

Sri Geetaansha Digitals

Hyderabad | Visakhapatnam | Kakinada | Vijayawada | Ongole



Compactible Pigment Inks Available at Low Cost
News Print Rolls Available at Reasonable cost

For More Details: 93948 55244, 9059465965

Jharkhand Agrees To Students' Key Demand But Protesters Firm On CBI Probe



Ranchi: The Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand has cancelled all exams and recruitment conducted by Lucknow-based TDPL (TSR Data Processing Private Limited) after weeks of protests by students. The JPSC (Jharkhand Public Service Commission) and the JSSC CGL (Jharkhand Staff Selection Committee-Combined Graduate Level) exams will be cancelled as well, the Chief Minister said. "The results published by the TDPL, and all the candidates se-

lected by the TDPL, or who participated, and all the activities of the TDPL that have taken place here, all of them should be cancelled," Soren said. "All the mistakes, big or small, that have occurred since 2014 will be investigated. The CID will probe all exams held in Jharkhand since 2014," Soren told the students this evening. "We have decided to constitute a committee for reforms under the chairmanship of our IAS officer, Mr. Amitabh Kaushal," he added.

3 Ex-Chief Ministers, 18 MPs, 10 Women: BJP's Power-Packed Team For 2029

New Delhi: The BJP's new team of 64 national office bearers reflects a strategic blend of seasoned administrative hands and those with organisational experience, youthfulness, geographic diversity, and comprehensive social inclusion. Over 40 per cent of the team belong to the deprived communities. Geographically, the new appointments have ensured widespread representation, accommodating voices from 23 states and Union Territories across the country. Such balanced appointments empower the incoming national president's executive team to operate with a profound awareness of the nation's vast geographical landscape and regional nuances. A special focus has been placed on the northeast. Three leaders from the area - one each from Tripura, Assam and Nagaland -- have found space in the team. The dedicated North-East Coordination Cell will also continue under the leadership of Sambit Patra. Furthermore, the committee embraces vital tribal voices by including four tribal representatives - one each from West

Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and the northeast. Two of the members are women. The Scheduled Castes have been represented by three members from Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh. The list also makes significant strides in social and religious inclusion. Ten experienced women leaders from various sections of the country have been appointed to the team, demonstrating a strong commitment to female representation in senior organisational roles. Ensuring that every major faith in India is respected and accommodated, the national office represents a truly diverse cross-section of society - the Hindu leaders stand with one Sikh member, two Christian members, one Muslim member, one Jain member, and a Parsi member. At the helm of this organisational shift is a wealth of governance expertise, highlighted by the inclusion of three former Chief Ministers: Vasundhara Raje, Tirath Singh Rawat and Biplab Kumar Deb, alongside several former state presidents. The administrative depth is further strengthened by four leaders with previous Union Government experience and 1

sitting Union Minister, ensuring a deep understanding of various sectors and departments, as well as administrative acumen. To this mix, 18 active public representatives from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha bring their legislative expertise, ground connection, and diverse policy focus to the national team. The team is also noted in terms of academic experience and diversity of professions - there are two professors, four practising doctors, PhD holders, engineers, chartered accountants and lawyers.



Smriti Irani's Big Comeback As BJP 3.0 Gets Massive Women Representation

New Delhi: The BJP today announced its fresh team under its national chief Nitin Nabin ahead of elections in many states. There is a strong focus on regional representation with a mix of seasoned leaders and younger faces taking charge of key posts. A big development is the return of former Union minister Smriti Irani to a core organisational role as one of

the national general secretaries of the BJP. Former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje continues as BJP's national vice president. Six of the 13 national vice presidents are women, indicating a push for more representation of women in the party's core roles. There are also four women secretaries and a woman general secretary, apart from two from

the Muslim community. The appointments indicate a push towards the southern and eastern states, with leaders from Kerala, West Bengal, Odisha and the northeast receiving prominent secretary and vice-president positions. Sandeep Pathak, who quit the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has been made national secretary. Sambit Patra has been appointed coordi-

nator for the northeast region. In the list of the BJP's national vice presidents, apart from Raje, the other big names are Tirath Singh Rawat from Uttarakhand, Ram Madhav from Delhi, Bajajant Jay Panda from Odisha, D Purandeswari from Andhra Pradesh, Rekha Verma from Uttar Pradesh, and Sardar Manpreet Singh Badal from Punjab.

Fun Exchange Among Ministers in Assembly; Lokesh Jokes About Minister Satyakumar

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 17: A light-hearted exchange among ministers at the beginning of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly session drew attention. AP Health Minister and BJP national secretary Satyakumar Yadav entered the Assembly wearing a BJP scarf. Responding humorously, AP Education Minister Nara Lokesh said, "Satyagaru, why do you need a party scarf separately? Everyone in the world already knows that you are from the BJP!" Senior minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu also joined in the banter, saying, "Yes, sir,



Satyagaru is also one of the prominent leaders at the national level," while praising Satyakumar. The exchange made the atmosphere even more cheerful. Lokesh then joked with Satyakumar again, saying, "Please teach even our party people about discipline." At

that point, a TDP MLA sitting nearby responded, "Party first, sir!" Satyakumar Yadav smiled and replied, "Nation first.. Party next.. Self last!" His remark drew appreciation from the ministers and MLAs present and brought smiles across the Assembly premises. The light-hearted

conversation reflected the friendly atmosphere between leaders of different political parties and the camaraderie among them. Atchannaidu highlighted Satyakumar's political importance as BJP national secretary, while Lokesh's characteristic humour added a special touch to the exchange. Satyakumar's remark, "Nation first.. Party next.. Self last!", became particularly noteworthy. While Assembly sessions generally revolve around political debates and policy matters, the humorous interaction provided a lighter moment and brought smiles to the faces of ministers and MLAs.

Minister Sandhyarani Slams YSRCP Over 'False Campaign' to Scare Tribals



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 17: Minister Gummadi Sandhyarani said the "Axe Party" should take note of the rallies being organised by teachers with the slogan, "We will teach lessons and also teach them a lesson." Speaking at the Assembly media point on Monday, Minister Sandhyarani accused leaders of the YSR

Congress Party (YSRCP) of provoking tribal communities. She said it was ridiculous for the opposition to claim that it would return only if it was granted the status of the principal opposition party, comparing it to children throwing tantrums when they are not given chocolates. She said reports that the 1/70 Act, which provides protection for tribal lands, would be repealed are completely false. Protecting the lands and rights of tribal people is the government's responsibility, she said, urging tribals not to be afraid in any way. Minister Sandhyarani expressed anger at what she described as a campaign aimed at misleading and frightening tribal communities. She alleged that the previous government had shut down the ITDA and stopped 18 welfare

schemes. Criticising YSRCP leaders, she said their behaviour was like that of a "Gurivinda"—a seed that cannot see its own black spot while pointing out the flaws of others. She questioned what Jagan had done

when GO No. 3 was cancelled during his tenure as Chief Minister. Minister Gummadi Sandhyarani also remarked that nobody knows whether Y.S. Jagan is staying in Tadepalli or Bengaluru.

Key Announcement by CM Chandrababu on El Niño Impact in Assembly
From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August, 17 : Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that the state is experiencing a severe impact of El Niño, resulting in drought-like conditions. He said there is a significant rainfall deficit compared to the normal average. Speaking during a discussion on El Niño in the Assembly on Monday, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said there was a need to create public awareness about El Niño through the Assembly. He also said that the Supreme Court had intervened in the dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over Cauvery water. Continuing his speech, the Chief Minister said, "Water-related disputes are arising between villages, between states and even between countries. From June to December 2026, the state is expected to receive 867 mm of rainfall, but estimates indicate that only 557 mm may be recorded. This year, all districts are likely to receive below-normal rainfall. Some districts recorded a 68% rainfall deficit in July. A 35% deficit is expected in August, 35% in September, 25% in October and 20% in November."

First Flight Lands at Bhogapuram Airport; Beginning of a New Chapter: CM

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 17: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu responded on social media platform X to the commencement of flight services at Bhogapuram Airport. He said Bhogapuram had become the venue for a historic moment. He said operations at the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport commenced today, with the first IndiGo flight from Hyderabad arriving at Bhogapuram Airport. With the arrival of the first flight,

Andhra Pradesh has embarked on a new chapter, he said, adding that improved air connectivity is now available to North Andhra. Chief Minister Chandrababu said Bhogapuram Airport is opening the way for new opportunities in the state. He said the airport would give wings to the hopes and aspirations of the youth and provide a major boost to opportunities in education, employment and business. He stated that Bhogapuram Airport would play a crucial role in the de-



velopment of North Andhra. Describing it as a historic new beginning for the people of Andhra Pradesh, he said the airport would emerge as a new gateway to North

Andhra. With the launch of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Andhra Pradesh has ushered in a new era, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said.

Bhogapuram Airport Will Be a Permanent Milestone in North Andhra's Development: Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 17: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said he was delighted that services commenced today at the Bhogapuram Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, giving new wings to Andhra Pradesh's development journey. Responding through a post on X, Pawan Kalyan said the successful landing of an IndiGo flight from Hyderabad marked a remarkable milestone in the

state's development history. He said the international airport, named after legendary tribal freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, is not merely an expansion of transportation infrastructure but a tangible fulfilment of the decades-old aspirations of the people of North Andhra. Pawan Kalyan expressed hope that the airport would attract new investments, strengthen industrial opportunities and expand em-

ployment and job opportunities for the youth. He said it would remain a permanent milestone in the development of North Andhra. The Deputy Chief Minister also wished that the Bhogapuram Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport would emerge as one of the best airports in the country, provide international-standard services to passengers and continue to grow and develop with each passing day.



Nagababu Appointed Chairman of AP Green Executive Committee; Government Issues Orders

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 17: The Andhra Pradesh government issued orders to this effect through G.O. RT No. 93. The state government said that measures are being undertaken through AP-GREEN to increase green cover and expand forests across Andhra Pradesh. At the district level, the programmes will be implemented through

Committee. The Environment and Forest Department issued orders to this effect through G.O. RT No. 93. The state government said that measures are being undertaken through AP-GREEN to increase green cover and expand forests across Andhra Pradesh. At the district level, the programmes will be implemented through

District Green Development Agencies. The government has set a target of increasing forest and tree cover to 50% of Andhra Pradesh's geographical area by 2047. The state government has constituted an AP Green Governing Board, Executive Committee and governing bodies of District Green Development Agencies.



EDITORIAL

‘Employment’ in Distress!

