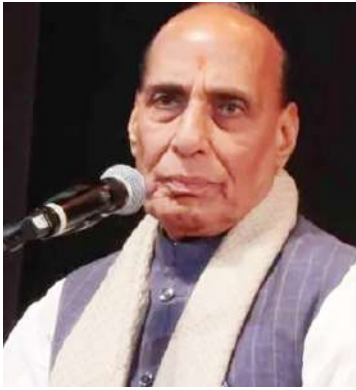




Rs 1.10 Lakh Crore Defence Push

New Delhi, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved capital acquisition proposals worth approximately Rs 1.10 lakh crore to strengthen the operational capabilities of the Indian armed forces and accelerate domestic defence manufacturing. The approvals, granted as an Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), cover requirements of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Significantly, around 98 percent of the approved procurement is planned from Indian industry, reinforcing the government's focus on self-reliance in defence production. For the Indian Army, the DAC cleared procurement of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) reconnaissance vehicles, high-mobility vehicles, self-propelled mechanical mine layers, Advanced Light Helicopters, trawl tanks and Sarvatra Bridge Systems. The equipment is intended to improve surveillance, mobility, logistics and operational effectiveness across difficult terrains. For the Indian Navy, approval was given for Arudhra radars to replace existing air-route surveillance radars at naval air stations. The council also approved the design, development and subsequent procurement of indigenous Marine Gas Turbines for warship propulsion, aimed at reducing dependence on foreign suppliers. The Indian Air Force received approvals for equipment designed to enhance the combat capabilities of fighter aircraft, transport planes and helicopters. The package also includes Ground-Based Multi-Purpose Jammers to counter adversary radar systems and the Defence Forces Secure Access Card system, which will replace paper-based identity documents with interoperable RFID-enabled smart cards. The Ministry of Defence said the large share of domestic procurement is expected to strengthen India's defence industrial ecosystem and support indigenous technological capabilities. The decision is also aligned with the broader Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, with Indian manufacturers expected to play a central role in supplying advanced military systems and equipment to the armed forces.

YouTuber Nandana Held at Hyderabad Airport



Hyderabad, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Popular YouTuber Nandana was taken into custody by the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) police at Shamshabad airport after authorities identified her based on a Look Out Circular (LOC) issued in connection with an alleged job and visa fraud case. According to police, Nandana was detained after arriving at Hyderabad from the United States on an Emirates flight. She is expected to be handed over to the Ibrahimpatnam police in Andhra Pradesh for further investigation. Police had earlier issued Look Out Circulars against Nandana and her husband following allegations that they had collected large amounts of money from people by promising jobs in London. The case reportedly also involves allegations linked to a UK visa scam and fraudulent employment offers. The case came to light after several alleged victims approached the police, claiming that money had been collected from them on the promise of arranging work permits, sponsorship certificates and visas for employment in the United Kingdom. According to the allegations, Nandana and her family collected up to Rs 20 lakh from individual applicants. More than 50 people are reportedly among those who claimed to have been affected. The alleged victims are said to be from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as well as Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar. Police are also examining allegations that Nandana claimed her husband worked as a consultant for several companies that could



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Chandrababu Warns TDP MLAs Ahead of Local Polls

Amaravati, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister and TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu has warned party MLAs that the upcoming local body elections will serve as a major test of their performance. He directed legislators to ensure that the party's vote share increases in their respective constituencies compared with the 2024 Assembly elections. Naidu reportedly made it clear that a decline in vote share in the local elections would be viewed as an indication of poor performance by the concerned MLA. He asked legislators to identify their strengths and weaknesses at the constituency level, understand which sections of voters remained distant from the party and address issues affecting the public. The Chief Minister also stressed the need for closer coordination among the alliance partners. He told TDP leaders to work in coordination with allied parties and avoid differences that could affect the coalition's prospects in the local elections. Naidu asked MLAs to communicate the government's welfare and development initiatives effectively to the people without delay. At the same time, he cautioned them against allowing false or mis-



leading campaigns by political opponents to gain traction. He said party leaders should respond quickly to misinformation, as correcting false narratives after they reach the public could become difficult. Naidu also underlined the growing importance of social media and warned that leaving digital platforms entirely to opponents could politically harm the party. Among the key directions issued by Naidu were increasing the TDP's vote share in local elections, maintaining alliance coordination, countering misinformation, focusing on constituency development and improving communication

with voters. He also called upon party leaders to identify capable women leaders and provide them with greater opportunities. Naidu stressed that legislators should continuously improve their communication skills and adapt themselves to changing political and technological trends. He cautioned leaders that ignoring technology could leave them outdated in an increasingly digital political environment. The Chief Minister urged MLAs to make greater use of technology and modern communication platforms to remain connected with voters. Naidu was addressing party leaders and

legislators at a two-day Leadership Conclave being conducted at the TDP central office. The conclave is focused on strengthening leadership capabilities among MLAs and senior party leaders, improving the organisation at the grassroots level, resolving public grievances and taking government programmes effectively to the people. The Chief Minister's directions indicate that the TDP leadership is placing increased emphasis on measurable electoral performance, public engagement and coordination among coalition partners ahead of the local body elections.

Vijay Sai Reddy Announces New Political Party



Vijayawada, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Former YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Rajya Sabha member V. Vijayasai Reddy, who had earlier announced his decision to stay away from active politics, has made a political comeback by announcing the formation of a new political party. Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada on Monday, Vijayasai Reddy said he would announce the new party's flag and agenda and explain the need for an alternative political platform in Andhra Pradesh. He said the proposed party would work as a third political alternative focused on taking up people's issues and fighting on their behalf. Vijayasai Reddy said the state's political landscape had been dominated by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and YSRCP for nearly 15 years. He alleged that both parties had failed to adequately address people's concerns and accused them of practising what he described as faction-style politics. Criticising the ruling TDP, he referred to it as a "Red Book party", while also targeting the YSRCP. He alleged that both were family-oriented political parties and claimed that political power had become concentrated around particular families. He also criticised the functioning of the police system, alleging that the police tended to support whichever political party was in power. He claimed that ordinary people were facing difficulties in getting work done and alleged that political and other forms of influence had become necessary for several activities in the

state. Vijayasai Reddy said these circumstances demonstrated the need for a new political force that would raise public issues and provide an alternative to the existing parties. He also compared the prevailing political environment in Andhra Pradesh with the style of politics seen in Tamil Nadu. He said his proposed party would not be aimed at securing power for himself but would focus on representing people's concerns and holding governments accountable. Importantly, Vijayasai Reddy clarified that he would not be the party's Chief Ministerial candidate. He said the next Chief Minister should be selected based on ability, experience and the capacity to administer the state, rather than caste considerations. "There are several communities in the state apart from Reddy and Kamma," he said, adding that the person capable of effectively governing Andhra Pradesh should be considered for the top post. He further said patriotism should be an important quality for anyone aspiring to become Chief Minister. Vijayasai Reddy said he would lead the new party as its president but reiterated that he had no personal ambition to become Chief Minister. He said the party's primary objective would be to emerge as a credible third political force and fight for the interests of the people. The announcement marks a significant shift in Vijayasai Reddy's political trajectory after his earlier decision to resign from the Rajya Sabha and distance himself from active politics.

