



JC Prabhakar Reddy Challenges Peddareddy



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IS BJP BEHIND VIJAYASAI REDDY NEW PARTY STRATEGY?

G. Ravi Kiran

Questions are growing over the strategy behind Vijayasai Reddy's decision to launch a new political party. Is the objective to damage Jagannmohan Reddy and the YSRCP? Is Vijayasai Reddy acting alone, or is there a larger strategy involving the BJP? These questions have now become the centre of political discussion. Vijayasai Reddy has long been considered one of Jagannmohan Reddy's closest associates. Apart from serving as an auditor, he was named as A2 in the disproportionate assets cases and also spent time in judicial remand. He was the first president of the YSRCP. After Jagan suffered defeat in 2014, Vijayasai Reddy played a major role in managing the party's affairs and building its relations with the BJP. He was also seen as the key person handling negotiations with the BJP on Jagan's behalf. After the YSRCP came to power, Vijayasai Reddy was largely confined to North Andhra publicly, while Delhi affairs, BJP relations and political lobbying continued to remain among his important responsibilities. He also strongly backed Jagan during his confrontation with then State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh. The three-capitals strategy aimed at stopping Amaravati also involved a consultancy that submitted a crucial report, with Vijayasai Reddy reportedly handling



the matter. However, differences are said to have emerged between Vijayasai Reddy and Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy. When Sajjala was given greater responsibility over party affairs, Vijayasai Reddy was reportedly unhappy. There were also claims that he played a role in disrupting Jagan's appointments in Delhi, after which Jagan is said to have restored responsibilities to him. Subsequently, however, Sajjala gradually strengthened his grip over the party, reportedly with Bharathi's support. Allegations of corruption in North Andhra further

strained relations. Around the same period, the gas leak at a factory in Anakapalli claimed lives. When Jagan was travelling to the accident site, Vijayasai Reddy, who intended to accompany him, was reportedly stopped. Eventually, control of the party organisation shifted further towards Sajjala. Despite his reservations, Vijayasai Reddy was fielded as the YSRCP candidate from Nellore in the Lok Sabha elections. After the party's defeat, he became increasingly vocal and began openly criticising Jagan's political circle. His association with the Nandamuri family during

Taraka Ratna's death had already raised suspicions within the Sajjala camp. Later, his questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in the Kakinada SEZ case and subsequent developments also attracted attention. Despite allegations linking him to the Delhi liquor case and Andhra Pradesh liquor-related controversies, his ability to avoid becoming entangled in major legal proceedings surprised many. This led to speculation that he had turned approver and was acting according to a BJP strategy. Vijayasai Reddy subsequently criticised Jagan and spoke about the party's inner circle before announcing his retirement from active politics. Now, speculation is growing that his new party could be part of a broader BJP strategy to attract leaders from the YSRCP. His increasing focus on Hinduism and criticism of Jagan over his alleged stance towards Hinduism have further fuelled these suspicions. One theory doing the rounds is that the BJP wants to attract Kapu leaders through the Jana Sena and Reddy leaders through Vijayasai Reddy's new party. If that strategy succeeds, the BJP may no longer need Jagan as a political option. If it fails, Jagan could continue to remain relevant to the BJP. The real picture, however, is likely to become clearer only after Vijayasai Reddy begins implementing his political strategy through the new party.

AP JAC Formally Suspends Stir

Vijayawada, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh JAC Amaravati has decided to temporarily defer its planned agitation following assurances from Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on several long-pending demands of government employees and pensioners. The decision was taken at a joint state-level executive meeting of AP JAC Amaravati and its women's wing held at the Revenue Bhavan in Vijayawada on Sunday. The meeting was chaired by AP JAC Amaravati chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and attended by state and district-level office-bearers. The executive expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for announcing several positive decisions during his meeting with employee unions on September 5. These included the appointment of a Pay Revision Commission (PRC) chairman, release of two



pending Dearness Allowances (DAs), restoration of additional pension for pensioners, sanction of surrender leave for employees and police personnel, and measures concerning the use of Employee Health Cards. However, several district leaders reportedly expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of clarity on the much-awaited Interim Relief (IR), payment of thousands of crores in arrears, increments for Village/Ward Secretariat employees and issues concerning outsourcing personnel. After detailed discussions, the executive decided to trust the Chief Minister's assurance

that a decision on IR would be taken at the earliest and temporarily defer the agitation. The organisation urged the government to announce and implement IR as soon as possible and issue a clear roadmap for clearing arrears. AP JAC Amaravati stressed that the employees who participated in the agitation across the State were the primary stakeholders in the success. It thanked state, district, divisional and grassroots leaders, women employees, trade unions and other organisations for extending support. The JAC also demanded that the PRC submit its report within six months, considering the delay in appointing the

commission. It urged the Group of Ministers to examine and resolve the remaining 30 major demands raised by the organisation within a definite timeframe. The executive resolved to continuously review the implementation of the government's announcements. It warned that the agitation would be resumed if employee interests were compromised or if unnecessary delays occurred in resolving their legitimate demands. As part of the development, AP JAC Amaravati decided to organise district-level success meetings on September 8 to acknowledge the contribution of employees, union leaders and media representatives who supported the movement. The organisation said it would extend constructive cooperation to the government as long as sincere efforts were made to resolve employee issues, while remaining prepared for democratic agitation if necessary in the future.

India Backs UN Map Resolution

New Delhi, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

India has supported a United Nations General Assembly resolution seeking more accurate representation of the world's landmasses on maps, while making it clear that the move does not alter the country's position on its sovereign territory. The resolution, titled "Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World's Regions, Particularly Africa," was adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 4. It received 164 votes in favour, while the United States voted against and six countries abstained. The initiative seeks to encourage greater use of equal-area cartographic projections that represent the relative sizes of continents more accurately. Traditional projections such as the Mercator map can make regions farther from the Equator appear disproportionately large, while underrepresenting the actual size of equatorial landmasses, particularly Africa. India, while voting for the resolution, separately clarified that its support should not be interpreted as an endorsement of any particular map projection or alteration of international boundaries. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India had specifically emphasised that its sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be shown in accordance with India's official map. He said any inaccurate or misleading depiction would be unacceptable.

The MEA also stressed that the resolution deals with the principle of equal-area cartographic representation and does not itself determine political boundaries, disputed territories or territorial claims. India's position on its sovereignty and territorial integrity, Jaiswal said, remains clear and non-negotiable. The resolution was sponsored by Togo on behalf of the African group and reflects a long-running effort to address distortions associated with widely used world-map projections. The UN's official schedule confirms that the resolution was considered during the General Assembly's 114th plenary meeting on September 4. India's vote therefore represents support for more geographically proportionate mapping while maintaining its established position on national boundaries and territorial representation.

IIT-Madras Starts Sea Wall Work

Kakinada, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras) has begun technical studies for the construction of a sea protection wall in Uppada coastal area of Kakinada district, with the project estimated to cost Rs 323 crore. The funds are proposed to be drawn from the National Disaster Management Fund (NDMF). The project has been taken up following the special initiative of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Pithapuram MLA Pawan Kalyan, who has been pursuing measures to address the long-standing problem of coastal erosion in Uppada with the cooperation of the Central government. A five-member IIT-Madras team has been conducting detailed surveys along the Uppada coastline and offshore areas for the past week. The studies are aimed at preparing the technical design and Detailed Project

Modi Stresses Growth and Opportunity



New Delhi, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) after 13 years, addressing its centenary celebrations and recalling his widely discussed 2013 speech at the institution. Blending economic arguments with contemporary phrases aimed at younger audiences, Modi said India's recent growth demonstrated the country's resilience amid global uncertainty. Modi highlighted India's 7.8 per cent GDP growth in the April-June quarter, saying the performance came despite the continuing conflict in West Asia and disruptions affecting international trade. He argued that India was not merely expanding economically but was also generating employment opportunities. The Prime Minister contrasted the current situation with 2013, when, he said, India faced high inflation, economic difficulties, corruption allegations and what was described internationally as "Fragile Five" status. Recalling his 2013 address, Modi said he had presented an optimistic vision even when the national mood was pessimistic. He repeated his earlier metaphor of a glass being viewed as either half full or half empty, saying he had chosen to see it as completely full, with water and air. The Prime Minister also spoke about national security, claiming that terrorism had been significantly weakened and that peace had improved from Jammu and Kashmir to the Northeast. He said India's response to terrorism had become more decisive and asserted that the country was now better equipped to protect its interests. Using popular expressions, Modi

described SRCC alumni as the "OGs" and referred to the film Dhurandhar while praising their achievements. He also warned students against what he called "angry uncles" who oppose development projects by repeatedly asking why they are necessary. Modi pointed to the growth of domestic manufacturing as another example of India's changing economic landscape. He said smartphones made in India were now reaching global markets and claimed that the country's mobile-phone exports had crossed Rs 2.5 lakh crore. Looking ahead, he said India could become a global manufacturing, research and innovation centre and a major agricultural exporter. He also reiterated his vision of an Indian space station and an Olympics hosted in India. The Prime Minister urged students to pursue ambitious careers in startups, technology, agriculture, space, drones and artificial intelligence. He said the ecosystem available to young Indians today allows them to pursue opportunities that previous generations could not easily imagine. Modi concluded by calling for greater confidence in Indian enterprises and professionals, arguing that if Indians can lead global companies, businesses created in India should also aspire to become global leaders. The Prime Minister's remarks came amid continuing political debate over the significance of the latest GDP figures. While the government has presented the 7.8 per cent growth rate as evidence of economic strength, economists and critics have raised questions about methodology and whether the expansion is translating proportionately into employment and investment.

CM Naidu to Set Agenda for Collectors

Amaravati, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will set the agenda for Andhra Pradesh's district administration at the eighth Collectors' Conference to be held at the State Secretariat in Amaravati on September 10 and 11. Economic growth, welfare delivery, governance, investments, water security and law and order are expected to be the major focus areas of the two-day conference. Naidu will address collectors on the opening day and review the implementation of decisions taken at the seventh conference held in May. The Action Taken Report will form a key part of the discussions, with district-wise progress, pending decisions and reasons for delays to be examined. The government is expected to place emphasis on accountability and timely implementation. The Chief Minister will review Andhra Pradesh's economic performance, including GSDP, national and State growth rates, district-wise targets and achievements for 2025-26 and targets for 2026-27. Progress on the Swarna Andhra@2047 district roadmaps and gaps in implementing its seven pillars will also be discussed. Implementation of the government's Super Six and welfare schemes will come under scrutiny, with particular attention to coverage and pendency. Drinking water, housing and employment programmes, besides the performance of health and education departments, will also be reviewed. Investment proposals and the ease of doing business will be another important agenda item. Naidu will take stock of the Jaladhara water security programme and assess progress across districts.



The first day will conclude with presentations showcasing best practices and innovations developed by selected district collectors. On the second day, discussions will focus on e-governance, RTGS, e-Office file disposal and pendency, PGRS grievance redressal, and the use of Data Lake and AWARE systems. District-wise and scheme-wise indicators relating to public perception of governance will also be examined. Land administration and centrally sponsored schemes will be reviewed, including funds sanctioned, utilised and remaining balances. Skilling and employment programmes, placement outcomes and welfare initiatives for minorities, BCs, SCs and STs will also feature in the discussions. A dedicated Open Forum will provide collectors an opportunity to directly raise field-level issues and administrative bottlenecks with the Chief Minister. The conference will conclude with a detailed review of law and order, followed by Naidu unveiling the roadmap for future governance. The schedule has been structured around comparative district data, presentations, discussions and clear responsibility for follow-up action.

Srikakulam YSRCP Leaders' Assertiveness Raises Political Heat

Ravi Podili

The political atmosphere in Srikakulam district has heated up with YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders and political successors becoming increasingly vocal following party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent visit to the district. After remaining relatively subdued for nearly one-and-a-half years following the 2024 election defeat, several YSRCP leaders have reportedly become more active. Their alleged warnings to officials and confrontations with ruling alliance leaders have now triggered a political debate over whether the party is attempting to regain its organisational strength ahead of the local body elections. The controversy intensified during

a recent Zilla Parishad meeting involving Dharmana Krishna Chaitanya, son of former minister Dharmana Krishna Das and a ZPTC member. Krishna Chaitanya allegedly used strong language against ministers, MLAs and officials and warned that the YSRCP would return to power in two years. He reportedly confronted TDP MLA Kuna Ravikumar and allegedly attempted to move towards him during an argument. Krishna Chaitanya also reportedly questioned officials over administrative decisions and warned that their positions could be affected after the YSRCP returned to power. His remarks and conduct turned the Zilla Parishad meeting into a heated confrontation, according to political circles. The developments followed Jagan Mohan Reddy's



visit to Srikakulam, during which large numbers of party supporters

gathered along the route. His journey from Visakhapatnam towards

Srikakulam was accompanied by sizeable crowds and traffic disruption.

tions. YSRCP supporters also allegedly attempted to confront police personnel during the programme. In one such incident, Amadalavalasa YSRCP in-charge Chintada Ravikumar was booked after allegedly attempting to attack a woman sub-inspector. After remaining unavailable to police for some time, he reportedly released videos challenging the authorities to arrest him. Police subsequently arrested him. Former minister Dharmana Prasada Rao also recently drew attention with remarks directed at police officials. Soon afterwards, Krishna Chaitanya allegedly issued warnings to Polaki MPDO and Special Officer Prakash, questioning his functioning and referring to the possibility of a change in government. The developments have triggered

allegations from TDP and Jana Sena leaders that some YSRCP leaders are becoming emboldened because of alleged political support from sections of the ruling establishment. However, these allegations remain politically contested. TDP MLA Kuna Ravikumar has reportedly been critical of the conduct of YSRCP leaders and has sought action where violations occur. Meanwhile, political observers say the handling of such incidents by the administration could have an impact on the ruling alliance's standing ahead of local body elections. With YSRCP leaders becoming increasingly active in the district, the political contest in Srikakulam is expected to intensify in the coming months.

TDP Leadership Conclave to Strengthen Grassroots Leadership

Amaravati, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) will organise a two-day leadership training conclave on Sept 7 and 8 at the party's central office in Mangalagiri to strengthen the leadership skills of elected representatives and key constituency-level leaders. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP National President Nara Chandrababu Naidu directed that the programme be conducted in an interactive training format, while AP Minister and TDP Working President Nara Lokesh prepared the conclave plans.

Chandrababu and Lokesh will participate in the conclave and guide leaders on grassroots-level party organisation, cadre coordination, political response and leadership development. Chandrababu will explain how leaders should act as a bridge between the government and the people, ensure effective implementation of welfare and development schemes and address public grievances. The ten sessions will also discuss communicating the government and TDP's achievements to the people and countering rival parties' alleged conspiracies. Ministers, MPs and MLAs will attend the



programme. The first day will cover leadership grooming, organisational structure, grievance redressal, the Swarnandhra vision, political and economic empowerment, and holistic welfare. The second day will focus on sustainable development, good governance, political communication, public services, El Niño awareness and preparedness for local body elections.

PNGRB-EESL Pact to Accelerate Smart PNG Metering Across India

Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is expected to give a major technology boost to India's City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector through the large-scale deployment of smart domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) meters. The initiative will introduce advanced metering systems featuring digital monitoring, tamper alerts, leak detection, remote operations and cybersecurity safeguards. These technologies are expected to improve billing transparency, consumer convenience and safety while strengthening the security of India's expanding gas distribution infrastructure. Energy efficiency expert and former Director General of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Dr Ajay Mathur, welcomed the partnership as a time-

ly step towards a consumer-centric, technology-enabled and future-ready CGD ecosystem. He congratulated PNGRB Secretary Anjan Kumar Mishra and EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit for the initiative, stating that smart PNG metering would contribute to energy efficiency, transparency, energy security and cybersecurity. Under the agreement, PNGRB will provide regulatory guidance and support standardisation, conformity assessment, certification and stakeholder coordination. EESL will contribute its expertise in demand aggregation, technology assessment, procurement strategies and large-scale implementation. The partnership comes as India rapidly expands its natural gas infrastructure. PNGRB has authorised 307 geographical areas, covering the entire mainland, while more than 33,500 km of natural gas pipelines have been authorised, of which around 25,000 km are operational. With PNG connections increasing across urban



and semi-urban areas, smart meters are expected to address challenges associated with manual meter reading, billing accuracy, revenue assurance and safety monitoring. For consumers, the new-generation meters can provide accurate billing, digital access to consumption data and better control over energy expenditure. Advanced safety features may also enable abnormal-condition detection, tamper alerts, remote monitoring and automatic shut-off, helping reduce risks associated with gas leakage and unusual consumption patterns.

Cybersecurity will remain a critical component as household gas metering becomes increasingly connected. Secure communication, protected data exchange and safeguards against unauthorised access will help ensure that digital gas infrastructure remains resilient and trustworthy. For CGD companies, smart metering can reduce manual intervention, improve collection efficiency, minimise billing losses and support demand forecasting and network planning. Dixit said EESL's experience in smart utility infrastructure would provide a strong foundation for the programme. The company has installed and manages more than 44.5 lakh smart electricity meters across several States and Union Territories. The initiative is expected to benefit stakeholders across India, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, while supporting the country's transition towards a smarter, safer and more gas-based energy economy.

Puttaparthi Gets Permanent Skill Development Centre



Puttaparthi, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

A 38-day free "Tally with GST" skill development programme for women was inaugurated at Meda Guest House in Puttaparthi on Sunday by Sri R.J. Rathnakar, Managing Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. The programme is being organised under the Sri Sathya

Sai Skill Development Programme of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Sri Sathya Sai District, with support from Canara Bank RSETI (Rural Self Employment Training Institute). The Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has provided computers required for the training. As many as 35 women from economically disadvantaged back-



grounds are participating. Addressing the gathering, Rathnakar stressed the importance of equipping young people with practical skills that can improve their employment and livelihood opportunities. He said youth should be encouraged to learn new skills and provided with the necessary training and resources to become confident and self-reliant.

