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NAIDU ANNOUNCES HOUSE TITLES, ORDERS FLOOD RELIEF

Vijayawada, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will distribute house regularisation titles to 24,057 beneficiaries in Vijayawada on Sep 30, according to the state government. The titles will provide full rights over houses and plots and address a long-standing demand of poor and middle-class families.

The regularisation covers 617 acres, or 29.86 lakh square yards, with an estimated market value of RS.24,297 crore. Each beneficiary is expected to receive property rights worth RS.40 lakh to RS.45 lakh, according to the government.

The beneficiaries include 12,093 BCs, 6,130 OCs, 4,546 SCs, 955 Muslim BCs and 333 STs. Vijayawada East has the highest number with 7,990 beneficiaries, followed by Vijayawada West with 7,465 and Vijayawada Central with 5,815. Gannavaram has 602, Jaggayyapet 1,135, Mylavaram 981, Nandigama 54 and Thiruvuru 15 beneficiaries.

The programme will cover the eight constituencies and houses built in the hilly areas of Vijayawada. Residents of these areas had sought regularisation and permanent security for their homes for decades. NTR district public representatives had also raised the issue during a recent meeting. Earlier, Chandrababu Naidu distributed regularisation titles to 28,445 families in Visakhapatnam, covering land valued at RS.8,874 crore.

Flood Relief



Chandrababu Naidu also reviewed the state's rainfall and flood situation through a teleconference with Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu and senior officials. Officials briefed him on inundated residential areas, crop submersion and relief and rehabilitation measures, particularly in North Andhra.

The Chief Minister directed officials to provide 50 kg of rice free of cost to fishermen families who have been unable to venture into the sea for the past five days due to rough weather and heavy rainfall. He ordered round-the-clock monitoring, relief measures and assessment of crop damage in affected areas.

Naidu directed the Irrigation and Energy departments to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the Hiramandalam Lift Irrigation Scheme and speed up pending works to divert Vamsadhara floodwaters into the Hiramandalam reservoir.

Barrage Plans

He also instructed officials to expedite proposals for two new barrages on the Krishna River-one between Pulichintala and Prakasam Barrage and another downstream of Prakasam Barrage. He directed officials to finalise the blueprints and submit them to the Central government for clearance and financial assistance.

Officials said the state's monsoon rainfall deficit had reduced from 50 per cent to 31 per cent following recent rains. The deficit stood at 19.80 per cent in Coastal Andhra and 42 per cent in Rayalaseema.

Jagan Seeks Review of Election Commissioner Appointment Process



Amaravati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP chief and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has called for greater transparency in the appointment of Election Commissioners amid the ongoing controversy surrounding the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Jagan said democracy could function effectively only when people had confidence in constitutional institutions such as the Election Commission. He said reports about Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi raising objections over certain electoral roll-related decisions and procedures had raised questions about the functioning of the poll panel. Reports have said the two commissioners recorded objections on several occasions concerning issues related to electoral rolls and ECI procedures.

Jagan said the public needed clarity about the nature of the objections raised by the Election Commissioners, the action taken on them and the procedures followed while adding, deleting or restoring names in electoral rolls. He said transparency in such processes was important for maintaining public confidence in the electoral system.

He also called for a review of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. The Act lays down the legal framework governing the appointment, service conditions and tenure of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

Jagan pointed out that the YSRCP had supported the legislation when it was passed. He said the appointment process should be examined to strengthen transparency and public confidence in the Election Commission.

The former Chief Minister said citizens should have confidence that electoral procedures were being followed properly and that every eligible voter could exercise the right to vote without fear. His remarks come amid continuing public and political debate over the SIR exercise and reported differences within the three-member Election Commission.The ECI, however, has maintained that decisions taken by the Commission, including those relating to SIR, were approved by the full Commission.

Lokesh Slams YSRCP Over SAAP Office Violence

Amaravati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Education Minister Nara Lokesh has accused former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YSRCP of attempting to create what he described as a false narrative around the Mega DSC-2025 recruitment process. His remarks came in the wake of clashes at the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) office in Vijayawada during a YSRCP protest over alleged irregularities in appointments under the sports quota.

Lokesh alleged that the YSRCP had mobilised people from different districts who were involved in the protest and that some of them attacked teachers and disrupted public order. He also criticised Jagan Mohan Reddy for allegedly supporting people involved in the violence. Lokesh said he was standing with teachers and sportspersons amid the controversy. The clashes at the SAAP office have led to a police investigation. According to reports, police initially identified around 260 people with the help of CCTV footage and other video evidence. Cases were registered in connection with the incident, and several people were arrested as part of the investigation. The cases reportedly include allegations relating to attempt to murder, assault on government employees and violations under provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The investigation is continuing, with police examining video footage and other evidence connected to the clashes.

The political dispute is also linked to the recruitment of 372 teachers under the sports quota through Mega DSC-2025. These posts were filled without

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Karakatta Road Alignment Draws Criticism

Amaravati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



Changes proposed to the Karakatta road alignment near Mantena Satyanara yana Raju's nature cure ashram have drawn criticism from farmers in the Amaravati capital region. The issue has become a point of discussion as works are being taken up to improve road infrastructure as part of capital development.

The Karakatta road is being widened to 100 feet along a 6.5-km stretch between the Kondaveeti Vagu regulator at Undavalli and the Tallayapalem area. Farmers alleged that the alignment had been changed near the ashram to avoid the existing structure, while houses and other buildings in other locations had been removed to facilitate road development under the land pooling scheme.

Farmers questioned why a similar approach was not followed elsewhere and sought clarity from the authorities on the reasons for the deviation. They pointed out that a negotiable settlement policy was available in cases where existing structures obstruct planned road alignments. According to them, the same procedure could have been considered in this case instead of altering the road alignment. The farmers also recalled the death of Ramarao, who they said died in distress after losing his house following a road alignment change at Mandadam. They raised the incident while questioning whether equal consideration had been given to affected families during capital development works.

The issue also gained attention after Mantena Satyanarayana Raju stated on social media that the Prakruthi Ashram belongs to Gokaraju Gangaraju and operates under his supervision. Farmers said the statement did not address their concerns over the road alignment and continued to seek an explanation from the authorities. They questioned why the alignment was diverted to avoid the ashram and why similar consideration was not extended to structures affected by road works in other areas. They also referred to the area near the TTD temple and asked why the negotiable settlement approach was not considered there.

Farmers demanded transparency in finalising the road alignment and sought clear information on the criteria being followed for protecting or removing structures during the widening project.

3 Revenue Officials Suspended Over Flood Duty Lapses

Vizianagaram, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



Vizianagaram district Collector S. Ramsunder Reddy suspended three revenue officials for alleged negligence of duty during the recent heavy rains and flooding in the district. The action was taken as part of measures to ensure accountability during emergencies.

The suspended officials are Wangara tahsildar (FAC) P. Rama Rao, Sangam Grade-I VRO U. Ramachandra Rao and Wangara Village Revenue Assistant K. Uday Kiran.

As part of flood preparedness, the Collector had directed officials to remain on high alert and ensure that control rooms functioned round the clock. However, the three officials reportedly failed to perform their assigned duties during the emergency. According to the district administration, P. Rama Rao did not respond to calls from district authorities during the emergency. He also allegedly failed to provide timely updates on the situation and did not take prompt action after damage to a road was reported near Arasada village.

U. Ramachandra Rao, the Sangam Grade-I VRO, was reportedly absent from the control room despite being assigned duty there. K. Uday Kiran, the Wangara VRA, also allegedly failed to report for his assigned control room duty.

The three officials were suspended under Rule 8(1) of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991, pending further proceedings.

District authorities said the disciplinary action was intended to reinforce accountability among officials responsible for disaster management. They stressed that revenue officials were expected to remain available and respond promptly during situations involving heavy rainfall, flooding and damage to public infrastructure.

The administration said effective coordination and continuous monitoring were essential during emergencies to ensure timely assistance to people and address problems reported from affected areas.



95 Pharma Companies Get Notices Over Paravada Pollution Complaints

Anakapalle, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) has issued show-cause notices to 95 pharmaceutical industries in Paravada Pharmacity following complaints of pollution. The action was taken on the directions of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan after a video showing black and foul-smelling water in drains near the industrial area was posted on social media. The video, shared on Instagram on Friday, reportedly showed polluted water flowing through rainwater drains near Paravada Pharmacity. After the issue came to his notice, Pawan Kalyan directed Pollution Control Board officials to conduct a field inspection and submit a detailed report.

Following the directions, APPCB officials inspected the locations shown in the video and collected water samples for examination. Officials said the inspection found untreated wastewater entering rainwater drains. Notices were subsequently issued to all 95 companies, directing them to submit explanations within seven days.

The APPCB also instructed the industries to take corrective measures to prevent further pollution. Industries have been directed to store rainwater within their premises and ensure that polluted water is not discharged outside.

The board also recommended digitising waste-management systems and installing CCTV cameras with date and time recording facilities. The footage is to be preserved for six months. Industries were further directed to use scrubbers with online monitoring systems and strictly follow the conditions specified in their environmental permissions. The APPCB warned that strict action would be taken under environmental protection laws against industries that fail to provide satisfactory explanations or are found illegally discharging waste. Officials said a comprehensive report on the action taken had been submitted to the Deputy Chief Minister's Office.

ECI Clarifies SIR Notice, Voter Registration Process



New Delhi, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has clarified the procedure for voters receiving notices under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, stating that a personal hearing is not required in every case. The Commission said voters need to appear for a hearing only when it is considered necessary.

The clarification followed a meeting of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi at the ECI headquarters in New Delhi. The Commission discussed various issues related to the SIR exercise and the process of electoral roll revision.

The ECI also referred to the declaration attached to Form-6, which is used by eligible citizens for voter registration. According to the Commission, the Supreme Court has upheld the declaration associated with the SIR process. The ECI said the declaration was part of the SIR orders and was intended to simplify the procedure for eligible voters.

The Commission said the SIR exercise has been completed in 20 States and Union Territories, including Bihar and West Bengal. Chief Electoral Officers have been directed to conduct special drives to assist people who may have been left out of the electoral rolls.

The ECI said youth and first-time voters can submit applications to the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) through the continuous updation process. Officials have been asked to facilitate the submission of applications and ensure that eligible voters get an opportunity to register.

The Commission also clarified that a letter addressed to the Cabinet Secretary was not related to any ECI policy decision. It concerned the performance of an officer serving on deputation, the ECI said.

The ECI further maintained that decisions relating to the SIR exercise were taken with the approval of the full Commission. The clarification comes amid discussions over the SIR process and procedures related to electoral roll revision and voter registration.

Keshav Calls for Responsible Policing

Anantapur, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



State Finance, Planning, Commercial Taxes and Legislative Affairs Minister Payyavula Keshav said police personnel play a crucial role in maintaining peace, security and law and order. He urged newly recruited constables to discharge their duties with responsibility, discipline and commitment.

Addressing the passing-out parade of Civil Constables of the 2025-26 batch at the District Police Training Centre on Saturday, Keshav said the khaki uniform carried both authority and responsibility. Police personnel were the government's representatives in the eyes of the public, and their conduct influenced people's perception of the administration.

He said police duties had no fixed working hours and personnel often faced risks while protecting citizens. Their sacrifices enabled people to celebrate festivals peacefully and sleep without fear.

Keshav asked the newly recruited constables to make effective use of technology to prevent and detect crimes. He advised them to remain updated with modern policing methods and work with humanity. He said the uniform should inspire confidence among victims and deter criminals. Keshav expressed pride that the largest batch in the State was passing out from Anantapur.(Collector O. Anand congratulated the personnel on completing nine months of training. He urged them to follow discipline and the guidance of senior officers and address public grievances lawfully, impartially and responsibly.

SP P. Jagadish, PTC principal Edupalli Supraja, training RIs, RSIs, inspectors, personnel and family members attended the programme. Meritorious trainees in indoor and outdoor training received mementoes and certificates.

Lepakshi to Conduct 24 Artisan Development Programmes

Vijayawada, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Lepakshi Handicrafts Development Corporation will conduct 24 artisan development programmes during 2026-27 with Central assistance of about RS.1.55 crore. The programmes are expected to benefit 840 artisans across Andhra Pradesh by helping them improve traditional skills, learn contemporary designs and gain access to wider markets.

Corpora tion Chai rman Pasupu leti Hari Prasad said the programmes would focus on strengthening the skills of artisans and improving opportunities for traditional handicrafts. The programmes will begin in October and include the Guru Shishya Hastshilp Prashikshan Programme (GSHPP), Design and Technology Development Workshops (DDW), Improved Toolkit Distribution Programme (ITDP) and a 10-day Gandhi Shilp Bazaar in Vijayawada.

Under GSHPP, artisans will receive training in coconut shell craft, wooden block making, Srikala hasthi Kalamkari, palm leaf craft,



Kalamkari block printing, Durgi stone carving and incense-stick making. The programme is aimed at passing traditional skills to artisans while improving their production methods.

The DDW workshops will cover crochet lace, terracotta toys, Bobbili Veena, wooden carving, imitation jewellery, cane and bamboo crafts, Allagadda stone carving, Savara tribal painting and Kalamkari block printing. These workshops will focus on design development and the adoption of improved techniques.

Under the ITDP, 200 artisans will receive improved toolkits for banana fibre, Durgi stone carving, cane and bamboo, and wood turning and lacquerware crafts.

The programmes will be organised at centres in Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Vishnuvasam, Kakinada, Guntur, Ananthapuram, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam.

The Gandhi Shilp Bazaar will be held in Vijayawada from October 9 to 18, providing a platform for 70 artisans to display and sell their products. The bazaar has received financial assistance of RS.19.48 lakh.

Liquor Shop Allocation Draw on Oct 5

Vijayawada, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



The draw for the allocation of liquor shops in Andhra Pradesh will be held on Oct 5, Minister Kollu Ravindra said. He said the government had made arrangements to ensure transparency in the licensing process and eligible applicants could participate in the draw.

Ravindra said any person possessing an Aadhaar card could apply for a liquor shop licence. He said the government was implementing comprehensive monitoring measures covering the entire liquor supply chain, from distilleries to retail outlets. The Minister said technology was being used to track liquor bottles and monitor their movement across the distribution network. Consumers and officials can scan liquor bottles through the 'Excise Suraksha' app to obtain details related to the products. He said the digital system would help verify liquor products and strengthen monitoring at different stages of the supply chain. The technology would also enable officials to track the movement of liquor from manufacturing units to retail shops and improve transparency in distribution.

Ravindra said around 80 per cent of the new liquor brands had been introduced since the coalition government assumed office. He said the government was also focusing on making liquor with lower alcohol content available in the market.

The Minister said the licensing process had been designed to allow eligible applicants to participate through the prescribed procedure. The Oct 5 draw will determine the allocation of liquor shops among successful applicants. He said Aadhaar-based eligibility and digital monitoring were among the measures being implemented as part of the State's liquor policy. The government was also using product-tracking technology to help consumers and officials identify liquor products and access relevant information. Ravindra said the monitoring system would provide greater visibility over the movement of liquor and support enforcement by the Excise Department. He added that digital tools such as the 'Excise Suraksha' app would play an important role in checking product details and strengthening oversight of retail liquor sales.

The government has therefore combined the licensing draw with Aadhaar-based applications and technology-enabled monitoring as part of the current liquor shop allocation process.

AP TOURISM PLANS NEW PROJECTS AND RUSHIKONDA PALACE USE

Rajamahendravaram, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh said the Andhra Pradesh government was taking several steps to promote tourism through technology, new projects, investment and better use of public assets. He said World Tourism Day would be celebrated on a grand scale in Rajamahendravaram for the first time on Sep 27, along with programmes at district headquarters across the State.

Rushikonda Palace

Durgesh said the government would take steps to put the Rushikonda Palace in Visakhapatnam to use by handing it over to the hospitality sector. He said the previous administration had constructed the property with extensive luxury facilities allegedly for personal use. However, the structure did not have the layout and facilities normally required for hotel operations, making it difficult for major hospitality organisations to manage it.

He said the government was examining ways to utilise the property effectively. A decision would be taken after the Cabinet sub-committee report and Gram Sabha, subject to Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms. Taj Group, Leela Hotel Group and Atmosphere Core have shown interest in the property. Durgesh said only 1.5 acres of the nine-acre site was outside CRZ restrictions.

Tourism Technology

Durgesh said AI technology would transform tourism promotion in Andhra Pradesh. Under an agreement with Explurger, information on 130 tourist destinations would be made available in 130 languages. Influencers and content creators would produce documentaries and reels to encourage tourists to extend their stays.

Double-decker buses carrying influencers were flagged off from Rajamahendravaram to promote nearby attractions and the Godavari Harathi. District In-charge Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu will attend the World Tourism Day celebrations at Hotel Manjeera. Durgesh also announced the 'Rajahmundry Declaration' for tourism development under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

New Projects

The Cordelia Cruise is operating between Visakhapatnam, Chennai and Puducherry, while another river cruise covering Kakinada coast, Hope Island, Coringa and the Godavari basin is being planned. Caravan tourism, homestays and tent cities are also being promoted.

Durgesh said RS.428 crore had been sanctioned for eight tourism projects with Central support. The projects include Suryalanka Beach, Borra Caves, Akhanda Godavari, Gandikota, Annavaram Temple, Simhachalam, Ahobilam and Nagarjuna Sagar.

Pushkaralu Plans

Preparations are underway for the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu. The 'The Godavari Calls' programme will serve as a curtain-raiser and highlight Telugu art and personalities, including Rallabandi Subbarao, Raja Raja Narendra and Adikavi Nannaya. Tent cities, waterfront activities at Bridgilanka and eco-tourism near Polavaram are also planned.

Investment Plans

Durgesh said tourism had received industry status under Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan to encourage investment. An Oberoi Hotel is proposed at Pichukalanka. An investor from Anaparthi plans to establish a film studio, star hotel and resort. Chaitanya Raju and Gandi Bhaskar Rao are also developing a resort.

Wellness centres based on Ayurveda and Yoga, modelled on Kerala's Kovalam, are planned along the coast.

Arts And Training

Durgesh said Nandi Film Awards would be held in Vijayawada or Amaravati and Nandi TV Awards in Tirupati in December. The Nandi Theatre Festival and Kandukuri Awards are planned in Tenali in January. Ugadi Awards and awards named after Boi Bhimanna, Gurram Jashuva and Gidugu Ramamurthy Pantulu have also been presented. He said the alliance would follow its principles during the October local body elections and that coordination committees were active.