Yogi Adityanath Hails Swarna Bharat Trust



Sajjala Demands CBI Probe into Mega DSC



Ram Prasad Reddy Defends Mega DSC Winners

Amaravati, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister Ram Prasad Reddy has strongly criticised YSRCP leaders for making what he described as baseless allegations against candidates who secured government jobs through the 2025 Mega DSC recruitment. Reddy said it was unfortunate that the hard work and achievements of successful candidates were being targeted for political purposes. He urged YSRCP leaders to immediately stop making allegations against DSC winners and avoid humiliating unemployed youth who had worked for years to secure jobs. The minister said many candidates who narrowly missed out on jobs in the 2018 DSC recruitment did not give up. Instead, they continued preparing with determination for seven years, studying day and night and making several personal and family sacrifices before succeeding in the 2025 Mega DSC. Questioning their merit or raising doubts over their success for political gains amounted to insulting the efforts of the candidates and their families, he said. Reddy maintained that the coalition government had conducted the Mega DSC

Amaravati, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Managing Director Bharani has asserted that the selection of candidates under the sports quota in the state's Mega DSC recruitment was conducted transparently and according to the prescribed rules. Addressing a media conference at the state Secretariat along with School Education Commissioner Tamim Ansaria, Bharani said some people were continuing to spread misinformation about the recruitment process. Responding to allegations concerning the judo quota, Bharani said all certificates submitted by the concerned sports association had been thoroughly verified. She stated that the authorities had implemented the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and had not made any changes to the prescribed procedure. She said petitions had been filed against some candidates selected under the judo quota and clarified that the authorities



had complied with the directions of the High Court. Bharani also rejected claims that participants had to compete only while pursuing their education. She said candidates studying in Karnataka, for instance, could participate in competitions conducted by Andhra Pradesh, subject to the applicable rules.

Bharani further said sports associations concerned had to certify participation in competitions conducted at the district level. She accused some individuals of deliberately spreading misinformation about boxing player Appalaraju, who had brought recognition to Andhra Pradesh, and also rejected claims being circulated

about the age of athlete Konada Padmaja. Meanwhile, School Education Commissioner Tamim Ansaria clarified several aspects of the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET). She said a TET qualification would remain valid for life once a candidate cleared the examination. Ansaria said the qualifying marks differed for candidates belonging to OC, BC, SC, ST and differently-abled categories. She added that TET carries 20 per cent weightage in the recruitment process. She said TET was mandatory for teachers handling Classes 1 to 8 and applicable to both government and private school teachers. However, PGTs and principals were exempted from the TET requirement, she stated. Ansaria assured that every allegation made against candidates would be examined before appropriate action was taken. The officials maintained that the Mega DSC recruitment process was being implemented according to established rules and court directions, while dismissing allegations of irregularities in the sports quota selection.

Lokesh Bats for Door-to-Door Campaigns

Vijayawada, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Education Minister and TDP national general secretary N. Lokesh has emphasised the importance of door-to-door campaigning for party leaders, saying regular interaction with people would improve their political prospects and strengthen their connection with voters. The Telugu Desam Party on Monday began a two-day Leadership Conclave at its headquarters in Mangalagiri, Guntur district. TDP national president and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Lokesh, ministers, politburo members, elected representatives and senior party leaders participated in the programme. At the outset, the leaders garlanded the statue of TDP founder and former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao and paid rich tributes to him. The conclave is focused on several key issues, including coordination between the government and the party, effective utilisation of resources, preparations for the upcoming local body elections, the impact of El Niño, and feedback from public representatives on the implementation of welfare schemes and development programmes at the

grassroots level. Lokesh said leaders who regularly undertake door-to-door campaigns would have better opportunities for political success. He stressed that frequent interaction with people would help party leaders build stronger relationships with them, particularly with younger voters. He also highlighted the need to recognise and encourage leaders and workers who contribute to strengthening the party at the local level. Such recognition, he said, would motivate the grassroots cadre and help improve the organisational structure. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav made a presentation on the Swarna Andhra Vision-2047 document at the conclave. He explained how the policies formulated under Chief Minister



Chandrababu Naidu were aimed at addressing the state's future requirements and accelerating development. Keshav praised Naidu's leadership and said the Chief Minister's vision extended beyond the TDP and was significant for the Telugu community as a whole. He also highlighted the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, stating that nearly 500 TMC of Godavari water had been diverted through the project to help fill the Prakasam Barrage. The Leadership Conclave is expected to provide party leaders with strategic guidance on strengthening the organisation, improving coordination between the government and party machinery, and preparing the cadre for the upcoming local body elections.



ISRO Rules Out Privatisation

ABengaluru, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Indian Space Research Organi sation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan has categorically ruled out any move to privatise the national space agency, saying ISRO will continue as a government organisation while working closely with private companies and start-ups to expand India's overall space ecosystem. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the ninth Bengaluru Space Expo, Narayanan said concerns raised by ISRO employees regarding the increasing participation of private companies were genuine and needed to be addressed. His comments came after employee associations sought clarity over proposals involving the transfer of some manufacturing and operational activities to private entities. ISRO itself issued a clarification on September 6, stating that reports suggesting an attempt to privatise the organisation or reduce its importance were "baseless and incorrect". The agency said it would continue to remain India's principal institution for advanced space research, technology development, strategic missions, space science, exploration and critical frontier capabilities. Narayanan explained that the growing involvement of industry does not mean a



reduction in ISRO's responsibilities. Instead, the objective is to allow private companies to scale up mature technologies while ISRO concentrates more strongly on advanced research and next-generation capabilities. He said India needs to significantly increase the frequency of launches to meet its expanding space requirements. The country is targeting around 50 launches a year, making greater participation by the private sector essential for

building the required industrial capacity. According to Narayanan, hundreds of Indian companies are already contributing to the space programme. He noted that around 450 companies are associated with ISRO-related activities and said a substantial share of expenditure on launch vehicles such as the PSLV and GSLV ultimately flows into Indian industry. The chairman also sought to reassure ISRO employees that their concerns would be addressed. He said the organi-

sation has grown considerably over the decades and that its expanding responsibilities require a broader national space ecosystem involving government institutions, established industries and start-ups. The current debate follows India's space-sector reforms initiated in 2020, which opened wider opportunities for private participation. ISRO has subsequently transferred technologies to industry, including the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), whose technology-transfer agreement with Hin dustan Aeronautics Limited was signed in 2025. Narayanan stressed that such transfers are aimed at increasing production capacity and meeting growing domestic and international demand rat her than diminishing ISRO's role. The ninth Bengaluru Space Expo is being held from September 7 to 9 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre. The event brings together space agencies, industry representatives, start-ups and technology companies to discuss innovation, policy and expansion of the space economy.The clarification is expected to ease concerns among ISRO employees while reinforcing the government's approach of combining ISRO's scientific leadership with expanded private-sector participation in India's rapidly growing space industry.

TTD to Launch More Free Electric Buses



Tirumala, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Tirumala devotees are set to get relief from crowded public transport with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) preparing to introduce more electric buses for free transportation. Reliance Industries has donated 15 electric buses to the TTD, and the vehicles have already completed their trial runs. The buses have now reached Tirumala and are being readied for passenger services. They will operate under the name Sri Vari Dharmaratham and devotees will be allowed to travel on them free of cost. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is expected to formally launch the buses. The inauguration is likely to take place during his visit to Tirumala for the upcoming Srivari Brahmotsavams. The electric buses are currently being charged at the TTD's electric bus station. TTD Additional Executive Officer Venkayya Chowdary recently inspected the vehicles and reviewed the arrangements for their introduction into regular service. Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani's son Anant Ambani had earlier announced the donation of 25 electric Dharmaratham buses to the TTD. The total value of the buses is reportedly around Rs 27.5 crore. Of the 25 buses, 15 have already been handed over to the temple administration, while the remaining 10 are expected to arrive soon. The donation also includes support for

the drivers required to operate the buses and the charging infrastructure needed for the electric fleet. The TTD already operates Dharmaratham buses to provide free transportation to devotees within Tirumala. The service allows pilgrims to travel between different locations on the hill without paying a fare. The addition of electric buses is expected to significantly strengthen this facility. The move comes amid growing demand for public transport in Tirumala, which receives lakhs of devotees throughout the year. Existing free buses frequently operate under heavy pressure, particularly during peak periods. Devotees often face overcrowding, with buses becoming packed soon after arriving at busy points. The introduction of additional electric buses is therefore expected to reduce waiting times and ease congestion to some extent. The vehicles will be particularly useful for pilgrims travelling between accommodation areas, important points on Tirumala and locations connected with their visit to the Srivari temple. With the remaining buses also expected to join the fleet shortly, the TTD is likely to have greater capacity to provide free and environment-friendly transportation to devotees. The initiative is also expected to support the temple administration's efforts to expand the use of electric vehicles and improve passenger convenience on Tirumala.