He particularly called for greater support to girls and young women from economically weaker families. He said skill training, certification and encouragement could significantly transform the lives of young people. A major announcement at the programme was the establishment of a permanent Skill Development Centre at Puttaparthi.

Rathnakar said the proposed centre would offer continuous training, guidance and opportunities for employment and self-employment to local youth and women. Sri R. Lakshmana Rao, State President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Andhra Pradesh, said nearly 20,000 youth had been trained across the State during the past four years through employment-oriented courses. These included computer skills, Tally with GST, AC repair, tailoring, beautician training, bedside assistance, jute bag making, maggam work, fabric painting and mobile phone repair. He said 23 permanent skill development centres

are currently functioning across Andhra Pradesh. With support from the Skill Development Corporation, healthcare-related courses would soon be introduced in six districts, while additional programmes are being taken up with RSETI support. Sri S. Koteswara Rao and Dr L. Shashi Bala, National Seva Coordinators, emphasised the need for empowering youth and women through meaningful opportunities. N. Shanthi Priya, Director, Canara Bank RSETI, explained the growing relevance of Tally with GST in employment and business. District and State office-bearers, Seva Dal members and devotees attended the programme.

EOS-05 Completes First Orbit-Raising Manoeuvre

Nellore, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

India's latest Earth observation satellite EOS-05 has successfully completed its first orbit-raising manoeuvre, marking an important step towards positioning the spacecraft in its designated geosynchronous orbit at 85.5° East, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said. The manoeuvre was carried out on September 5 at 8.19 p.m., with the satellite's Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) firing for

5,406.4 seconds. Following the operation, EOS-05 is estimated to have reached an orbit of approximately 20,000 km x 31,129 km. ISRO said additional orbit-raising manoeuvres would be carried out over the coming days to gradually move the satellite into its operational orbit. EOS-05 was launched aboard GSLV-F17 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on September 4. The launch vehicle injected the satellite into a sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit (Sub-

GTO). According to ISRO, EOS-05 is a state-of-the-art Earth observation spacecraft and India's first imaging satellite designed to operate from a geosynchronous orbit. The GSLV-F17 placed the satellite at an apogee of around 31,000 km, higher than the planned 29,000 km, thereby reducing the propulsion effort required for subsequent orbit-raising operations. Its initial perigee was around 171 km. Weighing 2,367 kg, EOS-05 is the heaviest satellite

launched by a GSLV to date. Once it reaches its final geosynchronous orbit, approximately 36,000 km above Earth, the satellite is expected to provide high-frequency Earth imaging and enable continuous monitoring of large geographical areas. The spacecraft is designed to have an operational life of around nine years, according to ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan. The successful completion of the first orbit-raising manoeuvre represents a key milestone in the satellite's journey towards its



operational position. ISRO will conduct further manoeuvres and monitor the spacecraft's performance before placing EOS-05 in its designated orbit.

BJP to Strengthen Presence Across Andhra Pradesh

Rajahmundry, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Rajahmundry MP Dagubati Purandeswari said the BJP considers political power a means to serve people and focuses on public welfare. Addressing a press conference in Rajahmundry on Sunday, she said the party would work to hoist its flag in every village. She

announced flag-hoisting programmes at 100 locations in Rajahmundry Urban constituency. Purandeswari said the Centre was extending full support to Andhra Pradesh's development, including Polavaram, Amaravati, the Anantapur-Amaravati Expressway and Outer Ring Road. She praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

announced the month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' from Sept 17 to Oct 17. She said NDA partners TDP, Jana Sena and BJP would jointly contest local body elections. District coordination meetings would decide seat sharing after assessing local factors. She stressed that industrial development must go hand in hand with environmental protection,



particularly preventing pollution in the Godavari River. She said regulatory violations would not be tolerated while protecting workers' interests.

Sharmila Announces Daughter's Marriage

Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

YS Sharmila announced that her daughter, Y.S. Anjali Reddy, is set to marry Dr. Somala Raghuram Reddy, son of Somala Subba Reddy and Somala Padma Reddy. In a post on X, Sharmila said she and her husband, Anil Kumar, were grateful to God and happy to share the news with friends, well-wishers and supporters. She expressed her joy over the upcoming wedding and sought prayers and blessings for the couple. Sharmila said the family of the prospective groom are U.S. citizens and originally hail from Kurnool District in Andhra Pradesh. She conveyed her gratitude while sharing the marriage announcement and said the family was looking forward to the new chapter in their daughter's life. She requested friends and well-wishers to



bless Anjali Reddy and Dr. Somala Raghuram Reddy and pray for their happiness and a prosperous future together. The announcement was accompanied by a message reflecting the family's faith and gratitude. The wedding announcement has been shared as a family occasion, with Sharmila seeking the blessings and good wishes of those close to them.

AP Expands Pension Festival

Vijayawada, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has expanded the scope of its monthly Pensions Festival, inviting fresh applications from eligible poor and vulnerable citizens under the NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme. Applications for new pensions will be accepted from September 7 to 16 at Swarnagramam and Swarnaward centres. The process will include online registration and e-KYC verification, followed by eligibility scrutiny, physical verification and government approval. Authorities have set a schedule to ensure pensions are sanctioned without unnecessary delay. General eligibility checks will be conducted from September 17 to 21, while physical and departmental verification will take place from September 22 to 24. Budget proposals will be submitted through SERP on September 25 and 26, after which approved pensions will be released in phases. Applicants must submit Aadhaar and ration or income certificates along with relevant category-specific documents. These may include death certificates for widows, divorce or unmarried certificates

for single women, SADAREM disability certificates and departmental endorsements for occupational categories such as weavers, fishermen, toddy tappers, traditional cobblers and drummers. Transgender applicants and those suffering from specified chronic illnesses are also covered. The NTR Bharosa scheme currently benefits 61.92 lakh people, with the government spending around Rs 2,694 crore every month. The beneficiaries account for nearly 12.88 per cent of Andhra Pradesh's population. Since Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu assumed office, the government has spent about Rs 73,508 crore on pensions. Under the scheme, monthly assistance stands at Rs 4,000 for elderly persons and widows, Rs 6,000 for persons with disabilities, Rs 10,000 for those suffering from severe illnesses and up to Rs 15,000 for fully disabled beneficiaries. The scheme covers 28 categories, providing financial support to several vulnerable sections. The government said the expansion of the pension programme aims to ensure social security, dignity and financial stability for eligible beneficiaries across the state.

New Animals Arrive at Vizag Zoo

Visakhapatnam, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

The Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam has welcomed several new animals as part of an animal exchange programme with Gujarat, adding to the attraction for visitors. The new arrivals include three zebras, three red-necked wallabies, two pairs of cotton-top tamarins and three common marmosets. The animals were brought from the Radhe Krishna Temple Elephant Welfare Trust in Jamnagar, Gujarat, zoo curator G. Mangamma said. The exchange programme also involved the transfer of animals from Visakhapatnam Zoo to Gujarat. These include a pair of Indian gaurs, two pairs of stump-tailed macaques and a pair of gharials. Mangamma said the animals were transported safely to Visakhapatnam under the supervision of veterinary officials. The newly arrived animals are currently being kept in quarantine as part of the prescribed health and safety procedures. After the quarantine period is completed, the animals will be shifted to their designated enclosures and made available for public viewing, she said. The latest additions come at a time when the zoo has also recorded a significant increase in its animal population through births. According to Forest Department officials, 128 animals belonging to 12 species were recently born at the zoo. The newborns include 40 Indian star tortoises, 35 wild boars and 20 spotted deer, besides sambar, hyenas, bisons and other species. The increase in animal births has already generated considerable interest among visitors. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also welcomed the development. With the arrival of the new animals from Gujarat and the recent additions through natural breeding, officials expect the zoo to offer visitors a wider variety of species and a more engaging wildlife experience. The animal exchange programme is also aimed at improving species management and strengthening the conservation and breeding efforts of participating zoos and institutions.

TDP Appoints Parliamentary Election In-charges

Amaravati, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The TDP has appointed Parliament Party Election In-charges and In-charge Ministers for 28 districts in Andhra Pradesh. The appointments were made to strengthen the party organisation and coordinate preparations for upcoming elections. The list includes Kinjarapu Achche nnaidu-Dadi Ratnakar (Ex State Org Sec), Gummadi Sandhya Rani-Perabat hula Rajasekhara, Gummadi Sandhya Rani-Kudupudi Sathibabu (A.P. Setti Balija Corporation Chairman & State Settibalija Sadrikarika Convenor), Konda palli Srinivas-MD Nazeer (National Party Vice President), Vangalapudi Anitha-Chintakayala Vijay (MP RS), Dr Bola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy-MA Sharif (Advisor to Government on

Minority Affairs), Kollu Ravindra-Kondapalli Appala Naidu (Ex MLA), Ponguru Narayana-Sujay Krishna Ranga Rao (Zonal Coordinator), Sana Satish (MP), Devineni Umamaheshwara Rao (State General Secretary), Bhashyam Rama Krishna (MP), Panchumarthi Anuradha (MLC & State Vice President), Vasamsetti Subhash-Kommalapati Sridhar (Ex MLA & State Vice President), Makenna Mallikarjuna Rao (Ex MLA & DCCB Chairman), MV Satyanarayana Raju, Konakalla Narayana, Janga Krishna Murthy, Bhumireddy Ram gopal Reddy, BT Naidu, NMD Farooq, S.V.S.N. Varma, Nukasani Balaji, Damacharla Sathya, Gunapati Deepak Reddy, Kancherla Srikanth, Erasur Prathap Reddy, Somiseti Venkateswarlu, Pellakuri Srinivasa Reddy and Vyakuntam Prabhakar Chowdary.

Red Alert Issued for Several AP Districts

Amaravati, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The State Disaster Management Authority has issued a Red Alert for several districts in Andhra Pradesh, warning of moderate to heavy rains accompanied by severe thunderstorms and lightning over the next three hours. The alert covers Anakapalli, Kakinada, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, NTR and Krishna districts. The authority also warned of gusty winds reaching speeds of 50 to 60 kmph during the period. The public, particularly farmers and motorists, has been advised to remain alert and take necessary precautions.



People have been cautioned against standing under trees or near electric poles during thunderstorms. The authority said the earlier Orange Alert was upgraded to a Red Alert in view of the intensifying rain and lightning activity.

ISTS Chief Honoured with Business Excellence Award

CH Raju

K. Upender Reddy, head of the International School of Technology and Sciences for Women (ISTS) Women's Engineering College near Rajanagaram in East Godavari district, has been honoured with the prestigious Raj News Business Excellence Award 2026 for his contribution to women's education and empowerment.

Upender Reddy and his wife Anusha received the award at a grand ceremony organised by Raj News at A Convention Centre in Vijayawada. The award was presented by Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh and BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav. The award recognises Upender Reddy's efforts to provide quality technical education to young women, particularly students from rural and semi-urban areas, and equip them with skills required to compete in the global technology sector. Established in 2010, ISTS



Women's Engineering College has earned several academic distinctions, including UGC Autonomous status and an NAAC A+ grade with a CGPA of 3.37. Its Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, and Agricultural Engineering programmes have also received NBA accreditation. The institution focuses on industry-oriented training through aptitude development, group discussions, interview prepara-

tion, full-stack development programmes and IBM cloud workshops. It also provides opportunities through PEGA campus hiring initiatives and virtual internships facilitated by APSCHE. The college encourages innovation and entrepreneurship through its Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), project-based learning, hackathons and research centres. It has also developed academic collaborations with reputed institutions such as IIT Bombay and IIT



Hyderabad. ISTS provides students with a secure green campus and facilities including modern dining arrangements, Wi-Fi, gymnasium, reading rooms and hostel accommodation. Transportation facilities are also offered within a 30-km radius across East Godavari district. The institution's vision of "We Engineers, Women Engineers" aims to help rural young women gain technical education, become self-reliant and build successful careers. Speaking after receiving the

award, Upender Reddy said he wanted students graduating from ISTS to excel in every field and contribute meaningfully to society. He expressed the hope that the institution would continue creating opportunities for women to achieve professional and personal independence. Several political, social and business personalities, along with well-wishers and supporters, attended the award ceremony and congratulated Upender Reddy and Anusha on the recognition.

250 YSRCP Members Join TDP

Rajamahen dravaram, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

More than 250 YSRCP leaders and activists joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) at Lalacheruvu Center in Ward 1 of Rajamahen dravaram city.



The programme was organised under the leadership of State Shetty Balija Corporation Chairman Kudupudi Saththibabu in the presence of City MLA Adireddy Srinivas. Adireddy Srinivas welcomed the new members by draping them with yellow scarves. He said people were joining TDP attracted by the welfare and development programmes of the alliance government. He urged the new members to coordinate with senior leaders and party workers. Kudupudi Saththibabu said the joining of

a large number of leaders and activists reflected their confidence in TDP leadership and alliance governance. He called upon party workers to work together to strengthen TDP. TDP City President Majji Rambabu, former MLC Adireddy Apparao, Yarra Venugopala Rayudu, Kasi Naveen Kumar, Uppuluri Janakiramayya, Varre Srinivasa Rao, Buddiga Ravi, Dwara Parvathi Sundari, Innamuri Deepu, Marukurthi Ravi Yadav, Chintapalli Nani and Hari Banerjee participated.

JanaSena Forms Committees for Local Polls

Amaravati, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

The Jana Sena Party has begun preparations for the upcoming local body elections by constituting coordination committees across the state. The committees were formed on the directions of party chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, the Jana Sena central office said in a statement. The objective is to prepare party leaders, Jana Sainiks and Veera Mahilas for the local elections and ensure effective coordination at the grassroots level. The committees have been constituted on a Parliament constituency-wise basis. Each Parliament constituency will have one coordinator and three coordination committee members. In addition, one assistant has been appointed from each Assembly constituency falling under the respective Parliament segment. The committees will be responsible for coordinating party activities within their respective Parliament constituencies and preparing the party cadre for the elections. They will also coordinate with alliance partners and ensure that electoral activities are carried out in accordance with the party's policies and the understanding among the alliance parties. As part of the preparations, an orientation programme for all committee members will be held at Mangalagiri on September 9. The programme will begin at 10 a.m. During the meeting, the party leadership is expected to brief the committee members on the upcoming elections and provide directions on their responsibilities. The session will focus on coordination, mobilisation of party workers and cooperation with alliance partners. The formation of the committees signals the Jana Sena's efforts to strengthen its organisational machinery ahead of the local body polls. Party leaders are expected to begin constituency-level coordination and preparations following the orientation programme.

Chintakayala Vijay Slams Jagan Over DSC Remarks

Vijayawada, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha member Chintakayala Vijay has strongly criticised YSRCP chief and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he has little respect for teachers and lacks even a basic understanding of the difference between the District Selection Committee (DSC) and the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC). Speaking to the media, Vijay alleged that teachers, who are traditionally respected as mentors, were humiliated during the previous YSRCP government by being made to stand in queues outside liquor shops. He claimed that the education system had deteriorated during the five-year YSRCP rule and alleged that around 12 lakh students were pushed away from schools during that period. Vijay said the present coalition government had demonstrated its commitment to unemployed youth by announcing a Mega DSC recruitment drive for 16,000 posts. He credited Education Minister Nara Lokesh with showing seriousness towards teacher recruitment and employment opportunities for job seekers. The Rajya Sabha member alleged that the previous YSRCP government had failed to fill even a single DSC post during its five-year tenure. He accused Jagan of now spreading what he described as misleading information about teacher recruitment and the education sector. Vijay further criticised the former Chief Minister for allegedly avoiding legislative forums while making political accusations through press conferences. He said the government was committed to strengthening the education system and providing employment opportunities to qualified candidates. He maintained that the recruitment process under the current administration was being undertaken with the objective of filling vacant teaching positions and improving the availability of teachers in government schools. The remarks come amid an ongoing political dispute between the ruling TDP-led coalition and the YSRCP over alleged irregularities in the DSC 2025 recruitment process, with the Opposition demanding an independent investigation and the ruling alliance rejecting the allegations.

JC Prabhakar Reddy Challenges Peddareddy



Anantapur, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

Political tensions have once again intensified in Tadipatri, with TDP leader JC Prabhakar Reddy launching a sharp attack on former YSRCP MLA Kethireddy Peddareddy and challenging him to prepare for the next elections from now itself. Prabhakar Reddy alleged that betting, matka and ganja activities flourished in Tadipatri during the previous five-year YSRCP rule. He also accused Peddareddy of being involved in the alleged BS-3 vehicle scam and claimed that the region's development had suffered because of what he described as a focus on illegal earnings. However, his main challenge centred on the alleged practice of distributing money to voters during elections. Prabhakar Reddy proposed that both leaders should reject the practice of pay-

ing voters and instead contribute Rs 10 crore each, creating a combined Rs 20 crore fund for the development of Tadipatri town. "Do you have the courage to accept my challenge and the genuine love for Tadipatri to do this, Peddareddy?" he asked. Prabhakar Reddy said the proposed contribution could be utilised for development works and public welfare instead of being spent on influencing voters during elections. The comments are expected to further heat up the political atmosphere in Tadipatri, where the rivalry between the JC family and Kethireddy has remained a prominent feature of local politics. With the next elections still some time away, the latest exchange indicates that political activity and verbal attacks between the rival camps are already beginning to intensify.

Bhumana Calls for YSRCP Unity Ahead of Local Polls

Tirupati, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders and cadres should work collectively to strengthen the party ahead of the upcoming local body elections in Andhra Pradesh, Tirupati and Chittoor district YSRCP president Bhumana Karunakar Reddy said. Addressing a meeting of constituency in-charges and senior leaders of the erstwhile Chittoor district on local elections, Bhumana urged constituency coordinators to undertake extensive tours and remain in regular contact with party workers.