On the Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga statue issue in Undraj avaram, he said a mutually acceptable location had been identified. Durgesh also anno unced the completion of training for 138 Indian Reserve Force personnel in Rajamahendrav aram. The training covered cybercrime, AI, quantum computing and human values under Chaganti Koteswara Rao.

Arasada Causeway Damage Inspected



Vizianagaram, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

State Minister Kondapalli Srinivas and MP Kalisetti Appalanaidu inspected the damaged causeway road near Arasada village in Vangara mandal, Vizianagaram district, following heavy rains and a severe depression in the region.

The leaders assessed the damage caused to the road and reviewed the difficulties being faced by local people. They directed officials to take immediate steps to restore the damaged Arasada causeway on a war footing.

Officials from the Roads and Buildings, Irrigation and Revenue departments were instructed to coordinate the restoration works and ensure that traffic and public movement were not disrupted. They were also asked to make alternative arrangements until the causeway was fully restored.

The Minister directed officials to take measures to ensure justice for every farmer who suffered losses due to the floods. He assured affected farmers that the government would extend support to those who lost crops because of the heavy rains and flooding.

Srinivas said the government was closely monitoring the situation in rain-affected areas and would take necessary measures to protect people and their livelihoods.

The officials were asked to assess the extent of crop and infrastructure damage and respond quickly to the needs of affected communities.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had already reviewed the situation in rain-affected areas and assured that the government would stand firmly with the affected people, the Minister said.

Free Rice for Cyclone-Hit Fishermen Families



Amaravati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Minister Atchannaidu said the government would provide assistance to eligible fishermen families in cyclone-affected coastal areas. He announced that 50 kg of free rice would be provided to each eligible fishermen family as part of relief measures. Atchannaidu said the free rice distribution was being taken up as per the instructions of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He said district administrations had been directed to identify eligible families and ensure timely distribution of rice. The Minister said the government was extending support to fishermen families who had lost their source of livelihood due to the suspension of fishing activities following adverse weather conditions. He said assistance would be provided to all eligible fishermen families in the coastal areas. He urged fishermen not to venture into the sea until weather conditions became favourable. He advised them to follow warnings issued by authorities and remain in safe places during the period of adverse weather. Atchannaidu said protecting the lives of fishermen was the government's top priority and that relief measures would be taken promptly during difficult situations. He also said nine fishermen aboard a boat from Kakinada were safe after the vessel reached Paradip in Odisha. He said the government was monitoring the situation and taking necessary steps to ensure the safety and welfare of fishermen families affected by the cyclone.

Senior Officials Visit Schools



Idupugallu, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Education Department Principal Secretary J. Shyamala Rao visited the Model Primary School and PM SHRI Zilla Parishad High School at Idupugallu in Kankipadu mandal, Krishna district, along with Director of School Education A. Tamim Ansariya and Samagra Shiksha State Project Director B. Srinivasa Rao.

Shyamala Rao inspected the FLN Jadui Pitara kit and interacted with primary school students. He guided them in identifying, writing and reading Telugu, English and Mathematics. He tasted the meal served under the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme and millet chikki and checked the Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra Kits and assessment books. He appreciated Class III student Harika's drawings and asked teachers to give special attention to every student and improve their reading skills.

At the high school, officials inspected the PAL lab, Clicker classes and sports lab. Shyamala Rao advised teachers to encourage students to develop interest in sports along with academics.

During discussions with Class X students on Mission March preparations, he advised them on effective planning without exam-related stress. He briefly took the role of a teacher, teaching Mathematics on the board and interacting with students. At a school complex meeting, he discussed syllabus completion, simplified teaching methods and improving language skills with teachers. Dr K.V. Srinivasulu Reddy, M.V. Krishna Reddy, K. Nageswara Rao, G. Nagamani, U.V. Subba Rao and Ravi Kumar, among others, participated.

Satya Kumar Faces Criticism Over Ambulance Relaunch Event



Dharmavaram, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satya Kumar has come under criticism over an ambulance launch event held in Dharmavaram town in Sathya Sai district. The event has sparked a debate after allegations that ambulances purchased during the previous YSRCP government were presented with new stickers and relaunched as new vehicles.

According to the allegations raised by YSRCP leaders and local residents, Satya Kumar ceremonially flagged off 71 ambulances that had been purchased in 2023 during the tenure of the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government. They questioned the decision to hold a fresh launch event for vehicles that were already purchased during the previous government.

The minister has also faced criticism over the rebranding of 104 service vehicles. According to the allegations, the vehicles were provided with new stickers and promoted as "Aarogya Rathas" or Health Chariots. Local leaders and residents questioned whether the vehicles were newly purchased or whether previously available vehicles were being relaunched after branding changes.

The issue has become a topic of discussion in Dharmavaram following the minister's event. YSRCP leaders alleged that the Alliance government was attempting to take credit for vehicles purchased during the previous regime by making changes to their appearance and presenting them at a new launch programme. Local residents also raised questions over the manner in which the ambulances were presented during the event. They reportedly made sarcastic remarks about the relaunch and sought clarity regarding the purchase dates, ownership and previous use of the vehicles.

Digital Complaint Kiosk Launched at Vizag Station



Visakhapatnam, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha inaugurated the 'My Friend' digital e-complaint kiosk at Visakhapatnam Railway Station on Saturday. Visakha patnam CP Shankhabrata Bagchi, DRM Lalit Bohra and police officials attended the programme.

Officials said the kiosk was introduced to make police services more accessible, transparent and faster for commuters and citizens. The facility enables passengers to lodge complaints without visiting a police station.

The kiosk provides voice-based complaint registration in Telugu, English and Hindi. Special arrangements have been made to help people who may find it difficult to directly approach a police station. The digital complaint system has also been integrated with the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) to facilitate action on complaints.

Speaking on the occasion, Anitha said a large number of passengers use Visakhapatnam Railway Station every day and their safety was a priority. She said technology was being increasingly used by the AP Police to respond to changing patterns of crime and improve policing. She said Visakhapatnam was rapidly developing as an industrial and tourism centre and maintaining public safety was important. She also highlighted women's safety as a key priority.

The Minister said the digital kiosk would provide commuters with an additional and convenient channel to seek police assistance and submit grievances.

Alliance Discusses Local Body Polls

Guntur, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

A coordination meeting of the TDP, Janasena and BJP alliance parties was held at Hotel Signature Dine in Guntur on Saturday to discuss strategies for the upcoming local body elections. Leaders discussed joint efforts and coordination at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by District In-charge Minister Kandula Durgesh, Union Minister Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Janasena leaders Chillapalli Srinivasa Rao, Gade Venkateswara Rao, Nayab Kamal and Bitragunta Mallika. TDP representatives Mantena Satyanarayana Raju and Pilli Manikyala Rao, along with BJP leaders Valluru Jayaprakash Narayana and Cherukuri Tirupati Rao, also participated. The alliance leaders resolved to work together in the elections while following alliance principles and giving priority to alliance candidates over individual party interests. They discussed the need for coordination among the three parties and efforts to avoid differences at the local level. The leaders said candidate selection would be taken up according to the decisions of the respective party chiefs. They also stated that reports on ground-level conditions and the relative strengths of the alliance parties had already been prepared. The leaders expressed confidence in achieving a strong performance in the local body elections and said they would work in coordination without allowing misunderstandings or differences to affect the alliance.

Alliance Parties Step Up Preparations for Local Body Polls in Anakapalle

Anakapalle, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



A coordination committee meeting of the Jana Sena, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and BJP was held at the Anakapalle district TDP office under the chairmanship of District In-charge Minister Kollu Ravindra. The meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming local body elections in the district.

Leaders discussed the Anakapalle GVMC elections and the first phase of local body elections in the Narsipatnam and Elamanchili municipalities. The meeting also focused on coordination among the three alliance parties and the process of selecting candidates for the polls.

Speaking at the meeting, Kollu Ravindra said the proposed list of candidates would be brought to the attention of the respective party high command. A decision would subsequently be taken on the candidates to be fielded in the elections. The minister called on the alliance leaders to work in coordination and make efforts to achieve a 100 per cent victory in the local body elections. He stressed the importance of cooperation among the parties at the local level during the election preparations. MP Chintakayala Vijay, Jana Sena MLAs, TDP MLAs and BJP leaders participated in the meeting. The leaders discussed the election schedule, candidate selection and coordination between the alliance parties. The meeting also provided a platform for leaders from the three parties to discuss their preparations for the upcoming municipal and local body elections. The candidate lists are expected to be finalised after consultation with the party high commands.

Lokesh Slams YSRCP Over SAAP Office Violence

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a written examination, with selection based on sports-related qualifications and other prescribed criteria. The YSRCP has questioned the recruitment process and demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into the appointments. The party has alleged irregularities in the selection process and sought an investigation into how the candidates were selected. Selected teachers, however, have rejected the allegations and maintained that their appointments were made on the basis of sporting achievements and valid documents submitted during the recruitment process. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has also demanded a CBI inquiry into the alleged irregularities and called for Lokesh's resignation over the issue. The controversy has consequently developed into a wider political dispute between the ruling alliance and the YSRCP over the Mega DSC-2025 recruitment process and the events surrounding the SAAP protest.

YSRCP Trying to Create Havoc in State, Says Minister Dola

Amaravati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



State Social Welfare Minister Dola Sri Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy criticised the YSRCP, alleging that the party was trying to create political and law-and-order problems in the state. He said the coalition government was focused on providing jobs to youth, while the YSRCP was creating political obstacles.

Speaking in Amaravati on Saturday, Dola said attacking teachers and government offices was not democratic. He alleged that the YSRCP was organising protests to regain political relevance and urged its leaders to stop provoking activists.

On the DSC issue, Dola said the recruitment process was conducted transparently and alleged that the YSRCP was making different claims, including paper leaks, sports quota irregularities and caste-related allegations. He challenged the YSRCP leaders to produce evidence to support their claims.

Dola said more than 16,000 teacher posts had been filled after addressing objections and court proceedings. He urged YSRCP leaders not to politicise the future of youth.

RamGopal Reddy Alleges Corruption in Secretariat Recruitment



Amaravati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

MLC RamGopal Reddy has alleged large-scale corruption in Secretariat job recruitment during the previous YSRCP government led by Jagan. Speaking to the media on Saturday, he claimed that RS.5 lakh to RS.10 lakh was allegedly collected from each candidate and that around RS.500 crore changed hands in the recruitment process.

RamGopal Reddy challenged Jagan to discuss the recruitment process and demanded a government investigation into the alleged irregularities. He said that if the government failed to act, he would pursue the matter through legal means.

The MLC also questioned the recruitment of candidates under the sports quota, alleging that some beneficiaries were not eligible for the quota. He demanded that the recruitment process and the alleged financial transactions be thoroughly investigated.

Sailajanath Demands CBI Probe into DSC Irregularities



Vijayawada, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and YSRCP leader Sailajanath demanded a CBI inquiry into alleged irregularities in the District Selection Committee (DSC) recruitment process. He called upon Chief Minister Chandrababu and Minister Nara Lokesh to respond to the allegations and admit any wrongdoing, if established.

Sailajanath alleged that irregularities in the DSC recruitment process conducted under their leadership had come to light. He accused the government of using high-handed methods to divert public attention from the issue and demanded a transparent investigation into the recruitment process.

He challenged the Chief Minister to order a CBI inquiry if the government was confident that there were no irregularities. Sailajanath also demanded that Lokesh resign over the issue, alleging that responsibility should be fixed for any lapses in the recruitment process.

Referring to the Sai Krishna incident, Sailajanath said the Supreme Court had reprimanded the police. He alleged that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was being misused against opposition leaders and workers. He said the legislation had been enacted with the objective of protecting vulnerable communities and should not be misused for political purposes.

Sailajanath also challenged the ruling alliance to face the YSRCP in the upcoming local body elections and secure a victory. He warned that attempts to weaken democratic institutions would ultimately affect those responsible.

He reiterated that an independent probe was necessary to establish the facts and ensure accountability in the DSC recruitment process.

Alliance Targets Better Results in Local Elections



Vijayawada, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

AP Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy said the alliance is aiming to achieve better results in the upcoming local body elections. He said the alliance secured 94 percent results in the 2024 elections and would work together to improve its performance.

Speaking to the media in Vijayawada, Kolusu Parthasarathy said the government had created job opportunities and taken up welfare measures. He also said development had progressed during the coalition government compared with the YSRCP government led by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The minister said irrigation projects, including Polavaram and Veligonda, which he said were neglected during the YSRCP regime, were being completed.

He said coordination committees had been formed at constituency, district and state levels to resolve differences among the three alliance parties.

As Bapatla district in-charge minister, Kolusu Parthasarathy said he would work with leaders and cadres of all three parties to seek strong results in all constituencies.

Police Find Alleged Maoist Links to YouTuber Raavan

Amaravati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



Police have reportedly identified alleged links between YouTuber Raavan and Maoist sympathisers, according to a report published by Deccan Chronicle. The report said Raavan maintained silence when questioned about a person connected to the case.

Police reportedly found that Raavan received more than Rs 25 lakh in several instalments from the account of YSRC leader Indrasena Naidu. The funds were allegedly pooled to produce videos targeting important leaders of the coalition government.

According to the report, Raavan operated his YouTube channel from a flat belonging to Indrasena Naidu. Police also identified several videos on the channel that allegedly praised the Maoist movement and its leaders. The report further stated that Raavan had travelled through Maoist-dominated areas in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha and was in contact with several alleged Maoist sympathisers. Police also reportedly found several fake accounts subscribed to Raavan's YouTube channel. The findings are part of the ongoing investigation.

Police Deny Permission for Village Secretariat Employees' Chalo Vijayawada Protest



Vijayawada, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Police have denied permission for the proposed 'Chalo Vijayawada' protest by Village and Ward Secretariat employees, scheduled for tomorrow. The employees' Joint Action Committee (JAC) has announced the protest over their pending demands.

The protest was planned after two rounds of talks between the employees and the government failed to resolve the issues raised by them. According to the employees, they decided to organise the programme to press the government for clear orders on their demands.

With the police denying permission, uncertainty has emerged over the proposed protest. The source reported that police officials were preparing to prevent employees from reaching Vijayawada and could detain those attempting to participate in the programme. The source also alleged that authorities were using District Superintendents of Police (SPs) to conduct press conferences and warn employees against taking part in the protest. Police have reportedly cautioned that legal action could be taken against those participating in the 'Chalo Vijayawada' programme without permission. The developments have created tension among Village and Ward Secretariat employees ahead of the proposed protest. The employees' JAC, however, has maintained that it will not withdraw the programme despite the restrictions. JAC representatives have said they will continue their protest until the government issues clear orders addressing their demands. They have also stated that they will not retreat because of the police restrictions.

Peddireddy Says YSRCP Ready for Local Body Polls



Kadapa, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Regional Coordinator and former Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy said the upcoming local body elections would be a contest between the Alliance government's record and the YSRCP's credibility. He spoke at a YSRCP core committee meeting in Kadapa attended by District President Ravindranath Reddy, MP YS Avinash Reddy, MLCs and constituency coordinators. Peddireddy said the Alliance government had failed to fulfil its election promises and alleged that dissenting voices were being suppressed. He said YSRCP would field strong candidates and work at the grassroots level to strengthen the party.

He said the party supported BC reservations and recalled that YSRCP had allocated 50 per cent of local body seats to BCs during its tenure. He also alleged political pressure on police and criticised the alleged use of an influencer scheme for social media propaganda.

MLAs Dr. Sudha and Amarnath Reddy, MLCs Govind Reddy, Ramasubba Reddy and Ramachandra Reddy, former Deputy CM Amjad Basha, constituency in-charges Raghurami Reddy, Rachamallu Siva Prasad Reddy and Naren Ramanjula Reddy, CEC member Suresh Babu and others attended.

20 YSRCP Families Join TDP

Narasaraopet, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Twenty families from the YSRCP joined the TDP in Palnadu district on Saturday in the presence of Chilakaluripet MLA Prathipati Pullarao. The MLA welcomed the new members into the party and draped TDP scarves over them during the joining programme. Speaking on the occasion, Pullarao described the TDP as a mother and criticised the YSRCP, referring to it as a "butcher party". He also alleged that criminals and goons were associated with the YSRCP. He said he was happy to see the families return to the TDP after having earlier been associated with the party. The joining of the 20 families is part of political activity being reported in Palnadu and other parts of Andhra Pradesh. According to the report, several YSRCP leaders and cadres have recently resigned and shifted their political allegiance to the TDP. The report said such developments were also witnessed in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Anantapur districts. In Palnadu district, nearly 200 families have reportedly joined the TDP in recent developments. Among those who joined the party was also a former sarpanch.

The latest joining programme was held in the presence of local TDP leaders and party workers. The new members were welcomed into the party, with leaders stating that their return would strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level. The movement of leaders and families between the two parties comes amid continuing political activity in Andhra Pradesh. The joining of the 20 families is expected to add to the TDP's local organisational strength in the Chilakaluripet area.

YSRCP Leaders Seek Withdrawal of Cases Filed During DSC Protests

Vijayawada, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders from the combined Krishna and Guntur districts met Vijayawada City Police Commissioner Rajashekhara Babu on Friday and submitted a representation seeking the withdrawal of cases registered against party leaders and activists during the DSC protests. The delegations visited the Vijayawada Police Commissionerate and submitted their complaint along with supporting evidence. They brought to the Commissioner's attention their allegation that cases had been registered against several individuals who, according to them, had no involvement in the incidents that occurred during the DSC agitation. After submitting the representation, former Minister and Guntur YSRCP District President Ambati Rambabu spoke to the media. He alleged that police had taken excessive action against YSRCP leaders during the DSC protests and said cases had been registered against numerous party leaders.

Ambati said the YSRCP leaders were prepared to cooperate with the police investigation and appear for questioning whenever they were summoned. However, he requested the police not to visit the homes of party leaders in connection with the cases. He also referred to an earlier protest staged by Malladi Vishnu in Vijayawada. Ambati alleged that Vishnu was attacked during the protest and questioned why cases were not registered against those who allegedly attacked him.

Ambati further alleged that TDP members who attacked protesters using eggs were not booked. He compared the handling of those incidents with the cases registered during the DSC protests and criticised the police over what he described as unequal treatment.

