

Sri Geetaansha Digitals

Hyderabad | Visakhapatnam | Kakinada | Vijayawada | Ongole



► **Compatible Pigment Inks Available at Low Cost**

► **News Print Rolls Available at Reasonable cost**

For More Details: 93948 55244, 9059465965

YS Jagan Speaks to Fisherman Chinna, Assures Support After Visakhapatnam Boat Tragedy

YSRCP Demands Rs.1 Crore Compensation for Families of Missing Fishermen

From Our Bureau Chief Pen Power

Visakhapatnam, July 9: Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday spoke over the phone with fisherman Chinna, the lone survivor of the recent boat accident off the Visakhapatnam coast, and enquired about his health and the circumstances surrounding the tragedy. Currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Visakhapatnam, Chinna narrated the sequence of events to Y.S. Jagan, explaining how the boat capsize in rough seas, how he struggled to survive by swimming for several hours, and how he was eventually rescued. He also informed the former Chief Minister that the boat, purchased through heavy loans and valued at around ₹50 lakh, had sunk, leaving the fishermen's families without a source of livelihood. Expressing concern, Y.S. Jagan assured Chinna that the party would press the government to provide adequate assistance and justice to the affected families. He also said that he was prepared to visit Visakhapatnam personally, if necessary, to meet



the victims and their families. He stressed that compensation should also be provided for the lost fishing boat, as it was the primary source of income for the fishermen. According to the party, while the State Government announced ₹10 lakh ex gratia each for the families of the six fishermen who went missing in the accident, no financial assistance has reportedly been extended to Chinna, who survived the incident and is still undergoing treatment. Later, YSRCP Visakhapatnam District President K.K. Raju, Vizianagaram District President Majji

Srinivasa Rao, and former MLA Vasupalli Ganesh visited Chinna at KIMS Hospital and expressed solidarity with him. Addressing the media, the YSRCP leaders demanded that the government enhance the compensation to Rs.1 crore for each of the families of the missing fishermen. They also sought special financial assistance for Chinna, full compensation for the sunken fishing boat, and comprehensive rehabilitation measures for the affected families. The leaders further called upon the government to strengthen marine safety mechanisms, establish an effective emergency re-

sponse system for fishermen at sea, and ensure that similar incidents do not recur in the future. They reiterated that the YSR Congress Party would continue to stand by the victims until justice is delivered. Several party leaders, including coordinators Tippala Srinivas Devan Reddy, Molli Appa Rao, Kattamuri Satish, Kiran Raju, Anil Kumar Raju, Manoj Godaba, Vasu Raju, Rama Raju, Janaki Ram, Kandrapalli Rohith, Bhogadi Sanyasi Rao, Gondesi Srinivas Reddy, Nikhil and others, were present during the visit.

It Is My Responsibility to Resolve Every Problem: CM Chandrababu



From Our Staff Reporter Nandyal District: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu distributed Pattadar Passbooks to farmers in Banaganapalle. Addressing a public meeting on the occasion, he strongly criticized the previous YSRCP government. The Chief Minister said that people had faced significant difficulties due to the decisions taken by the former administration. He alleged that the Land Titling Act introduced by the YSRCP government created fear and uncertainty among the

public. Chandrababu claimed that lands of those who did not comply with the government were included in the 22A prohibited list. He stated that his

government repealed the Land Titling Act immediately after coming to power. The Chief Minister emphasized that people should have complete rights over their own property. He said that if the land belongs to the people, it was inappropriate for the previous government to print its leaders' names and photographs on pattadar passbooks and boundary stones. Criticizing what he called an obsession with publicity, Chandrababu said the old passbooks carrying former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's photographs had been withdrawn and replaced with new passbooks bearing the State Emblem.

Chandrababu stated that providing transparent services to farmers is the objective of his government. He said it is the government's responsibility to resolve every problem faced by the people. To eliminate the role of middlemen, pattadar passbooks are being distributed directly through Gram Sabhas, he added. The Chief Minister further said that the government is committed to delivering corruption-free governance without even a single rupee of corruption. He explained that the QR code printed on the pattadar passbooks would enable farmers to easily access complete details related to their land.

Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy Challenges YSRCP Leaders

Nandyal District: Speaking at a Gram Sabha held in Banaganapalle, Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy launched a sharp attack on the YSRCP. He said Banaganapalle is a sacred place associated with Sri Pothuluri Veera Brahmendra Swamy and alleged that during the five years of YSRCP rule, misgovernance was more visible than development. The minister criticized the previous government for halting several development projects that had been initiated during the TDP government's tenure. He challenged YSRCP leaders to come before the public and discuss what they had done for Rayalaseema during their five years in power compared to the work done by the present government. Janardhan Reddy stated that while the TDP government had initiated the Banaganapalle bypass road project, the YSRCP government had stopped it.

Good News for MSMEs from Andhra Pradesh Government

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 9 : The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced good news for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). It has taken a key decision to resolve disputes related to pending payments. The government has issued G.O. No. 165 for the reorganization of MSME Facilitation Councils and decided to constitute new councils with a tenure of two years. A principal MSME Facilitation Council will be established in Mangalagiri. The government has appointed the Commissioner of Industries Department as the Chairman of the principal council. The principal council will handle claims exceeding ₹50 lakh. For disputes involving claims below ₹50 lakh, four regional councils have been set up in Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Tirupati, and Kurnool. In line with the RAMP framework, cases will be resolved through an online ODR (Online Dispute Resolution) Portal. To ensure speedy resolution of disputes, four leading ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Centers have been selected. The services of ADR centers in Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Bengaluru, and Visakhapatnam will be utilized.

YouTuber Joseph Ravan's Bank Accounts Frozen

From Our Staff Reporter Kakinada, July 9: Police have turned their attention to the financial sources of YouTuber Joseph Ravan, who has allegedly been delivering hate-filled speeches on YouTube for the past two years. As part of the investigation, Kakinada police officially wrote to ICICI Bank and Yes Bank seeking details and action regarding his accounts. After reviewing the police request, the bank authorities decided to immediately freeze the accounts held in Joseph Ravan's name. During the preliminary investigation, police reportedly uncovered key information related to his sources of income. Officials found that he was allegedly earning more than ₹1.5 lakh per month by posting controversial videos on a website called "Prashna." According to investigators, this income was generated through content that allegedly incited hatred among



the public. Police have accelerated the investigation into the case. On July 2, they seized Joseph Ravan's mobile phone and later sent it to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for detailed examination. Investigators are currently analyzing controversial videos stored on the phone, deleted data, and WhatsApp chats. The police are also probing whether any other individuals were involved or operating behind him.

Another Boat Accident in Andhra Pradesh; Fishermen Seriously Injured

Kakinada District: A series of fishing boat accidents in Andhra Pradesh has become a matter of concern. While six fishermen remain missing in two earlier boat accidents, ten others were rescued safely. In the latest incident, a fishing boat met with an accident off the coast near Thondangi in Kakinada district. Two fishermen from Ellayyapeta sustained serious injuries. Several fishermen, including Erupalli Kotes and Erupalli Prasad from the village, had ventured out for fishing. They had traveled nearly 15 kilometers into the sea when they switched on a gas stove to prepare food. Accidentally, a fire broke out and spread to the boat. Within a short time, the flames engulfed the entire vessel. Kotes and Prasad suffered severe injuries in the incident, while another fisherman sustained minor injuries. All the fishermen jumped into the sea to save themselves. Fishermen on a nearby boat noticed the incident, rushed to the spot, and rescued everyone. The injured were later shifted to a private hospital in Tuni for treatment. The incident has cast a shadow of sorrow over the village.

Full Assurance Through Speed, Stability and Service : Lokesh to Korean Investors

South Korea, July 9: Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh, who is on a visit to South Korea to attract investments, has been holding a series of meetings with representatives of various companies. As part of his fifth day of engagements, he met with the senior leadership team of Kia Motors in Seoul. Lokesh requested Kia Motors to further expand operations at its existing plant in Anantapur. Representatives of Kia Motors responded that they would examine the proposals and take an appropriate decision.

Lokesh Meets South Korean Vice Foreign Minister

Lokesh also met South Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Cecilia Chung. During the meeting, he said Andhra Pradesh is a reliable destination for Korean investors and described the state's



"3S Policy" as a protective shield for investors. He stated that Andhra Pradesh offers complete assurance to industries through Speed, Stability, and Service. Lokesh requested support for establishing an AP-Korea Investment Desk and proposed setting up a Korean Cultural Center in Andhra

Pradesh. The minister said Andhra Pradesh is ready to establish joint training academies in collaboration with South Korea. He invited Korean investments in sectors such as green energy, electronics, and tourism. Lokesh also sought direct flight connectivity between Visakhapatnam and Busan/Incheon and requested the

establishment of Korean language centers in universities across Andhra Pradesh. Highlighting the state's strong port infrastructure, he said Andhra Pradesh is an ideal hub for exports and called for further strengthening economic cooperation between South Korea and Andhra Pradesh.

Protecting the Health of Artists is the Responsibility of the Coalition Government: Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July 9: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan stated that preserving traditional arts is not just about promoting them but also about safeguarding the health and welfare of the artists who depend on them for their livelihood. He said that during the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Festival, interactions with handicraft artisans and handloom workers brought to his attention the occupational health issues they face. Responding through X (formerly Twitter), Pawan Kalyan said he had the opportunity to closely interact with artisans and handloom workers during the festival. He praised their extraordi-

nary skills, immense patience, and dedication to their craft. He noted that many artists who have worked tirelessly for years suffer from back pain, neck pain, joint problems, eye disorders, and respiratory ailments. Protecting the health of these artisans, who carry forward the state's culture and traditions through their work, is the responsibility of the coalition government, he emphasized.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that immediately after learning about their problems, he directed the concerned officials to organize special medical camps in various handicraft and handloom

clusters across the state. He informed that medical camps were successfully



conducted on July 8 for Srikalahasti Kalamkari artists in Tirupati district and crochet lace artisans in

Seetharampuram of West Godavari district.

On July 9, special medical camps are being organized for:

Kondapalli toy artisans in NTR district
Uppada handloom workers in Kakinada district
M a d h a v a r a m handloom workers in Kadapa district
Yadiki handloom workers in Anantapur district
On July 10, camps will be held for:
Bobbili Veena artisans in Vizianagaram district
Etikoppaka artisans in Anakapalli district
Hand-knotted woolen pile carpet artisans in Eluru district
Madanapalle handloom

workers
On July 11, camps will be conducted for:
Dharmavaram handloom workers in Sri Sathya Sai district
Budithi brass artisans in Srikakulam district
Pedana Block Kalamkari artisans in Krishna district
Wood carving artisans in Tirupati district
Pawan Kalyan said similar medical camps would be conducted in phases across more handicraft and handloom clusters in Andhra Pradesh. These camps will provide general health check-ups, specialist consultations, diagnostic tests, and guidance for further treatment wherever necessary.

EDITORIAL

West Asia is on the rise again

On the one hand, while the funeral of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was being held, on the other hand, the US-Iranian mutual attacks have resumed after three ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz were attacked. The US has accused the Iranian military of carrying out another attack on the Strait of Hormuz. In this context, Trump told reporters at the NATO summit in Ankara, Turkey, on Wednesday that there will be no more talks with Iran. He severely criticized the Iranians as vile and deceitful. Within hours of the attacks on three commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz, the US attacked Iranian military bases and port infrastructure. According to the US media outlet Axios, the attacks targeted Iranian air defense systems, coastal surveillance systems, surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship cruise missile sites, drone launch sites, and ports.