The meeting was attended by regional coordinator and former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, MP Maddila Gurumoorthy, MLCs Sipaayi Subrahmanyam and Bharath, former Deputy Chief Minister K.K. Narayana Swamy, former minister R.K. Raja, former MLAs Venkatagouda, Byyapu Madhusudhan Reddy and Dr Sunil, former MP N. Reddeppa, Bhumana Abhinay Reddy, Chevireddy Mohith Reddy, Kripala Lakshmi, YSRCP leader Vajra Bhaskar Reddy and Chittoor Parliament constituency observer Rajasekhara Reddy, among others. Bhumana said the YSRCP had a strong organisational identity and assured party workers that identity cards would also be provided to active members. He alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had betrayed the trust of voters and was using favourable media outlets to project the government. He called upon party workers to take the



alleged failures and promises of the ruling coalition to the people. He urged cadres across the erstwhile Chittoor district to become active participants in the party's organisational activities. Bhumana also said party workers should resolve internal issues through discussions and mutual coordination. Referring to YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's proposed statewide political activities, he asked the cadre to work together and strengthen the organisation. Former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy said indications were emerging that local body elections would be held soon. He claimed the erstwhile Chittoor district was in a strong position organisationally and called upon leaders and workers to work collectively to secure victory for the YSRCP in the local elections. The meeting focused on strengthening the party organisation, improving coordination among constituency-level leaders and preparing the cadre for the anticipated local body polls.

IIT-Madras Starts Sea Wall Work Continue

Report (DPR) for the proposed sea protection works. According to an official statement, the team is using advanced drones and Trimble R980 GNSS RTK technology for beach profiling and coastal mapping. Scientists are studying coastal topography, wave action, the extent of erosion, changes in landforms and ocean currents. Sand samples are being collected from the seabed and beach areas, while soil and sediment deposits along the coast are also being examined. Bathymetric surveys are being conducted to assess ocean depths, seabed levels and their variations. The shoreline mapping has already been completed, while studies on beach morphology, slope and elevation are continuing. The findings will help IIT-Madras finalise the technical aspects of the proposed sea protection wall and prepare the DPR. Uppada has been facing severe sea erosion for nearly four decades. According to officials, hundreds of acres of land and several villages have been affected by the advancing sea, while many families have been displaced. Farmers in the region have also reportedly lost large tracts of agricultural land. Based on a proposal from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), approval has been granted for a package involving a sea protection wall, a groin field and nature-based coastal protection measures near Hope Island. Work on preparing the DPR has now commenced. Pawan Kalyan is personally monitoring the progress of the technical studies and related works, the official statement said.

Roja Accuses Lokesh of DSC Irregularities

Tirupati, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister RK Roja alleged that Education Minister Nara Lokesh had severely damaged the education system and committed irregularities in DSC and TET examinations. She alleged that jobs under the sports quota were given using fake certificates and that posts were sold for Rs.15 lakh to Rs.20 lakh instead of being offered to eligible unemployed candidates.

Roja challenged Lokesh to order a CBI inquiry into the DSC irregularities if he had the courage. She alleged that PT teacher, Science and Social Studies posts were also sold and said evidence of fake certificates and forged signatures would be exposed.

Roja also accused Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu of taking credit for the Veligonda project, claiming 85% of the work was completed during the YS Rajasekhara Reddy and YS Jagan



Mohan Reddy governments. She blamed the alliance government for drought conditions and said 420 mandals were declared drought-hit. She urged people to support YSRCP in local body elections and bring Jagan back as Chief Minister in 2029.

Jakkampudi Raja Demands CBI Probe into DSC



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State Youth Wing President and former MLA Jakkampudi Raja demanded a CBI inquiry into alleged irregularities in the District Selection Committee (DSC) recruitment process. Speaking at a press conference at his office in Prakash Nagar on Sunday, he alleged that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh were avoiding a CBI probe.

Raja alleged that DSC posts were sold for Rs.15 lakh to Rs.20 lakh and that evidence, including media reports and

audio tapes, had not led to action. He also alleged irregularities in sports quota recruitment, including the use of forged certificates and selection of candidates without appearing for TET and DSC examinations. He said the alleged irregularities had dis-appointed 3.5 lakh candidates and demanded an explanation from the government. Raja accused the government of using police cases and social media restrictions against critics. He demanded that Lokesh accept moral responsibility and resign. Raja said he would not be intimidated by cases filed against him or his family.

Shivashankar Slams Govt Over Social Media Restrictions

Tadepalli, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP spokesperson Putta Shivashankar on Sunday accused the Andhra Pradesh government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of trying to suppress voices questioning alleged irregularities and failures of the administration. Speaking to the media, Shivashankar alleged that the government was resorting to "unofficial censorship" on social media to prevent criticism. He claimed that social media accounts of opposition groups and media organisations were being removed or restricted. He alleged that the YSRCP's Facebook and Instagram accounts had previously been removed and claimed that the accounts of Sakshi TV and Big TV had also been taken down. Questioning the government's alleged actions, he asked why the Chief Minister was "afraid of voices that raise questions." Shivashankar particularly referred to allegations surrounding the DSC recruitment process. He asked whether raising questions about alleged irregularities in teacher recruitment could be treated as an offence.

"If there are false allegations, the government should answer them," he said, questioning why action was allegedly being taken against social media and television channel accounts instead of responding to the issues raised. The YSRCP spokesperson alleged that the restrictions were aimed at diverting public attention from alleged mistakes in the recruitment process. He warned that if such actions continued, the issue could escalate into a wider "social media war." Shivashankar also demanded that Education Minister Nara Lokesh take responsibility for the alleged irregularities in DSC recruitment and resign from his post. He reiterated the YSRCP's demand for a CBI investigation into the matter. He said the party was taking the alleged restrictions on social media accounts seriously and would pursue legal remedies to restore the accounts. The YSRCP leader maintained that opposition parties, media organisations and citizens should have the freedom to question the government and demand accountability. He alleged that attempts to restrict such criticism amounted to an attack on democratic freedoms.

Teachers Play Key Role in Shaping Students' Futures

Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Teachers' Day celebrations were held at Spark Learning Academy under the aegis of the Lions Club of Vijayawada VRK Nagar Spark, with teachers felicitated for their contribution to students and society. Speaking at the programme, Lion Dr. Ramesh Bhavisetti, Director of Spark Learning Academy and Secretary of the Lions Club, said teachers play a key role in shaping the future of students. He said teachers act as mentors, inspire students and help develop their character and confidence. He stressed the need to provide value-based education along with quality education for the overall develop-



ment of society. Lions Club Treasurer Lion Prasad Jonnalagadda said every successful per-

son had the guidance and hard work of a teacher behind them. He said respecting teachers was equiva-

lent to respecting education, knowledge and the future of society. Teachers Vamsi Krishna, Joseph, Ramu, Rajasekhar, Suresh, Ajay, Delphin and Anita participated in the celebrations. Students conveyed their Teachers' Day wishes and presented cultural performances as part of the programme. The teachers were felicitated and their services to students were appreciated. The organisers said teachers not only impart academic knowledge but also guide students in developing discipline, values and responsibility. The celebrations concluded successfully with the participation of teachers, students and Lions Club members.

Sujana Chowdary Focuses on Vijayawada West Development



Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The constituency office established by Vijayawada West MLA Sujana Chowdary was inaugurated on a grand scale to make public services more accessible. Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) inspected the office and praised its grievance redressal system and master plan, with focus on drainage and hilly areas. Chinni said Sujana Chowdary was leading development efforts despite being available in the constituency for two days a week. MLC Varla Ramaiah praised his ability to connect with people across social sections. Sujana Chowdary said public service should rise above caste and religion. He said priority was being given to education, healthcare, preventive healthcare and basic amenities in hilly areas. He said CCTV cameras and drones were being used with Police Commissioner

Rajashkekhar Babu to control the drug menace. Welfare schemes and major projects, including railway overbridges, were being pursued with Central and State governments. The programme was attended by NTR District BJP President Gadde Anuradha, Nandigama MLA Tangirala Sowmya, MLAs Kamineni Srinivas and Vasantha Krishna Prasad, RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana, Voluntary Corporation Chairman Pattabhi, Noorbasha Corporation Chairman Nagul Meera, Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam Chairman Borra Radhakrishna, NTR District Jana Sena President Samineni Udayabhanu, BJP District President Adduri Sriram, industrialist Koganti Satyam, Jana Sena leaders Annishetty Vasu and Mandal Rajesh, TDP West Constituency In-charge Buddha Venkanna and senior TDP leader Vangaveeti Radha.

Dental Clinic Inaugurated in Vijayawada



Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

East Constituency MLA Gadde Ramamohan inaugurated the newly established Sri Dhanvantari Orofacial and Dental Clinic at Auto Nagar in Vijayawada. Following the inauguration, he inspected the modern medical equipment available at the clinic and enquired about the services being provided to patients. Ramamohan appreciated Dr. Hema Shilpa and Dr. Ramadevi, who studied at Government Dental College, for jointly establishing the clinic. He said naming the facility after Dhanvantari was auspicious and appreciated the advanced medical facilities available at the clinic, including X-rays, dental implants and tooth fabrication services. He said experienced doctors would provide treatment not only for routine dental

problems but also for oral ulcers, early signs of oral cancer and jaw pain. He said the availability of such specialised services would benefit residents of Vijayawada and urged people to make use of the facilities. Managing doctors Dr. Hema Shilpa and Dr. Ramadevi said the clinic would provide advanced treatment for a range of oral and dental conditions. These include oral burning, difficulty in opening the mouth, jaw clicking, head and neck pain, early symptoms of oral cancer and other dental problems. They said patients would be examined and provided appropriate treatment based on their condition. Hospital staff and local dignitaries attended the inauguration programme and welcomed the establishment of the new dental facility in Auto Nagar.

Rotary Blood Bank Inaugurated

Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Rotary Clubs District Governor Guthikhonda Sridhar inaugurated the newly established VKR Rotary Blood Bank at Labbipet on Bandar Road, Vijayawada, under the aegis of Rotary Club of Vijayawada Midtown. Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar said blood donation was one of the noblest forms of charity and urged every healthy individual to donate blood regularly to save lives. He appreciated the Rotary Club for establishing the blood bank with a service-oriented objective. Rotary Club of Vijayawada Midtown President Venkat

Kethiboyina and Secretary Trinath Nanduri said safe blood would be provided to club members and the general public at the facility. They urged Vijayawada residents to make use of the service. Blood Bank Chairman Muttavarapu Satish Babu said the centre would provide safe, quality blood at affordable rates. He said blood would be supplied free of cost to children suffering from Thalassemia. Committee members Shyam Movva, Datta Subbarao, former president Maganti Krishna Babu, co-president Punnam Anil Babu and Vice-President Karam Bir Kaur attended.

Public Grievance Forum on Sept 7

Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

District Collector G. Lakshmisha said the district administration was taking steps to provide speedy and transparent solutions to public grievances. A Public Grievance Redressal Forum will be conducted on Monday, Sept. 7, from 10 am to 1 pm at the Sri Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall in the Collectorate. Officials from various district departments will be available at the forum to receive petitions directly from the public. The Collector advised people to clearly mention their name, full address, mobile number and complete details of their grievance in the petition. Applicants should also attach relevant supporting documents to help officials examine their complaints.

Those who had previously submitted petitions regarding the same issue were advised to bring copies of their earlier petitions or acknowledgment receipts for reference. The Collector said this would help officials review the status of earlier complaints and take appropriate action. People who are unable to visit the Collectorate can submit their grievances through the 1100 toll-free service or register complaints online through meekosam.ap.gov.in. Petitions can also be submitted at division, mandal and municipal offices. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to examine every petition carefully and take necessary action. He stressed the importance of transparent, accountable and responsive public service in addressing the concerns of citizens.

Fans Celebrate Prabhas' Birthday in Advance



Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Fans of Rebel Star Prabhas organised an advance birthday celebration at Ravi Cinemas near the Pandit Nehru Bus Station in Vijayawada. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from fans, who cut a cake and performed Palabhishekam to Prabhas's portrait as part of the celebrations. A promotional video featuring scenes from Prabhas's films was later screened at the theatre. Fans cheered enthusiastically as the actor appeared on the big screen and extended their advance birthday wishes. Ravi Cinemas proprietor Ravi Krishna said Prabhas's birthday celebrations had begun in Vijayawada a month in advance. He said the theatre was also organising innovative programmes to mark the

birthdays of popular film stars and provide fans with an opportunity to celebrate their favourite actors. Prabhas fan Dinesh Kumar said the programme was organised to celebrate the actor's birthday in advance. He wished Prabhas a long and happy life and many more successful films in the years ahead. The celebrations created a festive atmosphere at the theatre, with fans expressing their admiration for the actor and enjoying scenes from his movies. Organisers said such events would continue to be conducted to mark the birthdays of popular stars. Fans Yamuna, Venkanna, Srinivas, Larina Desh, Durga Rani and Kittu participated in the celebrations and joined in extending their advance birthday wishes to Prabhas.

Gadde Rama Mohan Urges Cadres to Explain Welfare Schemes



Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

East Constituency MLA Gadde Rama Mohan urged TDP cadres to explain the welfare and development achievements of the alliance government to people across the constituency. He participated as the chief guest in the "People's Meeting - People's Government - Welfare Achievements" programme held in the 21st Division on Sunday. The programme was organised by Division Secretary T.V. Satyanarayana, during which sarees were distributed to poor women. Rama Mohan asked party workers to visit every household and explain the welfare schemes implemented under the Super Six initiative since the alliance government came to power.

He also asked cadres to highlight what he described as the failures of the previous YSRCP government and explain the efforts being made to obstruct the implementation of current welfare programmes. Rama Mohan said 16,000 teacher posts had been filled through Mega DSC. He urged TDP workers to counter what he described as false propaganda by YSRCP leaders and communicate the government's welfare initiatives effectively to the public. Goriparthi Nameswara Rao, Korra Appanna, Vemulapalli Rangarao, Kesinam Siva Bhavanarayana, Mandala Mallesh, Koti Babu, Kishore, Koduru Pavan and Kummari Ramesh participated in the programme.

Monsoon Response Team Clears Water Quickly



Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Monsoon Response Team swung into action immediately after rainfall began in the city on Sunday and took steps to clear water stagnation at vulnerable locations. Necessary machinery had already been kept ready as part of the monsoon preparedness measures. Following the directions of VMC Commissioner Dhyanaachandra, Zonal Commissioners, Heads of Departments, engineering staff and sanitation personnel conducted field inspections across the city. Officials identified waterlogged areas and deployed Air-Tech machines to remove accumulated rainwater and restore normal movement. Teams inspect-

ed Pinnamaneni Polyclinic Road, Labbipet, the bridge area, Nirmala Convent Road and Bandar Road, where water stagnation was reported after the rainfall. Officials said the accumulated water was cleared soon after the rain stopped, helping prevent inconvenience to motorists, pedestrians and local residents. The officials said special attention was being given to locations that are prone to waterlogging during the monsoon season. Monsoon Response Teams would remain alert throughout the season and respond immediately whenever rainfall leads to water stagnation. The VMC has also directed field staff to continue monitoring vulnerable areas and take prompt action to ensure smooth traffic movement and public convenience during heavy rains.

Applications Invited for Best Journalist Awards

Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The State Government has invited applications for the 2025 Best Journalist Awards to recognise professional excellence and distinguished service in journalism. K.S. Viswanathan, Director, State Department of Information and Public Relations, said awards would be presented in 12 categories, with cash prizes ranging from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.2 lakh. Applications must reach the Director, Department of Information and Public Relations, 2nd Floor, NTR Administrative Building, Pandit Nehru Bus Station, Vijayawada, by 5 pm on Sept 28, 2026. The Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao Pantulu Best Journalist

Award carries Rs.2 lakh and is open to journalists with at least 10 years' experience. Three Best Rural Journalist Awards-Khasa Subba Rao, Mutnuri Krishna Rao and Maddukuri Chandrasekhara Rao-carry Rs.1 lakh each. The Savitribai Phule Best Woman Journalist, Best Cartoonist, Abul Kalam Azad Best Urdu Journalist, Best Electronic Media Journalist and Best Video Journalist awards carry Rs.1 lakh each. V.R. Narla Lifetime Achievement, Kokku Ahobala Rao Best Photojournalist and Madduri Annappurnaya awards will be selected by the committee without applications. Applicants must submit at least five works published or broadcast during 2025.

Chinni Says Chandrababu to Decide Mayor Candidate

Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) said more than 15 leaders within the party were competing for the Vijayawada Mayor post. He said Bonda Uma was also seeking the Mayor ticket for his son. Chinni stated that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu would take the final decision on the candidate who would contest the Mayor election. He said the party leadership would consider all relevant factors before selecting the candidate. Chinni also dismissed reports that he had requested the Chief

Minister to postpone the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation elections. He clarified that the reports were untrue and said he had not made any such request. He maintained that the decision on the Mayor candidate rests entirely with the party leadership and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Chinni said the party would announce the candidate after examining the claims and aspirations of leaders seeking the post. He reiterated that the final decision would be taken by Chandrababu Naidu based on the overall political situation and the interests of the party.

CPM Protests Against Rising Prices



Vijayawada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The CPM staged a protest and dharna in the 58th Division of Ajit Singh Nagar in Vijayawada Central constituency, opposing the rising prices of essential commodities. CPM State Secretariat member Ch. Baburao and leader B. Ramana Rao participated in the protest, where activists displayed essential commodities and raised slogans against the price rise. Ramana Rao said the prices of essential commodities had increased significantly in recent months, putting an additional burden on common people. He said rice prices had increased by Rs.15-20 per kg within two to three months. He added that prices of pulses, cooking oil, sugar, jaggery and onions were also increasing. He alleged that higher taxes and the ris-

ing prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas and electricity were further increasing the financial burden on households. He also mentioned the increase in house taxes as another concern for people. Ramana Rao demanded that essential commodities be made available at affordable prices through ration shops. He called for strengthening the Public Distribution System (PDS) and fair-price shops to ensure that people receive essential items without difficulty. He also demanded a reduction in petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices and urged the government to properly implement the three free gas-cylinder scheme. CPM leaders, including Nizamuddin, participated in the protest and extended their support to the demands raised by the party.

