



Ajay Kumar Reddy
Seeks Support for
Blind Cricketers



Undavalli, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Former captain of the Indian blind cricket team and Arjuna Award recipient Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy met Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh at his residence in Undavalli on Monday and sought government support for blind cricketers in Andhra Pradesh. Ajay Kumar Reddy, who has led the Indian team to three World Cup victories, appealed to the government to provide incentives to players from the state who had represented the national team. He also sought a dedicated sports ground for blind cricketers to facilitate regular training and tournaments. Lokesh responded positively and assured him that he would personally take the initiative to extend all possible support to blind cricketers. AP Blind Cricket Association Secretary G Ravindra Babu also participated in the meeting.

Vijayawada Utsav 2.0
to Showcase City's
Cultural Grandeur



Vijayawada, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada is set to turn into a vibrant cultural and tourism destination during the Dasara season, with Vijayawada Utsav 2.0 scheduled from Oct 11 to 20. The 10-day festival is being planned alongside the city's Dasara celebrations to showcase its cultural, spiritual and historical heritage. Tourism and Culture Minister Kandula Durgesh said events such as Vijayawada Utsav would not only provide entertainment to the public but also generate economic activity for local communities, including autorickshaw drivers, small traders and artisans. Speaking at the curtain-raiser programme at Dr BR Ambedkar Kala Vedita on Monday, Durgesh said the festival would provide a platform for folk arts such as leather puppetry, Dappu and Thappeta Gullu, besides encouraging artists and promoting tourism. Health Minister, NTR District incharge Minister Satya Kumar Yadav highlighted Vijayawada's historical and spiritual importance and said tourism growth would contribute to the local economy and district-level economic activity. MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) said cultural programmes would be organised at venues including Punnami Ghat and Makineni Basavapurnaiah Stadium. He said a National SARAS Mela would also be held at Punnami Ghat from Oct 8 to 23, featuring 650 stalls showcasing products made by women from DWCRA and self-help groups. Chinni appealed to residents and business establishments to decorate their premises and extend hospitality to devotees visiting the city during Dasara. The organisers said Vijayawada Utsav 2.0 would build on last year's festival and seek to strengthen the city's identity as a cultural and tourism destination.

AP Approves
Social Media
Influencer Policy

Amaravati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Government has approved a new policy to identify, verify and empanel credible social media influencers for promoting government welfare schemes, developmental programmes and public-awareness campaigns. The General Administration (I&PR) Department issued G.O.Ms.No.197 on Sep 28, approving the "Empanelment of Social Media Influencers (SMIs) Policy for the State of Andhra Pradesh" with immediate effect. According to the order, the Andhra Pradesh Digital Corporation Limited (APDCL) held structured engagement meetings with social media content creators from across the State to formalise collaboration between the government and digital creators. The APDCL Board, at its 26th meeting, discussed and approved the proposal, which includes a comprehensive code of conduct, grievance redressal mechanism and provisions for suspension or cancellation of empanelment in cases of non-compliance. The government said the policy would facilitate the identification and verification of credible influencers to amplify official communication on welfare schemes and development initiatives. The Managing Director of APDCL has been directed to take further action.



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AP EXPANDS CARDIAC CARE TO BRING
HEART TREATMENT CLOSER TO THE POOR

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

For a poor patient suffering a sudden cardiac emergency, the distance between a government hospital and a specialised cardiac centre can determine how quickly treatment begins. In many cases, every minute matters, making access to advanced heart-care facilities as important as the treatment itself. The state is now seeking to narrow that gap by expanding cardiac infrastructure in government hospitals, adding specialised equipment and strengthening emergency care services. The effort is aimed at making costly heart procedures available closer to patients, particularly those who may otherwise struggle to afford treatment in private hospitals. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said the government was strengthening cardiac-care facilities across the State and taking steps to ensure that poor patients receive timely treatment. He said new cath labs were being established at Tirupati, Nellore and Srikakulam at a cost of RS.18 crore. The State currently has eight cath labs, including five in government hospitals and three under the public-private partnership model. The cath lab at Kakinada Government General Hospital has also been modernised under the PPP model. The government



is also expanding facilities for complex cardiac procedures. Four heart-lung machines have been provided to hospitals in Tirupati, Kadapa, Anantapur and Guntur at a cost of RS.10 crore, while another machine was provided to King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam through CSR support. About RS.6 crore has been spent on 2D Echo and other cardiac equipment. Open-heart surgeries are expected to begin soon at Anantapur. At Kakinada, a 50,000-square-foot heart centre is being developed to strengthen specialised treatment.

The scale of demand highlights the importance of these investments. Across 10 government heart-care centres, 4,48,863 outpatients and 27,024 inpatients were treated during 2024-25 and 2025-26. The centres performed 4,724 angioplasties, 14,320 angiograms, 359 bypass surgeries and 111 valve replacements. Since April 2025, more than 14,500 cardiac services have been provided. Under NTR Vaidya Seva, free cardiac treatment worth RS.1,767.79 crore has been provided since 2024, including RS.323 crore allocated during 2026-27.

Between September 2025 and August 2026, 1,41,934 treatment approvals were issued. The State has also expanded emergency treatment for heart attacks under the STEMI programme. As many as 5,111 patients received Tenecteplase between June 2024 and September 25, 2026, with a reported survival rate of 95.69 per cent. With World Heart Day being observed on Sep 29, the focus is not merely on adding equipment but on ensuring that advanced cardiac care reaches patients before a medical emergency turns into a tragedy.

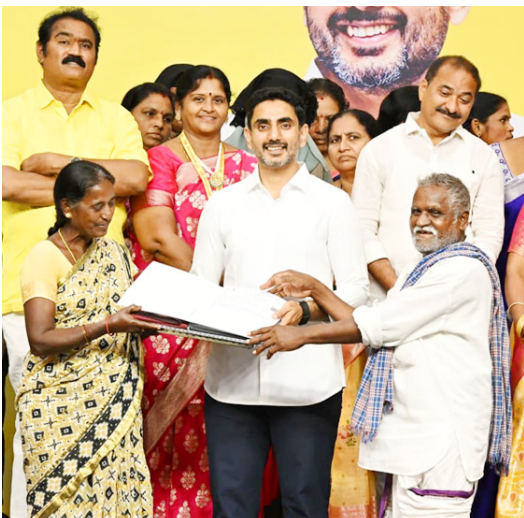
Lokesh Says Mangalagiri
Development Is His Top Priority



Mangalagiri, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

"The people of Mangalagiri have embraced me with great affection and ensured my victory with a majority of 91,000 votes. This has increased my responsibility," said HRD and IT Minister and Mangalagiri MLA Nara Lokesh. Participating in the 'Mana Illu - Mana Lokesh' programme at Kunchanapalli on Monday, Lokesh distributed permanent property title deeds to another 372 beneficiaries. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "I will remain constantly accessible to the people and attend to their difficulties. It would be enough for me if, three or four hundred years from now, people

speak of how Nara Lokesh developed Mangalagiri." The latest distribution takes the total number of beneficiaries covered under the initiative to 6,008, following earlier distributions to 3,002 and 2,634 beneficiaries. Lokesh said nearly 80 per cent of the pending property-rights issues in the constituency had been resolved, while consultations were continuing on land issues involving the Centre. The first two phases provided free permanent titles covering properties estimated at RS.2,000 crore. Beneficiaries expressed happiness over receiving legal ownership documents



after decades of uncertainty. Y Jesu Prasada Rao of Christian Peta said, "We have lived here for 50 years and never imagined receiving a permanent title deed." Isukapalli Prasad said, "We have lived in Christian Peta for over 60 years. Receiving the patta without registration charges has fulfilled our dream." Dasari Mariyadasu said the title would help his family access loans against the property, adding that they had earlier faced difficulties due to the absence of ownership documents. The beneficiaries thanked Lokesh for resolving long-pending land issues and providing the titles free of cost.

AP TIGHTENS MONITORING OF AQUA
UNITS OVER WASTE POLLUTION

Chaitanya Venkata Dasari

Untreated waste from aqua processing units is raising concerns over the quality of rivers, canals, estuaries and groundwater, prompting the Andhra Pradesh government to intensify monitoring of processing and pre-processing units across the State. Deputy Chief Minister and Environment and Forests Minister Pawan Kalyan directed officials to strictly enforce environmental standards and take preventive measures to protect water resources. He stressed the need for regular inspections and testing to identify pollution at its source. Officials of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) informed him that 119 aqua processing units and 12 pre-processing units are currently operating in the State. Following inspections, sam-



ples collected from 82 units showed deviations in parameters including pH, floating solid waste and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). Show-cause notices have been issued to 10 units found violating prescribed standards, giving them two weeks to submit explanations and undertake corrective measures. Officials said regulatory action under environmental laws would be initiated against units that continue to violate norms. Pawan Kalyan said high BOD levels in wastewater could reduce dissolved oxygen and damage aquatic ecosystems, particularly fish stocks. Elevated Total Suspended Solids and abnormal pH levels could also affect aquatic habitats and water quality. He said deteriorating water quality could affect livelihoods dependent on fisheries, agriculture and animal



husbandry, besides posing risks to public health. The Minister directed officials to regularly collect and test samples and ensure corrective measures are sustained. He said the objective was to ensure aqua units comply with environmental standards while preventing pollution of water bodies.



Pawan Kalyan Orders
Constant Vigilance Over
Elephant Movements

Amaravati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

With an elephant herd roaming near Padiputlabailu in Chittoor district for nearly two weeks, Deputy Chief Minister and Forest Minister Pawan Kalyan has directed officials to maintain round-the-clock surveillance and take proactive measures to prevent human-elephant conflicts. The movement has caused concern among residents and farmers in nearby villages, with the elephants damaging crops in Pundlavallapalli, Nadimpalli and Kondakindapalli. A herd of 11 elephants and two others that strayed from the group have been moving through the area. The main herd has reportedly crossed the road and entered the Mangalampeta beat, while the two elephants are moving towards Chittoor. Reviewing the situation with Forest Department officials on Monday, Pawan Kalyan stressed that public safety should remain the priority. He directed officials to make arrangements to safely divert the

elephants back into forest areas and deploy trained 'Kumki' elephants from the Musalamadugu camp for the operation. "Constant vigilance is essential. The movement of elephants must be continuously monitored through coordination among the Police, Revenue, Electricity and other departments, along with Hanuman teams," he said. He instructed field teams to continuously track elephant movements and alert residents of vulnerable villages based on their location. Officials have also been directed to take all precautions to prevent casualties and protect crops. The Minister said coordinated action was necessary to ensure public safety while conserving wildlife. He also directed officials to arrange immediate compensation for farmers who suffered crop losses. Officials said elephant movements could pose a potential threat to residents of Pakala, Pulicherla and Chandragiri mandals and called for heightened vigilance in the affected areas.

Govt Ready to Address
Feasible Demands
of Swarna Employees

Amaravati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

The state government is prepared to address the feasible demands of Swarna Gramam and Swarna Ward employees, while urging them to raise their grievances through established channels, Social Welfare Minister Dola Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy said on Monday. Speaking to the media at the Secretariat, the Minister said the government had already taken several measures to improve the service conditions of the employees. He said promotions had been granted to 14,331 employees across 18 cadres, while another 800 employees under the Municipal Administration Department were being promoted. He said the government had decided to implement the Automatic Advancement Scheme for eligible employees despite an additional financial burden of about RS.150 crore. The scheme would benefit around 1.14 lakh employees who completed six years of service in a single post. Secretary of the IT and Swarna Gramam/Swarna Ward Department Katamaneni Bhaskar said G.O. No. 7 was issued on Sep 21 for implementing the scheme. Promotion guidelines for Engineering Assistant and Welfare



Assistant cadres were also being finalised and were expected within three weeks. The government has introduced an automatic casual leave approval facility under which leave applications would be deemed approved if the competent authority failed to act within 24 hours. District-level committees and monthly grievance cells have also been established to address work-related issues. Bhaskar said employees were entitled to earned leave, other eligible benefits and increments. Death benefits would be extended to eligible families within three months, while compassionate appointments had been provided to 121 persons. The Minister said the government was examining the demand for notional increments and had referred the matter to the Finance Department. He urged employees to cooperate with the administration in improving public services.

Five New Fire Stations
Inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh

Vizianagaram, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha said the State's disaster management system was being strengthened by modernising fire stations, providing advanced training to personnel and equipping the Fire Services Department with modern fire-fighting equipment. She inaugurated the newly constructed fire station building at the Vizianagaram district headquarters on Monday and inspected firefighting equipment displayed by the department. Fire stations at Pusapatirega and Bobbili were inaugurated by the respective MLAs, while facilities at Sompeta in Srikakulam district and Palakonda in Parvathipuram Manyam district were inaugurated virtually. The five stations were built at a combined cost of RS.7.75 crore. Anitha said the government's objective was to establish fire stations in every constituency and improve the department's capacity to respond to emergencies. She praised fire and police personnel for continuing rescue and relief operations during disasters despite risks to their own



safety. She said modern training was being provided to personnel to improve coordination with the National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force. She also said new fire engines had been launched and additional equipment was being provided to strengthen emergency response. Anitha said the State was effectively utilising funds provided by the Centre for modernisation of fire services. She added that steps were also being taken to establish a specialised cybercrime prevention unit by providing modern training to personnel. District Collector S Ramsundar Reddy, MP Kalisetti Appalanaidu, MLC Gade Srinivasulu Naidu, MLAs and senior Fire Services officials participated.

Three Municipal
Commissioners Transferred

Amaravati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Government has ordered the transfer and posting of three Municipal Commissioners on administrative grounds with immediate effect. According to G.O.Rt.No.1213 issued by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department on Sep 28, B. Sankara Rao, currently working as Superintendent in the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC), has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Salur against an existing vacancy. N. Surendra, Manager Category-III of

Kavali Municipality and presently holding Full Additional Charge (FAC) as Municipal Commissioner of Gooty, has been posted as the Municipal Commissioner of Gooty against the existing vacancy. D. Rambabu, District Level Development Officer (DLDO) in the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, has been posted as Municipal Commissioner of Sattenapalli on deputation for an initial period of one year. The orders were issued following the recommendations of the Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration, Andhra Pradesh.

Alliance Govt Key to AP's Water Security Says Nimmala Ramanaidu

Cheemakurthi, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Ensuring water reaches remote and drought-prone areas remains a major challenge for the state, with irrigation infrastructure and reservoir management playing a crucial role in securing drinking and farm water supplies. Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said the alliance government was focusing on strengthening the irrigation sector and completing pending projects. Participating in a Jala Harathi programme at the Karumanchi Major Canal in Cheemakurthi on Monday, Ramanaidu said the supply of drinking water to Cheemakurthi despite difficult weather conditions reflected the importance of long-term water management. He said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had taken measures to maintain minimum



reservoir levels while ensuring drinking water supply. The Minister said RS.3,850

crore had been spent on the Handri-Neeva project, enabling Krishna water to

be carried over 728 km. He said the Veligonda project was completed after decades of delay with an expenditure of RS.2,200 crore, while Godavari water was taken to North Andhra through the Polavaram Left Main Canal. Ramanaidu said the government had spent RS.1,320 crore on operation and maintenance works in two years, compared with RS.200 crore during the previous five years, according to his statement. He said the Karumanchi Major Canal was restored with RS.2.65 crore from the District Mineral Fund after damage disrupted irrigation to around 16,000 acres. The Minister said the government's priority was to complete irrigation projects and ensure water for farmers and drinking water needs. He also appreciated NRI Seshayya for contributing RS.25 lakh towards canal works.

Seven IAS Probationers Posted as Sub-Collectors in AP

Amaravati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Seven IAS probationers of the 2024 batch have been posted as Sub-Collectors in various sub-divisions of Andhra Pradesh on completion of their Phase-II training. Sandeep Raghu Vamsi has been posted as Sub-Collector, Tenali Sub-Division, Guntur district, while Kanala Chiranjeevi Naga Venkat Sahith has been posted as Sub-Collector, Paderu Sub-Division, Alluri Sitharama Raju district. Donaka Prudhvi Raj Kumar has been posted as Sub-Collector, Rampachodavaram Sub-Division, Polavaram district. Chittapuli Narendra Padal has been posted as Sub-Collector, Chintoor Sub-Division, Polavaram district, relieving Shubham Nokhwal of the full additional charge of the post. Sachin Rahar has been posted as Sub-Collector, Parvathipuram Sub-Division, Parvathipuram Manyam district, while Fareen Zahed has been posted as Sub-Collector, Penukonda Sub-Division, Ananthapuramu district. Manisha has been posted as Sub-Collector, Nandyal Sub-Division, Nandyal district. Meanwhile, Shubham Nokhwal, who was serving as Project Officer, ITDA, Chintoor, Polavaram district, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Collector, Rajamahendravaram Sub-Division, East Godavari district. The Deputy Collectors/Revenue Divisional Officers of the concerned sub-divisions have been directed to report to the General Administration Department.