The YSRCP delegation requested the Police Commissioner to examine the evidence submitted by them and review the cases registered against party leaders and activists. Ambati said the party was willing to cooperate with the authorities while seeking relief from what the leaders described as wrongful cases. The meeting with Commissioner Rajashekhara Babu was held as YSRCP leaders continued to raise concerns over the police action during the DSC agitation.

TDP Leader Murali Challenges Kadapa MLA Madhavi Reddy Over Corporation Polls



Kadapa, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

The Internal differences within the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Kadapa have come to the fore, with party leader Chennamshetti Murali making allegations against Kadapa MLA Madhavi Reddy. Murali also challenged the MLA over the upcoming Kadapa Corporation elections.

In an audio clip released by Murali, he alleged that Madhavi Reddy won the Assembly elections with the support of TDP workers but was now sidelining those workers and giving importance to newcomers who had joined the party from other political groups.

Murali alleged that the TDP in Kadapa had weakened over the past two years because the leadership was ignoring long-time party workers and leaders. He claimed that genuine TDP workers were being sidelined across the divisions of the Kadapa Corporation.

He further alleged that several workers who had worked for Madhavi Reddy's victory and faced legal cases during the election period were not being supported. Murali also questioned the alleged filing of cases against party workers and attacks involving members of the same party.

Referring to the upcoming corporation elections, Murali challenged Madhavi Reddy to field candidates and get them elected using her own strength. He claimed that bringing ministers for campaigning or seeking support from the police and other groups would not change the outcome, and asserted that the opposing faction currently had a greater strength.

Tensions Rise Over Ranga Statue

Undrajavaram, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Tensions prevailed in Undrajavaram in East Godavari district on Saturday over the removal of Vangaveeti Ranga's statue. Asha Kiran, daughter of Vangaveeti Ranga, arrived in the area and was stopped by police, resulting in a heated exchange between her and the officers.

Asha Kiran demanded that her father's statue, which was being kept at the police station, be returned. She staged a protest by sitting at the location where the statue had been removed. Police dispersed supporters of Ranga who gathered at the spot.

Police also arrested two members of Asha Kiran's personal security detail and four local supporters of Ranga. Asha Kiran demanded that all six be released immediately.

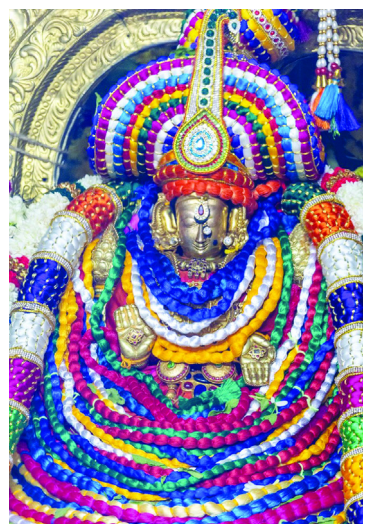
During the protest, she warned that she would stand in front of the protesters if police resorted to a lathi-charge or attempted to attack them. She said she would not allow supporters to be subjected to force.

Asha Kiran said Vangaveeti Ranga belonged to no single political party or caste. She appealed to people not to attach political or caste affiliations to statues erected in his memory.

The incident led to tension in the area as Ranga's supporters gathered over the removal of the statue. Police maintained a presence and took steps to disperse the gathering.

Asha Kiran reiterated her demand for the return of the statue and the release of those arrested during the protest.

Padmavati Ammavaru Pavitrotsavams Conclude



Tiruchanur, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

The three-day Pavitrotsavams at the Sri Padmavati Ammavaru Temple in Tiruchanur concluded on Saturday with the Maha Purnahuti. The final-day rituals, including Shanti Homam, Kumbha Prokshana and Nivedana, were performed according to Agama traditions between 10:40 am and noon.

Later, Snapana Tirumanjanam was performed for Sri Padmavati Ammavaru, Sri Krishna Swamy, Sri Sundararaja Swamy and Sri Sudarshana Chakrattalwar at the Mukha Mandapam of the Sri Krishna Swamy shrine.

Sri Sudarshana Chakrattalwar was later taken in a palanquin procession to Padma Pushkarini, where Chakra Snanam was performed as per scriptural traditions. In the evening, Sri Krishna Swamy, Sri Sundararaja Swamy and Sri Padmavati Ammavaru were scheduled to be taken in procession through the Mada streets.

A large number of devotees visited the temple for darshan during the concluding rituals. TTD Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra, JEO Dr. [Name], A. Sarath, CVSO K.V. Muralikrishna, District SP L. Subbarayudu, Deputy EO Harindranath, AEO Devarajulu and other officials, priests and staff participated in the celebrations.

Rs.65 Crore Development Works Underway

Buchireddypalem, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy said the Alliance government was committed to developing every ward without political considerations. On Saturday, she laid the foundation stone for CC roads and drains costing Rs.70 lakh at Sakalaveedhi in Kamakshi Colony, 11th Ward, Buchireddypalem Municipality.She said Rs.45 crore had been sanctioned for municipal development through Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana, with works worth Rs.22 crore currently underway. Development works worth around Rs.65 crore have been taken up in the municipality within two years of the Alliance government assuming office.

Prashanthi Reddy said the municipal office building was completed at a cost of Rs.4 crore after remaining stalled. A Dhobi Ghat was also being constructed based on residents' requests, while the Rs.65 lakh Gudipalli canal project would soon be completed.She said efforts were underway to attract industries to IFFCO Kisan SEZ, create jobs and address pension, housing and house-site issues.

TTD Clarifies Darshan Booking, Holds Garuda Seva

Tirumala, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

TTD clarified that its online system for Rs.300 Special Entry Darshan tickets can handle heavy traffic during ticket releases and appealed to devotees not to believe misinformation on social media. The platform uses Google Cloud Platform, load balancing, auto scaling and distributed application architecture. A dedicated technical war-room monitors applications, infrastructure, transactions and security.Around six lakh users may attempt bookings during peak periods. With an average of four tickets per user, demand can reach 24 lakh tickets against a quota of about 2.69 lakh. TTD said tickets can therefore be exhausted within minutes. It explained that the virtual queue manages traffic and that "Slot Unavailable" generally means tickets have been exhausted. Payment failures can also occur through external banking, UPI and payment gateway networks.



Garuda Seva

The Purnima Garuda Seva was held at Tirumala on Saturday night. At 7 pm, Lord Malayappa Swamy, adorned with ornaments, was taken on the Garuda Vahanam through the Mada streets. Large numbers of devotees gathered for the procession.

Tirumala Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, TTD Additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, CVSO Murali Krishna and other temple officials participated in the Vahana Seva. TTD said it was continuously upgrading its booking, database, security, anti-bot and payment systems.

Aviation Sector Gets Push

Kurnool, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu aims to develop Andhra Pradesh into an aviation hub, with Kurnool emerging as a major centre for aviation and drones. He inaugurated the Orient Flights Aviation Academy at Kurnool Airport on Saturday.Rammohan Naidu said the academy was Andhra Pradesh's first Flying Training Organisation (FTO) and would train 60 students annually. Efforts are underway to increase its fleet from three aircraft to 10. He said Kurnool's favourable weather, operational airport and proximity to Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu make it suitable for flight training.

More Facilities

Rammohan Naidu said the Centre had approved 11 new FTOs, with facilities planned in Kurnool, Kadapa, Rajahmundry and Bhogapuram. A special unit for drone testing and certification would also be established in Kurnool. The Centre is targeting more than 350 airports by 2047.State Ministers B.C. Janardhan Reddy and T.G. Bharat, Kurnool MP Bastipati Nagaraju, District Collector Dr. A. Siri, Panyam MLA Gouru Charitha, Pattikonda MLA K.E. Shyam Babu and Kodumur MLA Boggula Dastagiri attended.

Bharat sought daily morning and evening Kurnool-Vijayawada flights, improved night-landing facilities and runway expansion. He also requested MRO facilities, drone and small aircraft manufacturing units and a DGCA regional or sub-regional office in Kurnool.



Students Urged to Protect Biodiversity

Tirupati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

National Biodiversity Authority member Cherukuri Venkateswara Prasad said protecting the country's living heritage of biodiversity was everyone's responsibility. A week-long awareness and creative programme on "Sheshachalam - A Living Heritage of Biodiversity" began at the SVU Senate Hall on Saturday, marking Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.

The programme was organised by the SVU Department of Student Welfare and Cultural Affairs (DSWCA) to create awareness among students, researchers and faculty about biodiversity, culture and traditions. Venkateswara Prasad urged students to learn more about biodiversity and contribute to its conservation.

SVU Vice-Chancellor Prof. T. Narsing Rao, Registrar Prof. M. Bhupathi Naidu and Rector Prof. Chandrayudu participated. Bhupathi Naidu highlighted the importance of protecting forests and natural resources and urged students to care for the saplings they plant.

DSWCA Director Prof. B.V. Muralidhar said programmes on biodiversity and wildlife conservation would be held at SVU Senate Hall, Srinivasa Auditorium and Annamayya Bhavan. DSWCA Assistant Director and Coordinator Dr. Pathipati Vivek said the events would also promote culture, traditions, arts and literature. Venkateswara Prasad was later felicitated.

TTD Goshalas to Be Developed to Global Standards

Tirumala, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

TTD Additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary directed officials to develop TTD Goshalas according to international standards for animal welfare, hygiene, safety and amenities. He held a meeting with representatives of Vantara at Sri Padmavathi Guest House in Tirumala on Saturday to discuss Goshala and animal care centre development.

Vantara representatives presented plans for modernising facilities, including wall tiling, painting steel structures, installing GI mesh and stainless-steel gates, repairing walls, improving ventilation, drainage, fodder and water facilities, and developing greenery. Venkaiah Chowdary stressed the need to create safe, hygienic and comfortable surroundings for animals, with structures designed to support their movement.

He also directed officials to prepare a comprehensive plan to source milk products required for the Lord's Kainkaryams directly from Tirumala, as far as possible. TTD JEO Prabala Gopinath, SV Goshala Director Shiva Kumar, SE Venu Gopal, EE Srinivasa Rao and other officials attended the meeting.

Dharmavaram Tank to Get Modern Lakefront



Dharmavaram, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Medical, Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education and Dharmavaram MLA Satya Kumar Yadav said the Dharmavaram tank would be developed into a modern lakefront while preserving its historical and natural character. He said the tank, built with the contribution of the Wodeyars, was a natural gift to the town and needed protection from encroachments and sewage pollution.A comprehensive master plan is being prepared with the assistance of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Vijayawada. The proposal includes a 16-km walkway, with priority for a 3.5-km stretch near the town, along with jogging and cycling tracks, greenery, seating, lighting and viewing points.

Dikshant Parade Held for 176 Constables



Nellore, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

A passing-out parade was held for 176 police constables who completed their training at the District Police Training Centre (DPTC) in Chemudugunta, Venkatachalam mandal, on Saturday.

State Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy attended the Dikshant parade as the chief guest and reviewed the proceedings. He was welcomed with a guard of honour by the police force under the supervision of District SP Dr. Ajitha Vejendla.The parade was attended by the parents and family members of the newly trained constables, along with other guests. The event witnessed applause and celebrations from the families as the recruits completed their training.Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, SP Dr. Ajitha Vejendla and ASPs Deeksha and Sowjanya presented mementos to constable recruits who performed well during the training. They congratulated the recruits and wished them success in their policing careers.The programme marked the formal completion of training for the 176 constables, who are set to begin their duties in the police department.

Join Global Horticulture Hub Video Contest

Tirupati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar called upon the public to participate enthusiastically in the video and reels contest being organised to create awareness about the "Global Horticulture Hub: Rayalaseema Rising" initiative. The programme aims to develop Rayalaseema, Prakasam and Markapuram regions into a global horticulture hub with an investment of Rs.1 lakh crore.

He said the initiative seeks to promote high-value fruits and vegetables and improve employment opportunities in the region. Participants must create 60-90-second videos highlighting the project, its impact and the future of agriculture. The contest is open to influencers, video makers, media personnel, students and the general public.

The contest began on September 26 and closes at noon on September 30. The top five entries will be announced on October 1 and showcased at the October 2 public meeting in Madanapalle. Winners will be felicitated by the Chief Minister and Union Finance Minister. Participants must post entries on social media and use the prescribed hashtags.

Government School to Get Corporate-Style Facilities

Nellore, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Ponguru Narayana laid the foundation stone for a modern school at the Venkateswarapuram TIDCO housing complex on Saturday. The school will be built on 3.5 acres with Rs.39 crore in CSR funds and will provide free corporate-level education to 2,000 underprivileged students.

Narayana said the G+1 school building would cover 40,000 square feet and have 43 classrooms, a swimming pool and a sports complex with facilities for various games. He said 17 other government schools in Nellore city were also being developed to corporate standards at a cost of around Rs.300 crore.

He said the VR High School was redeveloped at a cost of Rs.17 crore after being closed by the previous government. Narayana recalled his association with the school and said his experience of poverty motivated him to improve education facilities for underprivileged children.

He said permanent land titles had been resolved for 1,400 Bhagat Singh Colony families and that the government aimed to provide titles to 5,000 people in Nellore City. Cabinet approval was also given for titles to 1,215 families along the Sarvepalli canal bund.



Disciplinary Action Against Three APSPDCL Employees

Tirupati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

APSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Shivashankar Lotheti has initiated disciplinary action against three employees for irresponsible conduct in the discharge of their duties.

Orders were issued on Saturday against the employees in the Kadapa Circle.M. Ramesh Babu, Assistant Executive Engineer of the Kalasapadu Section, was directed to explain why two of his increments should not be withheld. The action was taken over his alleged unauthorized installation of a distribution transformer.Written reprimands were also issued to J. Srikanth, Deputy Executive Engineer of the Vempalli Sub-division, and K. Shravan Kumar, Assistant Executive Engineer of the Vempalli Section.

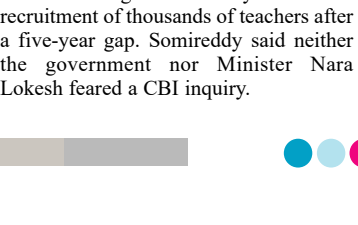
The two officials were reprimanded for their irresponsible conduct in handling power supply operations in the Kadapa Circle.APSPDCL officials said the disciplinary measures were intended to ensure responsibility and proper discharge of duties by employees.

New Kadapa Airport Terminal to Meet Global Standards

Kadapa, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu directed officials to complete the new Kadapa Airport terminal with modern facilities, safety measures and international standards. He inspected the construction progress on Saturday along with District In-charge Minister S. Savitha and District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri.

Rammohan Naidu stressed passenger convenience, quality and safety and directed officials to complete the project on schedule without harming the environment.Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri said the terminal project would be implemented in two phases, including access roads, parking, a service building, fire station, ATC centre, isolation bay, DVOR facility and solar power plants. Connectivity through the Kadapa-Bengaluru, Kadapa-Tirupati and Kadapa-Nellore highways would also be improved.Airport Regional Director Acharya Madhusudan said nearly 80 per cent of the Rs.266-crore project had been completed. The 16,455-square-metre terminal will handle 2.5 million passengers annually and include 24 check-in counters, three aerobridges, two baggage conveyors, three security screening machines and parking for 375 cars.



Commissioner Orders Cleanup of Vinayaka Sagar

Tirupati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Corporation Commissioner M. Jayakrishna inspected Vinayaka Sagar in the city on Saturday and directed officials to take up cleaning works on a war footing. He inspected the lake along with municipal staff and reviewed the condition of the water body following Vinayaka Chavithi idol immersions.

The Commissioner examined idol fragments, flower garlands and plastic waste that had accumulated in the lake.

He instructed officials to remove the waste immediately and take steps to protect water quality.

He stressed the need for proper maintenance of the water body after the immersion activities.During the inspection, walkers at the lake met Jayakrishna and brought the damaged open-gym equipment to his notice. Responding to their request, he inspected the equipment and directed officials to undertake the required repairs at the earliest.DE Ramana and other municipal staff members accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

Sunitha Promises More Transformers for Farmers



Raptadu, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha said electricity transformers would be provided to farmers based on their requirements without political considerations. She distributed transformers to farmers at the Nagasamudram Gate electrical substation premises in Chennekothapalli mandal along with Electricity Department CGM Sampath Kumar.

A total of 25 farmers received transformers at the programme. Sunitha said 20 transformers had already been distributed in Ramagiri mandal and another 25 would be provided to farmers in Kanaganapalli mandal within a day or two. She said the constituency currently needs 300 transformers and requested four new substations at Vepakunta, Alamuru, Daduluru and Nyamaddala.

CGM Sampath Kumar assured that 300 transformers would be supplied to the constituency by December. He also responded to concerns over improper execution of electricity line works.

Somireddy Says Ready for CBI Probe into DSC



Amaravati, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy said the government was ready for a CBI inquiry into the DSC recruitment process if YSRCP leaders accepted two conditions. His remarks came amid the YSRCP demand for a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the teacher recruitment process.

Somireddy said YSRCP leaders should first accept the CBI investigation and its findings in the disproportionate assets case involving Jagan Reddy. He also demanded that those named as accused by the CBI in the Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy murder case surrender before the court.

He said the DSC process was conducted transparently and claimed there was no scope for irregularities in the recruitment of 16,372 teachers or under the sports quota. He alleged that YSRCP leaders were creating controversy over the recruitment of thousands of teachers after a five-year gap. Somireddy said neither the government nor Minister Nara Lokesh feared a CBI inquiry.

Woman Farmer Assaulted at Badvel Rythu Bazar

Badvel, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

A woman farmer was allegedly assaulted at the Gopavaram/Badvel Rythu Bazar in YSR Kadapa district following a dispute over vegetable sales. The woman was reportedly attacked by a man who allegedly grabbed her by the hair and struck her.The incident came amid complaints from farmers about the functioning of the market. Farmers alleged that middlemen were operating at the Rythu Bazar and claimed they were being asked to pay money to intermediaries to sell their produce.Badvel Municipal Commissioner Krishna said there was no middleman system at the Rythu Bazar. He assured that appropriate action would be taken if any such activity was brought to the notice of municipal authorities.

Farmers sought better monitoring and enforcement to ensure they can sell their produce directly to consumers without unofficial charges.