Chandrababu Is an Asset to Telugu People: Payyavula

Amaravati, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was not merely an asset of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) but an asset to the entire Telugu community. Keshav made the remarks while presenting the Swarna Andhra Vision 2047 document at the TDP Leadership Conclave. He highlighted Naidu's leadership and long-term vision, drawing attention to several development initiatives undertaken during his tenure. Keshav said the statement, "What Chandrababu thinks today, the nation thinks tomorrow," had proved to be true. He recalled that Naidu's Vision-2020 for united Andhra Pradesh was among the first vision documents of its kind in the country and later inspired several other states to prepare similar development plans. He cited the growth of the information technology sector as an example of Naidu's foresight. Keshav said the former Chief Minister had focused on creating skilled human resources by encouraging the establishment of engineering



colleges even before the development of Hyderabad's Hi-Tech City. Describing Naidu as a "water man", Keshav praised his role in water management. He said around 500 TMC of Godavari water had been diverted to the Krishna Delta through the Pattiseema project, helping fill the Prakasam Barrage around 200 times. Keshav said Andhra Pradesh, which he described as having suffered setbacks in 2024, was now being steered back towards development. He said Andhra Pradesh was the only state implementing constituency-level vision plans and was working with NITI Aayog in this regard. He said the initiative had brought recognition to the state at the national level and urged TDP leaders to focus on bringing tangible improvements to people's lives through effective governance and development.

Minister Nadendla Inaugurates Rice Outlet



Vijayawada, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar on Monday inaugurated a special rice outlet at AP Bhavan in New Delhi to benefit people from the state who are residing in the national capital. The outlet will provide quality rice and other essential commodities at affordable and subsidised prices. The initiative is aimed at ensuring that people from Andhra Pradesh living in Delhi have access to quality food products at reasonable rates. Speaking to the media after inaugurating the outlet, Manohar said rice produced by farmers in Andhra Pradesh was known for its quality. He said the government would make several varieties of rice, including KNM and BPT, available through the outlet. The minister said the outlet would also offer around 64 varieties of quality essential commodities procured through the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd (NCCF). These products would be sold at subsidised rates to provide relief to consumers, he added. Manohar said the initiative was part of the government's efforts to make essential commodities available to consumers

at reasonable prices while ensuring quality. He stressed the importance of maintaining an effective supply chain and controlling prices of essential commodities. During his visit to New Delhi, the Civil Supplies Minister also called on NCCF Managing Director Anice Joseph Chandra. The two discussed the supply of essential commodities, price control measures and other related issues. Manohar said the discussions focused on strengthening cooperation with the NCCF and ensuring uninterrupted availability of quality commodities to consumers. He emphasised that the government's primary objective was to protect consumers from rising prices while providing them with reliable access to essential food products. The special outlet at AP Bhavan is expected to benefit a large number of Andhra Pradesh residents living in and around the national capital. The government plans to expand the range of products available at the outlet based on consumer demand. The initiative also provides an additional platform for promoting quality rice varieties produced by Andhra Pradesh farmers, while simultaneously offering consumers affordable access to essential commodities.

Avinash Reddy Questions DSC Recruitment Process

Kadapa, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy questioned the coalition government over alleged irregularities in the DSC teacher recruitment process and demanded answers to the concerns raised by candidates. Avinash Reddy questioned why the government was hesitant to order a CBI inquiry if the DSC recruitment process was conducted properly. He asked how a teacher's job could be secured without appearing for the TET and raised questions over the appointment of the wife of a person associated with the Softball Association. He alleged that the irregularities occurred under the watch of Education Minister Nara Lokesh and said those responsible would eventually have to face the law. He demanded that the government address the grievances of around 30,000 candidates who had raised complaints about the DSC process. Avinash Reddy said the government should not merely challenge political



opponents to debates but should directly discuss the issues with the affected candidates. He also alleged that social media accounts highlighting DSC-related irregularities were being blocked and claimed that pressure was being placed on the media to prevent the alleged shortcomings from being exposed.

TDP Leaders Told to Focus on Local Body Poll Victory



Amaravati, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

State Shetty Balija Corporation Chair man Kudupudi Sathibabu participated in the TDP Leadership Conclave held at the party's central office in Mangalagiri on Monday. Chief Minister and TDP chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Minister for Education and IT and TDP National Working President Nara Lokesh, ministers, MLAs, MPs and Politburo members attended the conclave. Chandrababu Naidu directed party leaders and cadres

to take the government's development and welfare programmes to the people and strengthen coordination at the grassroots level. Leaders discussed party leadership, organisational strengthening and future action plans. With local body elections approaching, the leadership called upon party workers to work collectively with the goal of securing victory. They stressed that every leader and worker must contribute to strengthening the party and maintaining close contact with the public.

Green Walkathon Held in Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB), in coordination with the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC), organised a Green Walkathon along Beach Road on Monday to mark Swachh Vayu Diwas / Clean Air for Blue Skies and spread awareness about clean air and healthy living. The walkathon was flagged off at the Kali Mata Temple by APPCB Chairman P. Krishnaiah, Visakhapatnam Port Authority Chairman Jasmeet Singh Bindra, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg and VPA Vice-Chairperson Roshini Aparanji. Speaking on the occasion, Krishnaiah stressed the need to strike a balance between industrial development and environmental protection. He said regional growth should not come at the cost of air quality and public health. The APPCB was spending nearly Rs 3 crore every year on air-quality monitoring across the state, he said. Bindra outlined several measures being implemented at the port to control pollution, including large-scale plantation drives, covering transport trucks with tarpaulins and mechanised water sprinkling to minimise dust emissions. Appala Naidu said the introduction of more electric buses would help reduce vehicular pollution in the city. APPCB Board Member Panchakarla Sandeep said industries should adopt effective emission-control measures while pursuing development and expansion. GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg said

construction and demolition waste was one of the major contributors to pollution and assured that steps were being taken for its proper collection and management. Following the walkathon, APPCB officials conducted an interaction with various stakeholders to discuss practical measures for controlling pollution. Plantation programmes were also organised along Beach Road and near the port as part of the awareness campaign. Krishnaiah later inaugurated a Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station at Harbour Park. The facility will provide real-time information on pollutants, including PM10, PM2.5, sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and ozone (O₃). He announced that three more continuous air-quality monitoring stations would be established in Visakhapatnam to strengthen the city's pollution monitoring network. A workshop was subsequently organised at the GVMC office. District Collector Abhishek Kishore said the administration would continue to encourage industrial development while ensuring strict adherence to environmental safeguards. Ketan Garg also announced plans to introduce automated traffic signalling systems to improve traffic flow and reduce vehicular emissions. The officials stressed that coordinated efforts by government agencies, industries and citizens were essential to achieving cleaner air and sustainable development in Visakhapatnam.

Minister Satya Kumar Announces 913 ASHA Jobs



Amaravati, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has announced that the state government will fill 913 vacant ASHA worker posts across the state, providing an opportunity for women waiting for government-linked employment. The minister directed officials to complete the recruitment process by the end of this month. The appointments will be carried out through District Health Societies headed by the respective District Collectors. According to the eligibility criteria, applicants must have passed Class 10 and should be between 25 and 45 years of age. Preference will be given to local women belonging to the concerned vil-

lages or wards. Selected ASHA workers will receive a monthly honorarium of Rs 10,000. The recruitment is aimed at strengthening grassroots healthcare services and improving access to basic medical assistance in both rural and urban areas. Satya Kumar said the government had already filled 1,294 ASHA worker posts across Andhra Pradesh. With approval now granted for another 913 positions, efforts are being made to complete the recruitment process at the earliest. The minister said strengthening the ASHA workforce would help improve the delivery of healthcare services at the community level. ASHA workers play an important role in connecting people with government health programmes, creating awareness about preventive healthcare and facilitating access to medical services. The latest recruitment initiative is expected to provide employment opportunities to eligible local women while simultaneously strengthening public health services across the state. The government has instructed officials to ensure that the recruitment process is completed within the stipulated deadline.