Explosions occurred in the port cities of Bandar Abbas, Sirik, and Qeshm Island. In retaliation for the US attacks, Iran launched missiles targeting 85 US military bases in Bahrain and Kuwait. Iran's IRGC targeted 85 key military bases, including the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain and the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. The IRGC revealed that it shot down a sophisticated US drone MQ9 in Bushehr. The US Central Command also revealed that it carried out attacks on more than 80 targets in Iran with high precision. It is reported that Trump ordered the latest attacks on Iran from the NATO summit in Turkey. The latest attacks put the interim agreement between the US and Iran, which was reached last month, in jeopardy. The US and Iran are accusing each other of violating the terms of the agreement. Following the attacks, the US revoked Iran's oil sales license, which was part of a deal aimed at ending the conflict between the US and Iran.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the decision taken by the US. Iran criticized it as a violation of Article 10 of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding. Iran's IRGC strongly criticized the US for trying to obscure its historical program while Khamenei's funeral was taking place. Iranian Speaker Ghalibaf warned on social media that the era of US harassment and threats is over and we will not bow down anymore. He warned that Tehran will not surrender no matter how much pressure the US, which is committing serious violations, puts on. Indian domestic stock markets crashed after Trump rejected the deal with Iran. Sensex and Nifty fell by more than 2 percent. With these unpredictable developments, investors' wealth worth about Rs. 8 lakh crore evaporated. Oil and gas sector indices are continuing to lose 1.5% due to the increase in crude oil prices.

Crude oil prices have plunged again in the international market. Brent crude prices rose to \$78.35. The rupee has further depreciated. It is trading at 95.16, down another 20 paise in Wednesday's trading. Looking at the current situation, it seems that there is a risk of another oil supply crisis and prices becoming unavailable. With the temporary agreement being scrapped, many countries are worried that waterways will be blocked again and they will be plunged into an oil crisis. America is also reeling under an oil crisis. America needs 1.25 million barrels of crude oil per day to meet its needs.

But the current reserves are only enough until mid-July. Therefore, oil transportation to the United States will be smooth only if the war stops. But Trump is complicating the problem with his stubbornness. During Obama's time, the United States signed an agreement with Iran in 2015 on nuclear non-proliferation and many other issues, but after Trump came to power, Obama canceled the agreement, convincing the United States that he would reach a better agreement. So far, negotiations have been held, but the attacks have not stopped. Now the future of the West Asian countries is in an uncertain situation. Countries like Bahrain, which has a defense agreement with the United States, are now afraid that they are not protected by American military bases or that they are being attacked. Therefore, all these countries are holding talks to ensure their own defense. The United States is trying to prevent the unity of these countries. Nuclear-armed Pakistan is also playing an important role in these talks. China and Russia are supporting these countries. This could be said to be a budding rebellion against American imperialism.

Thanks To Trump, Saving The US-Iran Islamabad Deal Is Now Harder Than Ever

Less than a month after the United States and Iran signed the agreement that was supposed to end the war in West Asia and create the basis for a wider deal, American warplanes are again pounding Iran. In response, Iran is attacking US-linked targets in the Gulf nations and threatening commercial shipping. Missiles and drones are flying across the Gulf and over the Strait of Hormuz. Oil prices have jumped, and the nervousness has returned to global markets. At the NATO summit in Ankara, which concluded yesterday, President Donald Trump appeared to pronounce the last rites. "As far as I'm concerned, it's over," he said of the understanding with Iran. Hours later, however, Trump was telling journalists aboard Air Force One that Iranian officials had called "just a little while ago" and wanted a deal "so badly". He was not sure, he added, whether they were "worthy" of one. Welcome back to Donald Trump's televised, open diplomacy. The latest escalation began after attacks on three commercial ships near the Strait of Hormuz, which Washington blamed on Iran. The American response was blistering. US Central Command says it hit around 80 Iranian military targets on Tuesday, followed by approximately 90 more in the next round of strikes in the early hours of Thursday. The latest attacks, it said, were aimed at further degrading Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping and civilian mariners in the Strait of Hormuz.

'Bullying And Breaking Promises'

Iran is equally defiant. Its parliamentary speaker and chief US negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, says America has still not learnt that "bullying and breaking promises" are no longer cost-free. Iran's foreign minister has responded to Trump's insults by saying Tehran will answer not with vulgarity, but with action. Explosions have been reported in Bahrain. Kuwait says it has intercepted missiles and drones. Qatar has issued a security

alert. This doesn't appear to be a small breach of a fragile ceasefire. West Asia is again climbing the escalation ladder. And yet, it would be premature to write the obituary of the Islamabad agreement. Trump's latest words must, of course, be taken seriously. He is the President of the United States, which just celebrated its 250th birth anniversary with pomp and show of strength. In Ankara, he called Iran's leaders "scum" and "sick people". Talking to Tehran, he suggested, may simply be a waste of time. He has even spoken about the possibility of taking over Kharg Island, the strategic centre of Iran's oil exports.

The Trump Vocabulary

Indeed, Trump has completely changed the language of diplomacy. American presidents in the past made threats, too. They bombed countries. They imposed sanctions, and they toppled governments. But they usually chose their public words carefully. Trump does not. Remember that extraordinary meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office last year? A diplomatic disagreement became a televised argument. The sort of language normally heard behind closed doors was suddenly being spoken in front of cameras. Iran has been dealing with Trump long enough to understand this. This is the same American president who has talked about regime change in Tehran and then shown a willingness to negotiate with the very same Iranian government. Even after declaring the Islamabad understanding effectively dead, Trump acknowledged that his envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner remained involved in the diplomatic process.

Goodbye To Ceasefire?

So, is the deal really dead?

Perhaps.

But the telephone lines do not appear to have been cut yet. The same contradiction exists in Tehran. Iran says Washington has violated the agreement by restoring pressure on its oil trade and attack-

ing Iranian territory. Tehran has also pointed to continued Israeli military action in Lebanon. Israel was to withdraw from south of Lebanon, which it has not, and continues to bomb Lebanese towns and cities. Iranian officials argue that America has failed to honour important commitments made under the memorandum. The text of the agreement matters here. The MoU envisaged no new US sanctions while a final deal was negotiated and included waivers connected with Iranian oil exports. It also required both sides to maintain the status quo pending a final agreement. Yet Iran too has stopped short of formally burying the memorandum. Why? Because, for all the anger, Tehran may also want to keep a small diplomatic window open. The bigger problem is that the original argument over Iran's nuclear programme has now been overtaken by another, potentially even more dangerous fight: the Strait of Hormuz.

The Hormuz Card

Iran appears to have learnt an enormous strategic lesson from the war. It has proven in recent months that Hormuz may be more useful to them than a nuclear bomb. A nuclear weapon is difficult to build. It invites international isolation. Using one would risk national destruction. Hormuz can be squeezed today. Attack three ships, and insurance premiums will rise. Tankers will hesitate to deploy. Oil prices will inevitably jump. Our governments in India and other parts of Asia will become nervous. European markets will fall. Around a fifth of the world's oil and gas supplies pass through this narrow waterway. Iran does not need to defeat the US militarily to cause enormous global damage. It merely needs to make the Strait unpredictable. Or shut it for as long as it deems necessary.

That is an extraordinarily powerful weapon, isn't it?

It has dawned on us that Tehran now appears determined to create a new reality in Hormuz. Iranian politicians



have spoken about greater control over vessels passing through the waterway. There has even been discussion of ships effectively paying for passage. Washington will never easily accept such an arrangement. Control over Hormuz would give Iran leverage not simply over America, but over the global economy.

Trump's Plan

Trump's threats against Iran's oil infrastructure, particularly Kharg Island, should be looked at in that context. Iran can store oil on land. It can fill tankers and leave them sitting offshore.

But it cannot do this indefinitely. At some point, Iran has to sell its oil. The American strategy appears straightforward. Make it harder for Iran to export oil. Threaten the infrastructure that allows Tehran to earn money. Increase the economic pain.

Then wait. The hope in Washington is that Iran eventually returns to the negotiating table on American terms. But Iran has another card. It can make the rest of the region pay the price. The attacks and threats against US military facilities in Bahrain, Kuwait, and elsewhere in the region are reminders of Tehran's ability to widen the conflict. Iran cannot match America's military strength. It does not need to. It only needs

to make the war expensive, unpredictable, and regional.

A Dilemma In The Gulf

That scenario is painful for the Gulf countries, nearly all of whom are American allies and have American military bases there. Nobody in the Gulf wants another long war. The region has changed dramatically over the past decade. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar want to talk about artificial intelligence, global finance, new cities, tourism, sport, and life after oil. Missiles flying over their capitals do not quite fit that sales pitch. Their vulnerability is being exploited to the full by the Iranian regime. We should, therefore, expect another intense diplomatic effort. Qatar has already shown it can play such a role. Oman has decades of experience in quiet diplomacy. Pakistan's own credibility as a serious negotiator is at stake, as the final agreement, if reached, could be called 'the Islamabad Declaration'. But bringing Washington and Tehran back to the negotiating table will be much harder this time. Shehbaz Sharif will have sleepless nights convincing the warring sides to return to negotiations. The two sides were to have another round of talks on July 11. That may not happen now. Trump says Iran cannot be trusted. Iran says America has already broken its promises.

After US-Iran, Why Is Pakistan Suddenly 'Brokering' Peace In Libya Now? Hint: \$4 Billion

To further its freshly minted international reputation of interlocuting between Iran and the US, Pakistan seems to be rolling the dice on another conflict. This time, thousands of kilometres away from its borders, in a region with limited historical stake: Libya. Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir on June 24 received the deputy commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA), Saddam Haftar, at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, under a guard of honour. The latest engagement in Rawalpindi followed Saddam's previous meetings with the Turkish intelligence chief and the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Libya's civil conflict involves two rival administrations - the UN-recognised Government of National Unity (GNU) in Tripoli and the eastern Government of National Stability (GNS) in Benghazi, militarily led by Khalifa Haftar's LNA. The first faction is backed by Turkey and Qatar, and the latter by Egypt, Russia, and the UAE. In April 2026, both sides agreed on a unified national budget, a first since 2013, but the stalemate remains unresolved. The key issues include polls, a unified military command, and a share of Libya's oil revenue, which still remains under debate. Now, Pakistan has stepped into this conflict, where it has defence ties with the LNA.

This development is crucial given that Pakistan's policy in North Africa has been essen-

tially non-existent, with the country also lacking any historical stake or a sizable expatriate community. This changed in late 2025, when Munir visited Benghazi to meet Khalifa Haftar, the military commander of the LNA. According to reports, Pakistan became one of the interlocutors alongside the US, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey. Pakistan's position reportedly revolves around the 36-month reunification plan, where Tripoli-based Prime Minister would hold on to his power, while Saddam Haftar would chair a Presidency Council - essentially taking control of budget revenues and oil fields.

Merchant or Mediator?

Pakistan's mediation role comes as a surprise given its recent inclination towards a defence relationship with the LNA, with Pakistan reportedly finalising a defence deal worth over UDF 4 billion with it. As part of this deal, Pakistan will supply sixteen JF-17 fighter aircraft, jointly developed with China, and 12 Super Mushshak trainer aircraft, to eastern Libya. This is followed up with cooperation on training. Should the deal go through, this export will become the first sale of the JF-17 to an Arab country. That, notably, would be in violation of the 2011 UN arms embargo on Libya. While Pakistan's broader position as a mediator deserves further investigation, its relationship with the LNA will undermine Islamabad's claim to neutrality. This stands



in defiance of conventional mediation theory that necessitates the mediator's impartiality. In that light, to view Pakistan's intentions as a product of altruism would be naive. Libya remains Islamabad's second act this year after it brokered a peace deal between the US and Iran, pausing the West Asian war and earning high praises from US President Donald Trump and his Vice-President, JD Vance. That episode further enhanced Pakistan's standing with the Trump administration, reflecting on a larger scale the role Islamabad played in facilitating the 2020 Doha agreement between the US and the Afghan Taliban, where Pakistani pressure on the latter and its logistical facilitation resulted in a deal. The implications of that agreement for Pakistan-Af-

ghanistan ties and the wider Afghan population, especially women, is a story for another time.