136 SCT Police Constables Complete Training

Eluru, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



The Passing Out Parade of 136 Stipendiary Cadet Trainee Police Constables (SCTPC) who successfully completed nine months of training at the Pedavegi Police Training Centre (PTC) was held at the Eluru police parade grounds on Saturday.State Minister for Housing and Information & Public Relations Kolusu Parthasarathy attended the programme as the chief guest and received the guard of honour from the trainee constables. Eluru Range IG G.V.G. Ashok Kumar, District Collector K. Vetriselvi, Eluru MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti) and Assistant Collector Ch. Shravan Kumar Reddy also participated in the programme.During the event, Kolusu Parthasarathy presented mementos to members of the training team and the best-performing cadets. Addressing the newly trained constables, he called upon them to discharge their responsibilities with dedication, impartiality and transparency.

The Minister stressed that police personnel have an important responsibility in protecting the lives, dignity and property of citizens. He advised the new constables to maintain professional standards while dealing with the public and uphold the principles of law and justice.

He also highlighted the growing importance of technology in policing and urged the constables to improve their technological skills to effectively tackle cybercrimes and other emerging challenges.

G.V.G. Ashok Kumar, K. Vetriselvi and Badeti Radhakrishnaiah congratulated the trainees on completing their training. They advised the new constables to maintain discipline, ethical standards and commitment to public service while carrying out their duties. They also stressed the importance of maintaining law and order and earning public confidence through responsible policing.

Vamsadhara Basin Rainfall Declines, Flood Flow Continues

Hiramandalam, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Rainfall has reduced significantly in the Vamsadhara river basin areas during the past 24 hours, but flood flow in the river continues steadily, keeping officials on alert.

According to rainfall records from 8.30 am on Friday to 8.30 am on Saturday, the basin received 58.20 mm of rainfall, with an average of 8.31 mm. Mahendragada recorded the highest rainfall at 23.20 mm, followed by Kutragada with 19.00 mm and Gudari with 12.60 mm.

Gunupur received 1.60 mm, Meliyaputti 1.00 mm and Kashinagar 0.80 mm during the period. Officials said no rainfall was recorded at Gotta Barrage.

Although rainfall has subsided in the upstream areas, floodwaters are still flowing in the Vamsadhara river. Officials are continuing to monitor the situation closely and remain alert to changes in the flood flow.

Alliance Leaders Call for Unity



Rajamahendravaram, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and alliance observer Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao called on Jana Sena, TDP and BJP cadres to work together for the state's future and aim for a 100% victory in the upcoming local body elections.A coordination meeting of the alliance parties was held at Shelton Hotel in Rajahmundry on Saturday. Rajanagaram MLA Battula Balarama krishna attended as chief guest. MLC Somu Veerraju, Rajahmundry City MLA Adireddy Vasu, Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy, RUDA Chairman Boddu Venkataramana Chowdary and BJP District President Pikki Nagendra participated.Jana Sena leaders Kotikalapudi Govinda Rao (Chinababu), TV Rama Rao, Atthi Satyanarayana, Ganta Swarupa Devi, Suvarna Raju and Ravada Nagu, along with former BJP District President APR Chowdary and other leaders, were present.Balaramakrishna urged cadres to follow alliance leadership decisions, set aside differences and coordinate on seat-sharing. He also stressed collective efforts for development and welfare.

Subhash Urges New Police Constables to Uphold Public Trust



Kakinada, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

State Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash attended the passing-out parade of 280 Stipendiary Cadet Trainee Police Constables of the 2025-26 batch at the 3rd Battalion of the Andhra Pradesh Special Police in Kakinada.

The constables completed nine months of rigorous training. Subhash congratulated them and said police service was a responsibility to protect public safety, maintain law and order, and safeguard lives and property.

He urged personnel to work with honesty, discipline, transparency and a service-oriented mindset.

The Minister also congratulated Vanasetti Subbarao, who rose to the rank of Deputy Commandant after starting his career as a constable, describing his journey as an example of dedication and perseverance.

3rd Battalion Commandant K.N. Kumar advised the cadets to strengthen public trust. Kakinada District SP Bindu Madhav Garikapati, senior police officials, training staff and families of the cadets attended.

Ammamma Vantalu 2.0 Food Festival Begins

Visakhapatnam, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

The 'Ammamma Vantalu 2.0' food festival began at the Dolphin Hotel in the city on Friday and will continue until Oct 4. The festival features a wide range of traditional vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, snacks and sweets.

The menu includes Panakam, spiced buttermilk, rose milk, peanut pakodi, chekkilalu, chegodilu, bobbara garelu, betel leaf bajji, corn vada and fresh anchovy pakodi. Main dishes include jonna rotte, chukka rotte, bommidala pulusu, gongura chicken curry, goat head meat curry, ulavacharu chicken biryani, crab fry and stuffed eggplant curry.

Traditional dishes such as pachi pulusu, ragi sangati, dappalam, hand-pounded rice, various chutneys, pickles, vadiyams and spice powders are also available. Desserts include paravannam, sago payasam, pootharekulu, ariselu, bobbatlu, coconut laddu and palakova.

Senior Executive Chef DV Naidu, Resident Manager Shahbaz Ahmed and F&B Manager Pradeep Mishra participated in the event.

Deputation Employee Faces Allegations in Eluru Minority Welfare Department

Eluru, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

An employee in the Eluru District Minority Welfare Department has faced allegations over his prolonged deputation and functioning in the department. According to the report, government rules limit an employee's tenure in a department to three years, but the employee, who came on deputation from the Zilla Parishad, has reportedly continued in the same position for 13 years.

The report alleged that the employee was delaying files for months and facing allegations of demanding bribes for processing them. It cited an instance involving an application for the post of Qazi, which was reportedly not forwarded to the concerned authorities.The employee was also accused of irregularities in funds allocated for Iftar programmes and other minority welfare events. The report alleged that more than 20 mosques and Anjuman committees participate in the Iftar programme.With staffing needs arising in the parent department following the division of the Zilla Parishad, demands have been made for ZP Special Officer and District Collector Vetriselvi to review the deputation.

Bandi Venkateswara Rao Seeks Drought Relief for Eluru



Eluru, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Workers Union (BKMU) Eluru District General Secretary Bandi Venkateswara Rao urged the government to immediately declare the affected area a drought-hit mandal and provide relief to farmers, tenant farmers, agricultural labourers and artisans.Responding to a state-level call, leaders of various public organisations submitted a representation to Eluru Rural Mandal Tahsildar G. Vijayakumar. The Tahsildar assured them that the issues would be brought to the attention of the District Collector.The delegation included State President of the Sheep and Goat Rearers Association Pottelu Pentayya, Chataparru Sheep and Goat Rearers Society President Maganti Suryanarayana, and Tenant Farmers' Association leaders Kolusu Srinivasa Rao and Maganti Nagababu.Bandi demanded crop-loss compensation, loan waivers, drought pensions, free fodder and drinking water, employment works with Rs.700 daily wages, free essential commodities and education fee waivers. He also sought support for artisans and rural industries.

Putta Mahesh Kumar Welcomes Relief for Tobacco Farmers

Eluru, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



MP Putta Mahesh Kumar thanked the Central Government and the Tobacco Board for permitting tobacco farmers to sell excess produce at auction centres without penalties during the 2025-26 crop season.The Centre also approved an interest-free loan of Rs.50,000 per barn, providing relief of about Rs.220 crore to nearly 44,000 farmers. Registered dealers and traders can purchase excess tobacco through auctions by paying standard service charges.

Putta Mahesh Kumar recalled that tobacco farmers and association leaders met him on Sep 13 seeking permission to sell produce beyond the Board quota. He said he raised the issue with Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and officials, with Chief Minister Chandrababu and State Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu also participating in discussions.

He said the State Government had sanctioned Rs.94 crore under the Price Stabilization Scheme to provide Rs.10 per kg for low-grade and off-grade tobacco. He added that yard prices had reached Rs.345 per kg.

Purandeswari Participates in Kolkata Study Tour



Rajahmundry, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Rajahmundry MP and Chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill-2025, Daggubati Purandeswari, participated in a study tour in Kolkata, combining spiritual and official engagements.

As part of the tour, Purandeswari visited the Sri Kalika Devi Temple at Kalighat, one of the Ashtadasha Shakti Peethas, and offered special prayers. She prayed for the health, happiness and prosperity of the people of the country.

Later, Purandeswari chaired a JPC meeting on the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill-2025.

Representatives from West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Sikkim, along with representatives of IIM Kolkata, IIT Kharagpur and senior officials of the Union Ministry of Education, attended the meeting.

The committee discussed key provisions of the Bill and sought suggestions from stakeholders. Purandeswari said the views received would be comprehensively considered while preparing the committee's report.

APCR State President Shaik Ansari Demands Action Against CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Vijayawada, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



APCR State President Shaik Ansari has demanded the arrest and removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar from office and called for the annulment of elections conducted under the supervision of the current Election Commission.

Ansari criticised what he described as unconstitutional practices allegedly brought to light by The Indian Express in connection with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. He alleged that Kumar had acted arbitrarily while exercising the authority of the Election Commission during the revision process.

According to Ansari, the SIR process was being used to delete the names of existing voters from electoral rolls and prevent the inclusion of eligible new voters. He alleged that such actions could affect citizens' voting rights and weaken confidence in the electoral system.

Ansari said the allegations raised serious questions about the functioning of the Election Commission and the conduct of electoral roll revisions. He demanded that the Election Commission's actions be examined and that responsibility be fixed if any violations of established procedures were found.He further alleged that the reported practices amounted to a large-scale conspiracy against democratic institutions.

Ansari described the alleged deletion of voter names and restrictions on adding new voters as a betrayal of the people and said every eligible citizen should be able to exercise the right to vote.The APCR State President also demanded that elections held under the supervision of the present Election Commission be annulled. He said the credibility of elections depends on transparent electoral rolls and procedures that protect the rights of all eligible voters.

Ansari called for immediate action against Gyanesh Kumar and sought his removal from the post of CEC. He also urged authorities to examine the allegations raised in the report and take appropriate steps according to law.

The demands come amid continuing political and public debate over the SIR exercise, electoral roll revisions and the functioning of the Election Commission. The allegations made by Ansari remain his claims and would require verification by the concerned authorities.

Heavy Rains Disrupt Traffic on Samarlakota-Pithapuram Road

Samarlakota, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

Heavy rains in Kakinada district have caused severe flooding on the Samarlakota-Pithapuram road, disrupting traffic and affecting motorists. Knee-deep floodwater was reported on the R&B road at VK Rayapuram, Madhavapatnam and Pratapnagar in Samarlakota mandal.Canals on both sides of the road overflowed due to the heavy rains, with the water merging onto the road and making movement difficult. Motorists faced considerable inconvenience while passing through the flooded stretches.

Residential complexes and agricultural fields in low-lying areas were also submerged in the floodwaters. The Yeleru main canal, which passes through Samarlakota Uppuvari, is flowing above the danger level following the heavy inflows.The flooding has raised concerns among residents in low-lying areas. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation as more rainfall could worsen water levels and further disrupt road connectivity in the region.

ASRAM Hospitals Focuses on Medication Safety



Eluru, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

ASRAM Hospitals organised an awareness programme on medication safety on the occasion of National Pharmacist Day, highlighting the role of pharmacists in protecting patient safety.Dr. K. Hanumantha Rao, CEO of ASRAM Hospitals, said patients must receive the right medicine at the right dosage, time and method. He said patient safety requires coordination among doctors, pharmacists, nursing staff and medical service teams.The hospital is taking precautions at every stage, including prescription verification, checking drug interactions, identifying allergies, monitoring adverse drug reactions and checking expiry dates. Special care is being taken with high-alert medicines and look-alike or sound-alike drugs.Clinical pharmacologists, pharmacists, physicians and nursing staff are jointly reviewing prescriptions, antimicrobial use, drug interactions and adverse effects. A medication safety monitoring programme and drug information centre are being used to identify and report suspected adverse drug reactions.Hanumantha Rao said patients and families are also given medication-related instructions during admission, transfers and discharge.

Address VRA Demands, Says Chirla Jaggireddy

Ravulapalem, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau



YSR Congress Party President for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District Chirla Jaggireddy visited the VRA protest camp at Kothapeta main centre on Sunday and expressed solidarity with the protesting Village Revenue Assistants (VRAs).

The protests entered their 11th day, with VRAs from four mandals of the Kothapeta constituency participating under association presidents Bhimashankar, Satyanarayana, Isaac and Lavaraju. Jaggireddy enquired about their demands and criticised the coalition government for not responding to their concerns.

He said VRAs play an important role in implementing welfare schemes, verifying house sites and protecting government lands and assets. He said their demands for a proper pay scale, regularisation of eligible nominees and promotions were legitimate.

Jaggireddy said the existing honorarium was insufficient amid rising prices and demanded immediate talks with VRA associations. He assured the protesters of full YSRCP support and said the party, under Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, would raise their issues with the government.

Seva Sankalp Abhiyan Held at Anganwadi Centres



Ravulapalem, Sep 26 | TPN Bureau

The 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan Mahotsav', organised to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of public service, was held at Anganwadi centres in Ravulapalem on Saturday. The programme, conducted under the directions of Kothapeta Project CDPO A. Gajalakshmi, will continue until October 7.

Special activities were organised at Anganwadi centres in Nehru Street, Shetty Balija Ramalayam area, Adilakshmi Nagar and Ambedkar Nagar. Ravulapalem Girls' School Chairman Kota Somesh attended as the chief guest and inaugurated the programme.

Kota Somesh highlighted the role of Anganwadi centres in conducting Seemantham ceremonies and providing nutritious food to pregnant women, nursing mothers and children. He said promoting a spirit of service was the responsibility of everyone.

Anganwadi teacher Pothumudi Lakshmikala stressed the importance of nutritious food, clean food, safe drinking water and personal hygiene.

Woman Police Officer Safiya, Kovvuri Achchi Reddy, Vadlamudi Ramarao, D. Prasanna Kumar, P. Nageswara Rao, Ch. Sunil Joshi, N. Sekhar Babu, Durga, K. Nagalakshmi, ASHA workers and mothers participated.

Editorial

A protest without people's issues has little power

The Opposition is failing to focus on the failures of the NDA Government regarding people's issues or problems. Instead, it is focusing largely on political issues, particularly policies of the Government that are either problematic to the Opposition or are viewed as politically motivated. Because of this approach, it seems that people are not owning the protests led by the Opposition.

People are suffering from high price rise in daily needs, the crisis in the IT sector, lack of jobs and growing unemployment. These are issues that directly affect families and their everyday lives. But these issues are often spelled out by Opposition leaders only in press meets, rather than becoming the central issues of sustained public movements.

The strength of any Opposition does not come merely from the number of press conferences it conducts or the number of political statements it makes. It comes when people see their own problems reflected in the Opposition's actions. When a protest is connected to the daily struggles of ordinary people, it naturally gets public attention and participation. When it remains limited to political disagreements, people may not feel that the protest belongs to them.

The NDA Government can be questioned effectively on issues such as price rise, employment opportunities, the IT sector crisis and growing unemployment. These are not merely political issues. They are people's issues. They concern the future of families, young people, employees and those searching for work.

The Opposition needs to take these issues beyond press meets and political statements. If people are facing difficulties in their daily lives, those difficulties have to become the centre of public debate and democratic protest.

Political policies may create political controversy, but people's problems create public participation. If the Opposition wants people to own its protests, it must first make the people's problems its own issues.

- ***Editor***

Cinema

Prasoon Joshi - The Lyricist Who Breathed Life into Words





Varala Anand

Poet, Film Critic & Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Akadami Translation Award

A song is not merely a form in which words are fitted to a melody. It is the moment when language finally arrives for a feeling that has remained unspoken within us. When we listen to a truly good song, we do not merely hear the song; it awakens something that has been lying dormant inside us for a long time.

Prasoon Joshi is one such Hindi film lyricist who has brought together the language of contemporary life, a simplicity that reaches the heart of the ordinary person, and the deeper resonances of poetry.

In his songs, words are never mere ornaments. Love is not confined to a relationship between two people; it becomes an expression of attachment, waiting, separation and the larger experience of being alive. Whether it is the nation, society, the individual or a dream that enters his poetry, it is transformed into a humane voice that speaks directly to our times.

He has written many memorable songs, among them "Arziyan," "Masakali," "Paathshala," "Luka Chuppi," and "Taare Zameen Par."

Born on September 16, 1971, in Almora, Uttarakhand, Prasoon Joshi grew up in a disciplined educational environment enriched by artistic and cultural awareness. The literary and cultural atmosphere at home nurtured his early interest in literature and the arts. At the age of seventeen, he published his first book, Main Aur Woh.

Prasoon Joshi began his professional journey in advertising in Delhi. In time, he worked on campaigns for some of the world's leading brands, including Nestlé, Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Mastercard, L'Oréal, Unilever, Britannia, Saffola, Dabur, ITC Foods, TVS Motors, Reliance, Reliance Jio and Paytm. He also collaborated creatively with media organisations such as Radio Mirchi, NDTV India, Times Now, CNBC and CNN-IBN.

Among his most memorable advertising campaigns was "Thanda Matlab Coca-Cola." In 2003, Joshi received the prestigious Cannes Gold Lion for this campaign.

After writing songs for private albums, Joshi entered the world of cinema as a lyricist with Rajkumar Santoshi's Lajja in 2001. His song "Kaun Dagar, Kaun Shahar" became popular. He subsequently established himself with films such as Aankhen (2002), Kyon? (2003) and Hum Tum (2004).

In particular, the songs "Saanson Ko Saanson Mein," "Gore Gore," "Chak De" and "Ladki Kyon" from Hum Tum continue to remain in the memory of music lovers.

A major turning point in Prasoon Joshi's career came with Rakesh Omprakash Mehra's Rang De Basanti. The songs "Ik Onkar," "Rang De Basanti," "Masti Ki Paathshala," "Tu Bin Bataye," "Khalbali" and "Roobaroo" became part of one of the distinctive musical soundscapes of twenty-first-century Hindi cinema.

These songs speak of the delicacy of life and the speed with which moments slip away. They touch those spaces where love needs no words, where conversations take place in silence. They allow us to experience love in its most unguarded and pure form.

Another important film in Prasoon Joshi's body of work is Taare Zameen Par. Songs such as "Bum Bum Bole," "Duniya Ka Nara Jame Raho," "Kya Hai Problem Kyun Tera Bheja Kam," "Maa" and "Taare Zameen Par" opened up the many emotional worlds of childhood.

