



VIJAYAWADA | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 165 | WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 9 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA □ HYDERABAD

CM Naidu Calls for AP to Become No. 1 Development State

Amaravati, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has called for linking state-level economic growth with constituency-level development, stressing that strengthening the economy of every constituency is essential to making the state a national leader in sustainable development. Addressing the TDP Leadership Conclave, Chandrababu Naidu said elected representatives should prepare constituency-specific development plans focusing on 15 to 20 key sectors. Agriculture, industries, services, infrastructure, IT and the digital economy should be developed according to the unique strengths and resources of each region, he said. The Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2026-27 stood at around Rs.20.35 lakh crore and called for further expansion of the state economy through coordinated development initiatives. He said constituencies such as Vijayawada Central, Palakolli, Mandapeta, Chilakaluripet, Nellore City and Tanuku were performing well economically and urged leaders to identify and strengthen the sectors that could generate wealth and employment locally.

Focus on Investments and Water Resources

Chandrababu said attracting major investments, particularly in technology and dig-



ital infrastructure, would create large-scale employment opportunities. Referring to investments by global companies such as Google, he said Andhra Pradesh was emerging as an attractive destination for the digital economy. He maintained that water availability should not become an obstacle to data-centre investments and said the state had significant potential to utilise its water resources more effectively. The Chief

Minister said nearly 1,000 TMC of Godavari water had flowed into the sea this year and argued that utilising even 300 TMC could bring major changes to the state's development prospects. He also highlighted the potential of linking major rivers, including the Godavari, Krishna, Tungabhadra, Pennar and others. Naidu announced that 36 irrigation projects would be completed within three years at an estimated cost of Rs.35,000 crore. He

reiterated that the Polavaram project would be completed before the Pushkaram celebrations and outlined plans to increase water storage capacity across the state. He also stressed the importance of harvesting rainwater and recharging groundwater. Improved groundwater levels, he said, could benefit agriculture while reducing government expenditure on power subsidies and transmission.

Infrastructure and Entrepreneurship

The Chief Minister said highways, ports and airports were being developed to improve connectivity and attract investments. He urged officials and public representatives to promote a faster "speed of doing business" and ensure that projects move quickly once investments are secured. Naidu also advocated a "one family, one entrepreneur" approach to encourage local entrepreneurship, wealth creation and employment. He urged public representatives to identify problems affecting ordinary people in their constituencies and focus on practical solutions. Development, he said, should not be measured only through major projects and investments but through improvements in people's living standards. Naidu said his ultimate objective was to transform Andhra Pradesh into the No. 1 developed state in the country through sustainable growth, better infrastructure, investment, employment generation and effective utilisation of natural resources.

Nara Lokesh Urges Leaders to Counter Opposition Propaganda



Amaravati, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister and TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh has urged party leaders to make effective use of social media to communicate the government's development and welfare initiatives to the public and counter what he described as misinformation and propaganda from opposition parties. Addressing party leaders on the second day of the TDP Leadership Training Conclave at the party's central office, Lokesh spoke on political communication and public orientation. He said social media had emerged as a powerful platform for maintaining direct and continuous communication with people. Lokesh asked leaders how actively they were using social media and stressed that it should not be treated merely as a publicity tool. He advised leaders, including AMC and corporation chairpersons, to regularly share information about development programmes and explain the facts surrounding government initiatives. He said leaders had a responsibility to take every issue, whether big or small, directly to the people. Open communication, he added, was essential to ensure that the public received accurate information about government decisions and development works. Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an example, Lokesh said leaders could use selfie videos and other digital platforms to communicate directly with the public. He said he had also used selfie videos to explain issues related to the Suzlon wind projects and to counter mis-

information surrounding the DSC issue. Lokesh called upon party leaders to actively respond to allegations and criticism raised by opposition parties. He said remaining silent without presenting facts could allow misinformation to gain traction among the public. He directed party social media teams to respond promptly to party programmes, government decisions and development initiatives. Individual social media accounts of leaders should also work in coordination with the party's digital teams to ensure that information reaches people quickly, clearly and accurately, he said. Lokesh also criticised YSRCP leaders and workers for what he described as blindly defending party chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that political interests were sometimes prioritised over facts. He called for strengthening the TDP's communication network and ensuring that factual information was consistently presented to the public. Referring to Amaravati, Lokesh said the government was developing the capital city to international standards and urged leaders to communicate every aspect of the capital's construction and progress more extensively. He said the party should embrace modern technology and strengthen political communication to remain closely connected with people. Effective use of social media, he added, would help highlight development achievements while enabling the party to respond quickly to misinformation and opposition narratives.

Majji Srinivasa Rao Quits YSRCP, Joins TDP



Vizianagaram, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has suffered a major setback in North Andhra ahead of the local body elections, with Majji Srinivasa Rao (Chinna Srinu), nephew of former minister and Legislative Council Opposition Leader Botsa Satyanarayana, resigning from the party and joining the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Srinivasa Rao, who served as the YSRCP president of Vizianagaram district, submitted his resignation to YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He also stepped down from the party's Vizianagaram district president post and his responsibilities as YSRCP in-charge of Bhimili. He had also been serving as the Vizianagaram Zilla Parishad Chairman. His decision to quit the party and join the TDP has triggered considerable political discussion in the region, particularly ahead of the upcoming local body elections. According to political circles, differences had reportedly emerged between Srinivasa Rao and his uncle Botsa

Satyanarayana over the past few months. There were allegations that efforts were being made to reduce Srinivasa Rao's prominence within the party. Against this backdrop, his resignation has assumed political significance. Joins TDP in Chandrababu's Presence Soon after resigning from the YSRCP, Srinivasa Rao joined the TDP in the presence of party president and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He was accompanied by a large number of supporters and formally joined the ruling party by accepting the TDP's yellow scarf. Srinivasa Rao's daughter Siri Sahasra and her supporters also joined the TDP during the programme. Several prominent TDP leaders attended the joining event, including Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, MP Kaliseti Appalanaidu, and MLAs Kala Venkata Rao, Kondru Murali and Kolla Lalitha Kumar. The defection is expected to have political implications in the Vizianagaram and Bhimili constituencies as parties gear up for the local body elections.

Pawan Kalyan Pushes Measures to Take Handicrafts to Global Markets

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said the government was taking steps to strengthen infrastructure and marketing support for artisans and connect traditional handicrafts with global markets. He said Common Facility Centres (CFCs) were being established cluster-wise to support artisans. Work had commenced on a Savara artisans' centre at Sitampeta in Parvathipuram Manyam district, with funding from VBG Ramji. Sites had also been identified for similar centres at Madanapalle, Anantapur and Pedana, with construction

YouTuber Nandana Questioned in Visa Fraud Case



Ibrahimpattanam, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Popular YouTuber Nandana appeared before the Ibrahimpattanam police on Tuesday in connection with a case involving allegations of collecting money from people in the name of visa processing. During the nearly four-hour questioning, she reportedly denied having any connection with the alleged visa consultancy and claimed that all business-related matters were handled by her husband, Madhukar. Police officials said Nandana was questioned after being detained at Shamshabad airport in connection with lookout notices issued in the case. She was subsequently

Jagan Condemns Police Cases Against Kakinada Job Aspirants

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy strongly condemned the filing of police cases against unemployed youth who allegedly staged a peaceful protest in Kakinada demanding a Mega Police Recruitment Notification. In a post on X, Jagan described the action by the TDP-led coalition government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu as "cruel, vindictive and authoritarian." He said cases were registered against Shyam, T. Raja, M. Ganga Suribabu, Rajesh and 20 other police-job aspirants. Jagan questioned whether peacefully questioning an elected government had become a criminal offence in Andhra Pradesh. He said the protesters were only demanding employment opportunities and asking the government about the promised recruitment. He recalled that Chandrababu Naidu had



promised an annual job calendar and a monthly unemployment allowance of Rs 3,000 to unemployed youth. Jagan claimed that the pending allowance for 20 lakh unemployed youth amounted to Rs 7,200 crore annually and Rs 21,600 crore over three years. The YSRCP chief alleged that instead of addressing unemployment concerns, the coalition government was responding to protests by filing police cases and intimidating job aspirants. Jagan also linked the issue to the ongoing controversy surrounding the Mega DSC

recruitment process. He alleged that Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh were resorting to "repression, censorship and intimidation" amid allegations of irregularities in recruitment. He further alleged that those accused of securing jobs through irregular means were being protected, while genuine job seekers demanding recruitment notifications were being treated as offenders. Jagan accused the TDP of failing to provide transparent employment opportunities whenever it was in power and alleged that recruitment scams, question-paper leaks and irregular appointments had become recurring issues. He demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all cases registered against the protesting youth and called for the release of the Mega Police Recruitment Notification without further delay. Jagan said the YSRCP would stand with unemployed youth and intensify its campaign until their demands were addressed.

Ayyanna Patrudu Announces Grand 'Jaiho BC' Meet

Narsipatnam, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Assembly Speaker Chinta kayala Ayyanna Patrudu said a grand public meeting titled 'Jaiho BC' would be held in Narsipatnam, Anakapalli district, on September 9 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. He appealed to members of the Backward Classes (BC) communities to attend the event in large numbers and make it a success. Ayyanna Patrudu said the Telugu Desam Party had provided significant political opportunities to BC communities since its founder, former



Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao, established the party. He said the coalition government was continuing the tradition by giving greater importance to BCs in local body elections. He alleged that the previous YSRCP government under former Chief Minister YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy had reduced BC reservations in local bodies by 10 percentage points to 24 per cent. The present NDA coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, he said, had restored the reservation quota to 34 per cent. According to Ayyanna Patrudu, the increase in reservations would provide around 53,936 BC candidates across the state an opportunity to contest and win seats in local bodies. He said the 'Jaiho BC' meeting was being organised to express gratitude to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu,

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Minister Nara Lokesh and the coalition government for the decision. BC leaders and representatives from various organisations across Andhra Pradesh are expected to participate in the meeting. Ayyanna Patrudu said the BC community should support the government that had provided the increased reservation opportunity. He urged people from Narsipatnam and BC communities across the state to attend the meeting and demonstrate their support and appreciation for the coalition government.

Alleged Irregularities Surface at Vijayawada Durga Temple

Kumar Chand Pullagura

Vijayawada: Allegations of financial irregularities and administrative lapses at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada have raised concerns among devotees, with questions being raised over the alleged involvement of some temple employees and the response of senior officials. According to an investigative report by Amaravati Bureau Chief Kumar Chand Pullagura, some temple employees allegedly collected money from devotees by promising them darshan and failed to deposit the amounts with the temple authorities. The alleged malpractice reportedly took place near the Kanaka Durga Temple's scanning point.