In July, only 7.67 crore person-days were generated under VB-G RAM G, compared with 15.33 crore under MGNREGA last year; the number of households provided employment fell by 51%. The newly introduced Viksit Bharat–Guaranteee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-G RAM G) has recorded a significant decline in rural employment generation in its very first month of implementation. This has raised concerns over the implementation and accessibility of the new employment guarantee scheme. In July 2026, only 7.67 crore person-days were recorded under the scheme. This is nearly 50% lower than the 15.33 crore person-days recorded under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) in July 2025. The number of rural households that received employment also declined from 1.42 crore to 68.94 lakh, a fall of 51.45%. VB-G RAM G came into effect from July 1, 2026, replacing MGNREGA. Under the new scheme, the annual employment guarantee has been increased from 100 days to 125 days for every rural household. According to central government sources, several factors are responsible for the decline in employment, including the transition from MGNREGA to the new framework, a pause in employment generation during the peak agricultural season, and a reduction in the number of migrant workers from states such as Bihar and West Bengal. Under the new framework, states can suspend employment works for up to 60 days during crucial agricultural periods such as sowing and harvesting. The government believes this will ensure that labourers remain available for agricultural activities. MGNREGA had no such provision. The Ministry of Rural Development, however, maintains that the transition to the new system has been smooth. It says that more than 98% of rural households that demanded employment were provided work. The ministry has also estimated that actual employment generation in July was around 9 crore person-days.

Critics, however, argue that seasonal restrictions, technological requirements and difficulties during the transition from the old scheme to the new one may have contributed to the sharp decline in employment figures. Labour unions and critics contend that VB-G RAM G represents a shift from MGNREGA's demand-driven approach towards a more controlled, supply-driven system. They warn that restricting employment during the agricultural season could hurt workers who have few alternative employment opportunities. Concerns have also been raised over digital verification and technology-based implementation. Critics say these requirements could create difficulties particularly for rural workers who struggle with digital verification. One of the major changes under VB-G RAM G is the increase in the annual employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days. However, this is lower than the recommendation made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development.

In its report submitted on March 12, 2025, the Parliamentary Standing Committee recommended increasing guaranteed employment from 100 to at least 150 days per household. The committee also called for a comprehensive review of MGNREGA to address the rural crisis and recommended expanding the nature of works undertaken under the programme. Although the new framework provides for the possibility of fixing a uniform wage rate for unskilled workers, critics point out that there is no clear mechanism for regularly revising wages in line with inflation. They warn that without index-linked wage revisions, rural workers' real incomes could decline as prices rise. This, they argue, could weaken the effectiveness of a scheme that is intended to serve as a social safety net for poor families. VB-G RAM G has also changed the funding-sharing arrangement between the Centre and the states. For northeastern and Himalayan states and Union Territories, the Centre will bear 90% of the expenditure. For other states and Union Territories with legislatures, expenditure will be shared in a 60:40 ratio between the Centre and the states.

According to the Fiscal Memorandum, the annual expenditure on the scheme, including wages, material and administrative costs, is estimated at Rs.1,51,282 crore. Of this, the Centre's share is Rs.95,692.31 crore, while states will have to bear around Rs.56,000 crore. Critics say the increased financial burden could put additional pressure on states with limited fiscal resources. The decline in rural employment assumes greater significance amid continuing concerns over rainfall and agricultural conditions. Available information indicates that rainfall deficiency has been recorded in around half of the country's districts, while the area under kharif crops has declined by 26.50%.

When uncertainty in agriculture increases, the need for employment and income security among rural households becomes even greater. Against this backdrop, the decline in person-days raises questions about whether the new scheme can provide adequate income support to rural families. Despite the overall decline in employment, women's participation remains significant. Women accounted for around 63% of total person-days, far above the statutory minimum of one-third. This suggests that despite the sharp fall in overall employment, the scheme continues to remain an important source of employment for rural women. The first month of VB-G RAM G has produced mixed results. On the one hand, it has increased the employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days, while women's participation remains substantial. On the other hand, the sharp decline in person-days and the number of households receiving employment has raised questions over the implementation, accessibility and effectiveness of the scheme.

Whether the decline recorded in July was merely due to seasonal factors and the transition from MGNREGA to the new system, or whether it points to deeper structural problems within the new scheme, will become clearer in the coming months. Ultimately, the real measure of VB-G RAM G's success will not be how many days of employment are guaranteed on paper, but whether rural workers can demand and obtain employment when they need it, and whether they receive work and wages on time.

Why A 'Bangladesh' Proposal By Turkish Media Should Worry India

Soon after the Mecca pact between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey was signed, Turkish media Yeni Safak published a piece about the prospects of Bangladesh joining the pact. Without a byline, the article took full cognisance of India's discomfort at such a proposition but insisted that it would move Bangladesh "beyond bilateral asymmetry (with India)", which would signal a "mature, independent, foreign policy". "Pakistan and Turkiye would welcome this as a natural expansion of Islamic defence cooperation, while India would recalibrate its traditional approach to its eastern neighbour".

The Bangladesh Angle

Now, while not too much should be read into a media piece, Yeni Safak is not just another Turkish publication. It is an Islamist one, and close to the current ruling dispensation in Turkey. One of its most defining features in recent times has been its overwhelming focus on India, highlighting some of the most insignificant events in the country that give Turkey the opportunity to ridicule it. Suffice it to say that in this pursuit, it does not spare India's leadership. Since 2024, the publication has become one of the most ardent supporters of Bangladesh's engineered uprising and is virulently anti-Hasina, only a logical extension of its anti-India stance. Given this background, Yeni Safak's article cannot be entirely dismissed as absurd. In fact, it is quite plausible that Turkey may try to get Bangladesh to join the pact, as its leaders have said that the deal is open to other interested countries. Turkey is also trying hard to develop defence relations with Bangladesh, along the lines of its defence ties with Pakistan. And this is where India should be wary. The Mecca defence deal will be an enabler for Turkey, which is becoming an increasingly big security chal-

lenge for India.

India Need Not Worry About The Saudis

The pact itself need not worry India much. The greatest cohesive element in it, Saudi Arabia, has over the years developed close relations with India, which it is not about to erode, especially now. Bilateral relations between the two nations stand on their own merit. With the Saudis preparing for a post-oil economy and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious domestic projects, the Kingdom needs India. The Saudis have also committed to investing USD 100 billion in the country. At least 40 Indian companies have established headquarters in Saudi Arabia. Besides, India is one of the major Saudi energy importers, something that matters more than ever, what with the Iran conflict and now its Houthi surrogates tightening their chokehold on the main shipping arteries for Saudi exports. Bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia even involve defence, with both sides regularly conducting joint military exercises. The Saudis would not want to jeopardise this crucial relationship - certainly not for Pakistan. In fact, last September, soon after the Saudi-Pakistan Mutual Defence Agreement was signed, a senior Saudi official told Reuters that the agreement was "a culmination of years of discussions". He said, "This is not a response to specific countries or specific events ... Our relationship with India is more robust than it has ever been. We will continue to grow this relationship and seek to contribute to regional peace in whichever way we can." The Saudis did not invoke any NATO-type obligation when Pakistan began a border conflict with Afghanistan soon after the pact was signed, nor did Pakistan enter a combat role when Iran launched attacks on Saudi territory and vital infra-

structure in the current Middle East conflict. There is also no hint of either Pakistan or Turkey starting any joint military intervention against the Houthis, who launched audacious attacks on Saudi Arabia. In fact, clarity seems to be lacking in exactly what would constitute "an attack" on one party to merit others joining in defensive roles. This much, then, can, therefore, be considered more posturing than resolve. However, defence cooperation in bankrolling defence innovation, R&D, and production, is a given. At least Turkey will make sure it is, because this is where it has an upper hand.

Turkey Has The Biggest Win

Turkey's military industrial complex is a formidable one and has been supported by Europe for decades now. The country's defence doctrine is anchored in pursuing a policy that will help it achieve autonomy in defence requirements and, subsequently, become a global defence exporter. But the Turkish economy is struggling, with inflation, price rise, and a plummeting lira. The Mecca pact is, therefore, a life-line for Turkey in more ways than one. First, it opens up avenues for increasing the export of Turkish-manufactured weaponry to both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, ensuring cash inflows to its economy. Second, it will open up access to Saudi resources and investments for Turkish defence manufacturing and critical infrastructure. This will shape a new alternative to Western aid, primarily US arms supplies. In this context, the development of TAI KAN fighter jets is of particular significance. Both Turkey and the Saudis want to acquire the F-35 fighter aircraft from the US, but Israel has been lobbying hard against this. The KAN, which originally began as a means to replace Turkey's F16 fleet, can, once completed, be a substitute for the F-35. For



the Saudis, this would be a straight buy and also give them some leverage over the craft's manufacturing. Besides, Turkey has emerged as a champion drone and naval platforms producer. Earlier this year, it unveiled its first intercontinental ballistic missile prototype, the 'Yildirimhan', which has a range of 6,000km, with a maximum speed of Mach 25 and a payload capacity of 3,000 kilograms. Ankara's defence industry is growing exponentially, with more countries procuring or expressing interest in buying its defence wares. Certainly, the Mecca pact would also facilitate easier defence procurement from Turkey for the other two members.

The Unusual Allure Of Turkish Ideology

Third, the ideological threat. The ideology of Turkey's current ruling dispensation is anchored in political Islam, which makes it an unwavering ally of Islamist groups around the globe, from Somalia to Gaza, including South Asia's Jamaat-i-Islami, both in Pakistan and in Bangladesh. However, its long, imperial and Sufi heritage, as well as its proximity to

Europe, imbue it with a certain sophistication, such that Turkey can flaunt its ideology even in places where Islamism is frowned upon. The starkest example would be Azerbaijan, as also Central Asia, South-east Asia, Africa, and even some corners of India. While promoting Muslim identity, Turkey hopes to expand its market and defence exports too. Is it a coincidence then that it is Ankara that keeps repeating that the Mecca Pact is open to expansion? The Mecca pact will potentially increase the ideological challenge globally. Both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have helped the spread of Wahhabism and jihadism around the world. While Saudi Arabia may be promoting reforms and battling radicalism domestically, Pakistan's situation is curious. Turkey, meanwhile, is exporting its ideology by packaging it in more culturally refined terms. Finally, Turkey wins big where trade corridors are concerned - probably its biggest advantage. For a while now, it has been pushing to position itself as a major energy and transit hub.

4,800 Indians Removed, 51,000 ICE Arrests: What's Happening In Trump's America?