AITUC Protests for Auto Workers' Welfare

Eluru, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

The AP Auto and Motor Transport Workers' Union, affiliated with AITUC, staged a protest at the Eluru Collectorate on Monday, demanding solutions to problems faced by auto-rickshaw, cab, lorry and ambulance drivers. The union later submitted a memorandum to District Collector Vetriselvi. State Vice-President Kasi Krishna presided over the protest. AITUC District General Secretary Reddy Srinivas Dange and Kasi Krishna demanded that the Alliance government fulfil promises made to auto workers dur-

ing the 2024 elections and establish a welfare board with ESI and pension benefits. They sought cancellation of GO Nos. 21 and 31 and an end to harassment through e-challans. AITUC District Vice-President Bandi Venkateswara Rao demanded Rs.10 lakh insurance, subsidised loans up to Rs.4 lakh under Chandranna Bima and Rs.15,000 annual financial assistance. Kadupu Kannayya, K. Premadas, MD Firoz, Neduri Jagan, MD Sirajuddin, SK Basha, R. Srinivas, Kolli Pardeshi Babu, SK Iliyaz, Chintati Veerayya, Nagam Achyut, Buggala Prabhakar and others participated.



Yogi Adityanath Hails Swarna Bharat Trust

Nellore, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has praised the Swarna Bharat Trust for its 25 years of service in rural development and social welfare, describing its journey as an inspiration for the entire country. Yogi Adityanath was the chief guest at the silver jubilee celebrations of the 'Swarna Bharat-Seva Harathi' programme held at the Swarna Bharat Trust premises in Venkatachalam of Sri Potti Srimulu Nellore district. He said the Trust had made significant contributions to rural development, women's empowerment and economic progress over the past 25 years. He appreciated the vision behind establishing the organisation and recalled former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu's contribution to public life and nation-building. Yogi said Venkaiah Naidu had played an important role in bringing people together during his tenure as Rajya Sabha Chairman and had served as a cultural bridge between North and South India. He also appreciated his efforts to introduce Telugu culture, traditions, attire and cuisine to people across the country. "Twenty-five years ago, the Swarna Bharat Trust was established, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's journey also began around the same period. Today, the



common goal of building a developed India has taken shape," Yogi said. He noted that the Trust was working in several areas, including education, rural development and women's welfare. Referring to initiatives in Uttar Pradesh, he said poor and underprivileged children were being provided quality education through residential schools. Yogi stressed that people might belong to different regions and speak different languages, but the nation's objective should remain common. He called for instilling patriotism among children so that Indians could proudly identify themselves as Indians wherever they travelled.



Venkaiah Naidu Highlights Social Empowerment

Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu said comprehensive national development was possible only when rural India progressed. He said the Swarna Bharat Trust was established with this objective. He said the Trust focused on reducing social disparities through education, healthcare and skill development. Rather than merely providing assistance to the poor, he stressed the importance of empowering young people to become self-reliant. Venkaiah Naidu also said he had never encouraged his children to enter politics. He had entrusted the responsibilities of the Swarna Bharat Trust to his daughter

Deepa Venkatesh, while his son Harshavardhan was carrying out service activities through the Muppavarapu Foundation. He said he would neither discuss nor encourage their political future, while urging people to support their social service initiatives. AP Ministers P. Narayana and Satya Kumar Yadav, Nellore MP Beeda Masthan Rao, MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, District Collector Himanshu Shukla, Swarna Bharat Trust Chairman Kamineni Srinivas, Managing Trustee Deepa Venkatesh and Muppavarapu Foundation Managing Trustee Harshavardhan were among those who attended the event.

Galla Madhavi Slams Jagan

Guntur, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Guntur West MLA Galla Madhavi on Monday lashed out at former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his allegations regarding the state government's Mega DSC recruitment process. Madhavi accused Jagan of misleading unemployed youth by raising doubts over the recruitment process. She said the coalition government had fulfilled its commitment to providing employment opportunities by conducting the Mega DSC recruitment in a transparent manner. The MLA said nearly 15,941 teaching posts were filled within 148 days, describing it as a major achievement of the present government. She alleged that the previous YSRCP government had failed to conduct even a single DSC recruitment drive during its tenure. Madhavi praised Education Minister Nara Lokesh for prioritising the interests of unemployed youth and said the government was working towards conducting DSC recruitment every year. She said such a policy would provide regular employment opportunities to aspiring teachers. Responding to allegations surrounding sports-quota appointments, Madhavi defended the recruitment of eligible candidates and said



appointments were made according to the prescribed rules and qualifications. She also questioned the objections being raised against candidates who had secured valid sports certificates. Madhavi criticised Jagan's demand for a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the DSC process, calling the allegations politically motivated. She urged the YSRCP leadership not to create confusion among job aspirants and said the coalition government would continue its efforts to strengthen recruitment and employment opportunities in the state.

Kotamreddy Slams YSRCP Over Mega DSC Campaign

Mangalagiri, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy has strongly criticised the YSRCP and Sakshi media, accusing them of spreading misinformation over the Mega DSC teacher recruitment and attempting to damage the reputation of the State government. Addressing a media conference at NTR Bhavan in Mangalagiri on Monday, Kotamreddy alleged that the YSRCP was unable to accept the recruitment of 16,347 teachers by the coalition government through what he described as a transparent process. He condemned the alleged attack on former serviceman Chakrapani Reddy in Kuppam by YSRCP workers and Sakshi representatives. Kotamreddy said targeting a person who had served the country was highly condemnable. He demanded stringent action against those responsible and urged the police to register non-bailable cases and take appropriate legal measures. The MLA also alleged that the YSRCP had spread false claims about an applicant from NTR district, Vemula Ramakrishna. According to Kotamreddy, Ramakrishna himself clarified that he had not secured a DSC job and was currently working at a private school, exposing what he termed the party's misinformation. Kotamreddy alleged that the



opposition had earlier approached the High Court with hundreds of cases in an attempt to obstruct the DSC recruitment process and was now resorting to political attacks after failing to stop the appointments. He also targeted former Chief Minister and YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he had failed to provide teacher posts during his five-year tenure. Kotamreddy mocked Jagan's criticism of the recruitment process and claimed that even YSRCP leaders were unhappy with his frequent press conferences. The MLA further alleged that the opposition was attempting to create unrest to discourage investments coming into Andhra Pradesh. He appealed to people not to believe what he described as politically motivated campaigns against the government's recruitment process.

Chandrababu Slams YSRCP Over Development Criticism

Amaravati, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has urged TDP cadres to counter what he described as misleading criticism by the YSRCP against the development taking place in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the TDP Leadership Conclave in Amaravati, Chandrababu alleged that the opposition party followed a "hit, run and hide" approach by making allegations without standing by them. He called upon party workers to respond to such claims with facts and evidence. Referring to the Veligonda project, Chandrababu alleged that the previous government had dedicated the project to the nation before completing the works and engaged in what he termed political drama. He said the opposition

was now claiming credit for the project even though his government had taken steps to complete and launch it. The Chief Minister also criticised the Aas not from the Godavari. Chandrababu recalled that the previous government had also opposed the Purushothapatnam Lift Irrigation Scheme, according to his allegation. He further accused the previous administration of irregularities and wrongdoing in the functioning of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC). Chandrababu challenged the YSRCP leadership to come to the Assembly and discuss the allegations based on facts. He said the TDP cadre should expose misinformation with documentary evidence and ensure that people were aware of the actual progress being made in the state

Sajjala Demands CBI Probe into Mega DSC

Amaravati, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy has alleged large-scale irregularities in the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) and District Selection Committee (DSC) recruitment process in Andhra Pradesh and demanded a CBI probe into the matter. Describing the alleged irregularities as a "cash for teacher post" scam, Sajjala demanded the immediate resignation of School Education Minister Nara Lokesh and called for an independent investigation into the recruitment process. Addressing a media conference in Amaravati on Monday, Sajjala alleged that teacher posts were being sold and claimed that the government was avoiding an impartial investigation by asking officials, including the School Education Commissioner and SAAP MD, to respond to the allegations. He alleged that the government was projecting the recruitment as a new Mega DSC initiative, while the posts were based on vacancies notified during the previous YSRCP government. He also questioned the decision to keep selection-related details from the public domain and send information individually to candidates. Sajjala cited media reports alleging that question papers were being sold through coaching centres and raised concerns over alleged irregularities in the sports quota. He claimed that some candidates had obtained fake sports certificates and



referred to an alleged instance in which a candidate claimed to have paid Rs 15 lakh for a sports quota appointment. He further alleged irregularities in eligibility and selection in certain School Assistant posts, citing examples from Anantapur and other districts. Sajjala also referred to an alleged report concerning a candidate and claimed that authorities had failed to act on it. Sajjala cited teacher recruitment controversies in West Bengal and Haryana, where investigative agencies had probed alleged irregularities, and questioned why Andhra Pradesh authorities were reluctant to order an independent inquiry. He warned that if the government did not agree to a CBI investigation, the YSRCP would approach the court with the evidence it claimed to possess. Sajjala urged the government and authorities to address the concerns of eligible candidates and ensure transparency in the recruitment process.