The alleged modus operandi involved collecting darshan ticket charges from devotees and facilitating their entry through designated queues. The report claims that the scanning point does not involve facial recognition and that devotees sent through the system by temple employees are allowed to proceed through the respective queues. This, according to the allegations, created scope for some employees to collect ticket money privately, causing potential revenue loss to the temple. The issue reportedly came to the notice of the temple Executive Officer several months ago, following which a complaint was lodged with the One Town police. Police subsequently registered FIRs in connection with the allegations. However, questions have now been raised



over the subsequent action taken against the employees concerned. The report alleges that some employees were initially transferred to other temples but were later brought back to the Durga temple. There are also allegations that certain employees collected money from devotees through digital payment platforms such as PhonePe. The report further alleges that disciplinary action against those accused has remained unclear despite the registration of FIRs. It also raises questions over whether some senior officials attempted to shield employees facing allegations. When contacted for clarification, a senior temple official reportedly said that the matter was under police investigation and declined to comment. However, details

regarding the FIRs and departmental action, if any, have not been publicly disclosed, according to the report. Additional allegations concerning irregularities in the distribution of temple laddus have also surfaced, adding to concerns about administrative transparency. The issue assumes significance ahead of the annual Dasara Sharannavaratri celebrations, when lakhs of devotees are expected to visit the temple. The festival period generates a significant share of the temple's annual revenue. With the major festival approaching, attention is now on whether the temple administration will strengthen monitoring mechanisms, ensure transparent ticketing and take action against employees found responsible for irregularities.

Home Minister Warns Constable Aspirants Against Political Protests

Amaravati, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has urged police constable job aspirants not to fall prey to political inducements or participate in protests that could adversely affect their careers. She advised candidates to verify facts regarding police recruitment and focus on their preparation instead of becoming involved in political controversies. Anitha said the coalition government was committed to creating employment opportunities for youth and was planning to fill around 11,000 police posts every year through the job calendar. The government, she said, was systematically working to fill vacancies in the police department and expand employment opportunities for young people. Recalling the recruitment record of previous gov-

ernments, Anitha said the Telugu Desam government between 2014 and 2019 had filled 9,793 police posts. In contrast, she alleged that the previous YSRCP government did not fill a single constable post despite issuing a recruitment notification. She further alleged that nearly 6,000 police posts had remained unfilled during the previous government. After the coalition government came to power, the pending issues concerning these posts were addressed, she claimed. The Home Minister said the government was committed to taking forward the police recruitment process with the objective of providing employment to thousands of aspirants. She appealed to candidates not to be misled by political groups allegedly attempting to provoke them into protests. "Those preparing hard to secure govern-



ment jobs should not put their future at risk for political interests," Anitha said, urging aspirants to concentrate on achieving their career goals. She also highlighted measures taken for the welfare of police personnel and recruitment candidates. The coalition government had increased the stipend paid to constable trainees during training to Rs 12,000, she said. Anitha assured aspirants that the government was preparing for large-scale recruitment in the police department and urged them not to be influenced by misinformation. She appealed to candidates to trust the recruitment process, cooperate with authorities and focus on securing employment rather than participating in protests.

Nagababu Urges Industries to Turn Vacant Land into Green Zones

Kakinada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

AP Green Executive Committee Chairman Nagababu has urged industries to utilise vacant land within their premises to expand green belts and develop dense forests using native tree species. Nagababu made the remarks during his visit to Divi's Laboratories at Ontimamidi village in Thondangi mandal of Kakinada district on Tuesday. He reviewed the company's ongoing green belt development and plantation activities and stressed the need for industries to make environmental protection and biodiversity conservation a collective responsibility.

He said industries should give priority to planting native species that can grow into large trees and expand green cover in available spaces. He suggested adopting the Miyawaki method wherever feasible to develop dense forests. He also called for vacant areas within industrial premises to be converted into green zones in a phased manner. Nagababu emphasised that planting saplings alone was not sufficient and that industries should focus equally on their protection and survival. He said managements and employees must work together continuously to ensure sustainable green belts. During his visit,

Nagababu inspected the existing green belt and plantation areas at Divi's Laboratories and examined vacant spaces that could be developed into additional green zones. Company representatives explained their current plantation initiatives and future plans for expanding the green belt. Later, Nagababu joined more than 100 Divi's Laboratories employees in planting saplings on the premises. He appreciated the active participation of employees in the environmental protection initiative. Company representatives informed him that 25,150 saplings of various species had been planted across the industrial premises so far.



Nagababu also reviewed the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Divi's representatives briefed him on CSR funds allocated for environmental protection and social welfare, their utilisation and various development and welfare programmes being implemented under the CSR framework. He reiterated that industries should combine economic activity with environmental responsibility and make maximum use of their available land to create sustainable green spaces.

Nadendla Manohar Announces Subsidised Essentials Across AP

Amaravati, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar said the coalition government was taking measures to keep essential commodities affordable and provide relief to consumers amid rising market prices. Speaking to the media in Delhi after a two-day visit, Manohar said onions would be sold at a subsidised price of Rs 32 per kg across the state from next week. The sales will be conducted through 115 Rythu Bazaars and mobile counters. He said discussions with officials of the Union

Consumer Affairs Ministry and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) had received a positive response for supplying subsidised onions, toor dal and palm oil to Andhra Pradesh. Under the proposed arrangement, 1.20 lakh metric tonnes of toor dal and 86,400 kilolitres of palm oil will be supplied at subsidised rates through fair price shops to around 1.46 lakh families. The minister said the commodities would be available at prices around 30 per cent lower than prevailing market rates, offering relief to ordinary con-

sumers. Manohar said Andhra Pradesh's initiative to reduce broken rice content in PDS rice to 10 per cent had been successfully implemented as a pilot project. The Centre is expected to extend the model across the country from next month. He described the move as a major reform in the three-decade-old public distribution system. He also said around 1,000 Mee Marts were being linked with NCCF to provide quality products at lower prices, with agreements already completed. Another 130 Mee Marts are expected to be ready



soon. On paddy procurement, Manohar said the Civil Supplies Department had prepared its plan for the upcoming Kharif season. The state is preparing to procure 35-38 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, while continuing efforts to ensure farmers receive payments within 24 hours. Civil Supplies Commissioner Kannababu also participated in the meeting.

AP Revenue Services Association Polls on Sept 20

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Revenue Services Association (APRSA), Amaravati, has announced elections to constitute its new state executive committee for the 2026-2029 term. The three-year tenure of the existing state executive committee is scheduled to conclude on September 29, 2026. With elections already completed in all 26 districts, preparations are underway to elect a new state-level leadership team. APRSA Election Officer P.V. Krishna Rao, former state vice-president of the association, and Assistant Election Officer E. Phani Kumar, Gazetted Superintendent at the CCLA office, have been appointed to oversee the election process. Krishna Rao issued the election notification on September 4. According to the notification, a total of 30 members will be elected to the new state executive committee. The posts include one president, one associate president, eight vice-presidents, one general secretary, two sports

and cultural secretaries, eight secretaries, eight organising secretaries and one treasurer. The elections will be conducted on September 20, 2026, at Revenue Bhavan in Vijayawada. The election process will begin at 10.30 am with the distribution of nomination forms, followed by submission and scrutiny of nominations. The list of valid nominations will subsequently be published, after which candidates will be allowed to withdraw their nominations. The final list of candidates contesting the elections will be announced at 1.30 pm. If there is a contest for any of the posts, polling will commence at 4 pm on the same day. The election results will be declared on the day of polling. The newly elected office-bearers will later take the oath of office at the state council meeting scheduled to be held on the same day. Election Officer P.V. Krishna Rao said the election process would be conducted according to the schedule outlined in the notification.

NFHH Seeks Rs.265.09 Cr Dues Release, Rs.5 Cr NHDP Support

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

The National Federation of Handlooms and Handicrafts (NFHH) has appealed to the Andhra Pradesh government for immediate intervention to clear pending dues of Rs.265.09 crore to handloom weavers' cooperative societies and APCO, while also seeking a separate allocation of Rs.5 crore under the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) to provide regular employment to weavers. In representations submitted to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Special Chief Secretary for Industries and Commerce R.P. Sisodia, IAS, and other authorities, NFHH said handloom cooperative societies across the state were facing a severe financial crisis due to the non-payment of government dues under various welfare and support schemes. According to the federation, pending payments relate to schemes including special rebate, Pavala Vaddi, yarn subsidy, cooperative handloom thrift fund, marketing incentives, loan waiver and financial assistance for deceased weavers. Citing data from the Commissioner of Handlooms and Textiles dated April 20, 2026, the NFHH said substantial dues remain pending to cooperative societies and APCO.

The organisation also stated that APCO has outstanding payments of Rs.11.92 crore to Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies, including Rs.6.80 crore towards procurement of general varieties and Rs.5.12 crore towards livery varieties. NFHH alleged that the prolonged delay in clearing dues had affected the functioning of cooperative societies, with many unable to obtain adequate credit or provide regular work and timely wages to their members. The federation said the situation was particularly serious for societies in East Godavari, West Godavari and Dr B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema districts. NFHH representative Mohan Rao Macherla said the organisation had also submitted a representation to Dr M. Beena, IAS, Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, seeking an exceptional allocation of Rs.5 crore under NHDP cluster scheme components for cooperative societies in the affected districts. The federation urged the state government to immediately release the pending Rs.265.09 crore and requested the Centre to sanction Rs.5 crore for regular work generation, stating that urgent financial support was needed to protect the livelihoods of handloom weavers and prevent further distress in the sector.

NTR Health University Urges Students to Choose More MBBS Options

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences has advised MBBS aspirants to select as many colleges as possible according to their preference during counselling to improve their chances of securing a seat. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Chandrasekhar and Registrar Dr. T. Sai Sudheer said candidates should not believe misleading publicity regarding seat allotments. The second phase of state quota counselling is scheduled to begin on September 11, while MBBS classes will commence from September 15. For 2026-27, counselling for 4,581 convener-quota MBBS seats was conducted in the first phase, with 4,321 seats allotted. Of these, 4,231 candidates joined their allotted colleges, while 90 did not report. Officials said MBBS admissions are being conducted in 39 government and private medical colleges across the state. They explained that allotments depend on candidates' ranks, available seats and the options entered by them. The university clarified that candidates who selected only a few colleges could have fewer opportunities, particularly in

the open category. Officials cited instances where BC-A, BC-B and BC-D candidates who selected several colleges secured open-category seats. The university said the counselling system was revised based on practical difficulties faced during 2025-26. New medical colleges, renewed permissions and additional seats were approved during counselling, creating the need for candidates to enter fresh options in subsequent rounds. Government Order No. 102 issued in 2026 provides greater flexibility, allowing candidates to choose only the colleges they prefer rather than selecting all available institutions. They can also submit fresh college preferences in subsequent counselling rounds. Officials urged candidates to carefully rank their choices and make full use of available opportunities. The meeting also discussed developments in medical education, including Artificial Intelligence, Learning Management Systems and research in health sciences, aimed at improving academic activities and addressing emerging public health challenges.