Last week, Venkata Vasamsetty, a long-term US green card holder, was arrested by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), three months after a judge dismissed efforts to remove her from the country. Vasamsetty, who's been a lawful permanent resident in the US since 2013, hasn't committed any crime, as is the case with most victims of ICE. The agency wants to remove her because she stayed in India for a few months in 2022 to visit her ailing father, and later contracted Covid. ICE accuses her of abandoning her permanent residency, a charge she denies. Two weeks earlier, the agency arrested another US resident, Pritesh Walia, a jazz musician. He has now been released on bond. Vasamsetty is also hoping to be freed on bond. But this is not the end of their troubles. The threat of deportation remains. Vasamsetty and Walia are among the growing number of Indians affected by ICE's operations, part of US President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. The US has deported more than 4,800 Indian nationals since Trump took office. As many as 1,273 have been deported already in the first half of this year, and 3,567 were sent back last year, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Last year's figures were the highest in 16 years, but this year's total could be even more. Nationally, ICE arrested 51,000 people in July, a new monthly record. Trump has set a record of 2,000 arrests a day. According to Markwayne Mullin, Secretary of US Homeland Security, ICE

made an average of 4,200 arrests in the first week of August. So, many more Indians could be arrested and deported in the rest of this year.

Indians Are The Most Targeted Group

Although the largest number of arrests and deportations by the US involve nationals of Latin American and Caribbean countries, Indians now top such lists among Asians, according to Stop AAPI Hate, an American NGO that tracks and analyses data on Asian and Pacific Island nations and campaigns against ICE. Between January 2025 and March 2026, almost 28% of the 14,402 Asians arrested were Indians. During the same period, 6,218 Asians were deported; Indians again occupied the top spot, with a 28% share of removals. Stop AAPI Hate told this author that in their analysis of the latest data, which they have not yet released, they found that "Indian people remain the most targeted by ICE, with the highest number of arrests, detentions, and deportations out of all A/PIs (Asian and Pacific Islanders)". Indians are the third-largest foreign-born group in the United States, after Mexicans and Chinese, and there have been numerous cases of immigration and ID fraud involving them. Earlier this month, US authorities filed a case to revoke the American citizenship of India-born Harinder Singh after it was found that he had used a false identity and concealed his earlier immigration history. However, the growing targeting of Indians by US immigration officials is not due to a surge in

such cases. "A broader trend we also see is that the growth of the Indian population in the US, as well as the growing prominence of Indian leaders in politics, business, etc., has spurred a hateful backlash that is being further fuelled by bigoted policies and rhetoric under the Trump administration," says Stop AAPI Hate.

How ICE Became Trump's Most Feared Arm

ICE was formed as part of the US Homeland Security Act of 2002, a response to the 9/11 attacks in 2001. But the agency has never been as controversial as it has been since Trump began his second term as president 18 months ago. Mass deportation was Trump's main election promise, and his administration has granted ICE unprecedented powers and near-impunity to carry out immigration crackdowns and deportations. ICE agents can stop, detain, and arrest people they suspect of being in the US illegally, which is a civil offence. But since last year, they have frequently been accused of overstepping their powers and acting as if they were pursuing hardened criminals. ICE officers have kidnapped people, broken into cars to arrest suspects, and deported people even in violation of court orders. They have also used tear gas, pepper spray, and live bullets on non-violent protesters. At least six people, including three US citizens, have been shot dead by immigration officers since Trump came to office. Fifty-seven people have died in ICE custody since then, according to the NGO National Immigration Project. Thirty-

three died last year, the highest in over two decades. This year, 24 deaths have already been reported, and the total for the year is expected to be even worse. In January, protests against ICE spread nationwide after a 37-year-old US citizen, Renee Nicole Good, was shot dead by its officers in Minneapolis. A day after her killing, Vice President JD Vance declared that the agent who shot Good "is protected by absolute immunity". Later that month, another US citizen, Alex Pretti, was killed by Border Patrol, an

immigration agency that works alongside ICE. The authorities have not arrested or charged anyone for the killings, despite national outrage.

Electric Shock Gloves

Last week, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said it planned to purchase special gloves for ICE officers that can deliver electric shocks. Produced by the US firm Compliant Technologies, the gloves haven't even been adopted properly by police forces in the country. They deliver low-voltage electric shocks on contact.

Collector Directs Officials to Prioritize Grievance Redressal



Ongole, August 17: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu directed officials to give top priority to resolving grievances received under the 'Meekosam' programme. A total of 284 petitions were received during Monday's grievance redressal programme at Prakasam Bhavan. The Collector instructed district-level officials to take immediate action and personally inspect the issues in the field instead of relying solely on reports from lower-level staff. He also stressed timely and reasonable resolution of petitions and directed officials to explain the reasons to petitioners when issues could not be resolved at their level. Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari, DRO P. Venkataramana and other district officials participated in the programme.

Resolve PGRS Complaints Completely: GMC Commissioner



Guntur, August 17 (Pen Power): Guntur Municipal Corporation Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok directed officials to ensure complete and timely resolution of grievances received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS). Speaking at the ‘Public Grievance Redressal Forum’ held at the GMC Council Meeting Hall on Monday, the Commissioner instructed department heads to focus on permanent solutions to public issues and ensure applicant satisfaction at the field level.

He called for immediate action on complaints related to sanitation, drainage, drinking water supply and streetlights. Officials were also directed to explain technical difficulties to applicants and issue proper endorsements where necessary. A total of 37 petitions were received through PGRS, including 17 related to Engineering, 8 to Revenue and 7 to Town Planning departments. He warned that departmental action would be taken against officials who fail to resolve complaints within the stipulated time.

Promote Alternative Crops During Dry Spell: Collector

KAKINADA, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: District Collector M.N. Harendhir Prasad directed Agriculture Department officials to create awareness among farmers about growing low-water crops as an alternative to paddy during dry conditions. The Collector advised farmers to adopt crop rotation and cultivate pulses such as green gram, black gram, red gram, chickpea, cowpea and horse gram, which require less water and can be harvested within 60–90 days. Millets and oilseeds were also recommended.

He said crop diversification can save water and electricity, reduce input costs, improve soil health and provide farmers with more sustainable income.

For Kharif 2026, the Collector said farmers can avail crop insurance, with a premium of ₹760 per acre for paddy and ₹2,000 for cotton, offering maximum compensation of ₹738,000 and ₹40,000 respectively in case of crop loss.



Collector Fulfils Promise, Provides Rs 80,000 Aid to Woman Entrepreneur



NELLORE, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: District Collector Himanshu Shukla fulfilled his promise made during the ‘Palle Vekshan’ programme by providing ₹80,000 financial assistance to woman entrepreneur Edula Kalyani of Jangalakandriga village in Muthukur mandal. The assistance was handed over in the form of a cheque during the public grievance redressal programme at the Collectorate on Monday.

During his village visit on June 19, the Collector had inspected Kalyani’s compost manure unit, where cattle dung is converted into quality compost and mixed with neem cake. She had sought financial support to purchase a machine for producing neem powder to expand her business.

The Collector appreciated her efforts and assured ₹80,000 assistance from his own funds. Kalyani thanked the Collector for fulfilling his promise and supporting her efforts towards self-employment and women’s empowerment.

Resolve SIR Claims and Objections as per Rules Follow Election Commission Guidelines Strictly: Collector Dinesh Kumar

RAMPACHODAVARAM, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: District Election Officer and Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to resolve claims and objections under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls transparently and within the prescribed timelines. During a teleconference with Tahsildars, MPDOs, AEROs and Additional BLOs on Monday, the Collector instructed officials to follow Election Commission guidelines at every stage, from issuing notices and field verification to scrutiny of documents and disposal of claims and objections.

He called for regular training of BLOs and AEROs, timely distribution of notices and proper uploading of documents through the BLO app. EROs were also directed to conduct weekly reviews and submit Action Taken Reports.

Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar stressed that the SIR process should be completed on priority, ensuring justice to every eligible voter while verifying ineligible entries as per rules.



68 Complaints Received at Police ‘Meekosam’ Programme



ONGOLE, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: District SP and police officials conducted the public grievance redressal programme ‘Meekosam’ at the District Police Office on Monday, receiving 68 complaints. The complainants submitted written petitions and explained their problems to the SP. Officials interacted with them and assured that the grievances would be resolved legally and within the stipulated time. The complaints mainly concerned civil and land disputes, financial issues, cheating and harassment by in-laws. The SP directed officials to ensure speedy disposal of all petitions without any delay.

247 Petitions Received at Grievance and Revenue Clinic



RAMPACHODAVARAM, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said special focus is being given to resolving problems faced by people in remote villages. The Collector, Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar and RDO K. Swathi conducted the Grievance and Revenue Clinic at the ITDA meeting hall on

Monday. A total of 192 petitions were received at the Grievance programme and 55 petitions at the Revenue Clinic.

Some issues were resolved immediately, while others were forwarded to the concerned departments for necessary action. The Collector directed officials to examine every petition carefully and ensure timely resolution.

Collector Reviews Velugonda Rehabilitation Villages

Markapur, Pen Power,

Aug 17: District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha reviewed the rehabilitation process, compensation distribution and relocation of families from villages affected by the Velugonda Project at a special meeting held at the Markapur Collectorate on Monday.

The Collector sought details from officials on the progress of rehabilitation works, compensation payments and the relocation process. She directed officials to complete compensation distribution without delay and expedite the relocation process to ensure that affected families face no inconvenience.

Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu, Markapur RDO Venkata Sivarami Reddy, Kanigiri RDO Ajay Kumar and officials from concerned departments attended the meeting.



Complete Phase-IV Resurvey Data Entry by Aug. 20

KAKINADA, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: District Collector

and impartiality in the resurvey process. He directed officials to ensure error-free recording of survey and Aadhaar numbers and expedite pending works in 50 of the 412 villages across the district.



M.N. Harendhir Prasad directed Revenue and Survey officials to complete Phase-IV resurvey data entry by August 20. Reviewing the progress through a video conference on Monday, the Collector stressed accuracy, transparency

Officials were further directed to clear pending Revenue Clinic issues and complete delivery of SIR notices by Wednesday, besides resolving all pending Form-6, Form-7 and Form-8 applications.

Ensure Quality and Satisfactory Resolution of Public Grievances: Collector

VIJAYAWADA, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh directed officials to ensure quality and satisfactory resolution of every grievance received from the public within the stipulated time. At the PGRS programme held at the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector received 176 petitions from people across the district. Revenue-related issues topped the list with 52 petitions, followed by Municipal and Urban Development (32), Police (24) and Panchayat Raj (17).

