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New Vande Bharat train to boost pilgrimage and heritage connectivity

- From Varanasi to Khajuraho in just 7.40 hours



Varanasi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off four Vande Bharat Express trains, including the one that operates on the Banaras-Khajuraho route. The train, to be maintained and operated by the North-

ern Railway, will cover a distance of 443 km in 07.40 hours, making it the fastest train on the route. With eight coaches—seven AC chair cars and one executive AC char car—it will operate six days a week except

Thursday. The train (No. 26422) will leave Varanasi at 5.25 am and arrive in Khajuraho at 1:10 pm. The return train (No. 26421) will depart from Khajuraho at 3:20 pm and arrive in Varanasi at 11 pm.

The route assumes significance as it links two key places—a pilgrimage hub in Uttar Pradesh and a heritage town in Madhya Pradesh. It will also connect some other religious and cultural destinations like Prayagraj and Chitrakoot. The train will also have stops at Vindhyachal, Banda and Mahoba. The other three Vande Bharat trains flagged off by the prime minister on Saturday will operate on the Lucknow-Saharanpur, Firozpur-Delhi and Ernakulam-Bengaluru routes. "Trains like Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat and Amrit Bharat are laying the foundation of a new generation of Indian Railways," Modi said at the launch event.



PM attends the National Conference on "Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms" at Supreme Court, in New Delhi on Saturday. (PIB Photo)

NDA To Return To Power In Bihar With Over 160 Seats: Amit Shah

Patna: Expressing confidence that the NDA will return to power with over 160 of the 243 seats in Bihar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said infiltration is a big issue in the state and especially in the Seemanchal region, which has 24 seats. Speaking Vasudha Venugopal in Purnea on Saturday, Shah said infiltrators will be rooted out in the next five years. "Infiltration is a very important issue. The entire Seemanchal region is troubled because of illegal infiltrators, their illegal businesses, and illegal en-

croachment. And this directly affects the law and order here. We have decided that, in the next five years, we will throw out the infiltrators, shut down their illegal businesses, and remove every single illegal encroachment one by one," Shah said. Asked about the NDA's prospects in Bihar, Shah said the alliance is going to sweep the elections and he has seen people's enthusiasm growing as the poll process rolls on. "The way people cheer for us, I feel

that the people of Bihar are with the NDA, with the BJP. We will go much beyond



160 seats. The NDA will get a minimum of 160 seats. I

call it a fight by five Pandavas because all five constituent parties [JDU, BJP, LJP (Ram Vilas), Hindustani Awam Morcha and the Rashtriya Lok Manch] of the NDA are united, without any dispute. We are running a joint campaign on the ground, from the booth level to the state level, under the leadership of

Narendra Modi ji and Nitish Kumarji," he said.

Migrant Workers, Youth Real X Factors Of Bihar Polls: Prashant Kishor

Supaul: Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Saturday claimed that migrant workers and the youth are the real "X factor" of the ongoing assembly elections in Bihar, and not the women. Speaking to reporters in Supaul, the former poll strategist claimed the youth and migrant workers are determined to vote for change. "Migrant workers are coming back home in large numbers to vote along with their families. Migrant workers used to vote for the NDA in the past because they had no alternative," he said, claiming that this time, they were voting for his party. "The PM earlier used to get votes of migrant workers and people in general by spreading fear of RJD's 'jungle raj'. However, he is unable to get a sense of the current ground situation. People who apprehended the resurgence of 'jungle raj' in Bihar can see an alternative this election in Jan Suraj," he added.



CM Chandrababu Naidu Urges MLAs to prioritise public issues

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, November, 8: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has called on MLAs, MPs, and ministers to concentrate on addressing public issues, following a review meeting with the party's back office departments at the Telugu Desam Party central office in Amaravati. During the meeting, held on Saturday, CM Naidu emphasised the importance of resolving various community problems and urged public representatives to engage proactively with constituents. He specifically instructed them to participate in the Prajavedika programme, where they will be required to receive petitions from the public for one day each week. Furthermore, Naidu set clear directives for address-



ing unresolved issues at multiple administrative levels. Problems that cannot be sorted at the constituency level must be escalated to the district level, and if necessary, taken to the state level. He underscored the responsibility of each MLA to diligently follow up on

petitions received from the community until they are resolved. Additionally, the Chief Minister mandated that all MLAs, ministers, and MPs take part in the 'Pension Distribution in Service of the Poor' programme, which is scheduled to occur on the first of every month.

CM Chandrababu lays stone for seven major projects in Kuppam

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, November, 8: In a virtual ceremony from his camp office in Amaravati, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for seven significant projects in Kuppam on Saturday. Following the ceremony, the Chief Minister engaged in discussions with representatives from various companies poised to establish industries in the area. During the meeting, Naidu emphasised the importance of timely industry commencement, while the representatives expressed their gratitude for the swift approvals granted by the state government for their projects. The seven companies are set to invest a total



of Rs 2,203 crore in Kuppam, with the state government allocating 241 acres of land for their operations. The industries planned include dairy production, laptop and mobile accessory manufacturing, cooking oil production, food processing, and electric vehicle manufacturing. Notable investments include Rs 586 crore from

Aditya Birla, Rs 225 crore from S International, Rs 72 crore from SVS Soya, Rs 260 crore from Mother Dairy, Rs 233 crore from Sreeja Dairy, and Rs 200 crore from Royce Industries. The establishment of these industries is expected to create approximately 23,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the region.