Savitha Meets Kadapa TDP Leaders, Reviews Development



Mangalagiri, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

After participating in the Leadership Conclave at the Telugu Desam Party central office in Mangalagiri, Kadapa District In-charge Minister Savitha held a cordial meeting with public representatives and TDP leaders from Kadapa district at the

Jayabheri Clubhouse in Vijayawada. District Observer Deepak Reddy, TDP District President Bhupesh Reddy, Zonal Coordinator Reddappagari Srinivasa Reddy, Government Whip and Kadapa MLA Reddappagari Madhavi, Mydukur MLA Sudhakar Yadav, Kamalapuram MLA Putta Chaitanya Reddy and

Badvel in-charge Manchuri Suryanarayana Reddy participated. During the interaction, Minister Savitha discussed measures to further strengthen the TDP in Kadapa district, ongoing development programmes, resolution of public grievances and future action plans. She directed public representatives, party leaders and workers to work

in close coordination to accelerate the district's development. Savitha also called for collective efforts to ensure alliance candidates secure victories with large majorities in all seats in the upcoming local body elections. TDP leaders and workers from across Kadapa district attended the meeting.

5.55 Acres Offered for Amaravati Development Under LPS 2.0

Amaravati, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Two Hyderabad-based landowners, G. Harish and G. Lakshmi Sowjanya, have voluntarily offered 5.55 acres of land for the development of Amaravati under the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) 2.0. As part of the second phase of the land pooling process, they submitted their consent letters to APCRDA OSD K. Swarna Mary at the Local Unit Office on Tuesday. The lands offered for pooling are located in Harischandrapuram village. Of the total 5.55



acres, G. Lakshmi Sowjanya offered 1.44 acres, while G. Harish contributed 4.11 acres. The landowners expressed their happiness at being able to contribute to the development of Amaravati, envisioned as the People's Capital. They also appealed to other

landowners and residents of the respective villages to cooperate with APCRDA officials during the implementation of LPS 2.0. The APCRDA has been undertaking the second phase of land pooling to facilitate the development of Amaravati and create the

required infrastructure for the capital region. The voluntary contribution of land by landowners is expected to support the authority's efforts to consolidate land for various development activities. The APCRDA officials have been engaging with

landowners as part of the ongoing process and explaining the provisions and benefits associated with the land pooling scheme. The authority has appealed to landowners to participate in the process and extend cooperation to officials involved in the implementation

of LPS 2.0. The latest contribution of 5.55 acres by Harish and Lakshmi Sowjanya marks another instance of landowners voluntarily coming forward to support Amaravati's development plans under the second phase of the land pooling initiative.

Prashanthi Reddy Slams YCP Over Mega DSC Remarks

Amaravati, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy accused the YCP of spreading false propaganda against the Mega DSC recruitment drive because it could not accept unemployed youth securing jobs. Speaking at a press conference at NTR Bhavan in Amaravati on Tuesday, along-side MLAs Gautu Sirisha and Tangirala Sowmya, she said Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu signed the Mega DSC file immediately after assuming office, fulfilling an election promise. She said Minister Nara Lokesh took special initiative to complete the DSC



process within 147 days, providing

employment to around 16,000 candi-

dates. Prashanthi Reddy said she had personally visited the homes of successful candidates in the Kovur constituency and witnessed the hardships they faced while preparing for the examinations. She questioned what the YCP government had done for unemployed youth during its five-year tenure, alleging that it failed to conduct a DSC or bring even a single industry. She said the Alliance government was working to revive the IFFCO Kisan SEZ in Kovur to create employment. She alleged that YCP leaders were resorting to a smear campaign against the government's development initiatives.

Sudheer Reddy Slams YCP Over DSC Recruitment Remarks

Srikalahasti, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy said YCP leaders' allegations over teacher recruitment and the DSC examination were baseless. In a statement from Amaravati on Tuesday, he said the Alliance government had transparently filled 16,400 teacher posts, giving priority to eligibility and merit across all categories, including the sports quota. Sudheer Reddy questioned why Jagan Reddy, who had claimed before 2019 that 23,000 teacher posts were vacant, failed to fill even a single post during his five-year tenure. He said another DSC would be conducted in December, followed by one next year. He noted that candidates from even YCP-supporting families secured jobs through merit and said allegations against the recruitment were causing distress to successful candidates and their families. He also criticized the YCP over its record in conducting Group-I examinations and alleged that controversies had surround-



ed answer-sheet evaluation during its tenure. He said the Alliance government had conducted 14 DSC recruitment drives and provided teaching jobs to 196,610 people. Sudheer Reddy further accused YCP leaders of opposing irrigation and development projects under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and said they lacked the moral standing to criticize teacher recruitment and ongoing development works.

YCP Leaders Call for Local Body Election Preparations

Kamalapuram, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

YCP District President Ravindranath Reddy, Kadapa MP Avinash Reddy and Kamalapuram Constituency In-charge Naren Ramanujula Reddy called upon party leaders and workers to prepare for the upcoming local body elections. At a meeting held at the party office in Kamalapuram with leaders and cadre from six mandals, they reviewed the election preparations. The leaders urged the cadre to work with coordination at all levels and effectively explain what they described as the failures of the Alliance government to the public. They asked party workers to identify local issues by interacting with people and stand by them. They alleged that Alliance leaders were relying on money allegedly earned



through illegal soil and sand exploitation to win elections, but said YSRCP would put up a strong fight. They also accused the government of using attacks and false cases to intimidate those questioning it. The leaders assured workers of full support and said party cadre would receive priority under "Jagan 2.0". They called for collective efforts to bring YS Jagan back as Chief Minister.

TDP Leaders Urged to Counter YSRCP Propaganda

Mangalagiri, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

TDP State General Secretary and former Minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao participated in the second day of the Leadership Conclave at the TDP central office. Chief Minister and TDP National President Chandrababu Naidu, along with Minister and National General Secretary Nara Lokesh, guided leaders on strengthening the party and reaching people. Leaders were urged to use social media effectively to counter YSRCP's malicious propa-



ganda and highlight government development and welfare initiatives. They stressed publicising Amaravati's development to international standards. The conclave also discussed considering Gen Z views and adopting real-time decision-making. Cadres were advised to counter false propaganda immediately through legal and political means.

Municipal Workers Seek Salary Hike, Pending Dues

Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

Municipal workers and employees have urged the government to increase wages, clear pending salaries and implement the 12th Pay Revision Commission recommendations. The demands were submitted to P. Sampath Kumar of CITU, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, Andhra Pradesh Government. The workers sought implementation of PRC, DA, HRA and technical salaries, equal pay for equal work, payment of pending contract wages and employment to families of deceased, retired and medically unfit workers. They also demanded health insurance, gratuity, settlement of DA and surrender leave arrears, and an increase in staff strength according to urban population. They sought immediate supply of work tools, safety equipment, uniforms and shoes, besides protection committees for women workers. They also demanded implementation of welfare measures and resolution of other service issues. The memorandum was submitted by President K. Nagabhushanam, General Secretary K. Umamaheswara Rao and Treasurer S. Jyothibabu. K. Umamaheswara Rao, B. Lakshmana Rao and Women's Committee Convener V. Vijayalakshmi were also associated with the demands.

YSRCP Demands Lokesh's Resignation, CBI Probe

Tadepalli, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP demanded the immediate resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh and a CBI inquiry into alleged irregularities in DSC 2025. Party spokesperson Konda Rajiv Gandhi and former MP Margani Bharath, addressing separate press conferences, said Lokesh should step down to ensure a fair investigation. They alleged irregularities including fake BC and sports-quota certificates and claimed members of some families secured jobs using participation certificates. They described Mega DSC as a "job mela" where teacher posts were allegedly sold, claiming evidence supported their allegations. The leaders accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of shielding Lokesh and alleged cases were being filed against social-media activists, unemployed youth and journalists questioning the recruitment process. They questioned why action was not taken against candidates allegedly using fake documents. They also alleged that some candidates were appointed without clearing the mandatory TET examination. They maintained that only a CBI probe, rather than a Vigilance inquiry, could reveal the truth.

Dastagiri Seeks Chandrababu's Intervention Over Alleged Harassment

Amaravati, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Sheikh Dastagiri, an approver in the murder case of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy, arrived in Amaravati on Tuesday seeking a meeting with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Dastagiri said he wanted to submit a representation seeking action against officials whom he alleged had harassed and threatened him during the previous YSRCP government and were continuing to trouble him. Accompanied by his wife, Sheikh Shabana, Dastagiri said he was waiting for an appointment with the Chief Minister. He alleged that officials who had earlier threatened him with serious consequences were still targeting his family. Dastagiri also made strong allegations against former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, urging him and his wife YS Bharathi to cooperate fully with investigating agencies in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. He challenged Jagan to prove allegations that Dastagiri had taken a vakalat from senior advocate Siddharth Luthra. Dastagiri said he was prepared to face imprisonment if the allegation was proved and questioned whether Jagan would quit politics if he failed to establish it. Dastagiri said he would provide



Chandrababu Naidu with information he claimed to possess regarding the Vivekananda Reddy murder case and related money-laundering matters. He appealed to the Chief Minister to intervene in the difficulties faced by his family and take action against those allegedly responsible for the harassment. Shabana said the family was even afraid to travel to Pulivendula due to the problems they were facing. She became emotional while appealing for an opportunity to meet the Chief Minister and explain their grievances. The couple said they had come to Amaravati hoping that the Chief Minister would hear their concerns and provide protection and justice. Dastagiri reiterated his demand that all concerned cooperate with the investigating agencies in the case.

Somireddy Slams YSRCP Over Mega DSC Criticism

Mangalagiri, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

TDP MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy accused the YSRCP of unnecessarily creating controversy over the Mega DSC recruitment and said the party had no moral right to question the process. Speaking at a media conference at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, he said the recruitment was conducted transparently and provided jobs to 16,400 teacher candidates, bringing relief to thousands of families. Somireddy alleged that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his team would stand first nationally if there were a competition in scams. He questioned why Jagan, who had raised concerns about teacher vacancies before 2019, failed to fill even a single teacher post during his five-year tenure.



He said YSRCP was criticising the DSC out of frustration, while the coalition government was bringing happiness to families through recruitment. Somireddy said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was developing the state across sectors and alleged that the criticism of the DSC was driven by political jealousy.

Vasantha Krishna Prasad Attends TDP Leadership Conclave

Mangalagiri, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau



Mylavaram MLA and TDP State Official Spokesperson Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad participated in the two-day TDP Leadership Conclave at the party's central office, NTR Bhavan, in Mangalagiri. The conclave, which began on Monday, continued on Tuesday with discussions and training sessions. TDP National President and Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, TDP National Working President and Minister Nara Lokesh, TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, constituency in-charges, parliamentary observers and other leaders attended the programme. The conclave focused on improving leadership skills, strengthening party-

government coordination, identifying and resolving public issues, and effectively communicating welfare and development programmes. Leaders also received guidance on strengthening the party organisation, maintaining public contact and preparing for upcoming local body elections. Earlier, Chandrababu Naidu paid tributes to former Chief Minister and TDP founder Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao at NTR Bhavan. Vasantha Krishna Prasad attended sessions on the responsibilities of public representatives, constituency-level coordination and grassroots party strengthening. He also participated in discussions on improving public outreach and taking government programmes to people.

