



BUZZ POINTS

Hyderabad to Host
BRICS Anti-Corruption
Meet

PAGE 2

Minister Sheenanna Accuses
BRS of Politicising Peddi
Sudarshan Reddy's Death

PAGE 3

KTR Accuses Congress of
Betraying Job Aspirants

PAGE 3



HYDERABAD | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 128 | TUESDAY | AUGUST 4 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : HYDERABAD □ VIJAYAWADA

CM Hails NIMS for 1,000 Robotic Surgeries Milestone

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has congratulated the medical team at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) for successfully completing 1,000 robotic surgeries within a span of two and a half years, describing the achievement as a significant milestone in Telangana's public healthcare sector. In a statement issued on Monday, the Chief Minister extended his congratulations to NIMS Director Dr. Rahul Devaraj, along with the institute's doctors, nursing staff, and operation theatre team, for their dedication and commitment in delivering advanced medical care. Revanth Reddy said the achievement reflects the government's commitment to making state-of-the-art healthcare services available to people through govern-



ment hospitals. He noted that the successful implementation of robotic surgery at NIMS has enabled patients to access advanced treatment without the financial burden often associated with such procedures. The Chief Minister particularly appreciated the fact that more than 90 percent of the

robotic surgeries performed at NIMS were carried out free of cost under the Aarogyasri health insurance scheme and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, ensuring that economically weaker sections could benefit from cutting-edge medical technology. He also highlighted another recent milestone

achieved by the institute, noting that NIMS had recently completed 2,000 kidney transplant surgeries, further strengthening its reputation as one of the country's leading government healthcare institutions. Revanth Reddy said the twin achievements demonstrate the growing capabilities of Telangana's public health infrastructure and the expertise of the medical professionals serving at NIMS. He expressed confidence that the institute would continue to set new benchmarks in patient care, advanced medical treatment, and research in the years ahead. The Chief Minister conveyed his best wishes to the entire NIMS team and expressed hope that the institution would achieve many more milestones while continuing to provide quality and affordable healthcare services to the people of Telangana.



Governor Offers Bonalu Prayers

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, accompanied by his spouse Smt. Janaki Shukla, visited the historic Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Temple in Secunderabad on the auspicious occasion of the Bonalu festival and offered special prayers to the presiding deity. The Governor participated in the traditional rituals and sought the blessings of Goddess Mahakali for the welfare of the people. During his visit, he prayed for timely and abundant rainfall, a prosperous agricultural season, and peace, progress, and happiness for the people across Telangana. The visit formed part of the Bonalu celebrations, one of the state's most significant cultural and religious festivals, which is observed with great devotion and enthusiasm. Thousands of devotees gathered at the temple to offer Bonam and participate in the



annual festivities dedicated to Goddess Mahakali. The Governor and his spouse spent time at the temple performing customary rituals and interacted with temple authorities during the visit. They conveyed their wishes for harmony, good health, and prosperity for all sections of society. Bonalu, celebrated during the Ashada month, is marked by vibrant processions, traditional cultural performances, and special offerings made to the Goddess in gratitude and prayer for protection from epidemics and natural calamities. The Governor's visit added significance to the celebrations, with devotees and temple officials welcoming the dignitaries. He expressed hope that the blessings of Goddess Mahakali would bring peace, prosperity, and a plentiful harvest to farmers while ensuring the continued progress and well-being of the people.

Singareni Secures PKOC-2 Coal Block, Strengthening Energy Security

New Delhi, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy has welcomed the allocation of the PKOC-2 (Prakasam Khani Open Cast) Dip-side coal block to the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCL), describing it as a significant milestone for the company's long-term growth and Telangana's energy security. In a press statement issued on Monday, the Union Minister congratulated Singareni workers, their families, trade union representatives, company officials, and the people of Telangana on what he termed the fulfillment of a long-standing aspiration. The PKOC-2 Dip-side coal block, located near Manuguru in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, was allocated to Singareni following the conclusion of the auction process on August 3. The Minister said the allocation comes after the recent addition of the Naini coal block in Odisha and the Tadicherla-2 coal block, strengthening Singareni's resource base and ensuring sustainable coal production for the coming decades. Kishan Reddy said workers and trade unions had consistently demanded that the PKOC-2 Dip-side block be allotted to Singareni. He expressed satisfaction that the company had secured the block, stating that he pursued the matter not only in his capacity as a Union Minister but also as someone committed to the welfare and future of Telangana and Singareni's workforce.



According to the Minister, the PKOC-2 Dip-side block contains an estimated 180 million tonnes of coal reserves and is expected to remain operational for approximately 25 years. The mine is projected to produce around 6 million tonnes of coal annually, while generating direct and indirect employment opportunities for nearly 2,000 people. The block is also expected to yield high-quality G-8 grade coal, with projected revenues exceeding RS.43,000 crore, while contributing more than ?10,500 crore to the Telangana government's revenues over its operational life. The Minister stated that the allocation would significantly strengthen Telangana's energy security, support the state's thermal power sector, and reinforce Singareni's financial stability. He noted that the addition of three new coal blocks would enable the company to meet a substantial portion of South India's coal requirements, thereby supporting industrial expansion, economic growth, and employment generation across the region. Highlighting the broader impact of the three newly acquired coal blocks-Naini, Tadicherla-2, and PKOC-2 Dip-side-Kishan Reddy said they collectively provide 860 million tonnes of coal reserves, support employment for approximately 6,500 people, and enable sustained production of 22 million tonnes annually for nearly 35 years. Together, these mines are projected to generate revenues exceeding RS.1.95 lakh crore for Singareni, while contributing more than RS.48,000 crore to the Telangana government. Describing the development as a major achievement made possible with the support of the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Minister once again extended his congratulations to Singareni's workers, management, and employees, expressing confidence that the company would continue to play a vital role in India's energy and economic growth.

పానకల వర్గం	ఉప	పానకల ద్వారా (పానకల వర్గం)	కేంద్రాలు	పానకల కేంద్ర నిధి (రూపాయ)	పానకల కేంద్ర నిధి (రూపాయ)
గ్రామ (గ్రామ)	2,500	340	35	33,150	8,280
పట్టణ (పట్టణ)	2,000	340	50	120,000	30,000
PKOC-2 ద్వారా (పానకల)	2,000	180	30	42,360	10,500
మొత్తం	6,500	860	-	1,95,510	48,780

Bhatti Invites Global Telugu Diaspora to Invest

Baltimore (USA), August 03 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka urged Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to play an active role in Telangana's growth by investing in the state and contributing to the development of their native villages. Addressing the 19th National Convention of the American Telugu Association (ATA) at the Baltimore Convention Center in Maryland, USA, as the chief guest, Bhatti said the Telangana government is committed to creating a globally competitive investment ecosystem and extending full support to overseas entrepreneurs. Calling upon the Telugu diaspora to "repay the debt to their homeland," the Deputy Chief Minister said the knowledge, expertise, and global exposure acquired by Indians abroad should now be channelled towards the progress of Telangana. He assured investors that the state government has established an efficient single-window clearance system to provide immediate approvals for industries and development projects. Bhatti said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had personally deputed him to invite overseas Telugus to become partners in Telangana's development journey. He assured the gathering that the government would stand by them in every industrial, business, and social initiative undertaken in the state.



Highlighting the government's long-term vision, Bhatti said Telangana aims to become a \$3 trillion economy by 2047 through planned infrastructure expansion, industrial growth, and human resource development. He noted that the government is working to position Telangana among the world's leading economies by creating world-class infrastructure and investment opportunities. The Deputy Chief Minister outlined several flagship projects, including the Musi River rejuvenation programme, under which the 56-

kilometre river stretch through Hyderabad will be transformed into a clean and vibrant urban corridor inspired by the River Thames in London. He also highlighted the importance of the Regional Ring Road (RRR), the proposed 36 radial roads, and the upcoming Future City, envisioned as a world-class urban centre complementing Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Cyberabad. Emphasising education as the foundation of economic progress, Bhatti said the government is establishing Young India Integrated Residential Schools across 100 Assembly

constituencies. Built on 25-acre campuses at an estimated cost of RS.200 crore each, the institutions aim to provide international-standard education and prepare students from ordinary families for global opportunities. He invited NRIs to support the initiative through investments and partnerships. Responding to concerns raised by members of the Telugu diaspora, Bhatti announced that the Telangana government is considering the creation of a dedicated statutory mechanism to address issues faced by NRIs and their families residing in the state. He said the proposed system would provide a structured platform for resolving grievances quickly and efficiently.(The Deputy Chief Minister also appealed to eligible overseas Telangana citizens to participate in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by registering themselves online as voters. He urged the diaspora to exercise their democratic rights while remaining connected to their homeland and contributing to Telangana's continued growth and development. The convention witnessed enthusiastic participation from Telugu community leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, and delegates from across the United States, who expressed interest in strengthening economic and cultural ties with Telangana.

Panel Seeks Answers from Meta Over PM Video Block



New Delhi, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Representatives of Meta appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on Monday to explain the temporary blocking of a Facebook video featuring Prime

Minister Narendra Modi. The meeting focused on the circumstances surrounding the incident and the safeguards in place to prevent similar occurrences in the future. Meta informed the committee that the removal of the video was the result of a technical error and expressed regret over the incident. However, members of the committee reportedly stated that the explanation alone was not satisfactory and sought a detailed account of the company's content moderation systems and the corrective measures being implemented to avoid such mistakes. Parliamentary Standing Committee Chairman Nishikant Dubey said the incident raised serious concerns and asserted that Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg should issue an apology over the removal of the Prime Minister's video. He stressed that global social media companies operating in India must function responsibly

World Bank Collaboration to Strengthen Digital Governance Framework

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Telangana has intensified its efforts to strengthen digital governance and expand technology-driven public services, with Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju holding a high-level meeting with a delegation from the World Bank on Monday to discuss future collaboration in the digital sector. The meeting, held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, was attended by Mahesh Uttamchandani, Regional Director for Digital Development in the Asia-Pacific region at the World Bank, along with senior members of the World Bank team and state officials. The discussions covered a wide range of initiatives aimed at improving digital infrastructure and public service delivery across Telangana. Key topics included the modernization of MeeSeva centres, enhancement of digital governance systems, adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance, strengthening cybersecurity, development of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), establishment of new data centres, and expansion of the state's T-Fiber network. Officials also explored opportunities to leverage technology for creating employment, particularly by promoting IT-enabled job opportunities for young people. The meeting focused on identifying strategies to improve digital access while ensuring efficient and secure government services for citizens. Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju directed



officials to speed up the implementation of the T-Fiber project, emphasizing that reliable high-speed connectivity is essential for delivering quality digital services across urban and rural areas. He stressed that every citizen should benefit from seamless access to digital government services and online platforms. The World Bank delegation and state officials also exchanged views on strengthening Telangana's digital ecosystem through innovation, technology adoption, and improved public infrastructure. The discussions highlighted the importance of building secure and inclusive digital systems capable of supporting future governance needs. The meeting reflects Telangana's continued focus on digital transformation as part of its broader strategy to improve governance, expand digital inclusion, strengthen technological infrastructure, and create new economic opportunities through innovation and information technology.



Hyderabad to Host BRICS Anti-Corruption Meet

Hyderabad, August 3 | TPN Bureau

India will host the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the second meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery in Hyderabad on August 4 and 5 under India's BRICS Presidency 2026. The meeting is being organised by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India, in line with the theme of India's BRICS Presidency, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The event will be inaugurated by Rachna Shah, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training. Representatives from BRICS member countries, senior policymakers, experts, practitioners, and officials from anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies are expected to participate in the discussions. The meeting



will focus on strengthening international cooperation in asset recovery, combating cross-border corruption, and improving transparency and accountability in governance.

Key areas of discussion include cooperation in tracing fugitive offenders, information sharing through the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery, and addressing corruption risks linked to FinTech, digital assets and emerging digital financial systems. A side event titled "Ethical Governance through Innovation and Tech-Driven Systems" will also be held on August 5 to discuss technology-based solutions for transparent governance, digital public procurement and citizen engagement. The meeting is expected to further strengthen cooperation among BRICS nations in preventing corruption and promoting technology-driven governance.

Vakiti Srihari Reviews Power Supply, Sets Targets



Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari on Monday directed Electricity Department officials from Narayanpet and Wanaparthy districts to ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply across the Makthal Assembly constituency, with a special focus on agriculture, rural infrastructure, and public services. Chairing a review meeting at his camp office in Hyderabad, the Minister instructed officials to provide reliable electricity to meet the needs of farmers and ensure uninterrupted three-phase power supply for both irrigation and drinking water schemes. He stressed that power disruptions affecting agricultural activities should be minimized through effective planning and timely maintenance. Vakiti Srihari also proposed strengthening the electricity distribution network by establishing one electricity substation for every two villages across the constituency's seven mandals. He said expanding the infrastructure would improve voltage stability and ensure better service delivery to rural areas. Emphasizing safety and preventive maintenance, the Minister directed officials to undertake a special drive to shift transformers installed at ground level onto raised platforms on a war footing. He also instructed them to regularly inspect transformers and power lines to

reduce outages and improve public safety.

To improve civic amenities, Srihari ordered the installation of timers for streetlights in villages so they operate efficiently while ensuring that all non-functional lights are repaired without delay. He further directed officials to relocate electricity poles obstructing roads and shift overhead power lines passing dangerously close to residential houses wherever necessary. The Minister instructed the department to respond promptly to public complaints and resolve electricity-related issues without delay. He also called for adequate staffing to strengthen field operations and improve service delivery. Srihari emphasized the need for uninterrupted electricity in all government schools across the constituency and directed officials to ensure that burial grounds of all religious communities are provided with proper electric lighting. Stating that Makthal had remained neglected for several years, the Minister said his objective was to transform the constituency into a model for efficient and reliable electricity supply. Senior officials from the Electricity Departments of Narayanpet and Wanaparthy districts attended the meeting and briefed the Minister on the current power supply situation, ongoing development works, and future infrastructure plans.

Raghubandan Rao Welcomes Supreme Court Judges Bill



New Delhi, August 03 | TPN Bureau

BJP MP Raghubandan Rao on Monday welcomed the passage of the Supreme Court Judges (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, describing it as an important step towards reducing the pendency of cases and ensuring faster delivery of justice. Speaking to the media in New Delhi, the MP said the Supreme Court currently has nearly one lakh pending cases, while around 65,000 cases are disposed of annually and nearly 75,000 new cases are filed every year. He said the Centre had introduced the amendment bill to increase the strength of Supreme Court judges so that cases could be heard and disposed of more efficiently. Raghubandan Rao noted that the number of Supreme Court judges had previously

been increased in 2019 and that the latest amendment reflected the Union government's continued commitment to strengthening the judiciary. He said the initiative, undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was aimed at providing speedy justice to litigants without causing inconvenience to the public.

The BJP MP also stated that the Central Government had invested around ₹7,000 crore in measures to improve access to justice and judicial infrastructure. Referring to judicial appointments, he recalled that an earlier attempt to replace the collegium system with a judicial appointments commission had been struck down by the Supreme Court. He expressed the opinion that greater transparency in the collegium system was necessary and suggested that a judicial commission could improve accountability in appointments.