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, November, 8: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu approved a slew of industrial investments totaling Rs 1,01,899 crore across 26 projects during the 12th State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meeting, creating employment for nearly 85,870 persons. The approvals raise the total investments cleared by the SIPB since June 2024 to Rs 8,08,899 crore, generating over 7 lakh jobs in 16 months. Naidu, chairing the meeting at the Secretariat, directed officials to ensure the immediate grounding of the projects reviewed for clearance and facilitate the investors in obtaining required land and permissions without bureaucratic delay. "Officials must take responsibility for converting approvals into operational industries. Any project that remains idle should have its permissions revoked," he said. The Chief Minister emphasised developing a robust electronic manufacturing eco-



system, urging officials to focus on semiconductors, drones, and chip industries. He proposed the setting up of 15 industrial zones as well and forming a state land bank to meet industrial demand. "The state should complement central incentives and ensure investors face no hurdles in power supply or infrastructure," he said. Highlighting urban expansion as a cornerstone of economic growth, Naidu announced plans to transform Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, and Amaravati into integrated mega cities, linking tourism, IT, and industrial development. "Visakhapatnam should

evolve into a hub from Anakapalle to Vizianagaram, supported by the upcoming Google Data Center," he said. He called for accelerating beach tourism and boosting the hospitality sector, with global hotel chains being invited to invest in the state. Naidu revealed that three economic corridors will be developed across the State, each overseen by a senior IAS officer to coordinate investment projects and regional development. He directed officials to finalise preparations for the upcoming Visakhapatnam Partnership Summit scheduled for November 14-15, at which

several MoUs are expected to be signed. The major industrial approvals granted during the meeting included AMG Metals and Materials Ltd (Rs 44,000 crore -- 3,000 jobs), Indichip Semiconductors Ltd (Rs 22,976 crore - 1,241 jobs), Super Smelters Ltd (Rs 8,570 crore - 1,000 jobs), and Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd (Rs 7,972 crore -- 2,700 jobs). Other significant approvals went to Reliance Consumer Products, Birlanu Ltd, Bharat Dynamics, Cryon Technology, and Visakha Realty, among others. Naidu said that Ministers including Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and

IT Minister Nara Lokesh would lay the foundation stones for SIPB-approved industries in their respective districts to fast-track implementation. Lokesh, Industries Minister TG Bharat, and senior officials attended the meeting. The Chief Minister reiterated that Andhra Pradesh must position itself as a national hub for advanced manufacturing and digital technology. "This is the beginning of a new industrial renaissance for the state," Naidu said. "We are creating a policy environment where investment translates directly into employment and innovation," he concluded.

Lokesh receives grand welcome in Anantapur dist

Puttaparthi: State IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh received an enthusiastic and large-scale welcome from leaders, public representatives and party cadre across the erstwhile Anantapur district during his tour. Lokesh arrived at the Sri Sathya Sai Airport, Puttaparthi, where he was warmly received by Finance, Planning, Commercial Taxes and Legislative Affairs Minister Payyavula Keshav,

MPs BK Parthasaradhi and Ambika Lakshmi Narayan, MLAs Palle Sindhoora Reddy, Amilineni Surendra Babu, Bandaru Sravan Sri, Daggubati Venkateswara Prasad, Kandikunta Venkata Prasad, MS Raju, former Minister Palle Raghunatha Reddy, and several other leaders. Sri Sathya Sai District Collector A Shyam Prasad, SP Satish Kumar, and Joint Collector Mourya Bharadwaj also

greeted the Minister upon his arrival. Lokesh interacted warmly with officials and leaders, accepting floral bouquets and posing for photographs. Later, along the route towards Dharmavaram and Kalyandurg, the Minister was met with overwhelming public reception, as TDP leaders, youth wings, and supporters thronged the roads with garlands, slogans, and cultural gestures of welcome.



EDITORIAL

Nuclear weapons are more valuable than food and clothing!

The impact of the shutdown in America is disrupting many sectors. It is leading to a food crisis in various states. The commercial capital New York has declared a state of emergency after the government did not provide food aid. There is a risk that millions of low-income families will not receive the 'Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program' or 'Food Stamps' benefits, which are a source of livelihood. On the other hand, the impact of the shutdown has led to a situation where airline staff cannot be paid and services are being reduced by 10 percent. From air traffic controllers to park wardens, 1.4 million federal workers are teetering on the edge of a cliff, unable to decide whether to go on leave or work without pay. In the face of such a severe crisis, the US government's preference for a nuclear arms race instead of trying to provide food and clothing to the people is disturbing peace-loving countries. Trump's recent remarks at the American Business Forum in Miami, Florida, are becoming a topic of discussion. US President Trump, on the one hand, made favorable remarks, saying that nuclear disarmament is a great thing and that he had discussed it with Russian President Putin and Chinese President Jinping, and on the other hand, threatened to blow up the entire world 150 times with the nuclear weapons he has, which reflects a dictatorial attitude. Trump's announcement that the US would start testing nuclear weapons on par with other countries, just minutes before his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on October 29 in South Korea, is causing a sensation. 'Russia and China are conducting nuclear weapons tests. But they never mention them anywhere. North Korea is definitely testing nuclear weapons. Pakistan is also moving forward on the same path.' Trump's public comment is noteworthy. Trump's statement is literally true in the case of North Korea. North Korea has tested multiple nuclear weapons in the 20th century. But other countries, including the US, China, Russia and other nuclear-armed superpowers, have maintained a temporary moratorium on nuclear weapons tests since 1990. However, they can test missiles that can carry nuclear weapons. Now Russia has prepared a nuclear-powered weapon. It tested the 'Burevestnik' nuclear missile, which can stay in the air for 15 hours and travel a distance of 14,000 kilometers. It also tested a submarine-launched torpedo. After Russian President Putin announced that these tests were successful, Trump responded by announcing that his country was also resuming nuclear weapons tests. The two nuclear missiles launched by Russia were designed to overcome US missile defense systems. They can carry nuclear weapons anywhere. But they were not nuclear explosion tests. Russia conducted its last nuclear test in 1990 during the Soviet Union. The US conducted its last nuclear bomb test in 1992, and China conducted its last nuclear test in 1996. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was signed in 1996, banning all nuclear tests. But the treaty did not enter into force because it did not receive the required number of ratifications. The US and China have signed the treaty, but it has not ratified it. Although Russia signed and ratified the treaty, it decided not to commit to the treaty in 2023 due to rising tensions with the US. According to the Federation of American Scientists, Russia, which has the largest nuclear arsenal in the world, has 4,309 nuclear missiles. The United States is second with an estimated 3,700 nuclear missiles, followed by China with 1,000. Historically, the United States has conducted nuclear tests many times. It conducted 1030 nuclear explosions. Later, the Soviet Union conducted 715, France 210, and China 45 nuclear explosion tests. A total of 2056 nuclear tests were conducted after the agreement. In this context, the United States' readiness to resume nuclear tests is leading to debate. Those who support this say that it is necessary to re-test whether nuclear weapons are working. However, US Secretary of Energy Chris Wright said on November 2 that his country will not resume nuclear weapons tests and will only conduct tests to pressure low-energy plutonium 239 with domestic explosives without any nuclear explosion. The Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty in 1963, which prohibits nuclear tests in any environmental environment, including space and ocean waters. If the United States resumes nuclear tests now, it will also have a dominant influence on other nuclear weapons countries. There are already reports that China is preparing for nuclear tests at Lapnur, the site of Mao's previous nuclear bomb test in 1964. This will have an impact on other countries.