YouTuber Nandana Held at Hyderabad Airport

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provide work permit visas and allegedly used this claim to collect money from prospective applicants. Following complaints from victims, cases were registered and the police subsequently issued Look Out Circulars against the couple to prevent them from leaving the country without facing the investigation. Nandana had earlier posted a video denying allegations against her family and stating that the accusations were baseless. However, she reportedly did not specifically address the alleged visa scam in that video. With her detention at the Hyderabad airport, investigators are expected to question her about the allegations, the money allegedly collected from applicants and the role of other individuals or entities involved in the case. The police investigation will determine the veracity of the allegations, the total amount allegedly collected and whether additional people were involved in the purported employment and visa fraud.

Margani Bharat Meets Undavalli Arun Kumar



Rajamahendravaram, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Former MP, YSRCP national spokesperson and City constituency in-charge Margani Bharat Ram met former Rajamahendravaram MP Undavalli Arun Kumar at his residence on Monday. Bharat Ram inquired about Arun Kumar's health and discussed recent political developments and other issues. The meeting has generated interest in political circles amid changing equations in the Godavari region. Analysts said Arun Kumar's experience in parliamen-

tary affairs and state and national politics could offer valuable insights as Bharat Ram works to strengthen the YSRCP in the constituency. The two reportedly discussed the prevailing political situation, policies of the ruling alliance government and strategies for addressing public issues. YSRCP State Campaign Committee President Rajasekhara, former MLA Talari Venkatrao and District Coordinator Parameswara Rao accompanied Bharat Ram. The meeting has also triggered speculation about the future political strategy of Bharat Ram and the YSRCP in the Godavari region.

Chandrababu Aims to Empower TDP Cadres: Eluri

Mangalagiri, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Parchur MLA Eluri Sambasiva Rao said TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu's primary objective was not merely to honour party workers but to provide them with political and economic empowerment. Speaking at "Political and Economic Empowerment" at the TDP Leadership Training Conference in Mangalagiri, Eluri said Chandrababu wanted the average annual income of TDP cadre families to cross Rs 75 lakh through ethical means by 2040. Eluri said the TDP, with more than one crore members, was unique in maintaining a continuous connection with people irrespective of whether it was in power. He stressed that the party would become stronger when its workers achieved economic stability. He said a Rs 5 lakh accident insurance facility was being provided to party members based on an initiative of TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh. Children of party workers who had lost their par-

ents were also being provided quality education through NTR Model Schools, he added. Describing the TDP membership card as more than an identity card, Eluri said it represented the party's commitment to providing insurance, education, healthcare and employment support to workers' families. Recalling his own political journey, Eluri said he had entered politics as an ordinary student leader without a political background. He credited Chandrababu with giving him opportunities based on merit and said he had been elected MLA three times. He asserted that there was no scope for recommendations in the party and that merit would remain the basis for political positions and responsibilities. Eluri said a new generation of leadership was being developed under Lokesh's guidance with the principle of "the cadre is the leader." He urged party workers to move forward with the slogan, "My Telugu Desam - My Responsibility," and actively contribute to strengthening the organisation.

Minister Gottipati Calls for Stronger Public Connect

Amaravati, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Electricity Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar called upon TDP leaders to maintain strong relations with the public and make sincere efforts to resolve their problems. Addressing the TDP Conclave held at the party's central office in Amaravati, the minister said leaders should remain accessible to people and should not make them repeatedly visit offices or follow them around while seeking solutions to their problems. "If a problem can be resolved, clearly tell people that it will be done. If it cannot be resolved, tell them honestly that it cannot be done," he said, stressing the importance of transparency and clear communication. Gottipati said people have different mindsets and expectations, and leaders should understand their concerns and adapt their approach accordingly. Building trust with the public should remain a continuous process, he added.

He also stressed the need for a strong back-office team for every political party. At least 20 to 30 people from each mandal should voluntarily work for the party and strengthen its organisational activities, he suggested. The minister said party leaders should ensure that government welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary without discrimination. In a democracy, he said, people should not suffer merely because of their political affiliations. Gottipati observed that public preferences and political trends tend to change every five years. Therefore, leaders, particularly those from the younger generation, should be prepared to adapt to changing circumstances and make necessary changes and additions to their political approach before every election. He urged TDP leaders and workers to remain connected with people, understand their expectations and work consistently to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

UN Declares November 27 International Day to End Child Marriage

Vijayawada, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The United Nations has decided to observe November 27 every year as the International Day for the Elimination of Child Marriage, a move welcomed by T.N. Snehan, general secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Forum for Child Rights. Snehan said the unanimous adoption of Resolution A/80/L.99 by the UN General Assembly would help draw global attention to the widespread social problem of child marriage. He described the decision as an important milestone for organisations and individuals working to protect children from early marriage. According to Snehan, the resolution was initiated by Sierra Leone and introduced by its First Lady, Dr Fatima Maada Bio. India and at least 66 other countries supported the initiative. He credited Supreme Court advocate Bhuvan Ribhu, founder of the international child rights network Justice for Children, with playing a key role in building support for the resolution. Snehan said the international

observance would create opportunities for awareness campaigns, advocacy initiatives and educational programmes, while encouraging governments, UN agencies, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to strengthen policies and strategies aimed at ending child marriage. Citing UNFPA data, he said around 640 million women globally had been married as children, while approximately one in five women had experienced child marriage. World Bank data, he added, showed that 19 per cent of women globally were married before turning 18 between 2015 and 2024, compared with three per cent of men. Snehan said Andhra Pradesh ranked sixth among Indian states in child marriage prevalence, according to NFHS-6 data for 2023-24. While the national average was 20.1 per cent, the rate in Andhra Pradesh stood at 25.1 per cent. He urged people to join efforts to make Andhra Pradesh child-marriage-free and support the goal of making India free of child marriage by 2030.

MSMEs to Get New Opportunities in Global Markets

Vijayawada, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said Andhra Pradesh MSMEs should expand beyond domestic markets and compete at the global level. He said the government was strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem and promoting the 'One Family - One Entrepreneur' policy to create more job-providing entrepreneurs. The AP Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet-2026 began at Novotel Hotel in Vijayawada on Monday under the Andhra Pradesh MSME Export Development Program (AP MXDP). Organised by the AP MSME Development Corporation and India SME Forum, the two-day event aims to connect local

MSMEs with international buyers. More than 200 MSMEs and 34 international buyers from countries including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Japan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe are participating. Lakshmisha said MSMEs should improve product quality and standards to meet global requirements. The meet aims to secure at least 100 export agreements and business opportunities worth around Rs.100 crore. AP MSME Development Corporation CEO Viswa Manoharan said the initiative would help create export orders and long-term international partnerships. India SME Forum President Vinod Kumar also spoke. Officials and MSME representatives participated.