2,405 Km of Roads Damaged by Depression, Restoration Soon

Amaravati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

As heavy rains triggered by the severe depression disrupted road connectivity across Andhra Pradesh, the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department has begun restoration measures on a war footing, with 2,405 km of roads reported damaged across the State. R&B Minister BC Janardhan Reddy said all damaged roads would be restored soon and assured that necessary precautionary and relief measures were taken on the directions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. He said he had been continuously reviewing the situation with senior officials and kept field-level machinery on high alert. Srikakulam was the worst affected district, accounting for 412 km of damaged roads. Road washouts were reported at 36 locations and breaches at nine locations, with temporary restoration works completed to maintain transportation. Of the 187 locations where cross-drainage works were damaged, restoration had been taken up at 169 places. The Minister said fallen trees blocking



roads at 254 locations had been cleared completely, while traffic disruptions at 103 locations were addressed by field staff to facilitate movement. According to preliminary estimates, RS.162.09 crore would be required for temporary restoration and RS.1,336.83 crore for permanent restoration. The total estimated expenditure for restoring roads damaged by the depression stands at RS.1,498.30 crore. Janardhan Reddy appreciated R&B field officers and staff for their prompt response and efforts during the adverse weather conditions.

220 kV Power Station Inaugurated

Kaikalur, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

A 220/33 kV power station constructed at a cost of about RS.55 crore at Gopavaram village in Kaikalur mandal was inaugurated on Monday. Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar inaugurated the facility, while Kaikalur MLA Kamineni Srinivas led the programme. Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Kanumuri Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, MLC Jayamangala Venkataramana, Joint Collector Abhishek Goud, Electricity Department officials, NDA leaders, farmers and public representatives attended the event. Kamineni Srinivas said Kaikalur had emerged as an important aquaculture centre where uninterrupted power supply was essential. He recalled that more than 1,600 transformers worth around RS.100 crore had been provided free of cost to farmers during his earlier tenure as a minister. He said five substations had been sanc-



tioned for the constituency. The Kondangi 33/11 kV substation was inaugurated on Sep 21, while another at Chinnatadinada village would be inaugurated in about 45 days. Bhoomi Puja for substations at Vaivaka and Penchikalamarru would also be held soon. Srinivas said power was being supplied to the aquaculture sector at a subsidised rate of RS.1.50 per unit. The Gopavaram facility is the second-largest substation in Eluru district, according to officials. Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju praised Kamineni Srinivas for his efforts in securing development funds for Kaikalur.

Army Havildar Kishan Dies in Arunachal Pradesh Accident

Besthavaripeta, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Havildar Kuvvarapu Kishan (35), a native of Pandillapalli village in Besthavaripeta mandal of Prakasam district, died in an accident while serving in Arunachal Pradesh. Kishan had been stationed along the India-China border. Kishan joined the Army as a driver 16 years ago and was continuing his duties in Arunachal Pradesh. Army officials informed his family that he died on Sunday (Sep 27) after the vehicle he was driving lost control and overturned. His mortal remains are expected to reach Hyderabad on Tuesday night. From there, officials will transport the body to his native village, where the last rites will be performed with full military honours.



Kishan is survived by his parents, wife Sandhya and a son. News of his death has plunged Pandillapalli village into grief, with family members, relatives and villagers mourning the loss of the Army personnel.

RS.160 Crore Released for Irrigation Maintenance

Vijayawada, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said the State government has released bills worth RS.160 crore for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of canals, drains and reservoirs, and thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for the release. He said the government was restoring the irrigation system and ensuring funds for essential maintenance works. Ramanaidu said RS.1,320 crore had been sanctioned for O&M works during the past two years, compared with RS.200 crore allocated during the previous five-year YSRCP government. The Minister said

irrigation associations had been revived to encourage farmer participation in water management. He said such associations would help ensure efficient utilisation of available water, particularly during challenging conditions such as El Niño. Ramanaidu alleged that inadequate funding under the previous government affected routine maintenance, including desilting canals and repairing sluices, shutters and ropes. He said the present government was making funds available to keep irrigation infrastructure functional. He reiterated that protecting farmers' interests and ensuring irrigation security remained key priorities of the government.

Jashuva Fought for Equality Through His Pen Says Durgesh



Vijayawada, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

"Gurram Jashuva was a towering figure

who fought against social inequalities with his pen and gave a voice to the self-respect of marginalised communities

through his literature," said Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh. He was speaking at the 131st birth anniversary celebrations of Padma Bhushan awardee and Kavisamrat Gurram Jashuva, held at Pingali Venkayya Hall in the Vijayawada Collectorate on Monday. The event was organised by the State Creativity and Culture Commission, with Durgesh attending as chief guest and paying floral tributes to Jashuva's portrait. The Minister said Jashuva infused social consciousness into the era of Bhavakavitvam and used poetry to question untouchability, inequality and other social evils. He said works such as Gabbilam and Firdausi reflected Jashuva's concern for human rights and equality. As part of the celebrations, the Kavisamrat Gurram Jashuva Kavikokila Sahiti Puraskaram was presented to Shaik Karimulla, Dr

Jaladi Vijayakumari, Wilson Rao Kommavarapu and Gaddam Eswaramma for their contributions to Telugu literature. Each recipient received RS.50,000, a memento and a certificate of appreciation. Durgesh said the government was giving priority to arts, artists and poets and celebrating the birth anniversaries of eminent personalities as state festivals to pass their ideals to future generations. He also recited a poem penned by Jashuva. Theatre Academy Chairman Gummadu Gopalakrishna said Jashuva's poetry was easily understood by common people. Creative and Cultural Committee Chairperson Tejaswi Podapati said his poetry questioned discrimination and inspired social change. Language and Culture Department Director Regulla Mallikarjuna Rao, literary figures, artists and literature enthusiasts attended the programme.

Crop Loss Enumeration Must Be Completed Swiftly

Amaravati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu has directed Agriculture and Horticulture Department officials to speed up the enumeration of crop losses in cyclone-affected areas and ensure that no affected farmer is left out. Reviewing preliminary damage reports and the progress of enumeration on Monday, the Minister stressed the need for field-level verification to accurately assess the actual extent of crop losses. He directed Joint Directors, Assistant Directors and other field officers to personally visit affected areas and record details transparently. According to preliminary Horticulture Department estimates, horticultural crops were damaged across 1,734 hectares in 351 villages and 89 mandals covering 14 districts, affecting 5,777 farmers. Enumeration has so far been completed for 950 farmers covering 445 hectares, while details relating to the remaining 1,289 hectares are yet to be recorded. Agriculture Department officials reported that 1,229 villages across 190 mandals were affected, with crop damage estimated over 44,029 hectares involving 71,796 farmers. Enumeration has so far been completed for 726 farmers in 45 villages across 19 mandals. Atchannaidu directed officials to complete the exercise at the earliest and submit comprehensive district- and crop-wise loss details to the government. He emphasised accuracy and transparency in recording losses to ensure that all eligible farmers are covered.



Palle Panduga 3.0 to Be Launched in Nellore

Nellore, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Minister Ponguru Narayana reviewed arrangements for Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan's visit to Ramapuram for the launch of Palle Panduga 3.0 on Tuesday. Speaking at a meeting at Thikkana Bhavan in the Collectorate, Narayana said the programme was aimed at strengthening basic infrastructure in rural areas. He said the previous government had neglected rural development and failed to address people's needs. He said Palle Panduga 1.0 was launched in October 2024 with an outlay of RS.4,500 crore, followed by Palle Panduga 2.0 with 76,787 crore in November 2025. The third phase, with an outlay of RS.11,085 crore, will be launched at Ramapuram in Varikuntapadu mandal. The Udayagiri region was selected for the launch in view of its limited irrigation facilities. The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are scheduled to arrive at 2.15 pm, inspect completed works and lay foundation stones for new projects. Narayana said arrangements had been completed for the programme, with a large gathering expected from three districts. MLA Bhashyam Praveen, TDP observer Gurava Reddy, Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav and RDO Anusha participated.

CR Media Academy Launches Online Diploma Course in Journalism

Amaravati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

CR Media Academy Chairman Alapati Suresh Kumar inaugurated online classes for the Diploma Course in Journalism (DCJ), jointly conducted by the academy and Acharya Nagarjuna University, on Monday. Suresh Kumar said journalism should uphold citizens' fundamental rights and serve the public interest. He noted that the Constitution does not separately mention "freedom of the press", but Article 19(1)(a) guarantees freedom of speech and expression to citizens, which also applies to journalists. He urged participants to maintain professional standards and improve the credibility of journalism by prioritising accuracy, responsibility and public interest. He said the course was designed to familiarise working and aspiring journalists with professional practices and emerging trends. Course Director Prof. Bobby Vardhan, who has three decades of experience in journalism education, said the programme would strengthen reporting skills and help participants adapt to digital platforms, including home-based reporting for YouTube. CR Media Academy Secretary Tella Kasturi stressed accuracy and quality in the digital era and urged journalists not to compromise professional values. Dr K Jyothirmayi, Head of the Journalism Department at Nagarjuna University, assured participants of the university's support. Faculty members Dr J Madhu Babu, Dr G K D Prasad and Dr G Kondala Rao also wished the candidates success.

Let Us Become Partners in Mangalagiri Development Says Lokesh

Undavalli, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

"Let us all become partners in the development of Mangalagiri. We are developing the constituency comprehensively, from hospitals to burial grounds, and all the works will be completed within two years," said Education and IT Minister and Mangalagiri MLA Nara Lokesh on Monday. Speaking at his residence in Undavalli after welcoming several YSRCP leaders and activists into the Telugu Desam Party, Lokesh said Mangalagiri had always remained his top priority. He said the government was taking up works relating to underground drainage, drinking water supply and gas connections besides other development projects. Lokesh said the people of Mangalagiri had elected him with a majority of over 91,000 votes, which had increased his responsibility. He assured

that he would remain accessible to the people and work to resolve their problems. He said he wanted future generations to remember the development achieved in Mangalagiri. Former Mangalagiri Municipal Vice-Chairman and former town YSRCP president Munagala Malleswara Rao, along with his wife and former Market Yard Chairperson, joined the TDP. Former MPTC members Kallam Sanjeev Reddy, Kallam Sambi Reddy and Kallam Srinivasa Reddy from Undavalli also joined the party along with six families. Senior YSRCP leader and former special invitee to the Durga Temple Trust Board Jakkireddy Prabha kar Reddy, along with several others from Tade palli, joined the TDP. YSRCP leader Donthireddy Vinay Kumar Reddy also joined the party. Senior YSRCP leader Kattepogu Baburao from Nidamaru and Guntur



Brahmin Association Secretary Vemavarapu Narayana from Yerrabalem joined the TDP along with their supporters and families. Lokesh welcomed the new entrants by draping yellow scarves around their shoulders. TDP leaders Guthikonda Dhanunjay, Nandam Abaddaiah, Tammishetti Janaki Devi and others participated in the programme.

Anitha Reviews Alliance Preparedness for Local Body Polls

Vizianagaram, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha reviewed preparations for the upcoming local body elections at a meeting of the Parliamentary NDA alliance coordination committee at the TDP office here on Monday. The meeting discussed coordination among the TDP, Jana Sena and BJP, election preparedness and ways to take the alliance government's welfare and development programmes to the people. Anitha called upon leaders and cadres of all three parties to work together from the State level to villages. She expressed confidence that alliance candidates would be successful in the local body elections and said the development and welfare programmes being implemented under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan would be important factors in the campaign. Anitha also urged alliance leaders to counter what she described as false propaganda by the YSRCP against the government and focus on communicating its



programmes to people. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, MP Kalisetti Appalanaidu, TDP district president Kimidi Nagarjuna, BJP president Rajesh Varma, MLAs Kondru Muralimohan, Baby Naina, Aditi Gajapathi Raju and Lokam Naga Madhavi attended the meeting. AP Turpu Kapu Welfare Corporation chairperson Palavalasa Yashasvi and other alliance leaders also participated.

Lakshmi Parvathi Questions Chandrababu's Whereabouts

Tadepalli, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State General Secretary Nandamuri Lakshmi Parvathi questioned Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's whereabouts, alleging that he had been away from public view for three days while Andhra Pradesh was facing protests, drought and floods. Speaking at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli, she demanded that the Chief Minister disclose his location and explain why his tour was being kept secret. Lakshmi Parvathi said North Andhra was facing floods, farmers in Rayalaseema were suffering from drought,

unemployed youth were protesting and DSC candidates were seeking justice. She questioned Chandrababu's absence when the State was facing several issues. She alleged that he had earlier undertaken undisclosed foreign trips in the name of family tours and questioned why the Centre and intelligence agencies were not scrutinising them. She further alleged that such trips were intended to move and conceal money allegedly amassed through corruption. She contrasted this with Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's foreign visits, claiming that he disclosed travel details and obtained court permission whenever required.

She also criticised Nara Lokesh and the "yellow media" for targeting YS Jagan while remaining silent on Chandrababu's current tour. Lakshmi Parvathi alleged that investments and industries were being affected by the coalition government's "Red Book" system, corruption and alleged bribe demands. She also alleged that natural resources, including sand and hills, were being plundered and that DSC recruitment irregularities involved jobs being sold



for Rs 15 lakh. She said welfare, education and healthcare had progressed under YS Jagan and demanded complete details of Chandrababu's tour upon his return.

YSRCP Leaders Raise Concerns Over Dalit Rights

Tadepalli, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders said Dalits, poor people and other weaker sections were facing discrimination and suppression under the coalition government. They said the party would continue its struggle against what they described as anti-people policies and for the rights of marginalised communities. The leaders were speaking at the birth anniversary celebrations of Mahakavi Gurram Jashuva and revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh at the YSRCP Central Office. Party leaders and cadres paid floral tributes and recalled their contributions to social justice, equality and freedom. The leaders said the previous government led by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had focused on education, welfare, political representation, social dignity and protection for weaker

sections. They alleged that Dalits, SCs, BCs and minorities were now facing insecurity and that law and order had deteriorated, particularly affecting women and disadvantaged communities. They recalled that Jashuva used literature to oppose untouchability, caste discrimination and social injustice, while Bhagat Singh sacrificed his life at the age of 23 during the freedom struggle. They said the governments led by Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had worked for disadvantaged communities through welfare, education and political empowerment. MLC Lella Appi Reddy, former MP Nandigam Suresh, Kommuri Kanaka Rao, Gunda Surendra, Manohar Reddy, Jalla Sudarshan Reddy, Putta Siva Shankar, Nalammaru Chandrasekhar Reddy and leaders of various party wings participated.

473 Women Constables Complete Nine-Month Training

Vizianagaram, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

473 women Stipendiary Cadet Trainee (SCT) police constables completed nine months of rigorous training and will begin their duties after a passing-out parade held in Vizianagaram on Monday. Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha interacted with the newly trained constables and asked about their training experiences, challenges, and the lessons they learned during the nine-month course. The constables told the Minister that they had joined the training as ordinary women but emerged as disciplined, courageous and confident police personnel. They expressed happiness over securing government jobs and thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan for providing the employment opportunities. Anitha specially congratulated Ophelia from Ailavaram village in Bapatla district for completing the train-



ing despite difficult family circumstances. Her father has been undergoing hospital treatment for the past six months following an accident. The Minister appreciated her determination to complete the course while dealing with family responsibilities. A Congratulating all 473 women constables, Anitha urged them to discharge their duties with commitment, discipline and humanity. She asked them to keep public service at the forefront and uphold the responsibilities entrusted to them as police personnel.

Botcha Slams Govt Over Employees, Farmers' Issues

Vizianagaram, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council and former minister Botcha Satyanarayana criticised the coalition government over its handling of employees' and farmers' issues. He said the Village and Ward Secretariat system was introduced by the YSRCP government to realise Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj and provide transparent employment to educated youth. Botcha, who supervised the recruitment process as Municipal Administration Minister, alleged that the present government was not willing to discuss and resolve employees' problems. He condemned the police action against Secretariat employees participating in the statewide "Chalo Vijayawada" protest. He said around 3,000 employees were detained and 140 union leaders were taken into custody in Vijayawada. He also condemned the action against women employees and demanded immediate resolution of their demands. On agriculture, Botcha said crops in the eastern coastal belt were badly damaged after the cyclone crossed near Kalingapatnam. Banana, papaya, maize and paddy farmers suffered heavy losses, he said, adding that farmers were



still awaiting compensation for Titli cyclone losses. He said the YSRCP government had paid crop-insurance premiums and provided compensation and input subsidies within two months of disasters. He questioned whether the coalition government had compensated even one affected farmer in the past two-and-a-half years. Botcha said banana and papaya farmers invested around Rs.1 lakh per acre and maize farmers around Rs.50,000, demanding compensation based on actual losses. He also criticised what he described as police-centric governance and alleged interference in Parents Committee elections. On BC reservations, he demanded that the coalition use its position in the NDA government to secure the legal amendment needed to implement 34% reservations in local bodies.

YSRCP Employees Wing Condemns Lathi-Charge on Secretariat Staff

Tadepalli, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Employees Wing State President N. Chandrasekhar Reddy strongly condemned the police lathi-charge on Village and Ward Secretariat employees, describing it as an inhuman act. He questioned why the government was treating employees with hostility when they were demanding solutions to their legitimate problems. Chandrasekhar Reddy alleged that women employees were dragged by their hair and peaceful protesters were beaten. He said preventing employees from reaching Dharna Chowk reflected the government's intolerance towards democratic protests. Despite restrictions, thousands of Secretariat employees took

to the roads to raise their demands. He said the employees' demands were reasonable and claimed that granting notional increments was the government's responsibility. He also said their demand for Junior Assistant pay scales was being ignored, while around 30,000 employees faced possible removal in the name of rationalisation. He further alleged that Circle Inspector Ali was forcibly called back to duty while undergoing medical tests and died of a heart attack. He also held the government responsible for the death of YSRCP leader Kakumanu Rajasekhar. Chandrasekhar Reddy demanded an end to harassment and justice for employees and affected families.