Who, Really, Is A 'Ghuspaithiya' In Bengal?

In West Bengal, the intensely competitive politics has a long and deplorable reputation for violence, dirty tricks and verbal missiles. The kick-off to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, aimed at making sure that they are "pure" - as the Election Commission's slogan insists they will be - has triggered a cascading effect of verbal violence, mass mobilisation, and political initiative, all of which will define the campaign for the 2026 state assembly elections. The political battle will be dominated by questions around who is a "ghuspaithiya", or illegal migrant, an Indian citizen, and, therefore, a legitimate voter. The change introduced by the Election Commission on the documents that are needed to prove citizenship applies mostly to voters who were not enrolled in the previous SIR in 2003 in West Bengal. On the one side is the Election Commission; on the other are the Trinamool Congress, the Congress and the Left parties, with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) in the lead. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), as the principal opposition and challenger to the reign of Mamata Banerjee as Chief Minister, is a vehement advocate of the SIR process that other parties criticise or oppose, for different reasons, in different ways and to different degrees.

The Contentious 'Anti-SIR' Rally

The configuration of the political fight is exemplified in the contrast between the messages delivered through the Mamata Banerjee-led anti-SIR rally on November 4 on the one hand and, on the other, the BJP's counter-labelling the rally as a "Jamaat-sponsored", "Ghuspaithiya Bachao" march aimed at defending, by implication, Muslim "illegal migrants". It is also about the CPI(M)'s mass mobilisation in support of the freedom to sing Rabindranath Tagore's 'Amar

Sonar Bangla' ('My Golden Bengal') without being reviled - as Assam's Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, did recently - for singing the "national anthem of Bangladesh". In doing so, the BJP ignored the fact that the majority of "illegal migrants", probably several millions, were Hindus. Not just the Matuas - a sect of Schedule Caste Hindus with an estimated 2.5 crore following in mostly West Bengal - and possibly 1.2 to 1.5 crore voters listed in the electoral rolls, but even others who did not come from any specific sect, belong to the "illegal migrant" category. If, as the West Bengal leadership of the BJP has strongly asserted, there are some 2 crore ineligible voters hidden within the electoral rolls, the SIR process becomes more complicated than a hunt for "ghuspaithiyas" or illegal migrants from the Muslim community.

SIR And The CAA

By organising camps to assist Hindu illegal migrants in applying for citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in districts that share a border with Bangladesh and have large Muslim populations, the BJP is leveraging the SIR process to drive support for both CAA and the legitimisation of status it assures. The problem with applying for CAA is disenfranchisement; it could be possibly temporary, but it is nevertheless fear-inducing, especially at a point when elections are in the offing. The spate of suicides in West Bengal after the roll out of SIR was announced is a measure of how emotionally destabilising the process is perceived to be by the public. The reality is that there are Hindu votes and there are Muslim votes. Neither the Hindu vote nor the Muslim vote is homogenous, though since 2011, the Muslim vote has overwhelmingly gone to the Trinamool Congress. The Hindu vote, on the other hand,



has been more widely distributed. Since 2014, the BJP's sharp increase in vote share in both state-level and Lok Sabha elections is a reflection of its consolidation of Hindu votes and the perception that it is an alternative to the Trinamool Congress. In 2024, the gap between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP was eight percentage points, with the regional party getting 46.7% votes and the BJP getting 38.7% votes.

Everyone Will Be Affected...

The exclusion of suspect or ineligible voters under SIR will affect both Hindus and Muslims, which, in turn, will have consequences for the Trinamool Congress and the BJP's outcomes in the 2026 state assembly elections. Depending on who is excluded and where, the 2026 election results in West Bengal could turn out to be unpredictable. It is impossible to quantify the number of Hindus living in West Bengal who should, strictly speaking, be categorised as 'illegal migrants'. Every political party knows it. The 'naturalisation' of people who fled across the bor-

der before and after the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 has been a process in which the Congress, the CPI(M) and the Trinamool Congress have all been involved. The concept of 'vote banks' is not new either; the CPI(M) was charged with creating Muslim vote banks, as was the Congress, and as is the Trinamool Congress. The shift of the 'Muslim vote' away from the CPI(M) to the Trinamool Congress did contribute to the overthrow of the 35-year-long Left rule in West Bengal.