VMC Wins National, State Clean Air Awards

Vijayawada, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has secured national and state-level recognition in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2026 conducted under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.VMC's 60th Ward secured second place nationally among the best-performing wards, while the 31st Ward bagged the first position at the state level. The awards were presented at a programme held at Ganga Auditorium in Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi, on Monday as part of National Clean Air Day. Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav, Minister of State Kriti Vardhan Singh and Secretary Tanmay Kumar presented the awards to VMC representatives. The 60th Ward received a Rs.30 lakh cash prize.VMC Commissioner Dhyana Chandra said the recognition was achieved with the guidance of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Dr. Ponguru Narayana, department secretary S. Suresh Kumar and CDMA P. Sampath Kumar, along with the support of elected representatives, citizens, officials, staff and the media.The 60th Ward scored 190 out of 200 marks for its initiatives in waste management, pollution control and increasing green cover. The ward's Reduce, Recycle Centre, Material Recovery Facility, construction-waste recycling, windrow composting and dust-control measures contributed to its performance.The VMC has also promoted Miyawaki mini forests, plantation drives, electric vehicles and charging stations to reduce pollution. Meanwhile, the 31st Ward scored a perfect 200 out of 200 marks and won the state's Best Performing Ward award along with a Rs.15 lakh cash prize. Vermicomposting, modern pollution-control equipment at the crematorium, greenery along the Eluru Canal bund and an electric vehicle charging station were among the initiatives highlighted. Dhyana Chandra said the awards reflected VMC's efforts to create a cleaner, greener and healthier Vijayawada.

Penamaluru CI N. Venkata Narayana Sets Ganesh Festival Rules

Penamaluru, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Penamaluru Police Station Circle Inspector N. Venkata Narayana directed Ganesh festival organisers to strictly follow safety regulations and ensure peaceful celebrations within the police station limits. Addressing a meeting held at Annevariki Kalyana Mandapam, the CI said prior permission was mandatory for setting up Ganesh pandals. He instructed organisers to get electrical wiring done only through qualified electricians to prevent short circuits and keep fire extinguishers, sand or water buckets ready as precautionary measures.He also directed organisers to install CCTV cameras at every pandal and appoint volunteers round the clock to prevent thefts and help regulate crowds. Venkata Narayana made it clear that DJs would not be permitted during idol processions due to concerns over noise pollution. Organisers were advised to use traditional instruments such as drums and sannai instead. He instructed organisers to ensure that idols did not come into contact with overhead electrical wires and to maintain adequate clearance during processions. Police personnel were asked to remain particularly alert while processions passed through narrow lanes. Traffic should be regulated in a manner that does not obstruct

Chandu Janardhan Seeks Probe Into Eluru DRO Incident

Vijayawada, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

State Kapu JAC president Chandu Janardhan has demanded a high-level departmental inquiry into the alleged inappropriate behaviour and harassment faced by Eluru District Revenue Officer (DRO) Marri Sridevi. In a statement released in Vijayawada on Monday, Janardhan urged the state government to take immediate steps to ensure that Sridevi is able to discharge her official responsibilities without interference or harassment. He also called for appropriate departmental action based on the

findings of the inquiry. Janardhan said reports alleging that a senior official behaved rudely and used abusive language against the Eluru DRO had caused concern. Referring to a recent report published by Andhra Jyothi, he said the incident appeared to have caused considerable distress to Sridevi, who had reportedly proceeded on leave following the episode. The Kapu JAC president strongly condemned what he described as the harassment of a senior woman government official and appealed to the authorities to examine the matter impartially. He said the



government should ensure a professional and dignified working environment for employees.

Janardhan also urged the government to take measures to ensure that employees belonging to Kapu, Telaga, Balija,

Ontari and Munnuru Kapu communities are able to perform their duties without harassment or discrimination.

He said employees should be allowed to work in accordance with established rules and procedures. He appealed to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to personally look into the alleged incident and order an inquiry, followed by suitable action if the allegations are established. Janardhan said the matter would also be brought to the attention of Chief Secretary Sai Prasad and Minister Anagani Satya Prasad. He reiterated that departmental steps should be taken to enable DRO Marri Sridevi to resume and perform her duties in a proper and dignified manner.

NTR Collector Seeks Faster Grievance Resolution

Vijayawada, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has directed officials to accord top priority to public grievance resolution and ensure speedy, quality and transparent services through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS). The district-level PGRS programme was held on Monday at the Sri Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall in the Collectorate. Collector Lakshmisha, Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, DRO M. Lakshminarasimham and other officials received 171 petitions from the public. Revenue-related issues accounted for the highest number of complaints at 50, followed by 33 petitions con-



cerning the police department, 24 related to municipal administration and urban

development, and 15 concerning Panchayat Raj. The remaining petitions involved

Education, Registration and Stamps, Medical and Health, Electricity, Irrigation,

Endowments and other departments. Lakshmisha instructed officials to examine each petition thoroughly and resolve grievances within the stipulated timeframe. He said the PGRS provided citizens with an opportunity to directly approach officials without making repeated visits to government offices. He stressed the need for responsibility, transparency and accountability while handling public complaints and called for permanent solutions rather than temporary measures. Effective grievance redressal, he said, would strengthen public confidence in the government. Meanwhile, Lakshmisha announced that applications for new pensions under the

NTR Bharosa scheme are being accepted at Swarna Grama and Swarna Ward offices. Eligible applicants have been asked to submit applications along with required documents by September 16. The pension categories include old age, widow, single woman, persons with disabilities, handloom workers, fishermen, Dappu artists, traditional footwear makers, toddy tappers and transgender persons. He said application submission, online registration and e-KYC verification would be completed within seven working days. Applications will be scrutinised by MPDOs or Municipal Commissioners before being forwarded for state-level review and sanction.

Guntur Collector Sets Deadline for New NTR Bharosa Pensions

Guntur, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

Guntur District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma directed officials to ensure timely processing of applications for new pensions under the NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme, with applications being accepted from September 7 to 16. Reviewing the process with officials on Monday, the Collector said the government had provided a fresh opportunity for eligible poor people, elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups who had not received pensions despite being eligible. Applications will be accepted and registered online at Swarna Grama and Swarna Ward centres across the district. Officials were instructed to complete verification, eligibility assessment and government approval within the prescribed deadlines and

sanction pensions in phases to eligible beneficiaries. Applicants must submit Aadhaar and a rice card or income certificate along with category-specific documents. For old-age pensions, Aadhaar will be required for age verification. Widows must submit the husband's Aadhaar details and death certificate, while single women must provide the prescribed certificate from the Tahsildar or a court-issued divorce decree, depending on their category. Persons with disabilities must submit a SADAREM certificate showing 40 per cent or more disability. Handloom workers, fishermen, traditional leather workers, toddy tappers, dappu artists and transgender applicants must provide relevant departmental certificates. The schedule includes application submission, online registration and e-KYC verification from September 7



to 16, general eligibility verification from September 17 to 21, and physical and departmental verification from September 22 to 24. Budget proposals and government approval

will be processed from September 25 to 26. Saikanth Varma instructed officials to avoid delays and forward verified applications to the government by

September 24. Zilla Parishad CEO V. Jyothi Basu, DRDA Project Director V. Vijayalakshmi and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Ganesh Festival Arrangements Reviewed

Vijayawada, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed all departments to work together to conduct the Ganesh festival peacefully, safely and with devotion. He urged people and festival committees to support the use of eco-friendly clay idols. At a coordination meeting held at the Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall on Monday, officials reviewed pandal permissions, electrical and fire safety, traffic management, sanitation and idol immersion arrangements.

Lakshmisha instructed officials to inspect pandals in advance and ensure they do not obstruct roads, pedestrians or emergency exits. Electricity officials were asked to check wiring and connections, while police were directed to prevent traffic disruptions. He ordered dustbins at every pandal and advance arrangements at immersion points, including cranes and boats. He also stressed limits on DJ and sound systems and warned against substandard or stored prasadam. The Collector said the district

had achieved a world record last year by producing five lakh clay idols. He urged officials to create awareness about pollution caused by Plaster of Paris idols. Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, DRO M. Lakshminarasimham, District Electricity Officer U. Hanumayya, District Fire Officer AV Shankar Rao, R&B Officer, Ganesh Utsav Committee members Bitra Venkatesh, Y. Kishore, Loya Balakrishna, GVS Ramana Murthy and V. Pallapa Raju attended.