Commenting on recent observations made by Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Raghubandan Rao said he believed the remarks reflected public sentiment and expressed hope that the Union Government would examine the issues raised.

The MP also spoke about the promotion of E-20 petrol, stating that misconceptions surrounding ethanol-blended fuel would soon be addressed through public awareness initiatives. He said an event would be organised in collaboration with a UAE-based company to create greater awareness about the benefits of E-20 fuel and encourage its wider acceptance.

Ponguleti Calls for Fast-Track Completion of Project



Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday directed

officials to expedite the construction of the Seethamma Sagar Irrigation Project on the Godavari River in Khammam district, stressing that the long-pending project should be completed within the stipulated timeframe.

The Minister participated in a high-level review meeting on the progress of the project at the Secretariat, chaired by Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy. Senior officials from various departments attended the meeting to assess the status of construction and discuss measures to accelerate the remaining works.

Addressing the review meeting, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy described the Seethamma Sagar project as a landmark irrigation initiative that has been awaited by the farming community of the undivided Khammam district for several decades. He said the project would play a vital role in strengthening irrigation infrastructure and improving agricultural productivity across Khammam and Bhadrachalam districts, besides benefiting surrounding regions. The Minister instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive

action plan to ensure that the remaining works are completed without delay. He emphasized the need for strict adherence to timelines and directed departments to resolve any administrative or technical hurdles that could impede the project's progress.

Ponguleti also called for close coordination among officials from all concerned departments, stating that collective efforts were essential for the timely execution of the prestigious irrigation project. He urged engineers and field-level staff to work with a sense of urgency so that the project could be dedicated to farmers at the earliest.

Reiterating the government's commitment to strengthening the irrigation sector, the Minister said the successful completion of the Seethamma Sagar project would provide a significant boost to agriculture, improve water availability for cultivation, and contribute to the economic development of the region.

Officials assured the Ministers that construction activities would be accelerated and that all necessary steps would be taken to complete the project as scheduled.

Uttam Sets Six-Month Target for Irrigation Project Clearances

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday directed officials to fast-track the process of securing environmental clearances for four major irrigation projects, setting an ambitious target of completing the approval process within six months wherever feasible.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat, the Minister instructed officials to accord top priority to the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Sitarama Sagar, Dindi, and Gauravelli projects. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampallabharathi, MP Balaram Naik, senior engineers, and legal experts attended the meeting.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the recent Supreme Court judgment on environmental clearances had provided legal clarity and created new opportunities for Telangana to pursue pending approvals. He directed officials to thoroughly examine the verdict, rectify technical and procedural shortcomings in earlier applications, and resubmit eligible proposals before the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other statutory authorities. The Minister outlined a phased action plan, directing



the appointment of a dedicated nodal officer for each project and completion of document collection within seven days. Updated environmental studies, compliance reports, land records, and legal documentation are to be completed within 30 days, while application preparation and administrative procedures must be finalized within 60 days. Weekly progress reports and monthly high-level reviews will monitor implementation.

Emphasizing the importance of protecting farmers and project-affected families, Uttam Kumar Reddy said environmental compliance, rehabilitation, land acquisition, and compensation issues must be addressed before any major changes in project design. He stressed that development should be balanced with environmental conservation and social justice.

The Minister also instructed officials to make the Gauravelli Pump House fully operational by completing inspections, repairs, and testing while ensuring canal systems are free from bottlenecks. He directed engineering teams to keep all technical studies, estimates, and tender documents ready for the Sitarama Sagar project so that construction could resume immediately after statutory clearances are obtained.

The meeting also reviewed the impact of Polavaram backwaters on Telangana. Uttam Kumar Reddy ordered a comprehensive scientific assessment of potential submergence in affected areas and directed officials to strengthen the state's case before the Centre, the National Green Tribunal, the Supreme Court, and the Polavaram Project Authority using scientific data and detailed documentation. He also instructed the Inter-State Division to be strengthened with additional technical, environmental, and legal experts to safeguard Telangana's irrigation interests.

Markfed Sets Record with Maize E-Auctions

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana State Cooperative Marketing Federation (Markfed) has recorded its highest-ever returns from maize sales after adopting a transparent e-auction system in place of the conventional e-tender process, officials said on Monday. The reform, introduced under the directions of Agriculture Minister Tummalapudi Nageswara Rao, has resulted in record prices and increased revenue for the state. According to the press note, Markfed procured around 14.60 lakh metric tonnes of maize during the Yasangi 2025-26 season, the largest-ever maize procurement undertaken in Telangana. Officials said the massive procurement posed storage challenges, with a portion of the stock kept in temporary facilities such as open sheds, cotton ginning mills, and rice mills due to insufficient warehouse capacity. To prevent losses during the monsoon, about 3.80 lakh metric tonnes of maize that faced the risk of rain damage were sold through a special e-auction at ₹22,000 per metric tonne, with buyers required to lift the stock within 30 days. Officials said the move helped avoid significant financial losses. For the remaining 10.98 lakh metric tonnes stored in secure warehouses, Markfed conducted three rounds of e-auctions on July 31, August 1, and August 3, fixing a base price of ₹24,000 per metric tonne. The auctions recorded a maximum price of ₹26,500 per metric tonne, a minimum of ₹24,100, and an average price of ₹25,370 per metric tonne. Officials said



the average sale price would generate an additional ₹1,500 per tonne over the procurement cost, resulting in substantial gains for the state exchequer.

In the first auction, 3.71 lakh metric tonnes were sold at an average price of ₹25,192 per tonne. The second auction saw the sale of 3.68 lakh metric tonnes at an average of ₹25,329, while the third auction recorded the highest average price of ₹25,594 per tonne for 3.59 lakh metric tonnes. Officials described the initiative as a landmark achievement in Markfed's history, attributing the success to the shift from e-tenders to a competitive e-auction mechanism and strategic marketing decisions aligned with prevailing market conditions. They said the reform had enhanced transparency, increased competition among buyers, safeguarded public funds, and strengthened returns to the government.

FCI, Government Plan Major Grain Storage Expansion



Hyderabad, August 03 | TPNw Bureau

The Telangana government has assured full cooperation to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for expanding food grain storage infrastructure in the state to match the steady rise in agricultural procurement, State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Monday. The assurance came during a meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, where FCI General Manager Anuj Tyagi called on the Minister to discuss grain procurement, storage capacity, transportation systems, and future infrastructure requirements. During the meeting, FCI officials highlighted the growing need for additional storage facilities in view of Telangana's record food grain procurement. They proposed the construction of modern warehouses at strategic locations across the state to strengthen the storage network and improve the handling of food grains destined for the Central Pool.

Responding positively, Uttam Kumar Reddy assured the FCI of complete support from the state government, including inter-departmental coordination, statutory approvals, and the development of essential infrastructure required for the timely completion of new storage facilities.

The Minister emphasized that protecting every grain produced by farmers is as important as procuring it. He said efficient transportation from procurement centres to warehouses and scientific storage practices were essential to prevent losses and ensure farmers do not face inconvenience during procurement seasons. He also called for better coordination between the state government and the FCI to improve procurement efficiency, stock management, and transportation logistics.

According to officials, Telangana has emerged as the second-largest food grain procuring state in the country during the 2025-26 Kharif marketing season. However, the state currently has storage capacity of only about 31 lakh metric tonnes for the Central Pool, leaving a shortfall of approximately 16.25 lakh metric tonnes under FCI norms. The meeting concluded with a decision to expedite the construction of modern warehouses and establish a long-term storage system capable of meeting Telangana's growing grain production and procurement needs. Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring remunerative returns for farmers while safeguarding procured food grains through improved infrastructure and efficient storage management.

Ponnam Prabhakar Calls Bankipur Result a Victory for Democracy

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Monday described the outcome of the Bankipur Assembly by-election in Bihar as a significant political development, stating that the defeat of the BJP in one of its traditional strongholds reflected the strength of democracy and the people's verdict. The bypoll was won by Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor, marking his party's first electoral victory in a constituency long considered a BJP bastion. In a statement, the Minister said the BJP's defeat in Bankipur, which has been regarded as one of the party's strongest con-



stituencies for decades, indicated a change in public sentiment. He claimed that the electorate had delivered a clear message against what he described as the BJP's arrogance and belief that

it had no political alternative. Ponnam Prabhakar said the by-election demonstrated that no amount of political power, government machinery, or campaign strength could override the will of the people in a democracy. He alleged that the result showed signs of weakening public support for the BJP and warned that governments ignoring public concerns would eventually face electoral consequences. The Minister also referred to recent student protests at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, alleging that growing dissatisfaction among students, youth, unemployed people, and the general public reflected increasing discontent with the Central Government. He claimed that concerns over employment opportunities and

public welfare were contributing to changing political attitudes. Describing the Bankipur verdict as more than a constituency-level result, Ponnam Prabhakar said it symbolized the people's determination to safeguard democratic values and hold governments accountable. He expressed confidence that similar public sentiment would influence political developments in the future. The Minister concluded by stating that in a democracy, the people remain the ultimate decision-makers and that the Bankipur bypoll outcome reaffirmed the supremacy of the public mandate. His remarks reflect the views of the Congress leader following the declaration of the by-election results.

Panel Seeks Answers from Meta Over PM Video Block

Continue

comply with Indian laws, and respect the country's democratic institutions. During the meeting, committee members also questioned Meta officials about the handling of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) on the company's platforms. They sought information on the mechanisms used to detect, remove, and report such content, while emphasizing the need for stronger online safety measures. Officials from the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology also attended the discussions. The committee reportedly asked Meta to provide additional information on its algorithms, content moderation practices, and internal review mechanisms. Members are understood to have stressed the importance of greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of digital platforms. The meeting underscored Parliament's increasing scrutiny of major technology companies and their responsibilities in content management, user safety, and compliance with Indian regulations. The committee is expected to examine the additional information submitted by Meta before deciding on any further course of action.

Publication Unveils Centuries-Old Archaeological Treasures

Continue

of Telangana's ancient history. It features findings spanning thousands of years, offering readers a glimpse into the region's cultural and historical evolution. Among the important discoveries documented in the book is the largest microlith unearthed at Somasila, believed to date back approximately 12,500 years. It also highlights the remains of a Mesolithic hutment at Chinnamarur, dated to around 4000 BCE, providing valuable evidence of early human habitation in the region. The book further records the discovery of an ivory comb from Pochampadu, estimated to be from 1000 BCE, a silver portrait coin of Satavahana ruler Sivasri Pulumavi recovered from Peddabankur and dating to the 2nd century CE, and a Sivalinga from Keesaragutta belonging to the 4th century CE. Speaking at the event, Venu Nakshatram said the publication brings together several archaeological discoveries that are not widely covered in conventional history textbooks. He noted that the work offers readers, researchers, and students a broader understanding of Telangana's historical journey through authentic archaeological evidence. The release of the book at an international Telugu gathering underscores growing efforts to promote Telangana's cultural heritage among the global Telugu diaspora. The publication is expected to serve as a valuable reference for history enthusiasts, scholars, and students interested in the state's ancient civilisation and archaeological legacy.

Minister Sheenanna Accuses BRS of Politicising Peddi Sudarshan Reddy's Death

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau



Telangana Minister Indiramma Indla Sheenanna on Monday accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of attempting to derive political mileage from the death of senior leader Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, alleging that the party had neglected him during its decade-long rule. Addressing the media, the Minister alleged that although Peddi Sudarshan Reddy had served the BRS for several years, he was not given a ministerial

berth during the party's tenure in power. She questioned why the former legislator was not nominated to the Rajya Sabha or the Legislative Council after he lost an Assembly election, despite the party nominating other leaders to key positions. Referring to BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), Sheenanna alleged that the party was now attempting to use the late leader's death for political purposes. She claimed that while BRS leaders were raising the issue after his demise, they had failed to adequately recognise or reward his contributions when he was alive. The Minister further stated that the Congress government facilitated the movement of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy from Warangal to Hyderabad through a special "green channel" to ensure timely medical assistance. She also said the government accorded due respect during his funeral by making official arrangements with police honours. Sheenanna alleged that the BRS leadership had used party workers for electoral gains while concentrating power and important positions within a single family. She accused the Opposition party of exploiting even deaths for political advantage and said such actions had disappointed the people of Telangana. The Minister expressed confidence that the electorate would respond appropriately to what she described as attempts to politicise sensitive issues. At the time of filing this report, the BRS had not issued an official response to the allegations made by the Minister. The statements reflect the views and allegations of the Congress leader.

RS Praveen Kumar Seeks Inquiry Over Missing High Court Judgment Copy

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) General Secretary Dr. R.S. Praveen Kumar has raised concerns over the alleged absence of the final judgment copy in the 2023 SSC question paper leakage case from the Telangana High Court website and has sought a high-level inquiry into the matter. In a post on social media platform X on Monday, Praveen Kumar questioned whether there was equal treatment in the publication of court judgments. He stated that a group of lawyers had informed him that the final judgment quashing the FIR in the SSC question paper leakage case-where Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar was the prime accused (A1)-was reportedly not available on the Telangana High Court portal. According to Praveen Kumar, while 304 final judgments delivered by the High Court on November 20, 2025, were uploaded to the official website, the judgment related to the SSC question paper leakage case was allegedly missing. Clarifying that he was not casting any aspersions on the judiciary, the BRS leader said the issue had raised public concern and that the dignity and credibility of the judicial system must be protected. He announced that he would write to the Registrar General of the Telangana High Court, requesting a high-level inquiry into the matter, appropriate action if any lapse was found, and the immediate uploading of the judgment on the official portal. Praveen Kumar also said the people of Telangana have the right to know the stand taken by the public prosecutors in the high-profile case, which he said affected the lives of lakhs of students in 2023. He further questioned why the present government had not preferred an appeal against the order. Referring to Article 14 of the Constitution, he stated that, to his knowledge, there was no exemption from publishing judgments involving public representatives. He added that, if such an exemption existed, the authorities should issue an official clarification. No official response had been issued by the Telangana High Court regarding the allegations at the time of filing this report.



KTR Accuses Congress of Betraying Job Aspirants

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Monday accused the Congress government of misleading unemployed youth by failing to fulfil its promises on employment and the job calendar announced in the Assembly. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, KTR referred to the reported suicide attempt of Gaddam Venu from Madhira, alleging that the youth's two-page note addressed to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reflected the frustration of unemployed youth. He claimed the letter amounted to a "charge-sheet" against the Congress government and questioned whether the state leadership had taken note of the concerns raised. KTR alleged that the Congress had promised to provide two lakh government jobs after coming to power but had failed to deliver. He questioned Rahul Gandhi's silence on employment issues in Congress-ruled states and claimed that unemployed youth across Telangana were losing hope. He further alleged



that while the present government claimed to have provided around 16,979 jobs, the previous BRS government had issued notifications for over 2.32 lakh posts. The former minister also criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over his reported remarks about engineering graduates, alleging that the comments had insulted the engineering community. He defended engineering students, saying they had contributed significantly to India's global reputation in the technology sector, and accused the Congress of targeting educated youth instead of addressing unemployment. KTR further demanded that the Telangana Assembly be convened for 15 days, alleging that the government was avoiding detailed discussions on key public issues. He also criticized the government's handling of irrigation, claiming that failure to lift water at Kannepalli had affected farmers. The BRS leader accused the Congress government of targeting opposition leaders through political vendetta and urged it to focus instead on governance, employment generation, and addressing farmers' concerns. At the time of filing this report, there was no immediate response from the Congress government to the allegations made by KTR. The statements reported above are the claims and opinions expressed by the BRS leader.