The Collector instructed district-level officials to coordinate with field staff, examine each petition carefully and resolve grievances promptly. He called for efforts to place the district among the top performers in grievance resolution and citizen satisfaction.



Collector Rajababu Applauds Ananya’s Dance Performance

ONGOLE, PEN POWER, CULTURAL REPORTER, Aug. 17: Young dancer Kochcherla Ananya Chaturvika impressed guests with her graceful dance performance at the ‘At Home’ programme held at the District Collector’s residence in Ongole as part of the

80th Independence Day celebrations. District Collector Rajababu specially appreciated and congratulated Ananya for her performance. Several officials who witnessed the dance also praised the young artist and blessed her for a bright future.

Awareness on Engineering Career Opportunities in the AI Era



Gandepalli, August 17 (Pen Power): A guest lecture on “Engineering Careers in the AI Era” was organized by the Information Technology Department of Aditya University, Surampalem, with around 120 third-year IT students participating. Bheema Shankar, founder of Next Level EdTech, explained the emerging career opportunities in engineering driven by Artificial Intelligence and stressed the need for students to continuously upgrade their skills.

He highlighted the growing importance of technical, professional and AI-related skills and advised students to focus on continuous learning, upskilling and reskilling. He also emphasized early career planning to stay competitive in the AI-driven job market.

Public Satisfaction is the Key Measure of Officials’ Performance



KAKINADA, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: District Collector M.S. Harendhir Prasad said public satisfaction should be the primary measure of officials’ performance and directed them to give special attention to resolving PGRS and Revenue Clinic petitions. The Collector reviewed the action taken on previous grievances at the Collectorate on Monday and instructed officials to examine every petition at the field level, interact with complainants and provide quality solutions within the stipulated time.

He stressed that grievances should be resolved permanently to avoid reopening and that complainants should not be made to visit offices repeatedly. If a complaint cannot be resolved, officials must clearly explain the reasons through a proper endorsement.

The Collector warned of departmental action for negligence or incorrect endorsements and directed officials to promptly address state-level complaints and submit reports without delay.

From Resume to Interview: The Road to Career Success



Gandepalli, August 17 (Pen Power): Students should enhance their skills and prepare themselves to meet the changing demands of the job market, said Human Potential Assessor, Mentor and Coach Dr. Arun Mani. He was speaking at an expert session titled “From Resume to Interview – Your Path to Career Success” held at Aditya University, Surampalem. He said a resume should highlight relevant skills, achievements and keywords rather than merely list qualifications.

Dr. Arun Mani stressed that confidence, honesty, self-awareness and communication skills are crucial during interviews. He also advised students to build a personal brand and effectively use LinkedIn for job opportunities.

University Vice-Chancellor Dr. B. Srinivas, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. A. Ramesh and Dean (Career Development) Dr. Sanjeev Rao participated in the programme.

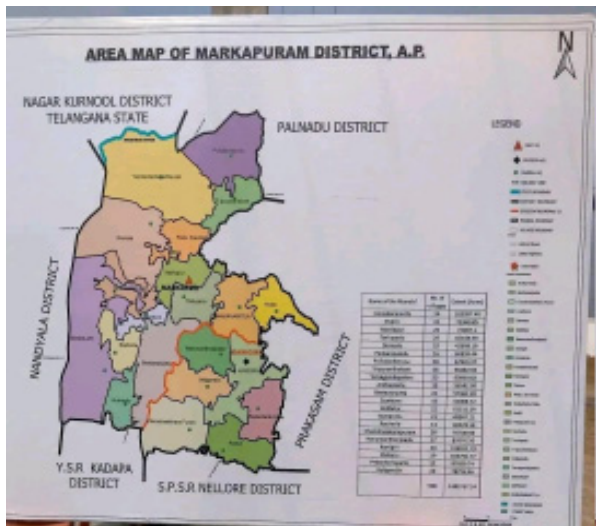
Major Boost for New Markapur District MRK-UDA Formed with 21 Mandals and 507 Villages

Markapur, Pen Power, Aug 17: The Andhra Pradesh government has issued GO MS No. 183 for the formation of the Markapur Urban Development Authority (MRK-UDA), marking a major step towards the planned development of the new Markapur district.

The authority will cover 6,037.39 sq km, including 21 mandals, three municipalities, one nagar panchayat and 507 villages, with Markapur as its headquarters.

MRK-UDA will prepare master plans and zonal development plans and regulate land development, layouts and construction permissions. The authority is expected to curb unauthorized layouts and promote systematic urban growth.

Officials said the new authority could accelerate infrastructure development, including roads, drainage, parks, housing and industrial corridors. With the expected availability of Velugonda project water, the region is also likely to emerge as a major horticulture hub.



Ensure Permanent Solutions to PGRS Complaints: Collector

VISAKHAPATNAM, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: District Collector M. Abhishikt Kishore directed officials to ensure transparent, quality and permanent solutions to complaints received through the PGRS. Reviewing the grievance system on Monday, he said officials must confirm that complainants were contacted after resolution. The Collector personally called several complainants to verify the status of their grievances and instructed officials to identify root causes instead of providing temporary solutions.

He directed departments to strengthen pre- and post-audit procedures, issue proper endorsements and register even direct petitions on the PGRS portal for transparency. Officials were asked to prevent complaints from being reopened and focus on frequently reopened grievances.

The Collector instructed all departments to improve their



performance and strive to remain among the top five in PGRS rankings, with a focus on citizen satisfaction and quality service delivery.

179 Petitions Received at PGRS Revenue Clinic

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, PEN POWER, STAFF-REPORTER, Aug. 17: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri and Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop received public petitions at the PGRS Revenue Clinic held at the Collectorate on Monday. A total of 179 petitions were received, including 71 related to Revenue, 58 to Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, 19 to Home, six each to Health and Municipal Administration, and three to Transport, Roads and Buildings. The Collector directed officials to examine all petitions as per rules and ensure speedy resolution. She also instructed officials to conduct field-level verification of eligible voters as part of the Special Summary Revision and maintain supporting documents to ensure transparency in the electoral rolls. Several district-level officials participated in the programme.



27 Complaints Received at Police PGRS



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, PEN POWER, STAFF-REPORTER, Aug. 17: East Godavari District Additional SP (Admin) Patil Devaraj Manish conducted the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme at the District Police Office on Monday. A total of 27 complaints were received from people across the district, mainly relating to civil disputes, family issues, cheating, assault and other matters.

The Additional SP personally heard the grievances and contacted concerned police station officials over the phone, directing them to resolve the complaints promptly and as per law.

Gold Offering Worth Rs 71.94 Lakh to Vadapalli Venkateswara Swamy



AMALAPURAM, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: Devotees offered gold worth ₹71.94 lakh to Sri Chandana Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Vadapalli, popularly known as Konaseema Tirumala. On behalf of Maitri Infrastructure and Mining India Pvt. Ltd., Visakhapatnam-based, Tella Srinivasa Rao and Tella Sri Lakshmi donated

463.920 grams of gold, valued at ₹71,94,550.

The donors offered special prayers to the deity and received blessings from the temple priests. Temple Chairman Mudunuri Venkata Raju, trustees and Commissioner M.S. Chakradhar Rao participated in the programme and felicitated the donors.

Permanent Solutions to Public Grievances Must Be Ensured



Nellore, Pen Power, Aug 17: Nellore District Collector Himanshu Shukla directed officials to ensure permanent solutions to public grievances received through the PGRS, preventing them from recurring or being reopened.

During a review meeting at his camp office on Monday, the Collector examined grievances submitted by people from various mandals and instructed officials to take timely and effective action.

He stressed that officials should directly interact with

complainants, verify records thoroughly and conduct field-level inspections to identify the root cause of each issue. The Collector emphasized that grievances should not be treated merely as cases to be closed, but should be resolved in a manner that provides complete satisfaction and justice to the applicants.

Kavali and Nellore RDOs Elisha and Anusha, Deputy Director of Survey and Land Records Nagashekar, around 30 applicants, along with officials, surveyors and police personnel participated in the review.

Guntur Enforces Single-Use Plastic Ban

GUNTUR, PEN POWER, Aug. 17: Guntur Municipal Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok said the ban on single-use plastic is being strictly enforced across the city from Monday. Health officials inspected 98 shops in Patnam Bazaar, Lalapet, Koritapadu and Brindavan Gardens, seizing 42 kg of banned plastic and imposing ₹27,000 in fines. The Commissioner warned that those who use,

sell or distribute banned plastic will face fines and legal action. Repeated violations may lead to cancellation of trade licences and sealing of shops. Citizens were urged to use eco-friendly alternatives and report violations to the GMC call centre at 08632345103.



BJP Appoints Vadodara MP Hemang Joshi as National BJYM President, Replacing Tejasvi Surya



New Delhi: At a time when Gen Z protests and rising youth movement voices have gained national attention across India, the BJP has made a significant organisational move by appointing Vadodara MP Hemang Joshi as the National President of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha today, replacing Lok Sabha MP Tejasvi Surya. The appointment comes as political parties are actively seeking to bridge the gap with the country's younger demographic.

In a post on social media platform X, Tejasvi Surya said:

14 years ago, I began my BJYM journey as a karyakarta of the city unit. That it would take me all the way to National President was something I never ever imagined. Born on January 31, 1991, in Porbandar, Gujarat, Joshi represents the new generation of

young BJP lawmakers. His journey in public service is grounded in a deep connection to Vadodara.

When his father moved to Vadodara in 2008 for Joshi's higher education in physiotherapy, he enrolled as a student at the prestigious Maharaja Sayajirao University. He remained associated with the university from 2008 all the way through 2021. His entry into civic governance took off in January 2022 under the leadership of then-city president Dr. Vijay Shah, when he was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Vadodara Municipal Corporation's School Committee.

Joshi's trajectory within the party hierarchy has seen a swift and structured ascent over the past two years. The party leadership fielded him as its Lok Sabha candidate from Vadodara in April 2024, leading to his successful election.

Recognising his potential, the party included him as the sole MP from Gujarat in the delegation sent for Operation Sindoor in May 2025. By November 2025, the BJP entrusted him with the role of in-charge for the Special Investment Region in Gujarat, followed by his appointment as the Gujarat BJP Yuva Morcha President in December 2025.