...But Everyone Played Their Part, Too

The 'naturalisation' was not only Muslim appeasement; the issuance of ration cards, later Voter IDs, later still Aadhaar Cards, and even birth certificates and passports happened to regularise the status of migrants who came from across the border with Bangladesh after 1971 or in the waves of arrivals from erstwhile East Pakistan between 1947 and 1971. There was no 'neat' transfer of population between the partitioned parts of erstwhile Bengal. The power that comes with voting

is something that numerically larger voters from economically weaker sections understand very well; they know they have leverage and they know there are benefits that come with their right to vote. The recent fashion of announcing direct cash transfers to sections of voters ahead of elections, as happened in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and now Bihar, has made the vote an even more desirable thing. Thus, disenfranchisement, whether through the SIR route or application under CAA, is unaffordable for people who have been on the electoral rolls and are beneficiaries under the Mamata Banerjee regime's signature Lakshmir Bhandar, Kanyashree, Swasthya Sathi health schemes on the one hand and the Centrally sponsored housing and free ration programmes as well as MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) on the other. Being a ghuspaithiya is not only about identity; it is also about entitlements that come with citizenship.

From Maharani To Jan Suraaj: The New Mood In Bihar's Battle For Power

The battle for Bihar has entered its final, feverish act. The second phase of polling on November 11, covering 122 seats across the southern and central regions, will decide whether Nitish Kumar ends his two-decade innings as chief minister — or pulls off one last political escape. The first phase, held on November 6, delivered a shock to political strategists. With 64.6% voter turnout, the highest in a decade, Bihar's electorate — especially women and the youth — has spoken with rare intensity. In a state where voter fatigue often runs deep, such a surge is not just a statistic; it's a signal. The numbers hint at a restless mood, one that could punish incumbents and empower the new claimants to Bihar's political future. And as voters line up again this Monday, the stakes couldn't be higher — for Nitish Kumar's survival, for the BJP's expansion, for Tejashwi Yadav's coming of age, and for Prashant Kishor's experiment in political reinvention. The 122 seats voting in this phase — concentrated in the Magadh, Bhojpur, and southern districts — are Bihar's political pivot. In 2020, the NDA had dominated these regions, winning nearly two-thirds of the seats. If that grip loosens, the BJP-JD(U) alliance could find itself on shaky ground even before counting begins on November 14. Early

reports from the field suggest a strong turnout among first-time voters and women, echoing the enthusiasm of the first phase. In districts like Gaya, Aurangabad, and Nalanda, polling stations saw long queues well past midday — a rare sight in a state used to early, cautious voting. The high participation of women — nearly 49% of the turnout in the first phase — is being read as both a silent referendum on Nitish's legacy and a test of how much goodwill he still retains. Women were once his political insurance; today, they could be his undoing. Bihar's first-phase numbers tell a story of two generations colliding. The older electorate remains divided along familiar caste lines. But the younger cohort — over 60% of the population under 35 — is breaking patterns, demanding jobs, education, and migration-free livelihoods. That demographic tilt may explain why Tejashwi Yadav's campaign has struck a chord. His promises of 10 lakh government jobs and better healthcare resonate in a state where one in six youth remains unemployed. The crowds at his rallies — filled with students and returnee migrants — suggest a mood for change. At the same time, the BJP's well-oiled electoral machine is far from idle. Amit Shah's campaign has drilled deep into micro-caste clusters, pushing Modi's "Vishwaguru" narrative along-

side promises of industrial corridors and investment zones. The BJP senses opportunity in the erosion of Nitish's personal vote, aiming to convert his decline into its dominance. The first phase has also unsettled both major alliances because of the unaccounted "third vote" — the quiet, scattered support for Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj movement, which has gained traction in northern and central Bihar. If Kishor's candidates manage even single-digit vote shares in key seats, they could distort margins and force close contests in the second phase. For Nitish Kumar, this election is not just another test — it's his final one. Once hailed as the architect of Bihar's turnaround, his aura has faded. Years of shifting alliances have turned admiration into fatigue. His partnership with the BJP now feels more like a hostage pact than a coalition of conviction. The chief minister's rallies lack the electricity of old times. His governance pitch — free of corruption, better roads, and rural electrification — feels recycled. Meanwhile, rising unemployment, price inflation, and bureaucratic apathy have corroded his "Sushasan Babu" legacy. In private, even some JD(U) insiders admit that the party's future after this election looks uncertain. "If we win, it's the BJP's victory; if we lose, it's Nitish's failure," one senior leader quipped.