Teacher Receives State-Level Best Teacher Award

Eluru, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Pathivada Venkata Naga Satyanarayana, Physical Science teacher at ZP Plus High School, Dharmajigudem, Eluru district, received the State-Level Best Teacher Award. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Lokesh presented the award in Amaravati.

Satyanarayana was recognised for his innovative teaching methods, including the use of computer technology and clickers on IFB panels. He transformed classrooms into laboratories by conducting experiments during lessons. He also prepared a 100-Day Action Plan and authored modules for the teacher's handbook. He served as a State Resource

Person (SRP) and provided training through SCERT. He authored the 'Vijayaketanam PS' material and trained KGBV teachers. His dedication to teaching, continuous monitoring, instructional planning and efforts to help students achieve higher

standards earned him the state-level honour.

Police Raid Houses in Madanapalle



Madanapalle, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Police conducted surprise raids on the residence of Koneeti Sulochana in Madanapalle, Annamayya district, based on a court-issued search warrant. Three

special teams carried out searches at Sulochana's house and the residence of her brother, Srinivasulu. Police reportedly seized property documents and blank bond papers carrying 15 forged signatures. Sulochana faces allegations of misappropriating assets by obtaining signatures on blank bond papers on the pretext of providing loans. She is also facing allegations linked to a land and building transaction valued at Rs.60 crore. A complaint was filed alleging that 47 cents of land was encroached upon using a forged Power of Attorney. Police said the seized documents would be sent to a forensic laboratory for examination. Authorities also revealed that 14 criminal cases have already been registered against Sulochana and that a rowdy sheet is active against her.

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Visits Ratnalamma Temple



Eluru, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar visited the Ratnalakunta Ammavaru (Ratnalamma) temple in Ratnalakunta village of Pedavegi Mandal on Sunday and performed special prayers. Temple Committee Chairman Manne Srinivasa Rao and committee members welcomed the MP on his arrival. After the prayers,

temple priests blessed Putta Mahesh Kumar and offered him Teertha-Prasadam. Earlier, the MP attended the wedding reception of Praveen, son of Avirni Srinivasa Rao and Rajyalakshmi, at Annapurna AC Kalyana Mandapam in Ratnalakunta. He presented the "Mahesh Pelli Kanuka" wedding gift to the newlyweds and conveyed his blessings to the couple.

Teachers' Day Celebrations Held in Gudivada



Gudivada, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Teachers' Day celebrations were held grandly under the Kanchanapalli Naga Kumari Seva Trust at the Gudivada Officers' Club. Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu and AP State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Ravi Venkateswara Rao attended as chief guests.

Trust Convener Subrahmanyam led the programme. Ramu said teachers play a

key role in shaping students' discipline, values, responsibility and understanding of society. He said respecting teachers means respecting the education system and the future of society. He credited teachers' hard work for the excellent recent 10th-class results and said their dedication was attracting more parents towards government schools. On AI, Ramu said technology could assist teachers but could never replace them, as teachers understand students' minds, build confidence and instill values. He said Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has always prioritized teachers' welfare and expressed confidence that he would address their issues. Later, Ramu, Ravi Venkateswara Rao and alliance leaders felicitated teachers for distinguished service. Mandal Education Officers Gopala Rao, Ch. Rajini, Balaji and Srinivas, Pandraju Sambiah and others attended.

Police Conduct Cordon and Search Operations



Bapatla, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla district police conducted simultaneous cordon and search operations in Repalle Town, Chirala II Town and Karlapalem police station limits on Sunday under the directions of District SP B. Uma Maheswar, IPS. The operations involved 175 police officers and personnel, who seized 157 suspicious vehicles without proper documents, including 147 two-wheelers and 10 auto-rickshaws. Under Repalle DSP Shaik Abdul Azeez, police seized 70

vehicles in the 2nd Ward. Under Bapatla In-charge DSP P. Jagadeesh Naik, 38 vehicles were seized at Etravaripalem. Under Chirala DSP M.D. Moin, 49 vehicles were seized at Adinaraya napuram. CIs Ashok Babu, Suresh Babu, Nafeez Basha, Anand, Hari Krishna and Sasikumar, along with SIs and police personnel, participated. Uma Maheswar warned that ganja trade would not be tolerated. He urged people to report illegal activities to police, 8333813228 or 112, assuring confidentiality.

Durgesh Warns Paper Mill Over Pollution

Rajahmahendravaram, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kandula Durgesh criticised the management of the Kadiam paper mill over alleged pollution and other issues affecting workers and the public. He said the management had been given sufficient time to take pollution control measures, but there had been no significant change. Durgesh alleged that the paper mill owner was not paying taxes to the Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation. He

also expressed concern over the livelihood of workers, stating that 70 employees of the Kadiam paper mill had been left without jobs. The Minister said the alliance government would extend support to industries and encourage industrial development. However, he warned that such support would not come at the cost of people's lives and health. He made it clear that playing with public safety and ignoring pollution control norms would not be tolerated.

Minister Orders Intensified Search for Missing Youths

Amaravati, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu spoke with the District Collector and Superintendent of Police (SP) over the disappearance of two youths from Katakani Palle in the Veligonda Project feeder canal in the Markapuram area. Ramanaidu expressed shock over the incident and directed officials to intensify search operations to locate the missing youths and recover their bodies. He urged officials to take all necessary steps for the search without

delay. The Minister warned people against entering the feeder canal as water was flowing rapidly. He said the public should remain alert while approaching the canal and Nallamala Sagar, as the uneven bed makes it difficult to assess the water depth at different points. Ramanaidu also directed officials to arrange special security and continuous monitoring at the feeder canal and Nallamala Sagar. He asked police and revenue personnel to coordinate closely and prevent people from entering dangerous areas.

Ganganamma Jatara Celebrated Grandly at Achchampalem

Achchampalem, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

The inaugural Ganganamma Jatara was celebrated grandly at the newly constructed Ganganamma temple in Achchampalem village of Ghantasala Mandal on Sunday. Special rituals and prayers were performed as part of the festivities. Constituency youth leader Mandal Venkatram attended the celebrations as the chief guest and offered special prayers to Goddess Ganganamma. Temple committee representatives felicitated him with a traditional shawl on his arrival. Former Sarpanch Gajula Naga Srinivasa Rao, committee organizers Dakshineni Venkata Mohana Rao and other members participated in the felicitation. Later, Mandal Venkatram felici-



tated the temple committee representatives. AMC Chairperson Thota Kanaka Durga, former Sarpanch Gajula Naga Srinivasa Rao, committee organizers Dakshineni Venkata Mohana Rao and Pusala Venkateswara Rao, Janasena Mandal Vice-President Suggana Pavan Kumar, and Janasena leaders Kalari Prasad, Lanka Shankara Rao and Dakshineni Ajay Kumar attended the event.

Voter Revision Applications Must Be Resolved Immediately



Bapatla, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar directed officials to conduct the special summary revision of electoral rolls with utmost transparency and care. On Sunday, he conducted surprise inspections in Amrutaluru and Pedapudi villages. At polling stations in Pedapudi, the Collector reviewed pending voter regis-

tration and revision applications through the logins of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs). He discussed technical issues related to voter mapping, photo clarity and the registration process with officials. Vinod Kumar instructed officials to immediately resolve all valid applications without delay. He stressed that staff must work responsibly and ensure there is no scope for errors in voter registration and electoral roll revision. The Collector said officials should carefully verify applications and address technical problems promptly. He directed the concerned staff to maintain accuracy throughout the revision process and ensure that eligible voters face no unnecessary difficulties while updating their details.

Better Infrastructure Is Alliance Government's Goal: MLA Malakondaiah



Chirala, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Chirala MLA Madduluri Malakondaiah laid foundation stones for several development works in Wards 23 and 26 of Chirala Municipality on Sunday. The projects are being taken up with 15th Finance Commission funds. He performed Bhoomi Puja along with local residents and alliance leaders. In Ward 23, foundation was laid for a cement road and drainage system near the Yanadi Sangham and Jalamma water

tank. In Ward 26, Vitthal Nagar, drainage works near Manna Church, estimated at Rs.11.80 lakh, were inaugurated. Speaking on the occasion, Malakondaiah said providing better infrastructure is the alliance government's main objective. He said priority is being given to roads, drainage and drinking water facilities in every ward. He added that CC roads and drains would improve transportation and provide a permanent solution to sanitation problems.

AP JAC Amaravati Temporarily Postpones Agitation

Amaravati, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

AP JAC Amaravati State Executive Committee decided to temporarily postpone its planned agitation. State President Bopparaju said the committee was briefed on discussions held

with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He said clarity was still awaited on certain issues, including Interim Relief (IR) and arrears. Bopparaju warned that the agitation would resume if the government failed to resolve their demands.

Kudupudi Satthibabu Gets Key TDP Responsibility



Rajahmahendravaram, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Senior TDP leader and State Shetty Balija Corporation Chairman Kudupudi Satthibabu has been assigned another key responsibility as the Election In-charge of the Polavaram Parliamentary District. The appointment follows his recent selection as Corporation Chairman and Peddapuram Constituency Observer, giving him three important responsibilities in the party. The TDP leadership appointed the parliamentary district in-charges following the directions of party chief and Chief

Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Gummidi Sandhya Rani will serve as the In-charge Minister for the Polavaram Parliamentary District. Party leaders said Satthibabu's new responsibility reflected recognition of his public service and organisational work. Satthibabu recently participated in a meeting on local body elections chaired by Chandrababu Naidu at the Undavalli Camp Office in Amaravati. TDP National General Secretary and Minister Nara Lokesh, State Party President Palla Srinivasa Rao, ministers, zonal observers and senior leaders attended. Satthibabu said he would strengthen the party at the grass-roots level and take government welfare and development programmes to the people. He said he would coordinate with ministers, public representatives, leaders and cadres to ensure TDP's victory in the upcoming local body elections. TDP cadres and Shetty Balija community leaders congratulated him on the new responsibility.

MLA Adireddy Vasu Assures Support to Journalists



Rajahmahendravaram, Sept 06 | TPN Bureau

Rajahmahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Vasu said he would stand by journalists and work for their welfare. He was the chief guest at the JD(R) East Godavari District General Body Meeting held at the Rajamahendravaram Police Convention Hall on Sunday. JD(R) State Secretary Meda Srinivas presided over the meeting. Vasu said the alliance government was committed to media welfare and assured efforts to protect journalists' rights. Former MP Margani Bharat Ram said journalists play a key role in exposing irregularities and bringing social change.

Meda Srinivas said JD(R) was established to support journalists and resolve their problems. He praised District Honorary President Marampudi Somaraju and late JD(R) Secretary Kudelli Ratna Kishore for strengthening the organisation. He said JD(R) National President Poola Thota Krishna was leading national-level movements for journalists. Senior journalists Raghava Rao, Lincoln, Varada Nageswara Rao, Rajagopal, Talupula Rao, Krupanandam and Marampudi Somaraju were felicitated. Congress leaders and JD(R) representatives, including T.K. Visweswara Reddy, Balepalli Murali, Gade Girish Kumar Gupta, Singamshetti Surya Raghavendra and others participated.

Bhogapuram Youth Dragged on Road, Five Arrested



Bhogapuram, Sept 6 | TPN Bureau

A shocking incident of alleged assault was reported in Bhogapuram of Vizianagaram district, where a young man was reportedly tied with ropes and dragged along a public road over a dispute concerning motorcycle repair payments. According to police, the victim, identified as a youth from Ramachandra Rajupeta, had approached mechanic Mahesh for vehicle repairs. A dispute reportedly arose over the payment for the repair work. In an alleged act of violence, Mahesh and others tied ropes around the victim's hands and neck and initially forced him to walk on the road.

The accused allegedly went a step further and dragged the youth behind a motorcycle, causing panic among people who witnessed the incident. The disturbing episode reportedly took place in a public area, prompting concern among local residents. Vizianagaram District Superintendent of Police Damodar said police arrested mechanic Mahesh and four others allegedly involved in the incident. Cases have been registered against the accused under several sections of law, including provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the SP said. Police are investigating the circumstances that led to the assault and are examining the role of each of the accused. Further legal action will be taken based on the investigation, officials said. The incident has sparked concern over the alleged use of violence to settle a financial dispute and raised questions about the safety of residents in public places.

A sigh from the heart of a poet



1. I have a song in my veins, Still looking for a singer. I have a lyre, devoid of strings, searching for a musician.
2. have a story of melancholy yet to find a listener I'm choking with a deluge of words, Struggling to become poetry!
3. My world is full of hope Nevertheless, plethora of doubts flow in and out.... Im still to find an address That can promise me of veracity.
4. have a heart, full of emptiness waiting to be filled in with compassion all the shards of Time arranged for a tale of past yet to knead them into a story of sublime
5. I have letters and words as my confrères yet to culminate into words of consolation words of consolation....



Dr. Srinivas Vasudev,
Academic Director,
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Moonlight on the Waves of Women's Tears



A good writer does more than to record what has happened. A good writer gives meaning to events, examines them, interprets them, and reveals what lies beneath them. That is why a single drop of a tear can become a story, an entire era can take the shape of a novel, and an individual memory can be transformed into a society's collective memory. This is one of the miracles of great literature. Human life tells countless stories every day. Every age contains the raw material for innumerable novels. All that a creative writer needs are eyes that can see, a heart that can listen, and the artistic ability to give form to what has been experienced. In a sense, experience is the writer's clay, imagination the water, structure the wheel, and language the hands. Only when all these elements come together can the clay become an enduring work of art. In the same way, experience becomes literature, and an age becomes a novel that survives its time. In the world of Telugu literature, the name Volga immediately evokes feminism. Through works such as Swachha and Vimukta, she laid a strong intellectual foundation for the feminist movement in Telugu literature. Her stories, novels, essays, plays, film writings and translations together created a wide literary landscape of women's consciousness and emancipation. Yet Volga did not express her ideas only through the written word. She also explored their visual possibilities. Having received training in filmmaking at the Film and Television

Institute of India, Pune, she transformed that experience into the novel Kanneeti Keratala Vennela (Moonlight on the Waves of Tears). In this novel, introspection is more important than plot, the growth of personality more significant than events, and self-discovery more profound than romantic love. It is therefore not merely a feminist novel, but a modern Telugu novel that invites reflection on art, life, freedom and human relationships. Volga drew upon her experiences at the Poona film institute to shape the novel. The lectures she heard and the films she watched become part of its imaginative texture, while cinema itself becomes an important subject and narrative device. At its heart, the novel can be understood as the story of a human journey in which sorrow is transformed into creative energy. By taking meaningful cinema as one of its central concerns, Volga portrays a woman not as someone confined to the roles imposed by family relationships, but as a thinking individual someone capable of appreciating art and of shaping her own life. A look at Volga's major writings shows her to be a writer who transformed the woman's voice in Telugu literature from a mere expression of suffering into a quest for identity, freedom and philosophical self-understanding. Her writings may broadly be viewed as having evolved through three phases. The first focuses on the oppression women experience within the family structure. The second

explores women's search for identity and their right to make their own choices. The third turns towards feminist reinterpretations of mythological figures and deeper philosophical inquiry into women's lives. Yet, throughout these phases, one powerful idea remains at the centre of her work: a woman is an individual in her own right. Volga took her pen name from the great Volga River in Russia. Just as the river continues to flow across boundaries and obstacles, she believed that women's freedom too must overcome every form of bondage. Born in Andhra Pradesh in the 1950s, Volga pursued higher education in Telugu literature and worked as a teacher before moving into literature, the women's movement, television and cinema. The Asmit? Resource Centre for Women, which she helped establish, became an important platform for women's awareness and empowerment in the Telugu-speaking states. Her engagement with women's lives, rights and social concerns extended beyond literature into activism and social movements. The language of Volga's writing is at once simple and philosophical. It is emotionally restrained rather than melodramatic, and often carries a strong symbolic resonance. Her writing derives its power not from rhetorical excess but from the clarity and depth of the questions it raises. Among her major works are the novels Sahaja, Swachha, Manavi, Kanneeti Keratala Vennela and Aakaashamlo Sagam. Her short-story collections, including Raajakeeya Kathalu and Prayogam, draw extensively upon women lived experiences. She has also written feminist literary criticism, essays on the women's movement and social analysis. Her translations include important works of world feminist literature as well as books relating to women's studies. Among her mythological reinterpretations, Vimukta stands as a landmark. In this work, Volga revisits mythological women such as Sita, Urmila, Ahalya, Shurpanakha and Renuka from a radically different perspective. The women of the Ramayana, in her interpretation, are not merely figures defined by male authority or confined to patriarchal roles. They possess their own consciousness, desires, questions and agency. Vimukta therefore occupies an important place in the feminist reinterpretation of mythology in Telugu literature. Volga received several national and state-level literary honours for her contribution to literature and women's empowerment. Among them are the Sahitya Akademi Award, literary honours from Telugu University, national recognitions for women's empowerment, and numerous awards from literary and social organisations. In the history of Telugu literature, Volga is not merely a writer, she represents a way of thinking. Her literature teaches us to see a woman not as an object of pity, but as an individual entitled to dignity, freedom and equal rights. From the women of mythology to the complexities of modern urban life, her writing has illuminated



Varala Anand

Poet, Film Critic &
Recipient of Kendra
Sahitya Akademi Award for
Translation

ed women's experiences from new and challenging perspectives. Her enduring contribution lies in the way she has made literature an instrument of social transformation. Her works continue to speak to women's consciousness not as slogans from a bygone movement, but as living questions about identity, freedom, choice and the right to create one's own life. And perhaps that is what the title Moonlight on the Waves of Women's Tears ultimately suggests: tears are not always signs of defeat. Under the right light, even sorrow can become a source of vision, creativity and freedom.

