in 2014. Political developments later resulted in his losing the ministerial position, and he eventually stayed away from electoral poli-

tics. Vellampalli Srinivas, who held the Endowments portfolio during the initial phase of the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government in 2019, also lost his ministerial position. He later contested from Vijayawada Central in the 2024 elections but was defeated. During a subsequent expansion of the Jagan cabinet, Tadepalligudem MLA Kottu Satyanarayana was given charge of Endowments with the rank of Deputy Chief Minister. However, he too lost the 2024 Assembly election to Janasena candidate Boliseti Srinivas. The sentiment has also found examples in Telangana. Indrakaran Reddy, who served as Endowments Minister during the K. Chandrasekhara Rao government, subsequently moved away from active politics. Konda Surekha, who was entrusted with the same department under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was recently removed from the

Cabinet. These developments have once again brought the old political belief into public discussion. Supporters of the theory point to the repeated political setbacks faced by several former Endowments Ministers across the Telugu states. Of course, political careers are shaped by elections, party strategies, public sentiment, internal dynamics and changing alliances rather than any particular government department. Nevertheless, the unusual sequence of political setbacks associated with the Endowments portfolio has ensured that the old belief continues to survive. For politicians who attach importance to sentiment and tradition, the latest developments may therefore be viewed as another chapter in a long-running political superstition. Whether it is genuinely a pattern or simply a coincidence remains a matter of political interpretation.

AP Assures Exhibitors on Film Ticket Pricing

Kumar Chand Pullagura

Amaravati: Concerns among cinema exhibitors in Andhra Pradesh over the possibility of regulations similar to Telangana's GO No. 77 on movie ticket pricing appear to have received some clarity, with Andhra Pradesh Film Development Corporation (APFDC) Chairman Bharat Bhushan assuring exhibitors that the government would not take steps that could adversely affect their business. The issue came up during a recent meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Exhibitors Forum, which was attended by Bharat Bhushan. After listening to the various concerns

raised by exhibitors, the APFDC chairman responded positively and made several key observations regarding the problems faced by theatre owners. Exhibitors have been worried that Andhra Pradesh could introduce an order similar to Telangana's GO No. 77, which regulates cinema ticket prices. They have openly questioned what would happen to their businesses if such restrictions were imposed in the state. Addressing their concerns, Bharat Bhushan reportedly made it clear that the percentage-based revenue-sharing system sought by exhibitors could not be implemented. He also pointed out that several rounds of discussions

had already taken place between producers and exhibitors at the Film Chamber, but no consensus had been reached. Another major demand raised by exhibitors was an increase in maintenance charges (MCs). Bharat Bhushan said that the government would consider increasing the charges, but the hike would be made in a reasonable manner. The exhibitors also sought permission for theatres to operate under a single-track system. Responding to the demand, the APFDC chairman assured them that efforts would be made to fulfil it. Ticket pricing for big-budget films was another key issue discussed at the meeting. Bharat Bhushan

stated that ticket prices would definitely be increased when major films are released. He said the services and efforts provided by exhibitors during the release of major movies would be recognised and that they would be given appropriate returns for their role. The assurances have provided some relief to exhibitors, who have been closely watching developments in the neighbouring state of Telangana. Overall, Bharat Bhushan assured the exhibitors that the Andhra Pradesh government would take steps to protect their interests and ensure that they did not face difficulties similar to those experienced by exhibitors in Telangana. The latest



statements are expected to ease concerns within the exhibition sector while

discussions on ticket pricing and revenue-sharing mechanisms continue.

Nara Lokesh Assures University Faculty Recruitment by April

Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Education Minister Nara Lokesh on Saturday announced that the state government will complete transparent recruitment of professors, associate professors and assistant professors for universities by April next year. Addressing the state-level Teachers' Day celebrations in Vijayawada in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Lokesh said the government had implemented major reforms in school education and would now shift its focus to higher education. "We are now shifting our focus to universities," Lokesh said, adding that the government was considering a unified law for universities to ensure greater uniformity in their functioning. The minister also announced that three more DSC recruitment drives would be conducted with the same transparency followed in Mega DSC 2025. He credited Naidu with conducting 14 DSC examinations during his various terms as Chief Minister and recruiting nearly two lakh teachers. The latest Mega DSC resulted in the recruitment of around 16,000 teachers, he said. Lokesh said the government's objective was to transform state universities into research-oriented institutions and make Andhra Pradesh the No. 1 state in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). He said vice-chancellors, including experts from IITs and NITs, had been appointed without political considerations. Universities would also be linked with emerging eco-



nomics clusters such as space, drones, aquaculture, pharmaceuticals and data centres to strengthen their relevance to industry and employment opportunities, he explained. Highlighting reforms in school education, Lokesh cited the scrapping of GO 117, introduction of the "One Class-One Teacher" system in 10,000 primary schools, the LEAP app for service-related matters, curriculum reforms, the Teacher Transfer Act and preparation of seniority lists. He claimed that these initiatives had resulted in 1.10 lakh students shifting from private schools to government schools this year. Lokesh stressed that teachers must focus not only on academics but also on discipline, values and mental resilience. Referring to the recent suicide of a student following a parent-teacher meeting, he urged teachers to closely monitor students' mental health and reassure them that failure in an examination was not the end of life. He said the government aimed to create the country's best education model from Anganwadi to postgraduate education. Exposure programmes for teachers in Singapore and Finland have already been arranged, while similar initiatives will be extended to higher education faculty. On Teachers' Day, Naidu and Lokesh honoured 175 best teachers, lecturers and professors with citations, medals, mementoes and Rs.20,000 cash awards each. Students also presented cultural programmes.

90 Teachers Honoured with Best Teacher Awards

Rajamahendravaram, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

As part of Guru Pujotsava, 90 teachers from various schools in East Godavari district were presented with Best Teacher Awards at Sri Venkateswara Anam Kala Kendra in Rajamahendravaram on Saturday. Public representatives, district officials, teachers and their family members attended the programme, which also featured cultural performances. State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said teachers play a crucial role in shaping students' personalities, values, language and discipline. He

noted the significance of celebrating Teachers' Day in Rajamahendravaram, where Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan served as a teacher. He highlighted improvements in government school infrastructure, sanitation, uniforms, student kits and mid-day meals under state education reforms and appreciated Education Minister Nara Lokesh. District Collector Keerthy Chekuri said teachers have a key role in guiding future generations and encouraged innovative teaching and promotion of sports and cultural activities. Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Srinivas and Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna



Reddy stressed teachers' responsibility in developing responsible citizens. Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop also highlighted their contribution. Kuthuk

ulur teacher N.V. Raghavrao was selected for international training in Singapore, while Rangampet ZP High School teacher V. Ramyasudha

was selected as the State Best Teacher. However, the celebrations also drew criticism as teachers were reportedly not given seats on the dais. Ministers,

MLAs, MLCs and senior officials occupied the stage, while the award-winning teachers remained below and stood while receiving certificates.

Nidamarru Family Contributes 6.155 Acres to Amaravati



Amaravati, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

A farmer family from Nidamarru village has come forward to contribute 6.155 acres of its land for the development of Amaravati, the capital region of Andhra Pradesh, under the land pooling scheme. Jonnal Srinivasa Reddy and his family members agreed to hand over their land located within the limits of Nidamarru for the construction of Amaravati. The family submitted the necessary consent documents to Nidamarru Special Deputy Collector and Competent Authority G. Bhadrar at the unit office on Saturday, September 5, 2026. The contribution of 6.155 acres through the land pooling process is expected to facilitate further progress in trunk infrastructure and other development projects being undertaken in Nidamarru as part of the Amaravati capital development programme. Speaking on the occasion, Srinivasa Reddy said he was happy to be contributing to the construction of Amaravati and becoming part of the capital development process. He also appealed to residents of the capital villages to extend their cooperation to the APCRDA authorities in the ongoing land pooling process. The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has been coordinating the land pooling process and infrastructure development works in the Amaravati capital region. The latest land contribution is expected to help remove land-related hurdles for infrastructure works in Nidamarru and support the implementation of planned projects in the area. APCRDA officials have been encouraging landowners in the capital region to participate in the pooling process to facilitate the development of roads, trunk infrastructure and other key projects planned for Amaravati.

Muvva Radhika Receives State-Level Best Teacher Award



Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Muvva Radhika, Headmistress of PVR Boys' School, received the State-level Best Teacher Award on the occasion of Guru Pujotsavam. The award was presented by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu in recognition of her distinguished services in the field of education. The award ceremony was held as part of the Guru Pujotsavam celebrations, honouring teachers for their contribution to the education sector and society. The recognition brought appreciation to Muvva Radhika for her dedicated service as the Headmistress of PVR Boys' School.

APJAC Employees Intensify Protest in NTR District

Amaravati, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Employees affiliated with APJAC Amaravati intensified their agitation in NTR district on Saturday by staging their fifth consecutive day of lunch-break protests, demanding the immediate settlement of their pending dues and other long-standing issues. The protest was held at the NTR District Collectorate and all Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) offices across the district, following a call given by the APJAC Amaravati state leadership. Employees from various government departments participated in the demonstrations, carrying placards and raising slogans seeking resolution of their legitimate demands. APJAC Amaravati NTR district chairman Battina Ramakrishna led the protest, along with General Secretary YS Rao. Employees joined hands and raised slogans demanding that the government release the amounts due to them. Speaking during the protest, Ramakrishna said employees would continue their agitation until their legitimate

problems were resolved. He said the district leadership would intensify the movement in accordance with directions from the state leadership if the government failed to respond to their demands. The employees appealed to the government to immediately intervene and address their pending financial and service-related issues. They warned that the agitation would continue if there was no positive response from the authorities. Ramakrishna also called upon employees across the district to participate actively in the movement and make the campaign successful. APJAC Amaravati outsourcing employees' state treasurer Ramana, GSWs employees' leader Jayaker, APRSA NTR district secretary Y. Ravi, APPTD NTR district secretary GM Rao, APPTD district president Sagar and retired employees' association leader Hanumantha Rao were among those who participated in the protest. The organisers said the lunch-break demonstrations would continue as part of the broader APJAC Amaravati agitation until the government takes steps to resolve the employees' demands.

APJAC Amaravati Says Talks Followed Employees' Agitation

Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

The APJAC Amaravati leadership said the agitation launched under the banner of "Employees' Struggle" had prompted the state government to hold urgent discussions with employee associations and announce a series of decisions on their long-pending demands. APJAC Amaravati State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and Secretary General Palishetti Damodara Rao said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held discussions with employee representatives on Saturday. They said 11 associations were invited for the talks, although 21 associations are represented in the Joint Staff Council. The employee leaders welcomed the government's decision to appoint the 12th Pay Revision Commission and release two pending dearness allowances (DAs) from October 1, 2026. The DAs pertaining to July 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025 will be released, they said. The government also agreed to credit 2022 surrender leave amounts by the coming Sanjanti. An additional surrender leave for police personnel will be paid during Dussehra, while the Additional Quantum of Pension will be restored from January 2027. Pensioners above 70 years will receive an addition-

al 10 per cent and those above 75 years 15 per cent. The Employee Health Scheme will also be streamlined, with monthly payments to the NTR Vaidya Seva Trust beginning next month. The decisions are expected to cost the government around Rs 2,880 crore annually, the leaders said. They added that the government had directed Finance Department officials to examine demands concerning increments for Grama/Ward Secretariat employees and raising the retirement age of contract and outsourcing employees to 62 years. However, the leaders expressed disappointment over the government not announcing an Interim Relief (IR). They urged the government to take a favourable decision on the issue, citing employees' financial difficulties. Movement Committee Chairman T.V. Phani Perraju said the decisions were achieved through the APJAC agitation. Leaders said district-level representatives were dissatisfied over the lack of clarity on arrears and IR. APJAC said statewide "Demands Day" protests continued during the lunch break on Saturday. The future course of the agitation will be decided at the state executive meeting on Sunday after consultations with representatives from 28 districts.

AP HC Chief Justice Lisa Gill Calls for Child-Centric Juvenile Justice

Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Lisa Gill on Saturday called for a humane, coordinated and child-centric approach to implementing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, stressing that the future of every child must remain at the centre of the justice system. Addressing a state-level consultation in Vijayawada marking a decade of the Act, Justice Gill said children in conflict with law and those requiring care and protection should primarily be viewed as children who still have the opportunity to build a better future. She emphasised the need to understand the poverty, social and economic hardships, and vulnerabilities that often affect children. Justice Gill pointed out that despite the expansion of Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Welfare Committees and Special Juvenile Police Units, shortages of trained personnel and gaps in implementing child-friendly laws continued to pose challenges. She urged the police, judiciary, welfare departments, legal services authorities and civil society organisations to work in close coordination. She also appealed to citizens to act responsibly when they encounter children begging at traffic signals. During the programme, Justice Gill honoured 21 children who had overcome difficult circumstances and emerged as role models. Justice Battu Devanand, chairperson of the High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, said detention or punishment alone could not address the circumstances of children pushed towards crime by poverty, urbanisa-



tion and illiteracy. Care, education, protection and rehabilitation must receive priority, he said. Justice Devanand also called for data-driven policies to address delays, staff shortages and coordination gaps in the juvenile justice system. Justice Challa Gunaranjan questioned whether every child was receiving the dignity, safety, development and care promised under the law. He stressed the need for faster disposal of cases, rehabilitation, social reintegration, mental healthcare, education, employment opportunities and stronger institutional monitoring. Women and Child Welfare Director M. Venugopal Reddy said protecting childhood and restoring dignity were the core objectives of the system, while Secretary G. Suryakumari described child protection as a shared social responsibility. Technical sessions covered institutional care, adoption reforms, child-friendly policing, mental health, data monitoring and future strategies. Judges, officials, UNICEF, APSLSA, AIIMS Mangalagiri, police personnel, NGOs and civil society representatives participated.

Yogi Adityanath to Attend Swarna Bharat Trust Silver Jubilee

Nellore, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will attend the silver jubilee celebrations of Swarna Bharat Trust at Venkatchalam in Nellore district on September 7. According to the programme schedule, Adityanath will reach Venkatchalam at 11 am and visit the Soma Skill Centre at Akshara Vidyalaya at 11.30 am. He will interact with students at the school before proceeding to Swarna Bharat Trust at 2 pm to participate in the silver jubilee celebrations and address the gathering. Former Vice-President and Swarna Bharat Trust inspiration M. Venkaiah Naidu will attend the event along with Andhra Pradesh ministers Ponguru Narayana and Y. Satya Kumar. BJP state president P.V.N. Madhav, MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy and other prominent personalities are also expected to participate. Swarna Bharat Trust managing trustee Deepa Venkat invited the public to attend the celebrations and said the organisation was established 25 years ago as an initiative inspired by Venkaiah Naidu. She said the trust had been working



towards empowering economically weaker sections, women, farmers and rural youth through skill development programmes and free residential training. Over the past 25 years, the trust has undertaken several initiatives aimed at improving employment opportunities and strengthening livelihoods among rural communities. Its activities have expanded beyond Venkatchalam, with chapters now functioning at Muchintal and Atkuru as well. The silver jubilee event is expected to highlight the trust's journey, its contribution to skill development and its initiatives for rural and economically disadvantaged communities. The participation of Yogi Adityanath and other prominent leaders is likely to draw a large gathering to the celebrations.

Power Sector Being Restored, Says Gottipati

Rayachoti, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the Alliance government was restoring the power sector, which he alleged was neglected during the YSR Congress government. He said uninterrupted quality power supply was being ensured under Chief Minister Chandrababu's vision. Along with ministers BC Janardhan Reddy and Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, he participated in development programmes in Rayachoti, Annamayya district. Gottipati said electricity charges had not been increased even by a rupee in over two years, while alleging that the previous government raised tariffs nine times.



He said Rs.6,000 crore was being spent on power infrastructure and over 200 substations were being constructed statewide. He announced that 629 AEE posts were being filled and 7,000 Energy Assistants would be trained. Under PM Surya Ghar, free rooftop solar units would be provided to six lakh SC and ST families, while BC families would receive an additional Rs.20,000 state subsidy. Under PM KUSUM, farmers would get nine hours of daytime free power. The minister said RDSS works worth Rs.800 crore were underway in Annamayya district. He urged alliance leaders to work together for victory in local body elections and ensure welfare benefits reach the people.

Rythu Sangam Seeks Justice for Chintalapudi Displaced Farmers



Eluru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangam District Secretary K. Srinivas demanded justice for farmers displaced under the Chintalapudi Lift Scheme and sought compensation based on the current private market value of their lands. Speaking at the Anne Building in Eluru on Saturday, Srinivas questioned whether the government was taking steps to support landless farmers affected by the project. He alleged that promises made to the displaced farmers had not been fulfilled and said their problems remained unresolved despite repeated representations to Chief Minister Chandrababu. Srinivas alleged that petitions submitted by farmers were being ignored and accused the government of lacking sincerity in addressing their concerns. He demanded that a fresh notification be issued for the displaced farmers. He also sought compensation according to the provisions of the 2013 Act and urged the government to calculate compensation based on the prevailing private market value of the acquired land.

filled and said their problems remained unresolved despite repeated representations to Chief Minister Chandrababu. Srinivas alleged that petitions submitted by farmers were being ignored and accused the government of lacking sincerity in addressing their concerns. He demanded that a fresh notification be issued for the displaced farmers. He also sought compensation according to the provisions of the 2013 Act and urged the government to calculate compensation based on the prevailing private market value of the acquired land.