BRS Demands Congress Apologise Over Remarks on Harish Rao's Temple Visits



Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan on Monday strongly condemned the allegations made by Congress leaders against senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao, accusing the ruling party of insulting Hindu religious beliefs by describing prayers offered at temples as "occult" or "black magic" rituals. Addressing a press conference, Dr. Sravan alleged that the Congress government was attempting to divert public attention from its governance and its alleged failure to implement the promised "Six Guarantees" by targeting Harish Rao. He claimed the remarks made by Congress leaders amounted to an insult to the Hindu community and demanded an immediate public apology from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud. The BRS leader maintained that Harish Rao had only visited sacred Hindu pilgrimage centres, including the Kollur Mookambika Temple in Karnataka, to offer prayers along with his family. He questioned how such visits could be portrayed as involving occult practices and argued that several leaders from different political parties had also visited prominent temples across the country. Dr. Sravan alleged that the Congress leadership

had converted political discourse into personal attacks instead of engaging in debates on governance and public issues. He accused the government of failing to address concerns relating to education, fee reimbursement, procurement of agricultural produce, pensions, unemployment, and other welfare measures. He further said the BRS had a history of conducting religious rituals such as the Ayuta Chandi Yagam for public welfare and recalled that similar allegations had been made against political leaders in the past. According to him, politics should focus on policy discussions rather than personal accusations. Demanding that the Congress withdraw its remarks against Harish Rao, Dr. Sravan warned that the BRS would initiate legal action if the statements were not retracted. He also challenged the ruling party to hold an open debate on governance, student issues, and the implementation of the Six Guarantees, while seeking the release of a white paper on these subjects. BRS leaders Gosula Srinivas Yadav, Abhilash Rangineni, Karthik Rayala, and others were present at the press conference. At the time of filing this report, there was no immediate response from the Congress party to the allegations made by the BRS. The statements reported above are the views and allegations of the BRS leaders.

Bankipur Verdict Reflects Public Mood, Says TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Monday described the outcome of the Bankipur Assembly by-election in Bihar as a significant political message, alleging that the verdict reflected growing public dissatisfaction with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In a statement, Goud said the Bankipur result was not merely the outcome of a single Assembly constituency but indicated a broader shift in the country's political landscape. He alleged that the electorate had delivered a strong response to what he termed the BJP's "arrogance of power" and its style of governance. (Referring to Bankipur as a constituency that had remained a BJP stronghold for nearly three decades, Goud said the defeat was particularly significant because the seat was vacated after BJP leader Nitin Nabin moved to the Rajya Sabha. He claimed that losing such a prestigious constituency reflected changing public opinion. The TPCC chief alleged that people across the country were closely watching issues such as unemploy-

ment, rising prices, farmers' hardships, misuse of power, and divisive politics. He said the Bankipur verdict demonstrated that voters ultimately judge governments based on their performance rather than political campaigns. According to Goud, the by-election result reaffirmed the principle that the people are the final arbiters in a democracy, regardless of the political strength of any party. He claimed the outcome would have political implications beyond Bihar and send a message to the BJP leadership at the national level. The Congress leader further asserted that the electorate was looking for an alternative political path and expressed confidence that the Congress would continue to strengthen its position by focusing on public welfare, social justice, constitutional values, and inclusive development. Congratulating the people of Bankipur, Goud said the verdict underscored the strength of democratic values and reaffirmed that the ultimate victory in a democracy always belongs to the people. The remarks represent the political views of the TPCC President following the declaration of the Bankipur by-election results.

Bulldozers Clear Encroachments on Government Land



Thulasi Naveen Kumar

A major enforcement drive was carried out by the Revenue Department on Monday to clear encroachments from nearly five acres of government land in Survey No. 49/6 at Suraram under Quthbullapur Mandal. The operation, conducted under the directions of the District Collector, was supported by a heavy police presence to ensure law and order during the demolition exercise. According to officials, around 30 to 40 unauthorized structures, including huts, temporary sheds, and rooms, were removed using bulldozers and JCB machines. Police personnel secured the entire area before the operation began, restricting access and maintaining strict vigilance to prevent any untoward incidents. The large-scale demolition created a tense atmosphere in the locality, although the drive was completed without any major disturbances. Revenue officials stated that the action was taken strictly on the basis of official land records and formed part of the government's ongoing efforts to protect public property from illegal occupation. They reiterated that encroachments on government land would not be tolerated and warned that similar enforcement

measures would continue wherever unauthorized occupations are identified. Officials further revealed that the recent operation has prompted a comprehensive review of other government lands across Quthbullapur Mandal. A phased action plan is reportedly being prepared to identify, verify, and remove encroachments from additional government properties. Authorities also indicated that legal proceedings may be initiated against individuals found to have illegally occupied government land. Following the demolition, revenue officials formally took possession of the cleared land and began implementing measures to safeguard it from future encroachments. Officials said fencing and regular monitoring would be considered to prevent fresh illegal occupations. The enforcement drive has generated considerable discussion among local residents. While some expressed concern over the demolition of occupied structures, many others welcomed the government's action, stating that strict enforcement is essential to preserve public land and prevent illegal encroachments. Revenue officials from Quthbullapur and personnel from the Suraram Police Station participated in the operation.

Congress Alleges Harish Rao Performed Occult Rituals, Demands Explanation

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Media Committee Chairman Sama Rammohan Reddy on Monday levelled a series of allegations against senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao, claiming that he had performed occult and tantric rituals at various locations with political motives. The remarks were made during a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan. Rammohan Reddy alleged that Harish Rao had undertaken tantric rituals at different places, including Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu and Shivamogga in Karnataka, on multiple occasions during 2026. He claimed that the BRS leader had participated in rituals on March 2, May 31-June 1, June 20, and July 23, and questioned the purpose behind these visits. The Congress leader alleged that Harish Rao was attempting to create unrest in Telangana and accused him of engaging in activities aimed at harming the state's interests because the BRS was no longer in power. He also questioned whom the alleged rituals were intended to target and demanded that Harish Rao

publicly clarify the purpose of the visits. Rammohan Reddy further called upon BRS MLC K. Kavitha to respond to the allegations, stating that the public deserved an explanation regarding the reported rituals. The TPCC leader also accused sections of the Opposition of attempting to create fear and unrest among farmers, women, and youth. He alleged that certain Opposition leaders were trying to incite public discontent and claimed that such efforts would not succeed. Referring to comments allegedly made by a BRS leader regarding rainfall, Rammohan Reddy said the Congress government remained committed to Telangana's development and asserted that no occult practices could affect Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy or the state's progress. He added that farmers, women, and youth continued to support the Congress government and claimed that Telangana was witnessing positive developments under its administration. At the time of filing this report, Harish Rao and the BRS had not publicly responded to these specific allegations. The claims made by the Congress leader remain allegations and have not been independently verified.

Mahankali 'Rangam' Remarks Spark Political Reactions

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Comments made during the traditional 'Rangam' ritual of the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu celebrations in Secunderabad have triggered political reactions, with leaders interpreting the ritual in different ways. During the annual Rangam, a traditional oracle ceremony held as part of the Bonalu festival, the oracle is believed by devotees to convey the blessings, warnings, and guidance of Goddess Ujjaini Mahankali. This year's ceremony drew significant public attention after the oracle expressed strong words of anguish and warning. According to accounts of the ritual, the Goddess was portrayed as expressing deep sorrow and anger, cautioning that repeated failures to fulfil promises would not be tolerated. The oracle reportedly declared that if the Goddess's words continued to be ignored, there would be serious consequences, a statement that quickly became the subject of widespread discussion. Following the ritual, some political leaders linked the remarks to the functioning

of the present Congress government, alleging that the Goddess's expressions reflected public dissatisfaction. They claimed that not only the people but even the presiding deity had been subjected to hardship under the current administration. Some leaders further asserted that the intensity of the oracle's words and emotional expressions, including references to sorrow and distress, was unprecedented in the history of the Secunderabad Bonalu Rangam ritual. However, these interpretations are political opinions and have not been officially endorsed by the temple authorities. The Rangam is a deeply revered religious tradition, and its significance is interpreted differently by devotees, priests, and observers. The annual Bonalu festival, dedicated to Goddess Mahankali, remains one of Telangana's most important cultural and religious celebrations, attracting thousands of devotees who participate in rituals seeking peace, prosperity, and protection. The comments made during this year's Rangam have generated considerable public interest and debate, while also drawing political attention in the state.

Zonal Commissioner Reviews Civic Issues in Tandas

Quthbullapur, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Quthbullapur Zonal Commissioner Pinkesh Kumar (IAS) conducted a field inspection on Monday to review long-pending civic infrastructure issues in several Tandas (tribal hamlets), assuring residents that their concerns would be addressed on priority. The visit came after former Councilor Shankar Naik highlighted the pressing problems faced by the local communities. During the inspection, the Commissioner examined the condition of main roads and internal link roads, many of which have deteriorated due to cracks and potholes. He directed engineering officials to prepare detailed estimates immediately and submit proposals for funding so that repair works could begin without delay. Officials were instructed to expedite the execution of all sanc-

tioned works to improve connectivity within the Tandas. Special emphasis was placed on upgrading basic amenities at the local crematorium. The Commissioner ordered officials to prepare proposals for constructing proper access roads, providing drinking water facilities, building a waiting hall, and developing bathing areas to ensure the cremation ground is equipped with essential infrastructure. Addressing the recurring drainage problems in the colonies, Pinkesh Kumar instructed officials to find a permanent solution for wastewater outlets and to complete internal road works in areas where drainage pipelines have already been laid. He stressed that civic works should be carried out in a coordinated manner to minimize inconvenience to residents. Responding to requests from the local communi-



ty, the Commissioner also directed officials to prepare proposals for a new link road connecting Tanda-1 to the HMT service road. He further instructed the concerned departments to prioritize road widening, pothole repairs, and footpath

restoration at the busy Gandimaisamma Crossroads, where increasing traffic has become a major concern. Residents welcomed the Commissioner's visit, expressing hope that the long-pending infrastructure issues would finally receive

attention. Officials assured the public that proposals would be processed on priority and necessary works would be taken up in a phased manner. Deputy Commissioner Dr. S. Venkata Manikaran, Executive Engineer Subrahmanyam, Deputy

Engineers Papamma and Anvesh Reddy, Assistant Engineer Surender Naik, former Councilor Shankar Naik, the Traffic Sub-Inspector, members of the HMT Welfare association, local residents, and community leaders participated in the field inspection.

POCSO Case Registered After Alleged Hostel Assault

Quthbullapur, August 03 | TPN Bureau

A case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered following allegations of sexual assault involving minor students at the Telangana State Minority Residential School hostel in Bowrampet, under the jurisdiction of the Dundigal Police Station. According to the police, the complaint alleges that three minor students sexually assaulted two other minor students staying in the same hostel. The incident reportedly came to light only after the victims returned home over the weekend and informed their parents about what had allegedly taken place inside the hostel. Police said the father of one of the victims approached the Dundigal Police Station on Sunday evening and lodged a formal complaint. Based on the complaint, officers registered a case under the POCSO Act and initiated an investi-

gation into the allegations. Officials stated that investigators are examining all aspects of the case, including the sequence of events, the circumstances surrounding the alleged assault, and the roles of those involved. Statements are being recorded, and the investigation is being carried out in accordance with legal procedures applicable to cases involving minors. The police are also looking into whether the hostel authorities were aware of the alleged incident and if there were any lapses in supervision or reporting. Investigators are examining the response of the school and hostel management to determine whether established child protection protocols were followed. The incident has raised concerns among parents and local residents about the safety and welfare of students staying in residential educational institutions. Many have called for stricter monitoring, improved security measures, and stronger child protection mechanisms in hostels to ensure the well-being of students.



Authorities have urged the public to refrain from circulating unverified information or disclosing the identities of the minors involved, as such disclosure is prohibited under law. Police emphasized that the investigation is at a preliminary

stage and that further action will be taken based on the evidence collected. The investigation is ongoing, and officials said appropriate legal action will be taken in accordance with the findings.

Siva Sivani Celebrates 65 Years of Educational Excellence

Quthbullapur, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Siva Sivani Group of Institutions (SSGI) marked a significant milestone on Monday by celebrating its Blue Sapphire Jubilee (1961-2026), commemorating 65 years of service in the field of education. The grand celebrations reflected the institution's legacy of academic excellence, value-based

education, leadership development, and commitment to community service. Addressing the gathering, SSGI President Arthi Sampathi said the institution has transformed the lives of thousands of students over the past six and a half decades by nurturing academic excellence, ethical values, and leadership qualities. She noted that Siva Sivani has built a strong

reputation for delivering quality education across multiple levels, from school education to higher and professional studies, producing graduates who have excelled in India and abroad. The event's chief guest, Colonel Gaurav Datta (Retd.), an alumnus of the institution and a distinguished former Indian Army officer, shared his experiences with students and faculty. Recalling his

days at Siva Sivani, he described the institution as more than just a place of learning. "Siva Sivani was not merely an educational institution for me; it was a temple that shaped my character. The values I learned here became the foundation of my success in the Army," he said. He encouraged students to cultivate discipline, courage, integrity, and leadership while con-

tributing meaningfully to the nation's progress. Vice President Dr. Shailesh Sampathi reaffirmed the institution's commitment to providing world-class education while developing socially responsible citizens. He highlighted that SSGI offers a complete educational ecosystem ranging from Kindergarten (KG) to PhD, with a school, junior college, two degree colleges, and management institutes functioning on a single campus. Faculty members, students, alumni, industry leaders, and distinguished guests partici-

pated in the celebrations, reflecting on the institution's remarkable journey and achievements over the past 65 years. The event also showcased SSGI's vision of continuing to provide holistic education while adapting to the evolving needs of society. Held under the theme "Service through Education," the Blue Sapphire Jubilee celebrations concluded on a high note, reaffirming Siva Sivani's commitment to academic excellence, character building, and nation-building through quality education.

BRS Leaders Demand Apology Over CM's Remarks on Engineering Students

Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Engineering graduates and leaders of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Monday condemned remarks allegedly made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy about engineering students, demanding an unconditional apology from the Congress leadership. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, the BRS leaders objected to the Chief Minister's reported description of engineering students as "criminal waste," calling the remarks offensive and disrespectful to lakhs of engineering graduates across Telangana and the country. The speakers alleged that such comments had hurt the sentiments of students, professionals, and families who had invested years in pursuing engineering education. They



urged the Congress leadership to clarify its stand on the issue and demanded that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi ensure an immediate apology for the Chief Minister's reported remarks.