They are not merely songs. They are emotional invitations to look at the world through the eyes of children rather than through the gaze of adults-to rediscover a world that adults often forget how to see.

Joshi's collaboration with A. R. Rahman produced another significant body of work in films such as Ghajini, Delhi-6 and Bhaag Milkha Bhaag. The songs "Guzarish" and "Behka" from Ghajini; "Arziyan," "Bhor Bhaye," "Dil Gira Dafatan" and "Masakali" from Delhi-6; and "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag," "Maston Ka Jhund," "Mera Yaar," "O Rangrez" and "Zinda" from Bhaag Milkha Bhaag became some of the significant film songs of their time.

He subsequently wrote songs for films including Firr Milenge, Black, Fanaa, Thoda Pyaar Thoda Magic, Aarakshan, Satyagraha, Margarita with a Straw, Neerja, Vishwaroopam II and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.

Joshi received the National Film Award for his lyrics in Taare Zameen Par and Chittagong. He has also received several other honours for films such as Hum Tum, Fanaa, Delhi-6 and Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, among others.

Beyond cinema and advertising, Prasoon Joshi has also contributed to India's cultural institutions. He has served as a trustee of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), as a member of the panel of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society, and as a member of the National Committee for the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Shri in 2015.

What distinguishes Prasoon Joshi's writing is his ability to embrace modernity without sacrificing poetry. He chooses words that remain accessible without becoming simplistic, expressions that carry emotional depth without losing their popular appeal. Even when his songs belong unmistakably to contemporary popular culture, they retain the touch of literature.

A film song changes its rhythm and pace with the times. It adapts itself to new sounds, new sensibilities and new ways of listening. Yet some songs remain standing long after their moment has passed.

Perhaps that is because such songs are not born of music alone.They are born of human experience.And when words emerge from that experience and find their way into melody, a song becomes more than a song-it becomes a memory, an emotion, and sometimes, a small piece of our own lives.

Political

Demand for ousting CEC Gyanesh Kumar, Let's understand the facts and the operational framework of Election Commission





Ram Kamal

Social Engineer

Recent prime time media discussion has centred on the internal workings of the Election Commission of India (ECI), specifically focusing on allegations of significant discord among its members. The claims suggest that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) has been acting unilaterally, disregarding the opposing views of the other two Election Commissioners (ECs), leading to demands for the CEC's immediate removal.

To understand the situation, it is important to examine the operational framework of the ECI, the legal provisions governing its decisions, and the nature of the internal communications being discussed.

The Structure and Decision-Making Process of the ECI is a three-member body, consisting of the Chief Election Commissioner and two other Election Commissioners. The functioning of this body is regulated by specific laws, notably the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.

A crucial aspect of this law, specifically Section 18, dictates how decisions are made. The law mandates that the Commission's decisions must be made either, Unanimously by all three members agree on the course of action or By Majority, If unanimity is not possible, a decision is made based on the majority view (a 2-1 vote).

This structure ensures that the CEC does not possess a veto power over the other commissioners. The CEC acts as the "first among equals," meaning that while they hold a prominent position, their vote carries the same weight as the other two ECs when it comes to finalizing decisions.

Let us examine the alleged disagreements. The recent controversy stems from reports highlighting that over a 10-month period (from November 2023 to August 2024), the two Election Commissioners recorded their dissent or objections on official files at least 14 times. These dissenting notes primarily concerned three areas:

Changes to Form 6: Objections were raised regarding modifications to the online voter registration form, specifically the inclusion of a declaration about whether the applicant's parents or grandparents were included in previous electoral rolls.

Data Control: Concerns were expressed over the shifting of control over electoral roll data from local Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to the IT department in Delhi.

Post-SIR Appeals in West Bengal: The handling of numerous appeals following the Special Summary Revision (SSR) and the publication of the final voter list in West Bengal was also a point of contention.

In government functioning, especially within high-level administrative bodies, the process of noting different opinions on a file is a standard practice. The ECI has clarified that these notes were made during the drafting stage of various orders and policies.

During this deliberative phase, members (and other officials) are encouraged to express diverse viewpoints, raise concerns, and suggest alternatives. This internal mechanism is designed to ensure thorough scrutiny of policies before they are finalized. The recording of differing opinions does not necessarily indicate a breakdown in the system; rather, it reflects a functioning process where various perspectives are considered. Not as a kitchen fight as highlight by vested medias.

Unanimity and Majority Decisions at the ECE is a very carefully designed modes of operand to strengthen Indian democracy. The critical factor in evaluating the Commission's functioning is not the presence of differing opinions during the drafting stage, but the manner in which the final decisions were made.

The ECI has stated that all final orders and directives issued during this period were approved in accordance with Section 18 of the relevant Act. This means that every finalized decision was reached either unanimously or by a majority vote. The fact that the two ECs successfully invoked their majority power to revoke an IT-related order in July demonstrates that the mechanism for collective decision-making is active.

Furthermore, the Commission highlighted those numerous significant initiatives, including nationwide electoral roll revisions, were approved unanimously during this timeframe.

The internal documents reflecting differing opinions among the Election Commissioners highlight the deliberative process within the ECI. The legal framework ensures that the CEC cannot act unilaterally; all final decisions require either unanimous agreement or a majority vote. The final orders issued by the Commission reflect a consensus or a majority agreement, indicating that while internal debates occur, the decisions are ultimately made collectively in accordance with established procedures.

Opposition leader recently becoming a puppet of someone to defame India and its much-praised democracy. If his claims of CEC rig the election and cancel all elections from the date Gyanesh Kumar, joined as CEC is a foolish demand. In that case his party's V D Satheesan Government of Kerala also have to be cancelled. Sitting in a very important constitutional role of Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi must first write an official complaint. But so far not a single time for any of his allegations from the past, he never submitted any written complaint. Then for what reason, he want to spread lies and it is for who?

With regards to CJP's zero common-sense argument of removing CEC within 48 hours show their ignorance in Indian system. The procedure to remove the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India is a rigorous constitutional process designed to ensure the independence of the Election Commission. The procedure is deliberately difficult and almost mirrors the process required to remove a Supreme Court judge.

First, we need to check the Grounds for Removal. According to Article 324(5) and Article 124(4) of the Indian Constitution, the CEC can only be removed on two specific grounds, proved misbehaviour or Incapacity. A motion for removal must be introduced in either House of Parliament. To be admitted, it requires the signatures of at least 100 members in the Lok Sabha or 50 members in the Rajya Sabha. Rahul Gandhi knows that it is only a daydream.

Mamata, CPI(M) Reach Out Amid Political Differences

A recent exchange between West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby has brought attention to the possibility of greater coordination between the two political forces, despite their long-standing rivalry in West Bengal.

The two leaders spoke on issues concerning the functioning of the Election Commission, following a report that raised questions over decisions related to electoral rolls. The conversation has gained significance amid wider Opposition efforts to respond to the political controversy surrounding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

On September 23, Baby wrote to Opposition leaders, including Mamata Banerjee, calling for consideration of a joint strategy in the prevailing political circumstances. The outreach does not necessarily indicate any restructuring of the INDIA bloc, but reflects an attempt to engage Opposition parties on a broader platform.

Such coordination between the CPI(M) and Mamata's Trinamool Congress would be unusual given their political history. The Left and Mamata Banerjee have been major rivals in West Bengal for years. CPI(M) state secretary Mohammad Salim and other leaders, including Sujan Chakraborty, have continued to strongly criticise the Trinamool Congress and its government.

The Congress has also faced a similar dilemma. While it entered into an alliance with the CPI(M) in West Bengal, it has had differences with the Trinamool Congress over electoral arrangements and political strategy.

The current situation has revived questions about whether limited national-level coordination between the CPI(M) and Trinamool Congress could emerge while both retain their separate political positions in West Bengal.

The issue is also linked to the broader history of coalition politics in India. During the first United Progressive Alliance government, the Left supported the Manmohan Singh government, while Mamata Banerjee was not part of the arrangement. During UPA-II, after the Left withdrew support, Mamata Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress became part of the coalition.

A telephone conversation between leaders, however, is different from an electoral or political alliance. Any broader understanding would have to address the sharp differences between the CPI(M) and Trinamool Congress in West Bengal.

The question is also whether Mamata Banerjee's possible



national role could coexist with the Trinamool's state-level rivalry with the CPI(M). A common national position against the BJP could potentially create one form of coordination, while the two parties continue to contest each other in West Bengal.

Indian political history has seen similar instances of parties with deep ideological differences cooperating against a common political opponent. During the anti-Indira Gandhi movement, communist and Jan Sangh forces were part of a wider opposition platform. During the periods associated with Atal Bihari Vajpayee and V P Singh, Jyoti Basu also interacted with Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani amid broader Opposition efforts.These instances did not necessarily amount to formal alliances between all parties, but demonstrated the possibility of issue-based or indirect cooperation. The recent outreach between Mamata Banerjee and M A Baby has therefore reopened discussion on whether limited common ground can emerge despite their longstanding political differences.

EC Says Nationwide SIR Order Was Unanimous



The Election Commission on Saturday said its June 24, 2025 order for a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was approved unanimously by all three commissioners and was subsequently upheld by the Supreme Court.

The statement came amid a controversy over the functioning of the poll panel following a report that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections to certain decisions taken in the Commission's name.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi met at Nirvachan Sadan at 3 pm on Saturday. A note issued after the full-house meeting said the announcements had the approval of the full Commission.

The EC said the nationwide SIR order covering all States and Union Territories, beginning with Bihar and followed by West Bengal and 30 other States and UTs, was issued with unanimous approval. It added that the Supreme Court upheld the order through its May 27, 2026 decision.

The Commission said the schedules for SIR in 12 States and UTs issued on October 27, 2025, and for 19 States and UTs issued on May 14, 2026, were also approved unanimously.

The latest controversy began after a September 23 report in The Indian Express said Sandhu and Joshi had recorded objections on at least 14 occasions between November 2025 and August 2026.

The EC said a letter reportedly written by Joshi and Sandhu to the Cabinet Secretary was not related to any policy matter of the Commission or its IT division, but concerned the functioning of an officer on deputation to the ECI. It said orders concerning redistribution of the officer's work were not implemented following directions from the two Commissioners.

The Commission announced that meeting agendas would be circulated in advance and minutes issued. It also said directions issued by Commissioners to officers would be complied with.

A committee headed by a Senior Deputy Election Commissioner will review the ECINET portal and include an independent expert from an IIT or IIIT.

BJP MP Sambit Patra said the statement clarified concerns about the Commission's functioning. Congress MP and spokesperson Pawan Khera, however, said the note left key questions unanswered. Neither Sandhu nor Joshi has publicly commented on the controversy.

INDIA Bloc To Meet On September 30 Over Gyanesh Kumar

The INDIA bloc will hold a meeting at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi on September 30 to discuss its strategy on a removal motion against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, with opposition parties also expected to consider collecting signatures on the proposed motion.

The meeting comes amid continuing political controversy over the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and reports of differences among the three Election Commissioners. A report in The Indian Express on September 23 said Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections 14 times over 10 months on various issues related to the exercise.

Opposition parties led by the Congress are expected to discuss their demand for Kumar's resignation, an independent inquiry into decisions of the Election Commission and a roadmap for further protests.

The meeting followed a phone conversation between West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and



Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary M A Baby. Baby had proposed an immediate meeting to formulate a joint strategy, following which September 30 was finalised, according to sources.

The development has brought the Trinamool Congress and CPI(M), political rivals in West Bengal, together on the issue concerning the Election Commission.

Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, along with Mamata Banerjee, Abhishek Banerjee, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray are among those expected to attend. Leaders of other constituent parties are also likely to participate.

The bloc last met on June 8 at the Constitution Club. The DMK has distanced itself from the alliance following the Tamil Nadu Assembly election results in May, and its participation in the September 30 meeting remains unclear..

The CPI(M), CPI and CPI(ML)-Liberation have also demanded Kumar's removal and an immediate halt to the SIR.

CPI(ML)-Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said the September 30 meeting should be expanded beyond the INDIA bloc to include other Opposition parties, civil society groups, citizens and public intellectuals. He also announced nationwide protests by five Left parties from September 26 to October 2.

Congress workers held demonstrations on Friday in several states and Union territories, including Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur.

The BJP has rejected the Opposition's allegations that the SIR was intended to favour the ruling party, describing them as attempts to divert attention from electoral defeats.

The Election Commission has said differences and observations are part of institutional deliberations and maintained that its orders have legal sanction and follow statutory procedures. It has also stated that final decisions on the SIR were taken unanimously by all three commissioners.

Class 9 Student Dies After Falling From 12th-Floor Balcony

A 14-year-old Class 9 student who had recently won two gold medals at the CBSE Rope Skipping National Championship died after allegedly falling from the balcony of her 12th-floor apartment in Ghaziabad's Raj Nagar Extension late Friday night, police said on Saturday.

The teenager was identified as Prachi, a resident of Raj Nagar Extension. According to reports, she had gone to the balcony of her apartment in Tower G of Rajendra Nagar Society to collect clothes that had been put out to dry when she fell from the 12th floor.

Residents rushed to the spot after hearing a loud thud. Prachi was immediately taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

The police sent the body for a post-mortem examination and began a preliminary investigation. The exact circumstances leading to the



fall are not yet known. Police are also examining CCTV footage and gathering information from family members and others to establish what happened.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Ziauddin Ahmed said information was received at Nandgram police station around 9 pm on Friday that a girl, approximately 14 years old, had died after falling from her 12th-floor flat in Rajnagar Residency Society in Raj Nagar Extension.

"Acting on this information, the Nandgram police immediately reached the scene, took possession of the body, and sent it to the mortuary for a post-mortem examination," Ziauddin Ahmed said.

He added that police were gathering information by speaking to the family and that law and order had been maintained at the site. Further legal proceedings are underway.Prachi had recently returned from Maharashtra after participating in the CBSE Rope Skipping National Championship in Shirdi. She had won two gold medals in the competition.

She secured the medals in the Double Dutch Pair Freestyle and Double Dutch Single Freestyle categories.

The incident has shocked residents of the housing society and those associated with the young athlete. Police are continuing their investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the teenager's death.

CJP Leader To Meet Assam Families Over SIR



Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka on Saturday said he would meet families in Assam affected by the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and interact with volunteers of the group.Speaking to reporters at Guwahati airport, Ranka said the group would visit schools in the state and assess their condition. He said CJP volunteers were actively working in Assam and that the visit would focus on understanding concerns related to the voter-list revision exercise."We have lots of volunteers in Assam. Today, we will visit schools, discuss SIR issues and meet many families of SIR victims. Later, we will meet our volunteers," Ranka said.

The CJP spokesperson said the group's movement was gaining momentum in Assam and other northeastern states. He claimed that the organisation had received considerable support from Assam during its protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi."CJP has been spreading fast in Assam and other northeastern states. We had a lot of support from Assam during our protest at Jantar Mantar. From the very beginning, we have received support from Assam," Ranka said.Ranka said the CJP would soon announce its state units in Assam and other northeastern states as it seeks to expand its organisational presence."Our movement is aimed at making India better, bringing accountability and reforming the education sector," he said.During his visit, Ranka is expected to meet families who say they have been affected by the SIR process and hear their concerns. He will also interact with volunteers associated with the CJP's activities in the state.The group said its activities in Assam would focus on voter-list related issues as well as education and accountability. Ranka's visit comes amid continuing debate over the SIR exercise and the role of political and civil society groups in raising concerns about electoral roll revisions.

The CJP said it would continue expanding its organisational activities across Assam and other northeastern states, with state units expected to be announced shortly.

EC Defends SIR Decisions After Internal Dissent Row

The Election Commission on Saturday held a full-member meeting and issued detailed clarifications on its functioning amid reports of differences among the three Election Commissioners over decisions related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi met at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi at 3 pm. The meeting came days after a report in The Indian Express said Sandhu and Joshi had raised objections on several occasions over matters linked to the SIR and other administrative decisions.

The Election Commission reiterated that major decisions, including the June 24, 2025 order launching the SIR exercise, were approved unanimously by all three commissioners. It also said subsequent schedules for the exercise were issued with unanimous approval and noted that the Supreme Court had upheld the original SIR order.

The commission issued point-by-point clarifications on several issues that had reportedly been raised by the two commissioners.

On Form 6, used for new voter



enrolment, questions had been raised over a declaration requiring applicants during the SIR process to establish links with the previous revision through their parents' names. The commission said the declaration had been upheld by the Supreme Court. It added that outside the SIR period, forms prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, would continue to be used.

On ECINET, concerns had been raised over access to electoral-roll data and the functioning of the portal. The commission said field officers had role-based access according to their statutory powers. It announced a review of ECINET by a committee headed by a Senior Deputy Election Commissioner and including an independent expert from an IIT or IIIT.

The commission also said new IT modules and portals would be discussed by the committee of officers before being placed before the full commission for approval.

The EC also addressed the case of 97 voters in Goa who had been left out of electoral rolls. It said the Goa Chief Electoral Officer had directed Booth Level Officers to conduct house-to-house visits and collect their forms. Of the 97 voters, 81 had already submitted Form 6 for inclusion.

To strengthen internal functioning, the commission said agendas for meetings would be circulated in advance and minutes would be issued. It also said directions issued by commissioners to officials would be complied with.

The EC extended the deadline for filing claims and objections under the SIR in Delhi to October 30, with disposal targeted by November 30. In Maharashtra, the corresponding deadlines were extended to October 12 and November 10.

Opposition parties have cited the reported objections by Sandhu and Joshi to question the functioning of the Commission and have demanded Kumar's removal. The EC, however, maintained that differences and observations form part of institutional deliberations and that formal decisions, including those concerning the SIR, were taken collectively and unanimously.

Bangladesh, US Sign MoU on Civil Nuclear Cooperation

Bangladesh and the United States have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on strategic civil nuclear cooperation, seeking to deepen collaboration in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and strengthen long-term energy security.

The agreement was signed in New York on Friday by Bangladesh Prime Minister's Adviser for Science and Technology Rehan Asad and US Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment Jacob Helberg, according to the media cell of Bangladesh's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The agreement comes as Bangladesh seeks to expand and diversify its long-term energy sources. The country is currently developing its first nuclear power plant at Rooppur and has been pursuing international cooperation in nuclear science and technology.

Under the MoU, Bangladesh and the US recognised the strategic importance of their bilateral relationship and its implications for regional and international security, including energy security.

The two sides also acknowledged the potential role of nuclear energy in meeting the energy requirements of both countries, according to local media reports.