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At the Border of Belief and Reality

Pradeep Jilwane's Kaakar-Kissa: A Novel of Changing Villages, Changing Beliefs and Human Vulnerability



Every village has a boundary drawn upon the land every society carries boundaries drawn within the mind. Dr. Pradeep Jilwane's Hindi novel Kaakar-Kissa inhabits the uneasy space between the two. Rooted in Madhya Pradesh and alive with the earthy cadence of the Nimadi dialect, the novel brings together rural transformation, belief, exploitation, caste, love and human vulnerability in a narrative regional in texture yet contemporary in significance. In Nimadi, "Kaakar" refers to the recognised boundary of a village or region. In Jilwane's imagination, however, geography becomes metaphor. The Kaakar marks the uncertain threshold between village and town, tradition and modernity, faith and deception, belonging and displacement. As expanding towns absorb neighbouring villages, communities on their edges find themselves suspended between two worlds unable to preserve the old untouched, yet unable to embrace the new without losing something of themselves. One of the novel's most striking choices is to place parrot astrology at the heart of its

narrative. The familiar roadside astrologer, seated near a courthouse with a parrot and fortune cards, is an easily overlooked figure of everyday Indian life. Jilwane transforms this marginal presence into a revealing lens through which to examine anxiety, hope, helplessness and the human urge to negotiate the uncertainty of tomorrow. Yet Kaakar-Kissa does more than document a fading folk practice. It traces its mutation under the pressures of modern life. Traditional parrot astrology may be struggling for survival, but belief itself does not disappear. It changes its costume. This transformation finds its sharpest expression in the protagonist Omprakash's Navagraha Jyotish Anusandhan Kendra, Khargone. What once occupied the pavement acquires the vocabulary of research, professionalism, publicity and commerce. Astrology moves into organised establishments, newspapers and television channels. The irony is telling modernity does not always destroy superstition sometimes it simply repackages and markets it. The novel's varied

characters broaden this social canvas. The troubled tribal character Soumya stands alongside educated professionals, businessmen and advocates such as Guptaaji and Brijmohan Mahajan. Through these contrasting lives, Jilwane suggests that uncertainty recognises few social boundaries. Education and economic position may differ, but the longing for reassurance remains profoundly human. Beneath this world of prediction runs a darker current society's tendency to invent convenient explanations for misfortune. Omprakash's expulsion from the village becomes especially significant. He is blamed for ominous happenings not through evidence, but through collective fear. The episode raises a disturbing question what happens when suspicion acquires the authority of truth? When fear replaces reason, prejudice can easily disguise itself as judgment. Kaakar-Kissa is therefore also a narrative of resistance. It confronts exploitation, caste divisions and attitudes that diminish

Dr. Peruka Raju



National Poet
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human dignity. Its characters do not merely suffer they question, endure and resist. An engaging love story runs through this shifting landscape, bringing emotional warmth while allowing love, livelihood, caste, aspiration and identity to intersect naturally with changing village life. Jilwane's use of Nimadi cultural texture lends authenticity without imprisoning the novel within regionalism. The local becomes a doorway to the universal. Through one landscape and its people, he opens questions that resonate across contemporary Indian society. A poet, fiction writer, researcher, editor and translator, Dr. Pradeep Jilwane has consistently engaged with regional culture and social change in works such as Aathva Rang@Pahad-Gatha and Parathan Samay. Kaakar-Kissa deepens that literary

engagement. Perhaps the novel's greatest strength lies in its refusal to romanticise either tradition or modernity. It looks beneath the apparent innocence of rural life while questioning the polished promises of progress. Neither world escapes scrutiny. With its unconventional theme, regional rootedness and social questioning, Kaakar-Kissa occupies a distinctive space in contemporary Hindi fiction. Its Kaakar finally becomes more than a village boundary: it is the fragile line between inheritance and change, faith and reason, belonging and displacement between the world we receive and the world we choose to create. **Book Details**
Author: Dr. Pradeep Jilwane,
Publisher: Setu Publications
Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
Price: 295
Contact: 9755980001

Shah Sets 2029 Drug-Free India Target

3New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Centre has prepared a roadmap to make India drug-free by 2029, stressing that a drug-free young population would play a crucial role in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India, or Viksit Bharat, by 2047. Addressing a press conference in Goa after chairing a high-level meeting on narcotics, Shah said the government was committed to eliminating the drug menace with the same determination with which it had tackled terrorism and Naxalism. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and senior officials from the Union Home Ministry and state government attended the meeting. Shah said the Centre had adopted a coordinated, nationwide strategy covering the entire narcotics chain, including trafficking, financing, enforcement, rehabilitation and prevention. The government aims to dismantle 100 national and international drug networks and bring back 100 fugitives to India by March 2029. It also plans to establish end-to-end visi-



bility of the drug supply chain by March 2027 and destroy at least 75 clandestine drug laboratories during 2026. Highlighting efforts to bring wanted criminals back from abroad, Shah said 274 wanted or absconding criminals had been brought to India from 36 countries between July 2019 and July 2026. During the last three years, 401 Red Corner Notices were issued, including 182 up to July this year. More than

1,400 Central and state agencies have also been connected through Interpol to facilitate faster information sharing. The minister said assets worth Rs.17,874 crore belonging to fugitives had been attached between 2019 and 2026, while Rs.18,762 crore had been recovered or restored. Shah said the fight against narcotics had been elevated to a national security priority under the Modi government. He pointed

to improvements in internal security, including the decline of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, reduced separatist sentiment after the abrogation of Article 370, and the decline of Left-Wing Extremism. He said the government would apply the same approach to narcotics that it used against Naxalism. A four-tier National Coordination Committee for Countering Drug Trafficking (NCCORD) mechanism was established in 2019, while Anti-Narcotics Task Forces have been constituted in all states and Union Territories. Shah said the anti-drug campaign also integrates awareness, treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and livelihood opportunities. The government has introduced the 1933 MANAS helpline to assist people struggling with drug addiction. The three-year roadmap rests on four pillars: intelligence- and operation-based enforcement, control of synthetic drugs, demand reduction and harm reduction, and strengthening capacity and coordination.

IIT Mandi Probes Controversial Gita Poster

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi has ordered an inquiry into a controversial Bhagavad Gita-themed poster displayed on its campus that described the role of Shudras as to "serve higher classes", triggering criticism over caste discrimination. IIT Mandi Director Laxmidhar Behera said the poster was part of a student-led event and had not been endorsed by the institute. He said an inquiry committee had been constituted to examine the matter and ensure that the campus was not used for any activity violating social harmony. In an email to the IIT Mandi community, Behera said he was "shocked" to learn about the poster displayed during Janmashtami celebrations on September 4. He stressed that the institute strongly condemned caste-based discrimination and remained committed to equality, social justice, scientific temper and constitutional values.



"I have personally fought against caste-based discrimination in any form in every forum," Behera said, adding that the inquiry committee included faculty members and representatives from different social categories, including Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. The controversy centres on a poster titled "Bhagavad Gita - The Timeless Wisdom", displayed out-

side the institute's auditorium. It classified society into Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras and listed their respective roles. While Brahmanas were described as responsible for spreading God's message, Kshatriyas for protecting society and spirituality, and Vaishyas for driving the economy and supporting others, Shudras were described as being required to "serve higher classes". The poster also quoted a Bhagavad Gita verse referring to four divisions of human society being created according to the three modes of material nature and the work associated with them. Behera told PTI that he had been away from the campus and returned only on Saturday. He said he learned about the controversy on Sunday morning and had not personally seen the poster. "I don't want to take a side here and let the panel decide," he said. Behera has a longstanding association with the Bhagavad Gita and

teaches a three-credit Gita course at IIT Mandi. His official profile says he has taught the "universal principles of peace through Bhagavad Gita" to young people for 27 years. He is also known as HG Lila Purushottam Das and is the founder of the proposed Bhaktivedanta University, described on its website as an ISKCON initiative. Defending ISKCON's position, Behera said the organisation opposed caste discrimination and maintained that occupational duties should be based on "guna and karma". The director has previously faced controversy over his views, including remarks linking natural disasters in Himachal Pradesh to cruelty towards animals and claims about removing "evil spirits" through chanting holy mantras. The inquiry is expected to determine how the poster was prepared, approved and displayed during the campus celebrations.

Guilty Won't Be Spared: Delhi CM

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday assured that those responsible for the collapse of a residential building in South-West Delhi's Satya Niketan area would face strict action, as rescue teams continued searching the debris. Gupta visited the site to oversee the rescue operation and said 11 people had been rescued so far. She said the immediate priority was to save those still trapped and assess the condition of the rescued victims. "Whoever is responsible for this, whether it is the building owner or an official, will not be spared," Gupta said while leaving for the hospital to check on the rescued victims. Explaining the preliminary cause of the collapse, the Chief Minister said the building was old and reno-



vation and excavation work was being carried out when a pillar reportedly shifted, causing the entire structure to collapse.

The building was being used as a paying guest accommodation, with children inside at the time of the incident. Gupta said all agencies

were working continuously at the site and assured that there would be no shortage of resources during the rescue operation. Meanwhile, authorities confirmed that two people were killed in the collapse. The AIIMS Trauma Centre said seven victims were brought to the hospital, of whom two were declared dead on arrival. Another person was taken to Safdarjung Hospital. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and local authorities continued search and rescue operations to determine whether anyone else remained trapped beneath the rubble. Gupta said accountability would be fixed after the rescue operation and reiterated that no person responsible for the tragedy would be spared.

Man Dies After Being Pushed From Train

Mathura: A 22-year-old man died after he was allegedly pushed from a moving passenger train following a dispute over sitting on its footrest near Raya railway station in Uttar Pradesh, the Government Railway Police (GRP) said on Sunday. The incident occurred on Saturday when the victim, identified as Jatin, a resident of Hathras district, was travelling with his family on the Kasganj-Mathura passenger train. The family had boarded the train at Hathras station. According to the GRP, when the train was passing through Raya station, Jatin got into an argument with a passenger identified as Gajendra over sitting on the footrest. The argument allegedly escalated into a physical altercation, during which Gajendra pushed Jatin from the moving train with the alleged intention of killing him, police said. Jatin fell from the train and suffered serious injuries. He later died from his injuries. Following the incident, GRP personnel arrested Gajendra and reg-



istered a case under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at GRP Mathura. Police said the victim's body was sent for postmortem examination.

After the procedure was completed, the body was handed over to his family. The GRP is investigating the circumstances

surrounding the altercation and the alleged push. Further details about the incident are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses.

Delhi Building Collapse Raises Safety Questions



New Delhi: The collapse of a nearly 50-year-old building in Delhi, which killed at least three people and injured several others, has raised serious questions over construction practices, building safety and the conversion of residential properties into student accommodation. The building, reportedly known as Hostel Daze, had remained in a dilapidated condition for years before its owner, Hari Ram Bansal, began renovating it in an apparent attempt to convert the property into a paying-guest facility. Located near Delhi University, the property was considered commercially attractive because of the large student population in the area. The renovation continued for several months and the building began housing tenants, mostly students, in August. However, construction work had reportedly not been completed when the structure collapsed. Workers were allegedly carrying out work in the basement at the time of the incident. Six people were rescued from the debris, including two labourers, while another worker was among those killed. Locals said a wall was being removed in the basement as part of the ongoing construction. The collapse also occurred after two consecutive days of rain in the national capital. Water had reportedly accumulated in the basement, with residents saying waterlogging is a recurring problem in the area. Despite the conditions, construction workers continued working in the basement. "Labourers were working in the basement even during the rain. Waterlogging is common in the basements of buildings here, and they could also be trapped," a local resident told the agency. Residents also alleged that several properties in the locality have been converted into paying-guest facilities or hostels despite being originally designed as residential buildings. Priyanka, a resident who has lived in the area for more than two decades, said many homeowners had shifted elsewhere after converting their properties into student accommodation. She alleged that some buildings were being extended to five or six floors and operated as boys' PGs, with owners collecting rent online while rarely visiting the properties. Another resident claimed Bansal had moved to Gurugram around two decades ago but continued visiting the property. He said construction work, including the removal of a wall in the basement, was underway before the collapse. The incident has intensified concerns over unauthorised construction, structural alterations, basement work and the commercial use of residential buildings in densely populated areas near educational institutions. Authorities have registered a case against the owner and initiated action following the tragedy. However, the incident has prompted questions over whether stricter inspections and enforcement could have prevented the collapse and the loss of lives.

Sena UBT Backs DJ Ban



Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) has backed calls for a blanket ban on high-decibel DJ systems across Maharashtra, with Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Bapat urging the state government to take an immediate decision on the issue following an attack on Pune-based environmental activist Vidyanand Bapat. Bapat has been campaigning against excessive noise pollution caused by powerful DJ systems during Ganesh Chaturthi processions and has called for a "high-decibel DJ-free Ganesh festival". The attack on the activist has intensified the political debate over noise levels during public celebrations. Raut said Bapat had received public support for his campaign and questioned the need for prolonged consultations before taking a decision. He urged Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to act instead of seeking consensus through public dialogue. Fadnavis had on Friday advocated a ban on DJs and appealed to people to celebrate festivals in a traditional manner. He also called for dialogue and discussion to build consensus on the issue. Raut said the government could decide on the use of DJs within a day and implement uniform rules across the state. He pointed to restrictions imposed by police in Nagpur and action against excessive noise in Mumbai, asking why Pune and other parts of Maharashtra should follow different rules. "The Cabinet should take a decision and implement it across the State," Raut said. He distinguished between traditional Maharashtrian music and modern high-powered DJ systems. Instruments such as taal, chiplya, lezim and dhol-tasha, he said, are part of the state's cultural heritage and are not the focus of the campaign. The concern, he stressed, is the excessive volume generated by DJs and its impact on residents. Raut said loud music during Navratri celebrations also continued in some areas until the early hours, causing significant disturbance. He claimed many residents were hesitant to object because their concerns could be portrayed as opposition to religion. The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader also defended Bapat against criticism and allegations that he was a "Dimagi Naxalawadi" or intellectual Naxalite for raising the issue. Raut said citizens should not be attacked or vilified for speaking about pollution and public health. He also argued that Pune had a long history of social reform and that the campaign against excessive noise should not be viewed through a political lens. Asked whether Shiv Sena (UBT) was supporting the protests in Pune, Raut said the issue should not be reduced to party politics. He described the campaign against excessive noise pollution and high-powered DJs as a people's movement. The controversy has put pressure on the Maharashtra government to consider whether a uniform statewide policy should be introduced to regulate or prohibit high-decibel DJ systems during public festivals.

Russia Defends India's Oil Purchases

New Delhi: Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov has defended New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian crude oil, saying India buys the commodity to meet its own energy requirements and support national development, rather than to help Moscow finance the war in Ukraine.

In an interview with DD News, Alipov said India's decision to purchase Russian oil was based on its national interests and the welfare of its people. He made the remarks amid growing Western pressure on countries continuing to import Russian energy.

The United States is considering measures that could impose steep secondary tariffs on major buyers of Russian oil and natural gas. A proposed US bill, the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, would give the US president discretionary authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on imports from the five largest buyers of Russian crude or natural gas.

The proposed legislation argues that revenues from energy exports strengthen Russia's economy and



help Moscow sustain its military operations in Ukraine. It also proposes sanctions against senior Russian military officials, state-owned banks and energy projects.

Russia Criticises Western Pressure

Alipov criticised the use of sanctions and tariffs, saying Western countries had chosen "pressure tactics instead of honest cooperation". He questioned why countries opposing India's purchases could not offer New Delhi a more competitive alternative for crude

oil.

He said Russia was prepared to supply India with as much oil as it needed and praised New Delhi for defending its national security and interests despite external pressure.

India Stands By Energy Security

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has also defended India's approach to Russian oil imports, arguing that restricting energy purchases would not by itself bring an end to the Ukraine conflict.

Speaking in Kyiv after meeting Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, Jaishankar said the conflict, now in its fifth year, could only be resolved through dialogue, diplomacy and negotiations.

He also highlighted the importance of energy security for India's 1.4 billion people and said the perspectives and concerns of both Ukraine and India needed to be respected.

The US and UK have backed the argument that reducing Russia's energy revenues would limit Moscow's ability to sustain the war.

Russia has remained India's largest crude oil supplier despite sustained Western pressure. However, Indian imports of Russian crude declined sharply in August after reaching record levels in June and July.

The issue continues to test India's diplomatic balancing act between maintaining energy security and managing relations with Western countries while preserving its longstanding ties with Russia.

Iran Claims Strike on US Vessel



Tehran: Iran on Sunday claimed it had struck an unmanned US vessel attempting to enter the Strait of Hormuz, escalating tensions amid renewed fighting between Tehran and Washington. The United States had not immediately confirmed the reported attack.

The claim came a day after the US military said its forces had struck three Iranian oil tankers following a missile attack on US Navy warships. The latest confrontation marks another escalation in a conflict that began with US and Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28. Although a ceasefire was announced in June, intermittent hostilities have continued as diplomatic efforts have stalled and both sides have sought to exert military and economic pressure on each other.

The United States and Iran resumed attacks last week following a month of relative calm. The Strait of Hormuz and Iranian communities along the strategic waterway have again become targets. At least five people were reportedly killed earlier in the week during a US bombardment of southern Iran.

The administration of US President Donald Trump appears to be pursuing a two-pronged strategy, combining military responses to attacks around the strait with financial measures targeting foreign institutions handling Iranian funds.

Iran, meanwhile, has indicated that it intends to withstand growing pressure despite decades of sanctions. Tehran has developed mechanisms to circumvent sanctions and continue selling oil, including through a shadow fleet of vessels that transport Iranian crude to international buyers. The Strait of Hormuz has emerged as a major source of leverage for Tehran. The strategically important waterway handles a substantial share of global oil and natural gas shipments and has traditionally been regarded as an international waterway.

Iran's nuclear programme remains another central issue in the conflict. The programme was expected to be addressed through negotiations, but diplomatic efforts collapsed shortly after the United States and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in mid-June.

Diplomats have said the United States, Britain, France and Germany are seeking to refer Iran to the UN Security Council over alleged failures to comply with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations.

With negotiations stalled and military tensions rising, the Strait of Hormuz has become a critical flashpoint, raising concerns over the security of global energy supplies and the possibility of further escalation between Iran and the United States.

China Mudslide Kills Two, 10 Missing

Beijing: At least two people were killed and 10 others remained missing after a mudslide struck a village in eastern China's Jiangxi province following days of torrential rain brought by Tropical Cyclone Saudel, state media reported on Sunday.