Modi Government's Final Days Have Begun: Ramakrishna

Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

CPI National Secretary K. Ramakrishna alleged that public dissatisfaction with the Narendra Modi government was growing due to unemployment, price rise and unfulfilled election promises. Speaking at a Meet the Press programme at Vijayawada Press Club, he said the CPI would organise nationwide 'Jail Bharo' programmes on Dec 1, 2 and 3. Press Club president Kanchala Jayaraj presided. Ramakrishna, who recently attended the 24th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties in Havana, criticised US President Donald Trump's policies towards Cuba and said sanctions had created severe shortages of electricity, water, transport and medicines. He also alleged that constitutional



and secular values were being weakened in India. Criticising Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Ramakrishna alleged that his government had surpassed Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's five-year borrowings within two years. He demanded drought relief for affected mandals and opposed electoral-roll deletions. He said Gandhi Jayanti would be observed as a day of communal harmony and announced continued coordination with Left, secular and democratic forces.

Sushmita Konidela Appointed to Durgamma Temple Trust Board

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Tollywood actor Chiranjeevi's daughter and producer Sushmita Konidela has been appointed as a special invitee to the Sri Durga Malleshwara Swamy Devasthanam in Vijayawada. The appointment was made by the Andhra Pradesh Endowments Department, with Secretary Kannababu issuing orders to this effect. The move is expected to provide the temple administration with additional support and inputs for various development and devotee-oriented initiatives. Following her appointment, Sushmita Konidela is expected to participate in discussions and activities concerning the development of the temple and improvement of facilities for devotees. Her role will include offering suggestions and extending support for initiatives aimed at enhancing the overall experience of pilgrims visiting the prominent temple. The Sri Durga Malleshwara Swamy Devasthanam, popularly known as the Kanaka Durga Temple, is one of the major religious centres in Andhra Pradesh and attracts a large number of devotees throughout the year. Temple development works, infrastructure improvement and better facilities for devotees remain important areas for the Endowments Department. Sushmita's association as a special invitee is expected to contribute to these efforts through suggestions and participation in relevant activities. The appointment has also drawn attention in the Telugu film industry, given Sushmita Konidela's background in cinema and production. She is the daughter of veteran actor Chiranjeevi and has been associated with film production and other creative ventures. With the new responsibility, Sushmita is expected to work alongside temple authorities and other stakeholders on initiatives aimed at improving facilities and supporting the development of the historic temple.

YouTuber Nandana Questioned in Visa Fraud Case

Continue

served a notice directing her to appear before the Ibrahimpatnam police for questioning. Speaking to the media after the inquiry, the Ibrahimpatnam Circle Inspector said Nandana had attended the investigation as directed. However, police reportedly found her responses to several questions unsatisfactory. "Her response to many questions was that she did not know," the CI said, adding that another notice had been issued directing her to appear for questioning again on September 16. During the inquiry, Nandana reportedly maintained that she was only an IT employee and YouTuber and had no involvement in the visa consultancy or its financial transactions. She told investigators that her husband Madhukar handled the company's operations, visa-related activities and collection of money from customers. Nandana also reportedly clarified that she was neither a director nor an employee of the company and had no role in its day-to-day affairs. Her statements have now led investigators to focus more closely on the role of her husband in the alleged financial transactions. Police said complaints in the case named Nandana, her husband Madhukar and her father-in-law. Investigators are examining the allegations and the financial transactions associated with the consultancy to establish the exact roles of those named in the complaint. According to police, Madhukar is currently abroad. Nandana reportedly told the investigators that she would ask her husband to return to India and cooperate with the inquiry. She said he was currently taking care of their children and would come to India after she returned. Police said the investigation would continue and further questioning could be conducted to gather additional information and verify the statements made by the accused.

Pawan Kalyan Pushes Measures to Take Handicrafts to Global Markets

Continue

expected to begin soon. Pawan Kalyan said Rs 12 lakh had been allocated for the development of the Udayagiri Community Centre through MP-LADS funds. Repairs, including construction of a compound wall, toilets and a store room, would be taken up. He also announced that work on the Etikoppaka health centre would be resumed. The Deputy Chief Minister said special attention was being given to infrastructure, marketing and welfare measures for artisans. Steps were being expedited to introduce QR codes on handicraft products, enabling buyers to access details about the artisan and information related to the craftsmanship and labour involved in making the product. He said the government was working to connect Andhra Pradesh's handicrafts with international markets and create better livelihood opportunities for artisans. Pawan Kalyan also announced plans to organise free medical camps for artisans across the state. He said six free eye camps had so far examined 1,708 people, while around 93 beneficiaries had undergone free cataract surgeries. Arrangements were also being made to distribute free spectacles to more than 1,253 people. The Deputy Chief Minister said the government's objective was to ensure that artisans did not face hunger or lose work opportunities due to health-related problems. He stressed that welfare measures should help artisans continue their traditional occupations with dignity and secure livelihoods.

YSRCP Protests for Water to Nellore

Nellore, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders and farmers laid siege to Nellore Barrage, demanding immediate release of water from Srisaillam to Somasila to protect standing crops and meet irrigation and drinking-water needs. Former ministers Kakani Govardhan Reddy and Sake Sailajanath led the protest, with nearly 100 cars and motorcycles joining the rally. Kakani said crops on 3,600-4,000 acres in Kaluvoya mandal were drying up. He said Srisaillam had 871 feet of water, while Somasila and Kandaluru held 17.1 TMC and 18.3 TMC respectively. He questioned delays in updating reservoir data and demanded an inquiry into irrigation funds. Sailajanath blamed poor water management and described the crisis as the "Yellow Nil effect, not El Nino." Leaders criticised police restrictions and said YSRCP would intensify its agitation until water was released to Somasila.

YSRCP Alleges More DSC Irregularities

Tadepalli, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP MLC P. Chandrasekhar Reddy and spokesperson Aare Syamala alleged large-scale irregularities in DSC recruitment and demanded Education Minister Nara Lokesh's resignation and a CBI inquiry. Chandrasekhar Reddy said YSRCP was fighting for 3.30 lakh unemployed candidates. He cited cases involving Ediga Prabhakar, J. Usha, Raj Kumar and Peddada Appalaraju, alleging candidates lacked required TET, B.Ed or subject qualifications. He also alleged Appalaraju used his brother's sports certificates and that documents on the official portal were later replaced. He questioned acceptance of certificates signed by TDP MLA Kuna Ravi Kumar as honorary president, contrary to GOs 4 and 47. He also questioned removal of 20% skill-test weightage and district-level verification, demanding action on grievances and postings for 100 genuine cases supported by court orders. Syamala alleged censorship of social-media accounts exposing the issue and reiterated the demand for a CBI probe.

Jagan to Meet Parchur Leaders on Sept 9

Tadepalli, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will meet party leaders and cadres from the Parchur Assembly constituency of Bapatla district on Wednesday, Sept 9. The meeting will be held at 11 am at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli. Former local body representatives, party leaders and grassroots-level workers will participate. Jagan will review the party's position in the constituency and discuss major public issues with leaders and cadres. The meeting will also focus on strengthening the party organisation, planning its future course of action and reviewing recent political developments in the constituency.

Guntur Government Hospital Attendance, Payment Claims Under Scrutiny

Ravi Podili

Guntur : Questions have been raised over the attendance records and payment system concerning contract security and sanitation workers at Guntur Government Hospital, with allegations of discrepancies between the staff shown as present in the SRS attendance system and the number of employees actually working on the ground.According to information available, around 700 personnel have been allocated for security and sanitation services. However, allegations suggest that only 250 to 300 workers are actually reporting for duty.

The discrepancy, if established, raises questions over how attendance is being recorded, who is responsible for verification and whether payments are being made against the actual workforce. Another major issue concerns the remuneration of contract workers.

Under the reported Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), an amount of Rs 18,600 is said to be accounted for per worker, while allegations claim that employees are actually receiving only around Rs 12,000. The difference requires verification through official records, particularly because statutory



components such as Provident Fund (PF), Employees' State Insurance (ESI), Goods and Services Tax (GST) and service charges may form part of the contractual amount. Officials may need to cross-check SRS attendance data with manual attendance registers, duty rosters, payroll records, wage bills and bank payments to deter-

mine whether the records correspond with the actual workforce.The role of a contract employee identified as Praveen has also come under discussion. However, his official responsibility, if any, in the SRS attendance process must be established through appointment orders, departmental instructions and system-access records. It also needs to be determined

whether he had any role in attendance verification or billing.Several key questions remain unanswered: How many workers were officially sanctioned? How many actually worked each day? Does SRS attendance match the duty roster and payroll? How much was paid to the contractor, and how much ultimately reached each employee's bank account?A comprehensive audit covering the past 12 months could potentially establish the facts. Records relating to government fund releases, contractor bills, payroll, SRS logs, manual attendance, duty rosters, PF and ESI payments, bank transfers, tender documents, work orders and MoU conditions would need to be examined.If discrepancies are found, authorities would also need to identify the officials who verified and approved the bills.The allegations remain unverified and require an impartial investigation before any conclusions are drawn. However, demands are growing for a complete audit and cross-verification of the SRS attendance, rosters, payroll, bills and bank payments.The central question remains: **Whose attendance is being recorded, whose name is on the bill and who is ultimately receiving the money? ** Only official records and a detailed inquiry can establish the facts.

No Proper Path to Cremation Ground in Vasumatla



Vasumatla, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

"Please show us the way to the cremation ground." This is the desperate appeal of residents of Vasumatla village under Puligadda Gram Panchayat in Avanigadda Mandal, where the Dalit community has been struggling for years without a proper route to carry the dead for cremation.Villagers say that while the deceased may attain heaven, those carrying the body to the cremation ground are forced to experience hell on earth. In the absence of a proper road or pathway, mourners have to carry the bier down a steep drop from the embankment of the Krishna River bridge.

The descent is reportedly as deep as the height of a tall palm tree, making the funeral procession extremely difficult and dangerous.The situation becomes even more distressing during the rainy season, when the route turns difficult to negotiate. Residents say the problem is particularly painful because the deceased have to be carried through such hazardous terrain even in their final journey.The issue came to light once again following the funeral procession of a 75-year-old man. The villagers expressed anguish that promises made by political leaders during elections have disappeared like writing on water. They said such a deplorable situation should not exist in a region like Avanigadda constituency, which has produced national leaders. The residents have appealed to elected representatives to provide at least a short, proper pathway to the cremation ground.They have also urged the District Collector to intervene and find a permanent solution to the long-pending problem.