In both cases, the payoff for Pakistan is the same: closer ties with the US and an opportunity to refurbish its international reputation. In Libya, the additional benefits include potential access to a lucrative arms export market and a strategic foothold in an energy-rich state, all at a lower political cost. At best, this remains transactional diplomacy and not humanitarian instinct.

Pak Punching Above Its Weight?

Despite its recent global stature, this does not mean Pakistan can solely determine the future of Libya's conflict. While it is likely viewed as a Muslim-majority, nuclear-powered state with no direct territorial agenda in

Libya, the country still lacks influence or a historic clout, like that of Egypt, or oil investments like Qatar or the UAE. Pakistan remains a secondary player in a ground dominated by the US and other middle powers of the Arab world. That said, Pakistan's close ties with all stakeholders are likely to work in its favor, despite other diplomatic constraints, which explains Qatar and Turkey's insistence on bringing Islamabad into the mix. For policymakers in Islamabad, the key is to manage international and national expectations. Pakistan can either be a benefactor or broker. In the end, seeing Pakistan, currently embroiled in its own internal economic and security crisis as well as an external conflict with Afghanistan, as a power with the capacity to underwrite peace in other parts of the world, is a folly.

Amaravati Championship–2026: A Golden Opportunity for Youth – District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, July 9:Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said that the Amaravati Championship–2026, being organized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, will serve as a prestigious platform to identify talented young sportspersons and shape them into future champions. The Collector unveiled the official poster of the championship on Thursday. Addressing the gathering, he said the event provides an excellent opportunity, especially for rural youth, to showcase their sporting talent. He emphasized that sports help develop physical fitness, discipline, leadership qualities, and team spirit, and urged eligible boys, girls, young men, and women from the district to participate in large

numbers. He said the championship is open to Under-17 boys and girls and Under-23 men and women, with competitions to be held in 12 disciplines: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Basketball, Chess, Hockey, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Weightlifting, and Yoga. The competitions will be conducted in three phases. Constituency-level events will begin on July 17 and conclude by August 26, followed by the State-level competitions for the best performers. The Collector also announced that cash prizes worth ₹91.90 lakh will be awarded to the winners on National Sports Day (August 29). He directed all departments to work in coordination and complete the necessary arrangements well in advance to ensure the successful conduct of the championship. District Revenue Officer P. Ambedkar, Revenue Divisional Officer K. Swathi, DRDA Project Director Dr. Dasari Ratnakar Rao, CPO Venkata Rao, APSRTC District Manager Margaret, Tribal Welfare Deputy Director Rukmandayya, Animal Husbandry Deputy Director Sheikh Mohammed Sharif, Tahsildar C.H. Balaji, MPDO Prasad, Deputy MPDO Haribabu, District Agriculture Officer Rammohan Rao, Mandal Education Officers Srinivasa Rao and Satyanarayana, District Sports Officer K. Pothuraju, PD Tirupati, CMO Chinnababu, and other officials attended the programme.

100% Voter Enrolment Must Be Achieved: Joint Collector Tirumani Sri Pooja

Paderu, Pen Power, July 9:Alluri Sitharama Raju District Joint Collector Tirumani Sri Pooja has directed officials to ensure 100% enrolment of eligible voters by implementing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls effectively in view of the forthcoming elections. During a surprise visit to the Gram Sachivalayam at G.K. Veedhi Mandal on Thursday, the Joint Collector inspected the field-level implementation of the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme. She later reviewed the progress of voter enrolment with the concerned officials. Addressing the officials, she stressed that every eligible citizen should be provided with the opportunity to exercise their democratic right by enrolling as a voter. She instructed that the names of all youths who have attained 18 years of age must be included in the electoral rolls without fail. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were directed to conduct door-to-door verification and ensure that voter details are collected and recorded accurately. The Joint Collector also instructed Tahsildar H. Annaji Rao and other officials to complete the voter list revision in a transparent and quality-oriented



manner within the timeline prescribed by the Election Commission of India. She further appealed to representatives of all political parties to extend their full cooperation for the successful implementation of the SIR programme. She also interacted with local MPTC member Pasupuleti Nagamani and sought support for the voter enrolment drive. Panchayat Development Officer Pandra Paul, Secretariat staff, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and other officials participated in the programme.

Chief Minister to Visit Rampachodavaram on July 17 Collector Directs Officials to Complete All Arrangements in Time

Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, July 9:Ahead of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Rampachodavaram on July 17, Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar on Thursday inspected the venue arrangements along with officials from various departments. The Collector visited the Government Degree College and Government Junior College premises and reviewed the arrangements for the main stage, seating, amenities for students and parents, traffic management, parking, and security. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said the Chief Minister, along with Minister for Human Resource Development Nara Lokesh, will participate in the prestigious "Talliki Vandanam" and Mega Parents' Meeting programmes. He noted that this will be the Chief Minister's first visit to Polavaram district since the district was formed, making the event highly significant. The Collector instructed all departments to work in close coordination and ensure that drinking water, sanitation, medical facilities, transportation, seating arrangements, traffic regulation, and security are provided without any shortcomings for the participants. He directed officials from the Education, Police, Panchayat Raj, Roads & Buildings, AP Eastern Power Distribution Company, Health, Rural Water



Supply, and other departments to complete all assigned responsibilities well in advance. The Collector said that the detailed schedule of the Chief Minister's visit would be announced after receiving the necessary official approvals. District Revenue Officer P. Ambedkar, Revenue Divisional Officer K. Swathi, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Ashraf Ali, District Education Officer G. Sriram Murthy, Tahsildar C.H. Balaji, MPDO Prasad, and other officials participated in the inspection.

Collector Reviews Civic Works, Stresses Stronger Sanitation in Kakinada



Kakinada, Pen Power July 9:Kakinada District Collector and Special Officer of the Kakinada Municipal Corporation, M.N. Harendhira Prasad, has directed municipal officials to strengthen the sanitation system across the city and ensure efficient delivery of civic services. Chairing a review meeting at the Collectorate on Thursday, the

Collector assessed the progress of sanitation programmes, streetlight maintenance, desilting of drainage canals, and ongoing engineering works within the municipal limits. Municipal Commissioner NVV Satyanarayana and senior engineering officials participated in the meeting. The Collector instructed officials to accord top priority to sanitation in slum areas and intensify cleanliness drives. In view of the ongoing monsoon season, he directed that all drains be thoroughly desilted to prevent waterlogging and facilitate the smooth flow of rainwater. Emphasising public convenience and safety, Harendhira Prasad ordered continuous monitoring of streetlights to ensure proper illumination across the city. He also instructed engineering officials to complete all ongoing development works within the stipulated timelines while maintaining quality standards. Additional Municipal Commissioner K.T. Sudhakar, Superintending Engineer Venkata Rao, Municipal Health Officer Dr. D. Prudhvi Charan, and officials from various engineering departments were present at the review meeting.

Ensure Quality Teaching So Every Student Understands Lessons: Collector K. Dinesh Kumar

Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, July 9:Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed teachers to ensure that students in government schools clearly understand every lesson, even if it requires explaining the subject more than once. During an inspection of the Government High School at Rampachodavaram on Thursday, the Collector reviewed classrooms, student attendance, teacher strength, and the overall teaching process. He interacted with students to assess whether they were able to understand the lessons being taught. The Collector also reviewed the distribution of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Education Kits and school uniforms. He instructed officials to ensure that hot and nutritious meals are served daily under the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme in accordance with government guidelines and emphasized the need to maintain cleanliness and sanitation on the school campus. He directed teachers to closely moni-



tor the academic progress of every student and make special efforts to achieve a 100 percent pass rate in the Class 10 examinations every year. District Revenue Officer P. Ambedkar, Revenue Divisional Officer K. Swathi, District Education Officer G. Sriram Murthy, Tribal Welfare Deputy Director Rukmandayya, Tahsildar C.H. Balaji, Agency DEO Y. Malleswara Rao, Mandal Education Officer Srinivasa Rao, MPDO Prasad, and other officials accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

100% Voter Enrolment Must Be Achieved: Joint Collector Tirumani Sri Pooja

Paderu, Pen Power, July 9:Alluri Sitharama Raju District Joint Collector Tirumani Sri Pooja has directed officials to ensure 100 per cent enrolment of all eligible voters by effectively implementing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in preparation for the forthcoming elections. During a surprise inspection at the Gram Sachivalayam in G.K. Veedhi Mandal on Thursday, the Joint Collector reviewed the field-level implementation of the Election Commission of India's SIR programme and assessed the progress of the ongoing voter enrolment drive. She emphasised that every eligible citizen must be given the opportunity to exercise their democratic right by enrolling as a voter. Officials were instructed to ensure that all youth who have attained the age of 18 are enrolled without exception. She directed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to carry out door-to-door verification and collect voter details accurately to maintain error-free electoral rolls. The Joint Collector instructed Tahsildar H. Annaji Rao and other officials to complete the revision of the electoral rolls in a transparent, systematic and time-bound manner, strictly adhering to the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. She also appealed to representa-



tives of all political parties to extend their full cooperation for the successful implementation of the Special Intensive Revision programme. During the visit, she interacted with local MPTC member Pasupuleti Nagamani and sought support for creating awareness and encouraging eligible citizens to enrol as voters. Panchayat Development Officer Pandra Paul, Secretariat staff, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and other officials were present during the inspection.

Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls to Be Completed Within Deadline: Collector

Kakinada, Pen Power July 9:Kakinada District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad has directed officials to complete the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls within the stipulated deadline, ensuring transparency and strict compliance with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. The Collector issued the directions after participating in a video conference chaired by Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav from the Election Commission headquarters in New Delhi. District Collectors across the state attended the meeting, while Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) from various Assembly constituencies participated from the Kakinada Collectorate. Following the conference, the Collector reviewed the progress of the SIR exercise with district officials and instructed them to ensure that every eligible citizen is included in the electoral rolls. He stressed the importance of thorough field verifica-

tion to remove the names of ineligible voters, update records of deceased persons, delete the names of those who have permanently migrated, and incorporate changes in residential addresses wherever necessary. Harendhira Prasad informed officials that 73.59 per cent of the digitization process under the Special Intensive Revision has been completed in the district and directed them to accelerate the remaining work to achieve 100 per cent completion within the prescribed timeframe. District Revenue Officer Dr. T. Tippe Naik and Electoral Registration Officers from various Assembly constituencies were also present during the review.



Waste Segregation and Composting Can Boost Panchayat Development: Collector K. Dinesh Kumar

Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, July 9:Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said that proper segregation of wet and dry waste and converting it into compost can generate revenue for Gram Panchayats and significantly contribute to rural development.

On Thursday, the Collector inspected the local dumping yard and the Waste-to-Wealth Centre at Rampachodavaram. Speaking on the occasion, he said that compost prepared from segregated wet waste would be beneficial for natural farming and could be purchased by farmers, creating an additional source of income for Panchayats.

He directed officials to ensure that dumping yards remain clean, with no accumulation of waste, and to take preventive measures against foul smell and mosquito breeding. He also stressed the need to fully utilize waste management practices for environmental protection and resource generation.

The Collector instructed officials to create awareness among villagers about segregating wet and dry waste at the source and reviewed the processes of waste segregation, compost production, plastic waste management, storage, and sanita-



tion measures. He issued necessary guidelines for effective implementation.

District Revenue Officer P. Ambedkar, Revenue Divisional Officer K. Swathi, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Ashraf Ali, DEO G. Sriram Murthy, EE I. Srinivasa Rao, Tahsildar C.H. Balaji, DLPO Radhakrishna, MPDO Prasad, Deputy MPDO Haribabu, D. Bhavani, and other officials participated in the inspection.