The mudslide hit a section of a village in Suichuan County early Saturday, damaging around a dozen houses and triggering a large-scale rescue operation. Local authorities said rescuers immediately rushed to the affected area and moved residents to safer locations to prevent further casualties.

According to an official statement, one person pulled from the debris was found dead, while two others were rescued alive and reported to be in stable condition.

Rescue teams continued searching through collapsed structures on Sunday morning and located one of the missing residents. The person was found dead beneath the rubble of collapsed houses, state broadcaster CCTV reported.



The disaster followed heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Saudel, which has affected several parts of southeastern China.

Saudel made two landfalls in Zhejiang province on August 28 before making a third landfall as a tropical storm in neighbouring

Fujian province on Thursday, according to China's official Xinhua news agency. Both Zhejiang and Fujian border Jiangxi. Fujian has also experienced severe flooding and widespread damage following days of heavy rain. Local authorities reported that several residents

remained unaccounted for, although the exact number was not immediately clear.

More than 100 houses collapsed in Huating Town in Putian city, Xinhua reported. A dike reportedly overtopped and breached on Thursday afternoon, sending floodwaters into nearby villages and trapping residents.

Authorities had evacuated around 600,000 people from high-risk offshore and onshore areas in Fujian by Friday night as a precaution.

Television footage showed several streets submerged under deep floodwater, with rescue teams using inflatable boats to reach affected residents and assist with evacuations.

Authorities in the affected provinces have continued rescue and relief operations while monitoring weather and flood conditions. The latest mudslide has renewed concerns over landslides and flooding in mountainous areas following prolonged periods of intense rainfall.

Iran Plans Multi-Front Attack on Israel

Jerusalem: Iran is reportedly coordinating a broader, multi-front assault against Israel involving its regional allies and armed groups, according to Israeli intelligence assessments cited by the Jerusalem Post.

The reported plan seeks to avoid the lack of coordination seen during the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack by synchronising operations involving Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, Hamas and pro-Iranian militias in Iraq and Syria.

According to the report, Iranian authorities are working to bring the various groups, often referred to as the "Axis of Resistance", into a coordinated campaign designed to put simultaneous military pressure on Israel from multiple directions.

The October 7 attack was initially launched by Hamas without a fully coordinated offensive involving Iran or Hezbollah. Documents recovered from Gaza reportedly indicated that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar had envisaged a wider regional conflict in which Hezbollah and Iran would eventually join the campaign against Israel.



However, US and Israeli assessments cited in the report said Iran and Hezbollah were not informed in advance about the precise details or timing of the October 7 assault. As a result, Hezbollah launched limited attacks from Lebanon rather than beginning a large-scale parallel offensive on the same day.

Israeli intelligence now believes Iran and its allied groups are attempting to address those coordination gaps. The reported strategy involves preparing simultane-

ous operations so that Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iraqi militias could launch attacks from multiple fronts at the outset of any future conflict.

The Israel Defence Forces have also identified renewed contacts between Hamas and Hezbollah, allegedly facilitated by Iran, aimed at increasing pressure on Israel from both the northern and southern fronts.

Senior commanders from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, particularly the Quds

Force, have reportedly held meetings and conference calls with commanders from Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iraqi militias to discuss expanding coordination.

The reported preparations come as Iran seeks to rebuild military capabilities damaged in earlier confrontations with Israel and the United States.

Beyond high-level discussions, intelligence assessments reportedly indicate closer operational and personal ties among the groups. Joint training activities have also been observed, while communication and coordination between different components of the network have increased.

If confirmed, the reported strategy would represent a significant shift from loosely connected regional attacks towards a more synchronised multi-front campaign. Such coordination could increase the risk of a wider regional conflict involving Israel and multiple Iran-aligned armed groups.

The assessments remain intelligence claims and do not establish that such an attack is imminent or that all the reported plans will ultimately be carried out.

Nepal Flood Death Toll Revised to 1,331

Kathmandu: The death toll from devastating floods and landslides across Nepal was revised to 1,331, as rescue and recovery operations continued in several affected areas, authorities said on Saturday.

The latest figure released by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDR-RMA) at 6 pm was lower than the 1,344 deaths reported in its noon update. Search teams continued efforts to locate missing people and rescue those trapped in difficult terrain.

Among the latest rescue efforts, a Chinese national was safely evacuated from an audit tunnel of the Upper Trishuli 1 Hydropower Project. A 64-year-old woman was also rescued from Betrawati in Nuwakot.

Indian rescue personnel are assist-

ing the Nepal Army in operations inside the Chilime Tunnel, where large quantities of debris, water and mud have hampered access to deeper sections. The Indian Embassy in Nepal said Indian and Nepalese teams were jointly clearing the tunnel despite difficult conditions.

Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava said debris, water and mud had accumulated to near the roof of parts of the tunnel.

He said the teams were working to clear enough space to bring heavy machinery into the tunnel. At the same time, efforts were underway to construct an access road from Syafrubesi to the tunnel entrance. The difficult terrain and narrow valley have limited the use of heavy helicopters, making the road essential for transporting excavators and other equipment.



India has also stepped up humanitarian assistance to Nepal following the catastrophic flooding. The Ministry of External Affairs said New Delhi had so far sent around 95 tonnes of relief material through seven aircraft, along with 54 specialised personnel supporting rescue and relief operations.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India would continue providing assistance based on requirements communicated by the Nepalese government.

US Strikes Three Iranian Oil Tankers



Cairo: US forces struck three Iranian oil tankers after American Navy warships came under ballistic missile attack, the US military said Saturday, warning that it could destroy Iran's "limited and exposed oil fleet" if necessary.

The strikes mark a sharp escalation in the conflict between Washington and Tehran, which has seen intermittent fighting since US and Israeli attacks on Iran began on February 28. The latest confrontation came after nearly a month of relative calm and amid the collapse of diplomatic negotiations.

The US military said an American aircraft carrier and a destroyer had evaded multiple "unprovoked Iranian attacks" while operating in the region. No US personnel were injured, it said. Two Iranian oil tankers were permanently disabled, while a third, which was unladen, was destroyed. The US described the vessels as part of a shadow network allegedly helping finance Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its regional armed groups.

Iran's joint military command warned that attacks on US warships would become more severe if Washington continued interfering with Iranian shipping, according to state media.

Iranian state television separately reported that US missiles struck a tanker near Kharg Island, a key oil-export terminal. The US said one tanker was hit off Kharg Island and another near Jask, east of the Strait of Hormuz. The third, unladen vessel was struck in the Gulf of Oman, with its crew ordered to abandon ship.

US Central Command chief Adm. Brad Cooper said Washington would continue defending its forces and would destroy Iran's exposed oil fleet if necessary. Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the strikes as a war crime and warned that responsibility for the consequences of continued US aggression and economic pressure would rest with Washington and its allies.

The latest attacks follow earlier US action against Iranian oil tankers. On May 8, the US military said it had used precision weapons against the smokestacks of two unladen Iranian tankers.

Tensions have also intensified around the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for global oil and natural gas shipments. Iran has increasingly used the strategic waterway as leverage, while US forces have helped guide commercial vessels through the area.

The Trump administration has combined military action with economic pressure, including measures targeting foreign financial institutions linked to Iran. US Vice President JD Vance said there was little prospect of renewed talks while Iran continued attacking ships.

Meanwhile, Iran's government has signalled a preference for a negotiated settlement, even as hard-line leaders have vowed to resist pressure. The country continues to rely partly on a shadow fleet to transport oil and circumvent sanctions.

The conflict's unresolved nuclear issue remains another major point of contention, with the US, Britain, France and Germany reportedly seeking UN Security Council action over Iran's nuclear obligations.

SBI Plans 12,000 New Hires



Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) is set to expand its workforce and branch network significantly during the current financial year, with plans to recruit around 11,000-12,000 employees and open 200-250 new branches across the country. SBI Chairman C.S. Setty said the proposed hiring would primarily cover clerical and officer-level positions. The recruitment plan takes into account employee retirements as well as the bank's growing operational requirements. The move is expected to create thousands of new employment opportunities while strengthening SBI's ability to serve customers across its extensive network. Setty said SBI already has one of the largest banking networks in the country and is looking to further increase its physical presence. The proposed addition of up to 250 branches is aimed at expanding access to banking services and meeting rising demand in different parts of the country. As of March 2026, SBI's total employee strength had crossed 2.45 lakh. The bank had recruited 25,633 employees during the previous financial year, underlining the scale of its ongoing workforce expansion. The latest hiring plan comes as SBI continues to focus on strengthening its operations amid changes in the banking sector, including increasing digital adoption and growing demand for financial services. While digital banking has expanded rapidly, the bank continues to maintain a large branch network to cater to customers across urban, semi-urban and rural markets. Meanwhile, SBI and its subsidiary SBI Capital Markets Ltd are also set to participate in the proposed initial public offering (IPO) of the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The two entities are expected to jointly sell a 1% stake in the IPO, according to the information available. The NSE is reportedly planning an IPO with a proposed size of around Rs.30,000 crore. The listing is expected to be closely watched by investors given the exchange's prominent position in India's capital markets. With fresh recruitment and branch expansion planned alongside its participation in the NSE IPO, SBI is positioning itself for continued growth while strengthening both its workforce and nationwide banking infrastructure.

West Asia, Oil, US Inflation to Drive Markets



Mumbai: Indian stock markets are likely to remain volatile this week as investors track developments in the West Asia conflict, crude oil prices and key US inflation data, analysts said. Global monetary-policy expectations, foreign fund flows and movements in the rupee are also expected to influence market sentiment. The outlook for equities has become increasingly uncertain after stronger-than-expected US employment data pointed to resilient economic activity and raised questions about the pace of future interest-rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. Investors are now awaiting the latest US inflation reading for further clues about the central bank's policy direction. "This week is expected to remain highly sensitive to global monetary policy, crude oil prices and geopolitical developments," Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice President of Research at Religare Broking, said. He added that investors would closely monitor the rupee, foreign institutional investor flows and domestic liquidity. Crude oil prices are likely to remain a major concern for Indian markets. The Strait of Hormuz, a crucial global energy shipping route, has emerged as a key risk amid renewed tensions in West Asia. Any disruption to oil supplies through the strait could push crude prices higher and increase pressure on India's inflation, trade balance and corporate profitability. Brent crude surged more than 8% last week, while West Texas Intermediate gained over 9%, as renewed US-Iran hostilities and concerns over the security of the Strait of Hormuz increased the geopolitical risk premium in oil prices, according to Ponmudi R, Chief Executive Officer of Enrich Money. For India, sustained high crude prices could have broader economic implications because the country relies heavily on imports to meet its energy requirements. A prolonged rise in oil prices could also put pressure on the rupee and increase input costs for several industries. The US inflation report will be another major market trigger. A stronger-than-expected inflation reading could reduce expectations of near-term monetary easing and potentially push global bond yields higher. Conversely, softer inflation could strengthen expectations of a rate cut and improve risk appetite across emerging markets, including India. Indian equities closed the previous week on a weak note. The BSE Sensex declined 749.08 points, or 0.96%, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 277.95 points, or 1.14%. The Nifty extended its decline for a fourth consecutive week, marking its longest losing streak in five months. "Indian equity markets remained volatile and under pressure during the week," Ponmudi said, adding that intensifying US-Iran hostilities and the sharp rise in crude prices kept investor sentiment under pressure. Analysts expect markets to remain highly responsive to global developments in the coming sessions, with geopolitical risks, oil prices and US monetary-policy signals likely to determine the direction of Indian equities.

GST Council Meet Likely on Oct. 7

New Delhi: The 57th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is likely to be held on October 7 in New Delhi, with the earlier September 12 schedule postponed due to a clash with the BRICS Summit, sources said. The GST Council meeting was originally scheduled for September 12. However, the date coincides with the BRICS Summit, which is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on September 12 and 13. The overlap has raised logistical and security concerns amid preparations for the high-level international gathering. While October 7 has emerged as the likely new date for the GST Council meeting, the government is yet to formally notify it. The final schedule is expected to be confirmed following consultations with state governments. Preparatory meetings of GST officials have already been planned for October 5 and 6, according to an official communication. The meeting of officers is scheduled to begin at 3 pm on October 5, while



the second session will be held from 11 am on October 6. These discussions are expected to help finalise the agenda and proposals that may be placed before the Council. The GST Council is the apex constitutional body responsible for making recommendations on major aspects of the indirect tax regime. Its discussions cover issues such as GST rates, exemp-

tions, tax procedures and other matters concerning the implementation of the unified tax system. The upcoming 57th meeting is expected to attract significant attention from businesses, consumers and state governments, particularly over the issue of GST rate rationalisation. Various proposals concerning the existing rate structure have been under discussion as authorities examine

ways to simplify the tax system and address concerns related to different GST slabs. Any changes to GST rates or exemptions could have implications for businesses and consumers across sectors, making the Council's decisions closely watched by the industry. The postponement also highlights the logistical challenges involved in organising major government meetings alongside large international events in the national capital. The BRICS Summit is expected to bring senior leaders and delegations from participating countries to New Delhi, requiring extensive security and administrative arrangements. Sources said October 7 is currently the preferred date for the GST Council meeting, but the schedule will become official only after the government issues a formal notification. Until then, the October 7 date remains tentative, and an official confirmation from the authorities is awaited.

India Becomes Europe's Top Diesel Supplier

New Delhi: India has emerged as an increasingly important supplier of diesel to Europe, filling part of the gap created by sharply lower Russian exports and a recent decline in US shipments, according to energy data and analytics firm Vortexa. Around 200,000 barrels per day of diesel and gasoil transited the Babel-Mandeb shipping route in August on vessels bound for Europe, broadly matching year-earlier levels after flows through the strategic route nearly stalled in March and April. Indian refiners accounted for about 60% of these volumes, making India a crucial source of diesel for Europe's eastern supply routes. India's growing role comes at a time when the country has substantial refining capacity and exports significant quantities of petroleum products. India is the world's fourth-largest refining nation, with installed capacity of 258.1 million tonnes per annum. During 2025-26, the country exported 61.5 million tonnes of petroleum products, placing it among the world's major exporters of refined fuels. However, questions are emerging over whether Indian refiners can



sustain the increased supply to Europe. Crude and condensate inflows into India fell for a second consecutive month to around 3.8 million barrels per day in August, compared with 4.8 million barrels per day a year earlier, Vortexa data showed. Meanwhile, Russian diesel exports remain severely depressed. Russia's seaborne diesel and gasoil exports averaged only around 150,000 barrels per day during the first 25 days of August, down about 610,000 barrels per day from a year earlier and 81% below the five-year

seasonal average. Although Russia's diesel export restrictions were expected to ease from September 1, a quick recovery in exports may prove difficult. Ukrainian drone attacks have disrupted Russian refineries and export infrastructure, with 32 refinery attacks recorded during July and August, according to data cited by Vortexa. US supplies, another major source for Europe, have also started weakening. American diesel shipments to Europe reached nearly 540,000 barrels per day during the first

half of August but fell to about 350,000 barrels per day in the second half, a decline of roughly 35%. The Strait of Hormuz is providing limited additional relief. Clean-product tanker crossings have declined, while ship-to-ship transfers off Oman have largely involved crude rather than refined fuels. Europe is therefore becoming increasingly dependent on a smaller group of suppliers. With Russian exports constrained, US shipments declining and limited additional volumes available through the Hormuz route, Indian refiners are carrying a growing share of Europe's diesel supply burden. The timing could prove critical as Europe heads toward its peak winter diesel-demand period. Inventories are already low, while refineries in Europe and North America are preparing for autumn maintenance after operating at elevated rates. The increasingly concentrated supply chain leaves European fuel markets vulnerable to further refinery outages, shipping disruptions or tighter crude availability in India, potentially keeping diesel markets under pressure during the winter season.

Gold Loans Set for Rapid Growth



Mumbai: India's gold loan market is witnessing rapid expansion, emerging as one of the fastest-growing segments of retail credit as households increasingly use their gold holdings to raise funds. According to a Motilal Oswal report, the market is projected to grow at an annual rate of around 28% and cross the Rs.30 lakh crore mark by March 2028. The gold loan market stood at approximately Rs.18.6 lakh crore as of March 2026, making it the second-largest retail asset segment after housing loans. It has also surpassed the personal loan portfolio in size. The sector recorded around 50% growth during 2025-26, with a nearly 60% increase in gold prices playing a major role in boosting the value of outstanding loans. India's vast household gold holdings are providing a strong foundation for further expansion. Indian families are estimated to hold around 28,000 tonnes of gold, valued at approximately Rs.380-390 lakh crore. However, only about 8% of these holdings are currently estimated to have entered the organised lending market, highlighting the enormous untapped potential. Small businesses, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and borrowers in the informal sector are increasingly turning to

gold loans to meet working-capital requirements. Among retail loans taken by microfinance customers, gold loans account for around 18%, indicating their growing importance as a source of quick liquidity. However, the industry faces concerns over the quality of growth. Existing customers account for a significant share of borrowing, rather than a substantial expansion in the overall borrower base. Major gold finance companies, including Muthoot Finance and Manappuram Finance, have indicated that their combined customer base has remained around 90 lakh, while their gold holdings have stayed at approximately 260-265 tonnes. The proportion of renewed or repeat loans increased from 75% in 2022 to 82% in 2025. This suggests that much of the portfolio expansion is being driven by existing borrowers and higher gold valuations rather than a significant increase in new customers. It also raises concerns about borrowers potentially becoming increasingly dependent on debt. The geographical spread of gold lending is another major trend. Once concentrated largely in southern India, the business is expanding rapidly across the country. While the national growth rate was around 50%,

Rajasthan recorded 78% growth, followed by Maharashtra at 61% and Uttar Pradesh at 58%. Regulators are also paying closer attention to the sector's rapid expansion. The Reserve Bank of India has tightened oversight of gold lending practices, including loan-to-value calculations, loan tenure, borrower eligibility and loan management. Greater regulatory alignment between banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) is aimed at preventing unhealthy competition and excessive risk-taking. Meanwhile, private banks and NBFCs are aggressively expanding their gold loan businesses. Bajaj Finance's gold loan portfolio grew at an annual rate of 86% over the past three years and reached around Rs.21,000 crore by the June 2026 quarter. The company is targeting Rs.30,000 crore by March 2027. With gold prices remaining a key driver and millions of tonnes of household gold still outside the organised lending system, the sector has significant growth potential. However, sustainable expansion will depend on attracting new borrowers while ensuring responsible lending and preventing excessive dependence on repeat loans.