YSRCP Leaders Highlight Concerns Over Dalit Rights

Tadepalli, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders alleged that Dalits, the poor and other weaker sections were facing discrimination and suppression under the coalition government. They said the party would continue to raise issues concerning weaker sections and social equality. The leaders were speaking at birth anniversary celebrations of Mahakavi Gurram Jashuva and revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh at the YSRCP Central Office. Party leaders and cadres paid floral tributes to both icons and recalled their contributions to social justice, equality and freedom. YSRCP leaders said the previous government led by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had focused on education, welfare, political representation, social dignity and protection for weaker and marginalised communities. They alleged that Dalits, SCs,

BCs and minorities were facing growing insecurity under the present government and claimed that law and order concerns were particularly affecting women and disadvantaged sections. The leaders recalled that Jashuva used literature to oppose untouchability, caste discrimination and social injustice. They also remembered Bhagat Singh, who sacrificed his life at the age of 23 during the freedom struggle against British rule. They said the governments led by Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had worked for disadvantaged communities through welfare, education and political empowerment. MLC Lella Appi Reddy, former MP Nandigam Suresh, Kommuri Kanaka Rao, Gunda Surendra, Manohar Reddy, Jalla Sudarshan Reddy, Putta Siva Shankar, Nalammaru Chandrasekhar Reddy and leaders of various party wings participated.

YS Jagan to Visit Ongole to Console Rajasekhar's Family

Tadepalli, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will visit Ongole on Sep 29 to console the family of late YSRCP Campaign Wing State President Kakumanu Rajasekhar. According to the party, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will leave his residence

in Tadepalli at 11 am and proceed to Ongole. He will visit the residence of Kakumanu Rajasekhar and meet his bereaved family members. During the visit, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will convey his condolences to the family and offer his support during

their period of grief. Party leaders said the visit was intended to stand by the family following the death of Rajasekhar. Kakumanu Rajasekhar served as the State President of the YSRCP Campaign Wing before his recent death. His death was mourned by party leaders and workers.



YSRCP Condemns Labels Against Protesting Employees

Tadepalli, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP spokesperson Putta Siva Shankar strongly condemned sections of the yellow media for allegedly insulting government employees who staged protests seeking resolution of their legitimate demands. Siva Shankar said protesting employees were described as a "blade batch" and "ganja batch" and questioned the use of such language against government staff. He said many Village and Ward Secretariat employees were highly qualified, including B.Tech, M.Tech and postgraduate degree holders, and called the remarks insulting. He questioned whether those making such comments from television studios had the courage to repeat them directly before the employees. He also asked

whether every government employee who raised concerns would be branded in such a manner. Siva Shankar pointed out that major government employees' associations had also recently conducted protests over their demands. He questioned whether the same derogatory labels would be applied to those employees as well. He demanded legal action against media organisations and individuals who allegedly insulted government employees. He also urged the government to immediately address the genuine grievances of the employees and withdraw cases registered against those who participated in the protests. He said employees should be treated with dignity and their legitimate concerns should be resolved through dialogue rather than confrontation.

Tiruchanoor Brahmotsavams to Get Tirumala-Style Illumination

Tirupati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

TTD JEO A. Sharath has directed officials to provide attractive Tirumala-style electrical illuminations for the Karthika Brahmotsavams of Tiruchanoor Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple. The Brahmotsavams will be held from Dec 5 to 14. Sharath inspected the arrangements at the temple on Monday along with officials and issued instructions to ensure that devotees have a comfortable and spiritually enriching experience. He directed the Engineering officials to make the electrical decorations more grand and attractive than those arranged last year. He said Tiruchanoor and major junctions in Tirupati should be illuminated to reflect



the grandeur of the Brahmotsavams and create a spiritual atmosphere for devotees.

The JEO reviewed ongoing development

works and instructed officials to complete them within the stipulated time. He also directed them to make advance arrangements for the smooth movement of devotees. Special attention should be given to queue lines and barricading for the Gaja Vahanam and Panchami Theertham days, when large crowds are expected. Sharath inspected the garden, entry and exit routes, Vahana Mandapam, four Mada Streets and Gate Nos. 1, 2 and 3. He instructed all departments to coordinate closely.

TTD Deputy EO Harindranath, VGO Girdhar, AVSO Srihari Rao, DE Ravishankar Reddy, Additional Health Officer Sunil Kumar, temple priest Babu Swamy and other officials participated.

Rs.7.59 Crore Development Works Launched



Nellore, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Dr. Ponguru Narayana launched development works worth Rs.7.59 crore across Nellore city on Monday. He said priority was being given to roads, central lighting, dividers, greenery, parks, fountains and sports facilities. Narayana performed Bhoomi Puja for CC roads at Pedda Masjid Centre and launched road and divider works in

Janardhan Reddy Colony. He also inaugurated greenery and beautification works beneath the Venkateswarapuram flyover and a new park at Gandhi Girijana Colony. He directed officials to complete the newly launched works within two months. The Minister donated Rs.5 lakh to the Durga Malleswara Swamy temple in Janardhan Reddy Colony.

He also announced that a modern stadium and sports complex at Nellore Polytechnic College would be launched on Oct 2. State Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Aziz said Rs.240 crore had been sanctioned for city development. Mayor Devarakonda Sujatha, Principal Rama Rao, Additional Commissioner Himabindu, Corporation SE Johnny, EE Chandrayya, Tallapaka Anuradha and Vijetha Reddy attended.

TTD Prepares for Navaratri Brahmotsavams

Tirumala, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

TTD Additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary directed officials to coordinate across departments to conduct the Navaratri Brahmotsavams successfully. He held a review meeting at the Sudharma Conference Hall in the Sri Padmavathi Guest House along with TTD JEO Prabala Gopinath and CVSO Muralikrishna. He said the Navaratri Brahmotsavams would begin 17 days after the Salakatl Brahmotsavams due to Adhikamasam. Officials reviewed feedback from the previous festival and worked to address shortcomings. With holidays expected to attract about 20 per cent more devotees, arrangements for Annaprasadam, procurement, transport and logistics were reviewed. Chowdary said priority would be given to Sarva Darshan devotees and waiting times



would be reduced wherever necessary. Security arrangements would also be strengthened, with coordination planned with district police and NDRF. Precautions would be taken in view of possible October rainfall. Officials from TTD departments, police and transport departments reviewed arrangements for Vahana Sevas, SVBC broadcasts, cultural programmes and Nada Neerajanam. Chowdary urged devotees to follow information issued through TTD's official platforms.

Woman Killed, Eight Injured in Adoni Road Accident



Adoni, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

A woman was killed and eight others were injured in a road accident near Nettekallu in Adoni of Kurnool district on Monday. The accident occurred when an auto carrying agricultural labourers collided with a two-wheeler coming from the opposite direction. According to reports, 13 women from Karwanpet and Ambedkarnagar areas of Adoni town were travelling in the auto to China Pendekal to work in cotton fields. When the vehicle reached Nettekallu, a two-wheeler approaching from the opposite direction reportedly collided with the auto.

The impact of the collision left several passengers injured. Lakshmi, who was

travelling in the auto, suffered serious injuries and died on the spot. Eight others sustained injuries in the accident.

The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Doctors reportedly said that the condition of two of the injured was critical. The remaining injured were also undergoing treatment. The accident caused concern among residents and the families of the agricultural workers. Police are expected to investigate the circumstances leading to the collision and determine the cause of the accident. The incident has once again highlighted the risks faced by agricultural labourers while travelling to nearby villages for seasonal farm work. Further details regarding the accident and the condition of the injured are awaited.

Rs.1.5 Crore Sanctioned for Tarigonda Temple Tank Restoration



Tarigonda, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has sanctioned Rs.1.5 crore for the restoration of the historic temple tank (Pushkarini) at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Tarigonda, Valmikiapuram mandal of Annamayya district.

The foundation stone was laid by TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, TUDA Chairman Dr. Dollars Diwakar Reddy and Pileru MLA Nallari Kishore Kumar Reddy. MLA Nallari Kishore Kumar Reddy welcomed B.R. Naidu, Dr. Dollars Diwakar Reddy, governing council members and alliance leaders.

Temple priests performed special rituals, offered Purna Kumbham honours and Vedic blessings before the dignitaries unveiled the foundation stone. The funds were sanctioned by TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu following the

directions of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and the initiative of MLA Nallari Kishore Kumar Reddy. The works include desilting the tank, construction of stone steps and retaining walls, provision of clean water for devotees and other modern facilities.

TUDA Chairman Dr. Dollars Diwakar Reddy said the alliance government was committed to preserving ancient temples and water bodies. He assured that the works would be completed promptly with quality and due regard for the historical and cultural heritage of the site. Madanapalle MLA Shajahan Basha, MLC Srikanth, TTD JEO Dr. A. Sarath, Board members Panabaka Lakshmi, Bhanuprakash Reddy, Shantaram and Naresh Kumar, Punganur TDP in-charge Madhusudan Naidu, alliance leaders, TTD officials and staff, temple priests and local devotees participated in the programme.

Janasena Leaders Vow to Strengthen Party

Srikalahasti, Sep 28 | TP News

Janasena constituency-level leader Middelala Hari said the party's ideology and objectives of empowering downtrodden and weaker sections would be taken to the people. Speaking at a press conference with Satravada Praveen, he said they joined Janasena voluntarily, inspired by Pawan Kalyan's ideology. Hari said efforts would be made to unite veteran party leaders and strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level ahead of local body elections. He warned that YSRCP leaders would face consequences if they harassed Janasena workers. He said Pawan Kalyan would soon address a public meeting in Srikalahasti, where several YSRCP leaders were



expected to join Janasena.

Satravada Praveen, son of former MLA Muni Ramanayya, announced his resignation from the TDP and pledged to work for Janasena. Former councillor Jaya Devan Giri, Tammineni Venkateswarlu, K.V. Ramana, Ganji Venkatesh, Bandi Ramesh, Eega Hari, Karunakar, Palasetti Narasimhulu, Bojja Prabhakar, Dhavala Giri and Challa Sudhakar attended.

MLA Calls for Coordination to Achieve Swarnandhra 2047 Goal

Sullurpeta, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

MLA Dr. Nelavala Vijayasree directed officials to implement the constituency's Vision Action Plan effectively and work towards the state government's Swarnandhra 2047 goals. She spoke at a review meeting of officials from various departments held at Sessa Sai Kalyana Mandapam in Sullurpeta on Monday. The RDO and DSP attended the meeting.

Vijayasree reviewed departmental performance and the progress of development works. She asked the DSP to strengthen law and order and ensure pub-

lic safety, particularly for women in industrial and urban areas. Revenue officials were directed to resolve land disputes and complete the re-survey process transparently. She stressed better sanitation, drain desilting, waste collection and uninterrupted drinking water supply. Officials were told to address leakages and pipeline issues promptly. Municipal officials were asked to monitor roads, drainage and streetlights.

Municipal Commissioners, Tahsildars, MPDOs, engineering officials, other department officials and public representatives participated in the meeting.

Collector Sets Deadline for Sudalagunta Sugars Dues



Tirupati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar directed Sudalagunta Sugars Unit-1, Srikalahasti, and Unit-2, Podalakuru, to clear sugarcane farmers' dues in two installments by Nov 30, 2026. He ordered management to submit a payment roadmap within a week and a notarised affidavit with a clear timeline.

At a review meeting at the Collectorate, District SP L. Subbarayudu, Joint Collector R. Govinda Rao, Nellore Assistant Cane Commissioner John Victor, factory owner Jayaram Chowdary and farmers participated.

The Collector sought unit-wise details of dues to farmers, harvesting labourers and other creditors. He said farmers' payments should receive priority and asked officials to monitor the process continuously. Management said it was exploring ?15 crore each for the two installments and would try to make the first payment by Oct 31. Management also agreed to sell 50 acres in Nellore and unencumbered land in Srikalahasti if dues remained unpaid. Additional SP Ravi Manohara Chari also participated.

Three Arrested in Woman Assault Case

Tirupati, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati West police arrested three persons for allegedly assaulting and attempting to murder K. Rajeshwari during a dispute over vacating a house. Rajeshwari lodged a complaint stating that she was attacked while alone at her residence on SBI ATM Road, Bommagunta, around 6:30 pm on Sep 27. According to the complaint, house owner A-1 Anandan, along with A-2 Suresh and A-3 Shrawan, allegedly entered the premises, threatened Rajeshwari to vacate the house and assaulted her. She alleged that her mobile phone and flower pots were damaged during the incident. She also stated that she was dragged out of the house and attacked in a manner that endangered her life. Following orders from District SP L. Subbarayudu, police investigated the



complaint and arrested the three accused. After completing legal formalities, they were produced before the court and remanded to custody. Police said a dispute over vacating the house had existed since 2023 between Anandan and Rajeshwari's husband, K. Siva Prasad. Anandan had approached the civil court, where the matter is pending until November 2026. CI Ramakrishna and Sub-Inspectors Hemadri and Venkata Subba Reddy participated in the media briefing.

Collector Calls for Wider AIDS Awareness Among Youth



Kurnool, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr A. Siri directed officials to ensure there was no negligence in resolving public grievances and to provide quality solutions to applicants within the stipulated timeframe.

Speaking at the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) meeting at the Sunayana Auditorium in the Collectorate on Monday, Dr Siri and Joint Collector Noorul Qamar received petitions from people from across the district. She instructed officials to respond promptly and issue clear endorsements with com-

plete details. She said applicants should be informed of the reasons when their grievances could not be resolved. She also directed officials to reduce cases of "re-opening" and "improper redressal" by examining complaints thoroughly and providing effective solutions while following regulations.

Later, Dr Siri called for widespread awareness programmes on AIDS prevention and control, particularly among students and youth. Speaking at a marathon organised as part of an AIDS awareness initiative, she said such programmes would help dispel myths and promote preventive measures.

Around 87 students participated in the marathon. Bashir and Venkata Bharat secured first and second places in the men's 5-km run, while Venkateswari and Ramalakshmi won the top two positions in the women's category. Dr Siri presented cash prizes to the winners.

Dig Soak Pits and Help Recharge Groundwater Commissioner M. Jayakrishna



Tirupati, September 28 (TPN Bureau):

Municipal Commissioner M. Jayakrishna urged every resident of the city to contribute to raising the groundwater level by setting up soak pits in their respective neighbourhoods. On Monday, the 'Public Grievance Redressal Forum' and the 'Dial Your Commissioner' program were held at the municipal corporation office. While 28 people submitted representations at the grievance forum, another 20 brought their issues to the Commissioner's attention via telephone. Citizens requested the development of Padmavati Park, the proper management of the Telugu Ganga water supply, the rectification of a UDS (Underground Drainage System) leakage near More Market on KT Road, and the installation of a borewell for drinking water in Satyanarayanapuram. Representations were also received regarding the inconvenience caused by flex banners in various parts of the city, as well as complaints concerning unauthorized pent-

house constructions at Garudadri Enclave in Saptagiri Nagar and the operation of a lodge within an unauthorized structure at JS Towers in Maruti Nagar. Residents requested the removal of an illegally erected shed on the road at Akkarampalli, the cleaning of the Lakshmiapuram cremation ground, and the construction of a road to the Kennedy Nagar Secretariat. They also sought attention regarding the irregular supply of Telugu Ganga water in Srinivasa Nagar, noting that they are forced to purchase water via tankers. Additionally, requests were made for repairs to drainage canals and the issuance of TDR bonds.

The Commissioner directed officials from the concerned departments to respond immediately to these representations, conduct field inspections, and resolve the issues.

Additional Commissioner Sarada Devi, Superintending Engineer Shyam Sundar, Municipal Engineers Tulasi Kumar and Gomathi and others participated in the program.

Devotees Seek Parking Fee Boards at Mukkanti Temple

Srikalahasti, Sep 28 | TP News

A large number of devotees from across the country visit the Srikalahastiswara Swamy Temple every day. Devotees arriving from Tirupati generally enter through Ponnalamma Temple, while

those coming from Nellore and Chennai reach the temple through Sannidhi Street and the Rajagopuram.

Parking fees are collected at these locations. However, devotees say there are no boards displaying the parking fee details, confusing.

They urged the Devasthanam to install clear fee charts showing charges for cars and other vehicles.

Devotees also requested that parking rules and contact numbers of Devasthanam officials be displayed at the parking areas for lodging complaints.

They stressed that receipts should be issued for every parking fee payment.

They said the Devasthanam should ensure transparency in parking operations and not consider its responsibility complete merely after awarding the parking contract.

Purandeswari Visits Dakshineswar Kali Temple, Belur Math

East Godavari, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

BJP MP Daggubati Purandeswari undertook a spiritual visit to Dakshineswar Kali Mata temple and Belur Math in West Bengal. She shared details of her visit, describing it as a peaceful journey that offered an opportunity for spiritual reflection amid her public responsibilities. At Dakshineswar Kali Mata temple, located on the banks of the Hooghly River and built by Rani Rashmoni, Purandeswari offered prayers to Kali Mata in the form of Bhavatarini. She prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people. She also visited the places associated with Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, including Panchavati, where he practised his spiritual disciplines. Later, Purandeswari visited Belur Math, the international headquarters of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. She reflected on Swami Vivekananda's message of spirituality, humanitarian service and universal brotherhood. She said the visit provided spiritual respite and renewed inspiration for public service.