The BRS leaders stated that engineering graduates have played a crucial role in the state's development, particularly in sectors such as information technology, manufacturing, and infrastructure, and

innovation. They said any remarks perceived as belittling the engineering community were unacceptable and should be withdrawn. They further alleged that the comments reflected an

insensitive attitude towards students and young professionals, and urged the Chief Minister to acknowledge the contribution of engineers to Telangana's growth instead of making state-

ments that could undermine their morale. Among those who addressed or participated in the press conference were Chirumalla Rakesh Kumar, Gellu Srinivas Yadav, Enugula Rakesh Reddy, Putta Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Dinesh Chowdary, Kishore Goud, Harish Reddy, Patimidi Jagan Mohan Rao, Y. Satish Reddy, Ravi Naik, Raghuram, Totla Swami Yadav, Padala Satish, Karthik Rayala, Chatari Dasharath, and Jangayya, along with several engineering graduates and party workers. At the time of filing this report, there was no immediate response from the Chief Minister's Office or the Congress party regarding the allegations and the demand for an apology. The statements made at the press conference represent the views of the BRS leaders.

Nirmala Jagga Reddy Joins Bonalu Festivities



Sangareddy, August 03 | TPN Bureau

District Congress Committee (DCC) President Nirmala Jagga Reddy participated in Bonalu celebrations at various locations across the Sangareddy Assembly constituency on Monday, joining devotees in offering prayers during the auspicious Ashada Masam festivities. Her first visit was to Atmakur village in Sadashivpet Mandal, where she took part in the Bonalu celebrations organized at the temples of Goddess Durgamma and Goddess Pochamma. Nirmala Jagga Reddy offered the traditional Bonam to the deities and prayed for the well-being, prosperity, and happiness of the people. Village Sarpanch Brahma Chari and several local leaders accompanied her during the celebrations. Later, the DCC President attended the Bonalu festivities at the Durgamma Temple in Sadashivpet town. She interacted with devotees and extended festive greetings, expressing hope that the blessings of the Goddess would bring

peace and prosperity to every household. MRF Workers' Union leader Shekhar and local Congress leaders participated in the programme. Continuing her tour, Nirmala Jagga Reddy visited Sanjeeva Nagar Colony in Sangareddy town, where she participated in the Pochamma Bonalu celebrations. She offered special prayers at the temple, seeking the Goddess's blessings for the welfare of the people and the continued progress of the region. Congress leader Madhu, colony representatives, and local residents joined the celebrations, making the event a vibrant display of faith and tradition. Bonalu, one of Telangana's most cherished festivals, is celebrated with great devotion during the Ashada month. Devotees offer Bonam to village deities as a mark of gratitude and seek divine blessings for health, prosperity, and protection. The celebrations across Sangareddy witnessed enthusiastic participation from women, youth, and community leaders, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and spiritual traditions of Telangana.

Indira Shobhan Hits Back at KTR Over Remarks on CM



Hyderabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Senior Congress leader Indira Shobhan on Monday strongly criticized BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) over his remarks against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, asserting that the Chief Minister had earned the people's trust through repeated electoral victories and had every moral right to lead the state. Addressing the media, Indira Shobhan said that in a democracy, the people's verdict is the highest test of leadership. She stated that Revanth Reddy had successfully progressed through various public offices from ZPTC member to MLC, MLA, MP, and now Chief Minister through electoral support, unlike leaders who inherited political positions. She accused the BRS leadership of adopting an elitist mindset by placing undue emphasis on academic qualifications while ignoring public service. According to her, true leadership is measured by commitment to the people rather than educational degrees or foreign qualifications. The Congress leader claimed that the present government had filled nearly one lakh government vacancies in two and a half years through a transparent recruitment process, contrasting it with the previous BRS government's record. She also alleged that the TSPSC paper leak during the BRS regime had adversely affected lakhs of unemployed youth. Referring to the concerns raised over engineers, Indira Shobhan questioned KTR about the dismissal of 709 Mission Bhagiratha employees in 2020, alleging that the incident reflected the BRS government's attitude towards engineering professionals. She further accused KTR of misrepresenting the Chief Minister's comments on skill development and education for political gain. Warning the BRS leader against making what she termed irresponsible remarks, Indira Shobhan said those who had failed unemployed youth during their tenure had no moral authority to criticize the present government. At the time of filing this report, the BRS had not issued an immediate response to the Congress leader's latest remarks.

Adivasis Seek Development Works for Village



Adilabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Adivasi representatives and village elders from Mandaboguda Gram Panchayat in Boath Mandal met former MP, former MLA, and Raj Gond Seva Samithi State President Soyam Bapurao on Monday, urging him to help resolve long-pending infrastructure issues in the village. The delegation submitted a representation highlighting the need for basic civic amenities, including the construction of a Gram Panchayat building, an Anganwadi centre, a community hall, and a Dandari shed. They also emphasized the urgent need to improve road connectivity, stating that inadequate infrastructure has been causing hardships for the residents. The villagers further appealed for the sanction of houses to eligible beneficiaries under the Telangana government's Indiramma Housing Scheme, saying that many deserving families were still awaiting permanent housing. Responding to the representation, Soyam Bapurao assured the villagers that he would extend all possible support in addressing their concerns. He immediately contacted the concerned government officials over the phone and instructed them to prepare the required proposals for the development works. He also assured the delegation that he would personally visit Mandaboguda in the near future to review the issues on the ground and pursue their resolution with the authorities. Speaking on the occasion, Bapurao emphasized the importance of providing essential infrastructure and welfare facilities to tribal villages to improve the quality of life and ensure balanced rural development. The meeting was attended by Congress Party District Official Spokesperson Pasula Chanti, Andur Sarpanch Pendur Pruthviraj, Nakkalavada Sarpanch Adapa Navcen Kumar, ST Cell Boath Mandal President Umesh Jadhav, Chauhan Devidas, Lakshman, Jalapathi, former DCCB Bank Chairman Addi Bhoja Reddy, and several village elders, who reiterated the need for early action on the pending developmental works.

CPM Warns of Agitation Over Alleged Industrial Pollution

Medak, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) Medak District Secretary K. Narsamma on Monday alleged that pollution from the MS Agarwal industry in Rangayipalli village of Manoharabad Mandal has been causing severe hardships for local residents and warned that the party would launch a large-scale agitation if immediate action is not taken. Speaking to the media, Narsamma claimed that despite repeated representations to district officials regarding the alleged pollution, no effective measures had been taken. She urged the authorities to intervene immediately and alleged that the industry, which has been operating since 2006, has adversely affected the health and livelihood of villagers. According to the CPM leader, the plant has undergone three expansions over the years, and residents have raised concerns

about groundwater contamination, black dust emissions, and air pollution. She alleged that villagers were suffering from skin ailments, rashes, and other health problems due to the environmental impact of the industry. Narsamma also claimed that the movement of heavy vehicles associated with the factory was causing traffic congestion and inconvenience to the public. She demanded that the management abandon its plans for further expansion, alleging that any increase in production would worsen pollution levels in the area. Referring to the public hearing conducted by district authorities, she said villagers had opposed the proposed expansion and urged the government to respect the views expressed by local residents. She alleged that the concerns of the affected communities had not been adequately addressed. The CPM leader warned that the party would intensify its



agitation in phases until the government initiated action against the industry. She said the protests would continue alongside the villagers until measures were taken to address the alleged environmental pollution and public health concerns.

During the Praja Vani programme on Monday, CPM leaders submitted a memorandum to district officials outlining the villagers' grievances and demanding immediate intervention. CPM District Secretariat member A. Malleshham, District Committee member Santosh,

leader Ajay, and other party representatives participated in the programme. At the time of filing this report, there was no immediate response from the MS Agarwal management or the district administration regarding the allegations.

Two Bangladeshi Nationals Among Three Arrested in Burglary Case



Adilabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Adilabad police have solved the recent burglary at the residence of Congress leader Kandi Srinivas Reddy, arresting three accused, including two Bangladeshi

nationals who were allegedly staying in India illegally, officials said on Monday. According to District Superintendent of Police Akhil, the burglary, which occurred three days ago, was treated as a priority case. Special police teams were constituted to investigate the incident,

leading to the arrest of Mohammad Jauni Ali and Ruman Ali, both Bangladeshi nationals, along with Tarun Singh, a resident of Madhya Pradesh. The SP said the accused were allegedly involved in a series of burglary cases across multiple states. During the investi-

gation, police recovered the entire stolen property linked to the Adilabad burglary as well as theft cases registered in Maharashtra. Police further alleged that the two Bangladeshi nationals had entered India illegally and later obtained Aadhaar cards before engaging in criminal activities in different parts of the country. Authorities are investigating the circumstances under which the identity documents were obtained and whether the accused were linked to other criminal networks. The SP said further investigation is underway to identify additional offences allegedly committed by the accused and to verify their movements across states. Advising citizens to strengthen home security, the SP urged residents to install CCTV cameras and take preventive measures to safeguard their properties. He noted that surveillance footage often plays a crucial role in identifying suspects and expediting investigations. Police said the accused have been taken into custody and legal proceedings are being initiated in accordance with the law. Further details are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses.

Former MLA Methuku Anand Highlights Infrastructure Gaps at Junior College

Vikarabad, August 03 | TPN Bureau

Former Vikarabad MLA Dr. Methuku Anand on Monday visited the Government Junior College in Vikarabad to assess the problems faced by students and urged the authorities to take immediate steps to improve the institution's infrastructure and learning environment. During his visit, Dr. Anand interacted with students, who outlined several challenges affecting their education. After hearing their grievances, he expressed concern over the condition of the college and called for urgent intervention by the authorities. "It is deeply distressing to see such negligence towards the future of students. Local MLA Gaddam Prasad should visit the college immediately and ensure that these issues are resolved without delay," he said. Dr. Anand also said he had brought the matter to the notice of the District Collector, requesting prompt action to address the deficiencies. According to the students, the college is facing multiple infrastructure-related problems, including an inadequate number of toilets and classrooms. They alleged that students from two different groups are being accommodated in the same classroom due to a shortage of teaching space, while some students are



forced to sit on staircases during classes because of overcrowding. The former MLA further alleged that the construction of 10 additional classrooms, for which ₹1 crore had reportedly been sanctioned during his tenure, had been halted, resulting in continued inconvenience for students. Dr. Anand emphasized that providing quality education and ensuring basic

facilities in government educational institutions is the responsibility of the government. He alleged that the lack of essential infrastructure reflected administrative neglect and urged the authorities to resume the pending construction works at the earliest. Calling for immediate corrective measures, he appealed to the government not to compromise on the future of

students and to ensure that the college is equipped with adequate classrooms, sanitation facilities, and other essential infrastructure to provide a better learning environment. At the time of filing this report, there was no immediate response from the district administration or the local MLA regarding the issues raised during the visit.

BRS Leaders Urge Early Completion of Project

Baltimore (USA), August 03 | TPN Bureau

Senior Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) leaders participating in the Palamuru Development Forum meeting in Baltimore, USA, on Monday called for the early completion of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project, urging the Telangana government to treat it as a top priority for the region's development. Addressing members of the Telugu diaspora, former Minister V. Srinivas Goud said Palamuru (Mahabubnagar) has historically suffered from inadequate drinking water, limited irrigation, and backwardness in education, employment, and agriculture despite the presence of major rivers nearby. He said the district's progress should rise above political differences and appealed for party-based cooperation to accelerate development. Srinivas Goud noted that the Palamuru Development Forum, established nearly two decades ago, has played a commendable role in connecting the dis-

trict's diaspora with its development initiatives. He praised the contributions of NRIs, many of whom hail from farming families and have achieved success abroad through hard work. Highlighting developmental works undertaken during the previous BRS government, he said improvements in schools, drinking water supply, electricity, and the establishment of a medical college had transformed the district. He demanded that the Congress government complete the remaining works on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project, which he said could provide irrigation to an additional five to six lakh acres. He also urged the state government to intervene against what he described as illegal upstream projects in Karnataka, alleging that they could affect Telangana's water availability. Former Minister Dr. C. Lakshma Reddy appealed for united efforts beyond political affiliations to ensure Palamuru's development. He recalled that the project had faced legal hurdles in the past and said its timely completion would have significantly benefited farmers. He

also requested a special interaction with nearly 5,000 NRIs from Palamuru settled in the United States to gather suggestions for the district's future development.



Former Narayanpet MLA Rajender Reddy called upon the forum to support students from Palamuru pursuing higher education in the United States and assured continued cooperation with the forum's activities. BRS leaders also participated in a felicitation programme organised by the Palamuru Development Forum, which highlighted its two decades of service towards the district's development.

Editorial

A Political Gift or a Calculated Strategy?

The outcome of the Bankipur Assembly by-election in Bihar has triggered an interesting political debate. A question is now being raised in political circles: Was the Bankipur seat a political gift from the BJP to Prashant Kishor? While there is no concrete evidence to support such a claim, the developments surrounding the bypoll have certainly fueled speculation.

Bankipur has traditionally been regarded as a stronghold of the BJP. The party's current Bihar president, Nitin Nabin, had represented this constituency continuously, making it one of the safest seats for the BJP. Against this backdrop, Prashant Kishor's decision to contest the bypoll came as a surprise to many political observers.

Interestingly, Prashant Kishor did not contest the previous Bihar Assembly elections, even though his party had fielded candidates across the state. His sudden decision to enter the electoral fray through the Bankipur bypoll immediately after the election notification has naturally raised several questions. What gave him the confidence to choose a constituency that has long been identified with the BJP? Was it merely political optimism, or was there a deeper electoral calculation behind the move?

These questions have led to speculation about the possibility of an understanding between the BJP and Prashant Kishor. Some political analysts believe there could have been a strategic arrangement in which the BJP adopted a less aggressive approach in Bankipur, expecting political benefits in return during future electoral battles. Such an understanding, if it existed, could be aimed at weakening the opposition rather than strengthening either side individually.

However, politics often thrives on perception as much as reality. Until credible evidence emerges, any suggestion of a secret pact remains speculative. Nevertheless, the Bankipur bypoll has undoubtedly added a new dimension to Bihar's political landscape, leaving voters and observers eager to see whether future political developments validate these suspicions or prove them unfounded.

Editor

E20 Petrol Transition in India: Know the Facts, Figures, and Consumer Concerns

Ram Kamal



Social Engineer

The recent implementation of E20 petrol, a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% pure petrol—has sparked significant debate across India. As the central government accelerates its nationwide roll-out, consumers and experts alike are raising questions regarding its true benefits, vehicle compatibility, and long-term consequences. A new wave of protest is gathering momentum, threatening to bring unrest back to Delhi. Why rush the implementation now, only to inevitably backtrack and cut a sorry figure? **The Economic Paradox: Macro Gains vs. Micro Losses:**

From a macroeconomic perspective, the shift to E20 offers substantial benefits for the nation. By replacing 20% of standard fuel with domestically produced ethanol, India secures massive forex savings and reduces its heavy reliance on imported crude oil. This bolsters the country's energy security, buffering the economy against global market shocks, wars, and the steady depreciation of the Indian Rupee against the dollar.

However, at the microeconomic level, the everyday consumer currently bears the brunt. NITI Aayog had initially recommended that blended petrol should be sold at a lower price or with a tax differential to benefit the public. Yet, the government has ignored this recommendation. E20 is sold at the same price as pure petrol,

offering zero financial relief to the buyer. Compounding this financial loss is the issue of fuel efficiency: studies indicate that E20 petrol yields 6% to 7% less mileage than pure petrol. Essentially, consumers are paying the same price for a fuel that takes them less distance, resulting in a direct financial loss.