Indian Railways to Operate Special Trains for Rath Yatra 2026



Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, July 9:To facilitate the movement of pilgrims attending the annual Rath Yatra (Car Festival) at Puri, Indian Railways has announced the operation of special express trains between Visakhapatnam–Puri and Jagdalpur–Puri during July 2026. According to South Coast Railway, Train No. 08551 Visakhapatnam–Puri Special Express will depart from Visakhapatnam at 12:30 pm on July 15 and July 23, reaching Puri at 9:30 pm on the same day. The return service, Train No. 08552 Puri–Visakhapatnam Special Express, will leave Puri at 2:30 am on July 17 and July 25, arriving in Visakhapatnam at 11:05 am after halting at Simhachalam and several important stations en route. The special train will stop at Simhachalam, Kottavalasa, Vizianagaram, Chipurupalli,

Ponduru, Srikakulam Road, Tilaru, Kotabommali, Naupada, Palasa, Mandasa, Sompeta, Ichchapuram, Brahmapur, Chatrapur, Khallikot, Balugaon, Kaluparaghat, Nirakarpur, Hariapuram, Motari, Kanas Road, Delang, Jenapur Road, Birpurushottampur, Sakhi Gopal, Janakideipur and Malatipatpur in both directions. Railways will also operate Train No. 08553 Jagdalpur–Puri Special Express, departing Jagdalpur at 6:00 am on July 15 and July 23, and reaching Puri at 1:40 am the following day. The return service, Train No. 08554 Puri–Jagdalpur Special Express, will leave Puri at 7:15 pm on July 16 and July 24, reaching Jagdalpur at 1:15 pm the next day.

The Jagdalpur special will halt at Amagura, Kotapar Road, Jeypore, Chhataript, Koraput, Damanjodi, Lakshimpur Road, Tikiri, Singapur Road, Rayagada, Parvatipuram, Bobbili, Vizianagaram, Chipurupalli, Srikakulam Road, Naupada, Palasa, Mandasa, Sompeta, Ichhapuram, Brahmapur, Chatrapur, Khallikot, Balugaon, Nirakarpur, Kanas Road, Delang and Sakhi Gopal in both directions. Both special trains will consist of 12 coaches, including four Sleeper Class coaches, six General Second Class coaches, and two Second Class Luggage-cum-Divyangian coaches. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager K. Pavan Kumar of the South Coast Railway, Visakhapatnam Division, appealed to passengers and pilgrims travelling to Puri for the Rath Yatra to make use of these special train services.

Minister Gottipati Prioritises Public Grievances

Ongole, Pen Power, July 9:Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar met people from various villages at his camp office in Puttavariapalem, Santhamaguluru Mandal, on Thursday and received their petitions. He directed officials to coordinate with the concerned departments and resolve the grievances at the earliest. The Minister said the coalition government is committed to addressing public issues without discrimination and ensuring that eligible beneficiaries receive welfare scheme benefits promptly. He assured that every genuine petition would be examined and resolved as quickly as possible.



World Population Day Awareness Program from July 11 to 18: Collector Vijaya Krishnan



Anakapalli, Pen Power, July 9: Anakapalli District Collector Vijaya Krishnan has directed the Health Department to conduct extensive awareness programmes across the district from July 11 to 18 as part of the observance of World Population Day. She inaugurated the World Population Day posters and banners at the Collector's Chamber on Thursday. Addressing the officials, the Collector instructed that rallies and awareness meetings be organised at all Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub-Centres to educate the public on family planning and reproductive health. She said the programmes should be conducted successfully under the 2026 theme, "Let's Maintain Healthy Spacing Between Children – Build a Healthy and Happy Family." The Collector emphasised the need to create awareness among eligible couples about tempo-

rary family planning methods. She directed officials to promote newly introduced contraceptive options, including Chhaya oral contraceptive pills, PPIUCD, Antara injectable contraceptives, and Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECs), ensuring that eligible beneficiaries are informed and encouraged to adopt them. She also instructed officials to organise a "Lucky Dip" programme during the World Population Day celebrations to recognise and reward couples who have successfully adopted temporary or permanent family planning methods, with cash incentives as a mark of encouragement. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. M. Haimavathi, District Immunisation Officer Dr. Chandrasekhar, District Statistical Officer Ramachandra Rao, and other Health Department officials and staff participated in the programme.

South Coast Railway GM Reviews Monsoon Preparedness at Waterlogging-Prone Subways in Visakhapatnam Division



Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, July 9: South Coast Railway General Manager Sandeep Mathur conducted a comprehensive inspection of waterlogging-prone Limited Height Subways (LHSs) in the Visakhapatnam Division on Thursday to assess monsoon preparedness and ensure public safety during the rainy season. Accompanied by Divisional Railway Manager Lalit Bohra, Principal Chief Engineer BSK Rajkumar, and senior officials from the Zonal Headquarters and the Division, the General Manager inspected vulnerable subway locations between Pendurti-Simhachalam North (Km 865/01-03) and Gopalapatnam-Visakhapatnam (Km 875/10-12). During the inspection, the GM reviewed the operational readiness of diesel and electric pumps, sump arrangements,

natural drainage systems, CCTV surveillance, covered pump sheds, cross-drainage facilities, safety chains, stop boards, and speed breakers installed to prevent waterlogging and ensure commuter safety. Emphasising the need for continuous vigilance throughout the monsoon season, Sandeep Mathur instructed officials to keep all dewatering equipment in working condition and restore affected subways for public use without delay whenever water accumulation occurs. He also directed railway officials to closely monitor weather forecasts, deploy field staff round the clock at vulnerable locations during heavy rainfall, and ensure effective coordination among the engineering, electrical, and operating departments for a swift and efficient response to any emergency situation.

Kilkari Services Offer Lifeline to Pregnant Women



Ongole, Pen Power, July 9: The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) programme held at the Papa Colony Urban Primary Health Centre in Ongole was inspected by Kilkari Regional Programme Officer Raju and District ASHA Nodal Officer Rajeshwari. Speaking on the occasion, Regional Programme Officer Raju highlighted the importance of the Kilkari initiative launched by the Central Government to support the health and well-being of pregnant women and new mothers. He said pregnant women receive monthly Kilkari voice calls from the number 911600403660, beginning from the fourth month of pregnancy until the child reaches one year of age. He explained that the calls provide valuable guidance on preg-

nancy care, essential medical check-ups, antenatal care (ANC), nutrition, birth preparedness, the importance of breastfeeding, newborn care, prevention of diarrhoea and pneumonia, family planning methods, and other key maternal and child health practices. He urged all pregnant women and lactating mothers to answer the Kilkari calls and make full use of the free service. District ASHA Nodal Officer Rajeshwari reviewed the healthcare services being provided to pregnant women through government health institutions. She advised expectant mothers to opt for institutional deliveries at government hospitals to ensure safe childbirth. Dr. Yamani, healthcare staff, and several pregnant women participated in the programme.

Collector Reviews Ongole Municipal Office, Directs Swift Disposal of Public Grievances



Ongole, Pen Power, July 9: Prakasam District Collector and Special Officer of the Ongole Municipal Corporation, P. Rajababu, conducted an inspection of the Municipal Corporation office on Thursday and directed officials to ensure the prompt resolution of public grievances. During the visit, the Collector received several

petitions from citizens and reviewed issues including land disputes between family members, complaints regarding an unauthorized shed obstructing a public access road, and other pending civic grievances. He also sought updates on petitions received during the previous week's grievance programme and instructed officials to resolve them without delay.

The Collector specifically ordered the immediate removal of an illegally constructed shed on the road at Mamidipalem. He directed officials to interact directly with petitioners and take appropriate action in cases related to double registration of properties. He personally contacted the concerned petitioner over the phone to obtain details regarding the issue.

Rajababu also instructed officials to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive social security pensions without unnecessary delay.

Ongole Municipal Commissioner Krishnaiah, Medical and Health Officer Navi, and other officials were present during the inspection.

ECI Principal Secretaries Review Electoral Roll Revision in Visakhapatnam

Comprehensive Review of Special Intensive Revision Process Held at Collectorate



Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, July 9: Principal Secretaries of the Election Commission of India (ECI), Avinash Kumar and Sanjay Kumar, visited Visakhapatnam district on Thursday to review the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. A review meeting was held at the Collectorate Conference Hall to assess the progress of the revision process. During the meeting, the ECI officials conducted a detailed review of the district's efforts in house-to-house verification, enrolment of new eligible voters, deletion of names of deceased persons and those who have shifted their residence, and other measures aimed at ensuring an accurate and error-free electoral roll. They instructed the officials to complete the revision process transparently, strictly in accordance with the Election Commission's guidelines, and within the stipulated timeline. The officials also reviewed the functioning of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and the Election Cell. Emphasis was laid on maintaining the quality of the electoral rolls, thoroughly scrutinising every application, and creating public awareness



so that every eligible citizen is enrolled as a voter. District Collector M. Abhishikt Kishore gave a detailed presentation on the progress of the Special Intensive Revision in the district and informed the visiting officials about the various measures being taken to ensure 100 percent enrolment of eligible voters. The meeting was attended by GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, Joint Collector Gobbilla Vidyadhari, District Revenue Officer Visweshwara Naidu, EROs, AEROs, and officials of the Election Cell.

Amaravati Championship-2026 Poster Unveiled in Anakapalli Collector Vijaya Krishnan Urges Youth to Participate in Large Numbers

Anakapalli, Pen Power, July 9: As part of the National Sports Day 2026-27 celebrations, the poster for Amaravati Championship-2026 was unveiled by District Collector Vijaya Krishnan along with Joint Collector Shaurya Man Patel at the Collector's Chamber on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that competitions will be conducted for Under-17 and Under-23 boys' and girls' categories in 12 sporting disciplines, including Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Basketball, Chess, Hockey, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Weightlifting, Volleyball, and Yoga. The competitions will be held at the constituency, district, and state levels from July 15 to August 29. The Collector appealed to school and college students, sportspersons, and youth across the district to participate enthusiastically and make the event a grand success. District Sports Development Officer Pujari Shailaja informed that all participants must register online through the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) website using their Aadhaar card. She stated that only registered candidates will be eligible to participate in the championship.



Complete SIR Process Quickly; No Room for Delay: Collector P. Rajababu



Ongole, Pen Power, July 9:Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu conducted a surprise inspection of the Ward Secretariat at Gandhinagar in Ongole on Thursday and reviewed the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of

the electoral rolls. The Collector examined the voter registration process carried out by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and enquired about the deployment of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). Expressing dissatisfaction over the poor performance of some BLOs and Additional BLOs, he directed officials to replace those showing negligence and appoint efficient personnel to ensure the revision process is completed effectively. He also reviewed the voter registration process through the mobile application and instructed staff to complete the revision quickly, accurately, and efficiently. Stressing that no eligible voter should be left out, he directed officials to ensure every eligible person's name is included in the electoral rolls. Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari, Ongole Municipal Commissioner Venkata Krishnayya, Revenue Divisional Officer Chandrasekhar Naidu, and other officials were present during the inspection.

Review with Tahsildar on people's problems in the SIR process

Madanapalle, July 9: Several people contacted the war room set up at the local YSR Congress Party office in Madanapalle town regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and informed them of their problems related to voter registration, details correction, mapping and other issues. In this context, on the instructions of the Sub-Collector, Madanapalle constituency YSR Congress Party coordinator S Nisar Ahmed, along with Mandal Tahsildar Madhavi, inspected the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process at the field level in Eswaramma Colony Gram Panchayat limits of Madanapalle mandal. On this occasion, they comprehensively reviewed with the officials the problems faced by the local people, difficulties arising in registering voter details, acceptance of applications, mapping process and other issues and resolved the problems. S Nisar Ahmed suggested that the authorities should pay special attention to the people and, in collaboration with political parties, conduct the SIR process in a transparent and speedy manner so that justice is done to every eligible voter so that the people do not

face any difficulties. He said that every complaint received by the war room will be brought to the attention of the concerned authorities and full



cooperation will be provided on behalf of the YSR Congress Party to resolve it quickly. The people expressed their satisfaction to this extent. Party Intellectuals Forum State Secretary VS Reddy, Minority Department State Secretary Kareemulla, former MPTC Srikanth Reddy, Fayaz, Kothapalli Mahesh, Basri, Bayya Reddy and others, along with BLOs and BLAs participated in this program.