Ranga Statue to Be Unveiled at Undrajavaram on Oct 1

Nidadavolu, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

A statue of late people's leader Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga will be unveiled near the Subrahmanya Swamy Temple in Undrajavaram on Oct 1. The event is expected to draw people from Undrajavaram and the Nidadavolu constituency, along with admirers of Ranga. State Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh, East Godavari District In-charge Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu and Vangaveeti

Radhakrishna, son of late Vangaveeti Ranga, will attend the unveiling ceremony as chief guests. Kandula Durgesh said Ranga was a people's leader who stood by the poor, weaker sections and marginalised communities and fought for their rights. He said Ranga worked for the welfare of the poor and raised issues related to housing sites despite holding no official position. Durgesh said Ranga had left a lasting impression on the people of Telugu-speaking regions and that his contribution continued to be remembered.

Lawyers Urged to Settle Cases Through Mediation

Ramachandrapuram, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

B.H.V. Lakshmi Kumari, Chairperson of the Ramachandrapuram Mandal Legal Services Committee and Judge of the 13th Additional District and Sessions Court, urged lawyers to cooperate in resolving cases quickly through mediation. She was speaking at a meeting with lawyers held on Monday afternoon at the Additional District Court premises. Lakshmi Kumari said 161 cases had been referred for mediation and asked the lawyers concerned to discuss the matters with their clients and extend full cooperation to reach settlements.

Senior Civil Judge M. Venkateswara Rao, Principal Junior Civil Judge Nizam Sarada, Bar Association President Kotipalli Lovaraju, Secretary Neelam Madhusudan Rao, Mandal Legal Services Committee member Boddapati Suresh Kumar, mediation lawyers S.S.B.S. Kumaraswamy and Dommalapati Satyanarayana, and panel lawyers Palivela Satyanarayana and P. Janaki attended. Lawyers D.P. Sastry, Kamoju Suryanarayana, Suram pudi Gangadharam, Kalidindi Kiran Kumar, Salagrama Srinivasa Subrahmanyam, Govardhanam Malleswara Rao and Katakam Abburam Pilla Pruthviramayya also participated.

Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy Criticises YSRCP Leader



Rajahmendravaram, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy strongly criticised a YSRCP leader over what he described as false allegations, videos and political challenges. Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Ramakrishna Reddy recalled the events of December 23, 2020, and alleged that the rival leader backed down after he accepted a challenge to take a solemn oath at the Lakshmi Ganapathi Swamy temple. He alleged that Nellima

ria Srinivasa Rao, Padala Srinivasa Reddy and Tadi Aravindam, all from Kutukuluru, were pressured to release false videos against him. He also alleged irregularities involving quarry NOCs, liquor shops and grain procurement. Ramakrishna Reddy further alleged that Srinivasa Rao was being used as a benami in a gravel business and made claims regarding government funds and bank accounts. He criticised the opposition for focusing on personal attacks instead of constituency development and said he remained focused on development works.

Adoni Janasena Leaders Meet Chillapally Srinivasa Rao



Mangalagiri, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Janasena leaders from Adoni constituency in Kurnool district met Chillapally Srinivasa Rao, chairman of APMSIDC, in-charge of Janasena Mangalagiri constituency and member of the central coordination committee for local body elections, on Monday. The meeting was held at the Janasena Party's Mangalagiri constituency office near the Mangalagiri-Tenali flyover. The leaders submitted their biodata to Srinivasa Rao, seeking party candidature for the upcoming local

body elections. They also discussed strengthening the Janasena Party in Adoni, the local political situation and preparations for the elections. Srinivasa Rao said the candidates' political experience, public connection and commitment to the party would be examined. He said the relevant details would be brought to the notice of Janasena Party President and State Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The meeting focused on candidate selection and party preparations ahead of the local body elections.

Minister Subhash Assures Support for Infant's Heart Surgery



Ramachandrapuram, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash has assured full support for the treatment of a four-month-old infant suffering from a serious congenital heart condition. He said all necessary assistance would be provided to ensure that the child receives timely treatment. Riyansi Grace, daughter of Mediseti Jeevan Kumar and Chandrika of the Chintagunta Cheruvu area near Draksharamam, was diagnosed with a hole in the heart by doctors at Andhra Hospital in Vijayawada.

Following medical examinations, doctors advised that she undergo immediate open-heart surgery. The infant's parents, who were unable to bear the expenses involved in the treatment, approached Minister Subhash seeking financial assistance. Responding to their request, the minister personally visited the hospital and met the doctors treating the child. He discussed the medical condition and arrangements required for the surgery. Subhash assured the parents that he would bear the expenses of the surgery as well as the Letter of Credit (LoC) costs. He also instructed the concerned authorities and hospital representatives to make the necessary arrangements so that the surgery could be conducted within two or three days. The parents expressed their gratitude to the minister for extending support during their difficult situation. They thanked him for responding promptly and expressed hope that their daughter would undergo successful treatment and recover soon.

Farmers Seek Action Over Spurious Maize Seeds

Eluru, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Farmers from Venkatapuram and Thimmakkapalem villages in Lingapalem mandal met the District Collector on Monday and sought action over alleged spurious maize seeds. The farmers alleged that Ponaganti Veerabhadra Rao, an organizer for CP, Syngenta and Advanta companies, sold CP-131 maize seeds for the 2024-25 Rabi season, promising yields of 3-4 tonnes per acre. However, they said the actual yield was

only 10 kg to less than one tonne per acre. Similarly, farmers alleged that Manne Prasad, an organizer for Syngenta and Advanta, sold seeds with similar yield assurances, but the crops again produced only 10 kg to one tonne per acre. Achanta Nageswara Rao, Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham, Lingapalem mandal, along with leaders Maddipati Venkateswara Rao and Bonthu Lingarao, urged the Collector to take legal action against those responsible and provide support to affected farmers.

Anganwadi Utsav Celebrates Modi's 25 Years of Public Service

Ravulapalem, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

An 'Anganwadi Utsav' was organised at the Anganwadi centre in the SC area of Ryali on Monday to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of public service. The programme was held under the supervision of Y. Arundhati, Supervisor, Ryali Sector, Atreyapuram mandal, following the directions of A. Gajalakshmi, CDPO, ICDS, Kothapeta. Speaking at the event, Arundhati explained the services provided by the Anganwadi centre, including community

Seemantham ceremonies for pregnant women and nutritious food for nursing mothers and children. She said the programmes help promote better health among beneficiaries. She also highlighted the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' activities being conducted to mark Modi's 25 years of public service, stating that they encourage a spirit of service among people. Pregnant women, nursing mothers, women, children, ICPS members G.M.S.K. Safiya, N. Sekhar and Ch. Joshi, and Anganwadi teachers participated in the programme.

Bharat Demands Action on Civic Issues



Rajahmendravaram, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

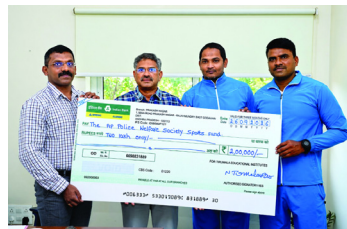
Former MP, YSRCP National Official Spokesperson and City Constituency In-charge Margani Bharat Ram demanded immediate action on key civic issues in Rajamahendravaram. Bharat, along with former MLA and former RUDA Chairman Rautu Suryaprakasa Rao, YCP Rajahmundry Parliamentary constituency in-charge Dr. Guduri Srinivas, YCP State Secretary Vasamsetti Gangadhara Rao, former corporators and party leaders, submitted a

memorandum to the Municipal Commissioner during the PGRS meeting on Monday. Bharat demanded a white paper on Godavari Pushkaram works, completion of the 30 MLD STP plant, functioning of CCTV cameras and widening of the railway station road to 80-100 feet. He also sought measures to prevent flooding and immediate distribution of housing pattas. He demanded a vigilance inquiry into ongoing development works and action against unauthorised constructions. Bharat warned that he would approach the High Court if there was no response within a week.

Tirumala Educational Institutions Support Athletes

Rajahmendravaram, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Two Andhra Pradesh constables, M. Suri Naidu and G. Sivanjaneya, have been selected to represent India at the ICF Dragon Boat World Championship to be held in China in October 2026. Following a request from Welfare & Sports DIG Amburajan, Tirumala Educational Institutions Chairman Nunna Tirumala Rao agreed to provide financial assistance to the athletes for their participation in the international championship. On Monday, a cheque for Rs.2 lakh was handed over to M. Suri Naidu and G. Sivanjaneya at the DIG's office in Mangalagiri. Tirumala Educational Institutions Director Garapati Satish Babu and DIG Amburajan presented the



financial assistance to the athletes. Satish Babu congratulated both athletes and wished them success in the championship. The initiative was taken to support the athletes in meeting expenses related to their participation in the international event. The assistance is expected to help the two constables prepare for and participate in the ICF Dragon Boat World Championship in China.

Eluru Police Trained in Life-Saving Skills

Eluru, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

On World Heart Day, a special awareness programme on Compression-Only Life Support (COLS) was conducted for Eluru district police personnel at the ASRAM Hospitals Skill Lab. Chief Cardiologist Dr. Tammiraju said police are often the first to reach road accidents, sudden cardiac arrests and other emergencies. He stressed that timely chest compressions before medical help arrives can improve the chances of saving a life. Dr. K. Hanumantha Rao, CEO of ASRAM

Hospitals, said police play an important role in providing immediate assistance during emergencies. He noted that the first few minutes after an accident or cardiac arrest are critical. S. Rajarajan, COO of ASRAM Hospitals Group, participated in the programme and encouraged the police personnel. Under the guidance of Dr. Rajesh, Head of the ASRAM Hospitals Skill Lab, practical demonstrations on COLS and basic emergency measures were provided. Eluru district police officers and staff attended the programme.

Farmers Seek Immediate Relief for Flood Losses

Eluru, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

K. Srinivas, District Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association, demanded immediate support for farmers who suffered crop losses due to Godavari floods and heavy rains. Speaking to the media at Anne Bhavan in Eluru on Monday, he said crops across thousands of acres had been damaged. Srinivas said chilli crops in Godavari riverine areas, banana crops in Nuzvid and Musunuru mandals, black gram in the Krishna Delta, and paddy, vegetables and oil palm

crops elsewhere were affected. He demanded immediate enumeration of crop losses and compensation of Rs.50,000 per acre for horticultural crops and Rs.25,000 for paddy, black gram and other food crops. He also sought crop insurance for all affected farmers and waiver of bank loans. He demanded government assistance to waive private debts of tenant and poor farmers and direct payment of compensation to affected tenant farmers. He warned of agitations if relief was not provided.

SP Reviews Security CM Visit Arrangements



Bapatla, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District SP B. Uma Maheswar inspected security arrangements ahead of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Repalle constituency on October 1. The Chief Minister is scheduled to participate in the 'Service to the Poor' programme and distribute pensions

to beneficiaries. The SP conducted the inspection along with State Minister for Revenue and Stamps & Registration Anagani Satya Prasad, CM's Program Coordinator Pendurthi Venkatesh and District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar V. The officials inspected the public meeting venue in Repalle town, the route leading to a pension beneficiary's residence and the helipad. During the field inspection, Uma Maheswar reviewed security arrangements at the helipad, public meeting venue and along the Chief Minister's convoy route. He directed the concerned police officials to ensure proper security measures and effective arrangements at all key locations for the Chief Minister's visit.

Achyuta Ramayya Says Family Committed to Public Service

Kovvuru, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Pendyala Achyuta Ramayya said his family had been serving the public and society for more than four decades since entering politics. Speaking at a press conference at the TDP office in the Kovvuru constituency, he said their political journey had been focused on public service and social welfare rather than personal gain. Achyuta Ramayya said his family had never encouraged activities aimed at personal or financial benefit. He stated that their main objective had always been to serve people and contribute to society. He said he had recently learnt that some individuals were allegedly using his name while engaging in illegal business

activities. Achyuta Ramayya made it clear that neither he nor his family had any connection with such activities and that they had never supported or encouraged unlawful businesses. He warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone involved in illegal activities while misusing his name. He also urged people to remain cautious about individuals claiming to have his support or association for unlawful activities. Achyuta Ramayya reiterated that his family had maintained a commitment to public service throughout its four-decade political journey. He said there was no question of supporting or encouraging illegal activities and clarified that those misusing his name had no connection with him or his family.

Bhagat Singh's Sacrifice Inspires Youth

Tenali, Sep 28 | TPN Bureau

AISF leaders paid tributes to freedom fighter and revolutionary hero Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary at Shivaji Chowk in Tenali on Monday. Leaders garlanded his statue and raised revolutionary slogans. AISF State leader Pasam Venkatesh said Bhagat Singh's fight against British rule and his sacrifice at the age of 23 had inspired generations. AISF leaders Maddineni Kiran Babu and Gandu Shiva Nagaraju said his slogan "Inquilab Zindabad" created awareness among people and his courage remained an inspiration for students and youth.

The leaders urged students to follow Bhagat Singh's ideals of patriotism and social responsibility. They alleged that the coalition government had failed to address several student issues and expressed concern over problems faced by students in social welfare hostels. They warned that students would join agitations if their problems were not resolved. CPI Tenali Constituency Secretary Cherukumalli Singharao, AISF Tenali Town President Secretaries Adina Kotlu and Gandikota Ravi, Constituency Vice Presidents Tanish, Sai, Praveen, Rikki, Jaipal and Dinesh, and other students participated.

Editorial

Do Not Mistake Youth Silence for Indifference

The youth may appear distracted from politics, social issues and developments around them, but it would be a mistake to interpret their silence as indifference. Today's young generation is closely observing what is happening around them. They may not immediately come onto the streets or openly express their anger, but they watch, analyse and form their own opinions. Their response often comes when an issue crosses the limits of their tolerance. Recent student protests and youth-led agitations in different parts of the country indicate that accumulated frustration cannot be ignored indefinitely. The protests in Delhi and the student unrest at Lovely Professional University (LPU) should be viewed in this broader context. Such incidents demonstrate how quickly dissatisfaction can turn into collective action when young people feel that their concerns are not being heard or addressed. The important lesson for governments, educational institutions and society is that preventive action is far better than dealing with unrest after it erupts. Social mistakes, administrative lapses and insensitive decisions may appear small at the beginning, but repeated mistakes can gradually create frustration among young people. When that frustration reaches a critical level, the reaction can be difficult to contain. There is also a need to understand that the youth of today are better informed and more connected than ever before. Social media and digital platforms allow information, opinions and grievances to spread rapidly. Therefore, institutions cannot afford to dismiss genuine concerns or assume that young people will remain silent forever. The answer is not to suppress dissent but to understand its causes. Open communication, timely corrective measures and respect for legitimate concerns can prevent tensions from reaching a dangerous stage. Youth patience should never be mistaken for acceptance. If society wants to avoid incidents like LPU, it must identify mistakes early, correct them responsibly and ensure that the voice of the younger generation is heard before frustration reaches its peak.