Environmental and Agricultural Realities

Proponents argue that E20 burns cleaner, potentially lowering carbon emissions. However, because vehicles must burn a higher volume of E20 fuel to achieve the same mileage as pure petrol, the net reduction in total carbon emissions remains highly debatable.

On the agricultural front, ethanol production utilizes surplus crops like sugarcane and maize, providing an alternative income stream for farmers without threatening food security. Yet, ethanol production is highly water-intensive; it is estimated that producing just one liter of ethanol requires up to 10,000 liters of water. The extensive use of fertilizers for these crops poses additional environmental concerns that have yet to be thoroughly addressed.

The Compatibility Crisis and Engine Health

A major point of contention is vehicle compatibility. While vehicles manufactured in India from 2023 onwards are officially E20



compliant, older vehicles are not. Shockingly, it is estimated that only about 20% of petrol vehicles manufactured in the last 15 years are fully designed to handle E20 fuel.

Because ethanol is a hygroscopic substance, meaning it naturally attracts moisture. If we leave E20 fuel idle can lead to water accumulation and severe internal corrosion. This moisture threatens vital engine components, including fuel lines, gaskets, O-rings, injectors, fuel pumps, and elastomers. The long-term damage this could inflict on non-compliant vehicles remains a massive worry for vehicle owners.

A Rushed Rollout?

Globally, transitioning to higher ethanol blends has been a slow, methodical process. Brazil took roughly 50 years to successfully

transition to its current E30 standard. Similarly, the United States provided a 25-to-50-year transition window, allowing older vehicles the choice to continue using pure petrol while newer ones adapted to E15. In stark contrast, India is attempting to mandate this shift in a matter of months, abruptly stripping consumers of their choice.

The Way Forward

To prevent widespread public backlash and protect consumer investments, the central government must take corrective steps: Provide Consumer Choice: Petrol stations should feature dedicated pumps for both pure petrol and E20, allowing owners of older vehicles to safely refuel. After all prices is same.

Price Adjustments

E20 must be sold at a discount-

ed rate to offset the guaranteed loss in mileage. Now to compensate the 6 to 7% loss per liter, consumer have to buy more Liters for their travel.

Manufacturer Assurances

The government must coordinate with automakers and insurance companies to guarantee warranties and engine protection against ethanol-induced corrosion.

Subsidized Spares

If corrosion occurs due to the government's policy shift, affected spare parts should be offered at discounted rates. Ultimately, clear communication and a longer transition window are essential. Without providing citizens with choices and transparent re-assurances, the E20 mandate risks becoming yet another well-intentioned policy marred by rushed implementation.

1/70 Act Under Threat: Adivasi Identity and Rights at a Crossroads

Vaba Yogi



National Convener, Adivasi Welfare Parishad 8333935666

The growing uncertainty surrounding the Tribal Land Protection Act 1/70 has reignited a critical debate on the survival, dignity, and constitutional rights of Adivasi communities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. At stake is not merely a piece of legislation, but the very foundation of Adivasi identity—land, forest, and autonomy—hard fought through decades of resistance and sacrifice.

Historically, Adivasis have endured immense hardship to protect their lands. From the uprisings in Naxalbari and Srikakulam to struggles across the Godavari valley and Danakaranya, their resistance has been rooted in survival. The martyrdom of Koranna and Mangana during the Srikakulam armed tribal-peasant struggle (1968–70) forced the then united Andhra Pradesh government to enact the Land Transfer Regulation Act 1/70, aimed at preventing the transfer of tribal lands to non-tribals. This law was a recognition of systemic injustice and an attempt to restore balance.

However, decades later, the reality is starkly different. Poor implementation of the 1/70 Act has resulted in large-scale alienation of tribal lands. Government data suggests that nearly 49.5% of Adivasi land is no longer in their possession. In districts like the erstwhile East and West Godavari, significant tracts of tribal land remain under the control of non-tribal communities such as Kamma, Kapu, and Reddy groups, forcing Adivasis into agricultural labour on lands they once owned. The crisis has deepened with

over 1,600 non-tribals approaching the Supreme Court seeking repeal of the 1/70 Act. The Court has admitted the petitions and issued notices to both Telugu states, placing the future of tribal land protections in a precarious position. This situation demands urgent intervention. Governments must act decisively and file implead petitions, lest history repeat itself—as seen when G.O. No. 3, which mandated 100% reservation for Adivasis in Agency area employment, was struck down due to administrative inaction.

Adding to the concern is the inadequate implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. While the Act provides for individual land titles up to 10 acres, its execution has been largely symbolic. Adivasis, who traditionally practice Podu cultivation, are increasingly facing restrictions under the 2025 forest regulations. Forest officials have been granted sweeping powers, often resulting in harassment and even physical assaults, as witnessed in Manubothula Gudem in Ashwapuram mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district.

Simultaneously, there are growing allegations of forest lands being diverted for commercial purposes, including tourism projects and mining ventures. The push to allocate these lands to domestic and multinational corporations for mineral extraction reflects a troubling trend where the State appears to act as a facilitator for private interests. This not only threatens Adivasi livelihoods but also risks irreversible ecological damage.

Large-scale projects have further compounded displace-



ment. The Polavaram project alone has uprooted 300 Adivasi villages, disrupting their cultural and social fabric. Similarly, proposals like the pumped-storage hydro project under G.O. No. 51 dated May 30, 2025, in Alluri Sitarama Raju and Manyam (Parvathipuram) districts triggered massive protests, forcing the government to temporarily withdraw. Such developments highlight the tension between development and displacement, where Adivasis are often the worst affected.

Mining interests in the Eastern Ghats—rich in bauxite deposits spread across 20,000 acres—have also been a flashpoint. Past attempts, including those linked to the Jindal company in S. Kota, to amend protections under the 1/70 Act and

the Fifth Schedule were met with strong resistance. These forests are not just mineral reserves but ecological lifelines, sustaining rivers and supporting agriculture in downstream regions.

Policy decisions like the cancellation of G.O. No. 3, weakening of the PESA Act, and proposals for eco-sensitive and wildlife zones—though well-intentioned—have often led to displacement without adequate safeguards. Relocating Adivasis from forests to plains in the name of conservation or development undermines their way of life and threatens their cultural continuity.

The unfinished recommendations of the Dilip Singh Bhuria Commission, which proposed inclusion of 805 villages into Scheduled Areas, remain

pending without Presidential approval. This administrative delay further excludes many Adivasi communities from legal protections.

Statements by political leaders such as Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, advocating amendments to the 1/70 Act, have intensified concerns among tribal communities. Such moves, if pursued without broad consultation, risk igniting widespread unrest.

The broader context of globalization, liberalization, and privatization has only heightened these vulnerabilities. As corporate interests expand into resource-rich tribal regions, the balance between development and justice becomes increasingly fragile.

The need of the hour is clear. Governments must reaffirm

their commitment to constitutional safeguards under the Fifth Schedule, ensure strict enforcement of the 1/70 Act, and implement the Forest Rights Act in both letter and spirit. Transparent dialogue, legal protection, and community participation are essential to prevent further marginalization.

Safeguarding Adivasi land, water, and forest resources is not just a policy issue—it is a moral imperative. The protection of the 1/70 Act is central to preserving the identity and existence of Adivasi communities.

Failure to act decisively will not only erode trust but may also trigger large-scale movements. The time to act is now—before irreversible damage is done.



Foster Care Idea Finds Wider Acceptance
The Opinion article "Be The Change: Bring Change Through Foster Care" by BVS Kumar, published in True Point on August 1, 2026, has struck a chord with readers by highlighting foster care as a compassionate alternative to adoption. The write-up emphasised that thousands of children in care institutions could benefit from family-based support systems, a concern echoed in national child welfare discussions. Advocate D S Reddy appreciated the detailed explanation of legal procedures and the role of CARA, while underscoring India's strong family system, in which parents play a foundational role in shaping responsible citizens. He noted that while adoption remains a preferred choice, foster care offers a practical and humane pathway, especially given procedural delays in formal adoption. Other readers too welcomed the perspective. Thota Kumar termed it a "nice article," while PVR Kamaluddin described it as "excellent," reflecting genuine appreciation. The feedback collectively indicates a growing awareness about foster care as a meaningful solution—one that not only provides abandoned children with a nurturing environment but also strengthens society's shared responsibility towards their future.

- True Point Team

Higher Appeal Limits Cut Tax Disputes by ₹16,690 Crore

The Union government's decision to increase the monetary thresholds for filing departmental appeals in income tax cases has significantly reduced disputed tax demands by an estimated 16,690 crore, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed Parliament. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Nirmala Sitharaman said the revised monetary limits for filing appeals before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), High Courts and the Supreme Court have resulted in a substantial decline in litigation involving tax disputes. The revised limits came into effect from September 17, 2024, with the objective of reducing unnecessary legal proceedings and allowing tax authorities to focus on cases involving higher revenue.

According to the Finance Minister, the Income Tax Department withdrew 443 cases and decided not to file appeals in 11,390 cases before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal after the revised thresholds were introduced. As a result, the estimated reduction in disputed tax demand at the tribunal level stood at 3,662.82 crore. At the High Court level, the government withdrew 4,791 cases and did not file appeals in another 5,565 cases. These decisions led to an estimated reduction of 9,218.71 crore in disputed tax demand, making it the largest share of the overall reduction achieved through the revised policy. The Finance Minister further informed the Lok Sabha that before the Supreme Court, 744 cases were withdrawn while appeals were not filed in 534 cases. This resulted in an estimated reduction of 3,807.15 crore in disputed tax demand. Combining the figures from all three judicial forums, the total estimated reduction in disputed tax demand reached 16,690 crore. The government believes that the higher monetary thresholds have helped reduce the burden of tax litigation while enabling the judiciary and tax administration to concentrate on cases involving significant financial implications. The revised appeal policy is part of the government's broader effort to simplify the tax administration system, improve the ease of doing business and minimise prolonged legal disputes. By limiting appeals in cases involving relatively smaller tax demands, the Centre aims to ensure faster resolution of tax matters and more efficient use of administrative and judicial resources. The Finance Ministry has maintained that reducing unnecessary litigation remains a key priority in creating a transparent, taxpayer-friendly and efficient tax administration framework.



Abhijeet Dipke Challenges PM Narendra Modi to Reveal Degree Amid Education Funding Row

Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke has responded strongly to questions about the funding of his higher education abroad, stating that his studies were supported through a scholarship and an education loan. He also challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to publicly produce his educational degree, saying he would disclose his own scholarship and loan documents if the Prime Minister did the same. The remarks came after Surat-based RTI activist Amit Tiwari sought an inquiry into the finances of Dipke's father, Bhagwan Dipke, a retired government employee. The activist questioned how Abhijeet Dipke was able to pursue higher education overseas and called for an investigation into the family's financial resources. Reacting through a video posted on X, Dipke dismissed the allegations and defended the legitimacy of his education. Speaking in Hindi, he said he was fully prepared to reveal his scholarship letter, education loan documents and other relevant records. However, he asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would also make his degree certificate public. Dipke said he had nothing to hide and challenged the government to conduct any investigation it considered necessary. He alleged that whenever individuals raise their voice against the



government, central investigative agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are used to target them. He stated that if the government decided to investigate him, it should also make the Prime Minister's educational qualifications public. He further said he did not understand why some people questioned the ability of a student from an ordinary family to study at a reputed international university. According to Dipke, educational achievement should be encouraged rather than viewed with suspicion. Abhijeet Dipke earned a Master of Science degree in Public Relations from the College of Communication at Boston University. He returned to India in June and subsequently led a nationwide campaign against the NEET-UG paper leak. Under the banner of the Cockroach Janata Party, the movement brought together students and youth from different parts of the country to demand reforms in the examination system and the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister. The protest continued in Delhi for 36 days and concluded with the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan, making the agitation one of the most prominent student-led movements in recent months.



President Murmu Begins Three-Day Odisha Visit

President Droupadi Murmu began a three-day visit to Odisha on Monday, during which she will participate in a series of educational, cultural and religious programmes across Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Ganjam district. The visit includes the inauguration of a university, temple visits and interactions with students and the public.

President Murmu arrived at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar on Monday afternoon and received a warm welcome from Odisha Governor Haribabu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other senior officials. Elaborate security arrangements were made at the airport and along the routes of her visit to ensure the smooth conduct of the



programme. On the first day of her visit, the President is scheduled to travel to Cuttack to inaugurate Jagadguru Kripalu University. The inauguration marks the formal opening of the new educational institution, which is expected to contribute to higher education and academic development in the state. The event will be attended by government representatives, educationists and other distinguished guests. The second day of the visit will feature a train journey from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur, highlighting the President's planned engagements in southern Odisha. After reaching Berhampur, President Murmu will visit the Maa Kandhuni Devi Temple and the Shiva Temple at Taptapani in Ganjam district, where she is scheduled to offer prayers. In addition to the religious visits, the President's itinerary includes participation in educational and cultural programmes aimed at encouraging academic excellence and preserving Odisha's rich cultural heritage. Officials said the visit reflects the importance attached to promoting education, culture and public engagement across different regions of the state. President Murmu, who hails from Rairangpur in Odisha, regularly visits her home state to attend

official functions and interact with people. Her visits are often marked by programmes that focus on education, social development and cultural preservation while providing opportunities to connect with citizens from different sections of society. The three-day tour is expected to conclude after the President completes her scheduled engagements across the four locations. State authorities have made extensive arrangements for the visit, with security personnel and administrative officials coordinating closely to ensure the successful conduct of all events. The visit is being seen as another important occasion highlighting the President's continued engagement with her home state and its developmental and cultural initiatives.

Parliamentary Panel Backs Corporate Law Reforms

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has recommended the adoption of the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, with several clause-wise changes aimed at simplifying business regulations, strengthening corporate governance and improving India's regulatory framework. The committee submitted its report in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha after extensive consultations with government departments, regulators, industry representatives, legal experts and professional bodies.

The proposed legislation seeks to amend the Companies Act, 2013, and the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act, 2008. According to the committee, the reforms are intended to reduce compliance burdens for businesses while ensuring greater transparency, investor protection and effective regulatory oversight. The recommendations are part of the government's broader effort to modernise corporate laws and make India a more business-friendly destination.



The committee, chaired by BJP MP Sudheer Gupta, stated that the proposed amendments strike a balance between simplifying legal procedures and maintaining necessary safeguards for companies and investors. It observed that the reforms would help businesses operate more efficiently while preserving accountability and corporate responsibility.

One of the major recommendations is the further decriminalisation of procedural and technical defaults under corporate law. Instead of criminal prosecution for certain violations, the Bill proposes civil penalties, a move expected to reduce litigation and improve the ease of doing business. The committee believes this approach will allow regulatory authorities to focus on more serious offences while encouraging voluntary compliance among businesses.

The Bill also proposes changes to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework by introducing relaxations for companies in specific areas. In addition, it seeks to strengthen

the role of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) in ensuring higher standards of financial reporting, transparency and corporate accountability.

Another important provision in the proposed legislation is the introduction of a legal framework that would allow specified trusts to convert into Limited Liability Partnerships. According to the committee, this measure is expected to provide greater operational flexibility while supporting the growth of organisations seeking a more efficient business structure.