Big Blow To TMC As Ex- MPs Sushmita Dev, Prakash Chik Baraik & Sukhen Shekhar Roy Join BJP In Kolkata

Kolkata: The Trinamool Congress (TMC) suffered a significant political setback after three of its former Rajya Sabha MPs, Sushmita Dev, Prakash Chik Baraik and Sukhen Shekhar Roy, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Kolkata. The leaders were inducted into the BJP in the presence of West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya, who welcomed them into the party and described their decision as a boost for the BJP in the state. Addressing the gathering, Bhattacharya criticised successive governments in West Bengal, alleging that decades of political rule first under the Left Front and later under the TMC had weakened the spirit of cooperative feder-



alism. He claimed that instead of working with the Centre, the state government chose confrontation, which, according to him, hindered development. Bhattacharya said the three former parliamentarians had reposed faith in the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and resigned from the TMC before joining the BJP. He praised their contributions in the Rajya Sabha, saying all three were experienced leaders whose parliamentary performances were widely recognised. Calling the

development a moment of celebration for the BJP, Bhattacharya extended a warm welcome to the leaders on behalf of the party's workers, senior leadership, including Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, and the entire state organisation.

Mumbai Monsoon: Hospitals Report 30% Surge In Viral Illness Cases After Heavy Rainfall

Mumbai: Just one good spell of monsoon rain has led to a sharp rise in seasonal illnesses across hospitals in Mumbai and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). Most private hospitals are reporting a 20-30% increase in daily OPD visits, with seasonal viral infections, influenza-like illnesses, gastroenteritis, and early cases of dengue, malaria and typhoid driving the surge. Doctors say the spike has become evident over the past few days following heavy rainfall, with patients presenting with fever, cough, sore throat, body aches and fatigue. Children, senior citizens and people with underlying illnesses are among the worst affected.

Rise In Hospital Visits
The rise has been particularly noticeable among working-age adults. Remy Varghese, Chief Operating Officer, Zynova Shalby Hospital, Ghatkopar, said the hospital has recorded a 20% increase in patients aged 22-65 presenting with viral infections over the last three to four days. Varghese advised people to maintain good hand hygiene, stay well hydrated, avoid crowded places, drink boiled water, consume freshly prepared home-cooked food and seek medical care if symptoms persist



for more than two days. The surge has also been significant in paediatric emergency departments. Dr Behzad Bhandari, Associate Consultant, Emergency Medicine, Narayana Health SRCC Children's Hospital, Mumbai, said the hospital has witnessed a 30-40% increase in children visiting the hospital since the onset of the monsoon. "Most children are suffering from seasonal infections and other monsoon-related illnesses. While the majority of cases are not severe, early consultation and preventive measures are crucial to prevent complications," he said.

Doctors Advise Precautions
Physicians are also warning that the seasonal spike now extends beyond rou-

tine viral fever. Dr Amit Saraf, Director of Internal Medicine, Jupiter Hospital, Thane, said the hospital has witnessed a 20-30% increase in OPD consultations over the last two to three days following intense rainfall. "Most patients are presenting with seasonal viral infections, including fever, upper respiratory tract infections, sore throat, cough and flu-like symptoms. We are also seeing a rise in acute gastroenteritis and suspected dengue cases," he said, adding that patients with asthma, chronic lung disease, diabetes and hypertension are also reporting worsening of their symptoms due to sudden weather changes and high humidity. Adding to the concern, doctors say mosquito-borne

diseases have already begun to surface. Dr Manjusha Agarwal, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Gleneagles Hospital, Parel, said the hospital is currently seeing five to eight additional OPD patients daily with influenza-like illnesses and gastroenteritis. "Children and the elderly are the most affected. While most cases are mild, we are also seeing high-grade fever due to dengue and malaria, viral respiratory infections and severe cough requiring hospital admission. Typhoid cases are also rising," she said. Doctors recommend eating freshly cooked food, drinking boiled or safe water, maintaining hand hygiene, avoiding exposure to stagnant water and seeking timely medical advice instead of self-medicating.

Pregnant Nida Khan Gets Bail In Nashik TCS Case; Court Cites Trauma Of Giving Birth In Prison



Nashik: As it granted bail to a pregnant Nida Khan in a Nashik TCS case, a local court observed that the trauma of giving birth in prison is unbearable for any woman, drawing a comparison with the circumstances surrounding the birth of Lord Krishna. In his order, Additional Sessions Judge (Nashik Road court) K G Joshi, however, noted that the overall investigation shows that Khan, with the help of co-accused, attempted to "brainwash the victim" and tried to change her ideological views and religion. Citing the probe into a sexual harassment and alleged religious conversion case, the order also



said that they tried to convince the victim that "there are objectionable stories in the Hindu religion". While the court had granted bail to Khan, who was arrested nearly two months ago, on July 6, the reasoned order was made available on Thursday, with the judge asserting that the FIR clearly mentions Khan's alleged role.

The judge allowed her plea, considering the defence argument that she was five months pregnant. "The trauma of giving birth in a prison like Lord Krishna or the related social stigma is not bearable for anyone," the court said. "To avoid such an agonising situation

and for the welcome and overall welfare of the newborn baby, it would be just and proper to exercise judicial discretion in favour of the applicant-accused," it added. The judge said that keeping the pregnant applicant detained would serve no purpose as the investigation was complete and the charge sheet had been filed. Besides her pregnancy, Khan's lawyer Rahul Kasliwal also claimed that she was innocent and had been falsely implicated. He submitted that Khan was highly educated and was previously employed as an "Associate" at TCS before being terminated in April 2026.

Public prosecutor Vijay Gaikwad, along with lawyers Milind Kurkute and Nitin Pandit, appearing on behalf of one of the victims, opposed the bail pleas of Khan and co-accused Danish Shaikh. Their contention was that enough evidence of sexual assault and religious coercion came to the fore during the investiga-

tion of the case. The prosecution submitted that Shaikh gave an Islamic book and burqa to the woman victim with the motive for religious conversion. All these suggest that the woman was sexually exploited intentionally and efforts were made for her religious conversion, they argued. The court allowed Khan's bail on a personal bond of Rs. 75,000 along with one solvent surety of the same amount.

An SIT of the Nashik police is probing a total of nine cases registered in connection with the alleged exploitation, attempt of forceful conversion, hurting religious sentiments, molestation and mental harassment of female employees at the TCS unit. This specific case concerns the FIR registered by the Deolali Camp police station under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita provisions 69 (sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means etc), 65 (sexual harassment), 299 (outrage religious feelings).

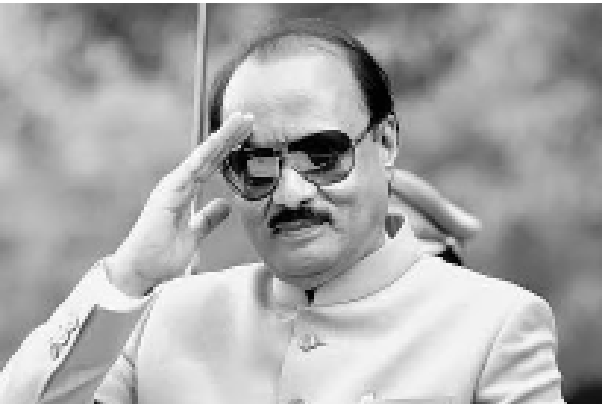
NCP Legislators Seek Posthumous Padma Vibhushan For Ajit Pawar, Write To CM Devendra Fadnavis

Mumbai: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislators have requested that former Deputy CM Ajit Pawar be posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honour, and have written a letter in this regard to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. In the letter dated July 8 and addressed to Fadnavis, NCP chief whip in the Assembly, Chetan Vitthal Tupe, said the request was being made on behalf of the party's Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs).

The legislators urged the state government to forward a formal recommenda-

tion to the Union government for awarding the Padma Vibhushan to Pawar and noted his death in an air crash in Baramati, Pune district, on January 28 was an irreparable loss to Maharashtra as well as the country. The letter described Pawar, who also headed the NCP, as an action-oriented leader and an able administrator, and credited him with making significant contributions to the state's social, economic and industrial development during his public life spanning decades.

It highlighted his tenure as finance minister, noting his record number of state budget presentations, and referred to his role in policy decisions relating to infra-



structure, road development, metro connectivity and irrigation projects. The NCP legislators said Pawar played a key role in strengthening the cooperative sector, extending financial assistance to farmers during periods of distress and implementing welfare initiatives across the state.

Stating that his demise marked the end of an era, the lawmakers insisted conferring the Padma Vibhushan on the late leader would recognise his lifelong service and contribution to Maharashtra's development. The NCP is a constituent of the BJP-led ruling Mahayuti coalition.

KDMC Hospital Assault Case: Kalyan Court Rejects Shiv Sena Corporator Ramesh Mhatre's Plea For Virtual Hearing

Kalyan: A Kalyan court on Thursday rejected an application seeking to allow Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre, accused of assaulting doctors and hospital staff at a Dombivli hospital, to appear before the court through video conferencing, directing that he must be produced physically. Mhatre, 73, was arrested on Wednesday following widespread outrage over the assault, which was captured on video and circulated on social media. Soon after his arrest, he was admitted to Thane Civil Hospital after his health reportedly deteriorated. According to doctors, Mhatre is undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) under specialist supervision. They said he has only one kidney, is suffering from high blood pressure and has complained of frequent vomiting. A medical bulletin on his condition is expected, after which a decision on his discharge will be taken. The police had sought permission to pro-



duce Mhatre virtually, citing his medical condition. His defence also supported the request, arguing that the corporator's custody should be extended until Friday so he could be produced alongside the three co-accused. However, the court refused the plea, making it clear that neither police nor judicial custody would be granted until Mhatre is physically presented before the court.

Defence counsel AY Patki clarified that Mhatre remains under police confinement while receiving treatment and is not currently in formal police custody. The case stems from Monday's attack at a Dombivli hospital, where Mhatre and his aides allegedly assaulted two doctors, including a woman, and other staff after a family complained that their newborn could not be admitted

to the NICU due to a shortage of beds. Despite the backlash, Mhatre has denied assaulting the woman doctor, claiming he only struck her mobile phone while trying to get her attention. Meanwhile, the assaulted doctors have alleged receiving threats, and both the woman doctor and one of her colleagues have resigned, citing fear and concerns for their safety.

Jaipur Woman Allegedly Hires Killers To Murder Mother Over Property, Govt Job; 7 Arrested

Jaipur: A horrific example of how the greed for property and a government job can take a toll on human relationships has come to light in Jaipur, where a 23-year-old woman allegedly killed her mother by hatching a conspiracy with the family of her uncle. The police investigation revealed that the accused, Aayushi Sharma, plotted the murder with her uncle and cousin, hired contract killers for Rs 7 lakh, and got her mother run over by a Scorpio SUV in an attempt to make the murder look like a road accident. The incident happened on July 4th when the deceased, Neeraj Sharma, was returning home after dropping her son at a coaching center when a Scorpio traveling at around 130 km/h rammed her. The impact flung her body nearly 100 feet into the air, killing her on the spot. The

driver fled with the vehicle after the incident.

The incident looked like a road accident, but Rakesh Sharma, the brother of the deceased, lodged a complaint with the police, acting on which the police went through the CCTV footage of the area that revealed that the collision was not an accident but a planned murder, following which the police arrested seven accused, including Ayushi and her uncle Mohan Swaroop. Jaipur (East) DCP Ranjita Sharma said that the deceased Niraj Sharma's husband had died about a year ago, and Niraj got a compassionate government appointment in place of her husband. Accused Ayushi was keen to get that job and was annoyed with her mother on this matter. She left her mother and started living with her uncle Mohan



Swaroop's family. The interrogation with the accused and the digital evidence pointed to a witchcraft conspiracy before the murder as well. The DCP stated that videos were recovered from the accused's mobile phones, which reveal Neeraj Sharma's clothes being burned on the stairs of his house. "These videos are from the day before the hit-and-run murder. Sindoor and other materials were also recovered from his car and home. This suggests a witchcraft

conspiracy, and we are investigating the case to find out who else was involved in this and what role each of the accused played," said the DCP. Police investigation revealed that Ayushi, was lured by a government job and property and was allegedly plotting the murder with her uncle and his son for several days. Subsequently, on July 4th, they carried out the crime with thorough planning and recce, attempting to pass it off as an accident.