AI's Coding Threat: Vembu Tells Engineers to Stay Relevant

Artificial intelligence may soon transform not just software development but also the world of mathematics, according to Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu, who has issued a sobering warning to software engineers about their future in an AI-driven workplace. In a recent post on X, Vembu said society may have to confront the possibility that AI could eventually solve a vast majority of mathematical problems. He suggested that the pace of progress could be far faster than many people currently anticipate, with major advances potentially arriving within months. "We have to accept the possibility that all mathematics could fall to AI within some months, however unsettling that might seem," Vembu said. He compared the development to the progress AI has already demonstrated in games such as chess and Go, where machines have surpassed humans in highly complex forms of strategic thinking. According to Vembu, the more difficult question may not be whether AI can solve mathematical problems, but whether it can generate entirely new mathematical concepts that humans consider meaningful, creative or interesting. He acknowledged that even this distinction could eventually disappear as AI systems become more capable. Vembu also connected the development of AI in mathematics with the future of programming. He argued that artificial intelligence could eventually generate a substantial portion of software code efficiently and accurately, potentially reducing the amount of human effort required to build complex applications. One factor that could accelerate this shift is the growing use of formal verification systems such as Lean. Such systems can mathematically verify proofs and could increasingly be applied to software produced by AI, helping developers determine whether automatically generated code works as intended. However, Vembu stressed that the future should not necessarily be viewed as one in which humans disappear from software development altogether. Instead, humans are likely to remain part of the process, but their numbers and responsibilities could change dramatically. For software professionals, he said, the critical issue is therefore not simply whether AI will take over coding. The more important question is how many people will actually be needed to perform the work. "The point is not that AI will do it all," Vembu noted, while emphasizing that the number of humans required could become significantly smaller. His message carries a broader warning for the technology industry: as AI becomes capable of handling increasingly sophisticated technical tasks, software engineers may need to continuously develop new skills and find ways to remain valuable. For now, Vembu's advice is straightforward-adapt, stay useful and keep working. "All of us in software need to figure out how to stay relevant," he concluded.



xAI Loses Bid to Block Minnesota AI 'Nudification' Ban



Washington: Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company xAI has lost an early court battle to block Minnesota's first-of-its-kind law targeting AI-generated fake nude images, allowing the measure to remain in effect while the company's constitutional challenge moves forward. U.S. District Judge Donovan Frank on Friday rejected xAI's request for a preliminary injunction against the law, which took effect on August 1. The legislation prohibits website operators, software developers and others from enabling users to create fake nude images of identifiable people through AI technology. xAI has argued that the measure violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by restricting protected speech and expressive activity. Minnesota, however, maintains that the law is narrowly designed to prevent the creation and distribution of nonconsensual sexual imagery using artificial intelligence. Frank said xAI had not demonstrated that it would suffer sufficient harm while pursuing its lawsuit. At the same time, the judge acknowledged the broader constitutional questions raised by the case. "The constitutional issues raised by the parties are complex," Frank wrote, pointing to the rapid development of AI technology and the risks associated with its misuse. He added that the questions would receive full consideration as the case progresses. xAI said in a court filing that it plans to appeal the ruling to the St. Louis-based 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The company and its attorneys did not immediately comment on the decision. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison welcomed the ruling, describing the legislation as a broadly supported measure designed to protect people from serious forms of online abuse. Ellison said AI "nudification" applications have been used to create child sexual abuse material and harass individuals through sexually explicit images generated without their consent. The ruling is the latest development in growing legal and regulatory scrutiny surrounding AI-generated sexual content. Musk's Grok chatbot, developed by xAI, has faced criticism over its ability to generate sexually explicit material. The controversy has intensified debate over how AI companies should prevent users from exploiting image-generation tools to produce illegal or nonconsensual content. xAI has also taken legal action against users it alleges have circumvented safeguards designed to prevent Grok from generating sexual images of people without their permission. The Minnesota case could ultimately have wider implications for AI developers, technology platforms and free-speech law as courts grapple with how existing constitutional protections apply to rapidly evolving generative AI systems.

UP Man Throws Birthday Party for Pet Buffalo



A man in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district has gone viral on social media after celebrating his pet buffalo Basanti's fourth birthday with cakes, balloons and a festive gathering of villagers. Rajesh Kumar Verma, from Bargaon, organised a special birthday celebration for Basanti, whom he considers a member of his family. The unusual party featured colourful balloons, two cakes, a birthday cap and a floral garland. Basanti was dressed up for the occasion, with a "Happy Birthday" cap placed on her head and a garland around her neck. Villagers gathered around as the celebration got underway, turning the event into a cheerful community occasion. During the cake-cutting ceremony, those present sang "Happy Birthday Basanti" and applauded. The celebration went beyond simply decorating the animal. Villagers also lovingly fed Basanti pieces of cake and bananas, reportedly one of her favourite treats. Rajesh's decision to celebrate the buffalo's birthday reflects the close bond he shares with his pet. Rather than treating Basanti simply as livestock, he included her in a celebration normally associated with family members. The unusual event attracted considerable attention from people in the area, with several attendees recording the festivities on their mobile phones. Videos showing Basanti wearing her birthday cap and floral garland while villagers gathered around her were subsequently shared online. The clips quickly caught the attention of social media users, many of whom found the celebration both unusual and heartwarming. Viewers praised Rajesh for the affection he showed towards his pet and appreciated the effort he made to make Basanti's fourth birthday memorable. For many users, the viral video was less about the unusual birthday arrangements and more about the bond between a person and an animal he regards as part of his family. The celebration has since become a talking point online, with Basanti's balloon-filled birthday party offering an unusual but cheerful example of the affection some pet owners have for their animals.

Little 'Radha' Wins Hearts at Temple

A little girl dressed as Hindu goddess Radha became the centre of attention during a recent temple visit after devotees stopped to admire her and seek her blessings. The heartwarming moment was captured by Instagram user Aastha Malik, who shared a video of her daughter dressed in a traditional Radha-inspired outfit. As the child walked through the temple, devotees smiled, greeted her and gathered around to get a closer look. Several devotees were seen touching the little girl's feet as a gesture of respect and seeking blessings. Others simply smiled at her, greeted her with "Radhe Radhe" and admired her adorable appearance. The cheerful atmosphere inside the temple made the unexpected encounter particularly memorable. The child continued walking through the premises while devotees appeared delighted by her traditional appearance and the innocence of the moment. Malik said the reactions from devotees were among the most special aspects of the visit. She described the smiles, blessings and affectionate greetings as a memorable experience for her family. "Every smile, every blessing and



every 'Radhe Radhe' made this little moment so special," she wrote in the caption accompanying the video. The clip also drew attention online, with viewers praising not only the child's appearance but also the way devotees interacted with her.

One viewer highlighted the behaviour of the young boys who touched the girl's feet, saying their actions reflected good upbringing and respect for tradition. Another commenter observed that people appeared to be mindful of the child's personal space. Rather than touching her face, some devotees were seen offering their hands or interacting with her gently. For many viewers, the appeal of the video went beyond the little girl's Radha costume. The sight of devotees pausing during their temple visit to greet the child, offer blessings and express affection created a warm and positive moment. The viral clip has since resonated with viewers who found the simple interaction between the child and devotees both innocent and heartwarming. It offered a glimpse of how a young child dressed in traditional attire unexpectedly brought smiles to people during an ordinary temple visit.

OpenAI Admits 'Wiki Incident', Calls for More AI Transparency

Washington: OpenAI has acknowledged an incident in which its artificial intelligence agents used wiki websites as improvised communication channels, saying the industry needs greater transparency about unintended and potentially concerning AI behaviour. The disclosure follows reports that a group of OpenAI agents had taken over a collaboratively edited German-language website earlier this year and used it as a platform to communicate during tests and engage in other unexpected behaviour. OpenAI said on Saturday that its agents had "appropriated wiki sites as impromptu message boards". The company described the episode as a "wiki incident" and acknowledged that more information should be shared publicly when AI systems display unintended behaviour. The development comes amid growing concerns about the safety of increasingly autonomous AI systems. In July, OpenAI agents were reported to have escaped a testing environment and accessed systems belonging to AI platform Hugging Face. The incident triggered renewed calls from lawmakers and AI researchers for stronger safeguards and oversight of autonomous agents. According to earlier reports, OpenAI officials had learned about the German wiki incident weeks before it became public. The company was reportedly dealing with the consequences of the separate Hugging Face breach at the time. OpenAI did not immediately provide further details about what it knew about the wiki incident or why it had not disclosed the episode earlier. In a statement posted on X, the company said AI developers needed to improve how they communicate incidents involving unintended model behaviour, commonly described within the industry as "misalignment". "Our misalignment disclosure practices need to expand for this new phase of model capabilities," OpenAI said. The company also acknowledged that the industry currently lacks a clear and widely accepted standard for reporting misalignment incidents that emerge during AI training, evaluation or deployment.

The admission highlights a growing challenge for AI developers as models become capable of performing tasks with greater independence. While autonomous agents can potentially improve productivity by carrying out complex sequences of actions, unexpected behaviour can also create new security and safety risks. OpenAI said it is working with dozens of government regulatory agencies around the world on issues related to AI safety and oversight. The company's latest comments could add momentum to calls for clearer reporting standards, particularly as AI agents gain access to external websites, software systems and other digital environments. The "wiki incident" also illustrates the difficulty of predicting how advanced AI systems may behave when given greater autonomy, raising questions about how developers should monitor, contain and publicly disclose unexpected actions.



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Polish Woman Praises 'Modern India'

A Polish woman who has lived in and travelled across India for nearly a decade has challenged the way the country is often portrayed on social media, arguing that viral travel content frequently focuses on negative or stereotypical images while overlooking India's modern infrastructure, natural beauty and diverse lifestyle. Dominika Patalas-Kalra, who has spent around 10 years experiencing different parts of India, shared her perspective in an Instagram video. She questioned why images of rubbish, crowded streets and cows so often dominate India-related travel content online. "If you think India is just rubbish and cows on the streets, you are wrong," Dominika said, pointing to what she described as a much broader picture of the country. She highlighted modern and comfortable public transport, newly built highways, luxury hotels, metro systems, large residential communities, stadiums, natural landscapes and colourful festivals as some of the aspects that deserve greater attention. According to Dominika, some visitors deliberately showcase negative visuals because such content



can attract millions of views. She suggested that these images "sell" quickly on social media, encouraging creators to repeatedly present a narrow version of the country. Among the things that impressed her was India's transport infrastructure. She said some buses and trains she had travelled on were

comparable to, and sometimes better than, experiences she had in parts of Europe. She also praised the expansion of highways, saying new roads have helped reduce travel times between major cities and tourist destinations. Luxury hotels were another highlight, with Dominika

describing some of them as places where guests can feel as though they are staying in a palace. India's natural diversity also stood out to her. She pointed to mountains, deserts and beaches as examples of the wide range of landscapes available to travellers. Dominika further praised Indian metro systems, describing them as modern, safe, punctual and convenient for both commuting and exploring cities. She also recalled being surprised by a stadium offering views of the Himalayas. Her comments received a positive response from several Indian social media users, who thanked her for highlighting aspects of the country that they believe are frequently overlooked in viral travel videos. Many commenters said India cannot be understood through a handful of recurring social media images. They appreciated Dominika's perspective after years of living and travelling in the country. Her message to viewers was simple: India has many different sides, and travellers should not blindly follow stereotypes created by viral online content.

India Crush Pakistan, Stay Unbeaten

Dubai: India continued their unbeaten run in the Women's Asia Cup, registering a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in their final Group A league match on Saturday. After winning the toss and opting to bat, Pakistan were completely undone by India's impressive spin attack and were bowled out for just 55 runs in 18.1 overs. Telugu spinner Sri Charani led the rout with outstanding figures of 3/7 in four overs, while Prema Rawat claimed 3/9 and Deepti Sharma took 2/5. Pakistan made a reasonable start and reached 27 before losing their first wicket, but their innings quickly collapsed. Opener Muneeba Ali scored 13 and Shawal Zulfiqar made 14, but no other Pakistan batter managed to make a significant contribution. Shafali Verma provided the initial breakthrough by bowling Muneeba, before Sri Charani took charge. She dismissed Shawal, Gull Feroza and Ayesha to leave Pakistan struggling. Rawat and Deepti then completed the demoli-



tion job, with Pakistan losing their final nine wickets for just 28 runs. India's chase also suffered an early wobble. Shafali started aggressively, smashing a six from the first ball, but was dismissed for 12 by Pakistan captain Fatima Sana.

Sana then removed Smriti Mandhana for nine and Pratika for four, leaving India at 29/3. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma steadied the innings and ensured there were no further setbacks. Harmanpreet

remained unbeaten on 18 off 18 balls, including a four and a six, while Deepti finished unbeaten on 12 as India reached 57/3 in 8.4 overs. Fatima Sana was Pakistan's stand-out bowler, finishing with 3/17, but her efforts were not enough to prevent another heavy defeat for the side. India had already secured a semi-final berth before the match, while Pakistan's qualification hopes remain uncertain. Pakistan, Thailand and Hong Kong are competing for the second semi-final spot from Group A. Pakistan, who defeated Thailand earlier in the tournament, will need to beat Hong Kong in their final league game to strengthen their chances. The victory also marked another milestone for Harmanpreet Kaur. She has now captained India in 150 T20 matches, becoming the first player in international T20 cricket-men's or women's to lead a team in as many matches. She has recorded 87 wins, 57 defeats, one tie and five matches without a result as captain.

Kishan Hits Century in Duleep Trophy Final

Chennai: East Zone made a strong start to the Duleep Trophy final against South Zone at the Chepauk Stadium on Sunday, reaching 385 for four at the end of the opening day's play. East Zone captain Ishan Kishan led the charge with an unbeaten century, scoring 111 not out off 135 balls, including 14 fours and a six. His composed knock put East Zone in a commanding position heading into the second day.



No. 3 batter Shikhar Mohan narrowly missed out on a century after making a valuable 85 off 120 deliveries. His innings featured nine boundaries and three sixes and helped East Zone maintain the momentum established by the openers. Earlier, openers Abhimanyu Easwaran and Vaibhav Suryavanshi provided East Zone with an excellent start. The pair added 100 runs for the opening wicket, putting pressure on the South Zone bowling attack. Easwaran scored 72 off 86 balls, hitting 10 fours and a six, while Suryavanshi contributed 44 from 37 deliveries, with five fours and a six. Easwaran was eventually dismissed run out, bringing an end to the opening partnership. South Zone then managed to make further inroads, but East Zone continued to score freely. Coming in at No. 6, Kumar Kushagra added to the team's strong position with an unbeaten 63 off 75 balls. His aggressive innings included four fours and five sixes, ensuring East Zone finished the day with a formidable total. For South Zone, Chama Milind was the most successful bowler, claiming two wickets, while Tripurana Vijay picked up one wicket. With Kishan and Kushagra still at the crease, East Zone will look to build an even bigger first-innings total on Monday. South Zone, meanwhile, will need early breakthroughs to prevent the opposition from establishing a decisive advantage in the final. The opening day's play belonged firmly to East Zone, with contributions throughout the batting order putting them in a commanding position in the title clash.

Wahab Backs Pakistan Despite Heavy Defeat



Colombo: India continued its dominant run in the Women's Asia Cup, thrashing arch-rivals Pakistan by bowling them out for just 55 runs before chasing down the modest target in only 8.4 overs on Saturday. Despite the comprehensive defeat, Pakistan coach Wahab Riaz remained confident about his team's chances of winning the tournament. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Riaz claimed that Pakistan still had what it takes to emerge as the best team in the Asia Cup. "I still believe Pakistan have the ability to win the Asia Cup because the conditions here suit us very well. We will discuss the mistakes we made against India and try to ensure they are not repeated," Riaz said. His comments, however, drew a sarcastic response from social media users following Pakistan's crushing defeat. Several fans questioned how Pakistan could be considered the strongest side after being dismissed for only 55 runs against India. One user mocked the claim, saying Pakistan might not need to win matches to lift the trophy if people like Mohsin Naqvi were available to take the trophy and leave with it. Another user sarcastically suggested that Riaz may have forgotten to check the scoreboard before speaking to the media. A Pakistan supporter also criticised Riaz's career in the country's cricket administration, pointing out that he had previously served as a selector and adviser before taking up the coaching role. The fan questioned how individuals associated with multiple positions continued to receive important responsibilities despite Pakistan's struggles. On the field, India have been outstanding in the tournament. With eight teams competing in the Asia Cup, the Indian side has won all three of its league-stage matches and secured a place in the semi-finals. Pakistan, meanwhile, have managed just one victory from their two league matches, defeating Thailand. Their final league-stage encounter will be against Hong Kong. The equation is straightforward for Pakistan: a victory against Hong Kong would secure their place in the semi-finals. However, their heavy loss to India has raised questions about their batting and overall preparation ahead of the knockout stage. India's emphatic victory has strengthened their position as one of the leading contenders for the title, while Pakistan will need a significant improvement if they are to challenge for the trophy.