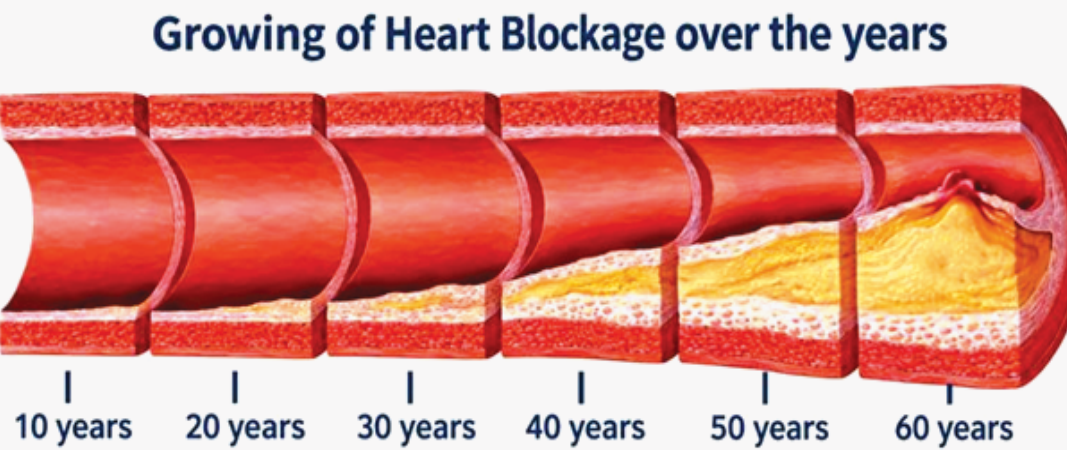
- Editor

The Silent Epidemic: Why We Cannot Afford to Miss a Beat

This year's World Heart Day arrives with an urgent theme: 'DON'T MISS A BEAT'. The campaign serves as a crucial reminder to show gratitude to our most vital organ and aims to educate the public about the hidden calamities of heart disease. Dangerous plaques can build up inside our arteries, entirely invisible, until the day they strike, causing the heart to miss a beat and abruptly ending a life. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) currently stands as the world's top killer, claiming 20.5 million lives every year, with the vast majority occurring in low- and middle-income countries. This staggering statistic equates to one CVD-related death every 1.5 seconds. Globally, 55,000 people die daily due to heart diseases; tragically, about 40,000 of these deaths are premature and entirely avoidable. When 80 per cent of CVD deaths occur prematurely, they strike during a person's peak years of personal growth, devastating families and communities. The socioeconomic impact in India is particularly severe. An estimated 55 million families in India are pushed into poverty due to the immense costs of hospitalization and the lifelong treatments required to sustain life. A recent study in Kerala highlighted that health expenditures associated with acute myocardial infarction are financially crippling for those without health insurance, a reality that represents economically growing economic challenges as a whole. Furthermore, a 2014 report by the World Economic Forum and Harvard School of Public Health estimated that India's economic losses due to CVD between 2012 and 2030 would reach US\$ 2.17 trillion. Without intervention, economic losses between 2030 and 2047 are

projected to surpass those historical estimates. The demographics of the disease are also shifting rapidly. According to the Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia, coronary disease in India is characterised by an earlier age of onset, a higher relative risk burden, higher case fatality, and increased premature deaths. Between 1990 and 2017, the percentage of total deaths in India caused by CVD jumped from 15.2 per cent to 26.6 per cent. Additionally, state-level statistics revealed a 2.3-fold

increase in the prevalence of both ischaemic heart disease and stroke between 1990 and 2016. While authorities confirm that vaccines are not linked to CVD deaths, post-COVID studies up to 2026 have yet to be fully validated for the raise of CVD deaths during this period. Caption: It is an invisible buildup that start at an early age even before 20 years for many into sedentary and stressful life and then build up and plaque your arteries to lead you for a fine day surprise. Now the heart attack cases are reported as early into 17 years of age. Food and Habits are the major



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Let Us Not Merely Remember Chakali Iamma : Let Us Put Her Ideals into Practice



her? And what did her struggle signify for the political autonomy of women? Another crucial aspect of Ailamma's legacy is the intersection of caste, class and gender. The indignity she faced as a woman from a marginalised caste cannot be explained solely by economic poverty. In the rural social order, caste-based service relations, feudal domi-

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Not Just Deficit Rainfall... Water Non-Retention Is Equally Dangerous!

From Rayalaseema to the southern districts of Telangana, changing weather patterns are hitting farmers hard this year, raising the critical question of tomorrow's water security. In some regions, it did not rain at all. Where it did rain, it poured excessively. In several other parts, clouds gathered, yet rainfall could not be sustained. In certain areas, sudden cloudburst-like downpours triggered flash floods, while hundreds of kilometers away, parched agricultural fields waited desperately for a trace of soil moisture. This is the real story of the 2026 southwest monsoon. In Andhra Pradesh, cumulative rainfall recorded between June 1 and September 25 stood at only 379 mm against the normal benchmark of 550.5 mm-translating to a statewide average deficit of 31.2%. The situation across Rayalaseema is even more alarming: against a normal average of 341.64 mm, the region recorded just 147.92 mm, marking a severe 56.7% deficit. In Telangana, as of September 24, the state's average rainfall stood at 601.6 mm against the normal 714.1 mm-a deficit of 16%. While the state overall has not witnessed conditions as acute as Rayalaseema, localized rainfall imbalances and dry spells have exerted tremendous stress on water availability.

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India Attends SCO Meeting In Pakistan

India is participating in a three-day meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) national coordinators that began on Monday, as Pakistan takes over the chairship of the grouping. India is represented at the meeting by its SCO national coordinator Alok Dimri, an additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. Reports said Dimri arrived in Islamabad earlier on Monday. The meeting comes two days after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar referred to Pakistan as a "terrorist country" during an exchange with a Pakistani journalist on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The SCO has 10 member countries - India, Pakistan, Russia, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Iran and Belarus. At the SCO summit in Bishkek on September 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a united stand against terrorism. Without naming Pakistan, Modi said member countries must send a strong message to countries that use terrorism as an instrument of policy and provide safe havens and support to terrorists. Modi also called for dismantling networks involved in financing, recruitment and radicalisation, as well as those providing safe havens to terrorists. He said there should be "no place for double standards



on terrorism". According to media reports citing Pakistan's foreign office, the national coordinators will discuss the programme for Pakistan's chairship and preparations for upcoming SCO meetings. Pakistan has identified connectivity, innovation, economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts as key priorities during its chairship, the reports said. Pakistan assumed the SCO chairship from Kyrgyzstan earlier this month and is expected to host the organisation's summit next year. India's participation in the Islamabad meeting comes amid strained relations between the two neighbouring countries, particularly over terrorism and cross-border

der security concerns. The issue of India's participation at the SCO summit next year has also remained open. Asked recently whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would attend the summit, External Affairs Ministry Secretary (West) Sibi George said a decision would be taken by the appropriate authority at the appropriate time. "Our appropriate level of participation will be decided accordingly," Sibi George said. The current meeting of national coordinators is expected to set the agenda and coordinate preparations for the SCO's forthcoming programmes and high-level meetings under Pakistan's chairship.

SC Seeks Report On Safety Of Women And Children



The Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognisance of reports of sexual offences against women and children in Delhi-NCR and sought a comprehensive report on measures being taken to ensure safety in public spaces. A bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice K. Vinod Chandran said the reported incidents raised serious questions about the response of law enforcement agencies and civil authorities. The bench referred to three alleged offences - the gang rape of a 17-year-old girl at Aastha Kunj Park in Delhi, the alleged gang rape and murder of a teenage girl in Swaroop Nagar, and the alleged sexual assault of a minor girl on a sleeper bus travelling from Greater Noida to Delhi. The court said the cases invited painful comparisons with the 2012 Nirbhaya case and raised questions over whether public safety systems had improved meaningfully since then. It sought a detailed status report on security arrangements in parks, roads, public transport, markets, areas around educational institutions and other places frequented by women and children. The report has also been asked to address whether security arrangements remain effective during peak hours, late evenings and early mornings, when visibility and public movement may be lower. The bench also sought details about the Delhi Police's use of the National Database on Sexual Offenders. It asked whether police officers regularly consult the database to check antecedents and identify repeat offenders, how frequently it has been used during investigations over the past five years, and whether information from the database is used for lawful preventive measures. According to reports placed before the court, three men allegedly posed as police personnel before sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl at Aastha Kunj Park near Kalkaji Mandir on September 21. In another case, a 16-year-old girl who boarded a sleeper bus in Greater Noida on August 4 was allegedly sexually assaulted by the driver and conductor before being abandoned near Kashmere Gate. Both accused have been arrested. A separate case involved a 17-year-old girl who was allegedly sexually assaulted and stabbed to death in Swaroop Nagar. The Supreme Court observed that the right to live with dignity and without fear of violence forms part of the constitutional guarantee of life and personal liberty. It said public spaces could not be allowed to become unsafe because of inadequate lighting, surveillance or patrolling. "Expressing solidarity is not the solution to this social evil," the bench said, stressing the need for a measurable response with responsibility and accountability fixed on authorities entrusted with crime prevention, maintenance of public order and protection of vulnerable persons. The court's directions seek a comprehensive assessment of existing safety mechanisms across Delhi-NCR and the effectiveness of measures intended to protect women and children in public places.

EPS, TVK Trade Personal Attacks Ahead Of Bypolls



Palaniswami said. The remarks drew a sharp response from the TVK. Party spokesperson M Sathya Kumar accused Palaniswami of making personal comments instead of examining why several AIADMK leaders had switched to the ruling party. Sathya Kumar said the "Dravidian party takes things personally" and claimed that Vijay had not made



personal remarks against
Opposition leaders.
He also targeted Palaniswami over
the AIADMK's electoral record fol-
lowing the death of former Chief
Minister Jayalalithaa.
"EPS hasn't won elections after
Jayalalithaa's death. That's why
AIADMK cadre switch to TVK,"
Sathya Kumar said.
The exchange comes ahead of the
October 6 bypolls to

Madurantakam and Dharapuram. The TVK has fielded two former AIADMK MLAs who resigned days after the Assembly election results and subsequently joined the ruling party. The move led to allegations of horse-trading, which the TVK has denied. The AIADMK is seeking to retain the two seats it won in the Assembly elections, making the contests important for both parties. The TVK is seeking to expand its support beyond urban areas and strengthen its presence in rural constituencies, where local and caste equations remain significant factors. The party is also seeking to portray the AIADMK as a declining political force under Palaniswami and attract its traditional voters. Vijay launched his campaign in Dharapuram last week and is scheduled to campaign there again on Wednesday. The bypoll results will also be closely watched ahead of elections to five other vacant Assembly constituencies, where by-elections are expected later.

Shah Calls for 'Zero Delay' in Counter-Terror Action

Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday called for "zero delay" in counter-terrorism operations and an "automated response mechanism" at every level of the country's PRAHAAR counter-terrorism framework.

Inaugurating a conference on policy and strategy in New Delhi, Shah also launched an extradition portal aimed at speeding up efforts to bring fugitives back to India.

The portal brings the Union home ministry, external affairs ministry, CBI and state agencies onto a common platform for handling extradition cases, sources said. It is intended to improve coordination when a fugitive is detained abroad and India needs to send an extradition request after obtaining the required court approval.

According to the home ministry, Shah called on security agencies to adopt a proactive and results-

oriented approach and continuously analyse terror incidents to strengthen the PRAHAAR strategy over the next decade. He stressed that the strategy should be implemented down to the police station level and called for greater coordination among agencies involved in counter-terrorism operations. The government unveiled PRAHAAR in February as the country's first national counter-terrorism policy. The framework identifies seven key areas - prevention, response, building domestic capacity, human rights, reducing conditions that enable terrorism, international cooperation, and recovery and resilience. Shah cited action against the Shahzad Bhatti network as an example of inter-agency cooperation. He said more than 40 modules allegedly involved in the cross-border



der smuggling of weapons, explosives and narcotics had been dismantled.

More than 100 FIRs were registered and 350 people arrested across 15 states in connection with the network, Shah said. The government has also declared the network a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The home minister asked state police forces to establish dedicated teams to coordinate with central agencies on extradition matters. He said India had brought back 288 fugitive criminals from 36 countries between 2019 and 2026. The conference was attended by the Union home and foreign secretaries, heads of central armed police forces and central police organisations, police chiefs from 15 states, and Anti-Terrorism Squad chiefs from states and Union territories. Other state police chiefs and senior officers participated virtually.

SIT Files Fresh POCSO Case Against Veeramani

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged child sexual abuse case against granite industrialist R Veeramani registered another case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on Monday following a complaint by the mother of a minor girl, police said.

The mother appeared before SIT officials on September 28 and lodged a complaint. Based on the complaint, the fresh case was registered and an investigation has been launched, Chennai city police said.

The all-women SIT was constituted following a directive from Tamil Nadu Director General of Police Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the sexual abuse case registered against Veeramani and others under the POCSO Act.

Chennai Police has appealed to members of the public to share any information, documents or evidence related to the case, or lodge complaints with the investigators. Information can be shared through phone calls or WhatsApp at 9345319676.

The police said the identity and details of informants would be



kept strictly confidential. Immediate legal action would be initiated after verification of the information, it added. Meanwhile, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has taken suo motu cognisance of allega-

tions of sexual abuse of minor girls aged between 12 and 16 years by Veeramani. The child rights panel said its fact-finding team would visit Chennai to conduct an on-ground inquiry into the allegations. The SIT is functioning under the

supervision of Chennai Commissioner of Police A Amalraj. A POCOs court on Friday extended Veeramani's judicial custody until October 9. He has been in judicial custody since August 29, and his earlier remand period was due to end on Friday. Veeramani is accused of sexually abusing minor girls. The industrialist and three others have been arrested in connection with the case. The allegations have triggered widespread concern in Tamil Nadu, with political parties and civil society groups calling for stringent action against those found responsible. The case has also led to scrutiny of the police response after allegations that authorities failed to act on a complaint made in November 2024. Following the allegations of police inaction, the Tamil Nadu government removed two senior police officers, including then Chennai Police Commissioner A Arun, from their posts and placed them on compulsory wait. The SIT has appealed to anyone with relevant information to come forward as the investigation into the allegations continues.

SC Declines To Intervene In Patan Election Petition

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to intervene at this stage in proceedings on BJP leader Vijay Baghel's election petition challenging the election of former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel from Patan in the 2023 Assembly polls. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joyimalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana indicated that the Chhattisgarh High Court could examine Bhupesh Baghel's objection that the election petition was filed beyond the prescribed time limit. Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Vivek Tankha, appearing for Bhupesh Baghel, argued that the election petition was barred by the 45-day limitation period under Section 81 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and should have been rejected at the outset. Sibal referred to an affidavit filed by Vijay Baghel and pointed out that it was dated January 22, 2024, while the 45-day period from the declaration of the election result had expired on January 17. "How will the election petition proceed when the affidavit is not filed in time? The affidavit would be to be filed in time," Sibal submitted. The Supreme Court observed that the relevant dates and their legal implications would have to be established through evidence. When Sibal argued that an objection regarding limitation could be raised at any stage, the bench questioned why the objection had not been raised earlier. "I plead guilty on that, but let not my guilt be held against me when the law is so clear. Kindly see the affidavit date. It is his affidavit. The date underneath is January 22 and the last date was January 17," Sibal said. The bench noted that the affidavit was already on record but found no grounds to interfere with the proceedings at this stage. Vijay Baghel has challenged Bhupesh Baghel's election from Patan, alleging that he violated the 48-hour campaign silence period before polling by taking out a procession in the constituency. He has sought a declaration that Bhupesh Baghel's election be declared void. The matter will continue before the Chhattisgarh High Court, where the objection concerning the limitation period can be examined.



US, China Agree on Tariff Cuts for \$30 Billion in Goods

The United States and China have announced reciprocal tariff cuts covering about \$30 billion worth of goods from each side, in a move expected to support bilateral trade and ease some of the economic tensions between the two countries. The two countries released their respective product lists on Monday, covering 1,619 US goods entering China and 77 Chinese products exported to the United States. The announcement came days after Chinese President Xi Jinping met US President Donald Trump in Washington during his first state visit to the United States since 2015. The US had already reduced tariffs on Chinese goods after Trump's duties reached as high as 145% at one point last year, as tensions between the two countries eased. China's Commerce Ministry said the agreement would strengthen trade cooperation between the world's two largest economies. More than 90% of the products covered will have tariff rates reduced to "most-

favoured-nation" levels, effectively eliminating country-specific tariffs on those goods. The Chinese list includes US agricultural commodities, personal care products, timber, medical equipment and coal. The US list covering Chinese imports includes fireworks, tableware, glass and wooden Christmas ornaments and soccer balls. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the lists focused on "non-sensitive goods on each side that could benefit from more favorable tariff treatment." He said the agreement could help secure market access for US farmers, manufacturers, businesses and workers while benefiting American consumers through imports of household goods and toys from China. Both countries said the lists could be adjusted in the future, with amendments likely to be made annually. China also said the two sides agreed to expand cooperation in agriculture through a group under the Board of Trade established in May to improve bilateral trade.



Strategically important sectors, including chips, electric vehicles and batteries, were not included in the agreement. Lynn Song, chief economist for Greater China at ING Bank, said the tariff reductions could provide a significant boost to bilateral trade. Jacob Cooke, CEO of WPIC

Marketing + Technologies in Beijing, said the deal could benefit US consumer brands, particularly those selling hair care, personal care products and infant formula. Gary Ng, senior economist at French bank Natixis, said the US list focused more on consumer goods, potentially helping reduce

US inflation while providing Chinese companies with greater access to American markets. However, some economists said the overall impact could remain limited. US exports to China were about \$68 billion during the first seven months of the year, while Chinese exports to the US reached

around \$270 billion during the first eight months, according to Prashant Bhayani, chief investment officer for Asia at BNP Paribas Wealth Management. China's trade surplus, which reached a record \$1.2 trillion last year, stood at about \$800 billion by August and is expected to remain elevated. Ecaterina Bigos, senior market strategist at BNP Paribas Asset Management, said it was on course to exceed the 2025 record. The two countries have also extended their broader trade truce from November 10 to January. Further meetings between Trump and Xi are expected at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen in November and the Group of 20 summit in Florida in December. Chinese exporters welcomed the announcement. Richard Chan of Golden Arts Gifts & Decor said the deal was positive, although its immediate impact could be limited because much of this year's Christmas merchandise had already been shipped ahead of the holiday season.