800 Jobs to Be Offered Through Koushalam

Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

Employment opportunities will be provided to unemployed youth through the Koushalam job selection programme, with the fifth phase scheduled for Sept 10, District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha said. The selection drive will be conducted for 800 Machine Operator posts in association with Green Tech Industries India Private Limited-MTE Serbia. The opportunities are open to male candidates aged 18 to 32 years. Freshers can apply for the posts.Candidates with 10th class,

Intermediate, Degree or ITI qualifications are eligible. Skills in CNC machine operation, CNC machine supervision, CNC programming and machine supervision will be useful. The job location is Naidupeta in Tirupati district, with salaries ranging from Rs 15,500 to Rs 16,500 per month.District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha urged eligible unemployed youth to make use of the opportunity and participate in the selection process. He said efforts were being made through Koushalam to provide employment opportunities and support youth career development.

Clean Villages Key to Swarnandhra

Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said the goal of 'Swarnandhra' can be achieved only by creating clean villages and urged people to treat cleanliness as a social responsibility. An awareness programme on 'Swarnandhra-Swachandhra' was organised by the District Panchayat Office at Jupudi village in Ibrahimpatnam Mandal.

The Collector joined a cleanliness rally and urged people to reduce plastic use

and ensure proper waste segregation and management. He said waste could be converted into wealth through proper segregation and visited the Waste-to-Wealth centre, where he also planted saplings. He advised people to use jute or cloth bags instead of single-use plastics and stressed public participation in keeping villages clean. DPO T. Seethamahalakshmi, MPDO Shakuntala, DLPO Raghavan, Deputy MPDO Manoj, local residents and others participated.

Daily Water Quality Tests Ordered



Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

P. Satyakumari, In-charge Chief Engineer of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, directed officials to ensure that only clean drinking water is supplied to the public by conducting daily water quality tests. She instructed Amenity Secretaries and Assistant Engineers to test water regularly in their wards and secretariat jurisdictions. Any suspected contamination must be immediately reported, resolved and

prevented from recurring. Executive Engineers and Deputy Engineers were directed to ensure regular cleaning of water tanks and scouring operations.

Satyakumari also stressed continuous desilting across the city and removal of canal flow obstructions.She instructed engineering staff to prepare summer action plans and submit reports on measures to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply.

CPM Leaders Allege Vijayawada Neglected Under Alliance Rule



Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

CPM State Secretary Ch. Babu Rao and CPM State Committee Member D. Kashinath alleged that Vijayawada city was being neglected under the Alliance government and demanded focused development alongside Amaravati. They addressed a meeting of Vijayawada Central Constituency city committee members and branch secretaries at the CPM office in Governorpet, chaired by K. Durga Rao.They said the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation had been pushed

into a debt crisis, with hundreds of crores of rupees in contractor bills pending, resulting in stalled works, cancelled tenders and strikes. They alleged that funds collected through city taxes were not being released on time.Local leaders and activists raised concerns over rising prices, electricity charges, house taxes, contaminated water, poor sanitation, mosquito menace, drainage problems and inadequate basic infrastructure.

They also alleged illegal collections from Rs.10,000 to Rs.10 lakh for new building constructions.Babu Rao and Kashinath recalled the development achieved under Communist leadership in the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation and urged people to support the CPM. The meeting decided to launch an agitation over civic issues.

NTR District Targets 100% Literacy, AI Jobs

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said efforts were underway to make NTR district 100% literate through the Aksharandhra programme while creating new employment opportunities for rural women through AI-based training.Addressing the 60th International Literacy Day celebrations at KBN College, Vijayawada, Lakshmisha said 96,686 of the 97,047 people targeted under Aksharandhra in 2025-26 had been made literate, achieving 99% progress. The enrollment target of 88,890 for 2026-27 had also been achieved. He stressed the importance of digital literacy and urged every family to have at least one digitally literate member.Meanwhile, the



Collector said the AI 4 Assure programme at the RISE centre in Guntupalli was helping rural women build careers. The first batch of 31 women completed 45 days of training in AI content creation, image and video generation, social media marketing and prompt engineering.Four women secured full-time jobs in Hyderabad's Cinematic AI sector, while others received freelance and work-from-home opportunities.

No Delay in SC/ST Atrocity Cases: Collector



Machilipatnam, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

District Collector DK Balaji directed officials to speed up investigations into SC/ST atrocity cases and ensure timely compensation to victims. At a District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting at the Collectorate, officials reviewed cases, charge sheets, compensation and pending issues. involved in cases registered between Jan 1, 2025 and Aug 31, 2026, with Rs.1.30 crore sanctioned. Of this, Rs.86.28 lakh was released and Rs.86,10,482 paid to 44 victims.

Food Outlets Inspected in Governorpet

Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

Acting on the orders of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra, Public Health Department officials conducted intensive inspections of hotels, messes and food outlets in Governorpet on Tuesday morning.

Officials inspected Ramayya Mess, Kotayya Mess, Subbayya Mess and Haveli Hotel, checking food quality, cleanliness, waste management, kitchen hygiene and the personal hygiene of staff. The inspection aimed to ensure that food

outlets maintain proper standards and serve safe and quality food to the public. A fine of Rs.5,000 was imposed on Haveli Hotel for violations, while notices were issued to Ramayya Mess. Officials advised all operators to maintain hygienic conditions while preparing and serving food.

They warned that hotels, messes, tiffin centres and other food outlets violating hygiene regulations would face further action in addition to fines.Sanitary Supervisor Salim Ahmed, Sanitary Inspectors and Public Health Department staff participated in the inspection drive.

Anti-Larval Operations Conducted Across City

Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

Under the directions of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra, extensive anti-larval operations were conducted across the city to control mosquitoes. Special measures were taken in Madhyakatta area of Satyanarayanapuram under the supervision of Biologist Suryakumar.

Plastic waste accumulated in the canal was removed using boats, while anti-larval operations were conducted along canal embankments. Mosquito breeding spots were identified and chemicals sprayed.

Suryakumar said fogging, spraying ML (Mosquito Larvicide) oil and canal



desilting were being carried out continuously. Awareness programmes are also being conducted to encourage residents to observe "Dry Day" every Friday. Floating debris, plastic waste and water hyacinth are being removed from Bandar, Eluru, Ryves and Budameru canals.

He urged residents to prevent water stagnation and cooperate with mosquito-control measures. Malaria Department staff participated.

Collector Orders Measures to Prevent Water Shortages

Machilipatnam, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

District Collector D.K. Balaji directed officials to take advance measures to prevent drinking water shortages during the coming summer and curb water wastage. He issued the directions during a video conference with RWS, District Panchayat, municipal, MPDO, Panchayat and DRDA officials.

The Collector ordered regular monitoring of village water supplies, digital records, desilting of SS tanks and channels, cleaning of filter beds, and immediate repairs to pipeline leakages, valves, pumps and panel boards. He also directed officials to keep alternative water sources

ready, ensure RO plants operate continuously and implement proper chlorination.He stressed effective sanitation, regular door-to-door garbage collection and maintenance of sanitation equipment. Officials were told to ensure every eligible person receives a pension while preventing ineligible beneficiaries from receiving benefits.

Vacant Digital Assistant and Welfare Assistant posts should have in-charges with login facilities. RWS SE Somashekhar, DPO M. Dhanalakshmi, DRDA PD Hariharanath, Municipal Commissioners, MPDOs, DLDOs, DLPOs, Secretariat staff and others participated.

Medical Education Reforms Announced

Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

Dr. Pulala Chandrasekhar, Vice-Chancellor of Dr. NTR Health University, said reforms are being introduced to raise medical education to international standards, promote research and strengthen emergency services. Speaking at a press conference, he said an AI-based framework and Learning Management System (LMS) would first be implemented in government colleges. He announced 50 B.Sc. Emergency Medicine seats across 19 government medical colleges and plans to strengthen

Geriatric and Family Medicine. University Registrar Dr. T. Sai Sudheer said 4,321 of 4,581 Phase-I MBBS seats were allocated, with 4,231 candidates reporting. He said candidates can register fresh web options at every counseling stage under G.O. No. 102 of 2026. Classes begin Sept 15. State Government Advisor on Medical Education (NRI) Dr. Lokesh Edara stressed family medicine, research, LMS and MCQ-based assessment. Renowned anesthesiologist and pain specialist Dr. K. Venkateswara Rao called for innovation through education and research.

Free Coaching Launched Under Vidya Vijayam

Vijayawada, Sept 08 | TPN Bureau

Kaarunya Helping Hands Foundation launched the "Vidya Vijayam" programme at Bishop Azariah Girls School to provide free coaching for NEET, JEE and other competitive entrance examinations to government and rural students. Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao attended as Chief Guest and extended support to the initiative. Former 23rd Division Corporator Nellibandla Balaswami also participated

and encouraged students. Foundation Founder Dr. Vijayraj G. said the programme aims to provide quality education, guidance and equal opportunities, enabling students to compete with those from corporate institutions.

Free coaching will be offered to Classes 8 to 12, with special focus on girls. The foundation plans to expand the programme to more government and rural schools.

He said financial difficulties should never become a barrier to talent.

TDP leaders call for unity in local body polls

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

TDP public representatives called for unity to ensure the alliance's victory in the upcoming local body elections. An urgent meeting was held at a private hotel in Vijayawada on Monday, presided over by District Party President Gadde Anuradha, District Election In-charge Makkenna Mallikarjuna Rao and Zonal Coordinator Satyanarayana Raju. MP Kesineni Sivanath, MLC Varla Ramaiah, MLAs Gadde Rammohan,

Vasantha Krishna Prasad, Tangirala Sowmya and Sriram Rajagopal, besides former MLCs Ashok Babu and Buddha Venkanna, participated. Leaders discussed election strategies from village to corporation level and resolved to work together for victory in all seats. They decided to highlight development and welfare schemes implemented by the alliance government. Party workers were asked to identify local issues, resolve them and strengthen support for alliance candidates.

SIT seeks custody of five accused

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

The SIT investigating the Gade Saikrishna custodial death case has sought the custody of five accused for further questioning. The SIT filed a petition seeking two-day custody of A2 Ashok Kumar, A3 Jangam Nani, A4

Baburao, A6 Sambaiah and A7 Venkataraju. Officials decided to interrogate the accused for a second time based on the statement given by CI Nagaraju. The SIT is expected to question the accused on various aspects of the case as part of its investigation.

75,000 applications received for new pensions

Vijayawada, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Around 75,000 people applied for new pensions under the NTR Bharosa pension scheme on the first day of the application process, officials said. The government began accepting applications through village and ward secretariats across Andhra Pradesh on Monday.Applicants arrived at the secretariats from the morning with the required supporting documents to submit their applications. The large turnout resulted in a heavy workload for secretariat employees across the state.

As employees attempted to process a large number of applications simultaneously, the server slowed down at several secretariats, causing delays in the application process. Despite the technical issues, officials continued processing applications and assisting applicants.The government has opened the application process to enable eligible beneficiaries to seek inclusion in the NTR Bharosa pension scheme. The large number of applications on the opening day reflected the strong response from people seeking new pensions.