YCP Demands Action Against Innisupeta Bank Chairman



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Former MP and YCP National Spokesperson Margani Bharat Ram demanded the immediate removal of Kolla Achyuta Rama Rao (Babu) as Chairman of Innisupeta Co-operative Urban Bank, alleging violations of RBI guidelines and irregularities in its functioning. YCP cadres led by Bharat Ram staged a protest at the bank in Shyamala Centre on Saturday. Bharat Ram alleged that persons involved in chit-fund and money-lending activities were holding positions in Aryapuram, Innisupeta and Jampeta banks and misusing public deposits. He said the 2025 law made those completing 10 years in cooperative-sector posts ineligible and alleged that RBI directives issued 13 months ago had not been implemented.

He demanded the removal of Kolla Babu, Jami Venkata Ramana Murthy, Adireddy Srinivasa Rao, Katari Srinivasa Kanna and Panchakatl Siva from Innisupeta Bank. He alleged that Kolla Babu had controlled the bank for 27 years. Bharat Ram warned of approaching the High Court and launching an agitation if action was not taken. A representation, along with RBI directives, was submitted to the Bank CEO. Directors Gutula Bhaskar and Andanapalli Satyanarayana, former Director Yajjarapu Maridayya and YCP leaders Kanuboyina Sagar, Majji Apparao, Katam Rajinikanth and others participated.

CITU Slams Government Over Employee and Worker Issues



Giddalur, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

CITU Markapuram District General Secretary DKM Rafi criticised the government for allegedly neglecting the problems of employees and workers. Speaking at CITU political training classes for the Giddalur constituency at the local UTF office, Rafi and State leader Ch. Mazumdar said the coalition government had failed to resolve workers' issues despite completing two years in office. They demanded implementation of minimum wages for scheme workers, payment of pending dues and immediate constitution of a Pay Revision Commission (PRC) for state employees.

CITU District President T. Avulayya demanded regularisation of contract and outsourced employees. He also said the promised welfare law for unorganised workers, including loaders, auto-rickshaw drivers and shop assistants, had not been implemented. Construction workers' welfare schemes were also being implemented only partially, he alleged. Rafi called for united struggles to protect workers' rights and urged association leaders to strengthen CITU in Giddalur. B. Narasimhulu, D. Ruthamma, P. Sai Lakshmi, P. Papayya, D. Srinivasulu, G. Anand Rao, A. Munemma and G. Vishranthamma participated.

Barla Baburao Demands Action Against Jakkampudi Raja



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Desam Party senior leader Barla Baburao strongly condemned YSRCP leader Jakkampudi Raja's alleged derogatory comments against Gopala puram MLA Maddipati Venkataraju. He demanded that Raja be suspended from YSRCP and apologise to the Dalit community. Baburao said the remarks against Venkataraju, who won the people's mandate through hard work as a Dalit leader, were an insult to the entire Dalit community.

statue and perform lempalesukovadam as a gesture of contrition. He also urged YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy to intervene and expel Raja from the party for his alleged remarks against weaker sections. Baburao also criticised the previous YSRCP government, alleging that it promoted a culture of clubs, pubs and marijuana in Rajahmundry and wasted public funds on political theatrics. Baburao warned that Raja would face opposition from Dalits and weaker sections wherever he travelled in the district if he failed to apologise. He said he would carry the TDP flag during Raja's future campaigns and explain the facts to the public.

He demanded that Raja apologise in the name of Ambedkar at an Ambedkar

AP Releases Water to 68 Tanks Amid Concerns Over Srisaillam Reservoir Levels

Continue

of water has reportedly been lifted into the canal. The situation has become more complicated because Telangana has been releasing water downstream from Srisaillam for hydropower generation. According to the information provided, Telangana is releasing around 3 to 4 TMC of water every day for power generation. The reservoir's water level, which was earlier around 879 feet, has fallen to about 869 feet. Farmers and leaders associated with the Rayalaseema Irrigation Water Users' Association have launched protests, demanding that Telangana immediately stop hydropower generation from Srisaillam, arguing that continued releases could seriously affect drinking water availability in Rayalaseema. Srisaillam received substantial inflows in August following heavy rains in Maharashtra, taking storage to around 185 TMC against its full reservoir capacity of 215 TMC. However, inflows subsequently declined, preventing the reservoir from reaching its maximum level. The two Telugu states had agreed to utilise Srisaillam water primarily for drinking water requirements under the prevailing conditions. However, irrigation experts have warned that if Telangana continues hydropower generation at the current rate, the Srisaillam level could eventually fall below 837 feet. At that level, lifting water into the Handri-Neeva canal would reportedly become impossible. Experts said that the 68 tanks and the Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Project may take considerable time to receive the targeted three TMC of water. They also stressed that maintaining adequate Srisaillam storage will be crucial for meeting the drinking water needs of western Kurnool.

Succession Battle for Vizianagaram ZP Chair

Ravi podili

Political activity around the Vizianagaram Zilla Parishad chairperson post is once again heating up, with speculation that two senior leaders who were once direct political rivals are now preparing their successors for a possible contest for the coveted post. YSRCP senior leader and former minister Botsa Satyanarayana and TDP senior leader, former minister and Cheepurupalli MLA Kimidi Kala Venkata Rao are reportedly looking to use the Zilla Parishad as a platform to strengthen the political careers of their respective successors. At present, the ZP chairperson post and the Vizianagaram mayoral position are reportedly being discussed among the coalition partners. Political circles are speculating that if the TDP takes the mayor's post, the Jana Sena Party may seek the Zilla Parishad chairperson position as part of the power-sharing arrangement. Against this backdrop, the question of who will secure the ZP post has gained significance. Kala Venkata Rao is reportedly working to establish his political successor, Ram Mallik Naidu, in local politics. His camp reportedly believes that securing the ZP chairperson post would give Ram Mallik Naidu a strong political launch. With the coalition government in power, TDP leaders are said to be considering fielding him as a ZPTC candidate from one of the mandals in the Cheepurupalli Assembly constituency, provided the reservation is favourable. The Botsa family is also reportedly eyeing the Zilla Parishad post. Botsa Satyanarayana is said to be actively pro-



moting his daughter Anoosha as his political successor. Anoosha has already been active in the Cheepurupalli constituency, participating in party programmes, remaining accessible to workers and extending support to party leaders and cadres. The political influence the Botsa family previously enjoyed in the Vizianagaram Zilla Parishad is also being viewed as an advantage. Interestingly, both successors are reportedly considering contesting as ZPTC candidates from the Cheepurupalli constituency. They may choose among Gurla, Garividi and Merakamudidam mandals depending on the reservation pattern. In the 2024 Assembly elections, Kimidi Kala Venkata Rao defeated Botsa Satyanarayana in Cheepurupalli. If their successors now enter the local electoral battle, the contest could add another layer to the political rivalry between the two leaders. The political circles are therefore keenly watching whether the earlier Cheepurupalli battle between the two senior leaders will now turn into a contest between their successors. If both enter the ZPTC race with an eye on the Zilla Parishad chairperson post, Vizianagaram could witness an intriguing political succession battle.

New Janasena Office Inaugurated in Eluru

Eluru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

A new Janasena Party office was inaugurated at VNR Grand City on Ponangi Road in the 13th Division of Eluru city. The office was established under the leadership of Division In-charge Koya Satyanarayana (Sattibabu). Reddy Appalanaidu, APSRTC Vijayawada Zonal Chairman and Eluru Janasena In-charge, formally inaugurated the office by cutting the ribbon. He said even minor problems faced by poor people should be resolved promptly and leaders must remain accessible to the public. Appalanaidu said residents could approach the office with issues related to welfare schemes and basic infrastructure, and assured that solutions would be pursued by coordinating with concerned officials. He called upon Janasainiks and Veera



Mahilas to dedicate themselves to public service and strengthen the alliance leadership in line with State Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's vision. State Kamma Corporation Director Kavuri Vanishri, State Handloom Secretary Donepudi Lovaraju, District Secretary Kasturi Sai Tejaswini, City Honorary President Nagireddy Kasi Nares, Reddy Gouri Shankar, Polimera Dasu, Aggala Srinivas and Velaga Gayatri participated.

PV Mohan Appointed AP Congress In-Charge

Delhi, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

The Congress high command has appointed PV Mohan as the new in-charge of party affairs in Andhra Pradesh as part of a reshuffle of state-level organisational responsibilities. The appointments were announced through orders issued by AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal. PV Mohan will take charge of Andhra Pradesh Congress affairs following the appointment of the previous state in-charge, Manickam Tagore, as Tamil Nadu Congress president. The change comes as the Congress seeks to strengthen its organisational structure and activities in Andhra Pradesh. The new in-charge is expected to coordinate with the state leadership and oversee

party programmes and organisational matters. The Congress also announced new in-charges for several other states. Senior leader Sachin Pilot has been appointed as the in-charge of Punjab, where Assembly elections are due shortly. Sukhdev Bhagat has been appointed as the party's in-charge for Chhattisgarh, while Sirivella Prasad has been given responsibility for Maharashtra. The latest appointments are part of the Congress leadership's efforts to streamline its organisational affairs across states and strengthen coordination between the central leadership and state units. PV Mohan's appointment is expected to bring a renewed focus on strengthening the Congress organisation in Andhra Pradesh, where the party has been working to rebuild its political presence.

Lanka Dinakar Hits Congress, Left Over GDP Claims

Visakhapatnam, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Lanka Dinakar, chairman of the Twenty Points Programme (Viksit Bharat-Swarna Andhra Pradesh) Implementation, on Saturday criticised Congress leaders, Left sympathisers and opponents of the Narendra Modi government for allegedly misleading the public over India's GDP growth figures. Addressing a press conference in Visakhapatnam, Dinakar said attempts to combine the old 2011-12 GDP series with the new 2022-23 series to portray the officially reported 7.8 per cent GDP growth as 2.6 per cent were politically motivated and scientifically invalid. He said GDP growth should be calculated using a single series, a common base



year, consistent methodology and comparable prices. According to Dinakar, comparing 2025-26 figures based on the 2011-12 series with 2026-27 figures from the 2022-23 series and describing the difference as the "actual GDP growth" was not a valid statistical method. Dinakar said the decision to adopt 2022-23 as the new base year was not politically motivated. It was recommended by the Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics after examining different years, he said. The committee considered factors including the implementation of GST, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic recovery before identifying 2022-23 as a relatively normal year. He said India's economy had undergone

substantial structural changes between 2011-12 and 2026, particularly in manufacturing, the digital economy, e-commerce, financial services, infrastructure, technology and the formalisation of businesses. "Congress may criticise the policies of the Union government. That is its democratic right. However, changing statistical standards to suit political opposition is not acceptable," Dinakar said. He maintained that economic performance should be assessed using officially prescribed methodologies rather than political comparisons between incompatible GDP series. Dinakar urged the public to examine the methodology and base-year changes before drawing conclusions about the country's economic growth.

VMC Conducts Intensive Inspections of Food Outlets

Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Acting on the directions of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra, Public Health Department officials conducted intensive inspections of hotels, tiffin centres and food outlets across the city on Saturday. Officials inspected Priya Executive Boys' Hostel on the 3rd Line of Ambedkar Colony and imposed a fine of Rs.1,000 for violating regulations. Inspections were also conducted at food outlets near Pandit Nehru Bus Station in the 37th Division. The establishments inspected included Military Canteen, Balaji Shirdi Hotel, Shirdi Canteen,



Shankar Vilas and Srirama Fast Foods. A total fine of Rs.25,000 was imposed, with each establishment fined Rs.5,000 for non-compliance.Officials also inspected idli and dosa outlets along Durgapuram Donka Road. They checked food quality, cleanliness of premises, waste disposal and personal hygiene of workers. Officials advised hotel, restaurant, tiffin centre and food outlet operators to maintain strict hygiene standards and serve quality food. They warned that further action would be taken against violators in addition to fines. Sanitary supervisors, sanitary inspectors and Public Health Department staff participated in the inspections.

MBBS Admission Errors Must Be Corrected: YSRCP Doctors Wing



Vijayawada, Sept. 5 | TPN Bureau

Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav, Chairman of the YSRCP NTR District Doctors Wing, and State Secretary Dr. Prabhu Das have demanded immediate correction of alleged irregularities in 2026-27 MBBS admissions by Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences. At a press meet, they said 43 reserved-

category candidates with higher ranks in the AU region, where the Open Category cut-off was 71,547, were allotted reserved seats instead of Open Category seats. In the SVU region, with a cut-off of 94,966, 27 higher-ranked reserved candidates were allegedly denied Open Category consideration. Dr. Ambati said reservations should ensure representation and should not disadvantage meritorious candidates. He referred to G.O.Ms.No.102, issued on July 30, 2026, which changed counselling rules and is under Andhra Pradesh High Court consideration. The YSRCP Doctors Wing sought a transparent audit, protection for admitted students, reconsideration of G.O.102 provisions, and publication of complete allotment data.

Vijayawada Divided into 86 Wards

Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has issued a preliminary notification dividing the city into 86 wards as part of the delimitation process. The notification was issued by the VMC Commissioner under Rule 8 of the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Corporation (Delimitation of Wards) Rules, 1996. According to the notification, residents of Vijayawada city can submit suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commissioner, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation within seven days from the date of publication of the notification. The notification was issued through pro-

ceedings bearing RC No. G1-105884/2026, dated Sept 4, 2026. The delimitation has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the relevant rules and government orders, including G.O.Ms.No.570 dated Nov 6, 1996 and G.O.Ms.No.65 dated March 24, 2026. The notification also provides detailed boundary descriptions for each ward. Ward No. 1 covers areas bounded by the Inner Ring Road, Inner Ring Road Flyover, Karl Marx Road (Eluru Road), Nunna Road and Disneyland. Ward No. 2 includes areas around National Highway-16, ITI College Road, Jayaprakash Nagar and surrounding roads.

Young Leaders Program Launched



Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Democratic Sangha launched the Vijayawada chapter of its flagship 'Young Leaders for Social Change' (YLSC) programme at Hotel Vivanta, MG Road, on Saturday. The programme was inaugurated by Chief Guest and Member of Parliament Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu.Democratic Sangha Co-founder Regina Cassandra, Founder Chaitanya MRSK and YLSC Vijayawada Batch Mentor Yashaswini Peddi also addressed the gathering.

The four-month civic and social leadership programme is designed for students of Classes 8 to 12 and aims to develop their understanding of democracy, leadership and government institutions. The Vijayawada launch expands YLSC to four cities, following three successful batches in Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The curriculum covers democracy and the Constitution, leadership, human rights, climate action, public policy and governance. Students will interact with public leaders and social impact experts and undertake projects addressing community issues.A key feature is an experiential visit to the Parliament of India in New Delhi. The Vijayawada batch will run from Oct 2026 to Jan 2027 under the guidance of Yashaswini Peddi, a social impact and youth development expert. Students, parents, teachers, civic leaders and community members attended the launch.

Kia Sorento Unveiled at Casa Kia Showroom

Nidamanuru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and MLA Yarlagadda Venkatrao and MLA Bode Prasad formally unveiled the new Kia Sorento at the Casa Kia showroom in Nidamanuru, near Vijayawada. Showroom representatives and management shared details about the new luxury SUV.Yarlagadda Venkatrao appreciated Kia for offering around 32 variants and expressed confidence that the vehicle, priced between Rs.28 lakh and over Rs.50 lakh, would receive a good response in the Indian market.Bode Prasad said Kia's market share had increased from 5 per cent during the Seltos launch to 7 per cent now. He expressed hope that the Sorento would further boost the company's market presence.He said the vehicle was fully manu-



factured in Andhra Pradesh and offered advanced safety and luxury features. Casa Kia Marketing Head Smriti said the Sorento has been popular internationally since 2002. She said it is being introduced in India for the first time. The SUV starts at Rs.33 lakh on-road and comes with petrol, diesel and hybrid options. Casa Kia head Bhagat and others attended.

Digital Skills Can Help SHG Women Become Entrepreneurs

NTR District | Ibrahimpatnam, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminsha urged women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to use digital and technological knowledge to expand markets for their products and become successful entrepreneurs. She attended a workshop on "Digital and Technology Awareness for SHG Entrepreneurs" at the RIESE Center in Guntupalli, Ibrahimpatnam Mandal. Lakshminsha said digital technology was essential for product promotion, marketing, customer outreach and online sales. She said it could also create opportunities

for women to work with government and private organisations. She highlighted the 'One Family-One Entrepreneur' goal and said SHG women should move from wage earners to job-creating entrepreneurs.She advised women to focus on quality, packaging and branding while learning digital marketing to reach wider markets.Resource persons Prasanna (DXEdge @ CII), Srinivas (Walmart Vriddhi) and Yashwanth (GeM) explained digital technology, e-commerce, digital marketing and government procurement opportunities.DRDA Project Director A.N.V. Nanchara Rao and others participated.