Five Arrested Near UK Air Base Over Suspected Terror Plot



Five men have been arrested near a British air base used by the United States during its war against Iran on suspicion of preparing a terrorist act involving three trucks, UK police said. London's Metropolitan Police said officers received a call at 12:45 a.m. on Sunday about three suspicious vehicles apparently travelling toward RAF Fairford. The UK-owned base is operated by the US under an agreement dating back to the Cold War. The arrests took place in the Whelford area, which borders the air base. The five men were initially detained on suspicion of offences under the Explosives Act. Police later said they were being held on suspicion of preparing a terrorist act. Authorities are investigating whether the incident could be linked to Iran, among other possibilities. RAF Fairford has been used by US bombers for limited strikes against Iranian missile sites during the conflict that began with US and Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28. Iran has previously indicated that a military base used to launch attacks against its territory could be considered a legitimate target. US President Donald Trump praised the British and American authorities involved in the arrests. "It was an amazing job. We had them under investigation. They were looking to do big damage to our fort. And working with the British worked out great," Trump told reporters in Chicago on Sunday. "We had them under view for a long time and we got them." A bomb disposal operation was launched after police feared an explosion. Sky News footage appeared to show a bomb disposal robot moving between three white trucks. The rear doors of two vehicles were open, with large black objects visible inside or nearby, while the robot appeared to be examining the third truck. Vicki Evans, the Metropolitan Police's counterterrorism policing senior national coordinator, said the investigation was in its early stages and all five men remained in custody. A 400-metre cordon was established around the vehicles while the army examined them. About 85 households were evacuated as a precaution, with some residents taken to a nearby recreation centre. The US Embassy in London advised American citizens to remain cautious and pay attention to their personal security. British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said the incident would be deeply concerning for residents. He thanked police and the armed forces for their response and residents who had left their homes during the precautionary checks. He also urged people not to speculate while authorities established the facts. The Defence Secretaries of the US and UK, Pete Hegseth and Wes Streeting, also discussed the incident. British security officials have previously accused proxies linked to Iran of involvement in arson and sabotage attempts in the UK and other countries, including incidents targeting the Jewish community. Officials have warned that Tehran could broaden its targets in Britain if conflicts in the Middle East continue. Gloucestershire police said the situation appeared to be contained and urged residents to follow official instructions. Julian Tudsbury, who has lived in Whelford for 30 years, said a resident reported seeing three suspicious vans in the village early Sunday before police arrived and ordered people to evacuate.

Iran Ready for 'Doomsday War' With US: Araghchi

Iran is prepared for the possible resumption of war with the United States but remains open to diplomacy, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi said after US President Donald Trump publicly rejected Tehran's proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. In an interview with NBC News' "Meet the Press" on Sunday, Araghchi said Iran was prepared for any new US aggression, including what he described as a "doomsday war". "We are fully prepared for the war to be resumed. We stand firm in the face of any new aggression, even if it comes to a doomsday war. We don't care about U.S. midterm elections. We care about our national interests," Araghchi said. "At the same time, we stand ready for diplomacy. It is up to President Trump to choose." Araghchi also said Trump's rejection of Iran's proposal had not been formally communicated to Tehran through designated diplomatic channels. He maintained that Iran remained willing to reopen the strategic maritime corridor as part of a negotiated settlement to end the conflict. "We want our monies, our assets,



which are illegally frozen, to be released. We want to be able to sell our oil," Araghchi said. He said the conditions were similar to those contained in a Memorandum of Understanding reached between the US and Iran in June for a temporary ceasefire, which later collapsed following reciprocal strikes. "If you ask us, there is no reason why we should go back to diplomacy," Araghchi said. "But I am still trying diplomacy because I think we shouldn't miss any chance for

peace." US Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz, speaking to "Meet the Press" before Araghchi's interview, defended Washington's rejection of the proposal. He said Iran had sought the lifting of the blockade and international sanctions, along with access to billions of dollars in frozen assets. Waltz described the proposal as a "cynical attempt" and questioned who was directing Iran's decisions. He also accused Tehran of violating previous understandings

by attacking commercial vessels in international waters. Waltz said the Trump administration remained focused on preventing nuclear proliferation and would keep all options available to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Araghchi had earlier said Iran had offered a seven-day plan to end the conflict in West Asia. Under the proposal, the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened after seven days if specified conditions were met, followed by comprehensive negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. "We have introduced a plan to the United States through the intermediaries that if certain conditions are met, the Strait of Hormuz would be open at the end of the seventh day and talks would restart," Araghchi said at the United Nations General Assembly. Trump has publicly rejected the proposal, saying Iran wanted the Strait of Hormuz reopened immediately because it was facing severe pressure. The competing positions leave diplomacy and military escalation as the two stated paths ahead, with both sides continuing to signal that further negotiations remain possible while preparing for renewed hostilities.

12 Killed, Dozens Missing After Boat Capsizes in Congo

At least 12 people were killed and dozens remained missing after a vessel carrying more than 50 traders and goods capsized on Lake Kivu in eastern Congo, authorities said on Sunday. The boat overturned on Saturday night near Idjwi Island in South Kivu province while carrying traders and their goods, according to local officials. Félix Habiragi, chief of the village of Kisheke near the accident site, said the vessel had more than 50 people on board when it capsized. About 15 people had been rescued, he said, while rescue efforts continued for those still missing. The cause of the accident was not immediately known. Muhindo Ntambuka Pascal, the local administrator, said the vessel was transporting fish traders and goods from Bwina on Idjwi Island to Boza when the accident occurred. The incident has raised renewed concerns over safety on Congo's waterways, where boats and other



vessels are widely used for transportation. Rivers and lakes serve as major transport routes in the country, particularly in areas where road infrastructure is limited. Deadly boat accidents are common in Congo, which has a population of more than 100 million people and relies heavily on its extensive network of rivers and lakes for movement of people and goods. Lake Kivu, one of Africa's Great Lakes, is shared by Congo and

neighbouring Rwanda. The lake supports fishing and trade and is an important transportation route for communities living along its shores and on its islands. Idjwi Island is one of the largest inland islands in Africa and lies in the Congolese section of Lake Kivu. Traders regularly travel between the island and mainland communities carrying fish, agricultural products and other goods. The latest accident occurred at night, when visibility and rescue

operations can be particularly difficult. Local authorities continued efforts to locate people who were still missing after the vessel capsized. The death toll could rise as search operations continue and authorities establish the number of people who were on board. Officials had not immediately provided a full passenger list or details about the condition of the rescued passengers. The accident adds to a long record of fatal boat incidents in Congo, where overloaded vessels, poor maintenance and limited safety measures have frequently been cited as contributing factors in previous disasters. Authorities are expected to investigate the circumstances surrounding the capsizing and determine how many people were aboard the vessel when it sank. Rescue teams and local residents remained involved in efforts to find those missing in the waters around Idjwi Island.

Oleshky Residents Face Deepening Humanitarian Crisis

Residents of Russian-occupied Oleshky in southern Ukraine are reportedly facing severe shortages of food, water, medicines and electricity, prompting international calls for urgent humanitarian access and the evacuation of civilians. Around 2,000 civilians, including about 50 children, are reportedly trapped in the city after food supplies ran out. A woman living in Oleshky described the desperate conditions in a message while waiting to be evacuated by Russian forces. "We're in Oleshky [and] we can't get out. We're going hungry ... Right now, I've got absolutely nothing to eat," she said. The woman



said she had lost more than 40 kilograms since the beginning of the war,

falling from 110 kilograms to 67 kilograms. She said she initially welcomed the weight loss but had become concerned that she could die without adequate protein-rich food. The house where she spent the previous winter was also destroyed and burned down, she said. Oleshky lies across the Dnipro River from Kherson and has been described by Ukrainians familiar with the situation as "a hell on earth". Ukrainian military authorities in Kherson carried out a large-scale drone airdrop of emergency food, water and medical supplies into Oleshky and surrounding areas over the weekend. The operation

followed reports that Russia had again rejected a ceasefire to allow civilians to be evacuated. The Kherson military governor's office said about four tonnes of food had been dropped at 100 locations. However, it remained unclear how much of the aid reached civilians and how much may have been intercepted by Russian forces. The Council of Europe has also called for urgent humanitarian intervention. Mic hael O'Flaherty, its Commissioner for Human Rights, said he was "alarmed by the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Oleshky". "Civilians, including children, are trapped without sufficient

food, medicines, medical care, running water or electricity," O'Flaherty said, warning that reports indicated residents faced a high risk of death. O'Flaherty said Russia, as the occupying power, has obligations under international humanitarian law to provide food, medicines and other essential supplies. He called for an immediate local ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian access and the safe evacuation of civilians. Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha also raised the situation at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. A "Save Oleshky" banner was displayed during

a Ukraine-Hungary Nations League football match on Friday. In a statement, Sybiha warned of a "humanitarian catastrophe" and called for civilians to be evacuated immediately, accusing Russia of being "the only obstacle". "Russia is deliberately making life there impossible. They are starving them to death," Sybiha said during the UN General Assembly. Sybiha later said Oleshky residents "cannot survive on statements of concern" and urged the UN and Red Cross to intervene to establish humanitarian access and safe evacuation.

India's Industrial Output Rises 8% in August

India's industrial output growth accelerated to 8 per cent in August 2026 from 7.4 per cent in the preceding month, supported by strong performance in key sectors, particularly manufacturing. The latest data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed continued momentum in industrial activity despite weakness in mining and quarrying.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded 9 per cent growth in the manufacturing sector, while electricity and gas supply posted a robust growth of 12.3 per cent. The August data is the fifth monthly IIP release under the new series.

The NSO said manufacturing had recorded growth of 8 per cent or more for three consecutive months, highlighting the sector's contribution to overall industrial expansion. However, mining and quarrying remained a drag, contracting 5.6 per cent in July compared with 15.8 per cent growth recorded a year earlier.

The IIP growth for August 2025 stood at 4.7 per cent, providing a lower base for comparison. The revised estimate for July 2026 was



7.4 per cent, higher than the earlier provisional estimate of 6.7 per cent.

For the April-August period of the current financial year, IIP growth stood at 6.7 per cent, compared with 4.2 per cent during the corresponding period a year earlier, according to the NSO data.

Within manufacturing, 18 of the 23 industry groups registered positive growth in August 2026 compared with the same month a year earlier. The three largest positive

contributors were manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, which grew 25.2 per cent; manufacture of electrical equipment, which expanded 30.9 per cent; and manufacture of other transport equipment, which recorded 25.3 per cent growth.

Within the motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers segment, trailers and semi-trailers, auto components, spares and accessories, passenger cars and commercial vehicles made significant contribu-

tions to overall growth.

The electrical equipment segment also recorded strong activity. The NSO said electrical apparatus used for switching or protecting electrical circuits, including switchgear, circuit breakers, switches, control and meter panels and their parts, contributed significantly. End-face connectors for optical fibres and cables, UPS systems and solid-state drives were among other items supporting growth.

The manufacture of other transport equipment segment was supported by two-wheelers, including motorcycles and scooters, railway rolling stock and parts, maintenance or service vehicles, and parts and accessories of motorcycles, mopeds and sidecars.

The August figures indicate that manufacturing remains a key driver of India's industrial recovery, with automotive, electrical equipment and transport-related industries contributing substantially to the expansion. However, the contraction in mining and quarrying remains an area requiring attention as overall industrial activity continues to strengthen.

Tata Trusts Propose Tata Sons Restructuring



Tata Trusts, the majority shareholder of Tata Sons Pvt., has proposed restructuring the holding company of the Tata Group by merging two of its unlisted subsidiaries into Tata Sons. The move is aimed at helping the conglomerate's principal holding company avoid a regulatory requirement to list its shares.

The proposal has been put forward by Tata Trusts, led by Noel Tata, amid an ongoing boardroom battle over the future structure of Tata Sons. Under the proposed arrangement, Tata Electronics Systems Solutions Pvt. and Tata Consulting Engineers would be folded into Tata Sons.

The restructuring would transform Tata Sons from a pure holding company into a holding-operating company, according to Tata Trusts. The trusts said this change could allow Tata Sons to avoid regulations that currently require it to be listed.

However, the proposal is not yet final. It requires a no-objection certificate from the Reserve Bank of India and approval from the Tata Sons board before it can be implemented.

Tata Sons is the principal holding company of the Tata Group and plays a central role in overseeing the conglomerate's diverse businesses. Its ownership structure includes Tata Trusts as the majority shareholder, giving the charitable trusts significant influence over strategic decisions concerning the group's holding company.

The proposed merger comes against the backdrop of regulatory requirements applicable to certain large non-banking financial companies and their holding structures. Tata Sons has been seeking to address the implications of these rules while retaining its existing corporate structure and avoiding a mandatory stock-market listing.

By bringing Tata Electronics Systems Solutions and Tata Consulting Engineers directly into Tata Sons, the proposed restructuring would give the parent company operating businesses alongside its investment and holding functions. Tata Trusts believes this altered structure would change the regulatory classification applicable to Tata Sons..

The move is significant for the wider Tata Group because any change to Tata Sons' structure could have implications for the way the conglomerate manages its investments, operating businesses and governance framework.

For now, the proposed merger remains subject to scrutiny by the central bank and Tata Sons board. The outcome of the approval process will determine whether Tata Trusts' restructuring plan can provide the group's holding company a route to avoid the listing requirement.

Gold, Silver Fall as Crude Lifts Fed Hike Bets



Gold, Silver Fall as Crude Lifts Fed Hike Bets

Gold and silver prices fell to seven-week lows on Monday as stalled US-Iran negotiations pushed crude oil prices higher, strengthened the US dollar and increased expectations of further interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve.

Gold prices declined from \$4,260 per ounce in the previous session to a low of \$4,150, while silver fell from \$64 per ounce to \$61. In the Indian market, gold was trading at around Rs 1,50,000 per 10 grams, while silver stood at Rs 2,28,000 per kg.

Ajay Kedia, MD, Kedia Commodities, said the stalled US-Iran negotiations had kept oil prices elevated and strengthened expectations of further Federal Reserve tightening. US President Donald Trump rejected Iran's latest proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, while indicating that talks could resume this week. Iran, meanwhile, maintained that it would not soften its conditions for reopening the strategic waterway.

The uncertainty surrounding the negotiations pushed Brent crude prices to \$107.20 per barrel on Monday. Higher crude prices have raised concerns over inflation and strengthened expectations that the Federal Reserve may need to maintain a tighter monetary policy.

The dollar index also climbed to around 101.1 on Monday, adding further pressure on gold and silver. Precious metals are generally affected by movements in the US currency and interest-rate expectations, as higher rates can reduce the appeal of non-yielding assets.

Several Federal Reserve officials have cited resilient economic growth and a robust labour market as reasons why additional rate hikes could be necessary. Markets are now expecting another rate increase in October as the central bank seeks to contain inflationary pressures.

The rise in crude prices could also have wider implications for global markets. Sustained higher energy costs can increase input and transportation expenses for businesses, while also putting pressure on household budgets. This could influence inflation expectations and the direction of monetary policy in major economies.

However, Kedia said the US administration could take measures to bring crude prices under control. Diesel prices are rising in the US, and with the mid-term polls approaching, Trump would have an incentive to keep fuel prices under control, according to Kedia.

He said this could increase the possibility of a ceasefire, which could subsequently cool crude prices and provide support to gold and silver.

Despite the recent decline, Kedia remains bullish on the medium- to long-term prospects of both precious metals. In the near term, if geopolitical tensions persist, gold could decline towards \$4,000 per ounce, while silver may fall to around \$58.50.

However, Kedia expects gold to reach \$4,850 and silver \$70 by the end of 2026. At those levels, domestic prices could rise to around Rs 1,70,000 per 10 grams for gold and Rs 2,48,000 per kg for silver.

Market participants are expected to closely track developments in US-Iran negotiations, crude oil movements, the US dollar and signals from Federal Reserve officials. Any easing in geopolitical tensions could reduce the immediate pressure on commodities, while prolonged uncertainty may continue to create volatility across precious metals and energy markets.

Sensex Plunges 1,124 Points, Nifty Below 22,800

Indian equity markets tumbled sharply on Monday, with the benchmark Sensex plunging 1,124 points to a six-month low and the Nifty closing below 22,800 as surging crude oil prices, West Asia tensions, weak global markets and foreign fund outflows weighed heavily on investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 1,124.02 points, or 1.52 per cent, to settle at 72,771.72, its lowest closing level since March 30, 2026. During the session, the index dropped as much as 1,179.51 points, or 1.59 per cent, to 72,716.23.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 360.25 points, or 1.56 per cent, to close at 22,780.25, also near a six-month low. As many as 47 Nifty stocks ended lower while only three advanced, reflecting broad-based selling across the market.

Analysts attributed the sell-off to rising crude prices following the stalemate between the US and Iran over reopening the Strait of Hormuz, foreign fund outflows, higher US bond yields and weakness in Asian markets. Financial stocks, PSU banks, metals, FMCG, oil and gas and auto shares came under pressure.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, 29 closed lower. Larsen & Toubro was the biggest loser, declining 2.81 per cent, followed by Power Grid at 2.62 per cent, Adani Ports at 2.38 per cent, HDFC Bank at 2.3 per cent, Hindustan Unilever at 2.27 per cent and Reliance



Industries at 2.24 per cent. Infosys was the only Sensex stock to gain. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, surged 3.81 per cent to USD 108.3 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 3,693.93 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said selling intensified as the market breached a key psychological support level amid deteriorating global macroeconomic conditions. He said the US rejection of the cease-

fire proposal had raised concerns that West Asia tensions could persist, increasing the risk of supply disruptions and higher commodity prices.

Nair also said rising US bond yields were narrowing the India-US yield spread, potentially encouraging foreign fund outflows.

Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said renewed uncertainty over US-Iran talks and the fresh rise in crude prices weighed heavily on sentiment, with selling remaining broad-based.

Hariselman Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, said higher US bond yields and persistent foreign selling added to the pressure, while banks emerged as a major domestic drag.

In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI, Japan's Nikkei 225 and Shanghai's SSE Composite ended lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng closed higher. European markets were mixed.