His steady performance and growth over this period led to his elevation to the national stage as head of the party's youth wing. The decision to choose Hemang Joshi stems from multiple political and strategic factors evaluating his leadership style. Since becoming an MP, he has focused on personal evolution, working on his physical fitness and demonstrating consistency wherever assigned, including his role during Operation Sindoor. During his tenure as the youth wing chief in Gujarat, he in-

troduced innovative organisational practices, including a large-scale digital meeting, which directly caught the attention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) BL Santhosh. The Central leadership was looking for a well-educated, soft-spoken, and controversy-free young leader, and Joshi fit the profile while maintaining a consistent low-profile approach.

Known for his polished communication skills, Joshi is fluent in Gujarati, Hindi, and English, making him equipped to connect with diverse youth audiences nationwide. He is also highly tech-savvy, a trait reflected in his initiative to establish a "Digital MP Office" in Vadodara, which earned widespread recognition. Beyond his local initiatives, Joshi stepped into the national political spotlight during the Lok Sabha incident involving opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and BJP MP P.C. Sarangi; alongside Bansuri Swaraj and Anurag Thakur, he was one of the key complainants who filed a police report regarding the scuffle. With his national appointment, the responsibility now falls on Hemang Joshi to strengthen the party's grassroots connection with the young population and navigate the evolving aspirations of Generation Z across the country.

Assam Rifles Top Leadership Meets Assam's Chief Secretary & DGP To deal Cross-Border International Illegal Activities



Guwahati: Top officials of Assam Rifles led by Maj Gen Inderjit Singh Bhinder, IGAR (East), accompanied by Brig Nishant Chandel, Comd 21 Sector, Assam Rifles, called on Dr Ravi Kota, IAS, Chief Secretary, Assam, and Harmeet Singh, IPS, DGP Assam. The meetings focused on law and order, operational coordination, security matters and areas of mutual interest. The interactions reaffirmed the commitment of Assam Rifles, civil

administration and police to strengthen coordination and ensure peace, security and development in the region. The Assam Rifles, India's oldest paramilitary force, operates primarily across the entire Northeast India region, including Assam. Their key working areas in Assam include border management along the Indo-Myanmar border, counter-insurgency operations in disturbed areas, and disaster relief. The Assam Rifles (AR) is often nick-



named "Sentinels of the North East" and "Friends of the Hill People". It is the oldest paramilitary force in India, originally raised in 1835 as Cachar Levy, a militia to protect tea gardens and the fertile plains of Assam against unruly tribes. After independence, the AR functioned under the Ministry of External Affairs. Its operational control was transferred to the Indian Army after the Sino-Indian War of 1962. At present, Assam Rifles has been

working against cross-border insurgency, drug and narcotics mafias, and illegal smuggling and trades. The high-level meeting with top Assam officials indicates Assam government led by Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma's firm stand against drugs, cross-border smuggling activities, especially from neighbouring porous Myanmar borders through North Eastern states Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur to mainland India using the corridor of Assam.

OBC Federation Objects to Caste Census Category, Warns of Protest

Thane: The omission of a separate category for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Central government's recently published Census Gazette has triggered strong reactions from members of the OBC community, with the National OBC Federation accusing the government of sidelining the community's long-standing demand for a comprehensive caste-based enumeration. Eknath Taramale President of the Konkan Division of the National OBC Federation, has alleged that the Centre has once again failed to address the concerns of the OBC community despite announcing its decision to conduct a caste census.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the contents of the Gazette notification issued in connection with the upcoming census exercise, Taramale demanded that the government introduce a separate and clearly defined category for OBC communities to ensure an accurate caste-wise enumeration. According to Taramale, the OBC community has not been included in an independent caste-based census since 1931. Although the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) was conducted in 2011, OBC leaders have repeatedly alleged that the complete

caste-wise data collected during the exercise has never been made public.

As a result, the community continues to lack reliable and officially verified data regarding its actual population, socio-economic status, educational progress and representation in employment and public institutions, he said. The Central government had announced its decision to conduct a caste census on April 30, 2025, following which expectations within the OBC community increased significantly. However, concerns resurfaced after the Gazette notification related to the census, issued on August 14, 2026, listed 40 questions to be included in the enumeration process. The tenth point in the questionnaire specifically referred to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and "caste."

While the inclusion of the term "caste" suggests that the caste identity of every individual may be recorded during the census, the notification does not clearly explain how OBC communities will be identified or whether they will be enumerated under a distinct category. Taramale argued that the absence of a transparent and well-defined framework for recording OBC communities could

undermine the objective of conducting a meaningful caste census. Highlighting the importance of comprehensive caste-based data, Taramale said policymakers continue to face significant challenges because official statistics related to the OBC population, educational attainment, employment patterns, economic conditions and political representation remain unavailable. He stressed that a census is not merely an exercise to determine population figures but an important mechanism for understanding the social, educational and economic realities of different sections of society.

Accurate caste-wise data, he said, is essential for ensuring equitable representation and implementing reservation policies in proportion to population demographics. Issuing a strong warning to the Centre, Taramale said the government still has sufficient time to amend the Gazette notification and incorporate provisions that would allow for the clear identification and enumeration of OBC communities. He urged the government to revise the notification in accordance with the broader objective of conducting a comprehensive caste census that includes all communities. If

the demand remains unaddressed, the OBC community will organise a large-scale protest at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan during the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament, he said. Taramale further warned that if the government fails to take the community's concerns seriously, the agitation could expand into a nationwide movement. He also indicated that the organisation may consider adopting a political strategy that includes appealing to voters to oppose candidates representing the ruling party if the demand for a separate OBC category in the census is ignored. There is still time for the government to make the necessary amendments. Since the Centre has already announced its decision to conduct a caste census, the Gazette notification should be revised to ensure the clear and separate enumeration of OBC communities. Otherwise, the OBC community will be compelled to launch a nationwide Agitation Taramale said. The controversy has once again brought the debate over caste-based data collection to the forefront, with OBC organisations insisting that a transparent and inclusive census is essential for evidence-based policymaking and social justice.

Meerut Woman Cop Suspended Over 'Objectionable' Social Media Video With QR Code; Probe Ordered

Meerut: A woman sub-inspector posted at the Police Lines in Meerut has been suspended after an "objectionable" video allegedly featuring her circulated on social media, prompting the Uttar Pradesh Police to launch a departmental inquiry. According to reports by PTI, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Avinash Pandey suspended Sub-Inspector Anu Rani on Sunday following the circulation of the video. Anu Rani, who has been associated with the Uttar Pradesh Police, regularly shared videos on platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. Her posts largely featured

gym workouts, fitness routines, tips and glimpses of her personal life. However, an allegedly objectionable video circulating online reportedly included a QR code linked to requests for money. Some reports also claimed that the woman appeared in casual clothing, including a night suit, in portions of the video. The circulation of the video raised questions over whether the content violated departmental guidelines governing the social media activity of police personnel.

Police officials have clarified that no video showing Anu Rani in police uniform has surfaced

so far. The Cyber Cell has been tasked with examining the authenticity of the circulating video and determining its source and manner of creation and dissemination. Officials are also looking into the technical aspects surrounding the clip and its online circulation. A departmental inquiry has also been ordered into the matter. According to reports, the inquiry has been assigned to Circle Officer Saumya Singh. SP (Crime) Avnish Kumar confirmed the suspension and said it was linked to an alleged violation of the department's social media policy. Officials have maintained that

further action will depend on the findings of the departmental inquiry.

The Cyber Cell's investigation is expected to establish whether the video is genuine, whether it has been altered or manipulated, and how it came to be circulated online.

The inquiry will also examine the circumstances surrounding the QR code and the allegations associated with the video before any further departmental action is taken. The case comes amid increasing scrutiny over the use of social media by police personnel, with departments across the country issuing guidelines on what officials can post online while in service.

BJP's New National Team: 8 UP Leaders Get Key Posts Ahead Of 2027 Assembly Elections

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh has secured a sizeable presence in BJP president Nitin Nabin's new national team, with eight leaders from the state finding places in key organisational positions, including two national vice presidents, two general secretaries, two national secretaries and the presidents of the party's OBC and Minority Morchas. The composition gives Uttar Pradesh representation across several layers of the BJP's national organisation. More significantly, the party has retained its focus on social and community outreach by handing the national presidentship of both the OBC Morcha and Minority Morcha to leaders from the state. Senior party leader Amar Pal Maurya has been appointed national president of the OBC Morcha, while Kunwar Basit Ali, who was state chief of Minority Morcha, has been made national president of the Minority Morcha.

The other prominent UP faces in the new team include former Union minister Smriti Irani and former MP Harish Dwivedi, both of whom have been appointed national general secretaries. Irani, who represented Amethi in the Lok Sabha from 2019 to 2024, had emerged as one of the BJP's most prominent national leaders during her tenure as a Union minister. Her appointment as national general secretary gives her a direct organisational role at a time when the BJP is preparing for another round of electoral battles in the politically crucial Hindi heartland. Harish Dwivedi, a former BJP MP from Basti, has also been elevated to the post of national general secretary.

The state has also got two national vice presidents in Rekha Verma and Prof. Tariq Mansoor. Verma, a



former BJP MP from Dhaurahra, has been retained in a senior national organisational role. Mansoor, former vice chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University and a member of the BJP's national leadership, has also been appointed national vice president. Mansoor's appointment assumes importance in the context of the BJP's continuing efforts to expand its outreach among Muslims. His presence in the national team, alongside Basit Ali's appointment as Minority Morcha president, gives UP two senior

organisational faces associated with the party's minority outreach. Two more UP leaders, Dr. Bhola Singh and Sangeeta Yadav, have been appointed national secretaries. This takes the number of leaders from Uttar Pradesh in the core national office-bearer structure to six, before counting the two morcha presidents. The appointment of Amar Pal Maurya as OBC Morcha president is particularly relevant given the BJP's emphasis on maintaining its non-Yadav OBC support base in Uttar Pradesh. Maurya, who has held

organisational and governmental responsibilities in the state, has been associated with the BJP's backward caste outreach. With the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election approaching, the composition of the national team is likely to be closely watched in the state. The presence of eight UP leaders in the national organisation suggests that the BJP intends to keep the state firmly integrated into its national organisational strategy while giving particular emphasis to caste and community-based outreach.