Standing apart from the headline battle is Prashant Kishor, whose Jan Suraaj has turned into a grassroots experiment in reimagining Bihar's politics. For over two years, Kishor has walked through villages, talking of self-governance, education reform, and decentralisation — issues that sound idealistic in Bihar's transactional political culture but have caught the imagination of young, educated voters. His message is scathing: that Bihar's political class, including both the NDA and Mahagathbandhan, has turned the state into a cycle of slogans and subsidies. "Parties keep changing; policies don't," he says, to applause in dusty schoolyards and college campuses. Whether Kishor's movement can translate into seats remains doubtful. But his presence as a spoiler — pulling a few thousand votes in tight constituencies — could decide multiple margins in the second phase. Some analysts believe his rise indirectly helps the BJP; others argue he's chipping away at the very voter base the RJD hopes to mobilise. Either way, he's a factor neither side can ignore. The Mahagathbandhan is betting on anger — particularly youth anger. Tejashwi Yadav, with Rahul Gandhi beside him, has rebranded himself as a pragmatic, policy-focused challenger. His campaign is less

about caste arithmetic and more about governance failures. He speaks of migration as "Bihar's open wound," and of Nitish as the man who refused to heal it. Rahul's speeches add a national framing — that Bihar is a symptom of what happens when India's economic model forgets its poorest states. Together, the duo has turned the campaign into a generational fight — between old politics and new impatience. But enthusiasm must turn into votes. The second phase, with a heavier rural component, will test whether Tejashwi's urban momentum can translate into booth-level strength. This election has spilled into pop culture, too. The premiere of Maharani Season 4 on November 7, just days before the second phase, has added a strange, meta layer to Bihar's political mood. The SonyLIV series — starring Huma Qureshi as Rani Bharti, a fictional chief minister juggling caste wars, betrayals, and Delhi's pressure — mirrors the real-life drama unfolding in Patna. The timing is uncanny. As the show dives into national politics from its state roots, Bihar's real politics is doing exactly the same — caught between local grievances and national ambitions. On social media, clips from Maharani circulate alongside campaign videos, blurring the line between reel and real.

Minister Swamy Distributes CMRF Cheques



Ongole, Pen Power, November 8: Social Welfare Minister Dr. Sri Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques at the Minister's

camp office in Thorpu Nayudupalem. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's concern for the poor is reflected through the large-scale distribution of CMRF funds. The CM aims to ensure the health and well-being of every citizen, and the government is ready to bear any cost for the welfare of the poor. On Saturday, cheques worth Rs.53.71 lakh were distributed to 77 beneficiaries. So far, 1,002 people in Kondapi constituency have received Rs.8.50 crore through the CMRF. The Minister added that all "Super Six" promises are being implemented. He criticized the YSRCP for creating unnecessary controversy over the PPP model medical colleges, stating that these institutions will benefit the poor and increase medical seats. Dr. Swamy also alleged that YSRCP leaders were involved in cases of ganja, drugs, and spurious liquor, and that their conspiracies to defame the government are backfiring.

Kanakadasa Jayanthi Celebrated Grandly in Kakinada



Kakinada, Pen Power, November 8: District Collector Shanmohan stated that Saint Kanakadasa made remarkable contributions as a philosopher, poet, musician, and

social reformer. The Collector, along with officials from the BC Welfare Department, paid floral tributes to Kanakadasa's portrait during the Jayanthi celebrations held at his camp office. Shanmohan highlighted that Kanakadasa, born as Thimmappa Naik in Bada village of Haveri district, Karnataka, worked tirelessly against social evils like untouchability and promoted equality through his writings. The Collector called upon everyone to draw inspiration from Kanakadasa's life and ideals. BC Welfare Officer M. Lalli, BC Corporation EDA. Srinivasa Rao, Assistant BC Welfare Officer P. Ramakrishna, and other officials attended the program.

Kanakadasa Jayanthi Celebrated at Collectorate



Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, November 8: Maharshi Kanakadasa (1509–1609), a saint from Karnataka known for his devotion, equality, and social consciousness, was remembered during the Kanakadasa Jayanthi celebrations held at the District Collectorate. Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop inaugurated the event organized by the District Backward Classes Welfare Department by lighting the lamp and garlanding Kanakadasa's portrait. Speaking on the occasion, Megha Swaroop said Kanakadasa's life was an inspiration for all generations, as he showed the path of devotion beyond social barriers and enriched devotional literature through his keerthanas. District Revenue Officer T. Seetharama Murthy, BC Welfare Officer B. Shashank, Tribal Welfare Officer K.N. Jyothi, and other officials participated in the program.

Devotee Kanakadasa's Teachings Still Relevant Today: SP Harshavardhan Raju



Ongole, Nov 8 (Pen Power): District SPV. Harshavardhan Raju, along with police officials, paid floral tributes to saint-poet Kanakadasa on the occasion of his Jayanthi at the district police office. Speaking on the occasion, the SP said Kanakadasa, born in 1509 in Karnataka, was a great poet, philosopher, and social reformer. Through his devotional songs and writings, he fought against caste discrimination and promoted values of devotion, humanity, equality, justice, and truth. The SP praised Kanakadasa as a literary figure who brought about a social revolution through his works. PCR Inspector Durgaprasad, Women's Police Station Inspector U. Sudhakar, CCS Inspector Jagadeesh, RIs Ramana Reddy and Seetharam Reddy, and other staff participated in the program.

Central Team to Visit Cyclone 'Montha'-Affected Areas on November 10 & 11

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, November 8: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri announced that an inter-ministerial central team appointed by the Government of India will visit areas affected by Cyclone 'Montha' on November 10 and 11 to assess the situation. The 8-member team, led by Mrs. Pausumi Basu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, will first reach Vijayawada on November 10 and hold a preliminary meeting with officials at the APSDMA office in Tadepalli at 10 a.m. One team will visit Prakasam and Bapatla districts, while another will cover Eluru, Krishna, East Godavari, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema districts. The delegation will review the extent of damage, relief and rehabilitation measures, and the response of the administration, later submitting its report to the Union Home Ministry. All arrangements for the visit have been completed. Prakhar Jain, Director (Disaster Management), has been appointed as the nodal officer, and Ch. Venkata Deepak, Executive Director of APSDMA, will act as the state-level liaison officer, the Collector said.