Elaborate Dasara Arrangements on Indrakeeladri

Indrakeeladri, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Elaborate arrangements are being made for the Sri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara Dasara Sharanavaratri Mahotsavams-2026 at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam on Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada. A high-level coordination meeting was held at the Maha Mandapam on Saturday.NTR District Collector Lakshminsha, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), Vijayawada West MLA Y. Satyanarayana Chowdary (Sujana Chowdary), City Police Commissioner Rajashekhar Babu, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra, District

Joint Collector Ilakkiya, Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi) and Temple Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Naik attended. Officials stressed coordination among departments and priority for common devotees. Drinking water, milk, biscuits and Anna Prasadam will be provided in queue lines. Foot-over bridges will be built where needed. Rajashekhar Babu said display boards showing darshan waiting times, three holding areas, digital screens and Matrix 4D drone surveillance will be used. Unauthorized vehicles will be restricted on the Ghat Road. Plastic water bottles will also be banned on the hill.

Ravikumar Receives District Best Teacher Award



Machilipatnam, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

P. Ravikumar, a teacher at Ajjampudi Mandal Parishad Primary School in the Gannavaram constituency, received the District-Level Best Teacher Award for his outstanding services to education. The award was presented at the Zilla Parishad Convention Hall during Teachers' Day celebrations on Saturday.

District In-charge Collector Naveen, Krishna District DEO U.V. Subbarao and others presented the award to Ravikumar. Naveen praised teachers for spreading the light of knowledge and said Ravikumar had made dedicated efforts to identify and develop students' talent. Teachers appreciated Ravikumar for treating teaching not merely as a profession but as a responsibility towards students' future. They said his commitment and efforts had earned wide recognition. Teachers of the mandal congratulated Ravikumar and expressed hope that the award would encourage him to achieve greater heights in his educational career. They also wished that he would receive the State Best Teacher Award in the future, bringing recognition to Ajjampudi Mandal and the Gannavaram constituency.

Re-survey Must Be Conducted in Farmers' Presence

Ibrahimpatnam, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Ronanki Kurmanath, Director of Survey, Settlement, and Land Records, directed officials to conduct land re-surveys in the presence of farmers to ensure transparency and resolve land-related issues permanently.During a surprise inspection of the re-survey at Guntupalli village in Ibrahimpatnam Mandal, NTR District, on Saturday, Kurmanath said farmers must be informed in advance and complete e-KYC registration. He said the concerned farmer or family member should be present during the survey and boundary finalisation after document verification. Kurmanath directed District Survey Officer Y. Mohan Rao to keep farmers informed until they receive Pattadar pass-books with accurate measurements.



He said Resurvey 2.0 would help prevent earlier errors and future disputes.The re-survey is being conducted in phases across the state using 2,800 teams equipped with advanced rovers. Phase 5 covers 1,343 villages. Kurmanath said the government aims to make Andhra Pradesh free of land disputes by March 2027.Tahsildar Ribka, surveyors Datta and Samson, revenue officials, survey staff and farmers participated.

68 Fair Price Shop Dealers Complete Online Process

Machilipatnam, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

The Krishna district Civil Supplies Department has initiated steps to complete the online process for Fair Price (FP) shops and ensure the smooth delivery of essential commodities to consumers.

The District Civil Supplies Officer, Krishna district, directed CS DTs and selected ration dealers to follow the prescribed guidelines and complete the process at the earliest.There are 1,059 FP shops in Krishna district, of which 275

FP shop dealers have been selected in the first phase. Of these, 68 dealers were identified initially, and 57 dealers deposited the required security amount of Rs.10,000 each and successfully completed the online process. The remaining 11 dealers have been instructed to complete the process within two days.The DSO directed officials to provide necessary technical support to dealers and ensure uninterrupted services to consumers. Officials were also asked to closely monitor the process and complete the formalities without delay.

Skill Training Offered to SC Youth

NTR District, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

The NTR District Scheduled Castes Service Cooperative Society Limited has invited SC unemployed youth to enrol in skill training programmes aimed at employment and self-employment. The announcement was issued following directions of the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh State Scheduled Castes Cooperative Corporation Limited, Tadepalli.Directors of the corporation, Vasam Muniyaya and D. Rajeshwara Rao, participated in discussions on the programmes. The courses include graph-

ic design, food and beverage services, electrical work, automobile skills, PV installation, nursing, printing and other areas.Interested candidates should register through the official website by submitting educational qualification certificates, caste certificate, Aadhaar and rice card copies. The notice said the training would help youth access self-employment schemes with financial support from government agencies. Applicants may contact the NTR District Scheduled Castes Service Cooperative Society Limited office at Chilakalapudi Post, Machilipatnam, or the phone numbers mentioned in the notice for details.

Teachers Urged to Focus on Every Student



Machilipatnam, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

District In-charge Collector M. Naveen urged teachers to go beyond academics and help students develop values, humanity, self-confidence and patriotism. He called for special attention to every student to achieve a 100% pass rate in Class 10 examinations.Teachers' Day celebrations were held at the Zilla Parishad Convention Hall under the District Education Department. Naveen paid tribute to former President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and honored 39 teachers

with Best Teacher awards for their contribution to education.Naveen said students closely observe teachers' behaviour, speech, discipline and teaching methods, making teachers important guides in their formative years. He stressed that both high-performing and academically weak students deserved equal attention.He said teachers can understand students' individual needs and build confidence in ways that technology and Artificial Intelligence cannot replace. He urged teachers to use AI and existing physical and digital infrastructure to improve teaching.Naveen also stressed preserving the Telugu language and ensuring students learn to speak, read and write it correctly. He suggested incentives for schools achieving a 100% pass rate. As part of Swamandhra-Swachh Andhra, Naveen cycled to the ZP office to promote Pollution-Free Day. DEO Y.V. Subbarao, Kunche Durgaprasad Nani, Gorrepati Gopichand, Sekhar Singh, K. Ravi Kumar, ADM Vidyalatha, K. Vijaya Kumari, teachers and students attended.

Teachers Honored by VMC Swimmers



Vijayawada, Sept. 5 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of Teachers' Day, swimming coaches were felicitated at a ceremony held at the swimming pool in Vijayawada Gymkhana Grounds on Saturday morning. Senior swimmers Sridhar Prasad, Ramana and Varma, along with other swimmers, honored the coaches with shawls and bouquets and extended their Teachers' Day greetings. Senior Swimming Coach Maladri Rao, coaches Lakshman Rao and Saidulu, and gym coach and in-charge Anil were felicitated during the event.Speaking on the occasion, senior swimmers expressed gratitude to their mentors for their guidance and support. They said the coaches not only taught swimming techniques but also helped them develop discipline, confidence and perseverance.The swimmers said the coaches patiently corrected their strokes, helped them handle competitive pressure and encouraged them to improve their performances. They added that the coaches' hard work, guidance and encouragement played an important role in their success.

AMF Facilities Must Be Provided at All Polling Stations



Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra directed officials to ensure Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at every polling station in the city in view of the upcoming municipal elections. He reviewed the election arrangements with engineering staff at the VMC headquarters on Saturday.The Commissioner said every polling station must have basic facilities, including electricity, lights, fans, toilets, drinking water and ramps for voters with

disabilities. He directed Executive Engineers to oversee arrangements in their respective circles and Superintending Engineers to monitor facilities at all polling stations. He also instructed officials to ensure necessary arrangements at strong rooms and Returning Officer rooms. Chief Engineer P. Satyakumari, Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) G. Srujana, Superintending Engineers Chandrasekhar and Drushyanth, and Executive Engineers Srinivas, Gopalakrishnamurthy and Ramarao attended the meeting.

Training Held for Town Planning Staff on Polling Stations

Vijayawada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

A special training programme was conducted on Saturday for Town Planning staff on identifying and mapping polling stations for the upcoming municipal elections. The programme was organised at the new building conference hall of the VMC head office on the directions of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra. Officials explained the process of identifying polling stations based on the voter



strength in each ward.

They stressed that no polling station

No Tolerance for Godavari Pollution

Rajamahendravaram, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

The State Government and East Godavari district administration have taken serious note of alleged pollution of the Godavari River by Andhra Paper Mill in Rajamahendravaram. Acting on the directions of Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and under the guidance of East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chakuri, the Pollution

Control Board issued notices to the mill management over the discharge of untreated wastewater into the river. During his earlier visit to Rajamahendravaram, Pawan Kalyan inspected the discharge point and expressed displeasure over the release of wastewater. Samples collected at the time reportedly showed chemicals above permissible limits. A judicial commission, along with a committee constituted by the



Collector, is conducting an inquiry. Water samples are being collected from the Godavari near Thoorupalem village for testing, with legal action

expected based on the report. Officials also found tax arrears running into crores owed by the mill to the Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation and local panchayats since 2016. Pawan Kalyan suggested appointing the Advocate General to pursue the matter. Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh warned of a public agitation if pollution and tax issues were not resolved.

P.N. Narayana Receives State Best Teacher Award

Eluru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Pathivada Venkata Naga Satyanarayana, a Physical Science teacher at ZP Plus High School in Dharmajigudem, Eluru district, received the State-Level Best Teacher Award.



SCERT, authored the 'Vijayaketanam PS' material and trained teachers of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). His dedication to improving students' learning standards, continuous monitoring, systematic lesson planning and commitment to education earned him the state-level recognition.

Kambala Couple Donates Rs.5 Lakh for Bala Rama Temple

Kakinada, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

A wave of spiritual fervour swept through Jaggaampeta constituency on Saturday with the foundation stone laying for an Ayodhya Bala Rama temple at Iripaka and the consecration of Lord Anantha Padmanabha Swamy idol at Gokavaram. Jaggaampeta MLA and TTD Board member Jyothula Nehru and his wife, Temple Development Committee Chairperson Jyothula Manemma, participated in the temple foundation ceremony. Kambala Srinivasa Rao, President of Vishwa Hindu Dharma Parishadana Rama Sena, BJP State Executive Committee member and BLA-1 for Jaggaampeta, along with his wife Padmavati Devi Gangarathnam, performed rituals and donated Rs.5 lakh towards construction.



Jyothula Nehru appreciated Kambala Srinivasa Rao's efforts to preserve Hindu Dharma and develop temples. The couple was honoured with silk garments and a Bala Rama portrait. At Gokavaram, the Anantha Padmanabha Swamy idol was consecrated at a newly built Pushkarini in the Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Temple premises. The Pushkarini was constructed with personal donations from the Kambala couple. They performed Abhishekam and special prayers. BJP leaders, Ramasena members, priests, trustees, village elders and devotees participated.

Pottamshetti Ramadevi Receives District Best Teacher Award

Pullalacheruvu, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Pottamshetti Ramadevi, Headmistress (PS HM) of MPP School in Kundampalli village, Pullalacheruvu Mandal, was selected for the district-level Best Teacher Award in recognition of her distinguished services in education. She received the award and certificate of appreciation from District Collector Vijaya Sunita and District Educational Officer (DEO) Sama Subbarao on the occasion of National Teachers' Day. The award recognised



her dedicated service and contribution to the education of students. Parents of students from the Mandal and local villagers congratulated Ramadevi on receiving the district-level honour. They appreciated her commitment to teaching and her efforts towards the academic development of students.

21.15 Tonnes of PDS Rice Seized Near Rajamahendravaram



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

District Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop said officials seized 21.15 tonnes of PDS rice being illegally transported near Rajamahendravaram on Saturday. Vigilance, Civil Supplies and Revenue officials intercepted the lorry, bearing registration number AP29V4146, at around 8 am. The lorry was travelling from Vijayawada towards Rajamahendravaram when officials conducted an inspection and found 423 bags containing 21,150 kg of PDS rice, with each bag weighing 50 kg. The seized rice was valued at about Rs.10.15 lakh, while the lorry was estimated to be worth Rs.12 lakh. Megha Swaroop said strict action would be taken against those involved in illegally transporting rice meant for poor beneficiaries. A 6A case was registered, and a criminal case was filed at Rajamahendravaram III Town Police Station against Penki Rambabu, Balaswamy, the driver and cleaner. The empty lorry was handed over to police. Vigilance CI Sekhar Babu, CSDT K. Suryaprabhakar, AMVI Suma, Technical Assistant Anjali and Revenue staff participated in the inspection.

New Water Bowser Launched in Eluru

Eluru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

District TDP President and Eluru MLA Badeti Chanti said firefighting resources are being strengthened to provide prompt services during emergencies. He inaugurated a new water bowser at the Eluru Fire Station on Friday. The vehicle was procured at a cost of Rs.80 lakh using 15th Finance Commission funds. Chanti said the Alliance government was working transparently and ensuring that sanctioned funds were used for their intended purposes. He said Eluru district has six fire stations, while two firefighting vehicles were already available at



the Eluru station. The addition of the new water bowser would strengthen emergency preparedness, reduce service disruptions and help fire personnel respond to emergencies more quickly. Chanti said the government was

taking steps to improve public services by strengthening essential infrastructure and resources. The new vehicle is expected to improve the efficiency of firefighting operations and ensure faster assistance to people during emergencies.

MP Directs Speedy Completion of MPLADS Works

Eluru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar directed officials to expedite works sanctioned under the MPLADS and ensure every project is completed within one year of sanction. He held a review meeting with officials at the Eluru MP office on Saturday to assess the progress of various works. The MP expressed dissatisfaction over some projects sanctioned during the past two years remaining incomplete. Officials explained

that although some works were completed, details had not been uploaded online, resulting in lower figures in Central Government data.

Putta Mahesh Kumar directed officials to speed up RO water plant projects in rural areas. Officials said the multipurpose halls at Denuluru Appanna Veedhi, Dwaraka Tirumala and the SC multipurpose hall at T. Narsapuram would be completed by December. He also ordered proposals for a new library building in Eluru and a



BC Welfare Hostel. He assured funds and said additional resources could be secured through Rajya Sabha members and CSR funds if required.

Teachers' Efforts Drive Social Progress

Draksharamam, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

State Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash said societies that respect teachers progress faster, as teachers impart knowledge, discipline and values that shape students and strengthen society. He attended Teachers' Day celebrations at Draksharamam Zilla Parishad High School as chief guest and felicitated 34 teachers with shawls. Subhash praised the school's students for their strong 10th-grade results. He highlighted

student Kona Abhisri securing third rank at the district level with 593 marks, 37 students scoring above 500 marks and five students securing IIT seats. He said teachers' dedication, parents' support and students' hard work contributed to these achievements. The minister stressed the importance of girls' education and urged students to develop values, culture and discipline along with academic knowledge. AMC Chairman Akkala Rishwanth Roy praised the teachers for guiding



students and contributing to society's development. The programme was organised by the Satyam Vasamsetti Foundation. Ramachandrapuram Rural Mandal TDP President Kothapalli Srinubabu, State Drama Academy Director Penke Annapurma, Teku mudi Satyanarayana, Muppa

napalli Ganesh, former Sarpanch Kothapalli Aruna, Ravva Bhushanam, party presidents Srinivas, DRK and Alla Bujji, BJP Mandal President Aleti Krishna, Shivaji, Karra Nageswar and In-charge Headmaster Mohiddin participated. Staff Secretary Arava Vissu moderated the event.

Public Welfare Is the Goal, Says Rajanagaram MLA

Rajanagaram, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna reviewed development and welfare programmes with officials at the local P4 office on Saturday. He held detailed discussions with the MPDO, Mandal Special Officer and officials of various departments on ongoing and proposed works in the constituency. The MLA directed officials to speed up development projects that had been delayed for various reasons and ensure their early completion. He also discussed plans for new projects based on the future needs of the constituency and provided necessary guidance.



ance. Speaking at the meeting, Bathula Balaramakrishna said the main objective was to provide better and more transparent services to people through the P4 programme. He called upon Mandal-level officials and staff to work in coordination and ensure welfare and development benefits reach

people at the grassroots level. He also asked officials to respond responsibly to public grievances. The MPDO, Mandal Special Officer, P4 representatives, departmental officials and NDA alliance leaders and activists from Jana Sena, Telugu Desam and BJP participated in the meeting.

61 Outstanding Teachers Honoured

Amalapuram, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

District Joint Collector Y. Khom Naidiya Devi said teachers play a vital role in nation-building and shaping the future of youth. Teachers' Day was celebrated at Godavari Bhavan in the Collectorate on Saturday under the School Education Department. The Joint Collector said students are the future of the nation and teachers play a key role in their personality development and achievement of goals. She noted that the success of public representatives, officials, lawyers and scientists is backed by the efforts of teachers. Sixty-one outstanding teachers were felicitated with shawls and certificates. District Educational Officer Dr. Mahboob Basha said the district's strong academic performance was due to teachers' dedicated efforts. DCMC Chairman Pecchetti Chandramouli, A.P. Backward Classes Finance Corporation Chairperson Reddy Anantha Kumari and AMUDA Chairman Allada Swami Naidu also high-



lighted the importance of the teaching profession. District Revenue Officer V. Subbarao, Samagra Shiksha Additional Project Coordinator G. Mummy, AD Nakka Suresh, DYESOs D. Sureshkumar, K. Venkateswara Rao and P. Ramalakshmana Murthy, and other education officials participated.