UP ATS Arrests 24-Year-Old Man From Meerut Mosque Over Alleged Jaish-e-Mohammed Links, Crypto Funding Trail

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad has arrested a 24-year-old man from a mosque in Meerut for his alleged links with Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed, officials said. The accused, Mohammad Zafar, is a resident of Purnia district in Bihar and had obtained a Maulvi degree from a madrasa in Meerut in 2022, according to the ATS. He had returned to Meerut about two months ago and was arrested from a mosque on Sunday. In a press note issued Monday, the ATS alleged that Zafar collected donations from people in the name of a madrasa and sent the money to Jaish-e-Mohammed in Pakistan. Investigators also found Pakistani jihadi WhatsApp groups on his mobile phone and evidence of his alleged involvement in online activities related to jihad and the establishment of a caliphate, the agency said. During questioning, Zafar allegedly told investigators that he had read about Jaish-e-Mohammed while studying at the madrasa. He became influenced by material glorifying jihad and the deaths of militants and later came under the influence of Jaish chief Masood Azhar, the ATS alleged. According to the agency, Zafar was influenced by speeches delivered by Azhar and shared what it described as inflammatory and jihadi material on social media to encourage people towards violent jihad. Investigators allegedly found similar material on his social media accounts. The ATS said Zafar used Facebook to post statements related to jihad and the caliphate, including posts in which his face was covered. The ATS alleged that Zafar offered to assist the handler in jihad. At the handler's direction, he allegedly tried to transfer money and subsequently sought details of a Binance account. According to investigators, Zafar remained in contact with suspected Pakistani operatives and allegedly transferred money on several occasions using USDT, a cryptocurrency. The ATS is now investigating his contacts, financial transactions and possible links with other members of the alleged terror network.

Qatar-India Postal Remittance Service based on PosTransfer powered by UPI now available through Qatar Post Outlets

- New digital postal remittance service enables fast, secure and convenient transfer of funds from Qatar to India



New Delhi, August, 17 (PIB): The Qatar-India remittance service based on PosTransfer powered by UPI is now available, enabling customers in Qatar to send funds directly to UPI-enabled bank accounts in India through Qatar Post outlets. The service has been developed through the collaboration of Qatar Post, India Post, the Universal Postal Union's Intercon-

nection Platform (UPU-IP), and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL). The initiative combines the extensive reach of postal networks with India's digital public infrastructure to provide an efficient and convenient channel for cross-border remittances. The service was made available in Qatar on 15 August 2026, coinciding with India's Independence Day.

H.E. Sandeep Kumar, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of India in Qatar, visited the Qatar Post outlet at LuLu Mall, Doha, and interacted with the stakeholders on the occasion. The engagement underscored the importance of the initiative in strengthening digital financial connectivity and bilateral cooperation between India and Qatar. Under the service, customers can initiate a remittance at a Qatar Post outlet by providing the UPI ID of the recipient in India, along with the required customer identification details. The recipient is required to activate the facility for receiving foreign inward remittances through the UPI app being used. Once activated, the remitted amount is credited to the beneficiary's UPI-enabled bank account instantly.

Transactions can be initiated for amounts ranging from QAR 10 to QAR 4,000, subject to a maximum equivalent of ₹1,00,000 per transaction. A flat service charge of QAR 15 per transaction is applicable. The service is particularly significant for the large Indian community in Qatar, providing a trusted, accessible and affordable channel for sending money to families in India. By combining the

accessibility of postal networks with the capabilities of UPI, the initiative contributes to greater financial inclusion and seamless digital financial connectivity between the two countries. The Qatar-India corridor represents an important milestone in the modernisation of international postal financial services and digital financial cooperation between India and Qatar. The integration

of UPU-IP with UPI demonstrates the potential of postal networks and Digital Public Infrastructure to facilitate inclusive, interoperable and efficient cross-border financial services. PosTransfer powered by UPI is an international inward remittance service enabled through the integration of the Universal Postal Union's Interconnection Platform (UPU-IP) with India's UPI ecosystem.

It enables participating postal operators to provide customers with a simple and secure mechanism for sending remittances to UPI-enabled bank accounts in India. India Post is also working with postal operators in other countries to operationalise additional PosTransfer powered by UPI corridors, further strengthening international financial connectivity for the Indian diaspora.

LOKAYAN 2026 – INDIAN NAVAL SHIP SUDARSHINI CONCLUDES PORT CALL AT PONTA DELGADA

New Delhi, August, 17 (PIB): Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, concluded her port call at Ponta Delgada, Azores, on 16 Aug 2026, as part of Lokayan 2026. The port call witnessed professional and cultural engagements with the Portuguese Navy, strengthening maritime cooperation and camaraderie between the two navies. A formal deck reception was hosted onboard the Portuguese Navy's sail training vessel, NRP Sagres. This was followed by a reciprocal evening deck reception onboard INS Sudarshini for local military leadership, diplomats and members of the Indian diaspora. The ship also celebrated India's 80th



Independence Day at Ponta Delgada on 15 Aug 2026. The ship was dressed overall, and a Colours ceremony was held to mark the occasion with pride and patriotism. INS Sudarshini has now set sail for Lisbon. On 21 Aug 2026, INS Sudarshini and NRP

Sagres are scheduled to undertake a joint Passing Exercise (PASSEX) at sea, featuring coordinated sail manoeuvres and communication drills, further strengthening interoperability and maritime cooperation between the two navies.

Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Comprehensive Rehabilitation, Healthcare, Skill Development and Livelihood Support Extended to Marginalised Individuals

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) as an Umbrella Central Sector Scheme aimed at comprehensive rehabilitation and socio-economic empowerment of marginalised individuals. The scheme includes the sub-scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging, with interventions focused on rehabilitation, medical facilities, counselling, education, skill development and livelihood opportunities through an effective convergence approach. The scheme is implemented with the support of State and UT Governments, District Administrations, Urban Local Bodies, Municipal Corporations and other organisations and agencies working in the field. The SMILE Scheme seeks to promote an inclusive society by enabling marginalised individuals to access welfare services, develop skills and livelihood capabilities and rein-

tegrate into mainstream society with dignity and self-confidence. The Government's approach places emphasis on coordinated action and convergence among different stakeholders to ensure that rehabilitation extends beyond immediate support and contributes towards sustainable social and economic reintegration. Under the sub-scheme for comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging, the Ministry has undertaken identification, mobilisation and rehabilitation interventions across the country. As per the latest information available on the official SMILE-BEGGARY portal, 42,589 persons have been identified/surveyed and 12,710 persons have been rehabilitated under the initiative. The rehabilitation framework covers a range of support measures, including provision of medical facilities, counselling, education and skill development. These interventions are designed to help beneficiaries acquire capabilities and ac-

cess opportunities that can support their transition towards sustainable livelihoods and a life of dignity. The implementation framework also promotes convergence with various Government departments and agencies as well as local bodies and organisations working for the welfare and rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging. The official SMILE-BEGGARY portal states that the sub-scheme was launched on 12 February 2022 and is being implemented with the objective of making India a "Bhiksha Vritti Mukta Bharat" through comprehensive rehabilitation and coordinated action. The approach seeks to facilitate the reintegration of persons engaged in begging into mainstream society while strengthening their confidence and access to opportunities. The broader SMILE framework also includes the Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons component. Under this component, the Government has established 23 Garima Grehs

across 17 States/UTs to provide shelter and support to destitute transgender persons. During the last three years, 1,041 transgender persons have been rehabilitated through Garima Grehs. The Government has also undertaken measures relating to healthcare, identity documentation, skill development, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for transgender persons. The National Portal for Transgender Persons has been established to facilitate the issuance of transgender certificates and identity cards to eligible persons. The attached official information records 33,303 identity cards issued through the portal. The Government has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Health Authority for convergence with Ayushman Bharat, with 147 AB PM-JAY transgender cards issued as per the information contained in the official document. The Ministry has further strengthened opportunities for skill development and

economic empowerment. 725 transgender persons have received skill development training, while 150 transgender persons have been trained through an Entrepreneurship Development Programme. Three National Transgender Employment Melas have also been organised, benefiting 223 transgender persons. Institutional mechanisms have also been strengthened to promote protection, welfare and access to Government schemes. Transgender Protection Cells have been established in 27 States/UTs, while 30 Transgender Welfare Boards have been set up by States/UTs to protect the rights and interests of transgender persons and facilitate access to welfare measures. The Government has also undertaken an independent assessment of the implementation of the SMILE Scheme. A third-party assessment/evaluation was conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, during September–October

2025. The major findings and recommendations of the evaluation have been considered and incorporated into the revised Scheme Guidelines for continuation of the Scheme during the 16th Finance Commission cycle from 2026–27 to 2030–31. Through SMILE, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is working towards strengthening an ecosystem of rehabilitation, social protection, healthcare, education, skill development and livelihood support for marginalised individuals. The scheme's convergence-based approach brings together Central and State Governments, local administrations, voluntary organisations, community-based organisations and other stakeholders to create sustainable pathways towards social inclusion and economic empowerment. The overarching objective remains to ensure that marginalised individuals are able to live with dignity, self-confidence and greater opportunities for participation in mainstream society.

From PhD Challenges to Semiconductor Research: How National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Scheme Supported SANGEETA DAS's Academic Journey

Pursuing higher education and advanced research can involve significant academic, technical and personal challenges. For scholars managing research responsibilities alongside financial and family obligations, timely fellowship support can play an important role in enabling them to continue their academic journey. Demonstrating how fellowship assistance can support scholars pursuing higher education, Ms. SANGEETA DAS, a 34-year-old Scheduled Caste scholar, pursued her Ph.D. after completing her B.Tech and M.Tech. She is currently working as a Project Associate II under the Chips to Startup

Programme, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. During her Ph.D. journey, Sangeeta faced several academic, technical and personal challenges, including research pressure, experimental and simulation failures, strict publication deadlines and difficulties in balancing personal responsibilities with research work. She also faced financial limitations and work-life balance issues while continuing her research. Her family circumstances added to these challenges. Her father, a retired teacher, was suffering from dementia and required constant care and support. At the

same time, Sangeeta was a mother to a newborn baby when she was selected for the NFSC scheme. Managing research responsibilities alongside childcare and family obligations was extremely demanding. Despite these circumstances, she remained dedicated, resilient and focused on successfully completing her Ph.D. Her NFSC fellowship support began on 30 November 2020. The fellowship provided significant financial and academic support during a crucial phase of her Ph.D. journey. It helped her continue her research work without major financial stress while managing

family responsibilities, including caring for her newborn baby and supporting her father during his illness. Under the scheme, she received financial assistance, academic support, research fellowship and encouragement for higher education, amounting to ₹31,000 per month. With the support of the NFSC fellowship, Sangeeta was able to continue her research journey while managing significant personal and family responsibilities. Her academic qualifications of B.Tech, M.Tech and Ph.D., along with her current role as a Project Associate II, reflect her continued pursuit of professional

growth in the field of semiconductor and chip design technologies. Sangeeta aspires to pursue a post doctoral research opportunity abroad to enhance her research expertise and gain international exposure in advanced semiconductor and chip design technologies. She also aims to work in a reputed multinational company in the field of chip design and VLSI technology, where she can contribute to innovative research and development in the semiconductor industry. Expressing her satisfaction, Ms Sangeeta Das said, 'The NFSC fellowship provided me the strength

to continue my research without financial stress while managing my family responsibilities. It has shaped my journey and helped me move towards my global aspirations.' Sangeeta's journey highlights how fellowship support can help scholars pursue advanced research despite academic, financial and family challenges. From managing demanding Ph.D. research alongside childcare and family responsibilities to building a professional career in semiconductor and chip design technologies, her journey reflects resilience, determination and the importance of timely support for higher education.