Thane Building Gallery Collapse In Jambli Naka Triggers Evacuation; Major Tragedy Averted, No Injuries

Thane: A major tragedy was averted on Thursday morning after parts of the second and third-floor galleries of a 45-year-old residential building collapsed in the bustling Jambli Naka market area of Thane. No casualties or injuries were reported in the incident. The disaster management cell received an emergency

call at 11:48 AM regarding the collapse at 'Laxmi Apartment', a ground-plus-three-story structure located near Mahavir Shop on Mohammed Ali Road. According to municipal officials, Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) had already classified the aging structure under the 'C-1' category, deeming it extremely dan-

gerous, unfit for habitation, and marked for immediate demolition. Following the structural failure, the remainder of the building was left in a highly precarious state. A swift response team consisting of local leaders, senior police officers, and municipal top brass immediately rushed to the site. Senior officials, including the

Assistant Commissioner of the Naupada-Kopri Ward Committee and executive engineers from the Public Works Department (PWD), supervised the emergency operations. Personnel from the Thane Disaster Response Force (TDRF) and the fire department deployed emergency utility and fire vehicles to secure the perimeter.

Vice President Launches Deep Sea Fishing Mission in Odisha



New Delhi: The Department of Fisheries, Government of India organized the National Launch of Letter of Authorisation (LoA) for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas on 9th July 2026 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan launched the Letter of Authorisation for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas. Hon'ble Vice President also launched the Odisha Deep Sea Mission Document during the event. The National launch program was graced by the august presence of Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha; Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha; Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Education; Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj, along with Prof. S. P.

high-value marine resources, strengthen livelihoods and create new opportunities across the sea-food value chain. Under-scoring the importance of quality standards, traceability and international certifications, he noted that these measures would help Indian seafood access premium global markets and further boost exports. He also emphasised the need to strengthen Fisheries Cooperatives and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) and encouraged the youth to view fisheries as a modern, science-driven sector offering significant employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Stressing that growth must be aligned with sustainability, he called for responsible management of marine resources to ensure long-term benefits for future generations and continued growth of the Blue Economy. During the event, the Hon'ble Vice President distributed LoA to the fisher-

Sahakari Mandali Ltd, Shri Martanda Prassanna Colaba Matsyodyog Vividh Karyakari Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit, South Goa Mechanized Boat Owners Coop. & Marketing Society Ltd, Paradeep Marine Primary Fish Production & Marketing Co-op. Society Ltd, Thengapattanam Deep Sea Fish Producers Cooperative Society and Malpe Fishermen's Primary Co-Operative Society Ltd. Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, highlighted India's vast Exclusive Economic Zone and immense marine wealth, noting that the country's fishing activities have traditionally remained concentrated in coastal waters. He emphasized that the launch of the Letter of Authorisation (LoA) is an important step towards sustainably harnessing high-seas fisheries resources through a transparent and technology-driven framework. Emphasising that growth must be accom-

plished, stressing the role of Fisheries Cooperatives and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs), he called for empowering fishers with suitable vessels, equipment and technologies to tap high-value resources such as tuna and tuna-like species. Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, noted that Odisha is steadily building a robust fisheries ecosystem through investments in modern fisheries infrastructure, including wholesale fish markets and Aquapark, to support value addition and seafood exports. Emphasising the State's commitment to harnessing the untapped potential of

rich maritime heritage and abundant fisheries resources, he noted that the State has emerged as an important contributor to India's seafood exports and possesses significant untapped potential, particularly in brackish water aquaculture and deep-sea fisheries. He emphasised that harnessing these resources in a sustainable manner can enhance fish production, boost exports and create new livelihood opportunities for coastal communities. The Minister underscored the pivotal role of fisheries cooperatives and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) in strengthening the fisheries value chain, improving market access



the EEZ and oceanic fisheries resources, he stated that the digitally enabled LoA framework, featuring an end-to-end online process and real-time tracking, will promote transparency and ease of doing business. He further underscored the importance of developing deep-sea fishing, tuna fisheries, processing and export-oriented fisheries activities to enhance incomes, generate employment and position Odisha as a leading hub for marine fisheries

and ensuring that the benefits of sectoral growth reach fishing communities. He further stated that the LoA framework and the Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission would help position Odisha as a key fisheries and seafood export hub in eastern India, while contributing to the vision of a vibrant Blue Economy.

Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, highlighted that the Union Budget 2025-26 announced the creation of an enabling framework for the sustainable harnessing of fisheries resources in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and High Seas, which has been operationalised through the launch of the Access Pass and the national rollout of the Letter of Authorisation (LoA). He stated that the LoA is a historic milestone for India's marine fisheries sector that will unlock the vast untapped potential of high-seas fisheries through a transparent and fully online system. The Minister emphasised that Fisheries Cooperatives and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) are prioritized under the initiative to ensure inclusive participation in the emerging high-seas fisheries ecosystem. He further highlighted that the Government has invested more than ₹39,000 crore in the fisheries sector through various flagship schemes, resulting in more than 100% growth in fish production and record seafood exports of ₹73,891

crore in 2025-26 despite global trade challenges. Referring to the Union Budget 2026-27, he highlighted that fish catch by Indian vessels in the EEZ and High Seas has been made duty-free and foreign port landings will be treated as exports, creating new opportunities for growth in the sector. He called upon all stakeholders to work collectively towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and further strengthen India's Blue Revolution and Blue Economy.

Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary (Fisheries), Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, welcomed the dignitaries and participants and underscored the significance of the national launch of the Letter of Authorisation (LoA) as a transformative step towards facilitating sustainable and regulated high-seas fisheries in the country. He stated that the recently notified EEZ Rules, 2025 and High Seas Fisheries Guidelines, 2025 provide a robust framework for the responsible harvesting of high-value marine resources such as tuna and tuna-like species. Emphasising the fisheries sector's role in supporting the livelihoods of nearly 3 crore fishers and fish farmers, he called for a whole-of-government approach and strengthened collaboration among State Governments and fisheries stakeholders. He also highlighted the pivotal role of Fisheries Cooperatives and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) in strengthening the fisheries value chain and ensuring inclusive growth of the sector.

The Letter of Authorisation (LoA) and the Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission Document represent an important step towards establishing a transparent, accountable and sustainable framework for high-seas fishing by Indian vessels. These initiatives will facilitate responsible participation of Indian-flagged fishing vessels in high-seas fisheries, while ensuring sustainable utilisation of marine resources. It reinforces the Government's commitment to boost economic well-being of fishers, boosting seafood exports, strengthening global competitiveness and advancing the objectives of the Blue Economy in line with national development priorities.

Background

Odisha, located on the eastern coast of India along the Bay of Bengal, is one of the country's leading fisheries states with a rich and diversified fisheries resource base encompassing freshwater, brackish water,



and marine ecosystems. About 95% of the population in Odisha consume fish with per capita consumption of 19.16 Kgs. The sector plays a significant role in the state's economy, livelihoods, food security, and export earnings. As of 2025-26, Odisha produced 12.70 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of fish, supporting the livelihoods of over 16 lakh fishermen and fish farmers across the state. The state possesses abundant fisheries resources, including ~7.12 lakh hectares of freshwater resources, 4.18 lakh hectares of brackish water resources, and a 24,000 sq. km continental shelf area for marine fisheries. Fish production during 2025-26 comprised 8.27 lakh MT from freshwater fisheries, 1.86 lakh MT from brackish water aquaculture, and 2.56 lakh MT from marine fisheries.

Odisha has also emerged as an important seafood exporting state. During 2025-26, the state exported 1,00,897 MT of seafood valued at ₹5,428.67 crore, driven primarily by shrimp and other high-value aquaculture species. Key export-oriented districts include Balasore, Bhadrakh, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, and Sambalpur. Major export is from shrimp and marine fish varieties.

The state has been a proactive participant in flagship fisheries development programmes of the Government of India, particularly under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Since 2020, projects worth over ₹1,301 crore have been approved under PMMSY, covering aquaculture expansion, seed and feed infrastructure, fish marketing, cold chain development, aquatic animal health, fishermen welfare, insurance coverage, and fisheries infrastructure. Significant achievements include coverage of approximately 8.47 lakh fishermen under group accident insurance, establishment of hatcheries, feed mills, reservoir cage culture units, cold storages, fish markets, and fishing harbour infrastructure.

The Letter of Authorisation (LoA) is a mandatory provision under the Guidelines for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas by Indian-Flagged Fishing Vessels, 2025. Designed as a transparent and accountable framework for Indian-flagged vessels undertaking fishing or fishing-related activities in the high seas, the LoA is vessel-specific, non-transferable and integrated with the ReAlCraft Fishing Vessel Registration Portal, ensuring orderly, traceable and monitored operations. Issued and renewed at minimal cost, with no procedural constraints and real-time application tracking, the LoA facilitates ease of compliance for fishers and vessel operators. Vessels issued with an LoA are required to comply with conservation and management measures prescribed by the relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), including catch limits, gear regulations, bycatch mitigation measures, Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) management, voyage reporting and other requirements for responsible and sustainable fishing.

The LoA initiative will strengthen Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) and fisheries cooperatives by facilitating their participation in sustainable deep-sea and high-seas fisheries, enhancing access to high-value resources and creating greater income opportunities for fishers. It also places a focus on digitization, with the entire LoA process being online, transparent, and time-bound, thereby improving service delivery, transparency, traceability, and governance in the fisheries sector.

The Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026-2036) is a flagship Blue Economy initiative of the Government of Odisha aimed at unlocking the State's offshore and deep-sea fisheries potential and establishing Odisha as a leading deep-sea fishing and marine export hub. Through investments in modern fishing infrastructure, value chains, scientific fisheries management and market linkages, the Mission seeks to enhance fish production, generate employment, boost fisher incomes and drive sustainable growth of the marine fisheries sector.



Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj; Shri Gokulananda Mallik, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Fisheries & ARD and MSME, Government of Odisha; and Shri Sukanta Panigrahi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Andhra Pradesh; The event also witnessed participation of approximately 1,000 fish farmers and fishers including women fish farmers and fishers in person, along with officials from various states and UTs, line Ministries and Departments.

Hon'ble Vice president, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan appreciated the efforts of the Department of Fisheries, GoI, Government of Odisha and all fisheries stakeholders in advancing sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector. He noted that the Union Budget 2025-26 had recognised the importance of harnessing fisheries resources in India's EEZ and High Seas and stated that the launch of the Letter of Authorisation (LoA) framework marks a new chapter in the country's fisheries sector. He highlighted that the fisher-centric framework will open access to

ies cooperative societies including National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) and fishing vessel owners, enabling eligible Indian-flagged fishing vessels to undertake regulated fishing operations in the high seas. The fisheries cooperative societies awarded include Shree Mahavir Machhimar

panied by sustainability, he noted that the initiative will promote responsible fishing, strengthen fisheries value chains, generate livelihood opportunities for youth and improve the incomes of fishing communities. He also appreciated the Department of Fisheries for achieving record seafood exports despite global trade

and seafood exports in the country.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, shed light on the immense potential of India's Blue Economy and appreciated the transformative initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to strengthen the fisheries sector. Referring to Odisha's

J&K Monsoon Mayhem: Landslide Hits Vaishno Devi Track After Heavy Rains, Battery Car Service Suspended Temporarily

Mata Vaishno Devi is one of the most prominent pilgrimage sites, which is located in Katra, Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir. The annual pilgrimage site is witnessing heavy monsoon rains, which have triggered a landslide on Wednesday, prompting authorities to temporarily suspend battery car services as a precautionary measure. The incident occurred on the track between Ardhkuwari and Bhawan, prompting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) to take immediate safety measures.