Teachers' Services Are Unforgettable: Collector

Eluru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

District Collector K. Vetrivel said teachers are like the Divine as they shape students' futures and contribute to social progress. National Teachers' Day celebrations marking the birth anniversary of former President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan were held at the Zilla Parishad meeting hall. Collector Vetrivel, ZP Chairperson Ghanta Padmasri and Eluru MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti) paid floral tributes to Dr. Radhakrishnan. Later, 33 outstanding teachers were felicitated with certificates, mementos and shawls. Vetrivel said teachers impart social skills, courage and patience along with academic knowledge. She appreciated Eluru district teachers for their efforts in



the mid-day meal scheme, re-enrollment of out-of-school children and 10th-grade examination performance. Ghanta Padmasri said teachers instil values and discipline, while Badeti Chanti said teachers guide people after their parents and make lessons understandable despite technological advances. DEO M. Venkatalakshamma, R. Asha, Deputy Education Officers Dr. P.S. Sudhakar and N. Ravindra Bharati participated.

AITUC Seeks Welfare Board for Auto Drivers

Eluru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

AITUC has demanded the establishment of a comprehensive welfare board for auto drivers, including ESI and pension benefits. It also sought cancellation of GO Nos. 21 and 31, which impose heavy fines on auto-rickshaws. AITUC District General Secretary Reddy Srinivasa Dange and State Vice-President Kasi Krishna said a protest would be held at the District Collector's office on Sept 7 under the Andhra Pradesh Auto and

Motor Transport Workers Union (AITUC). They demanded implementation of promises made by the Alliance government before the elections and a 30% reduction in third-party insurance, road tax and green tax. They also sought cancellation of traffic surveillance e-challans and subsidised loans for purchasing new vehicles. The leaders appealed to auto drivers to participate in the protest in large numbers and make it successful.

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Joins Krishnashtami Celebrations

Eluru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar participated in Sri Krishnashtami celebrations at Nuzvid, Pedapadu and Mandavalli areas of the Eluru Parliamentary constituency on Saturday. Along with Minister Parthasarathy, the MP attended the inauguration of a newly constructed Kalyana Mandapam at the Sri Sri Sri Ankamma Devara Thalli temple premises in Patharavicherla village, Nuzvid Mandal. He later participated in celebrations at Patharavicherla and Aipuru village in Pedapadu Mandal. After offering special prayers, Putta Mahesh Kumar addressed locals and said he had loved Sri Krishnashtami since childhood. He expressed happiness



over celebrating the festival with villagers and said he had been celebrating Sri Krishna Janmashtami among people of the Eluru Parliamentary constituency for the past two years. Later in the evening, he visited the Kaikaluru constituency and participated in celebrations at Mandavalli. Key TDP leaders from Nuzvid, Pedapadu and Mandavalli Mandals accompanied him.

Police Bust Motorcycle Theft Gang in Eluru

Eluru, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Eluru District Police busted a gang allegedly involved in motorcycle thefts and arrested eight accused persons along with one receiver of stolen property, a juvenile in conflict with law (CICL). Police seized 21 stolen motorcycles worth around Rs.20 lakh and produced the accused before the court for remand. Acting on concrete information, teams formed under the supervision of Eluru District SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore and Eluru SDPO D. Sravan Kumar, and led by Eluru I-Town CI K. Ashok Kumar, conducted simultaneous raids at various locations. The arrested persons were identified as Puthi Prasad alias Perumalla Dalayya, Agadham Surya Prakash alias Surya, Vipparthi Raju alias Lankapeta



Raju, Donga Durga Sai Ram, Routhu Manikanta, Channapathi Anjneyulu and Senapathula Veera Vamsi. One woman and a CICL were also involved. CI K. Ashok Kumar, SI K. Ramakrishna, SI B. Madhu Venkata Raja, WSI Naga Kalyani, HC K. Ravichand, PC Isaac and PC Rajini Kumar were commended for their efforts. The recovered vehicles included Suzuki Access, Pulsar NS 200, TVS XL, Bajaj Discover and Hero X Pulse motorcycles.

Devotees Seek Sringeri Guru as Tapovanam Ashram Pontiff

Tuni, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

Devotees have expressed their desire to appoint a Guru from the Dakshinamnaya Sringeri Sharada Peetham as the Peethadhipati (Pontiff) of Tapovanam Ashram, also known as Tandava Kashi Kshetram, at Kummari Lova in Tuni Mandal. On Saturday, a special team led by Sringeri Peetham CEO Murali visited the Ashram to gather opinions from administrators, devotees and the public. While some devotees said Vedic rituals were continuing traditionally under Ashram in-charge Ramanamurthy, others raised concerns over transparency in the Ashram's functioning. A majority sought the appointment of a Sringeri Guru and expressed their desire for the blessings of Jagadgurus Bharati Tirtha



Mahaswami and Vidhushekhar Bharati Swami. Teacher V. Sriramamurthy clarified that social media reports about missing Vedic assets were false. He said an inventory of the assets was conducted in the presence of Sringeri Peetham representatives and all valuables were safely kept in a locker. A report was also submitted to the Peetham. Several prominent persons and devotees from Tuni and Payakaraopeta attended the programme.

Chirala Municipality to Increase Wards from 33 to 44

Chirala, Sept 5 | TPN Bureau

The reorganization of wards in Chirala Municipality has gained momentum following directives from the Andhra Pradesh government. The government has ordered an increase in the number of municipal wards from the existing 33 to 44. Officials have displayed the draft list of proposed ward boundaries, prepared according to government orders, on the notice board at the municipal office. Officials urged residents and public representatives to examine the proposed changes at the municipal office. Commissioner Daniel Joseph said objections, suggestions and feedback on the



proposed reorganization should be submitted in writing to the municipal office within seven days. He said representations must reach the office by 5 PM on Sept 11. Daniel Joseph clarified that objections or suggestions received after the deadline would not be considered.

Editorial

Democracy
Cannot Be
Silenced by
Suppression

Oppression against social workers, journalists, professors and others who attempt to expose facts on issues of public importance can never be considered a healthy sign for any government. Those who question the administration, raise allegations or bring irregularities to public attention cannot simply be branded as enemies of the Government. In a democracy, criticism and dissent are not threats; they are essential instruments for accountability. Arresting a social worker or professor for raising questions, or attempting to silence journalists who report uncomfortable facts, may temporarily suppress criticism, but it cannot permanently suppress public opinion. Such an approach is unlikely to produce positive political or administrative results. Instead, it can create the impression that the Government is unwilling to face questions or respond to criticism with confidence. Governments derive their strength not merely from their authority but from their ability to answer questions convincingly. When allegations are made, the appropriate response should be to examine them objectively, place the facts before the public and establish where the allegations are incorrect. If critics are wrong, the Government has every opportunity to expose their arguments through evidence, facts and reasoned explanations. The responsibility of an administration is therefore not to shut down voices but to demonstrate why those voices may be mistaken. A strong Government should have the confidence to confront allegations rather than fear them. Suppression can turn an individual criticism into a larger public controversy, while a transparent response can bring the matter to a logical conclusion. The Government must reconsider any approach that treats every critic as an adversary. Social workers, journalists, professors and other public voices have a legitimate role in a democratic society. Differences of opinion should be answered through facts and arguments, not intimidation or suppression. Ultimately, governance becomes stronger when criticism is confronted with transparency, accountability and reason rather than force.

-Editor

NTR The Sun That Still
Shines Over Telugu Cinema

In the realm of Telugu cinema and across Telugu land, the sentiment that "NTR belongs to every household" is undeniably true. Telugu people have enshrined him in their hearts. It is no exaggeration to say that some even placed his portraits portraying Lord Krishna, Lord Rama or Lord Venkateswara in their home shrines and worshipped them. That physique, that commanding presence, that aura, the chiselled nose, the expressive eyes, the body language and the diction in every aspect, NTR stood as a towering peak of acting, majestic and immovable like Mount Meru. It is a fact that no one in the Telugu film industry of his era could match NTR when it came to portraying mythological characters. He left an indelible mark on the genre. Such fame and greatness were not achieved overnight, nor were they the result of mere luck. NTR's life was defined by self-effort, determination, discipline and sheer hard work. If one looks at interviews with veteran actors, these qualities become evident. It is said that NTR would be ready with his makeup on and fully prepared ten minutes before the scheduled shooting time. Actors sharing scenes with him were also expected to maintain the same level of punctuality. That was NTR's working style. His mere presence on the sets created a distinct atmosphere; the entire location seemed charged with his energy. That was NTR. NTR-these three letters alone represent a vibration, a whirlwind, a high-voltage combination of power. Pronouncing the name "NTR" feels like a surge of energy. It fills every Telugu person with enthusiasm, brings a proud smile to their lips and instils a sense of pride in their identity. His portrayal of Lord Krishna in "Mayabazar" was truly unparalleled-unprecedented and unsurpassed. That playfulness, that grace, the occasional



gravity and flashes of mild anger in certain scenes, and the sheer brilliance of his acting elsewhere-who else but NTR could have delivered such a performance? Audiences were mesmerised by him. Even today, people continue to enjoy the film, including its colourised version. It is undeniable that "Mayabazar" holds a permanent place in the history of Telugu cinema. NTR's performance as Bhima in "Pandava Vanavasam" was extraordinary. The Bhima of the "Mahabharata" possessed immense strength and valour-a character defined by formidable power and capability. Yet, despite all this might, he

remained deeply obedient to his elder brother, Dharmaraja. In the scene depicting the humiliation of Panchali, NTR simultaneously portrayed so many facets of Bhima. The expressions he displayed while Ghantasala sang the verses remain etched in cinematic history forever. Can one speak of NTR without recalling "Dana Veera Soora Karna"? NTR "is" Duryodhana-that arrogance, that haughtiness, that body language, that recklessness, those emotions-the list goes on. He brought out nuances in the character of Duryodhana that were not even visible in the original "Mahabharata". Or, perhaps



Gaddam Muralikrishna

Member, Telugu Cine Writers' Association, Khammam

more accurately, he did not merely portray the role; he truly lived it. Although NTR portrayed Lord Rama in many films, "Lava Kusa" holds a unique distinction. The deep anguish, the pain of separation from Sita, the scenes of solitude within the royal palace, the battle sequences against young Lava and Kusa, those eyes brimming with compassion, the face etched with sorrow and the heart-wrenching cry of separation from Sita-the talent and maturity NTR displayed across these myriad moments and scenes are unparalleled. One cannot find such a performance in any other actor. He is the one and only NTR. If one examines films like "Seetharama Kalyanam" and "Bhookailas", NTR's heroic presence shines through. Typically, in the "Ramayana", Ravana is a character with negative shades-or, in cinematic terms, a villain. NTR achieved the remarkable feat of taking on such a challenging role and, through his extraordinary acting and impeccable dialogue delivery, transforming him into a heroic figure that cinematic history will never forget. He effortlessly portrayed the character's sternness, determination and, in certain scenes, innocence, showcasing his acting prowess and securing an indelible place in the hearts of audiences. NTR possessed the unique ability to clearly distinguish between contrasting roles such as Rama and Ravana. Whether in films like "Sri Krishna Pandaveeyam", "Dana Veera Soora Karna" or "Srimad Virata Parvam", he-the Emperor of Acting-could portray diverse characters while distinctly highlighting the nuances that

set each one apart. It was truly remarkable to see NTR play Brihannala in "Nartanasala". It was akin to fitting an atom bomb into a suitcase. Despite compressing his towering, majestic physique and regal acting stature into the guise of a eunuch, he performed the role with astonishing naturalness. The director even delighted fans by allowing him to appear as Arjuna in select scenes. The ability to completely immerse himself in and embody any character was an innate gift-a talent that came naturally to him. By appearing as Lord Venkateswara-the deity of the Kali Yuga-in "Sri Venkateswara Mahatmyam", NTR became a living god to the Telugu people. His majestic presence and compassionate performance ensured that he remains enshrined in their hearts to this day. One could go on listing countless examples. He portrayed a multitude of mythological characters and breathed life into every one of them. NTR was, in those days, an asset, a pillar of support and a guiding light for the then-nascent Telugu film industry. A chronicle of the films he acted in and directed would fill volumes-amounting to a massive research tome or a text spanning thousands of pages. Even today, the mere thought of NTR stirs the soul of the average Telugu movie fan. It brings a mist to their eyes and keeps his name constantly on their lips. That is precisely why I say it again and again: NTR-the true legend of the Telugu film industry. So, these are the stories of NTR-a man who became a part of every household across Telugu land. Let us meet again with more interesting details. Indeed!!

A Severe Warning on Global Warming



God seems to be warning the world more frequently these days through devastating natural disasters-flash floods, deadly cyclones, cloudbursts, landslides, extreme heat, and other climate-related calamities. The devastating flash floods in Uttarakhand and Nepal, where entire communities have been swept away and countless lives and livelihoods have been destroyed, are a stark reminder of the consequences of our continued negligence towards nature. These disasters should not be viewed merely as acts of fate. They are a reflection of the growing imbalance we have created in our environment through deforestation, unplanned urbanization, destruction of natural drainage systems, excessive exploitation of natural resources, and the relentless

emission of greenhouse gases. Nature has its own delicate balance. When forests are destroyed, rivers and wetlands are encroached upon, mountains are destabilized and ecosystems are disturbed, the consequences eventually return to us in the form of floods, landslides, cyclones, droughts and unprecedented weather events. The repeated occurrence of such disasters should therefore serve as a wake-up call for humanity. Development is necessary, but development without environmental responsibility can become destructive. We must listen to the warnings of nature and act before it is too late. Protecting forests, restoring ecosystems, safeguarding rivers and wetlands, reducing pollution, promoting sustainable develop-

ment and preparing communities for disasters are no longer optional measures-they are essential for our survival. Nature is not our enemy. It is our life-support system. If we continue to disturb its balance, we will have to face consequences that may be far more devastating than anything we have witnessed so far. Even an increase of 1 to 2 degrees Celsius in the global average temperature can have enormous consequences. It is important to remember that this is not the temperature of a particular city or country, but the average temperature of the entire planet. A seemingly small change in this global average can disturb delicate ecological systems that have evolved over thousands of years. One of the most visible consequences is the rise in sea levels.

Melting glaciers and polar ice, combined with the expansion of warmer seawater, are causing oceans to rise. Coastal communities are increasingly vulnerable to tidal flooding, storm surges and coastal erosion. Areas that once remained relatively safe from seawater are experiencing flooding during high tides and severe weather events. Climate change is also contributing to more extreme weather events. Heat waves are becoming more intense and prolonged in many parts of the world. Heavy rainfall can produce devastating flash floods, while changing atmospheric conditions can increase the likelihood of exceptionally intense storms. Cloudbursts, floods and prolonged droughts can destroy crops, damage infrastructure and leave thousands of families struggling to

rebuild their lives. However, we must distinguish between events that are directly caused by global warming and those that are influenced by a combination of natural and human factors. Earthquakes and tsunamis, for example, are primarily geological phenomena and are not established direct consequences of global warming. Nevertheless, climate change can worsen the consequences of many natural hazards, particularly through sea-level rise, coastal vulnerability, extreme rainfall and ecosystem degradation. This distinction is important because our response must be based on sound science. The warnings from the international scientific community are becoming increasingly serious. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and other international assessments have repeatedly emphasized that current climate policies are not yet sufficient to keep global warming within the limits agreed upon by the international community. The world has committed itself to pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C and keep it well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels under the Paris Agreement. Yet, if greenhouse-gas emissions continue at present levels, warming could move far beyond these safer thresholds during this century. A world approaching 3°C of warming would face substantially greater risks. Agricultural productivity could decline in vulnerable regions, water shortages could intensify, ecosystems could collapse, and extreme heat could make some areas increasingly difficult to inhabit. Rising seas could threaten densely populated coastal cities and force large-scale displacement. Food insecurity and competition for scarce water and land could increase social and economic pressures. The poorest communities are like-

ly to suffer the most, even though they have historically contributed much less to global greenhouse-gas emissions. Farmers, fishermen, coastal communities, tribal populations and people living in fragile ecosystems are particularly vulnerable. Climate change therefore is not merely an environmental issue; it is also an issue of social justice, public health, food security and human survival. The answer cannot be left to governments alone. Every country must accelerate the transition towards renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, protect forests, restore wetlands, conserve biodiversity and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Cities must invest in better drainage, water conservation, heat-action plans and climate-resilient infrastructure. Agriculture must adopt practices that conserve soil and water and withstand changing weather patterns. At the individual level, responsible consumption, reduced wastage, energy conservation, tree planting and protection of local ecosystems can make a difference. More importantly, citizens must demand responsible environmental policies from governments and industries. The Earth does not need sympathy from humanity-it needs action. Technology, science and international cooperation provide us with many of the tools required to address climate change. What is needed now is political will, collective responsibility and urgency. Global warming is not a problem that belongs to the next generation. It is already knocking at our doors. The choice before humanity is simple: continue with business as usual and face increasingly dangerous consequences, or act decisively today to protect the planet for generations yet unborn. The time to save the Earth is not tomorrow. It is today.