Indian Defence Estates Service officer trainees call on Raksha Mantri



New Delhi, August, 17 (PIB): The Officer Trainees of the Indian Defence Estates Service (2025 Batch), undergoing training at the National Institute of Defence Estates Management (NIDEM), called on Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on August 17, 2026. Raksha Mantri appreciated the role of the Defence Estates Department in the management of defence land and municipal administration of the Cantonment Boards across the country. Rajnath Singh emphasised the role of public servants in meeting the evolving aspirations of the citizens. He said civil servants must play a major role with utmost 'Seva Bhav', delivering the services in a people-friendly manner. He added that the officers should meet people regularly and listen to their grievances to understand their concerns and instill a sense of assurance. Raksha Mantri emphasised that public servants and budding officers should pay equal attention to their physical and mental well-being, urging them to follow a spiritual path and practice meditation. Director General Defence Estates Smt Shobha Gupta was present during the interaction.

BRICS Environment Group Discusses Key Climate Priorities



New Delhi, August, 17 (PIB): Under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, Senior Officers' Meeting of the Environment Working Group and Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development was held in Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 17th August 2026. The meeting was chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, Shri Tanmay Kumar. The proceedings witnessed participation from BRICS member countries including Federative Republic of Brazil, People's Republic of China, Arab Republic of Egypt, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Federation, Republic of South Africa and United Arab Emirates. In his keynote address, the Chair stated that over the past two decades, the BRICS alliance has expanded from an economic dialogue into an increasingly influential platform for defining its approach to the critical challenges facing the environment, including pressing global issues of increasing pollution, biodiversity loss as well as global warming. He said, "Our partnership has broadened in terms of relevance to sustainable development, climate resilience and adaptation, resource efficiency and circular economy, as well as environmental governance." The Chair informed that BRICS 2026 has been guided by the vision of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, that global cooperation must remain people-centric by advancing a humanity-first approach. This vision finds expression in the Chairship theme - 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability'. India has sought to advance environmental action through approaches that integrate ecological sustainability with development objectives, it was stated. Over the course of India's Chairship, the Environment Working Group and the Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development have together advanced cooperation across four interconnected priority areas: Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles; Afforestation, Forest Fire Management and Disaster Resilience; Circular Economy and Adaptation. The Chair stated that these priorities reflect both the shared environmental challenges confronting the BRICS countries and the collective wisdom and strength to address them. They reflect the unanimous recognition that climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, resource efficiency and sustainable development are deeply interconnected challenges that require integrated and holistic responses rather than isolated interventions in silos. It was informed that since the commencement of India's Chairship, Member Countries have engaged through 21 virtual thematic and negotiation meetings, 10 bilateral consultations, 2 thematic dialogues and 2 technical webinars, reflecting an extraordinary level of commitment to advancing the shared agenda. The marathon deliberations would culminate in building a consensus on the key priorities during the Senior Officers' meeting being held today. Concluding the address, the chair expressed confidence that the spirit of co-operation and mutual respect which has guided the collective dialogues and discussions so far would continue to guide the deliberations today. The 12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi tomorrow. The participating delegations from the BRICS member countries congratulated India for its successful leadership as the BRICS Chair and bringing together each side through productive deliberations on the priority areas, under an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust and consensus-based decision making.

AISTS India, YIPESU partner to strengthen sports education in Telangana



Hyderabad: AISTS India and Young India Physical Education & Sports University (YIPESU) have entered into a strategic academic partnership aimed at strengthening sports education, developing globally benchmarked academic programmes and establishing Telangana as a leading destination for international sports education. The partnership will establish a long-term framework for collaboration be-

tween the two institutions, with a focus on jointly offering the AISTS India Post Graduate Certificate Programme (PGCP). The initiative aims to create stronger pathways for students through exchange opportunities, internships, industry exposure and placements, connecting learners with the broader Indian and international sports ecosystem. The institutions will also explore

the development of internationally benchmarked programmes across sports management and related disciplines. Mr Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, Hyderabad Metropolitan Area and Department of Sports, Government of Telangana, committed his full support to the partnership to ensure that it benefits a wide cross-section of the youth in Telangana. Dr Kishore Gopinathan, Vice-Chancellor,

YIPESU, said, "Through this partnership with AISTS India, we take a decisive step towards a dream we have long held: placing the Indian sports academic system firmly on the global stage. Together, we will build a cycle of excellence that meets the highest international standards, ensuring our institutions, our coaches and our athletes are never found wanting when measured against the world's best." "This collaboration enables the university to move decisively towards its goals, with immediate academic pursuits that can begin without delay and are designed to benefit the students of Telangana directly," he said. "Through AISTS India's expertise, our students will gain access to a quality of learning that strengthens the wider sporting ecosystem of the state in a lasting, sustainable way — building the foundation we need as India looks ahead to major sporting milestones in the years to come, including its Commonwealth Games and Olympic ambitions towards 2036," Dr Kishore said.

PV Sindhu Receives Roaring Welcome As 2026 World Championships Campaign Begins With Victory In Delhi

Delhi: The volume inside the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi rose sharply as India's badminton star PV Sindhu walked into the arena for her first match at the 2026 BWF World Championships on Monday. Videos are circulating on social media from the stadium which shows the home crowd cheering for Sindhu. A video shows even small kids are cheering continuously for her. The chants of "Sindhu PV" are being chanted by the crowd non-stop as she dominates the first game against Sophia Noble 21-6. The fans went crazy as she beat Noble in the second game 21-11 and winning the match 2-0. The home crowd welcomed Sindhu with loud cheers as the former world champion stepped onto the court in New Delhi. Sindhu's latest campaign comes 13 years after she made her World Championships debut in



China in 2013. She is now back at the tournament with a chance to add another medal to her collection. Sindhu has already won five World Championships medals and is aiming for a record sixth.

World Championships return to India

The 30th edition of the BWF World Championships is being held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from August 17 to 23. The tournament has returned to India after 17 years, making Sindhu's home campaign even more special for the fans watching her in Delhi. Sindhu, the ninth

seed, began her women's singles campaign against Ireland's Sophia Noble. The match marks the start of Sindhu's latest attempt to go deep into the World Championships, with the Indian star receiving strong support from the home crowd from the moment she entered the arena.

Mandhana has 'incredible willpower', Harmanpreet is a 'great competitor' says Ellyse Perry



Mumbai: Smriti Mandhana's "incredible willpower" and a "super-strong mind" and India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's tenacity are the qualities of the Indian superstars that stand out to her, said Australia legend Ellyse Perry. Perry hailed Smriti's approach to the game and said she has got all the qualities. "What makes Smriti so successful? Her amazing skill," Mandhana told JioHotstar. "She has got incredible willpower and a super-strong mind. The way she approaches the game, the way she prepares, the way she knows herself,

the way she thinks about things, and the way that she likes challenges. She's got it all." Talking about Harmanpreet, the veteran all-rounder said, "Harman, I think her greatest strength is her tenacity. She's a great competitor, and when she's going, she hits some of the biggest shots in the women's game."

Perry also gave a thumbs-up to the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy, which will be held next year. "It is another great opportunity for the women's game and for all the teams competing," Perry

said. "From my perspective, it's a new event, so it's always exciting to be a part of something like that and a new spot on the calendar, which will be great for everyone. You want to play every game well. This tournament will be physically and mentally a huge challenge, and preparing for those matches, everyone is going to have to be spot on. But the mindset remains the same; you just want to win every game." Perry said her vast experience in the game has helped in her evolution and growth as a person.

"You just naturally evolve as you grow as

a person. Over the many years, there have been a number of different experiences, things to learn, people to work with, and new avenues to explore."

"Incrementally, as that happens, you add new things or change the way you do things. Often, they're only small changes, but over a long period of time, there's always something new or a way to learn more," she added. Perry said the landscape of women's cricket has changed since she began playing and there is a lot that senior players can learn from the younger ones. "The landscape of women's cricket is really different these days. You walk into a very different environment as a young professional, but those girls are so well prepared for that," she said. "So I don't think there is any one piece of advice. It is probably just as much as they would learn from current players, I learn from them. They have got a different experience, a different energy and a different way of going about things. So, it is just about supporting each other and having a really open mind to learn from each other," Perry added.

Jadeja scripts history, becomes first Indian left-arm bowler to take 350 Test wickets

Galle: Ravindra Jadeja achieved another significant milestone in his illustrious Test career during the ongoing first match against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium in Galle. Jadeja, who returned to the Test side after missing the one-off game against Afghanistan, has become the first Indian left-arm bowler to take 350 wickets in the longest international format.

Jadeja achieved the feat on Day 3 of the first Test at the Galle International Stadium when he removed bowling all-rounder Keshara Nuwantha in the third session of the moving day.

The Indian iconic all-rounder got Nuwantha out with Shubman Gill taking the catch at covers after the Sri Lankan batsman tried whacking a ball towards covers but ended up hitting it to the thigh of an evading Yashasvi Jaiswal at silly point. The ball ricocheted towards Gill, who completed the catch.

In the process, Jadeja became the first Indian left-arm bowler to take 350 wickets in the Test format, with former fast-bowler Zaheer Khan a distant second now with 311 wickets. The 37-year-old is also the fifth Indian overall to have taken 350 wickets, joining the likes of Anil Kumble (619), Ravichandran Ashwin (537), Kapil Dev (434) and Harbhajan Singh (417).

Jadeja is also the third left-arm spinner in the world to have achieved the milestone,



joining the likes of Rangana Herath (433) and Daniel Vettori (362). In the process, he also achieved another significant record.