The parliamentary panel concluded that the proposed reforms align India's corporate legal framework with international best practices while supporting economic growth and investment. It expressed confidence that the amendments would reduce procedural hurdles, improve regulatory efficiency and create a more transparent and competitive business environment, benefiting both companies and investors in the long term.

The recently concluded Assembly by-elections produced mixed results for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which retained the Manjalpur constituency in Gujarat but lost the Datia seat in Madhya Pradesh. Meanwhile, Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor secured a landmark victory in Bihar's Bankipur Assembly constituency, ending the BJP's long-standing dominance in the seat. Bankipur, formerly known as Patna West, had been a BJP stronghold since 1995 and was considered one of the party's safest constituencies in Bihar. Prashant Kishor's victory marks a significant political breakthrough for the Jan Suraj Party and is being viewed as an important development in the state's political landscape. Supporters of the party celebrated the result, describing it as a mandate for political change and an endorsement of the party's campaign.

In Gujarat, the BJP managed to retain the Manjalpur Assembly seat in Vadodra district. Party candidate Satish Govindbhai Patel defeated Congress candidate and former minister Bhikhabhai Rabari by a margin of 30,630 votes. According to the Election Commission, Patel secured 55,481 votes, while Rabari received 24,851 votes after the completion of all 20 rounds of counting.

Although the BJP retained the constituency comfortably,



Mohan Bhagwat to Address Youth Conference

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat will interact with members of Generation Z and Generation Alpha during a special session organised by the International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) as part of its 15th anniversary celebrations. The event will be held at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) and will mark the inauguration of IIMUN's Annual Championship Conference.

The conference is expected to bring together more than 2,000 students between the ages of 15 and 19 from over 100 cities across the country. Participants representing schools and colleges will take part in discussions and debates on a wide range of national and international issues. Organisers describe the gathering as one of India's largest youth-led conferences focused on leadership, civic engagement and public affairs.

Rishabh Shah, Founder of IIMUN, said the event aims to encourage meaningful interaction between experienced leaders and young people. He said leadership is not only about guiding the next generation but also about listening to its ideas and aspirations. According to him, such dialogue is especially important at a significant stage in India's development, and he expressed gratitude to Mohan Bhagwat for accepting the invitation to address the gathering.

The inaugural session will revolve around the theme, "The Role of Youth in Uniting the World, the Indian Way." Organisers said the conference will provide students with an opportunity to discuss public policy, diplomacy, governance and global challenges while developing leadership and communication skills.

Every year, IIMUN conducts 108 conferences along with thousands of civic engagement programmes and community initiatives led by young volunteers aged between 15 and 24 years. These programmes are designed for students aged 11 to 19 and seek to encourage active participation in social and public issues.

Founded in 2011 by Rishabh Shah, IIMUN has grown into a global youth platform promoting leadership, public affairs and the idea of Bharat. Over the past 15 years, many of its former participants and organisers have gone on to become elected representatives, civil servants, lawyers, authors, actors and business leaders.

The organisation's Advisory Board includes leaders from diverse fields such as Ajay Piramal, Deepak Parekh, Nadir Godrej, Shashi Tharoor, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Karan Johar, former Chiefs of the Armed Forces and P.T. Usha. According to the organisation, its programmes now extend across 275 cities in India and 40 countries, reaching more than 7.5 crore young people through partnerships with over 1.5 lakh schools and colleges.

Prashant Kishor Wins Bankipur Seat as BJP Retains Gujarat

its victory margin was significantly lower than in the 2022 Assembly elections, when the party had won the seat by more than one lakh votes. Following his victory, Satish Govindbhai Patel thanked the voters for continuing to place their trust in the BJP and credited the result to the party's development agenda and public support.

Bhikhabhai Rabari, however, alleged that government machinery had been misused during the election process, claiming it had influenced the outcome in favour of the ruling party. The BJP rejected the allegations and maintained that the victory reflected the confidence of the electorate.

In Madhya Pradesh, the Congress succeeded in wresting the Datia Assembly seat from the BJP, adding to the significance of the bypoll results. The outcome is expected to boost the morale of the Congress while raising fresh political questions for the BJP in states where it has traditionally enjoyed strong support. Overall, the bypoll results highlighted varying electoral trends across different states. While the BJP retained its hold in Gujarat, the victories of the Congress in Datia and Prashant Kishor in Bankipur indicated changing political dynamics and signalled that regional contests continue to play an important role in shaping India's political landscape.

Iran Raises Pressure Over Hormuz to Strengthen Negotiating Position

Iran is pursuing a strategy aimed at increasing pressure on the United States by raising the economic and security costs of the ongoing conflict rather than seeking a direct military victory. According to Gulf officials and international analysts, Tehran believes that prolonged disruption to global trade and energy routes could eventually force Washington to accept Iran's demands over the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The conflict between the United States and Iran has continued for six months after military strikes launched in February. While diplomatic efforts have taken place intermittently, both sides remain far apart on key issues, particularly the future control and administration of



the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil shipping routes. Analysts say Iran is following a strategy of calibrated escalation by gradually expanding pressure without triggering a full-scale

regional war. Michael Knights of the Washington Institute said Iran has consistently introduced new methods of escalation, including different targets, weapons and geographic areas, to maintain

pressure. He noted that Iran's biggest advantage lies in its ability to disrupt regional stability and the global economy rather than directly defeating the United States or Israel. Iran has also signalled that disruptions could extend beyond the Strait of Hormuz to other important maritime routes, including the Red Sea, while Saudi Arabia's energy infrastructure remains a potential concern. Gulf sources believe Iranian leaders expect President Donald Trump to avoid a prolonged Middle East conflict and eventually agree to negotiations under terms more favourable to Tehran. Although Trump recently announced that talks with Iran would resume, Tehran denied that any negotiations are cur-

rently taking place. A senior Iranian source indicated that Tehran believes previous concessions only resulted in greater pressure from Washington and that stronger leverage is necessary before meaningful negotiations can begin. Michael Singh of the Washington Institute said Iran believes it still holds the initiative, while former US diplomat Alan Eyre said Tehran's objective is to deter further military strikes and end economic restrictions. As both countries continue to match each other's actions, experts warn that the prolonged confrontation carries the risk of escalating into a wider regional conflict with significant consequences for global trade and energy markets.



Maryland Governor Praises Telugu Community's Contribution

Maryland Governor Wes Moore has praised the Telugu community for its significant contribution to the state's growth, describing it as a driving force behind Maryland's success in technology, healthcare, business and education. Speaking at the valedictory session of the 19th American Telugu Association (ATA) conference in Baltimore, Governor Moore acknowledged the achievements of Telugu professionals and entrepreneurs, saying their dedication and innovation have played a key role in strengthening Maryland's economy and global reputation. The three-day conference attracted thousands of Telugu community members from across the United States.

litical history and reflected its growing diversity and inclusiveness. The conference also featured Virginia Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi, another Hyderabad-born leader who moved to the United States with her family at the age of four. Addressing the gathering, she highlighted the achievements of the Indian-American community and encouraged greater participation in public service and leadership.

"The Telugu community is at the forefront of Maryland's strength as a technology, medical, business and academic powerhouse," Moore said while addressing the gathering. He noted that the community's contributions have helped shape the state's progress across multiple sectors and continue to inspire future generations.

Several prominent leaders from Telangana attended the event, underlining the close ties between the Telugu diaspora and their home state. The delegation included Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy, Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, and MLAs T. Rammohan Reddy, Yennem Srinivas Reddy and Manohar Reddy. Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao also participated in the conference.

Governor Moore also recognised the leadership of Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Katragadda Miller, who was born in Hyderabad before moving to the United States. Moore and Miller created history in the 2022 elections by becoming Maryland's first elected Black Governor and the state's first woman of colour to serve as Lieutenant Governor. Their victory marked a significant milestone in the state's po-

The American Telugu Association conference served as a platform to celebrate Telugu culture, promote networking among professionals, and strengthen cultural and economic ties between India and the United States. Participants also discussed opportunities for collaboration in education, business, healthcare, technology and investment, reflecting the growing influence of the Telugu community in the US and its continuing contribution to strengthening bilateral relations.

Sheikh Hasina Likely to Make First Public Appearance Since Ouster

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to make her first public appearance since being ousted from office nearly two years ago. The 78-year-old leader is scheduled to address an event at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia in New Delhi on Wednesday, where she is expected to speak about the political situation in Bangladesh and her plans to return home. Hasina has been living in India since August 2024 after a student-led uprising forced her government from power. The event, to be held at the Sir Mark Tully Auditorium, will also feature speeches by her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and former Bangladesh Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel.



During recent interviews, Hasina reiterated her determination to return to Bangladesh despite the risks. She acknowledged that she could face arrest, imprisonment or even death upon her return but said she wanted to go back because her supporters were calling for her return.

moved from power in August 2024 following violent student-led protests. An interim administration later dissolved her Awami League party under anti-terrorism legislation. In November 2025, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal sentenced Hasina to death in absentia after convicting her of crimes against humanity linked to the crackdown on the protests. She has consistently rejected the charges, describing them as politically motivated.

Bangladesh Law Minister M. Asaduzzaman recently stated that Hasina would likely be arrested immediately if she returned to the country. He said the government would act in accordance with the law, noting that she would not be allowed to surrender directly before a court before being taken into custody. He also remarked that issues related to her revoked passport would be her responsibility.

Her expected appearance in New Delhi comes as attention remains focused on whether she will proceed with her plans to return to Bangladesh, where she faces legal proceedings and possible immediate arrest. The event is also expected to provide insight into her political future and the next steps for her supporters.

Trump's Iran Strike Pauses Followed by Renewed Military Action

US President Donald Trump's repeated announcements of pausing military strikes against Iran have been followed by renewed attacks, highlighting a pattern that has defined the conflict between Washington and Tehran over the past five months.

On Saturday, Trump announced that the United States would suspend planned strikes to allow fresh negotiations aimed at ending the conflict and reopening shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. However, similar declarations in recent months have repeatedly been followed by renewed military action after diplomatic efforts failed.

The conflict began on February 28 when the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran. Since then, Trump has alternated between issuing strong military threats and announcing temporary pauses in

hostilities, only for fighting to resume days or even hours later. One of the earliest pauses came when Trump announced a two-week ceasefire shortly before a deadline he had set for Iran to comply with US demands. He later extended the ceasefire indefinitely, saying mediators had requested more time for negotiations. However, the truce collapsed after US forces resumed strikes on Iranian tankers.

In another instance, Trump postponed planned attacks after claiming there was a strong possibility of a diplomatic breakthrough. Yet negotiations soon stalled, leading to fresh US military operations. On another occasion, after threatening severe action against Iran's oil and gas infrastructure, Trump reversed course within hours, citing progress in talks. The two countries also signed a preliminary

memorandum of understanding to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz while beginning negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. However, Trump warned that military action could resume if the agreement failed to produce results. More recently, Trump again suspended planned strikes after saying Middle East allies had reached the framework of a possible peace agreement. Iran responded cautiously, stating that it remained fully prepared for any military escalation despite the announcement. The repeated cycle of threats, temporary truces and renewed attacks has created uncertainty in the region, disrupted global energy markets and raised concerns about the prospects for a lasting diplomatic solution to the conflict.

Israel Insists Hamas Must Fully Disarm Before Gaza Withdrawal

Israel has expressed serious security concerns over the proposed Hamas disarmament agreement, insisting that its forces will not withdraw from Gaza until the militant group completely surrenders its weapons. The remarks come days after US President Donald Trump announced a new ceasefire framework aimed at ending the nearly three-year

conflict. Doron Spielman, spokesperson for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, said Israel believes Hamas is using the ceasefire period to rebuild its military capabilities rather than genuinely disarming. He stressed that Israel would not redeploy its troops from Gaza unless Hamas fully relinquishes its weapons. The US-backed agreement



Pakistan Tightens Digital News Curbs Amid PoJK Unrest

Pakistan has reportedly intensified digital censorship by restricting access to several local, regional and international news platforms as unrest continues in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The reported restrictions come amid growing protests, allegations of security crackdowns and increasing public discontent in the region, although Pakistani authorities have not officially confirmed the move.



According to reports, access to several news websites has been blocked, while international broadcaster Al Jazeera English has also become inaccessible in parts of the country. The restrictions are said to target platforms carrying reports on demonstrations, security operations and the evolving political situation in PoJK.

Digital rights groups have expressed concern that the restrictions further limit freedom of expression in Pakistan, where traditional television and print media are already under significant pressure. Reports also indicate that YouTube warned several content creators that their channels could face removal if they failed to comply with court directives. Meanwhile, tensions in PoJK continue to escalate. The Joint Awami Action Committee has released videos that it claims show security personnel assaulting unarmed civilians during protests in Muzaffarabad. The committee also alleged that an individual in civilian clothes fired at demonstrators while standing alongside security forces.

The latest developments follow earlier legal action against online platforms critical of the government. In June, Pakistan's National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency accused several YouTube channels of publishing content it described as provocative and derogatory toward state institutions. Based on the agency's report, a judicial magistrate court in Islamabad sought to block multiple YouTube channels, including those linked to the main opposition party, jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan and journalists known for criticising the government.

According to the Human Rights Council of Pakistan-

occupied Jammu & Kashmir, at least 80 people have died in the ongoing unrest, including civilians and police personnel. The Joint Awami Action Committee has appealed to the United Nations, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other international organisations to conduct an independent investigation into the reported violence. It has also urged the International Committee of the Red Cross to monitor the humanitarian situation and ensure assistance reaches affected civilians.

The developments come after the second phase of PoJK elections witnessed widespread disruptions, protests and logistical failures, raising fresh concerns over the credibility of the electoral process.

Deadly Protests Intensify in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir

Violence continues to escalate in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), where protests led by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) have resulted in more than 100 deaths over the past two months. The demonstrations, initially centred on rising living costs and basic public services, have evolved into a broader movement demanding civil rights and political accountability.



According to reports, at least 50 people have been killed within the past week alone as clashes between protesters and security forces intensified during the ongoing election period. The unrest has spread across several towns, including Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot.

Medical workers on the ground say a large number of the victims are young people. A doctor operating a temporary clinic near a protest site in Rawalakot told the BBC that most of those killed or seriously injured were between the ages of 15 and 35. The clinic has been providing emergency first aid to gunshot victims but lacks the facilities needed to treat severe injuries.

Residents have described the heavy human cost of the protests. A young protester said demonstrators had only demanded affordable flour, lower electricity prices and basic rights, questioning why secu-

rity forces responded with live ammunition. Families of those killed have also spoken of their loss, insisting that the victims were peaceful protesters rather than armed militants.

Former Pakistan Army soldier Ayub, whose son died during the crackdown, criticised the regional administration for calling in paramilitary forces. He said he had lived through previous periods of military

rule but had never witnessed such severe action against civilians. JAAC maintains that the protests stem from inflation, prolonged power shortages, flour scarcity, inadequate healthcare and education, and years of alleged repression. The group also claims that commitments made by the Pakistan and PoJK governments under an agreement reached last October were never implemented. Authorities, however, maintain that JAAC was banned in June and accuse it of attempting to disrupt the electoral process. They have defended security measures and prevented protesters from marching towards Muzaffarabad.