BVS Kumar

State Coordinator
AP Red Cross

51,979 Tip-Offs Help Punjab Cops Arrest Over 25,000

Punjab's anti-drug campaign, Yudh Nashean Virudh, has received a major boost from citizen participation, with 51,979 tip-offs helping enforcement agencies arrest 25,339 people between March 1, 2025, and September 3, 2026. The tip-offs were received through the Safe Punjab Helpline (97791-00200), which allows citizens to provide information about suspected drug peddling and related activities. The figures show the growing role of public-generated intelligence in supporting the state's anti-narcotics enforcement efforts. According to the data, 59,293 FIRs have been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act during the campaign period. Of these, more than 25,000 arrests were linked to information received through citizen tip-offs. The crackdown has also targeted



major players in the drug trade. As many as 696 "big fish" were arrested with more than 2 kg of heroin each, indicating that enforcement agencies have focused on individuals allegedly handling large quantities rather than limiting action to street-level peddlers. The scale of recoveries further underlines the extent of the operation. Authorities seized 3,757 kg of

heroin, 964 kg of opium, 45 tonnes of poppy husk, 1,288 kg of ganja and 71 kg of methamphetamine, commonly known as ICE. In addition, 62 lakh tablets and capsules were recovered under the NDPS Act. The campaign also resulted in the seizure of Rs 22 crore in drug money. A total of 2,675 cases involving commercial quantities of drugs were registered.

Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said citizen tip-offs had provided additional strength to the Anti-Narcotics Task Force and expressed confidence that public participation would increase further. Nilabh Kishore, ADGP, Anti-Narcotics Task Force, Punjab, said the figures reflected an approach combining enforcement action with citizen-generated intelligence. The campaign has also focused on helping people struggling with addiction. Police facilitated the admission of 42,498 persons into de-addiction centres, while another 1,55,970 persons were taken to Outpatient Opioid Assisted Treatment (OOAT) clinics. Separately, 11,239 individuals received immunity under Section 64A of the NDPS Act after voluntarily undergoing treatment, highlighting the campaign's dual focus on disrupting drug networks and encouraging rehabilitation.

Rahul Gandhi Calls Punjab Protester, Police Personnel Face Action



Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has spoken to Mohanjit Singh Sheron, who is undergoing treatment at Civil Hospital, Sangrur, following allegations of police assault. The phone call has brought the controversy into the national political spotlight as the Congress stepped up its criticism of the Punjab government. Rahul Gandhi spoke to Sheron during a visit by Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring to the hospital. Warring facilitated the conversation between the Congress leader and Sheron, who was allegedly beaten after being detained by police during Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's event in Sangrur. The Punjab government has meanwhile initiated action against police personnel in connection with the incident. DSP Harwinder Singh has been transferred, while Inspector Partek Jindal, SI Baljit Singh and ASI Harpreet Singh have been sent to the Sangrur Police Lines with immediate effect. The controversy began after Sheron was allegedly detained when he was seen around 200 to 230 metres from the Chief Minister's Lok Milni event. He was reportedly holding a black flag and raising slogans against the government.

According to the police, security personnel and officials removed Sheron from the spot and took him for verification. Police claimed that eight FIRs had previously been registered against him under serious criminal sections. Police said preventive action was subsequently initiated and Sheron was arrested around 10:30 pm before being kept at Cheema Police Station. Officials have relied on a medical examination conducted before his production before the SDM, which recorded "no fresh injury marks present on examination." Police also claimed that two drug tests conducted the following morning returned positive results. However, after Sheron was handed over to his family following intervention by the village panchayat, he was taken to Civil Hospital, Sangrur. Doctors there recorded 10 injuries in his medico-legal report (MLR), creating a discrepancy between the initial medical examination and the subsequent report. Police officials have highlighted the difference between the two medical records. The complete medical record and other relevant documents have now been placed under the supervision of police headquarters for further examination. Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema has condemned the incident and said allegations of assault are being investigated. Rahul Gandhi's direct conversation with Sheron and the government's disciplinary action against police personnel have added political weight to the controversy. The incident has now emerged as a fresh flashpoint between the ruling AAP government and the opposition Congress in Punjab, with questions continuing over Sheron's detention, the alleged assault and the conflicting medical findings.

PM Modi Takes 'Naraaz Fufa' Swipe at Opposition

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday took a sharp swipe at the opposition while contrasting the challenges faced by India in 2013 with the country's present economic and social position. Addressing the centenary celebrations of Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), he also spoke directly to students about entrepreneurship, innovation and India's future. Referring to his Independence Day address from the Red Fort on August 15, Modi said he had administered "homoeopathic pills" to his critics by using the term "Dimagi Naxals". He said the remarks had prompted opponents to reveal their "true colours". The Prime Minister divided people into two categories, saying one group positively transforms society's strength into national strength, while another behaves like a "Naraaz Fufa", or angry uncle, who questions every major initiative. Modi cited criticism surrounding projects and initiatives including the world's largest statue, bullet



trains, UPI, semiconductor chips and the new Parliament building. He also referred to the memorial for army personnel who died for the country, saying critics repeatedly questioned the need for such projects. Looking back at the situation before 2014, Modi referred to

the 2013 Kedarnath disaster, the 2008 banking crisis and the Mumbai terror attack. He said his government had also faced major challenges, including COVID, the Russia-Ukraine war and the Iran conflict, but India had emerged stronger. The Prime Minister high-

lighted India's expanding global trade links, saying free trade agreements had been signed with nearly 40 countries over the last decade. He said opening new markets would create additional opportunities for the country's youth. Modi expressed confidence that India would become a developed nation through the efforts of its 1.4 billion citizens. He said India would emerge as a global hub for research and innovation and predicted that the country would have its own space station and host the Olympics. Addressing students, he contrasted campus life at SRCC with opportunities outside college. He said young Indians now aspire to build startups, unicorns and space ventures, ambitions that were less common before 2013. He urged students to think beyond existing achievements and asked why global companies could not be Indian. Modi concluded by calling for greater self-reliance and collective determination to build a developed India.

Mohan Bhagwat's UK Visit to Address Hindutva Misconceptions

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's ongoing visit to the United Kingdom is aimed at addressing misconceptions about Hindutva and Bharat and strengthening civilisational dialogue with Western academics, public figures and the Indian diaspora. RSS Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar said. Bhagwat arrived in the UK for a visit from September 2 to 7 as part of the RSS centenary celebrations. Ambekar said the tour would provide an opportunity to explain the organisation's understanding of Hindutva and its cultural perspective on Bharat. "There are a lot of misconceptions," Ambekar said, explaining that Bharat should not be viewed merely as a political nation-state but as a cultural concept. He added that Hindutva was not a religion or a fixed ideological concept, but one that respects and accepts the truth and practices of different religious traditions. Ambekar said Bhagwat would meet prominent public figures, organisations and members of the Indian diaspora during his UK engagements. He had already visited the Shri Swami Narayan tem-



ple in Willesden, while other meetings were expected to focus on dialogue, collaboration and strengthening long-term relations between the UK and India. The visit is being undertaken at the invitation of the organisation Integral. Ambekar said people-to-people engagement was necessary alongside government-level diplomatic relations and that cultural and civilisational dialogue could

contribute to greater mutual understanding. "We believe that apart from the diplomatic dialogues at the government level, there is a need for people-to-people dialogue; there is a need for civilisational and cultural relations at large," Ambekar said. Bhagwat's UK visit follows engagements in North America. On August 29 in New York, Ambekar

addressed a multi-faith leaders' meeting organised at the invitation of American Hindus for Engagement and Dialogue (AHEAD). The meeting was attended by 175 participants representing different denominations and religions. He also addressed the 'Universal Oneness' conference at Madison Square Garden, which brought together more than 6,000 delegates from 853 cities and 39 US states, representing 250 organisations. Around 250 university students from across the United States also participated. The interfaith meeting adopted a five-point "Call for Action" resolution. Bhagwat later travelled to Toronto at the invitation of Canadian Hindus for Outreach, Relations and Dialogue (CHORD), where he addressed the 'Hindu Vishwa Bandhu' conference. More than 2,000 delegates representing 175 organisations from all ten Canadian provinces attended. The RSS was established during India's freedom struggle by Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, who believed a strong and cohesive society was essential for sustaining independence.

Yogi to Review Varanasi Flood Situation Today



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is scheduled to visit Varanasi on Saturday to assess the flood situation and review relief measures being implemented for affected residents. According to reports, Yogi Adityanath will arrive in Varanasi at around 5:00 PM. Before reaching the city, he will conduct an aerial survey of flood-affected areas to assess the situation on the ground and review the extent of inundation. The Chief Minister will travel to Varanasi from Azamgarh and hold a meeting with officials and public representatives at the Police Lines 'Safe House'. The meeting is expected to last around 20 minutes and will focus on the flood situation, relief operations and measures being taken for affected people. Following the review meeting, Yogi Adityanath will visit a flood relief camp at a college, where he is expected to distribute relief materials among people affected by the floods. Later, the Chief Minister will offer prayers at the Kaal Bhairav and Vishwanath temples before leaving for Lucknow at around 7:30 PM. The visit comes as several parts of Uttar Pradesh continue to face the impact of rising river levels and flooding. In Varanasi, there has been some relief for residents as the water level of the Ganga River has started receding. However, several areas of Moradabad's Mundha Pande region have been inundated following a rise in the water level of the Kosi River. Roads have been submerged, disrupting normal movement, while residents are using boats provided by the administration to travel through affected areas. Earlier on Thursday, Yogi Adityanath assured flood-affected families in Farrukhabad that his government was committed to finding a permanent solution to the recurring flood problem. Addressing a gathering in Farrukhabad, the Chief Minister said the government was taking steps to protect both people and livestock in flood-affected villages. He directed the administration to ensure adequate fodder, vaccinations and medicines for cattle. "We are making every effort to ensure that in areas where floodwaters have entered villages, livestock is not harmed. Complete arrangements are being made on a war footing across every area to provide fodder, vaccinations, and essential medicines for cattle," Yogi Adityanath said. His Varanasi visit is expected to provide an opportunity to assess relief operations directly and issue further instructions to officials on flood management.

India's First Sentient Corporate Campus to Rise in Pune

India's first "sentient" corporate campus will be established at the Bajaj Finserv Campus in Koregaon Park Annexe, Pune, with the project designed to combine artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), sustainability and employee-focused facilities. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis laid the foundation stone for the project on Friday. Speaking at the ceremony, Fadnavis said the Bajaj Finserv Campus would be not only the largest corporate campus but also among the country's most intelligent and sustainable workplace ecosystems. Built with AI and IoT at its core, the campus will be designed to sense its environment and the needs of its occupants and proactively adapt to changing conditions in real time. According to company sources, AI and IoT systems will enable the campus to respond to variations in weather, occupancy and environmental conditions.



Sensors and analytics will be used to optimise energy and water consumption while monitoring crowd density and movement. IoT-enabled predictive maintenance systems will monitor critical infrastructure, while automation and robotics will support day-to-day campus operations. The campus will feature an eco-efficient design intended to maximise natural breeze and daylight and reduce cooling requirements. It will operate on renewable energy and target 80 per cent water recycling, along with rainwater harvesting and zero-waste operations.

A biophilic design will bring nature into the workplace through extensive green areas, including rare Ayurvedic gardens, Miyawaki forests and replanted native forests. Native species from Maharashtra will be incorporated to promote biodiversity and strengthen the campus ecosystem. The workplace will also have floor- and cluster-level monitoring of air quality and temperature. An integrated employee application will provide access to campus facilities and services, including navigation, parking and bookings. Healthcare and wellness will form another key component of the

campus. An integrated medical centre will provide telemedicine and emergency response services, supported by dedicated wellness facilities for employees. Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman & Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv, said the campus would be developed in accordance with global LEED and IGBC standards. "Built to global LEED and IGBC standards, the Campus will combine eco-efficient and biophilic designs with AI-driven systems and operate entirely on renewable energy," Bajaj said. He added that the campus would demonstrate India's growing technological and financial capabilities while reflecting the country's move towards a technology-ready and environmentally responsible future. The project is expected to establish a new model for corporate workplaces by integrating intelligent infrastructure, sustainability, biodiversity, digital services and employee wellbeing into a single ecosystem.



DNA Testing Gives Nepal Families Hope for Missing Relatives

DNA testing has emerged as a crucial final hope for families searching for relatives who remain missing after devastating floods in Nepal, with authorities struggling to identify hundreds of bodies recovered from floodwaters and debris. The disaster, which struck on August 26, has killed at least 1,287 people in Nepal, while 5,083 remain missing, according to disaster authorities. The scale of destruction and the condition of many recovered bodies have made conventional identification extremely difficult. Police have so far collected 2,272 DNA samples, including 1,260 from bodies and 1,012 from relatives of missing people, as authorities work to establish identities. Officials said 1,030 bodies had been buried after DNA samples and other identification procedures were completed. The figure includes 222 women, 355 men and 453 bodies whose sex could not be determined.

For families, the testing process represents more than forensic identification. It could bring an end to days or weeks of uncertainty and allow relatives to perform final rites for loved ones. One such family is that of Raj Kumar Diyali, 33, who disappeared along with his 30-year-old wife Shriti and their four-year-old son Siraj after the Bhotekoshi River flood struck Syaphrubesi in Rasuwa district. Raj Kumar's relatives searched along the river as far as Chitwan and Nawalpur. Five days after the flood, his nephew Avinash discovered a severed human hand in Nawalpur and sent a photograph to Amrit Diyali, Raj Kumar's relative. Amrit said the hand closely resembled his brother's. He subsequently sent a sample from the remains to the National Forensic Science Laboratory in Kathmandu for DNA testing. The sample is reportedly 182nd in line for examination. "We have stopped hoping for any-



thing else," Amrit told The Kathmandu Post, expressing the family's desire for certainty even if the remains are confirmed to belong to Raj Kumar. The floods began in the Bhotekoshi River area of Rasuwa near Nepal's northern border with China before causing widespread destruction downstream. To make identification easier, Nepal Police has opened a DNA sample collection centre in Bidur, Nuwakot, enabling relatives of missing people to provide samples without travelling to Kathmandu. Deputy Inspector General of Nepal Police Hospital Dr Damodar Poudel said samples from close blood relatives, including parents, children and siblings, are particularly useful for comparison with DNA recovered from unidentified bodies. Authorities have also uploaded details of 1,270 unidentified bodies on the Nepal Police website, allowing families to check whether their missing relatives are among those recovered.

Zelensky Proposes Ceasefire Ahead of US Envoys' Russia, Ukraine Visits

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky has proposed a temporary ceasefire with Russia as US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff prepare to visit Moscow and Kyiv for talks aimed at finding a possible settlement to the Russia-Ukraine war. bZelensky confirmed that Witkoff and Kushner will travel to Moscow on Saturday and Kyiv on Sunday. The proposed pause in hostilities is intended to ensure the safety of the US representatives and provide the necessary conditions for negotiations and logistical arrangements. "There will be no air strikes from our side," Zelensky said, calling on Russia to mirror the move by suspending its air attacks for the duration needed to conduct the negotiations. Zelensky said Ukrainian diplomats had held discussions to prepare for the American delegation's visit to Kyiv. During those preparations, it was decided that normal operations in Russian airspace should continue so the envoys could arrive safely. "Russia must mirror



this by ensuring silence without its air strikes for the time needed to hold these negotiations and resolve the logistical issues associated with this American visit," Zelensky said. His proposal came hours after Russia carried out a daytime airstrike on Kyiv. Zelensky said the attack targeted

the headquarters of Ukraine's intelligence service and the office of its intelligence chief. The Ukrainian president said Kyiv was focused on engaging with the American envoys rather than Russia itself and wanted practical proposals that could help end the conflict, which has continued for

four-and-a-half years. "We'll see what proposals Steve and Jared have and what Moscow will say to them," Zelensky wrote. Russia has intensified daytime air attacks on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities in recent days, with civilian areas repeatedly coming under attack. Before the Friday strike on Kyiv, Russia launched a major overnight attack on the Odesa region that killed one person and injured at least five others, including a child. Over night attacks elsewhere also killed two police officials in Dnipro, according to the report. A US official confirmed the planned visits earlier in the day. The trip will mark the first visit by the Trump administration's envoys to Kyiv for negotiations over a settlement. The proposed ceasefire could provide a brief window for direct diplomatic efforts, although its success will depend on whether Russia accepts Zelensky's call to halt airstrikes during the US delegation's mission.