Polavaram Project: Government Cheating Displaced Tribals – Adivasi Mahasabha Legal Advisor Surya Narayana

Rajamahendravaram, Nov 8 (Pen Power): Adivasi Mahasabha legal advisor Aanapurapu Surya Narayana alleged that the state government is deceiving Polavaram project oustees by paying only half of the promised R&R package, violating laws protecting SCs and STs. He said petitions would be sent to the President and Governor over the injustice to Dalits and tribals. Surya Narayana demanded a High Court judicial inquiry into complaints from displaced families and stated that under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act, SCs/STs are entitled to ₹13.8 lakh compensation each, including additional amounts for loss of forest produce. He warned that denying rightful compensation to SCs/STs constitutes an offence under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act (as amended in 2016 and 2018). He criticized the state for proceeding with the national project without an MoU with the Centre, misusing central funds meant for rehabilitation, and showing "more interest in money than in people." Only residents of Kondamodalu village received land-for-land compensation, while others were forcibly evacuated, he claimed. He urged the Centre to take over the Polavaram project to ensure justice for dis-



placed families and prevent diversion of funds by the state. Several Mahasabha leaders attended the press meet.

Indian Woman Cricketer Nallapureddy Sri Charani Felicitated Grandly

Kadapa, Nov 8 (Pen Power): Indian women's cricketer Nallapureddy Sri Charani, who showcased her talent in the Women's World Cup 2025, was accorded a grand felicitation at Rajareddy Cricket Stadium in YSR Kadapa district. Organized by the District Cricket Association under the aegis of the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA), the event saw huge participation from public representatives, local leaders, and cricket fans. Sri Charani received a rousing welcome with a grand rally featuring fireworks, horse procession, and drum beats from the Post Office Junction to Rajareddy Stadium. Expressing happiness, she thanked the people of Kadapa for their love and support. Public representatives and ACA officials praised her outstanding performance in the World Cup and honored her with a shawl. Kadapa MLA Madhavi Reddy, Kamalapuram MLA Putta Krishna Chaitanya Reddy, Kadapa Mayor Mumtaz Begum, Deputy Mayor Bandi Nithyananda Reddy, ACA President Bharat Reddy, and several cricket officials and fans participated in the event.



SP Vakul Jindal Reviews CM's Visit Arrangements



Guntur, Pen Power, November 8: In view of Chief Minister's scheduled visit on November 9, 2025, to inaugurate the new hospital buildings at Shankar Kanti Hospital premises in the Pedakakani Police Station limits, District SP Vakul Jindal reviewed the ongoing arrangements. He inspected the helipad, meeting venue, entry and exit routes for VVIPs, VIPs, and other dignitaries, vehicle movement and parking areas, and directed officials to ensure flawless coordination and planning. The SP instructed officers to set up clear signboards for different sectors, proper barricading, adequate parking spaces with direction boards, and deployment of sufficient personnel. He emphasized strong security measures, including technical equipment checks by the district security wing and installation of stoppers and heavy barricades wherever necessary. Sub-Inspector Alahari Srinivas, CI Venkateswarlu (Pattabhipuram), CI Narayana Swamy (Pedakakani), and other police officials accompanied the SP during the inspection.

State-Level Archery Tournament Begins Grandly in Alluri District



Our Correspondent – D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam A.S.R. District In-charge

Paderu, Pen Power, November 8: The state-level archery tournament began in a grand manner at the Government Junior College Grounds in Paderu. The competitions are being held in Under-14, Under-17, and Under-19 categories, with around 1,000 athletes, coaches, and physical education teachers from 13 districts participating enthusiastically. Organized under the directions of the Commissioner of School Education and with the support of the District Collector and Education Department, the event is being led by District School Games Secretary Pangi Suribabu. Winners of the tournament will qualify for the national-level events — Under-14 in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Under-17 in Ranchi (Jharkhand), and Under-19 in Imphal (Manipur). Speaking on the occasion, Suribabu said the competitions play a vital role in enhancing students' sporting talents and preparing them for national representation. District Collector S. Dinesh Kumar and other officials reviewed the event's arrangements.

Three Killed, Several Injured in Tragic Road Accident on National Highway



Kakinada, Pen Power, November 8: A tragic road accident occurred on Saturday near Somavaram village in Kirlampudi mandal. A car carrying a wedding party from Annavaram to Rajamahendravaram lost control after a tyre burst and rammed into people waiting at a bus stop. Three people — North Anandarao (60) and North Kondayya (30) of Somavaram, and Kakarla Raju (60) of Eleswaram — died in the incident. Several others, including Kondrapu Chaitanya, Cheepurupalli Sravanthi, and Battina Bhadra Rao, sustained serious injuries. The injured were initially treated at Prattipadu Government Hospital and later shifted to Kakinada Government Hospital for better medical care. Jaggampeta MLA Jyothula Nehru visited the accident site, reviewed the situation, and instructed officials to ensure proper medical treatment for the injured. Police have registered a case and are investigating.

Daily Annadanam Begins for All Deeksha Swamis at Sri Harihara Kshetram



Ongole, Pen Power, November 8: The annual Biksha program for Deeksha Swamis commenced at Sri Harihara Kshetram in Chimakurthy on Sunday. Temple representatives announced that as part of the holy Karthika Masam celebrations, former minister Sidda Raghavarao and his family will perform special pujas, abhishekam, and alankaram to Lord Ayyappa. The day's rituals include Ganga Puja, Panchamrita Abhishekam, and the grand Kalasha Prana Pratishtha Mahotsavam. The daily Annadanam program is being organized under the supervision of Sidda Venkateswarlu and Venkata Subbamma Ayyappa Seva Samajam. Temple authorities invited all Deeksha Swamis to participate, receive Biksha, and seek the blessings of Lord Ayyappa.