CP S.V. Rajasekhara Babu Reviews Dasara Security

Vijayawada, Sept 7 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, IPS, held a comprehensive review meeting with police and temple officials on Monday to discuss security arrangements for the upcoming Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Sarannavarathri Dasara celebrations at Indrakeeladri. The meeting, held at the Police Commissioner's office, focused on ensuring that the festivities are conducted in a safe and peaceful atmosphere while providing devotees with a smooth darshan experience. Temple Executive Officer Srinanayak, West DCP Ramakrishna and other police and temple officials participated in the meeting. Rajasekhara Babu said lakhs of devotees from across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and other parts of the country were expected to visit the temple during the celebrations. He directed officials to give priority to the convenience and safety of ordinary devotees rather than VIP preferences. Officials reviewed crowd-management plans, queue arrangements and entry and exit routes based on experiences from previous years. The Commissioner stressed the need for close coordination among all departments to prevent overcrowding and ensure the orderly movement of devotees. He also directed officials to strengthen surveillance from the



city limits to the areas surrounding Indrakeeladri. CCTV cameras would be monitored round the clock through the Command and Control Centre, while control rooms and help desks would be established at key locations to provide timely information and assistance to devotees. The Commissioner emphasised advance planning and effective inter-departmental coordination to handle the expected rush and traffic during the celebrations. West ACP N.V. Durgarao, Inspector Gunaram, Temple Executive Engineer Ramadevi and other officials also attended the review meeting.

Chirala Headmaster Receives State-Level Best Teacher Award

Chirala, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Bethala Solomon, Head master of N.R. & P.M. High School in Chirala, received the State-Level Best Teacher Award from Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu during the state-level Guru Poojotsavam celebrations in Vijayawada on Sept 5. The programme was held

at A-1 Convention Hall in the presence of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh felicitated Solomon by presenting him with a memento and shawl, and appreciated his efforts to improve educational standards and support student development. Lokesh said the coalition government would con-



tinue encouraging teachers who demonstrate dedication and discipline in their profession. Teachers, associations and alumni in Chirala welcomed Solomon's achievement and congratulated him. They said his recognition has brought pride to N.R. & P.M. High School and enhanced the reputation of Chirala's education sector.

CI Faces Criticism Over Remarks Against Elderly Woman

Chirala, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

The conduct of Chirala II Town CI Shashi Kumar towards an elderly woman has sparked controversy, with several people demanding action against him. A viral video allegedly shows the CI making indecent and disrespectful remarks against Peram Ramadevi during a cordon and search operation at Adinarayanapuram on Sunday. Mohan Kumar Dharma, National President of the Erukala Rights Struggle Committee, strongly condemned the alleged behaviour and demanded the immediate suspension of Shashi Kumar. He said officials holding responsible positions should treat elderly people and weaker sections with dignity and restraint.



He warned that protests would be launched if senior police authorities failed to intervene promptly. Netizens and civil society representatives have also expressed concern over the CI's alleged conduct shown in the video. They urged district police authorities to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the incident and officially establish the facts before taking further action.

MLA Malakondaiah Attends TDP Leadership Conclave



Chirala, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Chirala MLA Madduluri Malakondaiah participated in the TDP Leadership Conclave held at the party's central office in Mangalagiri on Monday. Chief Minister and TDP National President Nara Chandrababu Naidu attended the meeting and guided party leaders on governance, organisational responsibilities and the development of Andhra Pradesh. Chandrababu Naidu stressed that governance should reflect people's aspirations and

urged leaders to fulfil their responsibilities in their respective constituencies. During the meeting, Malakondaiah discussed strengthening the party, implementing welfare schemes effectively and preparing future action plans. He said the priority was to ensure that government welfare benefits reach eligible people at the constituency level. TDP National Working President Nara Lokesh, state ministers, MLAs, MPs, Politburo members and zonal in-charges also participated in the conclave.

Pawan Kalyan Will Ensure Godavari Cleanup: Anushree

Rajahmendravaram, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Rajahmundry City Jana Sena in-charge Anushree Satyanarayana said Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Environment Pawan Kalyan would ensure that the Rajahmundry paper mill complies with environmental norms and take steps to clean the Godavari. She said Pawan Kalyan had taken an unprecedented initiative by personally visiting Lanka villages and hazardous areas in May, despite security concerns, and directing officials to collect samples. She said polluted water was affecting the health of people in Lanka villages and coastal areas. Anushree said the government



had provided safe drinking water to 17 villages in Krishna district's Koduru area at a cost of Rs.50 crore. She said the Corporation issued show-cause notices and the Pollution Control Board imposed a Rs.22 crore fine on the mill. She added that Pawan Kalyan would not be intimidated by threats of closure or lockout and would use every available means to protect public interests.

Applications Invited for 20 IT Sector Jobs

Amalapuram, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Applications have been invited for 20 IT sector jobs on a contract basis at Government ITIs in Kakinada, Rajamahendravaram, Bhimavaram, Eluru and Vijayawada. Regional Deputy Director (Apprenticeship) B. Muralidhar announced the vacancies on Monday. The posts include five Data Annotator Assistant positions, five Data Curator Assistant positions and 10 Computer Lab Assistant (Computer) positions. The monthly salary is Rs.35,570 for Data Annotator Assistant and Data Curator Assistant posts, while Computer Lab Assistants will receive Rs.22,805. Muralidhar said the India AI



Data and AI Labs are being established under the Department of Skill Development, Employment, and Training. Eligible candidates can obtain qualification details and application forms from the official website. Applications must reach the Regional Deputy Director (Apprenticeship), Regional Office, Kakinada, opposite JNTUK, by 5 PM on Sept 25. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Coastal Bank Gets Scheduled Bank Status

Vijayawada, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Coastal Local Area Bank Limited, headquartered in Vijayawada, has been granted Scheduled Bank status by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Managing Director and CEO B. Venugopal Reddy said the RBI included the bank in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, through a notification issued on Sept 4, 2026. He said the recognition reflected the bank's financial strength and governance and would improve access to Money Market Operations and RBI liquidity facilities. During FY 2025-26, deposits stood at Rs.994.72 crore and advances at Rs.910.05 crore, while net profit was Rs.19.30 crore and net worth Rs.198.08 crore. Net NPA



stood at 0.21% and CRAR at 24.81%. The bank currently operates 57 branches across 12 districts and has RBI approval to expand into Vizianagaram, Prakasam and Khammam districts with 13 additional branches. It plans to leverage NABARD and NHB refinance facilities and expand customer-focused services.

251 Lost Mobile Phones Returned to Owners

Bapatla, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

District SP B. Uma Maheswar handed over 251 recovered mobile phones to their owners during the seventh phase of the mobile recovery and distribution programme at the District Police Headquarters on Monday. The Bapatla district police have recovered 1,572 lost mobile phones in seven phases, with an estimated total value of Rs.3.14 crore. In the latest phase, 251 phones worth Rs.50.20 lakh were recovered. The police said 72 percent of lost phones have been recovered and returned so far. A special team of technically skilled police personnel was formed under the IT Core wing to trace lost phones using technology and coordination with police departments in other districts and states. The SP urged people to use the CEIR portal and report lost phones promptly.



He warned the public against buying suspicious second-hand phones without bills. Buying or selling stolen phones is a criminal offence. Mobile shop owners were also asked to verify bills and identity documents. Additional SP L. Sudhakar, Bapatla DSP Ch. Chandramouli, CCS DSP P. Jagadeesh Naik, Social Media Cell Inspector V. Suryanarayana, SB CI Narayana, SIs Nageswara Rao and Anusha, and other police personnel attended.