On Friday, the Sensex had gained 315.20 points, or 0.43 per cent, to settle at 73,895.74, while the Nifty rose 77.40 points, or 0.34 per cent.

India's Russian Crude Imports Hit Five-Month Low

India's imports of Russian crude oil fell to a five-month low in September as refiners diversified their sources amid geopolitical risks and growing pressure from the United States on buyers of Russian oil. However, the country's overall crude imports increased sharply as refinery operations strengthened, according to analytics firm Kpler.

India imported an average of 1.74 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude in September, the lowest level since April, when imports stood at 1.58 million bpd, Kpler data showed. Russian crude imports had averaged 2.02 million bpd in August and 2.65 million bpd in July.

At the same time, India's total crude imports averaged about 5.3 million bpd in September, around 600,000 bpd higher than August and about 700,000 bpd above the level recorded a year earlier.

Sumit Ritolia, senior manager (modelling) at Kpler, said the decline in Russian crude flows came as Washington continued to pressure buyers of Russian oil, prompting Indian refiners to keep their sourcing options flexible.

"Russia nevertheless remains a major component of India's crude basket, with buying decisions continuing to be driven primarily by economics, availability and refinery compatibility," Ritolia said.

He added that the latest decline did not indicate a wholesale shift away from Russian crude. However,



Indian refiners could become more cautious if the US announces unilateral punitive measures against India over purchases of Russian oil.

During the month, higher supplies from Iraq and Saudi Arabia helped offset the decline in Russian shipments. Iraq supplied around 575,000 bpd of crude in September, sharply higher than 163,000 bpd in August. Saudi Arabian supplies also increased to 566,000 bpd from 347,000 bpd.

The UAE supplied about 480,000 bpd in September, compared with 546,000 bpd in August.

Ritolia said refiners could reduce rather than completely halt Russian purchases during periods of uncertainty while assessing enforcement measures, potential waivers and the availability of alternative supplies. He said a similar pattern had been observed during earlier periods of heightened scrutiny. Improving crude movements through the Strait of Hormuz, along with ship-to-ship transfers and other logistical arrangements, have also helped Indian refiners rebuild purchases from the Middle East as regional supply availability improves.

African and Venezuelan crude shipments have additionally contributed to the diversification of India's crude basket, Kpler said. The changing supply mix highlights refiners' ability to switch between suppliers depending on relative prices, availability and geopolitical risks.

The September figures indicate that while Russian crude remains an important component of India's energy imports, refiners are maintaining flexibility in sourcing as international pressure and geopolitical uncertainties influence global oil trade.

Entrepreneur Urges People To Take Charge

Entrepreneur Jasveer Singh has sparked a discussion online after urging people to stop waiting for miracles to solve their problems and instead take responsibility for changing their circumstances. In a social media post, Singh described what he considers a major challenge among sections of India's middle-class and poor population: relying heavily on hope, prayer or miraculous intervention when facing difficulties. Singh said people often turn to fasting and prayer when they encounter problems in different areas of life. He cited examples of people praying when they are unemployed, when their businesses are struggling, when they face financial difficulties or when they are unable to find a marriage partner.

"One of the biggest problems of middle-class and poor people in India is that a large chunk of the population is waiting for a miracle," Singh wrote. He referred to people fasting for several days or praying every morning in the hope that their circumstances would improve. According to him, faith can sometimes become a substitute for actively addressing the problems people face. Singh also raised concerns about the emergence of new "babas" who claim to possess special powers or have a direct connection with God. He said some people believe such claims and give these individuals money, chadars, iPhones, gold and other items they are asked to offer. According to Singh, this kind of dependence can make people



"lethargic" because they may stop searching for practical solutions and instead wait for an invisible power to change their lives. He concluded his post with a direct message encouraging people to focus on action rather than simply waiting for an unexpected breakthrough. "You are the only miracle your life needs," Singh said. His comments triggered mixed reactions on social media, with users debating the relationship between faith, prayer and personal responsibility. One user disagreed with the criticism of belief, saying, "It's always good to believe in miracles and God." Another user responded, "You got it wrong, brother." A third user defended the role of

prayer, writing, "Praying creates positive energy and hope." The discussion reflected differing views on whether faith and practical action should be treated as alternatives or can coexist. While Singh's post focused on personal initiative and taking concrete steps to address problems, some users argued that prayer can provide hope and emotional strength during difficult periods. The entrepreneur's post ultimately centred on the importance of action, urging people facing unemployment, financial problems, business difficulties or personal challenges not to depend entirely on miracles. Instead, he encouraged them to work towards finding solutions and taking greater control of their lives.

Author Says Six Months Alone Can Help

American author Dan Koe has shared his thoughts on how spending an extended period alone can help people make significant progress in their personal and professional lives. In a post on X, Koe argued that people who want to make major progress should consider stepping away from their usual social environment and spending time in isolation. He said this period should be used to focus on building the future without being heavily influenced by friends, media or outside opinions.



"If you want to make the most progress you've ever made in your life, you need to be alone," Koe wrote. He suggested that people give themselves six months to focus on personal development. According to Koe, being alone can provide the space needed to learn new things, think deeply, experiment with different ideas and fail without constantly worrying about external judgement. "You need space to learn, think, experiment, and fail," he said. Koe's suggestion was not simply about staying away from other people. His post focused on using the time intentionally and directing attention towards areas that can influence a person's future. He advised concentrating on four areas during the six-month period: the mind, body, spirit and finances. By focusing on these aspects, he said, individuals could work on themselves while reducing distractions from their surroundings. According to Koe, dedicating six months to these areas can help a person get ahead of most people. His approach places emphasis on personal development, discipline and uninterrupted time for reflection rather than constantly responding to external influences. The author also highlighted the role of experimentation. He suggested that people need the freedom to try new things and fail as part of the learning process. A period away from social pressure, he indicated, could make it easier to explore ideas and make changes. His post drew several reactions online, with users discussing whether isolation can genuinely improve clarity and productivity. One user agreed with the general idea but offered a qualification, writing, "Isolation works, but most people mistake isolation for clarity when it's really just cutting out noise." Another user said, "Sometimes you need some time alone to reflect." "This is completely true," added a third user. The reactions reflected different experiences with spending time alone. While some users viewed solitude as an opportunity for reflection and personal growth, others pointed to the importance of distinguishing productive solitude from simply withdrawing from others. Koe's six-month suggestion ultimately focuses on creating dedicated time for self-improvement. His message encourages people to reduce distractions, examine their priorities and use the period to develop their minds, bodies, spiritual lives and finances while learning through experimentation and failure.

Man Says Travel Can Change Views On Development

Travelling abroad can offer more than new experiences and sight-seeing, as it may also influence how people view development in their own country. X user Suraj Kumar Talreja has shared his thoughts on how international travel can give Indians a different perspective on infrastructure, public services and urban planning. In a social media post, Talreja said every Indian should travel abroad at least once, not simply to experience luxury but to understand how different systems function in other countries. "Every Indian should travel abroad at least once not to experience luxury, but to gain perspective," Talreja wrote. He said travelling to other countries can make people notice aspects of everyday life that they may otherwise take for granted. These include better-planned cities, cleaner public spaces, efficient public transport, disciplined systems and infrastructure that functions effectively. According to Talreja, experiencing



such systems firsthand can encourage people to look at development from a broader perspective. Instead of measuring progress only through income or economic growth, he suggested that people should also consider how effectively cities and public institutions serve residents.

Talreja argued that development is not necessarily about having more money. In his view, it also involves how resources are planned and used, how priorities are decided, how projects are executed and how systems are held accountable. "It's about planning, priorities, execution and accountability," he wrote. His post suggested that international travel can sometimes encourage people to compare the systems they encounter abroad with those they experience at home. Such comparisons may highlight both differences and areas where improvements could be considered. Talreja also stressed that travelling abroad should not be viewed only as an opportunity for luxury or leisure. He presented it as a way of gaining exposure to different approaches to urban development and public infrastructure. "Travel doesn't just show you the world. Sometimes, it shows you what India could be doing better," he said. The post prompted discussion

about the role of international exposure in shaping people's understanding of development. Travellers may encounter different standards of public transport, cleanliness, city planning and civic services, which can influence how they assess similar facilities in their own surroundings. At the same time, experiences in one country do not necessarily provide a complete picture of another country's circumstances. Development is influenced by population, geography, resources, governance structures and historical factors. Talreja's central argument, however, was that seeing different systems firsthand can broaden people's perspective. For him, travel is not only about discovering new places but also about observing how societies organise public spaces, infrastructure and everyday services. His post concluded with the idea that exposure to other countries can encourage people to think about what improvements could be possible in India.

Indian Woman Shows Rs 45,000 Dubai Room

An Indian woman living in Dubai has shared a glimpse of her tiny rented room, revealing that she pays around Rs 45,000 every month for the space and saying the same amount could get a 3 BHK home in many parts of India. Sakshi shared a video on Instagram showing her living space and explaining the difference between rental costs in Dubai and India. She described the room as a "tiny little box" and said she had been living there for the past year. According to Sakshi, she is now preparing to move to another room of a similar size. While the size of the accommodation will remain almost the same, she said the main difference will be the surroundings. "The environment and atmosphere would change, along with the neighbours," she explained, while noting that the new room would still be similar in size to the one

she currently occupies. Sakshi said people living in India or other countries could be surprised to learn that she spends around Rs 45,000 every month on such a small room in Dubai. Her video highlighted the high cost of accommodation in the city, particularly when compared with rental options available in several Indian locations. Sakshi also made a direct comparison with the Indian housing market. She said that a monthly rent of Rs 45,000 could be enough to rent a 3 BHK flat in many places in India. The comparison prompted attention online as viewers looked at the difference in housing costs between Dubai and Indian cities. In the caption accompanying her video, Sakshi recalled that she had spent a year living in the small room and was now moving into another room that was similarly sized. "At least I will get a new area," she



said, highlighting the change in surroundings as one of the main benefits of moving. She also repeated her observation that people in India could get a 3 BHK accommodation for the same amount of money. The video offered a personal account of the rental realities faced by an Indian expatriate in Dubai. Rather than focusing only on the size of the room, Sakshi's

comparison drew attention to how the same monthly housing budget can provide very different types of accommodation depending on the location. For Sakshi, the move means leaving behind a room she has occupied for a year and starting again in another similarly sized space. Although the new accommodation will not provide significantly more room, she expects a different neighbourhood and atmosphere. Her experience also illustrates how expatriates can encounter housing costs that may seem unusually high when compared with property and rental prices in their home country. The video has drawn attention online, with her Rs 45,000 monthly rent becoming the central point of discussion around Dubai's accommodation costs and the differences between housing markets in India and the UAE.

Indian Entrepreneur Recalls London Luggage Theft Attempt

Kaushik Mudda, co-founder and CEO of Bengaluru-based deeptech manufacturing startup Ethereal Machines, has shared an account of an attempted luggage theft during his first visit to London, saying the incident left him with a different impression of safety in the UK capital. Mudda described the incident in a post on X, saying it happened on his first night in London after he arrived at Euston. According to him, he placed his luggage in the boot of a cab before getting inside. Shortly after, a man approached and claimed that the cab had a punctured tyre. Mudda said he got out of the vehicle to check the situation. "First night in London - got out of Euston, put my bags in cab's boot. Sat down, a guy appears claiming the tyre was punctured," he wrote. Mudda said that when he stepped out, he noticed another man attempting to take one of his bags from the boot. He immediately intervened. "Jumped out & saw another guy



whose hand was inside the boot to steal my bag," Mudda said. According to his account, he pushed the man down, retrieved his luggage and confronted the attempted theft. The two men then ran away, he said. The incident occurred immediately after his arrival in London and left Mudda concerned about the possibility of such coordinated theft attempts targeting travellers carrying luggage. Reflecting on what happened, Mudda compared his experience with his perception of safety in India. "India is 1000 times safer," he wrote. His post quickly drew reactions online, with some users sharing similar experiences or expressing relief that he managed to recover his belongings. One user said they had experienced something similar outside London Euston station. Another user expressed relief over Mudda's safety, writing, "Thank god! You are safe." Mudda's account also triggered discussion about the safety of travellers in major international cities, particularly around busy

railway stations and transport hubs. Such locations can attract travellers carrying luggage and may also present opportunities for theft. The incident, as described by Mudda, involved two men and an alleged attempt to distract him by claiming that the vehicle's tyre had been punctured. He said he noticed the second man only after getting out of the cab. Mudda is the co-founder and CEO of Ethereal Machines, a Bengaluru-based deeptech manufacturing startup. His post focused on his personal experience during his first night in London rather than presenting broader crime statistics. While his comparison between India and London was his personal reaction to the incident, the account prompted other travellers and social media users to discuss their own experiences with theft and personal safety while travelling abroad. For Mudda, the episode became an unexpected introduction to London and prompted him to publicly reflect on his perception of safety in India.

Yashvir Wins Silver, Rohit Takes Bronze in Javelin

Yashvir Singh and Rohit Yadav delivered a memorable double podium finish for India in the men's javelin throw at the 2026 Asian Games on Monday, winning silver and bronze respectively. Yashvir, the 24-year-old athlete from Haryana, produced a personal best of 85.72 metres with his sixth and final attempt. The throw helped him move ahead of fellow Indian Rohit Yadav and secure the silver medal in a closely contested competition. Rohit, the 25-year-old from Uttar Pradesh, recorded a throw of 84.35 metres to claim the bronze. The Indian duo's performances ensured that India secured two medals in the same men's javelin throw final. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage won the gold medal with an outstanding effort of 88.33 metres. His throw gave him a clear advantage



at the top of the standings.

Yashvir entered the competition with strong momentum after winning a bronze medal at this year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Rohit, meanwhile, was unable to finish on the podium at

the Commonwealth Games but produced a significant performance in Nagoya to earn Asian Games bronze. The two Indians were India's leading hopes in the javelin competition following the withdrawal of

reigning champion and two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra. Chopra was forced to miss the Asian Games after suffering a late ligament injury.

Pakistan's reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem also competed in the final but finished fourth. He recorded a season-best throw of 80.29 metres, which was not enough to challenge the three medal-winning performances.

The result marks an important achievement for India's javelin programme, with Yashvir and Rohit both finishing among the top three. Yashvir's final-attempt personal best proved decisive in securing silver, while Rohit's 84.35m throw earned him bronze. With both Indians on the podium, the men's javelin final added two more athletics medals to India's growing tally at the Asian Games.

Vozinha Says He Preferred His Old Life After World Cup Fame



Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha has admitted that he preferred his life before becoming a global football star, saying the attention following his team's historic World Cup run has cost him his privacy and peace. The 40-year-old goalkeeper played a key role in Cape Verde's remarkable campaign at the World Cup this year. Vozinha kept clean sheets against eventual champions Spain and Saudi Arabia, producing outstanding performances that helped Cape Verde reach the knockout stage in their first appearance at the global tournament. Cape Verde, an island nation off Africa's west coast with a population of around 500,000, eventually lost 3-2 to Argentina in the round of 32. Vozinha's performances also earned him a nomination for the Yashin Trophy, awarded to the world's best goalkeeper. His sudden rise to global fame has dramatically changed his life. Vozinha's Instagram following has reportedly increased from 56,000 to 28 million, bringing constant public attention. "I've lost my peace and tranquillity. I no longer have any privacy," Vozinha told Britain's Observer newspaper. He said even ordinary activities have become difficult because fans frequently approach him for photographs and autographs. He also complained about people recording him without permission. "I go to a restaurant, and there's always someone who wants to take a photo with me or asks me for an autograph. Or worse, someone's filming me," Vozinha said. The goalkeeper added that his newfound fame has also affected his family. Fans have reportedly been visiting his mother's house in Cape Verde on a daily basis, creating further difficulties for his relatives. "I'm not there, so I can't help them," said Vozinha, who left Portuguese second-tier club Chaves to join Chilean side Colo-Colo in July. Vozinha acknowledged that many people dream of becoming famous but said they often see only the positive side of celebrity. Despite his achievements on the international stage, he said he would choose his previous lifestyle if given the opportunity. "A lot of people want to be famous... but they only see the positive side of that reality. To be honest, if I were offered the life I have today or the life I had before, I'd choose the one I had before," he said.

India Crush Bangladesh 10-0 to Top Asian Games Pool



India completed their Asian Games men's hockey pool campaign with a dominant 10-0 victory over Bangladesh on Monday, finishing at the top of Pool A with a perfect record of five wins from five matches. India had already secured their place in the semifinals before facing Bangladesh, but continued their strong run with an emphatic performance. The Indian attack produced goals across all four quarters, while the defence maintained a clean sheet throughout the contest. Abhishek opened the scoring for India before Jugraj Singh doubled the advantage in the 22nd minute. Harmanpreet Singh then added goals in the 27th, 40th and 45th minutes to complete his hat-trick and further extend India's lead. Sukhjeet Singh scored in the 32nd minute, while Lakra Shilanand struck twice in the 44th and 45th minutes. Sanjay added another goal in the 59th minute before Mandeep Singh completed the 10-0 scoreline in the 60th minute. The victory means India finished Pool A with five wins in five matches, underlining their strong campaign in the group stage. Their consistent attacking display also saw them produce another high-scoring performance as they build momentum for the knockout stage. India will face Pakistan in the first semifinal on October 1. The highly anticipated encounter will be followed by the second semifinal between Malaysia and South Korea on the same day. India's semifinal against Pakistan will be a major test after their unbeaten pool-stage campaign. The Indian team will look to carry the confidence generated by their dominant performances into the knockout stage as they aim to progress to the final. The other semifinal between Malaysia and South Korea will determine the second finalist. With the semifinal line-up now confirmed, attention turns to the crucial matches that will decide the teams competing for the Asian Games men's hockey gold medal.