Security analysts say the continuing unrest reflects growing public dissatisfaction in PoJK, while the rising death toll has intensified international attention on the humanitarian and political situation in the region. The White House has stated that Israel was consulted throughout the negotiations and that the agreement reflects commitments already made under the ceasefire reached last October. However, Israeli leaders remain cautious as national elections approach, with political pressure mounting over security issues.

rule but had never witnessed such severe action against civilians.

JAAC maintains that the protests stem from inflation, prolonged power shortages, flour scarcity, inadequate healthcare and education, and years of alleged repression. The group also claims that commitments made by the Pakistan and PoJK governments under an agreement reached last October were never implemented. Authorities, however, maintain that JAAC was banned in June and accuse it of attempting to disrupt the electoral process. They have defended security measures and prevented protesters from marching towards Muzaffarabad.

Security analysts say the continuing unrest reflects growing public dissatisfaction in PoJK, while the rising death toll has intensified international attention on the humanitarian and political situation in the region.

The White House has stated that Israel was consulted throughout the negotiations and that the agreement reflects commitments already made under the ceasefire reached last October. However, Israeli leaders remain cautious as national elections approach, with political pressure mounting over security issues.

map, significant differences remain. Israeli officials have reportedly sought assurances that Hamas' weapons will be destroyed after confiscation and have opposed the involvement of Qatar and Turkey in monitoring the implementation of the agreement. Reports also suggest Israel wants to retain the freedom to conduct military operations in Gaza if

of the war-ravaged territory. A copy of the agreement indicates that weapons held by the Hamas-run police would be transferred to the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, with the destruction of heavy weapons and military infrastructure taking place under international supervision. Despite the proposed road-



Zoho CEO Sridhar Vembu Shares Inspiring Story of Young Employee

Zoho CEO Sridhar Vembu has shared an emotional story about a young employee, challenging common stereotypes associated with Generation Z. His post on social media highlighted the dedication, responsibility and sacrifices made by a 19-year-old employee, drawing widespread appreciation from users online.

In his post, Vembu said he does not believe in judging people based on their age or generation. He noted that after interacting with people from different age groups over the years, he has found that values such as hard work, discipline and responsibility are not limited to any particular generation. Recounting his recent interaction with the employee, Vembu said the young woman told him that her biggest priority in life is to earn money so her parents can repay their loans and support her younger siblings. According to him, she works hard every day with the sole aim of improving her family's financial situation. Vembu further revealed that the employee lives a simple life to save as much money as possible. She buys only inexpensive clothes and even repairs her broken footwear instead of replacing it, ensuring that every



rupee is spent carefully. Moved by her dedication and selflessness, Vembu said he promised to visit her parents personally and tell them how proud they should be of their daughter. The Zoho CEO also shared another example to support his view that many young people value simplicity and financial responsibility. He said two employees, both around 25 years old, recently informed him that they had followed his advice to keep their weddings simple and avoid unnecessary expenses. According to Vembu, these examples show that qualities such as discipline, humility and responsible financial planning continue to exist among today's youth, contrary to the perception that Generation Z lacks commitment or work ethic. His post quickly went viral on social media, attracting nearly 70,000 views and sparking discussions about the challenges faced by

young professionals. Many users praised the employee's determination and appreciated Vembu for recognising her efforts and sharing her story. Some social media users described the incident as an inspiring reminder that many young people quietly shoulder significant family responsibilities. Others appreciated Vembu's leadership style and his willingness to acknowledge employees beyond their workplace performance. However, a few users linked the discussion to broader economic issues, arguing that rising debt and financial pressures have forced many families to depend on the earnings of younger members. Despite differing opinions, Vembu's post resonated with many people, highlighting that dedication, sacrifice and strong family values remain timeless qualities that can be found across every generation.

LinkedIn Post on Chandigarh Resignation Sparks Debate Online

A LinkedIn post by Jatin Gulati, Chief Operating Officer of Praper Media, has sparked a lively online discussion after he shared that one of his employees resigned, describing Chandigarh as "too boring" compared to Delhi. According to Gulati, the employee felt Chandigarh lacked the energy, fast-paced lifestyle and excitement associated with the national capital. While acknowledging that people have different preferences, Gulati said he did not believe the resignation was really about the city itself. Sharing the incident, Gulati said the experience made him observe what he described as a recurring pattern. He noted that some people move to a new place and actively explore its opportunities, while others expect the place to entertain them without making any effort to discover what it has to offer. He added that the same mindset is often seen in workplaces. According to Gulati, some employees remain focused on what they believe is missing, such as better clients,



improved processes or greater opportunities. Others, however, choose to make the best use of the resources and opportunities already available to them. Gulati said that no city, company or career is perfect, and people who succeed are usually those who learn to adapt and make the most of their surroundings. He concluded by saying that he did not think Chandigarh was the real reason behind the employee's resignation, but rather the individual's mindset. The post quickly attracted attention on LinkedIn, with users expressing mixed opinions. While some agreed with Gulati's per-

spective on adaptability and personal growth, others argued that the issue was simply a matter of personal preference. One user commented that the decision was not about mindset but about individual lifestyle choices. Another wrote that every city has something unique to offer if people are willing to explore it. A third user praised Chandigarh, saying the city has its own charm, peaceful environment and opportunities for growth. The discussion has highlighted differing views on work-life preferences, career choices and the role personal outlook plays when adapting to a new city.

Viral X Post on IIT Legacy Triggers Debate on Education and Social Mobility

A viral post on X has sparked a nationwide discussion about whether an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) degree should be viewed as a stepping stone for personal success or as a legacy passed on through generations. The debate began after X user Akash Sampurnanand Panday shared a remark that he said he heard during an IIT alumni gathering.

The post quoted a statement that read, "If you went to IIT, and then your son also had to go to IIT, you have failed." Panday explained that the comment suggested IIT should serve as a launchpad that helps families achieve upward social mobility rather than becoming a tradition that every generation must follow.

According to Panday, IIT graduates often use their education to create better opportunities for their children, who may later study at globally reputed institutions such as Stanford or Harvard instead of pursuing the same path through IITs. He contrasted this with universities like Harvard, where family legacy, alumni networks and inherited prestige often strengthen opportunities across generations. Panday argued that IITs have historically functioned as engines of merit-based social mo-



bility. He said the institutions have enabled talented students from middle-class families to improve their economic and social standing through hard work rather than inherited privilege. Describing IIT as an "escape ladder," he suggested that if the next generation still depends on the same ladder for advancement, the family's social progress may not have been complete. He also remarked that IIT could be one of the few elite institutions where legacy is viewed differently from universities that actively value family connections. The post quickly gained attention and generated mixed reactions from social media users. Many disagreed with the comparison, arguing that India should focus on building world-class universities and cities that future generations would proud-

ly choose instead of viewing foreign institutions as the ultimate destination. Others defended the IIT system, pointing out that admissions are based entirely on merit through the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), unlike some foreign universities where legacy admissions and family influence can play a role. They argued that the absence of legacy-based admissions is one of IITs' greatest strengths. Several users also noted that India has many excellent engineering colleges besides IITs and stressed that educational success should not be measured by a single institution. The discussion ultimately highlighted differing perspectives on education, merit, social mobility and the evolving role of India's premier engineering institutes in shaping future generations.

Little Girl's Friendship Day Surprise Wins Hearts Online

A heartwarming video of a little girl receiving friendship bands from her classmates after a disappointing experience the previous year has touched thousands of people on social media. The video, shared on Instagram by Arun Tomar, has gone viral, reminding viewers about the importance of kindness, friendship and thoughtful gestures.

The post begins with a clip recorded during last year's Friendship Day. In the video, Arun Tomar's daughter tells her father that although she had given friendship bands to all of her friends, no one had given one to her in return. Despite wearing a faint smile, the young girl appeared disappointed by the experience.

Comforting his daughter, Arun told her that not everyone expresses friendship in the same way. He reminded her that she had been eagerly waiting for Friendship Day for several days and encouraged her not to feel disheartened by what had happened.

The little girl then innocently replied that her father al-



ways tells her friends love each other. When he asked whether her friends did not love her, she immediately responded that they did love her but had simply forgotten to give her a friendship band.

The video included a caption explaining that although the child managed to remain calm while speaking to her father, she became emotional and cried after returning home. The touching moment resonated with many viewers who recalled similar childhood experiences of feeling left out.

The video then shifts to this year's Friendship Day, showing a completely different and joyful scene. The little girl excitedly rushes into the room to share happy news with her father. Smiling from ear to ear, she proudly displays her wrists filled with colourful friendship bands gifted by her classmates. She tells her father that even though Friendship Day was scheduled for the following day, all of her friends had already given her friendship bands. She happily reveals that she had not even taken any friend-

ship bands to distribute this time, yet every one of her friends surprised her with one.

As she enthusiastically points to each friendship band, she tells her father which friend had given it to her, reflecting her excitement and appreciation for the thoughtful gesture.

The emotional transformation from disappointment to happiness struck a chord with social media users. Many praised the children's kindness and said the story highlighted the value of empathy and inclusion. Others appreciated the father's supportive approach, noting that his comforting words and encouragement helped his daughter overcome her disappointment.

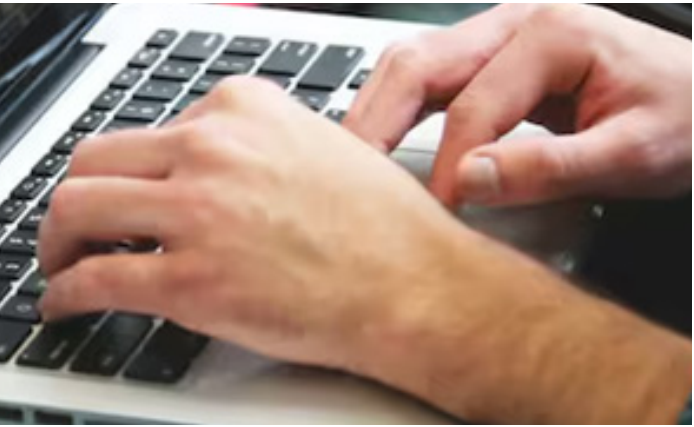
The viral video has become a reminder that small acts of kindness can leave a lasting impact. Many users said the story beautifully captured the innocence of childhood and showed how genuine friendships can heal emotional wounds and create cherished memories.

Pilot Reports Mysterious Disc-Shaped Object Near London Gatwick Airport

A commercial airline pilot reported spotting a mysterious disc-shaped object flying close to a passenger aircraft while approaching London Gatwick Airport, prompting an investigation by the UK Airprox Board, the independent body that examines near-miss incidents involving aircraft.

According to the official safety report, the incident involved an Airbus A319 that was descending and turning left towards the runway when the pilot noticed an unidentified object passing close to the aircraft's right wing. The object was travelling in the opposite direction at the same altitude and was estimated to be between 100 and 300 feet away.

The pilot described the object as resembling a "flying saucer" or an unusual drone. It reportedly had a distinct disc



shape with darker markings around its outer edge. Although the flight crew suspected it could have been a drone, they were unable to determine its exact identity.

The sighting occurred over the Sussex countryside near Hangcross, a village located

around seven miles south of Gatwick Airport. Despite the close proximity of the unidentified object, the pilot did not need to take emergency evasive action because the aircraft was already making a scheduled turn during its approach. No other pilots in the area

reported seeing the object. However, air traffic controllers issued a warning following the incident as part of standard safety procedures.

After reviewing the case, the UK Airprox Board concluded that there was insufficient evidence to identify the nature of the object. The board stated that the reported altitude and description did not allow investigators to determine whether it was a drone or another type of airborne object.

The board also concluded that although the incident reduced safety margins, there was no actual risk of collision. The investigation has highlighted the growing concern over unidentified objects operating near busy airports and the importance of maintaining strict aviation safety standards to protect passengers and crew.



Video Estimating Cost of Raising a Child in India Sparks Online Debate

A social media video estimating the cost of raising a child in India has sparked widespread discussion online. Content creator Vikhyat Singh claimed that parents may spend around 1.39 crore on a child by the time they turn 18, prompting users to debate the financial realities of parenthood.

In the Instagram video, Singh explained that he wanted to calculate the expenses involved in raising a child from pregnancy until adulthood. He said he personally does not want children and decided to estimate the costs parents are likely to incur over 18 years.

According to Singh, pregnancy-related expenses alone could total around 3 lakh, covering doctor consultations, medical tests, medicines, maternity clothing and delivery at a private hospital. He estimated that the first two years of a child's life could cost another 6 lakh, including diapers, baby food, vaccinations and other essential items. Singh identified education as the biggest expense, estimating parents could spend about 33 lakh on

play school, school fees, books, uniforms and educational trips. He also projected expenses of 15 lakh on food, 9 lakh on tuition, 5.4 lakh on healthcare, 9 lakh on entertainment, 7.2 lakh on clothing, 4 lakh on gadgets, 8 lakh on sports and extracurricular activities, 8 lakh on transport and 32.4 lakh on renting a larger home.

Based on these estimates, Singh calculated the total cost at approximately 1.39 crore. He added that the actual figure could exceed 2 crore because his calculation did not include college education, inflation or potential investment returns.

The video quickly went viral, drawing mixed reactions from social media users. While some agreed that raising a child has become increasingly expensive, many argued that financial costs cannot be compared with the emotional rewards of parenthood. Several users commented that the love, happiness and sense of purpose children bring to a family are beyond monetary value, making the investment worthwhile despite rising expenses.

Erling Haaland's Funny Reaction to Cat Lookalike Goes Viral

Manchester City and Norway football star Erling Haaland has won over social media users after reacting with humour to a viral post comparing him to a cat. The playful exchange quickly gained attention, with fans praising the striker for joining in on the joke instead of ignoring it.

The trend began after a picture of a light-furred cat with facial features resembling Haaland started circulating online. Although the image had been partially edited using artificial intelligence (AI), users found the resemblance amusing and nicknamed the feline "Erling Meowland."

The viral meme reached a new level when Haaland himself noticed the post. Responding in the comments, the footballer jokingly wrote, "Looking good @erling," referring to the cat as if it were his own social media account. His witty response delighted fans and quickly spread across multiple platforms.

Social media users flooded the comments section with humorous reactions. One fan called the feline "Catling Haaland," while another joked that the footballer's life had become a meme. Many others praised Haaland for his light-hearted attitude and willingness to engage with fans online.



Ardee Industries IPO Opens with 13% Grey Market Premium



The initial public offering (IPO) of Ardee Industries will open for public subscription on August 5 amid strong investor interest, with the grey market premium (GMP) indicating a potential listing gain of around 13 percent over the upper price band of ₹53 per share. While GMP is an unofficial market indicator and does not guarantee listing performance, it reflects positive sentiment ahead of the issue.

Ardee Industries has fixed the IPO price band at ₹50-53 per equity share. The company aims to raise ₹425.87 crore through the public issue, comprising a fresh issue worth ₹320 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of ₹105.87 crore by existing shareholders. The shares are proposed to be listed on both the BSE and NSE.

The IPO will remain open for subscription from August 5 to August 7. The basis of allotment is expected to be finalised on August 10, while refunds and credit of shares to successful applicants' demat accounts are likely on August 11. The tentative listing date on the stock exchanges is August 12.

Retail investors can bid for a minimum of one lot comprising 281 equity shares. At the upper end of the price band, the minimum investment required stands at ₹14,893. Investors can apply for additional lots in multiples of 281 shares, subject to the retail investment limit.