The Daily Star reported that the MoU establishes a shared understanding that civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries should follow the highest standards of nuclear safety, security, safeguards and non-proliferation.

It also noted that both Bangladesh and the US have safeguards agreements with the International



Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), along with Additional Protocols in force.

Both countries are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which establishes international obligations aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons while allowing peaceful nuclear cooperation.

The latest agreement builds on broader energy cooperation between Bangladesh and the US. The two countries signed an MoU on strategic cooperation in the energy sector in May, aimed at strengthening Bangladesh's long-term energy security through diversified energy supplies.

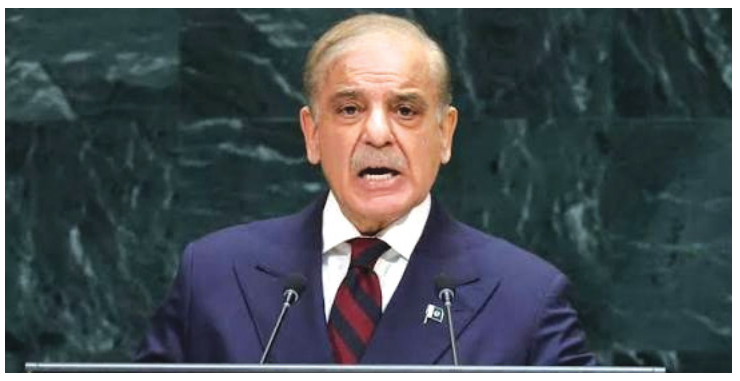
The new agreement specifically focuses on civil nuclear cooperation and the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

Bangladesh's Rooppur nuclear power project is expected to become an important part of the country's efforts to expand electricity generation and reduce dependence on conventional energy sources. International cooperation on nuclear technology, safety and regulatory standards is therefore central to the development of the country's nuclear energy programme.

The latest MoU provides a framework for Bangladesh and the US to expand cooperation in the civil nuclear sector while emphasising safety, security, safeguards and non-proliferation commitments.

The agreement also comes as Bangladesh seeks greater diversification in its energy mix to meet rising long-term electricity demand and strengthen energy security.

Trump Shares Sharif's UN Speech on Operation Sindoor



US President Donald Trump has shared a video clip of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address to the United Nations General Assembly in which Sharif thanked Trump for what he described as his "timely intervention" during the India-Pakistan military confrontation in May 2025.Trump posted the 87-second clip on Truth Social on Friday without adding any comment. In the video, Sharif described India's Operation Sindoor as "external aggression" and praised Trump's "resolute and visionary leadership" and "timely intervention", saying it helped prevent further loss of life in South Asia.Sharif also credited Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir for what he called his "courageous leadership" during the confrontation.Trump had claimed in his address to the UN General Assembly earlier this week that he helped bring an end to eight conflicts, including the India-Pakistan confrontation. He has repeatedly said that his intervention helped prevent a wider conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. India has rejected Trump's account of the events and has maintained that the cessation of military action followed a request from Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations to his Indian counterpart. New Delhi has also rejected claims of US mediation in ending the hostilities. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025, targeting what New Delhi described as terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The operation followed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 civilians were killed. Sharif's UN speech also revived other points of dispute between India and Pakistan. He warned that any attempt to stop, impede or divert Pakistan's share of the Indus River waters would be treated as an "act of war", referring to India's decision to place the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance.

He also raised the Kashmir issue and called for a solution that would prevent South Asia from returning to the brink of another conflict.

The public exchange between Trump and Sharif has brought renewed attention to competing accounts of how the 2025 confrontation ended. While Pakistan has publicly credited Trump's intervention, India continues to maintain that the cessation resulted from direct military-to-military communication between the two countries.

Suicide Attack on Police Checkpost Kills 12 in Northwest Pakistan



At least 12 people, including two women and two children, were killed and 18 others injured when a suicide bomber targeted a police checkpost in northwest Pakistan on Saturday, officials said.

The attack took place at the Aman Mela police checkpost in Darazinda tehsil of Dera Ismail Khan district, near the border between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.

Regional Police Officer Khan Mubashir Malik said the suicide bomber rammed a tractor-trolley loaded with explosives into the police checkpost, causing a powerful blast.

Twelve people were killed in the attack, while 18 others sustained injuries, Malik said. Two officials from the customs and excise department were among those killed, according to police.

Rescue 1122, Pakistan's national emergency response service, said emergency teams reached the site following the explosion. The injured were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital for treatment, while the bodies of those killed were also taken to the hospital.

Bomb disposal teams were deployed to the area to examine the explosives used in the attack and determine their nature, police said.

Security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation following the blast. Authorities also began further investigations into the attack and the circumstances surrounding the movement of the bomber and explosives.

The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was identified by officials as being responsible for the suicide attack. The group has been accused by Pakistan's federal government of carrying out repeated militant attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since it ended a ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has faced recurring militant violence in recent years, with security concerns linked to armed groups operating along or across the Afghanistan border. The region has also witnessed repeated military operations against militant networks.

The latest attack comes amid continuing security challenges in parts of northwest Pakistan, particularly areas close to the borders with Afghanistan and Balochistan. Authorities have intensified security operations in response to attacks targeting police, security personnel and government installations.Further details about the identities of the victims and the extent of damage to the police checkpost were awaited as the investigation continued.

Bangkok Declares Flood Disaster After Heavy Rain

Bangkok authorities declared a flood disaster across the Thai capital on Saturday after almost 48 hours of heavy rain inundated homes, shops and roads, leaving residents wading through deep water.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul cut short a trip to London and returned to Thailand as the capital faced widespread flooding. Officials said almost 300 millimetres (11.8 inches) of rain fell between Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Several areas of Bangkok were badly affected, with floodwater entering homes and businesses and covering roads. Residents reported difficulties leaving their neighbourhoods as water levels continued to rise.

"The water keeps coming in. It's hard to go out now. It's like at my waist level now," said Somkid Pheuk-ngam, 67, a vendor who lives near a canal north of central Bangkok.

"I cannot go anywhere. I have been closing my shop for two days now,"



she told AFP.

Bangkok regularly experiences heavy rainfall during the rainy season, with September traditionally among the wettest months. However, residents said the latest conditions were more severe than what they had experienced in previous years.

"I feel like in all the many years I've lived here, I've never encountered anything like this, where it rains continuously for days," said 63-year-old resident Anutin Meechamnan.The prolonged rainfall has placed additional pressure on the capital's drainage system, with water accumulating across residential and commercial areas.

Authorities declared the flood disaster as emergency teams continued monitoring affected areas and responding to the situation. The heavy rain also disrupted daily activities, with some businesses forced to remain closed and residents unable to travel normally.

The flooding comes as Bangkok enters the peak period of its annual rainy season, when the city is regularly exposed to intense rainfall. However, the unusually prolonged downpour and the volume of water recorded over less than two days have intensified the impact.

The return of Prime Minister Anutin highlights the seriousness of the situation as authorities assess the damage and work to manage rising floodwaters.

Residents in affected areas have been advised to remain alert as authorities continue monitoring water levels and rainfall conditions.

Russia, Ukraine Trade Strikes as Air War Intensifies

Russian attacks killed four people across Ukraine on Saturday, while Ukrainian drones targeted Russian industrial facilities, including an oil refinery, as aerial strikes between the two sides intensified.Russia has continued to use cruise and ballistic missiles, powerful glide bombs and jet-powered drones against Ukrainian targets, even as progress along the front line has slowed, more than four years after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia was escalating its attacks and called on international partners to respond more strongly."It is essential that our partners not forget: Russia is escalating every single day," Zelenskyy wrote on Saturday morning. "If the Russians have chosen to make their strikes even more brutal, the world must choose stronger responses to keep the war from spreading further."

Zelenskyy cited strikes on residential buildings in Kyiv and Zaporizhzhia, as well as attacks in the Odesa, Sumy and Kharkiv regions.



Two women were killed in Zaporizhzhia after becoming trapped beneath the rubble of their destroyed home, according to the regional military administration. A separate Russian attack on the city of Sumy killed two people, local officials said.

In the Kyiv region, two people were injured overnight when a Russian drone attack caused a fire at a warehouse in Boryspil district. Russian drones also struck several districts of Kyiv, injuring four people and damaging residential and office buildings.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its attack on Kyiv damaged a data centre supporting mobile internet services and Starlink satellite communication systems.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has continued using long-range drones to strike targets inside Russia, particularly oil and industrial facilities. A Ukrainian drone attack in the southern Krasnodar region killed three people and wounded two, regional Governor Veniamin Kondratyev said.

Kondratyev said the attack caused fires at two industrial sites but did not provide further details. Russian media later reported that an oil refinery had been targeted.

The latest exchanges came after Zelenskyy appealed at the United Nations for countries to increase sanctions and trade restrictions against Russia, arguing that reducing Moscow's revenues would limit its ability to sustain the war.Despite years of diplomatic efforts, there has been no major breakthrough toward ending the conflict. Instead, both sides have increasingly relied on long-range strikes against infrastructure and industrial targets as fighting continues along the front.

The intensified aerial campaign has added to concerns over civilian safety, with residential areas and other civilian infrastructure repeatedly affected by missile and drone attacks on both sides.

Montparnasse Tower Renovation Project Put on Hold

A major 800 million plan to renovate Paris' controversial Montparnasse Tower has been put on hold after more than three-quarters of its co-owners rejected the launch of the first phase of work.

The decision was taken at an extraordinary meeting on September 23, marking a setback for a project that had been under discussion since 2015.

The 210-metre, 59-storey tower was completed in 1973 and has long been criticised for its appearance. It has become a frequent subject of jokes among Parisians, including the saying that it offers the best view of Paris because it is the one place in the city from which the tower itself cannot be seen.

The proposed renovation would have transformed the building into a modern glass structure. The 800 million project included garden terraces, a hotel, shops and a rooftop greenhouse, aiming to give the landmark a substantially different appearance.

However, co-owners rejected the



initial phase of the project, which included asbestos removal, stripping of interiors and partial removal of the facade.

The vote was particularly significant because it was the final opportunity to begin the work before the existing building permit expires at the end of November.

The tower is jointly owned by French investment funds, insurers and other stakeholders. Differences among the co-owners over the project and concerns about its high cost had created tensions surrounding the proposed renovation.

A less ambitious renovation could now be considered, potentially focusing on essential work such as asbestos removal rather than the complete transformation originally planned.

Four co-owners who continue to support renovation, including French businessman Xavier Niel, called for discussions involving all co-owners, financial partners and public authorities.

"We would like all the co-owners, financial partners, and public authorities to meet soon to examine all the solutions to transform the Montparnasse Tower," they said in a joint statement.

Philippe Goujon, the mayor of Paris' 15th district, where the tower is located, urged stakeholders to reconsider the decision. He said he could not accept seeing a project that had taken 10 years to develop abandoned or allowing the internationally known building to fall into neglect.

French newspaper Le Parisien described the decision as a "fiasco". TF1's morning news programme also highlighted the tower's reputation, making it its "face of the day" and suggesting that its criticised appearance could remain for the long term.

The future of the Montparnasse Tower now depends on whether its owners and public authorities can reach agreement on an alternative renovation plan before the existing permit expires.

Wall Street Ends Higher as AI Stocks Rally

Wall Street ended higher on Friday as investors bought Microsoft and other artificial intelligence-related technology stocks, helping the major US stock indexes gain ground. However, elevated oil prices and a recent rise in US Treasury yields kept investors cautious about the broader market outlook.

The S&P 500 climbed 0.51% to end the session at 7,743.41 points. The Nasdaq gained 0.48% to close at 27,068.72 points, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.93% to finish at 51,828.62 points.

Microsoft was among the major technology stocks supporting the market, with investors showing continued interest in companies linked to artificial intelligence. AI-related shares have remained a key focus for Wall Street as businesses continue to invest in computing infrastructure, software and other technologies associated with the expansion of AI.

The gains came despite several factors that continued to create uncertainty for investors. Oil prices remained high, raising concerns about their potential impact on inflation and corporate costs. Higher energy prices can increase expenses for businesses and put additional pressure on consumers, while also complicating expectations surrounding monetary policy.



US Treasury yields have also moved higher recently, adding another concern for equity investors. Rising yields can make bonds more attractive relative to stocks and can increase borrowing costs for companies and consumers. Investors are therefore closely watching movements in the bond market while assessing the outlook for economic growth and interest rates.

The technology sector remained a major driver of market sentiment, with Microsoft and other AI-linked companies attracting buying interest. The continued strength in these stocks reflects the importance investors are placing on the potential growth of artificial intelligence-related businesses.

At the same time, the market remains sensitive to developments in energy prices and the US Treasury market. Investors are weighing the strong performance of major technology companies against concerns over inflationary pressures and higher borrowing costs.

The three major indexes finished the session in positive territory, with the Dow recording the largest percentage gain among the three. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq also advanced, extending support for the broader market.

Wall Street's latest gains highlight the continuing influence of AI-related stocks on US equities, even as investors remain alert to developments that could affect inflation, interest rates and economic growth.

NSE CEO Says No Govt Talks on New UPI MDR

National Stock Exchange (NSE) Managing Director and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan said there have been no discussions with the government regarding the newly introduced framework for UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR), adding that brokers and their clients will have to work out the impact of the charges.



Chauhan's comments come after the introduction of the new MDR framework for UPI transactions, which has raised questions across sectors, including the capital markets. The new structure could have implications for businesses and financial platforms that rely on UPI for digital payments.

Speaking on the issue, Chauhan said there had been no government-level discussions with the NSE on the new UPI MDR framework. He indicated that the impact of the charges would have to be assessed and managed by brokers and their clients based on their respective arrangements.

UPI has become a major payment channel for transactions across India's financial and commercial ecosystem. In the capital market segment, investors and intermediaries increasingly use digital payment systems for various transactions, making any change in the cost structure relevant to brokers and their customers.

The introduction of MDR has therefore brought the question of transaction costs into focus. Brokers may need to examine how the additional charges affect their operations and whether the costs are absorbed by them or passed on to customers. The eventual impact could vary depending on the business models and payment arrangements followed by individual market participants.

Chauhan's remarks suggest that, at present, the issue is being left to market participants rather than being addressed through discussions between the government and the NSE. Brokers and clients will need to determine how the new framework affects their respective transactions and costs.

The development comes at a time when UPI has expanded significantly as a preferred digital payment method in India. Its use has spread across retail payments, online commerce and financial services, making changes to its pricing framework an important issue for businesses that depend on the system.

For the capital markets, brokers will now have to evaluate the financial impact of the new MDR framework and decide how the costs should be handled. Investors and clients may also see changes depending on the policies adopted by their respective brokers.

Chauhan said brokers and clients would ultimately have to resolve the issue, with no government discussions on the matter having taken place with the NSE so far.

JSW One Platforms Plans Rs 3,054 Crore IPO

JSW One Platforms has filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise up to Rs 3,054 crore through an initial public offering (IPO), marking a major step towards its proposed listing.

According to the draft red herring prospectus, the IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares worth up to Rs 1,300 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of shares worth up to Rs 1,754.01 crore. The proposed issue will therefore include both new capital for the company and an opportunity for existing shareholders to sell part of their holdings.

The fresh funds raised through the issue are proposed to be used for various business requirements, including marketing, financing and technology development. The planned deployment of capital is aimed at supporting the company's business operations and strengthening its digital and technology capabilities.

JSW One Platforms is part of the JSW Group and operates as a digital platform serving businesses in the industrial and construction ecosystem. Its platform-based model connects buyers and sellers and provides access to products and services, with technology playing a key role in its operations.



The IPO comes as companies across India's digital and technology-enabled business sectors continue to explore the public markets to raise capital and provide liquidity to existing investors. The proposed issue by JSW One Platforms will also provide public-market investors an opportunity to participate in the company's future growth.

The OFS component of up to Rs 1,754.01 crore will allow existing shareholders to monetise part of their investments. Unlike the fresh issue, proceeds from the OFS will generally go to the selling shareholders rather than the company.

The final size, pricing and other terms of the IPO will be determined at a later stage, subject to regulatory approvals and market conditions. The filing of draft papers with SEBI is an initial step in the listing process, and the company will need to receive the necessary approvals before proceeding with the public issue.

The proposed Rs 3,054 crore IPO reflects JSW One Platforms' plans to access the capital markets while strengthening its financial and technology base. Investors will be able to assess the company's financial performance, business model, growth plans and proposed use of funds once further details become available through the IPO process.

Business in the Week Ahead: Key Data to Watch

The global economic landscape remains uncertain as changing geopolitical and financial conditions continue to influence markets. With several unknowns weighing on investor sentiment, the coming week is set to bring a series of important economic indicators and policy signals into focus.

The week from September 28 to October 2 will see investors closely tracking India's industrial production data and several high-frequency macroeconomic indicators. These numbers are expected to provide fresh clues about the pace of economic activity and the strength of domestic demand.

Industrial production is likely to remain one of the key data points for the week. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) provides an indication of activity across major sectors and can offer insight into the broader health of the economy. Investors and analysts will assess the numbers for signs of improvement or weakness in industrial activity.

Several high-frequency economic indicators are also expected to attract attention. Such data can provide more immediate signals about consumption, business activity and overall economic momentum, particularly at a time when markets are responding quickly to changes in global conditions.



Central bank communication will be another important area of focus. The minutes of a central bank meeting are expected to provide greater insight into policymakers' assessment of inflation, growth and monetary policy. Investors will examine the discussion for indications about the direction of interest rates and the risks facing the economy.

Global developments will continue to influence financial markets alongside domestic data. Uncertainty surrounding geopolitical tensions, commodity prices, bond yields and currency movements remains an important factor for businesses and investors. Any sharp movement in these areas could affect market sentiment and economic expectations.

The combination of domestic macroeconomic data and central bank communication is therefore likely to make the coming week significant for the business and financial sectors. While individual data releases may provide specific signals, investors will also be looking at how they fit into the broader economic picture.

With the global economic order still undergoing changes, the week ahead is expected to offer several indicators that could help markets assess the direction of growth, inflation and monetary policy. IIP, high-frequency economic data and central bank minutes will be among the key developments competing for investors' attention between September 28 and October 2.