Sreeshankar Wins Silver in Asian Games Long Jump

Murali Sreeshankar continued India's medal-winning run in athletics at the 2026 Asian Games, securing the silver medal in the men's long jump on Monday. The 27-year-old athlete from Palakkad produced his best effort of 8.07 metres with his second attempt, putting himself firmly in medal contention. Sreeshankar, who had also won silver at the previous Asian Games in Hangzhou and at this year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, delivered another strong performance on the continental stage. However, Sreeshankar was unable to complete his final two attempts after hurting his ankle during his fourth jump. His 8.07m effort was enough to secure second place and another silver medal for India. China's Yuhao Shi won the gold medal after recording a season-best jump of 8.17m. Uzbekistan's Anvar Anvarov claimed the bronze medal with an effort of 8.06m, just one centimetre behind Sreeshankar. Sreeshankar's silver added to India's growing medal tally in athletics at the Asian Games. His performance also extended his consistent record at major international competitions after his silver medals at Hangzhou and the Commonwealth Games. India had already enjoyed several strong results in athletics during the competition. Parul Chaudhary won a bronze medal in the women's 5000m final, adding to the country's medal count in long-distance events. Gulveer Singh had earlier secured silver in the men's 1500m final after producing a personal-best time of 3:36.72. Vithya Ramraj also contributed to India's athletics medal tally by winning bronze in the women's 400m hurdles. Sreeshankar's latest achievement is another significant result in his international career. Despite the ankle injury preventing him from completing his final attempts, his 8.07m jump was sufficient to place him second behind Yuhao Shi and ahead of Anvar Anvarov. The silver medal keeps India's athletics campaign moving strongly as the country continues its pursuit of medals across events at the 2026 Asian Games.



Parul Chaudhary Wins Bronze in Asian Games 5000m

India's Parul Chaudhary won the bronze medal in the women's 5000m final at the 2026 Asian Games on Monday, adding another athletics medal to India's growing tally. The 31-year-old long-distance runner from Uttar Pradesh clocked 15:14.61 to finish third. Chaudhary, who had won the gold medal in the same event at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, was unable to retain her title but secured her second medal of the ongoing Games. Bahrain's Winfred Yavi won the gold medal with a time of 15:10.18, while Japan's Nozomi Tanaka claimed silver after clocking 15:11.65. Chaudhary had already won a bronze medal in the women's 3000m steeplechase on Sunday. Her second medal in Nagoya adds to a strong campaign for the Indian athlete, who has remained among



the country's leading long-distance runners. India's Seema, who had earlier won bronze in the women's 10,000m, finished sixth in the 5000m final with a time of 15:35.06. The result came after another successful session for India's athletics

contingent. Gulveer Singh secured a silver medal in the men's 1500m final with a personal-best effort of 3:36.72. He finished behind Japan's Kazuto Iizawa, who won the gold medal. Japan's Nagiya Mori took the bronze in the men's 1500m after

recording a time of 3:37.92.

Gulveer had already won a silver medal in the men's 10,000m at the ongoing Asian Games, making his second podium finish another notable achievement in Nagoya. Vithya Ramraj also contributed to India's medal tally by winning bronze in the women's 400m hurdles event.

With Chaudhary's bronze, India's athletics contingent continued to make a significant contribution to the country's overall medal tally. Although she could not repeat her Hangzhou gold-medal performance, Chaudhary's two medals in Nagoya underline her consistency across multiple long-distance events. Her 5000m bronze also added to a productive day for Indian athletics, with athletes securing medals across long-distance and track events at the Asian Games.

AFI to Approach CAS Over Shaili Singh's Jump Measurement

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has decided to approach the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), claiming that long jumper Shaili Singh's effort was incorrectly measured by officials at the 2026 Asian Games, potentially costing her a medal. Shaili finished fourth in the women's long jump final on Sunday with a best officially recorded effort of 6.42m. Her compatriot Anju Sojan won the silver medal with 6.53m, while China's Huang Yingying claimed gold with a final-attempt jump of 6.55m. The main dispute concerns Shaili's fourth attempt, which was officially measured at 6.41m. According to Shaili's mentor and legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George, the measurement was taken from a mark that was shorter than the actual landing mark.



"We saw her jump was clearly ahead of the gold-winning mark. Initially, the official near the landing pit pointed to Shaili's leg mark for the measurement," Anju told PTI. She said another official standing farther away later pointed to a different mark that was closer to the

take-off board. The measurement was subsequently taken from that mark. "The measurement should have been done on the mark pointed by the official nearest to the landing pit," said Anju, who won a long jump bronze at the 2003 World Championships.

Shaili herself lodged a protest during the competition, and videos of the disputed attempt were reviewed by officials. Anju said the officials initially showed the team a front-view video, which the Indian side argued could not establish the precise landing point. The Indian team subsequently demanded a side-view video. According to Anju, officials later informed them that the jury had reviewed side-view footage as well but decided to uphold the original measurement. Anju described the decision as an injustice to Shaili and said the athlete could have challenged for the gold medal had the jump been measured correctly. Another senior AFI official also confirmed to PTI that the federation plans to challenge the Asian Games officials' decision before the Lausanne-based CAS.

Portugal Beat Norway 2-1 in Nations League

Portugal began the defence of their UEFA Nations League title with back-to-back victories after beating Norway 2-1 in Oslo on Sunday, with Goncalo Ramos scoring the winner in the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo. Jorge Jesus's side followed their 1-0 victory over Wales on Thursday with another important win, responding strongly after their disappointing World Cup last-16 defeat to Spain. Ronaldo was named among the substitutes for the first time for Portugal since a Nations League match against Scotland in September 2024. The 41-year-old forward did not come off the bench as Jesus opted to manage his minutes during the expanded international break. Ramos took his opportunity to start in Ronaldo's place and scored his 12th international goal. He also produced an energetic performance as Portugal secured another three points. "Every moment is important. The



most important thing is to show what I can do whenever I'm called upon and to contribute to the team," Ramos told Sport TV. "It was a demonstration of my work, of what I can offer the team, not just goals, but everything I do on the pitch," he added. Norway, who reached the World Cup quarter-finals, created several opportunities but were unable to

make the most of their chances. Erling Haaland had the first major opportunity after being picked out by Martin Odegaard, but his attempted volley was mishit and Diogo Costa made the save. Portugal took advantage in the 17th minute when Joao Felix produced a fine finish from the edge of the box, sending the ball into the bottom corner.

Haaland came close to equalising soon after when Costa spilled the ball into his path, but Ruben Dias made an excellent block to deny the Manchester City striker. Costa then produced another fine save from Haaland's downward header before half-time. Haaland eventually found the net six minutes into the second half, tapping in after Patrick Berg headed the ball across goal. Norway's joy was short-lived. Goalkeeper Orjan Nyland passed the ball straight to Ramos, who calmly chipped it into the net to restore Portugal's lead. Rafael Leao later saw his effort deflected onto the crossbar as Portugal searched for a third goal. Ramos also appeared to have scored again, but VAR ruled out the effort for a marginal offside. Norway pushed forward in the closing stages, with Nyland also joining the attack, but Portugal held on to secure a 2-1 victory and maintain their winning start to their Nations League title defence.



Ram Charan Thanks Ganga Hospital Doctors

Global star Ram Charan has expressed his gratitude to the doctors, nurses and staff of Ganga Hospital in Coimbatore for the care and medical treatment he received there. The actor recently underwent a medical procedure at the hospital and, after completing the treatment, praised the services provided by the medical team in a social media post. Ram Charan specifically thanked Dr S. Raja Sabapathi, Dr S. Rajashekar and Dr Praveen Bharadwaj for treating him with dedication and expertise during the medical procedure. He also appreciated the overall care provided by the hospital staff. In his post, Ram Charan said he was deeply grateful for the way the doctors, nurses and other staff members at Ganga Hospital looked after him. He noted that everyone treated him with warmth and personal care throughout his stay. The actor also congratulated the management of Ganga Hospital for achieving a notable distinction in the medical research field. He praised the hospital for winning the prestigious NAS Outstanding Research Paper Award for the fifth time. Ram Charan said the recognition was a fitting acknowledgment of the hospital's contribution and excellence in medical research. His appreciation for the institution and its medical professionals has now drawn attention on social media. The actor's recent treatment is reportedly related to an injury he sustained to his wrist during the shooting of his upcoming film Peddhi. He had undergone surgery at Ganga Hospital a few weeks ago for the injury and has now completed a follow-up medical procedure as part of his treatment. His latest post highlighted not only his personal experience at the hospital but also his appreciation for the medical professionals involved in his treatment. By specifically acknowledging Dr S. Raja Sabapathi, Dr S. Rajashekar and Dr Praveen Bharadwaj, Ram Charan expressed his thanks to the team that attended to him. Ganga Hospital's fifth NAS Outstanding Research Paper Award was another aspect highlighted by the actor in his message. He congratulated the hospital for the achievement and praised its contribution to medical research. Ram Charan is currently associated with Peddhi, and his wrist injury had previously required medical intervention. With the latest follow-up procedure completed, the actor has thanked the hospital team for its care and services while appreciating the institution's achievements in the medical field.

Zarina Wahab Plays Vijay Sethupathi's Mother in Slum Dog



The makers of director Puri Jagannadh's upcoming action entertainer Slum Dog - 33 Temple Road, starring Vijay Sethupathi in the lead, have released a new glimpse video introducing actress Zarina Wahab as his mother in the film.

The makers had earlier revealed that Zarina Wahab would play a character named Zubaida. The latest glimpse introduces her as Zubaida, Vijay Sethupathi's mother, and presents an emotional episode from her life.

The video shows Zubaida recalling a painful phase when she wanted to end her life at a railway station but was forced to beg after hunger took over. The sequence attempts to portray the harsh realities faced by people living on the streets while highlighting themes of survival, dignity and a mother's emotional journey.

The makers had previously released a glimpse introducing Tabu's character in the film. Tabu plays Gauri Hegde, described in the video as "One fearless woman" and a "Powerful Officer". The glimpse showed her confronting and threatening people.

In one scene, Tabu's character tells Vijay Sethupathi, "In our style, we first shoot and then talk." The video concludes by revealing her designation as "Gowri Hegde - Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax", followed by a visual of her hitting a man with a lathi.

Slum Dog - 33 Temple Road has generated considerable interest among fans and film enthusiasts since production began in July last year. Sources close to the unit have confirmed that shooting has been completed and that post-production work is progressing across all language versions.

A title poster released by Puri Jagannadh last year showed Vijay Sethupathi wearing stylish sunglasses and holding a blood-stained machete. He was seen standing amid wooden boxes filled with currency notes, adding to the film's action-oriented presentation.

The film is produced by Puri Jagannadh under the banner of Puri Connects and will be presented by Charmi Kaur in collaboration with JB Motion Pictures and JB Narayan Rao Kondrolla. The collaboration is expected to add to the scale of the project.

Samyuktha plays the female lead opposite Vijay Sethupathi. Kannada star Duniya Vijay and Tabu appear in pivotal roles, while Brahmaji and VTV Ganesh are part of the supporting cast. Sources have said Samyuktha's character will be important to the narrative and offer scope for performance and emotional depth.

National Award-winning music director Harshavardhan Rameshwar is composing the music. He is known for his work in films including Arjun Reddy and Animal.

Slum Dog - 33 Temple Road is planned as a pan-India release in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi.

Rajamouli Praises Son Karthikeya's Business Clarity

Ace director S S Rajamouli has revealed the quality he admires most in his son, producer S S Karthikeya, who has produced director Shashank Yeleti's upcoming fantasy entertainer Don't Trouble the Trouble, starring Fahadh Faasil and Ssara Palekar. Speaking at the film's pre-release event in Chennai, Rajamouli was asked about the advice he had given Karthikeya while producing the film. Rajamouli said he had not specifically given him any tips, but highlighted a quality he greatly admires in his son. Rajamouli said Karthikeya has clarity of thought and particularly praised the way he approaches business and values the money of others. "The first thing I like about Karthikeya is his clarity of thought," Rajamouli said. He explained that when Karthikeya is involved in a business transaction, he gives equal importance to his own money and the money invested or spent by the other person. According to Rajamouli, Karthikeya understands the value of the other person's money in the same way that he values his own. He described this quality as one of the things he admires most about his son as a businessman. Don't Trouble the Trouble has brought together acclaimed producers Shobu Yarlagadda and Prasad Devineni with S S Karthikeya. The film is presented by S S Rajamouli and is positioned as a content-rich fantasy entertainer. The film has also attracted attention through the participation of three prominent figures from Indian cinema. Kamal Haasan, Mohanlal and Balakrishna have lent their voices to the film's Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu trailers respectively. Written and directed by Shashank Yeleti, the film has been co-written by Hamza Ali. Kaala Bhairava has composed the music, while Australian cinematographer Brad Francis has handled the cinematography. Praveen Anthony is the editor. Fahadh Faasil and Ssara Palekar play the lead roles in the fantasy entertainer, which is expected to combine its central story with a visually driven presentation. Rajamouli's comments about Karthikeya came as the producer prepares for the worldwide release of Don't Trouble the Trouble. The film is scheduled to hit screens on October 2. The project marks another production venture for S S Karthikeya, with Rajamouli publicly highlighting his business approach and his ability to value the interests of others alongside his own.



Suriya Urges Fans to Avoid Social Media Fights

Actor Suriya has urged his fans to avoid unnecessary arguments on social media and instead focus their energy on the things they genuinely care about. Speaking about online trolling and negativity, Suriya appealed to his followers to respond with love rather than getting drawn into confrontations with people making provocative posts. "Let us sow only love. When we engage just because some fool has made a post on social media, we end up looking like fools, too and getting hurt," Suriya said. He further advised his fans to remain focused on their own lives and interests instead of trying to change the opinions of others. "Let us simply be ourselves, and let them be themselves; there is no need for us to say anything. Trying to make them understand or change their minds is difficult. Some might grasp it, but the vast majority won't. Don't waste your energy. Sincerely pursue what you love, day in and day out, and success will surely follow," he said. Suriya's comments have triggered a mixed response online. Some users supported his call to avoid unnecessary confrontations and agreed that engaging with trolls can lead to further negativity. At the same time, others argued that certain hateful or discriminatory views should not simply be ignored and may need to be challenged. One user on X said social media arguments have continued since the days of Facebook and suggested that people should focus on winning hearts through kindness, even when dealing with opponents. The user also said hatred cannot always be stopped but argued that responding with a "lovable side" or choosing to ignore provocations could eventually influence people. The comment, however, also questioned Suriya's use of the term "muttal" and described it as inconsistent with maturity. Suriya's remarks come amid continued debates over trolling, fan conflicts and heated exchanges on social media platforms. His message was primarily aimed at encouraging fans not to waste their time and emotional energy on online confrontations, while concentrating instead on their interests and goals.



Jailer 2 Ticket Hike May Face Backlash in Telugu States

A proposed ticket price hike for Rajinikanth-starrer Jailer 2 in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana could draw criticism from audiences, with a Telugu distributor urging the governments and distributors to avoid steep increases for the dubbed film. Some Telugu distributors of the Tamil film are reportedly seeking permission from the state governments for an additional ticket price hike, despite recent setbacks for several big-ticket releases. The distributor said increasing prices could negatively affect audience interest, particularly during the festive season. "Better avoid a ticket hike for a dubbed film. The negative response to the ticket prices for Yash's Toxic helped Irumudi make more money, as Telugu audiences were upset with the hike and seemingly responded by avoiding the film," the distributor said. According to the distributor, ticket prices for Jailer 2 in Tamil Nadu are expected to be around Rs 180, including multiplexes. In contrast, distributors in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are reportedly seeking an additional hike of Rs 100 to Rs 200. Such an increase could push ticket prices in the Telugu states to around Rs 400 to Rs 500, depending on the theatre and category. The distributor questioned the need for Telugu audiences to pay substantially more for the dubbed version when the film is expected to be available at a much lower price in Tamil Nadu. "When Rajinikanth is being offered at around Rs 180 in Tamil Nadu, why should Telugu audiences pay Rs 400 to Rs 500? It amounts to taking advantage of the Telugu audience, who have traditionally supported films across industries," he said. The distributor also pointed to the performance and audience response to recent big-ticket films, including Coolie, War 2 and Toxic, arguing that their experiences should encourage the industry to reconsider aggressive ticket pricing. "This should be a lesson for Telugu distributors. Instead of increasing ticket prices in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, they should leave some money in the pockets of audiences, especially during the festive season in October," he said. He also appealed to the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to reconsider granting special ticket price hikes for dubbed films. "No other state follows this practice in the same way. We should also avoid it," the distributor said. The proposed pricing has therefore become a point of discussion ahead of Jailer 2, with concerns that higher ticket rates could affect audience reception and the film's business in the Telugu-speaking markets. The final ticket prices, however, will depend on government permissions and decisions taken by distributors and exhibitors.