"Planned Everything Two Years Ago": India Captain Harmanpreet Kaur Reveals Toil Behind Women's World Cup Win

Mumbai: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said the side winning the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup was not an overnight success, as it happened due to two years of sustained preparation and effort for winning the mega event. India beat South Africa by 52 runs in the final at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai to win their first-ever ODI World Cup title. "After Amol (Muzumdar) sir joined as coach, we finally had proper planning. Before that, we struggled with frequent coaching changes. We actually planned everything two years ago - writing down each series, tournament schedules, training camps and fitness programs. BCCI supported us completely, telling us to take whatever we needed without pressure."

"This trophy isn't an overnight achievement but the result of two years of hard work by the entire team. Amol sir's systematic approach, where we reviewed our progress every two months helped us move forward step by step, and that planning is why we're holding the trophy today," said Harmanpreet on JioStar. She also credited the changes in the last two years of the Indian cricket ecosystem for their World Cup success. "Many positive changes have come, especially during this World Cup, and we must credit BCCI and Jay Shah for their outstanding support. Pay parity played a crucial role in changing the landscape."



"The awareness campaigns motivated parents to encourage their daughters to play cricket, creating healthy competition and bringing more talent into the game. WPL transformed our dressing room mentality completely." "Compared to previous World Cups, the atmosphere and mindset were completely different this time, thanks to the solid backing from BCCI and our incredible fans," she added. In the run-up to the World Cup, the Indian team had various camps at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru and

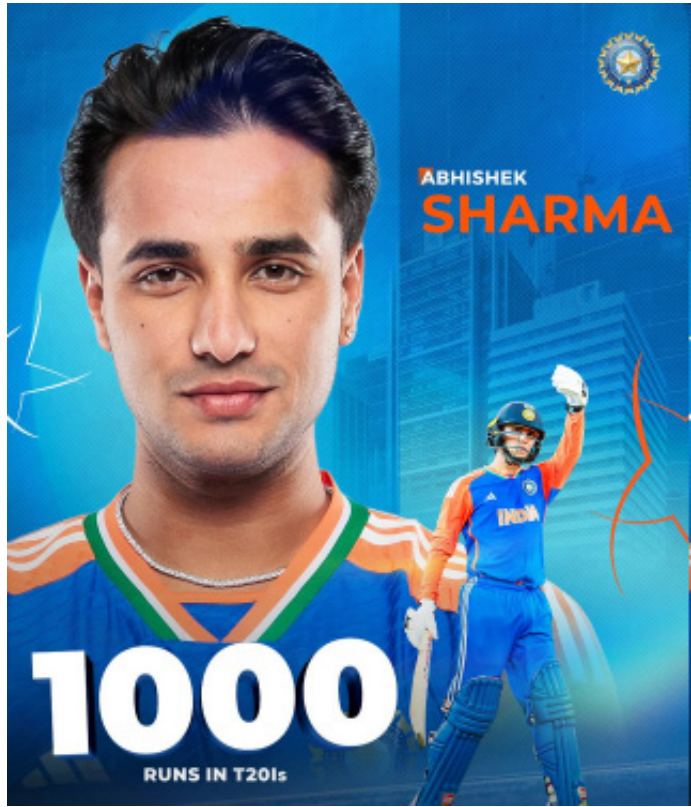
Harmanpreet was quick to laud the centre's world-class facilities. "The BCCI National Cricket Academy facilities in Bangalore are absolutely amazing. They have a great ground, excellent gym, and outstanding physios and trainers. We must give credit to the NCA because during our last three-four camps there, we got everything we needed." "Earlier, we had to compromise due to limited facilities, but this new center is so good that India won't have to wait long for our next World Cup. The quality of facilities, coaches and staff we now have is something very special for Indian cricket."

Abhishek Sharma smashes world record, Dethrones Australia Star To Make History

Brisbane: History was made as Abhishek Sharma reached the 1,000-run milestone in T20 internationals, claiming both the world record for the fastest in terms of balls faced for a single country and becoming the fastest Indian to reach the mark in terms of matches. Abhishek achieved the record in the 5th T20I against Australia, reaching the 4-digit score in 528 balls at the Gabba in Brisbane. The left-handed batter shattered the previous global record, which belonged to Australia's Tim David. David had reached 1,000 runs in 569 balls for Australia during his blistering knock of 74 off 38 balls in Hobart on 2 November.

In comparison, India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav previously held second place, having taken 573 balls, with New Zealand's Finn Allen sitting third (611 balls). When it comes to overall balls faced in T20Is, David now stands 6th in the list, having faced 614 balls to reach 1000 runs in T20Is, but this record consists of matches played for both Singapore and Australia.

Furthermore, Abhishek narrowly missed out on breaking a record held by Virat Kohli, who reached the 1,000-run mark in 27 innings from 29 matches. Abhishek, on the other hand, reached the landmark in 28 innings. Abhishek, hence, is also the fastest Indian to reach the 1000-run milestone in T20Is in terms of matches played.



Fewest innings to 1000 T20I runs (India):
27 Virat Kohli
28 Abhishek Sharma
29 KL Rahul
31 Suryakumar Yadav
40 Rohit Sharma
While Abhishek is the batter to have reached 1,000 runs in the fastest time in terms of balls faced, the record, in terms of fewest matches played to reach the milestone, is currently jointly held by England's Dawid Malan and the Czech Republic's Sabaroon Davizi.

Both of them had achieved the feat in their 24th match. India's Sanju Samson (995 runs) and Tilak Varma (991 runs) are also on the cusp of reaching the 1,000-run milestone in T20I cricket, but neither of them was selected in the India playing XI for the 5th T20I against Australia. What also has to be noted is that Abhishek Sharma was dropped twice, once before reaching the 1,000-run milestone and once after in the match, in the first 11 balls he had faced.