Markets Extend Losing Streak to Seven Weeks

Indian benchmark indices ended lower in the week ended September 25, extending their losing streak to seven consecutive weeks, the longest such run since May 2020. Weak domestic and global cues kept investor sentiment under pressure, while rising crude prices, global bond yields, foreign fund outflows and a weakening rupee added to market concerns.



Renewed tensions in the Middle East pushed Brent crude prices higher, increasing worries about inflation and its potential impact on economic growth. At the same time, rising global bond yields added pressure on equities as investors assessed the outlook for interest rates and borrowing costs.Persistent selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) was another major factor weighing on the market. Continued foreign fund outflows have affected investor sentiment and added to the pressure on domestic equities. The weakening rupee also remained a concern for the market, particularly as higher crude prices can increase India's import costs.

The sectoral performance remained mixed during the week. The Nifty IT index was the biggest sectoral loser, declining 2.4%. Nifty Private Bank fell 1.5%, while Nifty Energy declined nearly 1%.

In contrast, Nifty Realty emerged as the top-performing sectoral index, gaining 3% during the week. Nifty Consumer Durables, Pharma and FMCG indices also advanced around 1% each, providing some support to the broader market.

The contrasting performance across sectors reflected changing investor preferences amid continued uncertainty. While technology and banking stocks faced selling pressure, realty and select defensive-oriented sectors attracted buying interest.

Market participants remained focused on developments in crude oil prices, bond yields, foreign fund flows and currency movements, which have emerged as important factors influencing the direction of Indian equities. Global developments, particularly tensions in the Middle East, also continued to shape market sentiment.

The seven-week decline marks the longest losing streak for Indian benchmark indices since May 2020, highlighting the sustained pressure faced by the market. Investors are likely to closely monitor global economic signals and domestic developments for indications of a change in market sentiment.

For now, elevated crude prices, rising yields, continued FII selling and rupee weakness remain key concerns for the equity market. At the same time, gains in realty, consumer durables, pharma and FMCG stocks indicate that buying interest remains present in selected sectors despite the broader market weakness.

India-EU FTA Reached on Equal Terms After 17 Years

India has concluded a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union after 17 years of negotiations, with Minister of State Jitin Prasada saying the agreement was reached on equal terms and could strengthen trade and investment ties between the two sides.Prasada said the agreement marks an important development in India's engagement with the European market. The long negotiations involved discussions on market access, trade and broader economic cooperation, culminating in the conclusion of the pact after nearly two decades.

The Minister of State also stressed the need for foreign companies to increasingly bring technology and establish partnerships in India. He said stronger manufacturing ties and technology transfer would be important for India to gain greater value from foreign investment and expand its industrial capabilities.

According to Prasada, India's focus should extend beyond attracting foreign capital to encouraging companies to contribute technology, expertise and partnerships that can strengthen domestic manufacturing. Such collaboration could help Indian businesses improve productivity and compete more effectively in global markets.Artificial intelligence is also emerging as a potential driver of manufacturing growth, particularly for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Prasada said AI could become a game changer if it helps MSMEs reduce production costs by around 5-10%. Lower production costs through the adoption of AI could improve efficiency and productivity for smaller businesses. Technologies based on artificial intelligence can potentially assist companies in areas such as manufacturing processes, supply-chain management, quality control and other business operations.The comments come as India seeks to deepen its manufacturing base and expand its role in global supply chains. Greater access to international markets through trade agreements, combined with technology partnerships, could provide Indian companies with opportunities to increase exports and strengthen their competitiveness.



The India-EU FTA is also expected to provide a framework for closer economic engagement between India and one of its major trading partners. The agreement follows years of negotiations, reflecting the complexity of discussions involved in establishing mutually acceptable trade terms.Prasada's remarks highlight two areas that India is seeking to emphasise as it expands international economic ties: greater technology and manufacturing partnerships with foreign companies, and wider adoption of emerging technologies such as AI by domestic businesses.For MSMEs in particular, improvements in productivity and reductions in production costs could have a direct impact on their ability to compete. If AI adoption delivers the projected cost savings, it could become an important tool for smaller manufacturers as India seeks to strengthen its position in global trade and manufacturing.

Sahil Bloom Says Showing Up Matters

Author Sahil Bloom has shared a simple message about the importance of continuing to make an effort, particularly when life becomes difficult and progress is not immediately visible.

In a social media post, Bloom said that as he gets older, he has increasingly realised that showing up consistently is one of the most important things in life. While the idea may sound simple, he said it is surprisingly rare.

According to Bloom, continuing to put in effort is relatively easy when things are going well. People tend to keep going when they are receiving praise, rewards are certain and their progress is clearly visible.

The situation changes when those factors disappear. Bloom said people often stop making an effort when there is no immediate recognition, when rewards are uncertain or when their progress becomes difficult to see.

He encouraged people to continue showing up during such periods, including when circumstances are difficult, nobody is watching and they do not feel motivated to continue.

Bloom's message focused on consistency rather than immediate results. He suggested that the willingness to keep making an effort can become particularly important during phases when success or progress is not obvious.

"Showing up may sound simple, but it is surprisingly rare," Bloom said in his post, highlighting the difference between making an effort when conditions are favourable and continuing when they are not.

He also encouraged people to show



up when rewards are uncertain. His message suggested that consistent effort can matter even when there is no guarantee of recognition or an immediate outcome.

Bloom concluded his post with the thought that people should never bet against someone who simply keeps showing up. The message was aimed at encouraging persistence and maintaining effort through difficult periods rather than judging progress only by short-term results.

The post drew several reactions on social media, with users sharing their own views about consistency and perseverance.

One user commented, "Consistency matters most when the progress isn't obvious yet."

"Honestly, showing up is the force behind your success," another user wrote.

A third user said, "This is something I tell my kids."

Bloom's comments also resonated with people who viewed consistency as an everyday habit rather than something limited to professional or financial goals. His message emphasised that continuing to make an effort can be particularly meaningful when circumstances provide little encouragement.

The discussion around the post reflected a familiar challenge faced by many people: continuing with a goal when progress is slow and external validation is absent.

Bloom's central message remained straightforward - difficult periods do not necessarily mean the effort should stop.

By encouraging people to keep showing up even when nobody is watching and rewards are uncertain, Bloom highlighted consistency as a long-term approach to dealing with setbacks and periods of limited progress.

25-Year-Old Says Housing Prices Are Unaffordable



A 25-year-old cybersecurity professional in Bengaluru has shared his struggle to afford a home despite earning Rs 1.8 lakh a month, saying high property prices have left him questioning whether he should continue saving and investing before buying an apartment.

Coming from a middle-class family, the tech worker said he has maintained a frugal lifestyle. He does not spend on clubbing and uses a scooter instead of a car for his daily commute.

The man said his monthly living expenses are around Rs 31,000 while staying alone in a paying guest accommodation. He invests Rs 75,000 every month through a systematic investment plan (SIP), assuming a 10 per cent return, and puts the remaining money into his savings account.

After calculating his finances, he initially believed that Rs 1.3 crore would be enough to buy a home. He then contacted a broker and visited properties in Bengaluru's Indiranagar and Whitefield areas. He said he was already familiar with property prices in Pune.

However, what he found left him disappointed.

"The problem is, in 1.3 crore, the house I am getting is like a 2 BHK. It is made like a matchbox in some random standalone building, but in a good area," he wrote.

He said larger gated communities with 800 to 900 flats were even more expensive. According to him, a good apartment in such societies was crossing Rs 2 crore, including in Pune.

The experience prompted him to question whether he should continue living a cost-cutting lifestyle for several more years and allow his investment portfolio to grow before taking a home loan.

"Should I continue living like this on a cost-cutting life for another five years and grow my portfolio and then get some loan to actually afford that expensive house? I don't have any plans of marriage till 30 or start another SIP from zero," he asked.

His post triggered a discussion among social media users about housing affordability, savings and the financial pressures faced by young professionals in major Indian cities.

One 25-year-old professional said there was a reason many people purchased homes only after reaching their mid-30s or 40s, when they had accumulated greater savings.

Another user argued that property prices were unlikely to fall sharply unless a major disruption affected high-earning professionals and employment.

A third user said Gen Z and middle-class families were finding it increasingly difficult to afford homes in major cities, while another expressed sympathy for younger workers facing high housing costs.

The discussion highlighted the dilemma faced by some young professionals: whether to prioritise home ownership early or continue investing and delay the purchase until their financial position becomes stronger.

Business Is Like A Baby, Says Entrepreneur

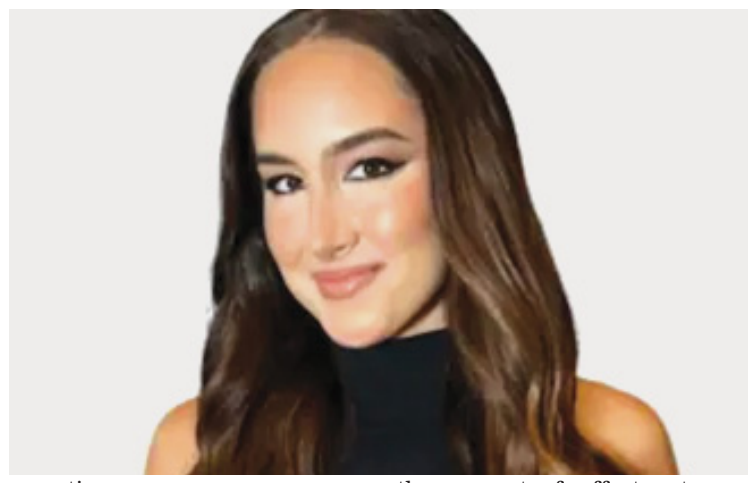
Codie Sanchez, founder of Contrarian Thinking, has offered a simple comparison to explain how a business develops over time, saying its early stages are similar to raising a baby.

In a social media post, Sanchez explained that a new business is highly dependent on its owner, much like a baby depends on its parents. At this stage, the entrepreneur has to provide almost everything the business needs to survive and move forward.

According to Sanchez, a business in its early phase requires constant attention, guidance and support. The owner has to be closely involved in its daily activities, make important decisions and help it overcome challenges.

She then compared the next stage of business growth to a baby learning to walk. At this point, the business begins to make progress independently but still needs support from its owner.

Sanchez said that as the business continues to develop, it can eventually reach a stage where it is capable of operating on its own. The entrepreneur's role can then gradually shift from handling every task personally to providing direction and overseeing the broader



operation.

Her comparison presented business growth as a gradual process rather than something that happens immediately. Just as children develop different skills at different speeds, businesses can also take varying amounts of time to become independent.

Sanchez added that some businesses grow faster than others, but they generally follow a similar path from complete dependence to increasing independence.

The comparison also highlighted the amount of effort entrepreneurs may need to invest during the early stages of building a company. A new business may require significant time and attention before systems, employees and processes allow it to function with less direct involvement from its founder.

Sanchez's post drew several reactions online, with users relating the comparison to their own experiences of running businesses and raising children.

One user agreed with the comparison, writing, "Good point, and some businesses need way more hand-holding than others before they can walk."

Another user said, "That's why when it's in its early stage, you have to give it your all."

A third user connected the experience of entrepreneurship with parenthood, writing, "Just like my kids it keeps me up at night and wakes me up early."

Sanchez's analogy offered a straightforward way of looking at the different stages of entrepreneurship. From depending heavily on the founder to gradually developing the ability to operate independently, the journey can involve continuous attention, adjustment and patience.

The comparison also suggests that entrepreneurs should expect their responsibilities to change as their businesses mature. The hands-on involvement required at the beginning may eventually give way to a more supervisory role as the business becomes capable of managing more of its own operations.

For Sanchez, the key idea was simple: a business, like a baby, needs substantial care in its early years before it can eventually stand on its own.

Indian Expat Shares Million-Dollar Wealth Journey

Indian expat and digital content creator Pritesh Jagani has shared how he claims to have built a million-dollar net worth in the US while living on an H-1B visa, saying the achievement came from disciplined financial habits rather than a single lucky investment.

In an Instagram post, Jagani explained that building wealth required him to steadily increase his income, control spending, clear debts and invest consistently.

He said his journey began with a focus on financial stability rather than wealth creation.

"Becoming a millionaire on an H-1B wasn't about one lucky investment. It was about building a strong financial foundation, controlling spending, paying off debt, taking advantage of tax-advantaged accounts, and consistently investing," Jagani said.

According to Jagani, his first step was creating a simple budget and building an emergency fund capable of covering three to six months of expenses. This helped him gain better control over his everyday



finances and prepare for unexpected costs.

He also focused on understanding the financial systems in the US, including credit, health insurance and investment options. At the same time, he managed money that he sent back home and worked on strengthening his overall financial position.

"I also built my financial foundation in America. I built credit, understood health insurance and managed money sent home. When my salary increased, I avoided lifestyle inflation. I paid off my education loan, captured my 401(k) match, and started investing," he said.Jagani said increasing his earning potential played an important role in his journey. Rather than relying only on reducing expenses, he focused on upskilling and making strategic job switches to improve his income.

He suggested that H-1B visa holders looking to build wealth should work on both their income and expenses. According to him, spending intentionally while continuously developing skills can create greater opportunities for long-term financial growth.

"If you're on an H-1B and trying to build wealth in America, focus on both sides: spend intentionally and keep increasing your earning power. That's how long-term wealth is built," Jagani said.

He also stressed the importance of avoiding lifestyle inflation as earnings rise. Instead of immediately increasing his spending after receiving higher salaries, he said he continued living within his means and directed more money towards investments.His account has attracted attention online, particularly among Indian professionals working in the US on H-1B visas. The roadmap he shared focused on several financial habits, including emergency savings, debt repayment, retirement contributions, investment discipline and career growth.

Jagani's experience illustrates the financial approach he says helped him build wealth over time: establish a stable foundation, increase earning power, avoid unnecessary spending and consistently invest the surplus rather than depending on a single investment windfall.

Rs 40 Lakh Heart Surgery Raises Retirement Concerns

A social media post about an elderly man's Rs 40 lakh heart surgery has sparked a discussion about retirement savings, medical emergencies and the difficulty of planning for unexpected healthcare expenses in old age.

The post was shared by a user who recalled the experience of an elderly neighbour in his 80s who required major heart surgery. The treatment cost around Rs 40 lakh, leaving the user questioning how people can realistically prepare for such a large expense after retirement, when regular income may have reduced and savings may already be limited.

According to the user, doctors gave the elderly man two treatment options. One was a traditional open-heart surgery that carried significant risks. The other was a more advanced and minimally invasive procedure that was considered somewhat safer but came at a substantially higher cost.

"Given his age there was actually only one option and because his son is settled abroad he was able to afford it, it still has put a massive dent in their finances for the next few years at least," the user wrote.

The financial burden would have been even more severe without support from the man's son, the user said. He also expressed concern that even health insurance might not have been sufficient to cover the entire expense, potentially leaving the family facing serious financial difficulties.

The experience also made the user reconsider his own retirement planning.

"I was a bit scared hearing the cost of such a surgery. Like many people, I also have retirement plans,



and I simply haven't factored in something that would cost 2x my annual planned expenses in one go," he wrote.

He added that the incident had changed the way he looked at financial planning and the uncertainty that comes with ageing.

"When faced with the crushing reality that you simply can't afford a treatment, we can only hope to accept it. I thought I had things sorted but I got a new wake up call today to try and live more in the present too," he said.

The post drew reactions from social media users, many of whom discussed the importance of having adequate health insurance and maintaining a separate healthcare reserve for retirement.

One user said that people should consider comprehensive insurance coverage and pointed out that some insurance plans increase coverage over time.Another user argued that people should specifically set aside a substantial amount for medical expenses in old age, even while maintaining health insurance.

"You asked 'how do you plan for something like this'. And the answer is: by putting aside 50 lakhs for something like this. With medical insurance coverage on top of it," the user wrote.

Another commenter focused on maintaining good health and regular physical activity, saying lifestyle-related health problems were common.The discussion highlighted a difficult aspect of retirement planning: while regular expenses can be estimated, major medical emergencies are much harder to predict. For many families, adequate insurance, emergency savings and long-term financial planning can become particularly important as healthcare needs increase with age.

Sindhu, Ayush, Unnati Advance; Lakshya Exits

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and young shuttler Ayush Shetty advanced to the singles pre-quarterfinals with straight-game victories, while Unnati Hooda also progressed at the Asian Games 2026. Lakshya Sen, however, suffered a second-round exit after losing to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew.

World No. 11 Sindhu defeated Chinese Taipei's world No. 17 Chiu Pin-chian 21-19, 21-14 in the women's singles second round. Sindhu had received a bye in the opening round and will next face Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki.

Sindhu had a slow start against Chiu, who controlled the early exchanges and moved from 6-2 ahead to take an 11-10 lead at the interval. The Indian gradually recovered and moved ahead 19-16. A backhand net error from Chiu gave Sindhu three game points, and although her opponent saved two, Sindhu sealed the game with a deep cross-court push.

The second game saw Sindhu take greater control. She opened an 8-4



advantage and led 11-8 at the break. The Indian extended the lead to 15-10 and soon secured six match points before converting the opportunity to complete the victory.

Ayush Shetty, a finalist at the Badminton Asia Championships, produced an equally emphatic performance against Kazakhstan's Makhsut Tajibullayev. Ayush won 21-7, 21-7 to reach the pre-quarterfinals, where he will face third seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei.Unnati Hooda also progressed in the women's singles competition after overcoming Malaysia's Ling Ching Wong 21-14, 20-22, 21-19 in a closely fought second-round contest. The winner of three BWF Super 100 titles, Unnati will next meet Indonesia's sixth seed Putri Kusuma Wardani.

Lakshya Sen's campaign ended with a three-game defeat against former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore. World No. 14 Sen lost 12-21, 21-15, 14-21 in a contest lasting more than an hour.

Sen started strongly and led 5-1 in the opening game, but Loh produced a run of 10 consecutive points to take control. The Indian responded in the second game with aggressive attacking play to level the contest.Loh then established an 11-6 lead in the decider. Sen fought back to reduce the deficit to 13-14, but Loh regained control and closed out the match 21-14.The defeat means an individual Asian Games medal continues to elude Sen, who won Commonwealth Games gold in 2022 and finished fourth at the Paris Olympics. He has also won team medals, including silver at the previous edition in Hangzhou and bronze at the ongoing Games.

India Retain Asian Games Kabaddi Gold

India completed a golden double in kabaddi at the Asian Games as both the men's and women's teams successfully defended their respective titles with victories over Iran in the finals in Nagoya on Saturday.