Kesali Apparao welcomes UN declaration against child marriage

Amaravati, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Chairperson Kesali Apparao welcomed the declaration of November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage. He thanked Bhuwan Ribhu, founder of Just Rights for Children (JRC), for his efforts in persuading the United Nations General Assembly to recognise the day and strengthen the global fight against child marriage.Apparao said he would contin-

ue efforts to eradicate child marriage in Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with JRC and Bammidi Chandra Sekhar, state representative of Bachpan Bachao Andolan. He said child marriage violates children's rights and affects girls' education, health, safety and future opportunities.He called for coordinated efforts by families, schools, local bodies, police, Women and Child Welfare Department, voluntary organisations, teachers and youth. He urged village-level awareness programmes, promotion of girls' education and prevention of school dropouts.

Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations must be peaceful: SP

Prakasam, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Prakasam District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju directed police officials to ensure peaceful Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations by implementing strict security measures and preventing untoward incidents. During a video conference on Monday, he instructed officials to intensify patrolling at Ganesh pandals and immersion loca-

tions. He said arrangements for electricity, expert swimmers, medical personnel and fire safety equipment must be made at immersion sites. Police should coordinate with Revenue, Panchayat and Municipal officials for smooth celebrations. The SP said Ganesh pandal organisers must obtain permissions through the free single-window system available at ganeshtsav.net. The festival is scheduled to begin

on Sept 14. Applicants must provide committee, pandal, idol and immersion details online and obtain approval. The QR-coded NOC must be displayed at the pandal. He advised organisers to use clay idols, install CCTV cameras, follow loudspeaker timings, avoid road obstructions and fire-crackers, and follow immersion routes



and timings. He also urged people not to spread social media rumours.

Mosquito menace troubles Bapatla residents



Bapatla, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Residents within Bapatla Municipality limits are facing severe mosquito problems, with mosquitoes reportedly troubling people day and night. Residents alleged that the situation has contributed to health problems, particularly among

children and elderly people, with some reportedly being hospitalised for viral fevers, coughs and colds. They questioned the authorities over the non-use of a mega fogging machine meant to control mosquitoes. The machine has reportedly been left discarded beneath a water tank. Residents alleged that bills were raised towards its repairs, but the equipment remains unused. They expressed anger over the alleged negligence and questioned the need for repair expenditure when the machine was not being used. Residents appealed to higher authorities to intervene immediately, repair the fogging machine and deploy it across municipal wards to control the mosquito menace and protect public health.

Handloom workers protest over pending funds

Chirala, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Handloom workers in Jandrapeta panchayat of Chirala mandal staged a road blockade on Monday, protesting the non-credit of financial assistance under the 'Netanna Sevalo' scheme. A large number of women and workers participated in the protest, alleging that the promised funds had not been deposited in their bank accounts despite meeting eligibility requirements. The workers said the delay was causing severe difficulties in managing their households. The road blockade temporarily disrupted vehicular movement in the area.



They demanded that the government immediately release the pending funds and ensure they are credited to beneficiaries' accounts. The workers warned that they would intensify their agitation if authorities failed to intervene and resolve the issue.

World DMD Day: Awareness brings a ray of hope



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

World DMD Day is observed on September 7 to spread awareness about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a rare genetic disorder mainly affecting boys. Under the leadership of Human Rights Protection and Awareness Council of India President Satya Gummapu,

'Operation Rare Justice' was organised to support affected children and protect their rights. General Secretary E. Bindu Chowdary called for adherence to the message "No Child Left Behind" and urged voluntary organisations, civil society groups and officials to work together to address children's problems. DMD causes progressive muscle weakness, with symptoms including delayed walking, frequent falls and difficulty running or climbing stairs. Dr. K.M. Jagadeesh Naidu, Kommireddy Prabhavathi, Guntur Venkataramana, Meenakshi Reddy, Vandan, Srihari, Sai Kishore, Pachipala Kalyani, Durga and Pichuka Mahesh participated and stressed the importance of public cooperation in protecting human rights.

Eluru ranks fourth nationally in Swachh Vayu Survekshan



Eluru, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Eluru city has secured the fourth rank nationally in the 'Swachh Vayu Survekshan-2026' conducted by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the category of cities with a population below three lakh. The city improved from 31st position last year, climbing 27 places and nar-

rowly missing third rank by 0.5 marks. Municipal officials said air pollution levels declined from 69 µg/m³ to 61 µg/m³ following measures implemented with NCAP funds. Key initiatives included road paving and dust control, development of fountains and parks, expansion of greenery, an Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS), scientific solid waste and C&D waste management, tree plantation and LPG awareness campaigns. The Municipal Commissioner credited municipal staff, officials and citizens for the achievement and appealed to the public to continue cooperating to maintain clean air.

BJP holds 100-flag festival in Rajamahendravaram



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

The BJP organised the "Mana Ooru - Mana Jenda" 100-flag festival in Rajamahendravaram, with saffron flags installed at several locations along the Godavari. BJP State President PVN Madhav said the programme would provide new direction and energy to the party. QR codes were placed at flag posts to provide information on Central gov-

ernment welfare and development schemes. MP Purandeswari highlighted development initiatives and funds secured for East Godavari. Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy urged cadres to remain connected with people and address their grievances. BJP East Godavari District President Pikki Nagendra presided over the meeting. Senior BJP leader and MLC Somu Veerajulu called for strengthening the party from village to urban levels. BJP State Executive Committee member Kambala Srinivasa Rao hoisted flag at Chowdeswari Nagar, RTO Office, CTRI and Kambala Cheruvu Hi-Tech Bus Stand areas. The event also witnessed the joining of former Deputy Mayor and Telugu Desam leader Box Prasad into the BJP. BJP leaders and cadres participated in large numbers.

Allu Arjun fans conduct HPV vaccine awareness programme

Rajamahendravaram, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Allu Arjun fans organised an awareness programme on the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for female students at Government Girls' High School in Innispet, Rajamahendravaram. The programme was conducted under the leadership of Dodda Manikanta (Bobby), Vice President of the East Godavari District Allu Arjun Fans Association, as part of the association's social service activities. Dharmendra, a close associate of Allu Arjun, attended as chief guest and explained the importance of HPV vaccination during teenage years to help prevent cervical cancer. He said receiving



the vaccine at the appropriate age can provide protection against serious health problems in the future and urged students to spread awareness about its benefits. Addanki Arjun, U. Narayana, DJ Manikanta, G. Manikanta and Pawan, along with Allu Arjun fans, teachers and female students, participated in the programme. The initiative received appreciation from the local community.

Eluru Range police athletes win 308 medals



Eluru, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Police athletes from the Eluru Range showcased outstanding talent at the Andhra Pradesh Police Sports Meet 2026 held at VIT University, Mangalagiri, from Sept 1 to 4. Representing the Eluru Range, they secured a total of 308 medals, including 119 gold, 116 silver and 73 bronze. A felicitation programme was organised at the Police Kalyana

Mandapam on the premises of Sri Suresh Chandra Bahuguna English Medium School in Aminapeta, Eluru.

Eluru Range IG GVG Ashok Kumar, Eluru District SP K. Pratap Siva Kishore and Additional SP (Admin) Y. Prasada Rao felicitated and congratulated the medal winners.

IG Ashok Kumar said sports help police personnel maintain mental well-being, physical fitness and agility while performing high-pressure duties. SP Pratap Siva Kishore said sports improve concentration, presence of mind and decision-making skills required in police duties. Vijayawada CSW DCP B. Satyanarayana, Kakinada Additional SP (AR) S. Srinivasa Rao, Kakinada AR DSP Srihari Rao and police personnel attended.

SP counsels police personnel on helmet safety

Eluru, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Eluru District SP K. Pratap Siva Kishore stressed that police personnel must set an example for the public by following road safety rules. Acting on his directions, special counselling sessions were conducted for police personnel found riding two-wheelers without helmets. The SP said wearing a helmet is a basic safety responsibility and personnel must follow the law they enforce. He directed them to wear helmets during duty and personal travel, including for pillion riders. He also warned against speeding, using mobile phones while driving and jumping traffic signals, stating that a moment of negligence could cause seri-



ous consequences for families. He said police personnel should act as guides and role models for the public. The district police department will continue awareness programmes to promote responsibility and discipline regarding helmet use.

He stressed that e-KYC is mandatory for every farmer and accurate details must be provided until Pattadar pass-books are issued.

He said Re-survey 2.0 was being conducted transparently to avoid earlier mistakes.

Surveys have been completed in 628, 748, 729 and 1,645 villages in the first four phases respectively. In Phase 5, 2,800 teams are surveying 1,343 villages using advanced rovers. Kurmanath said the goal is to make Andhra Pradesh land-dispute-free by March 2027.

Shakti Teams to expand services to rural areas

Bapatla, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

CCS DSP P. Jagadeesh Naik held a meeting with Shakti Team personnel at the Bapatla District Police Headquarters on Tuesday, following the directions of District SP B. Umamaheswar. He said Shakti Team services should be extended to villages and awareness created among people from school students to the elderly. He directed personnel to educate students about good touch and bad touch and encourage college students to download the Shakti App. Teams were instructed to explain the app's services to women living alone in rural areas and create awareness among the elderly about cybercrimes, helmet safety and police services. Personnel were also told to



respond immediately and humanely to road accidents and people in distress. Women PS Inspector S. Subbarao will supervise the four Shakti Teams, with an SI-rank officer heading each team. SI Chennakesavulu, Women SI Chandravathi and team personnel attended.

CMRF a boon for poor: Minister Kandula Durgesh



Nidadavole, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) is a boon for poor families facing medical emergencies. At the Rotary Club in Nidadavole, he distributed CMRF

cheques and Letters of Credit worth Rs.38.68 lakh to 85 beneficiaries. Of this, 83 received Rs.33,60,181 in cheques and two received LoCs worth Rs.5,07,860.

Durgesh said 1,177 people in the Nidadavole constituency had so far received Rs.8.04 crore through CMRF, LoCs and special financial assistance. He said the Alliance government aims to build a "Healthy Andhra Pradesh" and provide assistance to eligible poor people every 15 days. He also said applications for new pensions began on Sept 7 and urged officials to ensure the process benefits eligible people. Beneficiaries thanked the government, local MLA and Durgesh for timely assistance.

Eluru journalists protest arrests of iNews reporters

Eluru, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

Journalists in Eluru staged a protest against the midnight arrest and cases filed against the staff reporter and local reporters of iNews in Nandyal. A demonstration was organised at Dharna Chowk by the Eluru Press Forum and civil society organisations. When journalists moved towards the Collectorate, police stopped them, leading to a tense situation as they staged a sit-in at the gate. Press Forum President Dronamraju Venkataramana and senior journalist Sivashri alleged that the arrests were retaliation for reports on alleged illegal activities, private panchayats and land grabbing involving Minister Farooq's sons. They condemned the arrests as an attack on press freedom and



demanding action against responsible police personnel.