US Strikes Three Iranian Oil Tankers After Naval Attacks



US forces struck three Iranian crude oil tankers after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched ballistic missile attacks against two US Navy warships operating in regional waters, the US Central Command said. In a post on X, the US Central Command said an aircraft carrier and a guided-missile destroyer successfully avoided what it described as "multiple unprovoked Iranian attacks". No US personnel were injured in the incidents, according to the command. Following the attempted attacks, US forces destroyed two IRGC-linked crude oil tankers, M/T Downy and M/T Stark 1. The vessels were targeted off the coast of Kharg Island and near Jask. A third tanker, which was not carrying a cargo, was also disabled in the Gulf of Oman. The US Central Command said the three vessels were part of what it described as a multibillion-dollar shadow network that finances the IRGC and its proxies. The strikes represent a significant escalation in the confrontation between Washington and Tehran, with oil infrastructure and shipping becoming increasingly central to the conflict. Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of the US Central Command, said the US military would continue to defend its forces and warned that Iran's oil fleet could face further action. "Let the message to the IRGC be clear: If you shoot at two of our ships, we will impose an even higher economic cost - taking out three of yours," Cooper said. "We will not hesitate to defend American forces, and if necessary, destroy Iran's limited and exposed oil fleet," he added. Iran earlier accused the US of attacking an Iranian tanker near Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf, semi-official Iranian news agency Tasnim reported. Local sources quoted by Tasnim said there were no casualties and that the tanker's crew was being evacuated. US President Donald Trump had on August 31 posted a brief message on social media accompanied by an AI-generated video, saying Kharg Island was being "blown to smithereens". Kharg Island is strategically important to Iran's oil industry. Iran is the third-largest producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and has historically depended heavily on the island as a key transit point for crude exports. Before the outbreak of the US-Iran war, Kharg Island handled around 90 per cent of Iran's crude oil exports, making any military action around the facility potentially significant for the country's energy revenues and global oil markets. The latest strikes underscore the growing risks to Iranian oil shipments and regional maritime security as tensions between the US and Iran continue to intensify.

Jaishankar to Address UN General Assembly on September 26

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is scheduled to address the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 26, according to a revised provisional list of speakers released by the UN. The 81st session of the UN General Assembly will begin on September 8, with world leaders set to address the 193-member organisation during the General Debate from September 22 to 28. Jaishankar is scheduled to speak during the afternoon session on September 26. Jaishankar also addressed world leaders from the UN lectern last year, and his upcoming appearance is expected to provide India with an opportunity to outline its position on major international developments and global challenges. Brazil will traditionally be the first country to speak when the General Debate opens on September 22, followed by the United States. US President Donald Trump is scheduled to address world leaders from the iconic UN General Assembly podium on September 22. It will be his second address to the UN session



during his second term in the White House. The 81st session will be presided over by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, who was elected in June to lead the 193-member UN organisation. The annual high-level gathering is considered the busiest diplomatic period at the United Nations Headquarters, bringing together heads of state, government leaders

and senior officials for discussions on pressing international issues. This year's session comes amid continuing geopolitical conflicts across several regions. The months-long US-Israel war against Iran has had a major impact on countries of the Global South and least developed nations, particularly through rising food and fuel costs linked to continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.

Several high-level meetings are also scheduled during the General Assembly session. These include a commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, a meeting on climate action and a just transition, and a high-level meeting addressing existential threats posed by sea-level rise. The agenda will also include discussions on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, along with a plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Heads of government from Bangladesh and Nepal are scheduled to address the General Debate on September 24, followed by Pakistan on September 25. The session will also mark the final high-level General Assembly gathering for current UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, whose second five-year term ends in December. The selection process for the next UN chief is underway, with attention focused on whether the 80-year-old organisation will appoint a woman to the top post for the first time in its history.

USS Abraham Lincoln Returns With Heavy Rust After 286 Days at Sea

The USS Abraham Lincoln has arrived at a Thai port after an unusually long deployment, drawing attention to extensive rust covering the nearly 1,100-foot aircraft carrier. The warship docked at Laem Chabang on the Gulf of Thailand, south of Bangkok, on Wednesday after spending 286 days at sea, according to the US Navy. The carrier left San Diego last November and spent months conducting combat and blockade operations against Iran in the Middle East. Its heavily corroded hull has highlighted the physical toll of an extended deployment, although naval experts say such rust is not unexpected for a ship that remains at sea for prolonged periods. Carl Schuster, a former US Navy captain, told CNN that rust along the waterline is common on vessels that have spent more than 60 days continuously operating at sea. He explained that crews cannot carry out extensive hull maintenance while a carrier is deployed, particularly during combat operations. Removing the corrosion requires



workers to reach the waterline, sand away the rust, apply two coats of rust-preventative primer and then add two coats of naval grey paint. Schuster estimated that the Lincoln could require about 30 days of preservation work to remove all the rust. Some urgent repairs could begin

during the carrier's stay in Thailand, although the short port visit means only high-priority maintenance is expected. Schuster said the bow and forward hull would likely receive attention first because those areas experience greater exposure to corrosive salt water and the stresses created by

rough seas. The Lincoln's visit to Laem Chabang is expected to last several days and provides the crew with its first significant rest-and-relaxation break following the demanding deployment. However, the ship's condition is not the only concern associated with its prolonged time at sea. Reports have also pointed to low morale among some crew members, with supply shortages reportedly contributing to dissatisfaction. At least one incident involving a crew member going overboard has also been reported. The developments illustrate the challenges faced by naval personnel and equipment during extended operations far from home ports. While surface corrosion is largely a maintenance issue, prolonged deployments can also place considerable pressure on crews, logistics and operational readiness. For the USS Abraham Lincoln, the Thailand stop therefore represents both a much-needed break for its sailors and an opportunity to begin addressing the physical effects of nearly 10 months at sea.

Sri Lanka Arrests Ex-President's Son Over \$800,000 Airbus Bribe

Sri Lankan anti-graft authorities have arrested lawmaker Namal Rajapaksa, son of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, over allegations that he received \$800,000 in connection with a major Airbus aircraft deal. The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) arrested Namal Rajapaksa after questioning him about the



\$2.3 billion transaction involving Sri Lankan Airlines. Colombo Chief Magistrate Asanga Bodaragama ordered the 40-year-old politician to remain in custody for two weeks while investigators continue their probe. CIABOC told the court that Rajapaksa received \$800,000 from money allegedly paid by European aircraft manufacturer Airbus to Sri Lankan politicians and officials to secure the deal. A Sri Lankan businessman is alleged to have arranged the transfer through two Singapore bank accounts. Rajapaksa's lawyer Nishantha Dayananda sought bail, but the court rejected the request. The investigation has also focused on former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was questioned by CIABOC in May over allegations that he received kickbacks linked to the aircraft purchase. The Rajapaksa family has denied receiving bribes and has described the corruption allegations as politically motivated. Former Sri Lankan Airlines chief executive Kapila Chandrasena told investigators in March that he had handed nearly \$500,000 in kickbacks to the senior Rajapaksa. Chandrasena was found dead at a relative's home in May, shortly before he was due to be rearrested. The cause of death has not been established. A joint investigation by US, British and French authorities had previously found that Airbus agreed to pay about \$16 million in bribes in Sri Lanka. Around \$1.7 million was allegedly routed to Chandrasena before the scandal emerged. The payments were connected to the purchase of 10 Airbus aircraft, a transaction that required cabinet approval during Mahinda Rajapaksa's presidency from 2005 to 2015. Court submissions stated that Chandrasena initially told investigators he had paid Mahinda Rajapaksa 60 million rupees, equivalent to about \$461,000 at the time, in three instalments in 2013. He later withdrew the allegation, saying it had been made under pressure. The corruption case comes as Sri Lankan Airlines continues to face severe financial difficulties. The national carrier has accumulated losses estimated at nearly \$2 billion, while repeated efforts to privatise the debt-laden airline have failed.

EU-India Agri-Food Trade Set to Double by 2032

India and the European Union are poised to significantly expand their agri-food trade, with bilateral commerce in the sector expected to double to 10 billion by 2032, driven by changing consumer preferences, rising demand for healthy and premium foods and the anticipated India-EU Free Trade Agreement. Industry leaders and trade officials said India's food processing sector is undergoing rapid transformation, with the level of agricultural produce being processed expected to rise from the current 16-17 per cent to 25-30 per cent by 2030. Government efforts to formalise the sector and strengthen infrastructure are expected to support this expansion. "The Indian food processing industry is valued at over US\$500 billion (estimated), with immense potential to convert India's strong agricultural production into value-added products, improve quality and shelf life, and expand exports," said J.P. Dongre, deputy agricultural marketing advisor &



director at Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MOFPI). Dongre said MOFPI is supporting micro, small, medium and large entrepreneurs through financial assistance for modern machinery, packaging infrastructure and cold-chain facilities. He was speaking on the sidelines of a precursor event for Anuga Select India and Anuga FoodTec India 2026. The co-located trade fairs will be

held from September 29 to October 1, 2026, at the BEC in Mumbai. The events are positioned as a major B2B marketplace connecting manufacturers, global suppliers, importers, distributors, HoReCa leaders and technology providers across agrifoods, dairy, beverages, fine foods and food processing. India's food processing level has increased sharply from 3-4 per cent a decade ago to 16-17 per cent

currently. Dongre said the expected rise to 25-30 per cent by 2030 could bring India closer to processing levels seen in leading European countries. Raghav Jadli, president of All India Food Producers Association, said Anuga FoodTec India provides opportunities beyond product promotion, including joint ventures, technology partnerships and stronger import-export cooperation. "EU-India bilateral trade in agri-food products currently stands at around 5 billion, accounting for only about 4 per cent of total bilateral trade of approximately 125 billion," said Pawel Stachowiak, Counsellor Trade & Economic Affair - European Union. Volker Klima, Head of Agriculture & Food Division, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, New Delhi, said Germany would reinforce its presence through a dedicated pavilion featuring at least 12 companies from the food, beverages, confectionery and processing sectors.

NSE Gets Sebi Nod for Mega IPO



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has cleared the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), paving the way for one of the country's biggest initial public offerings (IPOs). The proposed issue is expected to raise around Rs 30,000-31,000 crore through an offer for sale (OFS) by existing shareholders. The NSE IPO is set to become the second-largest public offering in India, behind the proposed Jio Platforms IPO, which recently received Sebi approval and is expected to raise around Rs 37,000-38,000 crore through fresh equity issuance. Sebi's approval for NSE came a day after the Supreme Court accepted settlement terms reached between Sebi and NSE concerning past regulatory lapses in the co-location and dark fibre cases. The settlement removes a major regulatory hurdle that had delayed the exchange's listing plans for several years. NSE had filed its DRHP with Sebi for the second time in June 2026. Its first draft offer documents were submitted in December 2016 for an IPO of around Rs 10,000 crore through an OFS. However, regulatory scrutiny linked to the co-location issue kept the listing process on hold for nearly a decade. The shareholders proposing to sell shares include State Bank of India, MS Strategic (Mauritius), Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Aranda Investments (Mauritius), Bank of Baroda, Stock Holding Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India, The New India Assurance Company, National Insurance and United India Insurance Company. NSE's largest public shareholder, Life Insurance Corporation of India, will not sell any shares through the proposed IPO. NSE is expected to become the third Indian stock exchange to be listed, after Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). NSE began operations on June 30, 1994, while BSE, established on July 9, 1875, is Asia's oldest stock exchange. Market expert and Graded Financial Services founder Thakur Ajit Singh said the IPO could have an impact extending beyond the exchange sector. He said NSE's unlisted-market valuation of around Rs 4.88 lakh crore, or \$58 billion, could create new valuation benchmarks for market infrastructure institutions, depositories, asset management companies and retail brokerage platforms. As of March 31, 2026, NSE was India's largest exchange by total cash-market and equity-derivatives turnover and ranked third globally by the number of cash-equity trades, according to the World Federation of Exchanges. Its listing will add NSE to an expanding group of listed Indian market infrastructure institutions, including CDSL, NSDL, BSE and MCX.

Scapia, Axis Bank Launch Travel-Focused Credit Card

Scapia and Axis Bank have launched the Scapia Axis Bank Credit Card, targeting India's growing community of new-generation travellers with a combination of digital payments, travel rewards and booking services through a single platform. The card integrates payments, rewards and travel on the Scapia app, allowing customers to manage spending, book journeys and redeem rewards. Eligible everyday spends and UPI transactions can earn rewards, which can be redeemed for flights, hotel stays, experiences, shopping and other travel-related offerings. Available on both Mastercard and RuPay networks, the card is designed to provide a digital experience covering everything from everyday payments to travel bookings. The partnership combines Axis Bank's capabilities in cards and payments with Scapia's travel-focused platform. Anil Goteti, Founder and CEO, Scapia, said the partnership marked a new chapter for the company as more young Indians travel domestically and internationally. He said Scapia was built around the idea of giving travellers an



integrated platform to spend, book trips, shop for travel and earn rewards. According to Goteti, Scapia users have already travelled to more than 175 countries. Arnika Dixit, Group Head - Cards, Payments and Wealth Management, Axis Bank, said the partnership reflected a focus on simple, digital-first products aligned with changing travel habits. She said combining Axis Bank's payment capabilities with

Scapia's travel ecosystem would create a more connected experience, offering greater convenience, flexibility and value throughout the customer journey. Cardholders can earn up to 10 per cent rewards on eligible everyday spending and up to 20 per cent rewards in the form of Scapia Coins on eligible travel bookings. The coins can be redeemed for flights, stays, visas, experiences and other offerings available

through the Scapia platform.. For international travellers, the card offers zero forex markup and Smart Forex features intended to provide greater visibility and control over overseas spending. Airport benefits include access to lounges, dining and premium retail, while onboarding and card management are handled digitally through the app. Gautam Aggarwal, President, India & South Asia, Mastercard, said travel had become a major segment of India's consumer economy and that travellers increasingly expected secure, seamless and globally accepted payment options. Sohini Rajola, Executive Director Growth, NPCI, said RuPay's integration with UPI had expanded digital payment convenience and that the partnership would combine travel benefits with the network's broad acceptance. For Scapia, the launch marks its third banking collaboration and an important step towards reaching more Indian travellers. For Axis Bank, it strengthens its co-branded card strategy and presence in travel and digital-first segments.

Govt Rejects 'No Takers' Claim on Coal Gasification Scheme



The government has rejected reports claiming that its Rs 37,500-crore Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects has failed to attract applications, calling such conclusions premature with the first-round application deadline still approaching. The Ministry of Coal clarified that applications can be submitted until September 7, 2026, and the actual response to the scheme cannot be assessed conclusively until the application window closes. In a statement, the Ministry of Coal said reports suggesting that the scheme had received no applications did not reflect the current status of the application process. It stressed that the number of applications received in the first round could only be determined after the deadline. The Union Cabinet approved the Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects on May 13, 2026, with a total financial outlay of Rs 37,500 crore. The initiative aims to accelerate coal and lignite gasification in India and encourage the conversion of domestic coal and lignite into higher-value products such as syngas, methanol, ammonia and urea. The government expects the scheme to reduce dependence on imported feedstock while strengthening India's energy and economic security. Following the Cabinet approval, the Ministry of Coal conducted outreach programmes and stakeholder engagements to attract potential project developers. Roadshows were organised in New Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai, involving representatives from State Governments, public and private sector companies, technology providers, investors, financial institutions and other stakeholders. The Ministry said Talcher Fertilisers Limited (TFL) and NTPC Limited had already submitted their respective applications through the online portal. It said this demonstrated that claims that the scheme had "no takers" were factually incorrect. The large scale and technical complexity of coal and lignite gasification projects require considerable preparation before applications can be submitted. Prospective applicants have to prepare Pre-Feasibility Reports, examine technology options, arrange coal, lignite and other feedstock, evaluate project economics and develop detailed project proposals. Officials therefore expect additional applications to be submitted as the September 7 deadline approaches. The clarification comes amid growing government efforts to promote domestic coal utilisation beyond conventional power generation. Through gasification, coal and lignite can serve as feedstock for industrial products, potentially opening new avenues for domestic manufacturing and reducing reliance on imported raw materials. With the application window yet to close, the Ministry maintained that any assessment of the scheme's response at this stage would be premature.

Trump Venezuela Oil Deal Alarms US Energy Industry



US President Donald Trump's sweeping oil agreement with Venezuela has triggered unease among parts of the US energy industry, after the administration secured a 35% stake in a private company with long-term rights to develop Venezuelan oil fields. Trump has described the agreement as potentially "the greatest deal ever made," but some US oil executives believe the arrangement could disrupt ongoing commercial negotiations and place them at a disadvantage in accessing some of Venezuela's most promising oil assets. People familiar with the matter told Bloomberg that several industry leaders were surprised by the agreement. They requested anonymity to discuss the issue candidly, amid concerns about publicly challenging a deal strongly backed by Trump. Interest from US and international energy companies in rebuilding Venezuela's severely degraded oil industry had intensified in recent months. A ceremony in Caracas on Wednesday was attended by acting President Delcy Rodriguez, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright and executives from Chevron Corp., Eni SpA and GE Vernova Inc., which signed investment agreements. However, those agreements were overshadowed by Trump's announcement on his social media platform that the US government would take a 35% stake in North American Blue Energy Partners (NABEP), a private oil company led by investor Alejandro Betancourt. NABEP has secured 100-year rights to develop 17 Venezuelan oil fields. The arrangement was marshalled by the US State Department and the Pentagon and reportedly caught several energy companies off guard, including firms already involved in commercial discussions in Venezuela. The development highlights a difficult balancing act for the Trump administration. Washington wants to accelerate investment, increase oil production and generate revenue to help rebuild Venezuela. At the same time, major oil developers capable of increasing production of the country's heavy crude have remained cautious because of continuing political and economic risks following the capture of longtime President Nicolás Maduro. Supporters of the agreement argue that the arrangement could help bring Venezuelan crude back into global markets more quickly. Critics within the industry, however, worry that the government's involvement could create a powerful competitor to private US producers. Under the agreement, the US will hold a 35% stake in NABEP and receive the right to 20% of the company's production at cost. Kevin Book, managing director at Washington-based ClearView Energy Partners, said government ownership could create an incentive to protect the investment. "The question," Book said, is whether the arrangement will complement the broader oil industry or compete with it. Administration officials have attempted to reassure energy companies, arguing that the NABEP arrangement could provide greater security for private-sector investments in Venezuela.