Pakistan Might Not Qualify For LA 2028 Olympics Cricket Due To This Rule

Plenty has been said and written about India vs Pakistan fixtures in international cricket. Though the two countries don't play against each other in bilateral assignments, they do square off in ICC or ACC events. In the Asia Cup 2025, India and Pakistan met each other a total of three times, with all three of them ending in favour of the former. India and Pakistan can next be expected to face off in the 2026 T20 World Cup, though a special focus would remain on a

possible clash in the 2028 Olympic Games. In the quadrennial event, a total of 12 teams -- 6



men's teams and 6 women's teams -- will participate. But, an

India vs Pakistan clash might not happen. In major tournaments, fans often witness thrilling India vs Pakistan matches. However, such a clash may not happen at the 2028 Olympics, as far as the current situation goes. During its recent board meeting in Dubai, the global cricket body confirmed that six teams each from the men's and women's categories will compete in the Los Angeles Olympics.

BJP State President PVN Madhav Calls for Grand Celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

Our Correspondent - D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam
A.S.R. District In-charge

Paderu, Pen Power, November 8: BJP Andhra Pradesh State President PVN Madhav urged for the successful celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, commemorating the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Speaking at a meeting of tribal elders organized by the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Committee at the NGO office in Paderu, he paid floral tributes to Bharat Mata and Birsa Munda. Madhav emphasized that Birsa Munda sacrificed his life at the age of 25 fighting British rule and uniting tribal communities against oppression. He said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Central Government recognized tribal sacrifices by declaring November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas. Madhav announced that a mass public meeting will be held on November 16 at Paderu Junior College, involving tribal representatives, BJP, TDP, Jana Sena members, and social organizations. A bronze statue of Birsa Munda will also be unveiled the same day. BJP leaders Matta Prasad, Bozzi Reddy, Pangi Rajarao, Killu Ramesh Naidu, Dr. Gangulayya, and several tribal leaders and social activists participated in the meeting.



Music Park Inaugurated at All Bank Colony – MLA Adireddy Srinivas

Rajamahendravaram, Nov 8 (Pen Power): City MLA Adireddy Srinivas (Vasu) inaugurated the newly developed Music Park at All Bank Colony under the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the first phase of city beautification included the development of five parks at a cost of Rs.1.95 crore, as part of a larger plan to develop 30 parks across the city in five phases. The Music Park features sculptures of musical instruments such as the veena, guitar, harmonium, and tabla. Visitors can connect their mobile phones via Bluetooth to enjoy songs while walking. A special stage has also been set up for music and dance performances, along



with two high-mast lights, lawns, and an integrated drip irrigation system. The MLA urged citizens to make full use of the new facilities and announced plans to link the nearby park with this one. He emphasized that creating a healthy environment is a key goal of the coalition government. Local leaders, activists, and residents participated in the event.

Fit India Cyclothon Held with Enthusiasm in Bhimavaram

Bhimavaram, Nov 8 (Pen Power): Under the supervision of West Godavari District Police and coordination of SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi, a "Fit India - 5K Cyclothon" was held with great enthusiasm on Saturday. District Collector C. Nagarani and APIIC Chairman Manthena Rama Raju flagged off the rally from Vishnu College grounds, which covered a 5 km route through the city and concluded at Alluri Sitarama Raju Smruthivanam. Collector Nagarani said such fitness programs will be organized every month, including 2K runs, yoga, cycling, and walks with participation from police and revenue officials. SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi highlighted the



importance of physical and mental fitness and appreciated the Collector's initiative. APIIC Chairman Rama Raju said such activities are vital to making the district healthy and productive, urging youth to focus on sports and fitness. Several police officers, revenue officials, students, youth, and volunteers participated in large numbers.

Collector Orders Speedy Completion of Road Works in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam South, Pen Power, November 8: District Collector M.N. Harendhra Prasad directed officials to expedite ongoing road development works in the city ahead of the Partnership Summit. On Saturday evening, he inspected the progress of works under the Sagarmala project from Convent Junction to INS Dega and Port Dock areas. During the review with GVMC and National Highways officials, the Collector emphasized that while speed is important, there should be no compromise on quality. He instructed that all works must meet prescribed standards and be completed within the set timelines. Officials were told to monitor daily progress and ensure timely completion without any delays. GVMC Chief Engineer Satyanarayana Raju, NHAI SE, and other officials accompanied him during the inspection.



Temple Development in Kondabitrugunta

Nellore, Pen Power, November 8: Andhra Pradesh Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said that the Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Konda Bitrugunta will be developed into a major spiritual destination. The minister, along with Kavali MLA Krishnareddy, laid the foundation stone for temple development works worth Rs.5.38 crore, including a meditation hall (Rs.2 crore), Kalyana Mandapam (Rs.2 crore), Kalyana Katta (Rs.35 lakh), Ratha Shala (Rs.23 lakh), and installation of the Garutamanta statue. Speaking to the media, the minister said temple development is being carried out with the support of the Endowments Department and donors. He added that Rs.10,000 per month is being credited to priests under the Dhoop Deep Naivedyam scheme in 73 temples of the Kavali constituency. Reddy stated that the government aims to build an "Spiritual Andhra Pradesh" and ensure incidents like Kashi Bugga do not recur. Plans are underway to give the Endowments Department the responsibility of overseeing private temples to ensure they follow Agama Shastra and Vastu principles. He emphasized that temple development across the state is being taken up as a priority under CM N. Chandrababu Naidu's directions.