A delegation later met District Revenue Officer and submitted a memorandum seeking withdrawal of cases and release of those arrested. Sanjay, Y.V. Harish, Milton, Alapati Murali, Kadavakollu Sagar, Appalabhaktula Bhargav, Pothuraju, Vinay, Durgaprasad, Rajiv, Vasu and others participated.

World Physiotherapy Day celebrated at BR&D Nursing College



Eluru, Sept 8 | TPN Bureau

World Physiotherapy Day was celebrated at BR&D School of Nursing in Denduluru, Eluru district, on Monday. Student P. Bindu Madhavi said physiotherapy is not merely exercise but a med-

ical approach that improves body movement without medicines. She said it provides relief from muscle and joint pain, paralysis and stroke, and helps patients recover after surgeries. She explained that the 2026 Physiotherapy Day theme is "Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke". Physiotherapy plays an important role in preventing heart disease and stroke and helping patients regain normal function. Students later displayed physiotherapy-related posters to create awareness. Faculty members and students participated in the programme.

International Literacy Day Seminar Held at Gudivakalanka



Eluru, September 8 | TPN Bureau

A legal awareness seminar was held at Gudivakalanka village in Eluru Rural Mandal on Tuesday to mark International Literacy Day. The programme was organised under the aegis of the Joint West Godavari District Legal Services Authority, following the directions of the State Legal Services Authority, Amaravati. Legal Services Authority Secretary N. Sriakashmi, who attended as chief guest, expressed concern over the continued presence of illiteracy despite global progress. She said everyone must work together to eradicate illiteracy and

stressed the importance of enrolling school-age children in schools and preventing child labour. She urged parents to promote adult education and provide quality education to children. Sriakashmi also warned that child marriages in rural areas affect children's development and appealed to people to report such cases to officials or the District Legal Services Authority. Panel lawyers P. Ratnaraju and A. Gangabhanavi, DCPO Dr. Ch. Suryachakraveni, CDPO Padmavathi, MRO Vijayaraju, CRAF District Coordinator S. Vinod, police personnel, village elders, students and residents participated.



Re-survey to Resolve Land Issues Permanently

Eluru, September 8 | TPN Bureau

State Director of Survey, Settlement and Land Records Ronanki Kurmanath said farmers must actively participate in the re-survey process to ensure a permanent solution to land-related issues. He inspected the re-survey operations in Tallamudi vil-

lage of Pedapadu Mandal on Tuesday along with revenue and survey officials.

Kurmanath said farmers or their family members must be present when the survey begins after receiving prior information. Document verification and boundary determination should also be completed in their presence.

Editorial

Political Domination
Overshadows
People's Problems

The opening day of the Telangana Assembly Sessions once again exposed the growing gap between political competition and the real problems faced by the people. Instead of using the Assembly as a platform to discuss public issues and find practical solutions, both the Opposition and the ruling party appeared more interested in gaining political advantage.

The Opposition seems determined to create tension and confront the police, while the ruling party is attempting to target Opposition leaders and expose their alleged conduct in the name of political values and accountability. In this political battle, both sides appear to be competing for dominance rather than demonstrating seriousness about governance.

Every confrontation is being treated as an opportunity to score political points. Every controversy is being converted into a weapon against the other side. The Opposition wants to portray the government as authoritarian, while the ruling party seeks to project the Opposition as irresponsible and disruptive. This cycle may benefit political parties in the short term, but it does little to benefit ordinary citizens.

The real concern is that the Assembly is gradually becoming an arena for political championship rather than a forum for addressing people's grievances. Issues relating to employment, development, welfare, infrastructure, education, healthcare and the economy require serious debate and constructive solutions. Instead, political energy is being consumed by accusations, counter-accusations and confrontations.

Both sides must recognise that people did not elect their representatives merely to witness political battles. They expect their representatives to debate issues, question policies, provide alternatives and ensure that governance improves.

The coming elections may be influencing the strategies of both the ruling party and the Opposition. However, electoral calculations cannot permanently replace public responsibility. Political parties may gain temporary mileage from confrontation, but people ultimately judge governments and Opposition leaders by their performance.

Telangana needs politics that delivers solutions, not politics that thrives on tension. The Assembly must return to its real purpose: representing the people and resolving their problems.

-Editor

A 20-Seat Public Mood...
A Signal for Pawan's Role in 2029?

Jana Sena's Independent Litmus Test in Local Body Polls



Chennu Peddiraju

Senior Journalist

The 2029 Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh are still a long way off, yet the maneuvers of political parties already point in that direction. In particular, the Jana Sena Party (JSP), a partner in the ruling coalition, is crafting fresh plans for its political expansion. At this juncture, the latest India Today-CVoter Mood of the Nation (MOTN) survey projected that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would secure 20 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh. The survey projected: TDP-JSP combine: 18-19 seats, BJP: 1-3 seats, YSRCP: 4-5 seats. These figures estimate outcomes if parliamentary elections were held today-they are not a direct projection of the 2029 Assembly election results.

Nevertheless, a buzz has emerged on social media claiming that, according to the survey, the public wants Pawan Kalyan to become Chief Minister in 2029.

What Is the Real Signal from the Survey?

The primary takeaway for Andhra Pradesh is the substantial public goodwill the ruling NDA coalition continues to enjoy. In 2024, the TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP joined forces to prevent a split in the anti-incumbency vote, handing the YSRCP a heavy defeat. Two years into governance, a projection of 20 Lok Sabha seats for the alliance is a notable political indicator. However, this raises a pertinent question: should this 20-seat projection be seen solely as the strength of the Telugu Desam Party, or does Jana Sena hold a significant political stake in it? This question brings Jana Sena's upcoming strategic moves into sharp focus.

Pawan's 2024 Decision vs. Jana Sena's 2026 Strategy

Pawan Kalyan's political decision ahead of the 2024 elections was clear: forge an alliance with the TDP and the BJP. He consistently maintained that the coalition was essential for govern-

mental stability. A few months after forming the government, he openly praised Chandrababu Naidu's leadership on the floor of the Assembly, stating that Naidu should continue as Chief Minister for another decade. In 2025, he reaffirmed his commitment to alliance unity, expressing confidence that the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance could endure for 15 to 20 years. Viewing Jana Sena's current 2026 strategy as an attempt to find an alternative to Chandrababu Naidu would be premature. The objective is different: strengthening Jana Sena's independent organizational footprint while remaining an integral part of the coalition.

Local Body Polls: The Real Litmus Test

This is why the upcoming local body elections are becoming pivotal. In the 2024 Assembly elections, Jana Sena contested 21 seats. The party now believes the same seat-sharing ratio should not automatically apply to local body elections. Instead, it is advancing the idea of contesting wherever the party possesses ground strength. Reports indicate that party chief Pawan Kalyan has instructed Jana Sena MLAs not to confine them-

selves to their assembly segments, but to assess organizational strength across broader regions. The party appears to be preparing to pitch for a more substantial share of seats in local elections. This marks a meaningful shift: local elections will reveal where voters back Jana Sena on its own merits rather than purely as part of the broader coalition vote.

A Test of Jana Sena's Independent Strength

Attributing Jana Sena's 2024 success entirely to its stand-alone strength is as premature as reducing it solely to the alliance. The synergy of the TDP, JSP, and BJP was evident in the final tally. Now, the party faces a different challenge: how far can it build its grassroots organizational machinery while leveraging the alliance? If Jana Sena contests a wider slate of local body seats and secures substantial victories, its political bargaining power within the coalition will naturally increase by 2029. Conversely, subpar results would signal that its organizational structure still has ground to cover. Local elections are therefore an acid test of Jana Sena's institutional capacity. Pawan's Expanding

Political Stature

Pawan Kalyan's evolving profile is another factor to consider. He is no longer just the president of Jana Sena; he is the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh holding major ministerial portfolios. He has also established a distinct profile within the national NDA. On his recent birthday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Pawan Kalyan as a widely respected public figure and commended his role in driving good governance under the NDA in Andhra Pradesh. While this does not indicate an imminent chief ministerial role, it reflects a political stature that extends beyond state boundaries into national NDA circles.

Where Does Chandrababu Naidu Stand?

Political analysis requires nuance here: pointing out Pawan's political rise does not imply an erosion of Chandrababu Naidu's standing. The two leaders possess distinct political strengths. Mainly Chandrababu Naidu has Decades of administrative experience, a statewide organizational network built over four decades, and extensive political capital. Where as Pawan Kalyan Personal mass appeal, strong youth support, a central role in forging the 2024 alliance, and his executive responsibilities in government. Viewing the 2029 elections through a "Chandrababu vs. Pawan" lens is an oversimplification. The real question is how each party expands its independent organizational base while preserving coalition unity. Between now and 2029, the political ground can shift along several axes. Before the readers many questions poses. How effectively will the government

deliver on its commitments?

How will public perception of the coalition evolve? To what extent can the YSRCP rebuild its grassroots machinery? How will the leadership succession dynamic evolve within the TDP? How much ground strength will Jana Sena demonstrate in local elections? How far can the BJP expand its independent footprint in the state? Without clarity on these factors, determining the leadership landscape for 2029 remains speculative.

Where the Story Truly Begins

The projected 20 Lok Sabha seats reflect the enduring strength of the coalition. Simultaneously, Jana Sena's proactive posture ahead of local elections introduces an independent test of strength. Taken together, the central question surrounding Pawan Kalyan's political trajectory is not "Will he become Chief Minister tomorrow?" Rather, it is: "How much will his political leverage within the coalition expand by 2029?" Local body elections are poised to provide the first answers. If Jana Sena delivers on its expectations, Pawan Kalyan's role in future political discussions will naturally draw greater focus. This neither guarantees a chief ministerial bid nor implies an immediate alternative to Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. What it will measure is whether Jana Sena is successfully transitioning from a junior coalition partner into an increasingly consequential political force in its own right. For now, political focus remains on the upcoming local body polls-where the opening chapter of the 2029 narrative will likely be written.

Degrees Are Increasing...
Why Are Jobs Declining?