Forex Reserves Hit Record \$740.80 Billion



India's foreign exchange reserves have climbed to a new record of \$740.80 billion, boosted by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) special foreign exchange measures and strong inflows through swap facilities. The reserves increased by \$11.475 billion during the week ended August 28, taking the total well above the previous record of \$728.494 billion recorded for the week ended February 27. The latest rise also marked the ninth consecutive week of growth in India's forex reserves. The increase comes after the RBI introduced special swap windows to attract dollar inflows and strengthen its ability to manage pressure on the rupee. During the West Asia war, the central bank had sold dollars to stabilise the currency after the rupee came under significant pressure. On June 8, the RBI announced the USD-INR Forex Swap facility covering Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) or FCNRR(B) deposits, external commercial borrowings (ECBs) and overseas foreign currency borrowings (OFCB) inflows. Radhika Rao, senior economist and executive director at DBS Bank, said the intervention approach appeared to be changing. She noted that the USD-INR exchange rate, which had remained relatively steady despite strong FCNR inflows, had recently moved sharply lower, testing below the 95 level and reaching the mid-94 range amid intervention dollar sales and broader movements in the US currency. India's forex reserves consist of foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Foreign currency assets, the largest component, rose by \$9.34 billion during the week to \$600.67 billion. Gold reserves increased by \$2.19 billion to \$116.41 billion. India's SDR holdings with the IMF stood at \$18.81 billion, declining by \$43 million during the week but remaining \$188 million higher than at the end of March. The country's reserve position with the IMF fell by \$11 million to \$4.914 billion, although it remained \$106 million above the end-March level. Meanwhile, the RBI also absorbed more than Rs 6.02 lakh crore from the banking system through two variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions as surplus liquidity remained exceptionally high. In one three-day VRRR auction, banks parked Rs 5.41 lakh crore with the RBI against a notified amount of Rs 7 lakh crore. The cut-off rate was 5.24 per cent. In another three-day auction with a notified amount of Rs 1.5 lakh crore, banks deposited Rs 60,419 crore with the central bank at the same rate.

Ocean Cleanup Chief Invites River Cleaner to Join Team

A 21-year-old student from Madhya Pradesh has received an unexpected job invitation after his efforts to clean a polluted river attracted the attention of Ocean Cleanup CEO Boyan Slat. Surendra Singh Chaudhary, popularly known on social media as "Bittu Tabahi", has been cleaning the Ajnar River in Biaora largely on his own. The BSc student began the cleanup campaign on January 26, 2026, taking on the task of removing waste and debris that had accumulated in the river. His efforts recently gained wider attention online after photographs showing the condition of the river before and after the cleanup were shared on social media. The

images highlighted the difference made by Chaudhary's persistent work and prompted a response from Slat. Reacting to a post featuring Chaudhary and his cleanup mission, Ocean Cleanup CEO Boyan Slat wrote a brief but striking message: "Come work for us."The invitation quickly added an unexpected dimension to Chaudhary's environmental mission. What began as an individual attempt to improve the condition of a local river has now attracted recognition from a global organisation known for tackling plastic pollution and cleaning waterways. Chaudhary has continued his work despite facing several challenges. His cleanup activities have exposed him



to health risks, including encounters with snakes. He



has also suffered infections in his limbs while working near a local temple.Despite those difficulties, Chaudhary

has continued removing waste from the river and documenting his efforts through photographs. His social media posts have helped bring attention to the condition of the Ajnar River and the importance of local participation in environmental cleanup efforts.The campaign has also received support from the local civic administration. Biaora Municipal Corporation Sub-Engineer Rupesh Kumar Netam said the municipality has been providing assistance to Chaudhary by supplying heavy machinery to remove accumulated waste. "There is a young man named Surendra Singh Chaudhary who regularly cleans the Ajnar River in Biaora, the municipi-

pality also provides him with support in this effort.Chaudhary's story has since become an example of how an individual initiative can attract institutional support and international attention. His work demonstrates that environmental action does not always begin with a large organisation or a major campaign.For now, Slat's invitation remains a remarkable recognition of Chaudhary's efforts. A student who started cleaning a polluted river largely by himself has found his work noticed far beyond Biaora, with a potential opportunity to work with one of the world's prominent environmental organisations now on the horizon.

Apple Begins Ternus Era With Major Product Wave



Apple is preparing to enter a new phase under Chief Executive Officer John Ternus, with the company set to unveil a major lineup of new devices and product categories over the coming years. The shift will begin with Apple's September 9 "Surprise and Shine" event, where Ternus is expected to take the stage to introduce the latest iPhones and Apple Watches. However, the upcoming event is being viewed as only the opening chapter of a much larger product cycle that could extend through 2026, 2027 and beyond. For much of the past 15 years, Apple has concentrated on improving established product lines and expanding services that generate recurring revenue. Apart from launches such as the Apple Watch and AirPods, the company has introduced relatively few entirely new device categories. That approach is now expected to change. Apple has reportedly been developing a pipeline of new products for around five years, with several fresh form factors and product areas in development. Ternus has already signalled his enthusiasm about the company's future. In a message to employees, he said he was excited about the major launch ahead as well as products already being developed and ideas that had yet to be imagined. Although Tim Cook was Apple's CEO when many of the products were conceived and developed, they are largely associated with Ternus' team. Cook's decision to allow Ternus to introduce the products has added significance to the leadership transition. Ternus formally took command on September 1, just days before the major product event. The timing has positioned the new CEO at the centre of Apple's next stage of innovation. One of the biggest products expected in the rollout is a foldable iPhone, internally referred to by some Apple employees as the iPhone Ultra. The device is expected to feature a large internal screen and a smaller external display, folding to roughly the size of a passport. Reported features include an A20 Pro chip, Apple's in-house C2 modem, Touch ID support, split-view multitasking and an advanced hinge designed to make the display crease less noticeable. The phone is expected to have regular and ultrawide-angle cameras but no telephoto lens, along with dark and light colour options. The foldable iPhone is also expected to carry a premium price of more than \$2,000. Apple's product plans and timelines could still change, with some projects potentially delayed or cancelled. The company, based in Cupertino, California, declined to comment on the reported product pipeline.

Founder Defends 'Disgusting' Website After Job Seeker's Criticism

A startup founder's unusual response to a job seeker's blunt criticism of his company website has sparked attention online, after he thanked her for the feedback but said the website was intentionally designed to attract a particular audience and repel others. The interaction began when a job seeker contacted Pritam Kudev, founder and CEO of men's beauty and personal care brand Mannlich, through LinkedIn. After exploring the company's website and products, she offered detailed feedback about what she believed could be improved. The job seeker said she "cringed hard" after visiting the website and described it as "very repelling and borderline disgusting." According to her, the site appeared to focus heavily on pictures of shirtless men and men applying products rather than presenting the products in a more carefully curated manner. She said she liked the concept of skincare for men but added that



she would not return to the website to purchase a product for her father. She suggested making the platform simpler, more gender-friendly and more welcoming to potential customers. The woman also identified herself as a developer and pointed out that the website appeared to be lagging. Since she was currently looking for work, she offered to help improve the website and said she

hoped her suggestions would be useful. Kudev responded by thanking her for the honest feedback. However, he explained that the website had been created for a specific type of consumer base. He said the intention was also to repel people who did not fit that target audience, adding that the company was glad the website had achieved that objective.

Kudev later shared a screenshot of the exchange on LinkedIn, bringing wider attention to the conversation. While posting it, he questioned the outreach approach being used by young job seekers and wrote, "Whoever is teaching these kids to use such templates for outreach. Where are your legs?" The exchange also highlighted the increasingly informal nature of recruitment outreach on professional networking platforms. While unsolicited feedback can be risky for job seekers, the episode showed how direct criticism can sometimes lead to an unexpected public conversation between a candidate and a company founder. Kudev also invited candidates interested in working with Mannlich to apply for opportunities in marketing, content and operations. He specifically asked people who were not "Repelled" by the website to share their portfolios, turning the unusual criticism into a broader recruitment appeal.

German Police Check Indian Tourists, Leave Former Cop Impressed

Former Delhi Police ACP Rajindar Pathania has recalled two experiences from a trip to Germany that gave him a different perspective on policing, public service and civic responsibility. After more than 38 years in the police service, Pathania said one particular encounter with German police left a lasting impression. His tour bus, carrying a group of Indian travellers, was stopped and surrounded by German police officers. The passengers were taken to a police station, where they were asked to get off the bus one by one. The officers checked their passports and visas and also searched their luggage. While the security procedure initially made Pathania concerned, it was the way the luggage inspection was handled that particularly caught his attention. According to Pathania, German police officers personally picked up the passengers' bags, carried them to the baggage scanner and returned them to the bus after the inspection was completed. For the former police officer, the incident demonstrated that enforcing the law does not necessarily have to come at the expense of dignity or respect. He said the experience made him reflect on the meaning of wearing a uniform and the responsibilities that come with exercising authority. Pathania said policing can involve strict enforcement while still being carried out with sensitivity and a sense of service. He wrote that the dignity of a uniform is not merely about authority, but also about using that authority with humanity.His second memorable



experience in Germany involved something far removed from a police station - the cleanliness of public spaces.Pathania said he was struck by the condition of roads and public areas, where he observed little unnecessary litter. He shared short videos from his trip to highlight the surroundings and questioned whether Germany's cleanliness could be attributed entirely to better government systems.While acknowledging the importance of administration, Pathania argued that citizens' attitudes and their sense of

responsibility were equally significant. Governments can build infrastructure, employ sanitation workers and conduct cleanliness campaigns, he said, but people themselves have a major role in keeping public spaces clean.He urged Indians to look beyond simply blaming authorities for sanitation problems and consider everyday behaviour. He raised questions about who throws rubbish on roads, dirties public walls and fails to treat shared spaces with the same care given to their homes.For Pathania, the two expe-

riences carried connected lessons. The first concerned how public servants should exercise authority, while the second focused on how citizens should use their freedom responsibly.He said travelling abroad should not only involve admiring another country's beauty and infrastructure. It can also provide lessons that travellers can bring home.Pathania concluded that a cleaner and better India requires responsibility from both public servants and citizens, with each playing a role in improving society.

Hybrid Work Wins After Pune Woman Says WFH 'Fried' Her Brain

A Pune woman's experience of working entirely from home for two weeks has sparked an online conversation about the benefits and drawbacks of remote work. Mohini Chavan said the temporary shift from her usual hybrid routine left her mentally exhausted and trapped in a repetitive daily cycle. Chavan shared her experience on Instagram, explaining that her organisation normally follows a hybrid working model but allows employees to work from home for two weeks during the year. While the arrangement can be particularly useful for employees who live away from their hometowns and

want to spend time with family, Chavan said the unchanged workload and lack of a change in surroundings made the experience difficult for her. "I don't know how people do permanent work from home, bro. Salute to them!" Chavan said while describing her experience. According to Chavan, working from home did not reduce her professional responsibilities. She continued to complete her regular workload, but the absence of an office environment meant that her days began to feel almost identical. She said that after spending two weeks mostly indoors, she felt mentally drained. "What I've



realised over these two weeks is that my brain is completely fried," she said, adding that she felt as though she had barely stepped outside during the entire period. The repetitive routine also extended into her weekends. Chavan said she went out for only one day, while the rest of the time followed the same pattern of working, eating and remaining at home. "Even during the weekend, I only went out for a day. Otherwise, every day has felt exactly the same," she said.For Chavan, the experience highlighted why she prefers a hybrid work arrangement rather than permanent remote employment. She said

going to the office provides a much-needed break from the home environment and offers opportunities for social interaction. Under her usual hybrid setup, Chavan gets to meet friends, have conversations, learn new things and experience a change in surroundings. She also said commuting and travelling occasionally help break the monotony of staying indoors."At least the hybrid system feels like the best balance to me," she said, explaining that spending two days in the office allows her to meet people, try different things, learn, talk and share experiences.Chavan's comments reflect a broader debate around

workplace flexibility, where remote work can offer convenience and time with family but may also create feelings of isolation and repetition for some employees.Her Instagram post carried the message, "Salute to permanent work from home employees," acknowledging those who have adapted to a fully remote lifestyle. For Chavan, however, the return to her hybrid routine appears to be something to look forward to. After two weeks of working from home, the office now represents more than just a workplace - it offers the social interaction and change of environment she says she missed.

Stuttgart Thrash Cologne to Bounce Back

Stuttgart produced a commanding response to their opening-day defeat against Bayern Munich, cruising past Cologne 4-1 in the Bundesliga. After suffering a heavy 5-1 loss to Bayern in their previous outing, Stuttgart dominated the contest and delivered the reaction they had been seeking. Stuttgart, who secured a return to the Champions League after finishing fourth last season, controlled proceedings for much of the match. Grischka Proemel said the team wanted to respond strongly following the Bayern defeat and was pleased with the performance. Cologne managed to keep Stuttgart at bay during the opening stages, but their resistance ended in the 39th minute when Bilal El Khannouss produced a brilliant individual effort. The former Leicester winger raced through the Cologne defence, nutmegging two players before sending a low strike into the bottom corner.



El Khannouss described the goal as "pure instinct", saying it was not something that could be trained and happened in the moment. He also expressed hope that it would be the first of many goals he scores during the season. Stuttgart continued to dominate after the break and doubled their advantage on the hour mark. El

Khannouss initiated the move down the flank before finding Germany defender Maximilian Mittelstaedt. The defender delivered a cut-back into the area, allowing Proemel to guide his shot into the net. Stuttgart striker Ermedin Demirovic then added another goal with 15 minutes remaining.

Demirovic charged into space down the right channel before finishing from a tight angle to put the hosts firmly in control. Cologne managed to pull one goal back through debutant Mikey Moore, who is on loan from Tottenham. Moore burst into the box and sent a square ball across the area, but the delivery ultimately resulted in an own goal from Stuttgart defender Ramon Hendriks. However, Stuttgart had the final say in spectacular fashion. In the final minute, Josha Vagnoman produced a stunning long-range effort, crashing a looping clearance into the top corner from outside the box. The emphatic victory allowed Stuttgart to quickly move beyond their disappointing defeat to Bayern Munich and provided a major confidence boost as they look to build on last season's fourth-place Bundesliga finish and their return to Champions League football.

Raina Questions India Exile During Kohli-Kumble Era



Former India batter Suresh Raina has opened up about his exclusion from the national team during the Virat Kohli-Anil Kumble era, revealing that he sought answers from the captain and coaching staff but never received a concrete explanation. Raina, who retired from international cricket in 2020 at the age of 33, was left out of India's squad for the 2019 ODI World Cup in England. Reflecting on the period, he said he and Yuvraj Singh initially failed the Yo-Yo fitness test but later cleared it after returning to domestic cricket and scoring runs. Speaking to former India batter Aakash Chopra, Raina said he repeatedly questioned the team management about his absence. "I asked questions, I didn't get answers. So I asked questions, talked to people... captain and coaches," he said. Raina acknowledged that every captain has different preferences and that team combinations can change with leadership. He also admitted that he could have performed better during that phase and felt his experience, along with Yuvraj Singh's, could have been valuable for the 2019 World Cup campaign. "Every captain has his own team," Raina said, pointing out that different players received preference when the leadership changed. He added that another batter and wicketkeeper were chosen for the World Cup, while suggesting that circumstances had changed significantly by then. The former left-handed batter also indicated that his knee injury may have been used as a reason for his omission. Raina questioned why he and Yuvraj were not considered after proving their fitness and returning to domestic cricket. He recalled that the team had become one of the fittest sides during that period and said players were expected to meet demanding fitness standards. Raina also contrasted the Yo-Yo testing conducted under Gary Kirsten with the process used later. Despite the disappointment surrounding his international career, Raina said he has no regrets. His comments have now renewed attention on the selection decisions that shaped India's squad before the 2019 World Cup and ultimately contributed to the end of his international career.