The Indian men defeated Iran 40-34 in a closely fought final to retain their gold medal, after the women's team had earlier beaten the same opponents 37-34.

The men's final remained tense, with the scores level at 20-20 at one stage. India then managed to gain the upper hand and held on to secure another Asian Games gold in kabaddi.

The victory marked India's ninth overall gold medal in kabaddi at the Asian Games. The Indian men had won seven successive gold medals before their dominance was interrupted at the 2018 Jakarta Games, where Iran emerged champions and India finished fourth.

India returned to the top at the 2023 Hangzhou Games, reclaiming the men's kabaddi title. The latest victory ensured that the team retained the crown and continued its strong record in the competition.

Earlier in the day, the Indian women also overcame Iran in a closely contested final. India led



22-16 at half-time, but Iran fought back strongly after the break and won the second half 18-15.

However, India's first-half advantage proved enough as the team held on for a thrilling 37-34 victory and retained the women's title.

The women's team has now won the Asian Games gold medal in every edition except the 2018 Jakarta Games. At Jakarta, India finished with silver after losing the final to Iran.

Following the men's victory, the Indian players took a victory lap around the arena and celebrated by chanting the national song, "Vande Mataram".

The twin victories over Iran completed a memorable day for Indian kabaddi, with both teams successfully defending their Asian Games titles and adding two more gold medals to India's campaign in Nagoya.



Toor Wins Asian Games Shot Put Silver

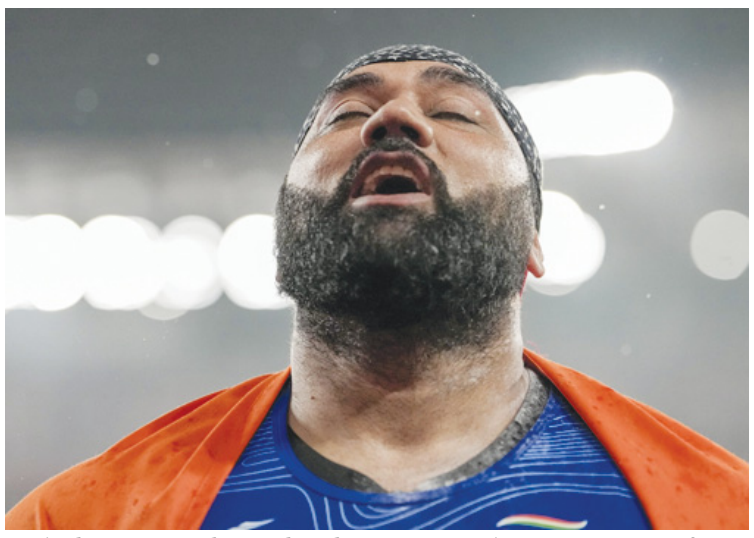
India's Tajinderpal Singh Toor won the silver medal in the men's shot put final at the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya on Saturday, producing a best throw of 20.64 metres with his fifth attempt.

Toor finished behind Iran's Mohammadreza Tayebise, who secured the gold medal with a Games Record throw of 20.81 metres. The silver medal added another achievement to Toor's impressive Asian Games record.

Toor had won gold medals at the 2018 Jakarta and 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games before finishing second in Aichi-Nagoya. His latest medal keeps him among India's leading performers in the event at the continental competition.

India also had success in the athletics track events, with Animesh Kujur qualifying for the men's 200m final.

Kujur finished second in Semifinal 3 with a time of 20.81 seconds to book his place in the medal race. He finished behind Thailand's



Puripol Boonson, who produced a Games Record of 20.10 seconds.

The qualification marked a strong comeback for Kujur after he missed out on a place in the men's 100m final. He will now have an opportunity to compete for a medal in the 200m final.

India also secured two places in the men's 1500m final, with Gulveer Singh and Yoonus Shah advancing from their respective heats.

Gulveer finished third in Heat 2 with a timing of 3:45.79, while Yoonus also secured third place in Heat 1, clocking 3:45.77. Both Indian athletes will compete in the 1500m final scheduled for the day after tomorrow.

The athletics performances added to India's medal efforts on a day when the country also secured gold in men's kabaddi.

The Indian men's kabaddi team defeated Iran 40-34 in the final to retain the Asian Games title. India trailed Iran 17-18 at half-time but produced a stunning second-half comeback.

The Indian team came out strongly after the break, took control of the contest and turned the match decisively in its favour to secure another Asian Games gold medal.

With Toor's silver and the progress of Kujur, Gulveer and Yoonus, India continued to make its presence felt across athletics at the Aichi-Nagoya Games.

Kapil Pokhariya Enters Quarters, Jadumani Singh Out

Indian boxer Kapil Pokhariya advanced to the quarterfinals of the Asian Games 2026 with a commanding victory, while compatriot Jadumani Singh exited the competition after losing his opening bout.

Pokhariya, representing Uttarakhand, registered a unanimous 5-0 victory over Iran's Sam Estaki in the men's 90kg category to book his place in the last eight.

The Indian boxer controlled the contest from the opening bell and immediately established his authority despite Estaki having a height advantage. Pokhariya used cleaner punches and effective combinations to dictate the pace and build an early lead.

He took a 4-1 advantage in the opening round, with his accurate punching helping him gain the judges' favour. Estaki attempted to respond but struggled to consistently land effective punches



against the Indian boxer.

Pokhariya continued to maintain control in the second round. His movement and cleaner work allowed him to keep Estaki at a distance while finding opportunities to attack. The judges once again gave him a unanimous 5-0 verdict, putting him in a strong position heading into the final round.

Estaki needed a major turnaround in the closing round but could not mount a serious challenge. Pokhariya remained composed and avoided unnecessary exchanges while maintaining his advantage until the final bell.

The 5-0 victory confirmed Pokhariya's place in the quarterfinals, keeping his medal hopes alive in the men's 90kg competition.However, India's Jadumani Singh could not progress in the men's 55kg category. He suffered a 0-3 defeat against the Philippines' Carlo Paalam, the Tokyo Olympics silver medallist.

Paalam's experience at the international level proved important as he secured the judges' decision and ended Jadumani's campaign at the Asian Games.

India will have further boxing action later in the day, with Priya scheduled to face South Korea's Oh Yeonji in the women's 60kg round of 16.Pokhariya's progress adds to India's boxing campaign, with the Uttarakhand boxer now preparing for a quarterfinal challenge as he looks to move one step closer to securing a medal.

Joshna, Senthilkumar Settle For Squash Bronze



India's Joshna Chinappa and Velavan Senthilkumar settled for the bronze medal in the mixed doubles squash competition at the Asian Games 2026 after suffering a narrow defeat to Hong Kong's Tang Ming Hong and Lee Ka Yi in the semifinals.

The Indian pair lost 1-2 in a closely fought contest, with the Hong Kong combination winning 11-10, 2-11, 11-10. The match at the Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena saw both pairs produce an intense battle, with the outcome decided by just two points across the opening and deciding games.

Tang Ming Hong and Lee Ka Yi edged Joshna and Senthilkumar in the opening game after a tense exchange. The Indian pair, however, responded strongly in the second game and completely changed the momentum of the contest.

Joshna and Senthilkumar dominated the second game, winning it 11-2 to level the match at 1-1. The Indian duo looked to carry that momentum into the deciding game, but Tang Ming Hong and Lee Ka Yi remained composed during the crucial stages.

The Hong Kong pair eventually edged the third game 11-10 to seal their place in the final and leave the Indian combination with the bronze medal.

Joshna and Senthilkumar had secured their place in the semifinals after defeating the Philippines' David Pelino and Jemyca Aribado in the quarterfinals on Friday. Their victory ensured that India would claim a medal in the mixed doubles event.

The bronze medal adds another Asian Games achievement to Joshna's decorated career. The 40-year-old has now won six Asian Games medals. Before this edition, Joshna had collected two silver medals and three bronze medals at the continental event. Her latest bronze takes her overall Asian Games medal tally to six.

For Senthilkumar, the medal adds to India's strong showing in squash at the ongoing Games. India had already secured medals in other squash events, with Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh advancing to the women's and men's singles semifinals.

Anahat reached the women's singles semifinals after defeating compatriot Tanvi Khanna in straight games, while Abhay progressed to the men's last four with a straight-game victory over Japan's Ryunosuke Tsukue.

The mixed doubles result means Joshna and Senthilkumar finish their campaign with a bronze medal after coming within one game of reaching the final. Tang Ming Hong and Lee Ka Yi will now compete for the gold medal after their hard-fought semifinal victory.

Kohli Says 2027 ODI World Cup Will Be His Last



Indian batting superstar Virat Kohli has revealed that the 2027 ODI World Cup will be his final World Cup appearance for India, saying he is determined to give everything to win the tournament.

The 37-year-old Kohli, who now plays only one format for India, made the statement in an interview with JioStar ahead of the ODI series against the West Indies. The three-match series begins on Sunday.

The 2027 ODI World Cup will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Kohli said the prospect of playing his final World Cup for India would provide additional motivation as he prepares for the tournament.

"For me, it's the last World Cup I'm going to play for India. And that is my motivation. Like, you know, to leave everything out there. And of course, the goal is absolutely to win the World Cup. And whatever it takes, I'm absolutely ready," Kohli said.

Kohli has already been part of an ODI World Cup-winning Indian team. He played under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy when India won the 2011 World Cup on home soil.

The former India captain also explained the physical and mental demands of a 50-over World Cup, particularly when the tournament is played outside India.

"Because now, it's about 10 games at a T20 level of intensity. But you are playing 2.5 T20 games in one day. And to maintain that intensity for 10 games in a big tournament and World Cup is a big deal. Also now, it's in foreign conditions. It takes a lot out of you," Kohli said.

Kohli, who will turn 38 in November, has been a central figure in India's limited-overs cricket for more than a decade. His announcement puts the 2027 tournament in focus as the final ODI World Cup of his international career.

His teammate and former India captain Rohit Sharma, 39, also spoke about his aspirations for the upcoming World Cup. Rohit said he continues to have goals while playing international cricket and is looking forward to what lies ahead.

"The thought will never cross my mind that the business I had is finished. As long as you're playing, there is always something to look forward to. And I'm looking forward to the World Cup, looking at what lies ahead for me," Rohit said.

He added that ICC tournaments present different challenges because teams encounter different opponents and venues, requiring adjustments in preparation and approach.

"When the World Cup is played, when we play an ICC tournament, it has its own unique challenge, because you face different opponents, you play at different venues. So, you have to prepare differently, think in a different way and that is the challenge," Rohit said.

Dhurandhar Out of Oscar Race



Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar, one of the biggest successes of the year, has failed to secure the jury's backing as India's official entry for the Academy Awards. The Ranveer Singh-starrer received only four votes from the jury, while the Marathi film Gondhal was selected almost unanimously.

Jury member and actress Tannishtha Chatterjee said the panel was looking for a film with a more original cinematic language while deciding India's official Oscar entry. She acknowledged Dhurandhar's popularity and commercial success but said the jury's responsibility was to consider how effectively a film could represent Indian cinema on a global platform.

"Dhurandhar is a popular film and one can't deny the fact that so many people have embraced it and there is something about that film. But when we are looking at representation from India, we look at a cinematic language which is more original," Chatterjee said.

According to Chatterjee, the jury did not find Dhurandhar's cinematic approach sufficiently distinctive. She described the film as sleek and well-made but questioned whether its style represented an original Indian cinematic language.

Chatterjee said the film draws from different cinematic styles, which she acknowledged could be a valid creative approach. However, she explained that the jury was also looking for films and filmmakers capable of presenting a distinctive cinematic identity to international audiences.

She cited Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon and filmmaker Ang Lee as an example of cinema that helped audiences discover a country's filmmaking style. She also referred to filmmaker Asghar Farhadi, saying that his work allowed international audiences to understand Iranian cinema.

The jury's decision has therefore brought attention to the difference between commercial popularity and the criteria used for selecting India's official Oscar entry. Dhurandhar's success with audiences did not translate into sufficient support from the selection panel.

Another jury member, speaking anonymously, said Dhurandhar was not considered suitable for the Oscar race. According to the jury member, the Ranveer Singh-starrer received exactly four votes. While a couple of jury members appreciated the film, the panel ultimately felt that it did not meet their expectations for an Oscar entry or represent Indian culture in the specific manner they were seeking.

The anonymous jury member also claimed that Dhurandhar appeared designed to appeal primarily to "a specific section of people". The panel, according to the jury member, instead moved towards Gondhal, which received near-unanimous support.

The decision places Gondhal in the spotlight as India's chosen representative for the international awards race. Its selection reflects the jury's stated preference for a film with a distinctive cinematic voice and an approach that could offer international audiences a particular perspective on Indian culture and cinema.

Dhurandhar, meanwhile, remains a major commercial success despite missing out on the Oscar selection. The jury's decision highlights how India's Oscar selection process considers factors beyond box-office performance, including cinematic language, cultural representation and the potential to introduce audiences worldwide to a distinctive Indian filmmaking perspective.

Jailer 2 Gets Big Telugu States Bet



Producer Naga Vamsi is reportedly making a major theatrical investment on Rajinikanth-starrer Jailer 2, acquiring the film's theatrical rights for the Telugu States at a hefty price.According to a source close to the trade, the deal is valued at around ?45 crore, excluding 18 per cent GST. With GST included, the total outlay is expected to cross ?53.10 crore. The source described the deal as one of the highest prices paid for the Telugu theatrical rights of a dubbed Tamil film.

The acquisition reflects the strong expectations surrounding Rajinikanth's market in the Telugu States. The first Jailer, directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, performed strongly beyond Tamil Nadu and demonstrated the Superstar's ability to attract audiences in Telugu-speaking markets.Jailer 2 has consequently been placed at a high theatrical valuation even before its release. With the Telugu States and overseas rights together reportedly crossing the ?90-crore mark, trade expectations for the sequel have increased significantly.Jailer 2 is directed by Nelson Dilipkumar and is scheduled to release on October 15. The film is positioned as one of the major releases of the festive season and will carry considerable expectations following the commercial performance of the first instalment.The Telugu market will also witness a notable release clash. Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna-starrer Ranabaali, backed by Mythri Movie Makers, is scheduled to arrive on October 16, just a day after Jailer 2.The back-to-back releases are expected to make the festive weekend highly competitive at the Telugu box office. Both films will be seeking substantial audience attention and screen space during the holiday period.For Naga Vamsi, the Jailer 2 acquisition represents a sizeable theatrical commitment. The film's opening and sustained audience response in the Telugu States will be closely watched, as its performance will determine how effectively the distributor can recover the significant investment made for the rights.With Rajinikanth's established following, the success of the first Jailer and the sequel's high pre-release valuation, Jailer 2 has emerged as one of the key theatrical bets in the Telugu market this festive season.

Sai Pallavi Yet to Be Confirmed for Kalki 2

Speculation continues over Sai Pallavi's possible inclusion in Kalki 2, but the makers are yet to officially confirm her presence in the much-awaited sequel. Meanwhile, the Nag Ashwin directorial is expected to move into its next phase of production, with shooting likely to begin in October.

According to a source close to the development, Sai Pallavi's involvement remains important to the film. "The makers may make an official announcement about Sai Pallavi in October. Until then, they are expected to proceed with the portions involving the other actors," the source said.



The sequel will expand the world created by Nag Ashwin for the Prabhas-starrer sci-fi mythological franchise. Produced by Ashwini Dutt under the Vyjayanthi Movies banner, Kalki 2 will bring back Prabhas, while Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan are also expected to reprise their important roles.The first instalment, Kalki 2898 AD, emerged as a major commercial success and received widespread appreciation for its ambitious world-building, visual scale and futuristic take on mythology. The film also won National Awards, further increasing expectations surrounding the sequel.

Following the success of the first film, Nag Ashwin has reportedly been taking considerable time to develop the story and expand the fictional universe. Kalki 2 is expected to be mounted on a much larger scale, with the filmmaker planning an extensive production schedule.Prabhas and the other principal actors are expected to begin shooting their portions from October. The production team is currently aiming to complete the shoot by mid-2027, setting the stage for one of the most ambitious sequels in Indian cinema.

The uncertainty surrounding Sai Pallavi's participation is therefore likely to continue until the makers make an official announcement. Until then, the production is expected to move ahead with the portions involving the confirmed cast members.



Flops Put Tollywood Beauties Under Pressure

Success in the film industry can often determine how long a heroine remains in the spotlight. While glamour, screen presence and talent help actresses attract attention, a string of failures can quickly affect the flow of opportunities. Recent examples of actresses such as Krithi Shetty, Sreeleela and Bhagyashri Borse highlight how unpredictable the journey can be.

Krithi Shetty made a striking entry into Telugu cinema. Her debut film became a major commercial success, and she soon established herself as a promising young heroine. She went on to achieve a rare hat-trick of successful films, creating considerable excitement around her career. At that stage, she appeared to have secured a strong position in the industry.However, a series of subsequent films failed to repeat the success of her early outings. Her opportunities in Telugu cinema gradually declined, and she has since been seen less frequently in the industry. Her career trajectory illustrates how quickly the fortunes of a heroine can change after a few unsuccessful films.Sreeleela also experienced a similar phase. After a string of successful appearances, she became one of the most sought-after young actresses in Telugu cinema. Her energetic screen presence and popularity among younger audiences helped her secure several major projects.However, the momentum eventually slowed as some of her films failed at the box office. The change in fortunes also affected the pace at which she was receiving opportunities, showing the importance of consistent commercial success in the industry.Bhagyashri Borse emerged as another promising actress who attracted attention with her appearance and screen presence. Her expressive eyes and glamorous image quickly created interest among audiences, particularly among younger viewers. Expectations surrounding her career grew after her entry into Telugu cinema.Yet success has remained elusive, with her projects not delivering the expected commercial impact. Like several other young actresses, she has also looked towards films in other languages as opportunities in Telugu cinema fluctuate.The changing fortunes of these actresses underline the highly competitive nature of the film industry. Earlier generations of heroines often remained relevant for several years, but the current market has become increasingly dependent on the immediate commercial performance of films.For actresses, maintaining a steady run is therefore challenging even when they possess glamour, talent and a strong fan following. A few successful films can transform a career, while consecutive failures can significantly reduce opportunities.The journeys of Krithi Shetty, Sreeleela and Bhagyashri Borse show how success and opportunities can fluctuate rapidly in the current film industry, where every new release can have a major impact on an actress's career.

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