Landslide affects battery car services

A landslide occurred near

Himkoti along the new route leading to the holy cave of Mata Vaishno shrine atop the Trikuta Hills. However, the pilgrimage remained unaffected as devotees continued their sacred journey through the traditional track. The incident led to the suspension of the battery car facility. According to officials, the services will remain suspended until the debris from the route is cleared and restoration of the road is completed. The route will not be opened until it is declared safe.

According to officials, no casualties or injuries were reported in the landslide. Shrine Board teams, along with disaster response per-

sonnel, were deployed to clear debris from the affected stretch and assess the condition of the track. Pilgrims were advised to follow instructions issued by authorities and avoid unnecessary movement in landslide-prone areas.

Yatra continues amid disruption

Despite the disruption, the yatra continued through alternative arrangements, with officials closely monitoring the situation. The Shrine Board has also appealed to pilgrims to check the latest weather and travel advisories before beginning their journey, as heavy rainfall is expected to continue in parts of Jammu

and Kashmir. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast persistent rainfall across the region over the coming days, increasing the risk of landslides, flash floods, and falling rocks in hilly areas. Devotees planning to visit the shrine are advised to carry rain gear, wear sturdy footwear, and remain cautious while trekking.

About Mata Vaishno Devi shrine

The Vaishno Devi Temple, dedicated to Goddess Vaishnavi, attracts millions of devotees every year. Nestled in the Trikuta Hills of the Himalayas at an altitude of about 5,200 feet above sea level, the shrine



is considered one of the holiest Shakti Peethas in Hinduism. Pilgrims undertake a challenging trek of approximately 13 kilometres from Katra to reach the sacred cave, though helicopter services, ponies, and battery-operated vehicles are also available.

Never imagined I would play 100 matches: Axar Patel cherishes landmark T20I appearance for India



New Delhi: India all-rounder Axar Patel is set to reach a major international milestone and play his 100th T20I when he takes the field in the fourth T20I against England, describing the occasion as one that fulfils every cricketer's dream. Speaking ahead of the match on the ongoing England tour, Axar reflected on his journey from making his T20I debut in 2015 to becoming one of India's most dependable white-ball performers, while acknowledging the people who have shaped his career and the lessons that have defined it. "When I played T20 for the first time, I never imagined that I would play 100 matches. This England tour will be a very special day for me. In the second T20, I completed 100 wickets and in the fourth T20, I'll complete 100 matches. It's a very special day for me. I am enjoying this moment a lot. I am feeling very good," Axar said in a BCCI video.

While individual milestones often dominate headlines, Axar insisted the achievement belongs to everyone who has

supported him throughout his career. "Basically, as a player, when you achieve a milestone, I feel that it's not about me. I am not achieving this alone. You know, I have my team members, my coaches, my family with me. So, I think everyone's role has been in my journey," he added. The left-arm spinner admitted that representing India itself remains the biggest achievement, making the prospect of completing 100 T20Is even more special. "When you start, when you debut for the first time, that feeling is different. At that time, you don't know how much you will achieve. But now, I am going to play the 100th match. You cannot express that feeling. Even if you play one match for India, it's a big deal for you. Because it's a player's dream. And when you are going to play the 100th match, I think that is a very special moment," Axar stated. Axar's road to the milestone has been far from straightforward. After making an early impression on debut, opportunities came sporadically before he established him-

self as a regular in India's white-ball setup in recent years. "If you play for such a long time, then that journey obviously becomes like a roller coaster. You never know. In the first 5 or 6 years, I played 15 or 16 matches. And then from 2021 till now, I think, I have played continuously. We have the last two World Cup T20s. In 1924, I played for the first time. And in 1926, I played for the second time. So, when you are playing the 100th match, all these journeys make memories for you. And I think all those special memories are for you," the all-rounder said. Having also completed 100 T20I wickets earlier in the series, Axar said personal records are satisfying but remain secondary to continuous improvement. "Milestone doesn't matter that much for me. But, yes, sometimes you feel good that you are taking 100 or 200 wickets. Or like a batsman takes 50 or 100 wickets. That is a milestone. You know, whatever hard work we have done for so many years, whether it was good or

bad, whatever mistakes we have made, we have learned from it. How can we be better? And because of that, I think, we have paid attention to our process. Day by day, we have become better," he mentioned. Looking back on the player who debuted over a decade ago, Axar believes experience has fundamentally changed how he approaches the game. "I know that in my first match, I was the man of the match. So, I know that I have taken 3 wickets by giving 9 runs, or 18 or 20 runs. I have taken 3 wickets. No, no, today's Axar Patel and that Axar Patel have changed a lot. I think this is 2015 and 2026. I think it's been 11 years. It's a very long time. You learn along with the mistakes you make. "So, when you have a young blood, you think, I should do this, I should do that. So, I think in today's Axar and that Axar, in today's Axar, you have to handle a lot of pressure. And all that has become easier. At that time, everything seemed new. At that time, I used to think, this will happen, we will do this. And at the same time, that was the first match. Now, there are 2-0 at the back. I think that is a very big change," he stated. If given the chance to advise his younger self, Axar said that embracing setbacks would be the one lesson he would pass on. "If I had met Axar earlier, I would have said the same thing. Learn as much as you can from your mistakes. Obviously, in the cricket game, mistakes are bound to happen. It's not that they won't happen. But the time that can happen between one mistake and the next, we have learnt that early. And now, it's not happening. So, I will be very grateful for that," the 32-year-old concluded.

France have unbelievable depth to win World Cup, says Sunil Chhetri ahead of Morocco clash

New Delhi: India legend Sunil Chhetri has tipped France to win the FIFA World Cup 2026, saying Didier Deschamps' side possesses unmatched quality and depth ahead of their blockbuster quarter-final against Morocco. "How do you bet against France? They have speed, stamina, experience, trophies and unbelievable depth. If one superstar is unavailable, another superstar comes in. Very few teams in the world have that luxury in every position," said Chhetri, who is part of the Zee5 FIFA World Cup 2026 coverage expert panel. The former India captain said France's strength extends well beyond their starting XI. "Think about it – the players who start, the players who come off the bench, even some of the players not playing regularly are world-class. France have consistently performed in major tournaments, and it's difficult to see many weaknesses in this team," he added. France and Morocco renew their World Cup rivalry four years after Les Bleus ended the Atlas Lions' fairytale run with a 2-0 victory in the semi-finals of the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Morocco now



return to the last eight determined to rewrite history, while France are aiming to underline their credentials as one of the strongest contenders for the title. The Atlas Lions have once again impressed with their disciplined defending, tactical organisation and dangerous counter-attacks, while France have blended experienced campaigners with emerging stars to produce one of the tournament's most balanced teams. The quarter-final promises an intriguing tactical battle.

France are expected to dominate possession and use the pace of their wide players to stretch Morocco's compact defence, while the African side will look to absorb pressure before launching quick transitions. Set-pieces could also play a decisive role, with both teams carrying significant aerial threat. France will once again rely on Kylian Mbappé to produce moments of brilliance, while Ousmane Dembélé's creativity and direct running could prove key in breaking down

Morocco's defence. Michael Olise and Adrien Rabiot will be tasked with controlling the midfield and limiting Morocco's counter-attacking opportunities. For Morocco, captain Achraf Hakimi remains their biggest attacking weapon from right-back, while Sofyan Amrabat will look to disrupt France's rhythm in midfield. Brahim Diaz's creativity and Ismael Saïbari's finishing could be crucial if Morocco are to reach another World Cup semi-final.

Sack him': Ben Stokes responds to reports of ICC probing ECB over dressing room retirement video

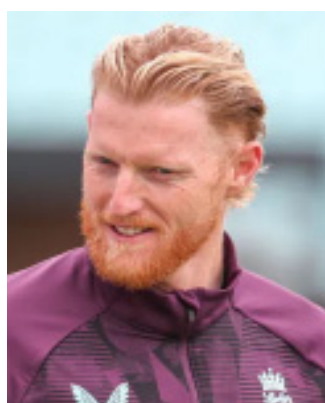
'New Delhi: Ben Stokes reacted with a two-word social media post to reports suggesting that the International Cricket Council (ICC) had contacted the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) over a video announcing his retirement from international cricket during the third Test against New Zealand. The ICC has reportedly written to the ECB regarding a video filmed inside England's dressing room at Trent Bridge, in which Stokes informed his teammates of his decision to retire from international cricket. The board released the footage on the fourth day of the Test while the match

was still underway and with Stokes on the field.

The former England captain responded to The Telegraph's report on X with a tongue-in-cheek two-word post, writing, "Sack him..." The 35-year-old told his England teammates about his decision before the fourth day of the third and final Test at Trent Bridge. An emotional Stokes spoke to the team before play, urging everyone to finish the match with full commitment. Moments after the announcement was made public, Stokes struck with the ball during his bowling spell. England, however, went on to lose the match by 160 runs as New

Zealand secured a 2-1 series victory.

The ICC's communication related to the Players' and Match Officials' Areas (PMOA) minimum standards, which support the governing body's anti-corruption regulations. Article 2.2.11 of the PMOA standards states that member boards must "Ensure that there are no fixed or temporary video cameras or other recording equipment set up within any dressing room used by the teams for the purposes of broadcasting video or audio footage." The report further claimed that the ICC reminded the ECB that footage recorded



inside protected areas should neither contain audio nor be released before the conclusion of a match. The reported communication is not expected to lead to disciplinary action.

Lord's prepares for landmark game as England and India renew women's red-ball rivalry



London: Cricket's most celebrated venue is set to witness a long-awaited milestone when Lord's stages its first-ever women's Test beginning Friday, with England and India meeting in a one-off contest that carries significance far beyond the result. More than 140 years after the ground hosted its inaugural men's Test, the women's game finally arrives at the 'Home of Cricket', a development that has been widely viewed as another important step in the sport's push towards greater equality. The occasion has already generated unprecedented interest, with over 30,000 tickets sold across the four days, the highest attendance ever recorded for a women's Test in the United Kingdom. The fixture also comes less than three years after an independent review into equity in English cricket criticised the absence of women's Test cricket at Lord's, making this week's match symbolic as well as competitive. For both sides, however, sentiment will quickly give way to cricketing priorities. England return to the longest format seeking to halt an underwhelming run that has yielded only one Test victory in the past decade. Their last appearance ended in a comprehensive defeat to Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground earlier this year, while memories of falling short in the T20 World Cup final on home soil continue to linger. Captain Nat Sciver-Brunt will hope the switch to red-ball cricket offers an opportunity to reset a side that has shown flashes of brilliance but struggled for consis-

tency on the biggest occasions. India arrive with similar motivation after their own disappointing T20 World Cup campaign ended at the group stage. Although Harmanpreet Kaur's side has played only sparingly in the format over recent years, they have produced impressive performances whenever opportunities have arisen. A commanding victory over South Africa in Chennai in 2024 reaffirmed India's strength in red-ball cricket before Australia halted their unbeaten run earlier this year in a pink-ball Test at Perth. History, meanwhile, offers India plenty of encouragement. The visitors remain unbeaten in women's Tests played in England, having avoided defeat in all nine previous matches on English soil. Their overall record against England is equally impressive, with India losing just one of 15 Tests between the two nations while recording three victories and drawing the remaining contests. One of those victories remains among the defining moments in India's women's cricket journey. Their triumph at Wormsley in 2014, achieved with a squad featuring eight Test debutants, ended an eight-year absence from the format and announced the arrival of a new generation led by players such as Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur. Nearly a decade later, India underlined their growing authority with a crushing 347-run win over England in Navi Mumbai. The latest chapter promises another fascinating tactical contest. England have opted for a youthful squad, handing maiden Test call-ups

to Alice Capsey, Eleanor Threlkeld, Grace Potts, Mady Villiers and teenage left-arm spinner Tilly Corteen-Coleman. Their selection reflects an attempt to build depth while managing workloads, with Charlie Dean rested after an extended white-ball schedule. India, too, have injected fresh faces into the squad. Harleen Deol, left-arm spinner N Shree Charani and fast bowler Nandani Sharma are all in line for potential Test debuts, while seam-bowling all-rounder Sayali Satghare offers valuable balance after making her international breakthrough earlier this year. Selection decisions could prove decisive once conditions are assessed on the opening morning. England possess genuine pace options in Lauren Filer and Issy Wong, both capable of exploiting any assistance available from the Lord's surface. Their experienced core, featuring Tammy Beaumont, Heather Knight, Maia Bouchier and world-class spinner Sophie Ecclestone, gives the hosts a settled spine despite the influx of newcomers. India's preparations have been disrupted by the loss of opener Pratika Rawal, who suffered a knee injury during an India A fixture in Taunton. Priya Punia has been drafted into the squad, while the race for places in the batting order remains open with Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Yastika Bhatia and Harleen Deol all competing for starting spots. The composition of India's bowling attack is another area of intrigue. Head coach Amol Muzumdar must determine the ideal combination from Renuka Singh, Kranti Gaud and Nandani Sharma, with Satghare's ability to contribute in both disciplines strengthening her case for inclusion. On paper, England enter the contest with the advantage of familiar conditions and a squad packed with experienced performers. India, however, have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to compete in overseas Tests and carry the confidence of an outstanding record against England in the format. As Lord's finally opens its gates to women's Test cricket, the match represents far more than a place in the result books. It offers two ambitious teams the chance to shape another landmark in the evolution of the women's game while adding a new chapter to one of cricket's oldest rivalries.