New Pensions to Be Sanctioned for All Eligible: MP

Eluru, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar said the Alliance government, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has decided to sanction new pensions to all eligible poor people despite the financial burden. Applications for new pensions began on Monday. He urged eligible elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities, single women, toddy tappers, handloom workers, Dappu artists, leather workers and transgender persons to apply. The state currently spends Rs.2,693 crore every month for about 63 lakh pensioners, while Rs.111.60 crore is distributed monthly to 2.53 lakh beneficiaries in Eluru district. Mahesh Kumar said the Alliance government has spent Rs.73,507 crore on pensions during its first 26 months in office. He said pension assistance ranges from Rs.4,000 to Rs.15,000 for different categories. Eligible applicants can apply for NTR Bharosa



pensions at Village or Ward Secretariats by Sept 16 with required documents. New pensions are expected to be distributed from next month.

BJP Launches Seva Sankalpa Abhiyan



Kakinada, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

The Kakinada district unit of the BJP organised a District Executive Meeting and Seva Sankalpa Abhiyan District Workshop in Kakinada on Monday, focusing on public service and strengthening the

party at the grassroots level. BJP District President Bikkina Visweswara Rao presided over the programme. Rajya Sabha Member Paka Venkata Satyanarayana, Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy and BJP State Executive Member Kambala Srinivasa Rao attended the event along with other leaders. Kambala Srinivasa Rao said the campaign aims to ensure that welfare schemes under Prime Minister Narendra Modi reach every household. He called for blood donation camps, environmental protection programmes, free medical check-ups and awareness drives on central and state welfare schemes in villages and wards. Visweswara Rao, Paka Venkata Satyanarayana and Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy discussed plans for service activities at constituency and mandal levels. District and mandal leaders, Morcha presidents, department representatives and party workers participated.

Voter Hearing Attendance Crucial for Retaining Vote

Chirala, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

RDO Narasimha Rao held a review meeting with representatives of recognised political parties at the Chirala RDO office on Monday as part of the special voter revision process. He issued guidelines on scrutiny of the draft voter list and resolution of discrepancies. Narasimha Rao said enumeration mapping was progressing for voters whose names were missing or details were incorrect. Hearings have been completed for 30,937 voters, with 14 percent still pending. The



entire process is targeted for completion by Sept 28. He warned that voters who fail to attend hearings and rectify details within the deadline risk permanent removal of their names. New voter registration has also begun, with eligible persons advised to submit Form-6 to

Booth Level Officers. Chirala Tahsildar Gopikrishna, Vetapalem Tahsil dar, municipal officials and party representatives, including Advocate Keerthi Prasad, Gudduru Sivarama Prasad, Yatham Mary Babu, Anil, Aravapalli Kumar, Medikonda Bharani Rao and Bhagat Singh, attended.

12 Quintals of Ration Rice Seized

Eluru, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Revenue and Vigilance officials seized 12 quintals of ration rice being illegally transported near Kandrigudem in Eluru on Monday. Acting on information, officials led by Revenue Department DT Ramesh and Vigilance SI Nagaraju intercepted the consignment. The rice was allegedly being transported by Talluri Nagaraju, a resident of Denduluru. Officials registered cases against him under Sections 6A and 7(i). They said a case had already been registered against Nagaraju two months ago for illegally transporting ration rice, but he allegedly continued the activity. Officials warned against diverting ration



rice meant for poor families for illegal profits. The incident has led to demands for stricter action against repeated offenders and stronger measures to prevent the illegal transportation and sale of ration rice.

Bolisetti Srinivas Reviews Local Body Election Strategy



Eluru, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Tadepalligudem MLA Bolisetti Srinivas reviewed preparations for the local body elections with the Eluru Parliamentary constituency coordination committee on Monday at the Eluru Irrigation Guest House. Following his appointment by Jana Sena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan as coordinator for the Eluru and Amalapuram parliamentary constituencies, Srinivas discussed local conditions, party strength and election strategies. He called for coordinated efforts with NDA alliance leaders to ensure victory for the

Jana Sena and alliance in the local body polls. He said coordination was the first step towards victory and urged committee members to attend the awareness programme scheduled for Sept 9 in Mangalagiri. APSRTC Vijayawada Zone-2 Chairman and Eluru Jana Sena in-charge Reddy Appala Naidu, senior leader Nara Seshu, District Secretary Kasturi Sai Tejaswini, Valavala Tataji, Tirupati Vasu, J. Bipin Kumar, V. Venkateswara Rao, Pasham Nagababu, Adapa Nagaraju, Surathula Raghava Manikanta Srinivas and others attended.

Confusion Over Eluru Division Delimitation

Eluru, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

Confusion has emerged over the delimitation of divisions in the Eluru Municipal Corporation. Reddy Appalanaidu, APSRTC Vijayawada Zonal Chairman and Eluru Jana Sena in-charge, criticised the process, saying the boundaries were unclear. Speaking at the Eluru Irrigation Guest House, he said the number of divisions had been increased from 50 to 62, but boundaries were being identified through survey numbers instead of area names. He said this was causing confusion

among residents as well as candidates contesting elections. Appalanaidu urged municipal officials to immediately clarify the boundaries using door numbers, street names and colony names instead of survey numbers. A representation was submitted to the Municipal Commissioner on behalf of the Jana Sena Party. District Secretary Kasturi Sai Tejaswini, City Honorary President Nagireddy Kasi Naresh, Social Media In-charge Jana Sena Ravi, Janapareddy Teja Praveen, Paidi Lakshmana Rao, Nookala Sai Prasad and others attended.

Vinayaka and Shiva Linga Consecration Held in NTR Colony

Eluru, Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

The consecration ceremony of Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy and Lord Shiva idols was held with devotion at the Kashi Canal embankment in NTR Colony, 19th Division of Eluru constituency, on Monday. State Government Whip and Tadepalligudem MLA Bolisetti Srinivas, APSRTC Vijayawada Zone-2 Chairman and Eluru Jana Sena in-charge Reddy Appalanaidu, and State Vaddera Corporation Chairperson Ghantasala Venkatalakshmi attended as chief guests and performed special rituals. The ceremony included Mangalavadya, Upanishad recitation,

Vigneshwara Puja, Vastu Puja, Ratna nasyam, idol consecration, Abhishekam with water from 12 rivers and Panchamrutam, followed by Lakshma Deeparchana. Temple organisers and City Jana Sena President Veeranki Pandu honoured the guests with shawls and mementos. The leaders appreciated residents for organising the event and said devotion brings mental peace. Teertha-Prasadam and Anna Santarpana were provided to devotees. Jana Sena leaders Saridhi Rajesh, Reddy Gauri Shankar, Bonda Ramu Naidu, Bejavada Nagabhus hanam, Dosaparthi Raju, Vasa Sai, Paidi Lakshmana Rao, Nookala Sai Prasad and others participated.

Global Peace and Cultural Summit 2026



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Sept 07 | TPN Bureau

The Pan-Indian Socio-Cultural Association, in collaboration with the Telugu Experts Association of Malaysia, will organise the 'Global Peace and Cultural Summit 2026' in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The event brochure was unveiled at a private gathering by S. Abraham, Joint Director of School Education (Andhra Pradesh), and Dr. Kathimanda Pratap, CEO of Sri Sri Kala Vedika. Abraham said Indian culture and traditions could serve as a model for the world. Kathimanda Pratap appreciated Addanki Raja Yona for organising Indian cultural programmes abroad and promot-

ing Indian traditions internationally. Raja Yona said this would be the fourth edition of the event in Malaysia. Kancharla Anand, representative of the Telugu diaspora association, Professor Liam Seow, Director, PPM Malaysia, Dr. R.V. Shyam Prasad, President, Tamil Nadu Arts and Cultural Association, and Kanthirekha, Founder of Look Up Trends, will attend as chief guests. The organisers will present 'Global Inspiration Awards' to prominent personalities from various fields from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Andhra Pradesh Special Force Commandant and SP Dr. Konda Narasimha Rao and environmentalist Chilukuri Srinivasa Rao also participated.

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

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.

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 themselves 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

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.

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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. Zelensky 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.

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.



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.

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 intentions were 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, Joshua 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.

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 semi-final hopes alive.

Arshdeep Singh, Samreen Kaur Get Matching Tattoos

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.