Jadeja is now only the fourth player in the history of Test cricket to have a double of 4000-plus Test runs and 350-plus Test wickets. Only Kapil Dev (5248, 434), Ian Botham (5200, 383) and Daniel Vettori (4531, 362) have achieved the milestone before him. India managed to put Sri Lanka's resistance to a halt in the third session after the hosts put up a brilliant fight in the latter half of the first and the entirety of the second session. Returning to the Test

side after three years, Niroshan Dickwella scored a strong 80, while youngster Sonal Dinusha made 89 as they forged a partnership of 146 for the sixth wicket.

The hosts were reeling at 90/5 before the two stepped up and put up a fight. They took the team to 236/5 before Prasad Krishna got the veteran Dickwella. Soon after, Jadeja came and removed Nuwantha for his milestone wicket. India had made 462 in the first innings with Devdutt Padikkal leading the way with his 167, while KL Rahul (82) and Dhruv Jurel (51) also made strong contributions on Day 2.

Another draw keeps Praggnanandhaa in joint second spot at Sinquefeld Cup



St. Louis (USA): India's R Praggnanandhaa played out another draw with GM Levon Aronian of United States in the sixth round of the Sinquefeld cup, part of the Grand Chess tour. The Indian GM remained in joint second spot with 3.5 points with just three rounds remaining. Wesley So of United States remained in sole lead on four points that saw just one decisive game out of a possible five in the USD 475,000 prize money tournament. For the record, Wesley drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France.

GM Praggnanandhaa, along with Vachier-Lagrave and German Vincent Keymer shares the

second spot while the American trio of top seed Fabiano Caruana, Sevan Samuels and Aronian are sharing the fifth spot on three points each.

Anish Giri of Holland is next in queue with World Championship contender Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan while Dutchman Jorden van Foreest is in last spot with just a sole point in his bag.

Praggnanandhaa tried his best to complicate matters against Aronian but the former Armenian was quite up to the task in defending a tricky middle game. The Indian at a point lost two pawns in the middle but made a .

Anish Giri was the lone winner of the day at the expense of Foreest. The former launched a decisive middle game attack on the black king and succeeded when his compatriot collapsed one more time.

Results round 6:

Anish Giri (Ned, 2.5) beat Jorden Van Foreest (Ned, 1); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 3.5) drew with Wesley So (Usa, 4); Sevan Samuels (Usa, 3) drew with Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3.5); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3.5) drew with Levon Aronian (Usa, 3); Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 2.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 3).

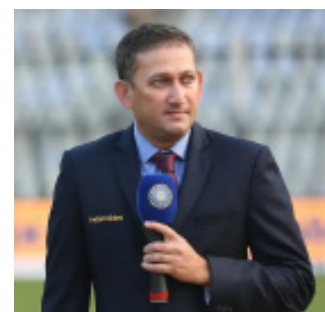
Ajit Agarkar Earns Rs 3 Crore A Year? Know BCCI Chief Selector's Salary As His Term Nears End

Ajit Agarkar has been one of the key figures behind India's team selection in recent years. The former India all-rounder became the BCCI's senior men's chief selector in 2023 after taking charge of a selection panel that has overseen several major changes in Indian cricket.

But while Agarkar's decisions on players often make headlines, there is another question that interests fans: How much does India's chief selector earn? Reports from 2023 said that the BCCI increased the annual remuneration for the chairman of the senior selection committee from Rs 1 crore to Rs 3 crore when Agarkar took charge. The figure was reported at the time, although it was not publicly announced as an official BCCI salary figure. Before Agarkar's appointment, reports said the

BCCI chairman of selectors was paid around Rs 1 crore per year. According to Cricbuzz report at the time, the amount was increased to Rs 3 crore annually for the chief selector. This meant a reported increase of around three times in the annual remuneration.

The higher remuneration also came as the BCCI looked to attract experienced former cricketers to the demanding selection job. Agarkar's future had also come to the limelight as his original contract approached its end. However, reports in April 2026 said that the BCCI had decided to renew his contract for another year, keeping him as chief selector until June 2027. The decision was linked to the board's desire for continuity ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup.



This means the earlier speculation about Agarkar leaving the post in 2026 does not reflect the latest reported development.

Agarkar's International Career

Before becoming a selector, Agarkar enjoyed a long international career with India.

He played 26 Tests, 191 ODIs and four T20Is. He took 58 wickets in Tests and 288 in ODIs, while scoring 571 and 1,269 runs respectively.

Anirudh And Kavya's Destination Wedding Date Locked?



Sensational music director Anirudh Ravichander and Sunrisers Hyderabad owner Kavya Maran are once again making headlines. According to several reports in the Tamil media, they are all set to get married in Greece on November 10. The speculation gained fresh momentum after Anirudh's uncle, veteran actor Y.G. Mahendran, publicly spoke about the relationship and indirectly stated that the marriage will happen soon. Interestingly, wedding rumors involving the duo have been circulating for more than a year. While Anirudh had previously dismissed similar reports, the latest reports have once again gained traction. Kavya Maran is one of the most recognizable faces in the IPL, owns Sunrisers Hyderabad, and is the daughter of Sun TV owner Kalanithi Maran, while Anirudh remains one of the busiest and most successful music composers in Indian cinema. As of now, fans are eagerly waiting for an official announcement. Until then, the reported destination wedding plans remain a major talking point on social media. Anirudh is high on the success of his new film DC, which had great music.

New Age Trivikram, Start Working with Telugu Stars!

Venky Atluri has recently earned the tag of the "New-Age Trivikram Srinivas" for his large-scale commercial entertainers. His last three films have proved his mettle. Be it Sir (Vaathi), Lucky Baskhar or the latest Vishwanath And Sons, the filmmaker has cemented his position among Tollywood's bankable directors. Besides delivering content-backed films, Venky has also churned out successful box-office entertainers. Now, all eyes are on Venky Atluri's next. There is growing demand for him in Tollywood. After directing Dhanush, Dulquer Salmaan and Suriya, Telugu fans are eagerly waiting to see Venky team up with Telugu stars. When asked about his next project, Venky quipped, "Nothing is finalised. Yet to start working on the script." Let's hope things fall into place soon and Venky collaborates with a top Tollywood star and producer Naga Vamsi is best at getting the things done. If Venky joins hands with a prominent Telugu star, there is no doubt that the combination could work wonders at the box office.



How A Podcast Led To Ameer Log

A grounded story, real locations and natural performances are the main highlights of Ameer Log, the upcoming Telugu film directed by Ramana Reddy Soma. Produced by Madhavi Reddy Soma under Awwal Number Productions, the film is set to release on August 21. MC Hari, Manoj, Sashidhar and Vedha Jalandharr play key roles. Interestingly, the title Ameer Log came before the story. Director Ramana Reddy heard the phrase in a podcast featuring actor Manoj Bajpayee and became curious about its meaning. He then started building a story around the title, which eventually became a tale about three young men from a Hyderabad basti. The director wanted to show the real life of a Hyderabad basti without making it look artificial. So, instead of creating sets, the team shot in an actual basti. He also used sync sound to keep the performances natural and realistic. Ramana Reddy had earlier made a short film, which taught him the importance of proper preparation. For Ameer Log, he made sure to have a bound script before starting the feature film. Spirit Media also came on board after watching the film and appreciating its content, especially the second half. The director also thanked Rana Daggubati for his support and promotion. With its realistic setting and simple storytelling, Ameer Log is now gearing up for its August 21 release.



Irumudi Team Shouldn't Spoil The Goodwill With Unnecessary Words

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja is facing social media backlash over remarks he made about child actor Nakshathra at the pre release event of Irumudi held recently.

Nakshathra, who plays Ravi Teja's daughter in the film, asked him to give her a nickname during the event. Ravi Teja responded with the nickname "Muduru M***a". The comment drew criticism from a section of netizens, who felt such words were inappropriate while addressing a young girl. The clip soon went viral on social media.

At the same time, some people defended Ravi Teja, arguing that the remark was made in a light hearted and playful situation without any bad intention. However, the criticism continues, particularly because the comment was directed at a child during a public event.

Ravi Teja is known for using such casual and spontaneous words in conversations, often as part of his natural flow. But this particular instance appeared to come out more out of excitement than anything else, which



makes it stand out and has unfortunately created a bigger negative impression.

Ravi may not have intended to offend anyone, but the comment has created the wrong impression and even attracted attention from national media. At the same event, actor Ajay Ghosh also faced criticism for apparently going overboard in the name of enthusiasm.

The senior actor has been associated with this kind of

casual language on several occasions, often seemingly as an accidental part of his spontaneous nature. But this time, the words appeared to come out in a moment of heightened excitement, and that has unfortunately caused more damage than usual.

Irumudi revolves around Lord Ayyappa devotees and combines devotional and spiritual elements with social and commercial aspects. The film has generated good inter-

est among audiences so far and is carrying positive goodwill. It certainly does not need such controversies distracting from that buzz.

Ultimately, Ravi Teja and the entire Irumudi team need to be a little more careful with their words and actions during promotional events. With the film already enjoying positive attention, protecting that goodwill should be more important than creating unnecessary controversy.

Huma Qureshi Owns The Cover, Effortlessly



Huma Qureshi is proving she is a true fashion powerhouse with her latest magazine cover, and it's impossible to look away. The actress, all set to impress fans with her upcoming film Toxic, brought serious glam to the shoot with multiple striking looks. She switched between four bold outfits, a black and white feathered dress, a rich maroon pantsuit, a flowing white gown with dramatic sleeves, and an elegant black gown covered in crystal embellishments. Each look showed off a different side of her style, from edgy to classic elegance. Huma completed her looks with statement earrings and soft, glowing makeup, letting her confidence shine through every frame. With Toxic creating buzz, this cover comes at the perfect time, proving Huma is ready to own the spotlight both on screen and in fashion.

Rakul Preet Singh Drips In Sequins, Sass

Rakul Preet Singh is proving age is just a number with her latest stunning photoshoot. The actress, gearing up for her much-awaited role in Ramayana, dropped a set of pictures that instantly caught fans' attention. She wore a shimmering black sequinned gown with a sheer crystal-studded neckline and a bold cutout back with lace-up detailing. She kept it simple with a sleek bun, ear cuffs, and dewy makeup, letting the gown steal the show. Nearing her 40s, Rakul continues to impress with her fitness and style. With almost two decades in the industry, she has built a strong name in Tollywood and is now steadily making her mark in Bollywood too, with Ramayana as one of her biggest upcoming projects.