Delhi CM launches construction of Inderlok-Indraprastha underground metro corridor



New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday launched the construction of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's Inderlok-Indraprastha Metro Corridor at the Sarai Rohilla Metro Station construction site. On the occasion, construction of the diaphragm wall began at Sarai Rohilla Metro Station, marking the first phase of this important project, said an official statement. The Chief Minister said that the Delhi Metro is not merely a mode of transport but the foundation of a developed Delhi, adding that the continued expansion of the Metro network is a historic step towards providing citizens with safe, fast, convenient and environment-friendly public transport. The Chief Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

modern, world-class infrastructure is being rapidly developed across the country. In line with this vision, the Delhi government is working in close coordination with the Central Government and the Delhi Metro to further strengthen public transport in the national capital. The 12.377-km Inderlok-Indraprastha Corridor will be a fully underground extension of Delhi Metro's Magenta Line (Line-8). The corridor will have 10 modern underground Metro stations at Inderlok, Daya Basti, Sarai Rohilla, Ajmal Khan Park, Jhandewalan Temple, Nabi Karim, New Delhi, Delhi Gate, Delhi Sachivalaya-IG Stadium and Indraprastha, said the statement. Once completed, the Magenta Line will extend to nearly 89 kilometres, making it the longest Metro line in the Delhi Metro network. It will

also have the highest number of interchange and underground stations, making travel between different parts of the city faster, easier and more convenient. The corridor will connect with seven major Metro lines, significantly improving connectivity across the capital. Passengers will be able to interchange with the Red and Green Lines at Inderlok, the Magenta Line at Nabi Karim, the Yellow Line and Airport Express (Orange Line) at New Delhi, the Violet Line at Delhi Gate and the Blue Line at Indraprastha. The new Metro corridor will provide seamless connectivity to several important destinations, including Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Sachivalaya, Jhandewalan Temple, Arun Jaitley Stadium, Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Delhi Gate, Kartavya Path, India Gate, the National War Memorial and Central Vista. It will directly benefit government employees, students, traders, tourists and the lakhs of people who commute every day. Public transport access to Karol Bagh, Deshbandhu Gupta Road, educational institutions, and major commercial areas will also become stronger and more convenient, the statement said.

Will Akhil Spoil Samantha's 100cr Plan?

Maa Inti Bangaaram is a smash hit and has once again proved Samantha's star power in the Telugu states even after a long gap. The film has grossed Rs 95 crore to date and is all set to hit the Rs 100 crore mark soon. Trade experts reported that by the end of this weekend, the family drama would hit that coveted mark. However, things have slowed down considerably, and on top of that, Akhil is coming out with his new film, Lenin, on July 10, 2026. Now, the twist in the tale is that if Lenin gets good talk tomorrow, it will slow down Maa Inti Bangaaram's run at the box office and spoil its Rs 100 crore plans. Not many know but Samantha is reportedly planning a massive event to celebrate the Rs 100 crore milestone and is waiting for the film to organically reach the mark. However, Lenin's entry and word of mouth will be watched quite closely by



Samantha and the trade. Just a few days back, Akhil commented on Samantha's film and stated that Maa Inti Bangaaram was quite a new experience for view-

ers, and that's why it succeeded at the box office. But the same Akhil and his film have now become an obstacle to Maa Inti Bangaaram's record collection

milestone. If the film touches that coveted mark, it will be the first-ever female-oriented film in the Telugu states to achieve the feat. Let's see what happens.

A Rare Sankranti Challenge for Anil Ravipudi?



Anil Ravipudi is as usual focusing on another Sankranti release and this time, the movie features Kalyan Ram and Venkatesh. It'll be a multistarrer which is in production already. Interestingly, there are high chances that another multistarrer film is set to clash with Ravipudi's film. Going by the deets, director Hasith Goli is planning to bring Sree Vishnu

and Ravi Teja together for a multistarrer titles Veeradhi Veerulanta. The film is likely to aim for a release during Sankranti as the team feels that a festival release would bring much attention to the project. In such a scenario, the multistarrer clash is inevitable. Also, it is interesting to note that stars clashed at the box office with individual films but for

the first time, it'll be a multistarrer clash. Hasith is also a director who focuses more on emotions and bringing families to the audiences. In such a context, having Ravi Teja and Sree Vishnu also helps him hugely to bring a big audiences to the theatres. Both the films are aimed to be fun filled entertainers with a lot of drama, targeting families. So, let us hope that both

the films become successful. So far, no entertainer has managed to overshadow an Anil Ravipudi film at the box office during the festive season. With Hasith Goli now bringing a promising multistarrer featuring Ravi Teja and Sree Vishnu, it will be interesting to see whether this film can finally pose a serious challenge to Ravipudi's winning Sankranti formula.

Fauji: Cine Workers' body seeks probe into Rajesh Sharma's hospitalization

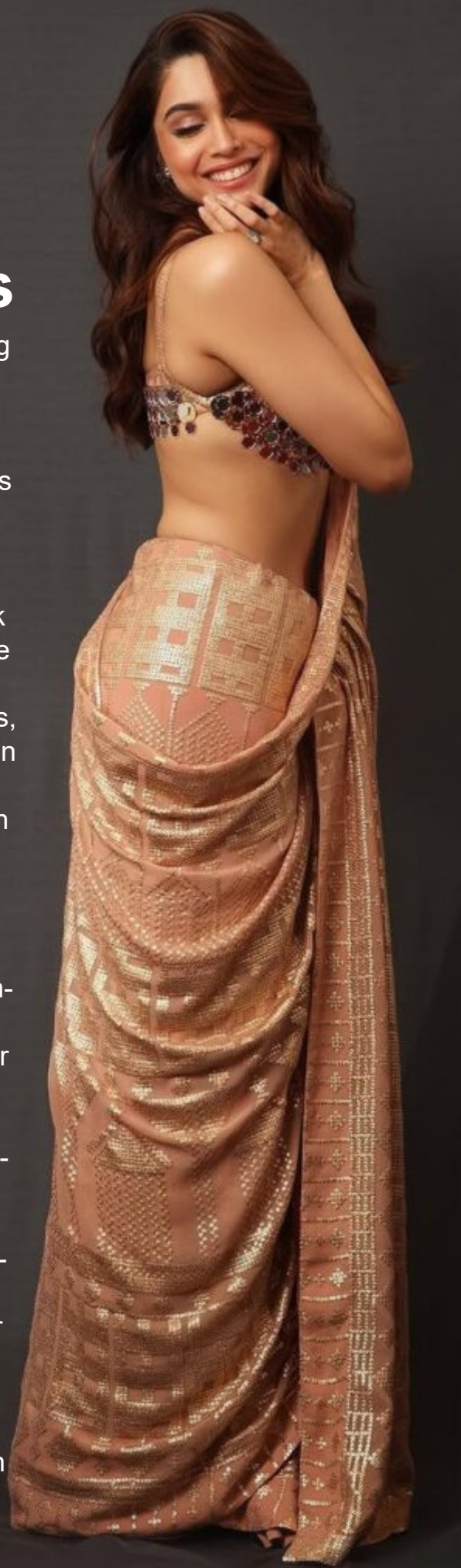
The hospitalization of Bollywood actor Rajesh Sharma has triggered calls for an official investigation, with the All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) demanding a high-level probe into the incident. Reports initially claimed that Rajesh Sharma's health deteriorated after a suspected insect bite while shooting for Prabhas's upcoming film at Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad. Following these reports, AICWA urged Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to order an immediate, impartial, and transparent investigation to ensure the safety of artists and technicians working on film sets. In a statement issued by AICWA President Suresh Shyamal Gupta, the association also demanded that the film's producer bear the actor's medical expenses and called for strict legal action if any

negligence is found during the inquiry. However, conflicting versions have emerged regarding the cause of Rajesh Sharma's hospitalization. The actor's assistant has denied reports of an insect bite, stating that Rajesh was admitted to a hospital in Kolkata due to diabetes-related health complications. On the other hand, some actors have maintained that he developed an infection following an insect bite during the shoot at Ramoji Film City. As the conflicting claims continue to circulate, the production house, Mythri Movie Makers, has not yet issued an official statement clarifying the incident. Rajesh Sharma is a well-known character actor who has appeared in several acclaimed Hindi films, including Khosla Ka Ghosla, Ishqiya, No One Killed Jessica, and The Dirty Picture.



Sharvari Wagh Brings Bling Bliss

Sharvari Wagh is enjoying a big moment as Alpha, co-starring Alia Bhatt, continues its theatrical run. The action thriller has maintained a steady hold at the box office and is now inching closer to the ₹75 crore worldwide mark after six days, keeping the momentum alive. Amid the film's promotions, Sharvari grabbed attention in a shimmering golden saree paired with a stylish embellished blouse. Flashing a radiant smile, the actress effortlessly blended traditional elegance with modern glamour, making her promotional appearance a major talking point on social media. With Alpha earning appreciation and Sharvari's fashion choices creating buzz, the actress is enjoying one of the biggest phases of her career. Her latest promotional look has once again proved that she knows how to steal the spotlight both on and off the screen.



Rashmika Mandanna pulls off India's first female underwater fight sequence



Rashmika Mandanna has achieved a new milestone in her career by completing what the makers claim is India's first female underwater fight sequence. The challenging action episode was filmed for her upcoming movie "Mysaa." Announcing the update, the production team said they had successfully wrapped the ambitious underwater stunt featuring Rashmika. "A new chapter in action cinema begins. Team Mysaa has successfully wrapped India's first female underwater fight sequence featuring the fearless Rashmika Mandanna. Get ready to witness a groundbreaking action spectacle that's set to make waves across Indian cinema," the makers said in a statement. The sequence is expected to be one of the major highlights of the film and showcases Rashmika in a never-seen-before action avatar. She plays a Gond woman. The project marks the directorial debut of Rawindra Pulle, a protégé of filmmaker Hanu Raghavapudi. The film is being produced on a lavish scale by Ajay and Anil Sayyapureddy, with Sai Gopa serving as co-producer. With this feat, "Mysaa" aims to push the boundaries of action filmmaking in Indian cinema while presenting Rashmika Mandanna in one of the most physically challenging roles of her career.