Yuki Bhambri Eyes Deep US Open Run With Michael Venus



India tennis player Yuki Bhambri will reunite with New Zealand's Michael Venus for the men's doubles at the US Open 2026, hoping to build on last year's breakthrough semifinal appearance and make an even deeper run. Bhambri enjoyed a memorable campaign at Flushing Meadows last year, reaching the last four and coming within one victory of a place in the final. The experience, he believes, has created a different mindset heading into this year's tournament. The Indian said the deep run has brought a "mental switch" as he prepares to return to the Grand Slam. He also recalled his strong memories from last year and expressed confidence ahead of the final Grand Slam of the season. Bhambri said his previous success in both singles and doubles, combined with his semifinal appearance, had made last year a breakthrough moment in his career. He added that he is excited to return to the tournament and compete again. The Delhi-born player also has a strong connection with New York, describing it as one of his favourite cities. Bhambri said the city's atmosphere, its scale and the support of Indian fans make playing at the US Open a particularly special experience. He recalled attending matches at Arthur Ashe Stadium simply to experience the energy generated by the crowd. According to Bhambri, the presence of a large Indian community adds another dimension to the tournament, with fans regularly turning up to support him and other Indian players. Bhambri and Venus will now begin their campaign together with ambitions of another extended run. However, their opening match presents a difficult challenge, as they will face two American players. The Indian stressed that the unpredictable nature of the doubles draw means the pair cannot afford to look beyond their first-round assignment. Several upsets have already highlighted the competitiveness of the tournament, making every match potentially difficult. Bhambri said the partnership will approach the tournament one match at a time while maintaining the ambition of going all the way. He acknowledged that the first-round opponents are tough but said he and Venus are looking forward to competing together again. With last year's semifinal run providing both confidence and motivation, Bhambri will look to combine that experience with his partnership with Venus as they chase a place in the latter stages of the US Open 2026.

India Face Pakistan in Crucial Women's Asia Cup Clash

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has created history by becoming the first cricketer, male or female, to captain in 150 T20I matches as India take on Pakistan in a highly anticipated Group A clash of the Women's Asia Cup 2026. Pakistan captain Fatima Sana won the toss and elected to bat first, but her side endured a disastrous start. Pakistan were struggling at 32/4 after seven overs, with India's spinners causing major problems for the Pakistan batting line-up. India spinner Shree Charani led the attack with three wickets, putting Pakistan under severe pressure during the early stages of the innings. India's disciplined bowling ensured that Pakistan failed to build any meaningful partnership and were forced onto the defensive from the outset. The match carries significant importance for Pakistan, who are looking to secure their place in the semi-finals. Pakistan began their campaign with a victory over



Thailand and need another strong performance to strengthen their position in the group. India, meanwhile, have already booked their place in the semi-finals following emphatic victories over Thailand and Hong Kong in their opening two Group A matches. The clash against Pakistan therefore gives Harmanpreet

Kaur's side an opportunity to maintain their winning momentum while testing themselves against one of their biggest rivals. The match is also attracting considerable attention because of Smriti Mandhana's pursuit of another major record. The India superstar batter is 78 runs away from becoming the highest-ever

run-scorer in women's T20I cricket. Mandhana has consistently been among the leading performers in the shortest format and could further strengthen her place in the record books if she produces a substantial innings against Pakistan. Her battle with the Pakistan bowling attack is expected to be one of the major highlights of the contest. For Pakistan, the immediate priority is to recover from the early collapse and post a competitive total. With four wickets already down, their middle order faces a difficult task against an Indian bowling attack that has quickly gained control. India's strong start and Harmanpreet Kaur's landmark captaincy milestone have added further significance to an already high-profile encounter, while Pakistan must find a way back into the contest to keep their semifinal hopes alive.

Arshdeep Singh, Samreen Kaur Get Matching Tattoos

India pacer Arshdeep Singh and actor-model Samreen Kaur have taken their relationship into the spotlight after revealing matching tattoos featuring each other's handwriting and small red hearts. The development comes shortly after Arshdeep confirmed his relationship with Samreen through Instagram, ending weeks of speculation surrounding their reported romance. Samreen Kaur, born on September 7, 1999, in Jammu and Kashmir, is an actor, model and social media influencer. She completed her BCom (Honours) from Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune, before pursuing modelling and acting. Her career gained attention after she represented Jammu and Kashmir at the Femina Miss India 2018 pageant, where she emerged as a finalist. She subsequently worked on modelling assignments before entering films and digital projects. Samreen has appeared in the ZEE5 web series Nail Polish and fea-



tured in films including 83 and Sardaar Ji 2. She has also appeared in music videos with singers such as Jubin Nautiyal, Badshah and Guru Randhawa. Songs including Baawla and Tujhe Bhoolna Toh Chaaha helped increase her popularity. The relationship rumours surrounding Arshdeep and Samreen gained momentum during IPL 2026. Speculation began after a viral Snapchat post appeared to

show the India cricketer holding hands with a woman whom fans believed was Samreen. Social media users subsequently compared tattoos, accessories and outfits visible in the images with photographs shared by Samreen online. Her repeated appearances at Punjab Kings matches further intensified the speculation. Samreen attended Punjab Kings' clash against Mumbai Indians at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium and

was later seen supporting the franchise during matches in Chandigarh. Her presence at several games, combined with paparazzi sightings outside stadiums, led to increased discussion about her reported relationship with Arshdeep. Before the cricketer publicly confirmed their relationship, fans had already attempted to connect the pair through their social media activity, public appearances and travel posts. The matching tattoos now add another personal detail to their much-discussed relationship. By choosing each other's handwriting for the designs, Arshdeep and Samreen appear to have given the tattoos a distinctly personal significance. Arshdeep has established himself as an important member of India's pace attack, while Samreen continues to build her profile across acting, modelling and social media. Their relationship has consequently attracted attention from both cricket and entertainment audiences.



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is set for a busy period of cricket, but the young batting sensation is currently not part of India's red-ball plans, according to a report. The 15-year-old is, however, expected to remain an important option for India in T20Is as he continues to make rapid progress across formats. Sooryavanshi will feature in

the Duleep Trophy final before joining India's plans for the upcoming T20I series against Afghanistan. He is then expected to represent the country at the Asian Games. From October, he could also be involved in assignments against the West Indies and New Zealand. While his immediate pathway appears focused heavily on white-

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Not Yet in India's Red-Ball Plans

ball cricket, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is closely monitoring his development. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said the board wants Sooryavanshi and other emerging players to receive the right guidance so they can build long and successful careers. The BCCI recently held a review meeting attended by Devajit Saikia, India Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, T20I captain Shreyas Iyer, head coach Gautam Gambhir, Centre of Excellence (CoE) head VVS Laxman and other senior BCCI officials at the board's headquarters in Mumbai. Saikia stressed that the BCCI is taking Sooryavanshi's progress seriously and does not want his early success to result in a short-lived international career. He said the board hopes the youngster can serve India for many years, similar to legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar

and other players who became icons of Indian cricket. Sooryavanshi has already achieved several milestones at an extraordinary age. Recently, at 15 years and 157 days, he became the youngest player to score a half-century in Duleep Trophy history, breaking a 57-year-old record. He also impressed during India's series against Zimbabwe, scoring 151 runs in three matches as India completed a 3-0 clean sweep. His performances earned him his maiden Player of the Series award. With a demanding schedule ahead, Sooryavanshi will have opportunities to continue developing his T20 credentials. However, the latest report indicates that India's national red-ball setup is not currently considering him, suggesting the BCCI intends to manage his transition carefully rather than rush him into Test cricket.

Rajinikanth's Dharman Wraps Second Schedule

The makers of director Ashwath Marimuthu's eagerly awaited action entertainer Dharman have announced that the film's second schedule of shooting has been completed. The film features Tamil superstar Rajinikanth in the lead and is being produced by Raaj Kamal Films International, the production house of veteran actor and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan. Raaj Kamal Films International shared the update on its social media platforms along with a video clip, writing, "Dharman 2nd Schedule Wrapped. Swag Mode: ON." One of the scenes featured in the video shows Rajinikanth portraying a senior medical faculty member while lecturing junior doctors. The second schedule began on August 13, with the makers describing Rajinikanth's character as "The deadly doctor" while announcing the shoot. The project has generated considerable excitement among fans since its announcement, particularly because of Rajinikanth's unusual role as a doctor who takes on criminals. In June, the makers released a making video showcasing the process behind Rajinikanth's appearance in the film. Director Ashwath Marimuthu also shared a new poster featuring the superstar and revealed that the team had responded to audience interest regarding his hairstyle and look. Earlier, Raaj Kamal Films International released a glimpse video titled "THE OG SWAG" that offered a look at the making of the first look. The video showed accessories being arranged for Rajinikanth to choose from, while Ashwath demonstrated the exact pose he wanted the superstar to adopt. Kamal Haasan was also seen accompanying Rajinikanth, with the two legends of Tamil cinema exchanging pleasantries. While announcing the title, Kamal Haasan described the film with the phrase "Dharmame vellum!" meaning "Only Dharma will win", and referred to the project as Thalaivar173. The title poster showed Rajinikanth inside a hospital operation theatre, holding a scalpel, while appearing to stand over the body of a slain rowdy sheeter. Dharman has music by Anirudh, while Niketh Bommi is handling cinematography and Pradeep E Raghav is responsible for editing. National Award-winning duo Anbariv is choreographing the action sequences. The film is produced by Kamal Haasan and R Mahendran, with S Disney serving as co-producer. The latest schedule update has added to anticipation surrounding the project, particularly with Rajinikanth's character, action-driven storyline and the collaboration between the superstar and the production house led by Kamal Haasan.

Ram Gopal Varma Questions Teachers' Day

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma sparked debate on Teachers' Day with a provocative post explaining why he did not want to wish people a "Happy Teachers' Day". He argued that an individual who truly thinks independently would naturally resist being taught and that genuine



learning begins when students question what they are told. Taking to his X timeline, Ram Gopal Varma wrote a lengthy post challenging conventional ideas about education and teaching. He said blind learning was not education but "domestication" and argued that progress begins when a student realises that a teacher could be outdated or wrong. The director illustrated his argument with examples from history and popular culture. He referred to Albert Einstein, saying the scientist



disliked the

rigid Prussian school system but went on to develop the theory of relativity while working as a clerk. He also cited filmmaker Steven Spielberg, who became one of the most prolific directors despite being refused admission to a film academy. Ram Gopal Varma argued that these individuals advanced because they refused to simply follow the syllabus imposed by teachers. According to him, true learning involves unlearning what a teacher forces a student to accept. He further claimed that while he had witnessed successful engineers, doctors and lawyers, he had never seen a successful teacher. He argued that people who become truly successful tend to retain their knowledge as something unique rather than turning it into a public service. The filmmaker also questioned the broader role of teachers in society. He said that when knowledge is offered publicly rather than treated as a personal advantage, it loses its uniqueness. He argued that teachers could produce followers rather than leaders by encouraging students to conform instead of developing independent thinking. He also brought parents into his argument, saying well-meaning parents send children to teachers who, in his view, can weaken their ability to think independently and turn them into a socially conditioned herd. To reinforce his views, Ram Gopal Varma quoted renowned personalities including George Bernard Shaw, who wrote, "He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches," and Oscar Wilde, who said, "Anyone who is incapable of learning takes to teaching." Concluding his post, the director maintained his position by stating that he therefore did not want to wish people a "Happy Teachers' Day", adding the hashtag #HappyTeachersDay. His remarks quickly drew attention for their unconventional and sharply critical take on education and the traditional teacher-student relationship.

Nani Marks 18 Years in Cinema

Telugu star Nani has completed 18 years in the film industry as an actor and thanked his fans and audiences for their unwavering love and support. Reflecting on the milestone, Nani said he had never taken their affection for granted and assured them that he never would. Taking to his X timeline, Nani marked the completion of 18 years in cinema with a heartfelt message. "18 years. Officially an adult in cinema. Never took your love for granted. I won't ever," he wrote. Nani began his acting journey with Ashta Chamma, directed by Mohana Krishna Indraganti, which released on September 5, 2008. Over the years, he has evolved from an actor into one of Telugu cinema's prominent heroes and has also established himself as a producer. The actor is currently working on director Srikanth Odela's highly anticipated action entertainer The Paradise. Backed by SLV Cinemas, the film is scheduled to hit theatres on September 24. It was initially planned for release on March 26, 2026, before the makers postponed it first to August 21 and later to September 24. The recently released teaser has heightened expectations around the film. It opens with a voiceover questioning who the place belongs to, followed by Nani's dramatic arrival through an acrobatic stunt. Sporting two plaits and covered in blood, he is shown walking slowly while sipping what appears to be a beverage. Mohan Babu, who plays the antagonist, is seen addressing the people as "My beloved people of Paradise." The teaser then unfolds with intense action, violence and references to oppression and rebellion. A woman questions whether the government is meant for feudal lords or the people, while another voice calls upon the oppressed community to rise against tyranny. The teaser concludes with Nani, drenched in blood and carrying a chain made of blades, seated on a pile of bodies while warding off the evil eye. The visuals suggest that The Paradise will be a dark and intense action thriller centred on rebellion against oppression. The film is expected to release in eight languages: Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, English, Spanish, Bengali, Kannada and Malayalam.

Kamal Haasan Congratulates Bethlehem Kudumba Unit Team



Actor, producer and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan has congratulated the team of director Girish AD's Malayalam blockbuster 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit', starring Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju in the lead roles. Mythri Movie Makers, which is distributing the film in the Telugu states, shared a video of the core team meeting Kamal Haasan. The production house described the gathering as a special moment for the team following the film's strong performance and its Telugu release. The video shows Kamal Haasan warmly welcoming the team led by producer Fahadh Faasil. The members were seen interacting with the veteran actor before posing for photographs with him. 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit' has emerged as a

major box-office success, crossing the Rs 200-crore mark worldwide. The film, which released globally on August 21, has quickly developed into a blockbuster, adding to the growing popularity of Malayalam cinema beyond Kerala. The film's success has also prompted its makers to appeal to audiences to protect the theatrical experience. Bhavana Studios, the production house that distributed the film, recently asked viewers not to record or circulate snippets and key scenes from theatres on social media. Nivin Pauly shared the statement on his social media timelines with a request for public attention. Bhavana Studios thanked audiences for the strong response before urging them to avoid recording scenes and sharing them online so that viewers could experience the film's surprises on the big screen. The story of 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit' was written by Girish AD and Kiran Josey. Ajmal Sabu handled cinematography, while Vishnu Vijay composed the music. Akash Joseph Varghese served as the editor. The film's production began in September last year. Nivin Pauly had earlier described the project as something that would be "very special". Bhavana Studios is a production company partnered by director Dileesh Pothan, actor Fahadh Faasil and scenarist Syam Pushkaran. Its involvement in the film has further connected the project with prominent names from the Malayalam film industry. The meeting with Kamal Haasan comes as the film continues its theatrical run and expands its reach among Telugu-speaking audiences through Mythri Movie Makers. With its strong worldwide collections and growing audience response, 'Bethlehem Kudumba Unit' has become one of the notable Malayalam successes of the year, while Kamal Haasan's appreciation has added another high-profile moment to the film's celebrations.



Farah Khan Reveals AR Rahman Made Masakali for Om Shanti Om

Director and choreographer Farah Khan has revealed an interesting piece of Bollywood music history, saying Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman originally created the popular 'Masakali' track for her 2007 film 'Om Shanti Om', rather than Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's 'Delhi-6', where the song eventually appeared. Farah made the revelation during a conversation with music director Vishal Dadlani at his farmhouse, featured in her YouTube vlogs. The two discussed their decades-long professional association and recalled how the music for 'Om Shanti Om' eventually came together. Farah said she had initially approached AR Rahman to compose the music for 'Om Shanti Om', starring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone. Before Vishal-Shekhar came on board, Rahman had already created 'Masakali', although Farah was unsure where the song would fit in the film. "The first song which Rahman made for Om Shanti Om was Masakali! I don't know where I was going to put it but I love that song and love that word," Farah recalled during the vlog. She also remembered telling Vishal that she planned to approach Rahman and, if the collaboration did not work out, she would consider Vishal and Shekhar for the project. Vishal had hoped the arrangement with Rahman would work and suggested that he and Shekhar could assist him on the film. However, the duo ultimately composed the music for 'Om Shanti Om', delivering a soundtrack that became one of the film's major attractions. During the conversation, Vishal jokingly observed that even if he and Shekhar had not worked on the film, 'Om Shanti Om' would still have had great music. Farah, however, credited the duo for making the film's music "epic".

Vishal described 'Om Shanti Om' as a rare example of traditional, large-scale Bollywood masala musical filmmaking. He also recalled the elaborate visual treatment of songs such as 'Dhoom Tana', noting that audiences continue to discuss how such sequences were created before the widespread use of artificial intelligence. "The big, masala music that was in 'Om Shanti Om', is the only one. This is the last one! The traditional masala Bollywood musical is this one," Vishal said. The revelation adds an unexpected twist to the history of 'Masakali', which eventually became one of the most recognisable songs of 'Delhi-6', released in 2009. The song featured Abhishek Bachchan and Sonam Kapoor and was composed by AR Rahman for Mehra's film. Its journey from an unused composition for 'Om Shanti Om' to a signature song of 'Delhi-6' highlights the unpredictable path that popular film music can sometimes take.