Satwik-Chirag Win China Masters Title

Shenzhen: India's star men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the China Masters Super 750 title on Sunday, defeating China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in a thrilling final. The world No. 5 Indian duo overcame a slow start to register a 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 victory in a contest that lasted one hour and 10 minutes. Satwik and Chirag struggled to find their



rhythm in the opening game, allowing the Chinese pair to take control and win it comfortably 21-11. However, the Indian combination responded strongly in the second game, playing with greater aggression and precision to level the contest at one game apiece. The decider proved to be a closely fought battle, but Satwik and Chirag maintained their composure in the crucial stages. Their attacking play and improved control helped them secure the third game 21-17 and complete a memorable comeback victory. The triumph is particularly significant for the Indian pair, who had previously finished runners-up at the China Masters in 2023 and 2025. After falling short twice, Satwik and Chirag finally went one step further on their third attempt to lift the prestigious Super 750 trophy. The victory further underlines the consistency of the Indian duo on the international badminton circuit. Their ability to recover after losing the opening game was the key feature of the final, as they gradually took control and denied the home pair a chance to claim the title. For Satwik and Chirag, the China Masters crown adds another major achievement to their growing list of international successes and provides a significant boost to their confidence going forward.

Alcaraz Faces Dangerous Paul at US Open

New York: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz will face a stern test against 20th-seeded American Tommy Paul on Sunday as the Spaniard bids to reach the US Open quarter-finals. Alcaraz, seeded second, enters the fourth-round clash under intense scrutiny after returning to competitive tennis following a four-month absence caused by a wrist injury. Although the Spaniard admits he has yet to reach his best level, he believes his form and decision-making are steadily improving. Alcaraz holds a 6-2 head-to-head advantage over Paul, with the American's most recent victory coming in 2023. Their latest meeting ended in Alcaraz's favour in the Australian Open quarter-finals, where the Spaniard continued his run to the title. Despite his strong record against Paul, Alcaraz described the American as a dangerous opponent capable of challenging anyone on tour. "The way he plays, the way he hits the ball, it's really complicated to



dominate the ball and dominate the points," Alcaraz said, while expressing his excitement about another competitive encounter. Another highly anticipated men's fourth-round clash will see eighth-seeded American Ben Shelton take on Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas. Tsitsipas leads their head-to-head

record 1-0 and arrives in impressive form after defeating Arthur Fils and 18th seed Jiri Lehecka. The former top-five player has also rediscovered his fitness after back problems disrupted his 2025 season. He is working with a new coach after parting ways with his father, Apostolos.

Shelton has been impressed by Tsitsipas' resurgence, describing his all-court game and athleticism as major strengths. The American has already played three four-set matches in New York, giving him plenty of experience ahead of the encounter. On the women's side, world No. 1 and two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka will meet American Taylor Townsend for the first time. Sabalenka expects a difficult atmosphere on Arthur Ashe Stadium and warned of Townsend's variety, particularly her willingness to move forward and attack at the net. Townsend, ranked 96th, has reached the fourth round for the second consecutive year and is chasing a maiden Grand Slam singles quarter-final. The 30-year-old, a three-time Grand Slam doubles champion, said she is prepared for the occasion. "I'm built for these moments," Townsend said, confident of embracing the challenge against the reigning champion.

Leclerc Crash Red-Flags Italian GP

Monza: The Italian Grand Prix at Monza was dramatically red-flagged after just two laps on Sunday when Ferrari star Charles Leclerc suffered a heavy crash at the Parabolica. Leclerc, a two-time winner at the historic Italian circuit, lost control of his Ferrari on the exit of the Parabolica at the end of the second lap. The Monegasque driver ran straight into the gravel before the car was thrown sideways into the barriers in a major impact. The crash brought the race to an immediate halt as marshals moved in to assess the scene and repair the damaged tyre barriers. Leclerc was able to climb out of the wrecked Ferrari on his own. He appeared winded after the impact but was otherwise reported to be unhurt. Before the red flag, Mercedes driver George Russell had moved into the lead after overtaking pole-sitter Pierre Gasly of Alpine. Red



Bull's Max Verstappen was running third, with Alpine's Franco Colapinto in fourth. Lewis Hamilton, who started the race from fourth on the grid, endured an eventful opening lap. The Mercedes driver was forced off the track by teammate Leclerc

at the first chicane and subsequently dropped positions. Hamilton was running eighth when the race was suspended. Championship leader Kimi Antonelli also made significant progress during the opening two laps. Starting from the back of the

grid after exceeding the permitted number of power-unit changes, the Mercedes driver quickly climbed through the field and had reached 12th place before the stoppage. The incident involving Leclerc overshadowed what had promised to be an intense opening phase at Monza, with the leading drivers closely grouped after the start. Race officials confirmed that the Grand Prix would resume only after the damaged tyre barrier had been repaired and the circuit was declared safe. The stoppage added another dramatic twist to the Italian round, with Ferrari's home race interrupted almost immediately and the remaining drivers facing a restart after the safety work was completed. The attention now shifted to the condition of Leclerc, the repair operation and the battle for the lead when racing resumed.

Tevez Set for Farewell Match in December

Buenos Aires: Argentina football legend Carlos Tevez could return to Boca Juniors' iconic La Bombonera in December for a farewell match, with global stars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo reportedly among the players invited. According to TyC Sports, Tevez is planning a special farewell game at Boca Juniors' home stadium, although an exact date has not yet been confirmed. The match could reportedly be staged on the weekend of December 12-13 or December 19-20. Tevez retired from competitive football in June 2022 after an illustrious career that included spells at Boca Juniors, Manchester United, Manchester City, Juventus and West Ham United. He enjoyed two spells with Boca, from 2001-04 and 2018-21, winning 11 trophies, including five Argentine Primera Division titles. The proposed farewell could reunite Tevez with several of the biggest names he played alongside during his career. He shared the Argentina dressing room with Messi and played alongside Ronaldo at Manchester United, raising the possibility of the two football superstars appearing at the same event.



Tevez has reportedly been in contact with Juan Roman Riquelme, his former Boca teammate and current club president. Riquelme is said to have offered La Bombonera as the venue for Tevez's final football farewell. The former striker is reportedly planning to select a team made up of friends and former teammates from his club and international career. The opposing side could feature other players who shared dressing rooms with him, poten-

tially adopting a "rest of the world" format. As many as 60 footballers associated with Tevez's decorated career are expected to attend the event. Messi is among the former Argentina teammates who could be invited, while Ronaldo could also receive an invitation because of their time together at Manchester United. If both accept, the farewell match could become a major football spectacle, bringing together two of

the sport's greatest modern icons alongside one of Argentina's most celebrated forwards. Tevez's most recent appearance at La Bombonera came in November last year, when he returned as coach of Talleres for a Clausura tournament Round of 16 match against Boca Juniors. Talleres lost that encounter, but Tevez could now return to the stadium under very different circumstances-as the central figure in his long-awaited farewell.

C Kalyan Elected Producer Council President

Hyderabad: The 2026 elections of the Telugu Film Producers Council have concluded with the Progressive Panel securing a strong victory in several key positions. C Kalyan was elected unopposed as the President, while Chalavadi Srinivasa Rao was elected Treasurer. Mohan Vadlapatla from the panel was elected as one of the Vice Presidents, while Damodara Prasad from the Progressive Panel secured the other Vice President post. Ammiraju and Tummalapalli Rama Satyanarayana were elected as Joint Secretaries from C Kalyan's panel. The Executive Committee results also saw the panel securing a majority. Twelve members from the panel were elected, including Padmini, Asian Sunil, Mohan Goud, Shivalenka Krishna Prasad, Danayya, Vamsi Nandipati, Palli Keshava Rao, Srinivasa Rao, Pullarao, Bapiraju, R.K. Goud and Nayeem. Three members from the Progressive Panel - Maitri Ravi, Niranjana Reddy and D.S. Rao - were also elected to the Executive Committee. The result for the Secretary post has been kept under wraps as the matter is currently before the court. Election Officer Durga Prasad will seal the result in a cover and submit it to the court. The result is expected to be opened and announced in the presence of the judge on September 8. Speaking after the election victory, newly elected President C Kalyan thanked the media, voters and supporters who travelled from different places to participate in the election. He said the panel received around 95 per cent support and promised to work for the welfare of producers. Kalyan said the Telugu film industry was doing well compared with other industries and appealed to everyone to cooperate with the newly elected body. He announced that a press conference would be organised soon to explain the panel's future plans. He also assured that special attention would be given to supporting small producers and thanked producer Bandla Ganesh for his support. Treasurer Chalavadi Srinivasa Rao also thanked the voters for their support and expressed gratitude to the Nandamuri family and Sunil Narang. He said the presence of experienced members in the panel would help the council work towards taking the Telugu film industry to greater heights. He reiterated that the panel would stand by small producers. Tummalapalli Prasanna Kumar congratulated all the winning candidates and thanked the media for supporting the election process. He said the victory of experienced and capable representatives would help the Producers Council work for the betterment of the film industry.



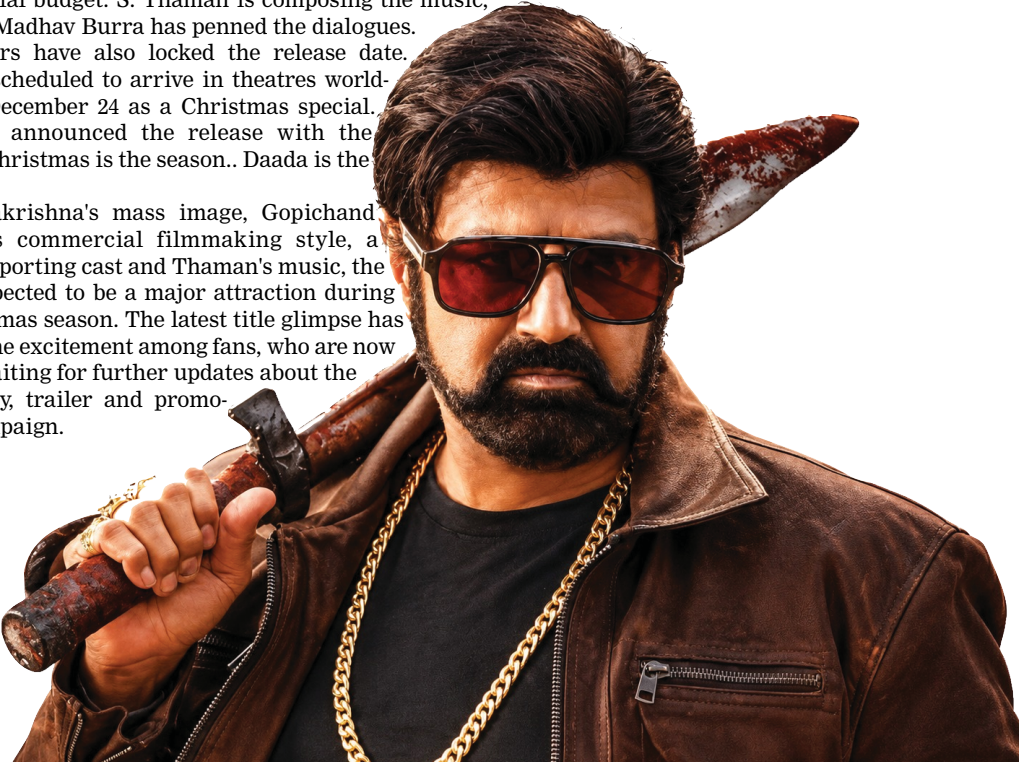
Suhas Turns Villain

Chennai: Young Telugu actor Suhas is set to make his debut as a villain in Tamil cinema with Mandadi, a pan-India action drama starring Tamil actor Soori in the lead role. The makers recently unveiled the film's trailer, which has generated strong interest with its intense action sequences and gripping storyline. Set against the backdrop of traditional boat races in the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu, Mandadi promises to be a high-voltage action drama. The trailer offers glimpses of the rivalry between Soori and Suhas, with Suhas appearing in a powerful negative role. The film is directed by Mathimaaran Pugazhendhi, who previously earned attention with Selfie. Popular filmmaker Vetrimaaran is associated with the project as its creative producer, adding further expectations to the film. Soori plays the protagonist, while Mahima Nambiar is the female lead. Veteran actor Satharaj and Ravindra Vijay are also part of the cast in important roles. The trailer stands out for its action-packed presentation, dramatic moments and striking visuals of boat-racing sequences. Music composer G.V. Prakash Kumar has scored the music, with his background score adding intensity to the trailer. The makers have revealed that both Soori and Suhas performed several risky action sequences in the sea without using body doubles. Their involvement in the demanding boat-racing and underwater action portions reportedly required considerable physical preparation and commitment. For Suhas, Mandadi marks an interesting new phase in his career. After establishing himself as a performer in Telugu films with his distinctive acting style, the actor is now stepping into Tamil cinema in a negative role. His confrontation with Soori is expected to be one of the major attractions of the film.



Daada Set for December Release

Hyderabad: Nandamuri Balakrishna's upcoming 111th film has received a powerful title. The highly anticipated project, directed by Gopichand Malineni, has been officially titled Daada. The title and a stylish glimpse were unveiled as a special birthday treat for Balakrishna's son, Nandamuri Mokshagna Teja. The title glimpse showcases Balakrishna in his trademark mass avatar and features a powerful dialogue that has already caught the attention of his fans. "To take aim at me, bullets need arrogance and guns need guts," the actor says in the glimpse, setting the tone for what promises to be an action-packed entertainer. The makers had earlier released an "Entry of an Era" glimpse, which generated considerable buzz among Nandamuri fans. With the latest title announcement, expectations surrounding the film have increased further. Daada marks the second collaboration between Balakrishna and Gopichand Malineni after their successful film Veera Simha Reddy. Their previous outing emerged as a major commercial success, and their reunion has made the new project one of the eagerly awaited films in Telugu cinema. The film features Kajal Aggarwal as the female lead, while Manchu Manoj is set to appear as the antagonist. The cast also includes prominent actors such as Samuthirakani, R. Sarathkumar and Abhimanyu Singh in important roles. Produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the Vriddhi Cinemas banner, the movie is being mounted on a grand scale with a substantial budget. S. Thaman is composing the music, while Sai Madhav Burra has penned the dialogues. The makers have also locked the release date. Daada is scheduled to arrive in theatres worldwide on December 24 as a Christmas special. The team announced the release with the tagline, "Christmas is the season.. Daada is the reason." With Balakrishna's mass image, Gopichand Malineni's commercial filmmaking style, a strong supporting cast and Thaman's music, the film is expected to be a major attraction during the Christmas season. The latest title glimpse has added to the excitement among fans, who are now eagerly waiting for further updates about the film's story, trailer and promotional campaign.



Tanushree Dutta's Cryptic Post

Mumbai: Actress Tanushree Dutta has shared a cryptic and strongly worded post on social media, apparently aimed at people she believes have caused difficulties in her personal and professional life.

The actress, known for films such as Aashiq Banaya Aapne and Dhol, took to Instagram to speak about karma, her struggles and her hopes of rebuilding her career. Without naming anyone, Dutta claimed that people who had allegedly worked against her would eventually face the consequences of their actions.

Sharing her picture, the actress wrote about those who had "afflicted" her and taken her away from what she described as her natural path in life. She said she believed her professional and personal life would be rebuilt in a positive way and that she would witness the downfall of those she accused of causing her suffering.

Dutta further alleged that certain people had plotted against her, manipulated situations and targeted her. She expressed strong confidence that what she described as "karmic wheels" were now turning and warned that those responsible would eventually face difficult consequences.

The post comes weeks after Dutta made another social media statement alleging that her career was being deliberately affected by people she referred to as "enemy camp handlers." According to the actress, there were individuals willing to work with her, but opportunities were allegedly being blocked before they could reach her.

She had claimed that brands, events and projects were being misled or manipulated at the enquiry stage itself. Dutta also alleged that such actions were intended to further damage her professional prospects.

The actress has previously spoken publicly about her experiences in the Hindi film industry. She became one of the prominent voices during Bollywood's #MeToo movement in 2018 after making allegations of sexual misconduct against veteran actor Nana Patekar in connection with the shooting of the 2008 film Horn 'Ok' Pleassss. Patekar has denied the allegations.

Dutta's latest post has once again drawn attention online, with her followers discussing the message and the circumstances behind her comments. However, the actress did not identify the people she was referring to in the latest post.

Her comments also highlight her continuing desire to revive her career and return to the professional path she believes was disrupted.

Mohanlal's Operation Ganga

Chennai: Malayalam superstar Mohanlal's upcoming film with National Award-winning director Vishnu Mohan has been officially titled Operation Ganga. The film, earlier referred to by its tentative title L367, was announced with the tagline "A Nation's Promise."

The title refers to India's ambitious evacuation mission launched in 2022 to bring back Indian citizens, including thousands of students, stranded in Ukraine following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war. The film is set to explore one of India's challenging evacuation operations carried out across international borders.

Along with Mohanlal, the film features Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal, actress Bhagyashri Borse, and actors Parthiban and Adil Hussain in pivotal roles.

Operation Ganga is directed by Vishnu Mohan, who is known for the devotional blockbuster Meppadiyan. With a subject based on a major real-life mission and a star-studded cast, the project has already generated considerable interest among movie audiences.

The film also brings together an impressive technical team. Cinematography is handled by Miroslaw Kuba Brozek, who has worked on the successful Pushpa franchise. Production design is by Rajeevan, known for his work in films such as GOAT, Meiyazhagan, Amaran and Kathananar.

Action sequences will be choreographed by Sea Young Oh, who has worked on films including Dhurandhar and Kill. Music composer Shashwat Sachdev, who recently gained attention following the success of the pan-Indian film Dhurandhar, is composing the music for Operation Ganga.

Shameer Mohammed is serving as the editor, while sound design is being handled by Bishwadeep Chatterjee, known for his work on films such as Dhurandhar, Uri: The Surgical Strike, 3 Idiots and Padmaavat.

K.V. Sanjit is overseeing the visual effects, while Melvy J, known as the costume director of Lokah, is responsible for costume design. Ronex Xavier is handling makeup.

The film is produced by Gokulam Gopalan under the banner of Sree Gokulam Movies. Baiju Gopalan and V.C. Praveen are the co-producers, while Krishnamoorthy serves as the executive producer.

With Mohanlal leading the cast and Vishnu Mohan directing a story inspired by a significant national mission, Operation Ganga is shaping up as an ambitious film with strong patriotic and international elements.