Higher education in India has expanded rapidly over the past few decades. What was once accessible only to a limited section of society has now reached even rural areas. By 2023, the share of graduates among young people aged 20-29 had increased from just 4 per cent in 1983 to 28 per cent. This represents a remarkable expansion of educational opportunities. However, at the same time, the number of graduates in this age group had reached 63 million, of whom around 11 million were unemployed. This is where the real problem lies. India is educating an increasing number of young people, but its economy has not created employment opportunities at the same pace for those who are becoming more educated. The State of Working India 2026, released by

Azim Premji University, also highlights this contradiction. The number of graduates has increased much faster than the availability of graduate-level employment. At the same time, people with degrees continue to earn higher average incomes, indicating that the value of education itself has not disappeared. The deeper problem lies in the transition from education to employment. In other words, the degree still has value, but the pathway from a degree to a suitable job has become increasingly weak. One major reason is the widening gap between the education system and the labour market. Students often pursue degrees primarily to obtain formal qualifications, while employers increasingly demand practical skills, work experience, communication abilities and tech-

nological competence. As a result, there are young people who possess degrees but lack the skills required for available jobs, while others possess the necessary skills but cannot find suitable employment. However, attributing unemployment entirely to a lack of skills would present only half the reality. According to the Institute for Human Development and ILO report, the Indian economy is not creating enough well-paying, white-collar jobs to match the growing number of highly educated young people. The problem is particularly severe among young people from economically disadvantaged and socially marginalised communities. This is one of the reasons why millions of young Indians continue to compete for government jobs. The huge num-

ber of applications received for even a single government vacancy is not merely a reflection of an obsession with government employment. It reflects the search for stable income, job security and social dignity. Although the private sector offers employment opportunities, not all of them provide the kind of jobs young people aspire to. Low wages, contractual employment, lack of job security and long working hours remain significant concerns. Therefore, the important question is not simply whether jobs exist, but what kind of jobs are available? Another important dimension is the situation of rural youth. Students in urban areas generally have greater access to coaching, internships, networking opportunities and pri-

vate training. In rural areas, however, many young people lack proper guidance on what to pursue after graduation, which skills to acquire and where employment opportunities exist. As a result, a large number of them spend several years preparing for competitive examinations. Social inequality further deepens this problem. According to the ILO report, in 2022, unemployment among graduates or those with higher education was 35 per cent among SC youth and 33.4 per cent among ST youth, compared with 28.7 per cent among OBC youth and 26.5 per cent among the General Category. This clearly shows that obtaining a degree alone does not guarantee equal access to employment opportunities. Meanwhile, technological changes such as artificial intelligence and automation are likely to transform the nature of employment even further. Some traditional jobs may decline, some may undergo significant changes, while new categories of employment may emerge. The era in which a single degree could guarantee one stable career for an entire lifetime is therefore likely to become even less relevant. But the solution cannot simply be to ask every young person to collect more certificates and qualifications. What is needed is a stronger connection between education and the labour market, greater opportunities for apprenticeships and internships within industries, stronger small and medium-sized enterprises, and economic policies

that actively create new and productive employment opportunities. The real problem facing India is not that there are 'too many degrees'. The problem is that quality employment is not growing at the same pace as the number of degree holders. An educated young population is one of India's greatest assets. But if the country fails to provide productive, dignified employment that matches their skills and aspirations, the same demographic advantage can turn into a major socio-economic challenge.

If India is to convert its demographic dividend into an economic dividend, narrowing the gap between education and employment must become an urgent priority. Therefore, it is not enough to question young people by asking, "What skills do you have?" The country must also ask, "How many jobs have been created that match those skills?" The expansion of colleges may be a sign of educational progress.

The rise in the number of degrees may reflect the expansion of access to higher education. But if young people continue to spend years searching for employment after earning those degrees, the problem cannot be viewed merely as a failure of the youth. It is a larger failure involving the education system, the economy and the labour market. India must not merely create more degrees. It must create enough quality jobs that give those degrees real economic value. That is the real measure of development.

Basada Sampath Yadav

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

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



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

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

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

Rahul Gandhi Calls Punjab Protester, Police Personnel Face Action



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

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

PM Modi Takes 'Naraaz Fufa' Swipe at Opposition

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



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

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

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

Mohan Bhagwat's UK Visit to Address Hindutva Misconceptions

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



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

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

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

Yogi to Review Varanasi Flood Situation Today



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

India's First Sentient Corporate Campus to Rise in Pune

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



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

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

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



DNA Testing Gives Nepal Families Hope for Missing Relatives

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

US Strikes Three Iranian Oil Tankers After Naval Attacks



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

Jaishankar to Address UN General Assembly on September 26

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

NSE Gets Sebi Nod for Mega IPO



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

Scapia, Axis Bank Launch Travel-Focused Credit Card

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



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

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

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

Govt Rejects 'No Takers' Claim on Coal Gasification Scheme



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

Trump Venezuela Oil Deal Alarms US Energy Industry



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

Forex Reserves Hit Record \$740.80 Billion



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

Ocean Cleanup Chief Invites River Cleaner to Join Team

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

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



to health risks, including encounters with snakes. He



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

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

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

Apple Begins Ternus Era With Major Product Wave



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

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

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



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

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

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

German Police Check Indian Tourists, Leave Former Cop Impressed

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Stuttgart Thrash Cologne to Bounce Back

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



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

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

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

Raina Questions India Exile During Kohli-Kumble Era



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

Yuki Bhambri Eyes Deep US Open Run With Michael Venus



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

India Face Pakistan in Crucial Women's Asia Cup Clash

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



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

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

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

Arshdeep Singh, Samreen Kaur Get Matching Tattoos

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Rajinikanth's Dharman Wraps Second Schedule

The makers of director Ashwath Marimuthu's eagerly awaited action entertainer Dharman have announced that the film's second schedule of shooting has been completed. The film features Tamil superstar Rajinikanth in the lead and is being produced by Raaj Kamal Films International, the production house of veteran actor and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan. Raaj Kamal Films International shared the update on its social media platforms along with a video clip, writing, "Dharman 2nd Schedule Wrapped. Swag Mode: ON." One of the scenes featured in the video shows Rajinikanth portraying a senior medical faculty member while lecturing junior doctors. The second schedule began on August 13, with the makers describing Rajinikanth's character as "The deadly doctor" while announcing the shoot. The project has generated considerable excitement among fans since its announcement, particularly because of Rajinikanth's unusual role as a doctor who takes on criminals. In June, the makers released a making video showcasing the process behind Rajinikanth's appearance in the film. Director Ashwath Marimuthu also shared a new poster featuring the superstar and revealed that the team had responded to audience interest regarding his hairstyle and look. Earlier, Raaj Kamal Films International released a glimpse video titled "THE OG SWAG" that offered a look at the making of the first look. The video showed accessories being arranged for Rajinikanth to choose from, while Ashwath demonstrated the exact pose he wanted the superstar to adopt. Kamal Haasan was also seen accompanying Rajinikanth, with the two legends of Tamil cinema exchanging pleasantries. While announcing the title, Kamal Haasan described the film with the phrase "Dharmame vellum!" meaning "Only Dharma will win", and referred to the project as Thalaivar 173. The title poster showed Rajinikanth inside a hospital operation theatre, holding a scalpel, while appearing to stand over the body of a slain rowdy sheeter. Dharman has music by Anirudh, while Niketh Bommi is handling cinematography and Pradeep E Raghav is responsible for editing. National Award-winning duo Anbariv is choreographing the action sequences. The film is produced by Kamal Haasan and R Mahendran, with S Disney serving as co-producer. The latest schedule update has added to anticipation surrounding the project, particularly with Rajinikanth's character, action-driven storyline and the collaboration between the superstar and the production house led by Kamal Haasan.

Ram Gopal Varma Questions Teachers' Day

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



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



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



Farah Khan Reveals AR Rahman Made Masakali for Om Shanti Om

Director and choreographer Farah Khan has revealed an interesting piece of Bollywood music history, saying Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman originally created the popular 'Masakali' track for her 2007 film 'Om Shanti Om', rather than Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's 'Delhi-6', where the song eventually appeared.

Farah made the revelation during a conversation with music director Vishal Dadlani at his farmhouse, featured in her YouTube vlogs. The two discussed their decades-long professional association and recalled how the music for 'Om Shanti Om' eventually came together.

Farah said she had initially approached AR Rahman to compose the music for 'Om Shanti Om', starring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone. Before Vishal-Shekhar came on board, Rahman had already created 'Masakali', although Farah was unsure where the song would fit in the film.

"The first song which Rahman made for Om Shanti Om was Masakali! I don't know where I was going to put it but I love that song and love that word," Farah recalled during the vlog.

She also remembered telling Vishal that she planned to approach Rahman and, if the collaboration did not work out, she would consider Vishal and Shekhar for the project.

Vishal had hoped the arrangement with Rahman would work and suggested that he and Shekhar could assist him on the film. However, the duo ultimately composed the music for 'Om Shanti Om', delivering a soundtrack that became one of the film's major attractions.

During the conversation, Vishal jokingly observed that even if he and Shekhar had not worked on the film, 'Om Shanti Om' would still have had great music. Farah, however, credited the duo for making the film's music "epic".

Vishal described 'Om Shanti Om' as a rare example of traditional, large-scale Bollywood masala musical filmmaking.

He also recalled the elaborate visual treatment of songs such as 'Dhoom Tana', noting that audiences continue to discuss how such sequences were created before the widespread use of artificial intelligence.

"The big, masala music that was in 'Om Shanti Om', is the only one. This is the last one! The traditional masala Bollywood musical is this one," Vishal said.

The revelation adds an unexpected twist to the history of 'Masakali', which eventually became one of the most recognisable songs of 'Delhi-6', released in 2009.

The song featured Abhishek Bachchan and Sonam Kapoor and was composed by AR Rahman for Mehra's film. Its journey from an unused composition for 'Om Shanti Om' to a signature song of 'Delhi-6' highlights the unpredictable path that popular film music can sometimes take.



Nani Marks 18 Years in Cinema

Telugu star Nani has completed 18 years in the film industry as an actor and thanked his fans and audiences for their unwavering love and support. Reflecting on the milestone, Nani said he had never taken their affection for granted and assured them that he never would. Taking to his X timeline, Nani marked the completion of 18 years in cinema with a heartfelt message. "18 years. Officially an adult in cinema. Never took your love for granted. I won't ever," he wrote.

Nani began his acting journey with Ashta Chamma, directed by Mohana Krishna Indraganti, which released on September 5, 2008. Over the years, he has evolved from an actor into one of Telugu cinema's prominent heroes and has also established himself as a producer.

The actor is currently working on director Srikanth Odela's highly anticipated action entertainer The Paradise. Backed by SLV Cinemas, the film is scheduled to hit theatres on September 24. It was initially planned for release on March 26, 2026, before the makers postponed it first to August 21 and later to September 24.

The recently released teaser has heightened expectations around the film. It opens with a voiceover questioning who the place belongs to, followed by Nani's dramatic arrival through an acrobatic stunt. Sporting two plaits and covered in blood, he is shown walking slowly while sipping what appears to be a beverage.

Mohan Babu, who plays the antagonist, is seen addressing the people as "My beloved people of Paradise." The teaser then unfolds with intense action, violence and references to oppression and rebellion. A woman questions whether the government is meant for feudal lords or the people, while another voice calls upon the oppressed community to rise against tyranny.

The teaser concludes with Nani, drenched in blood and carrying a chain made of blades, seated on a pile of bodies while warding off the evil eye. The visuals suggest that The Paradise will be a dark and intense action thriller centred on rebellion against oppression.

The film is expected to release in eight languages: Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, English, Spanish, Bengali, Kannada and Malayalam.

Kamal Haasan Congratulates Bethlehem Kudumba Unit Team



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

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