Pantomath Capital Advisors Private Limited is the book-running lead manager to the issue, while KFin Technologies Limited has been appointed as the registrar.

Ardee Industries operates in the lead recycling and non-ferrous metals sector, supplying recycled lead and related products to industries. The company plans to utilise the proceeds from the fresh issue for business expansion, capital expenditure and other general corporate purposes.

Market analysts note that the healthy grey market premium reflects optimism among investors. However, they caution that GMP is only an informal indicator based on unofficial market transactions and should not be considered a guarantee of listing gains. Investors are advised to evaluate the company's financial performance, business fundamentals, valuation and associated risks before making investment decisions.

Ethos Shares Hit 20% Upper Circuit After Strong Q1 Earnings



Shares of luxury watch retailer Ethos surged 20 percent during intraday trading after the company reported a strong financial performance for the first quarter of FY27. The stock touched its upper circuit limit of ₹3,090.40 on the NSE before giving up some gains due to profit booking. It eventually settled at ₹2,902.50, up 12.7 percent for the day, marking its biggest single-day gain on record.

The sharp rally came after Ethos announced a 47 percent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit for the June quarter. The company posted a net profit of ₹28 crore, compared to ₹19 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Revenue from operations also recorded robust growth, rising 34 percent to ₹462 crore from ₹346 crore a year earlier.

Commenting on the quarterly performance, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Pranav Saboo said the company had begun FY27 on a strong note, with consolidated revenue reaching ₹461.7 crore in the first quarter, reflecting a 33.3 percent year-on-year increase. He attributed the growth to sustained demand for luxury products in India, supported by the company's premium brand portfolio, strong execution and continued focus on delivering an enhanced customer experience.

Ethos also continued expanding its retail footprint during the quarter. The company increased its boutique network to 103 stores across 34 cities, up from 94 boutiques in 30 cities at the end of the previous financial year. New stores were opened in Agra, Faridabad, Amritsar and Visakhapatnam, strengthening the company's presence in both existing and emerging luxury markets.

The latest quarterly results indicate a strong recovery from the March quarter, when the company reported revenue growth but a marginal decline in profit. The improved earnings and continued expansion strategy have boosted investor confidence, resulting in a sharp rise in the company's share price. Analysts said the company's healthy financial performance reflects growing demand for luxury watches and premium lifestyle products in India. Investors will now closely monitor whether Ethos can sustain its earnings momentum and successfully integrate its expanding retail network while maintaining profitability in the coming quarters.

Zepto's Unlisted Valuation Falls Below \$3.5 Billion After 23% Share Price Drop

Zepto's unlisted shares have declined sharply over the past five trading sessions, falling 23 percent in the grey market and indicating a valuation of less than \$3.5 billion. The decline follows the company's decision to postpone its planned initial public offering (IPO) and instead raise fresh capital through a pre-IPO funding round, reflecting cautious investor sentiment toward the quick-commerce startup.

Grey-market prices currently suggest a valuation below \$3.5 billion, significantly lower than the valuation the company had initially sought during discussions with institutional investors.

Earlier, Zepto was reportedly targeting a valuation of around \$4.5 billion for its proposed public issue, but investors were willing to value the company at around \$2.5-3 billion, resulting in a gap between buyer expectations and the company's asking price.

To strengthen its balance sheet before going public, Zepto has opted to raise nearly ₹1,000 crore through a pre-IPO funding round. Existing investors, including Glade Brook, General

Catalyst, Goodwater Capital and Nexus Venture Partners, are expected to participate in the fundraising. The company has also delayed its IPO by two to three quarters as it works to secure funding and improve market conditions before listing. Despite the decline in its implied valuation, Zepto has continued to report strong operational growth. The company's revenue from operations more than doubled to ₹22,623.58 crore in FY26 from ₹11,109.95 crore in the previous financial year, highlighting robust demand for its quick-commerce services. However, investors remain concerned about the company's high losses and the broader challenge of achieving sustainable profitability in the intensely competitive quick-commerce sector. Market experts said the fall in Zepto's unlisted share price reflects changing investor expectations rather than weakness in the company's business.

Parliamentary Panel Reviews Social Media Regulation, Summons Google, Meta Representatives



Representatives of major social media platforms, including Google, Meta, YouTube, X (formerly Twitter) and Snapchat, appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology to discuss the regulation of social and digital

platforms. Senior officials from the Union Home Ministry and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) also attended the meeting, which focused on the role of digital platforms in public safety, accountability and governance.

The committee, headed by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, convened the meeting following recent concerns over Meta's temporary restriction of a Facebook post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The incident had prompted the Centre to summon Meta's global team for an explana-

tion regarding the platform's algorithmic processes, possible algorithmic bias and their implications for public order. Among those present at the meeting were Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan and representatives from Google, Meta, YouTube, X

and Snapchat. The discussion centred on the subject of "Social and Digital Platforms and Their Regulation," with lawmakers seeking greater transparency and accountability from technology companies operating in India. The controversy began after Meta briefly removed or restricted a Facebook post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which he addressed the country's youth and assured strict action against paper leaks. Meta later stated that the content had been removed due to a technical error, apologised for the incident and restored the post on its platform. However, government sources said the explanation offered by the US-based company was found to be inadequate. According to officials, the issue extends beyond a technical glitch and raises concerns relating to national security, public order and the functioning of algorithms that influence the visibility of public content. The government had earlier summoned Meta's global rep-

resentatives to explain the incident and clarify how its algorithmic systems operate. Officials have stressed the need for greater transparency in content moderation and algorithm-driven decisions, particularly when they involve elected representatives or matters of public importance. Meanwhile, the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have registered cases against Meta India Head Arun Srinivas and certain Facebook and Instagram accounts over allegedly morphed and AI-generated posts targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Government sources also highlighted the broader impact of social media on society, citing studies that suggest excessive use of digital platforms can negatively affect the cognitive development and mental well-being of children and adults. Officials said that while digital platforms play a vital role in communication, companies must comply with Indian laws and regulations. They added that any violation of legal provisions would attract liability, reinforcing the government's commitment to ensuring responsible and accountable use of social media platforms in the country.

Sensex Jumps 544 Points, Nifty Reclaims 24,700

Indian equity markets extended their winning streak for the fourth consecutive session, with benchmark indices ending sharply higher amid broad-based buying across sectors. The BSE Sensex climbed 544 points, while the NSE Nifty reclaimed the 24,700 mark, reflecting improved investor sentiment and sustained buying interest. The rally was supported by gains in financial, information technology, automobile and healthcare stocks. Positive global cues, steady foreign institutional investor inflows and optimism over corporate earnings also contributed to the market's upward momentum. The BSE Sensex settled 544 points higher, while the NSE Nifty closed above the key 24,700 level after witnessing strong buying throughout the trading session. Broader markets also remained firm, with the BSE MidCap and SmallCap indices posting gains, indicating widespread

participation from investors. Market breadth remained positive as advances outnumbered declines on both the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. Several sectors ended in the green, with banking, financial services, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and technology leading the gains. A major highlight of the day was the strong performance of individual stocks. More than 180 stocks touched their 52-week highs during the session, reflecting renewed investor confidence across multiple sectors. Among the prominent stocks that reached fresh one-year highs were Aditya Birla Capital, One 97 Communications (Paytm), Divi's Laboratories, Craftsman Automation, Schloss Bangalore (The Leela Palaces), Minda Corporation, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company and Redington. The broad participation across sectors indicat-



ed healthy market sentiment and strong buying interest beyond the benchmark indices. Analysts attributed the continued rally to encouraging corporate earnings, stable macroeconomic indicators and positive global market trends. Investors also

remained optimistic about India's economic growth prospects, supporting demand for equities. The four-day winning streak has helped benchmark indices recover key psychological levels, with the Nifty moving back above 24,700 and the Sensex registering another

strong session. The sustained rally has strengthened overall market confidence, although analysts advised investors to remain cautious about global developments and upcoming economic data that could influence market direction. With benchmark indices maintaining upward momen-

tum and a large number of stocks hitting fresh 52-week highs, market participants will closely watch domestic economic indicators, foreign investment flows and quarterly earnings announcements for further cues in the coming trading sessions.

ITC, Godfrey Phillips Shares Gain Up to 5% Despite Tax Hike Concerns

Shares of cigarette makers ITC and Godfrey Phillips rallied up to 5 percent, defying concerns over higher tobacco taxes, as stronger-than-expected first-quarter cigarette sales boosted investor confidence. Analysts said healthy demand eased fears that recent tax increases would drive consumers toward illicit cigarettes and indicated that leading companies still have room to increase prices without significantly affecting volumes. ITC shares rose more than 4 percent during the trading session, while Godfrey Phillips gained nearly 5 percent. The rally followed positive assessments from several brokerage firms, which said the impact of the government's recent tax hike on the organised cigarette industry appeared less severe than initially expected. Earlier this year, the government introduced a fresh excise duty along with the existing Goods and Services Tax (GST), raising concerns that higher cigarette prices would reduce legal sales and encourage consumers



to shift to cheaper, illicit products. The announcement had triggered a sharp decline in tobacco stocks and raised questions about the profitability of cigarette manufacturers.

However, ITC's latest quarterly performance has reassured investors. Although the company reported a decline in net profit due to the tax impact, cigarette sales volumes remained

stronger than market expectations. Analysts noted that resilient demand demonstrated the company's pricing power and the loyalty of its customer base. Brokerages including PhillipCapital, HSBC, Jefferies and Nomura believe the better-than-expected volume growth gives ITC additional flexibility to implement further price increases if required. According to analysts, gradual price hikes could help offset the impact of higher taxes while protecting market share and improving profitability over the coming quarters. The positive outlook for ITC also lifted sentiment toward other tobacco companies, with Godfrey Phillips benefiting from the broader optimism across the sector. Analysts described the gains as a reflection of improving confidence that organised cigarette manufacturers can successfully navigate the higher tax environment through calibrated pricing strategies and stable demand. Despite the recent rally, analysts cautioned that the tobacco sector continues to face regulatory and taxation risks. Investors will closely monitor future pricing decisions, sales trends and government policy changes to assess whether cigarette makers can sustain earnings growth while maintaining market share in an increasingly regulated industry.

Yen Rally Expected to Lift Asian Currencies

The recent surge in the Japanese yen is expected to provide strong support to several Asian currencies, with strategists forecasting that the South Korean won, Singapore dollar and Thai baht will benefit the most. Analysts believe the strengthening yen will improve sentiment across regional foreign exchange markets and encourage investors to increase exposure to Asian currencies. The yen has risen more than 4 percent against the US dollar over the past three trading sessions after Japan and the United States worked together to support the Japanese currency. The coordinated action, combined with growing expectations of tighter monetary policy by the Bank of Japan, has helped the yen recover from multi-year lows. Strategists at Goldman Sachs and Barclays said the appreciation of the yen is likely to spill over into other Asian currencies because they often move in tandem with Japan's currency during periods of market adjustment. According to their analysis, the South Korean won, Singapore dollar and Thai baht have historically shown the strongest positive correlation with the yen and are therefore expected to gain the most if the current rally continues.



The coordinated intervention by Japanese and US authorities has also altered investor expectations regarding future currency movements. Market participants are now anticipating additional measures if the yen comes under renewed pressure. The stronger yen has prompted traders to unwind positions that were based on expectations of continued weakness in the Japanese currency, creating additional demand for regional currencies. Currency strategists noted that Asian currencies could also receive support from improving regional economic fundamentals and steady capital inflows. A stronger yen generally reduces pressure on neighbouring economies to maintain weaker exchange rates, allowing their

currencies to appreciate without significantly affecting export competitiveness. This could encourage greater foreign investment into Asian equity and bond markets. However, analysts cautioned that the outlook remains dependent on developments in global financial markets and monetary policy decisions by major central banks. Any unexpected shift in US Federal Reserve interest rate expectations or renewed volatility in global markets could limit gains in Asian currencies despite the yen's recent strength. Investors are also closely watching the Bank of Japan, with speculation that it could raise interest rates in the coming months if inflation remains elevated. Such a move would further strengthen the yen and potentially provide additional support to other Asian currencies. At the same time, economists warned that sustained currency appreciation could pose challenges for export-driven economies, making central bank actions and policy signals crucial in determining the direction of regional foreign exchange markets in the weeks ahead..

India Finishes Fourth with 39 Medals at CWG 2026

India concluded its campaign at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow with 39 medals, including 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze, finishing fourth overall. Although it was India's lowest medal tally in 24 years, the performance came in a Games featuring only 10 sports, making the achievement significant. The Glasgow Games were held under financial constraints, leading to the removal of traditional medal-winning sports such as shooting, wrestling, badminton, table tennis and hockey. These five disciplines had contributed 30 of India's 61 medals, including 13 golds, at the 2022 Birmingham Games. Despite the reduced programme, India matched Scotland's total of 39 medals and secured fourth place on the basis of a higher silver-medal count, finishing behind Australia, England and Canada.



Boxing emerged as India's biggest success, with the team winning 10 medals, including seven golds. Women boxers Preeti Pawar, Jaismine Lamboria, Sakshi

Chaudhary, Priya Ghanghas and Arundhati Choudhary claimed gold medals, while Sachin Sivach and Ankush Panghal topped the men's events.

Judo also created history as Harsh Singh and Asmita Dey won India's first-ever Commonwealth Games gold medals in the sport. Yamini Mourya secured silver and Unnati Sharma won bronze. In athletics, Neeraj Chopra claimed silver in the men's javelin throw, while Gulveer Singh won silver in the 10,000m and bronze in the 5,000m. Tejaswin Shankar earned India's first Commonwealth Games decathlon medal with bronze. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won her third successive Commonwealth Games gold medal, leading India's eight-medal haul in the sport. Para-athletes also impressed with seven medals, including golds won by Sharmila Dhankar, Dilip Mahadu Gavrit and Soman Rana, highlighting India's growing strength across multiple disciplines.

Morne Morkel Stuns Khatron Ke Khiladi Contestants

Former South Africa fast bowler and India's men's cricket team bowling coach Morne Morkel made a special appearance on the 15th season of the popular reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi, leaving contestants stunned with his express pace. Hosted by filmmaker Rohit Shetty, the latest season of the stunt-based reality show premiered on August 1 and was filmed in Cape Town, South Africa. During the opening episode, Shetty introduced Morkel to the contestants, promising a challenge unlike anything seen before on the show. As part of the task, contestants were required to catch deliveries bowled by Morkel, testing their reflexes, courage and concentration. The former South African pacer consistently bowled at speeds between 140 and 150 kmph, mak-

ing the challenge even more difficult. His fiery pace and intimidating presence added excitement to the episode, surprising both contestants and viewers. Morkel is widely regarded as one of South Africa's finest fast bowlers. During his international career, he represented his country in 86 Test matches, 117 One-Day Internationals and 44 T20 Internationals, claiming a total of 544 wickets across all formats. He also enjoyed a successful Indian Premier League career, representing Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders. In 70 IPL matches, he picked up 77 wickets before taking up coaching responsibilities. The current season of Khatron Ke Khiladi features celebrity contestants including Gaurav Khanna, Avinash



Mishra, Farrhana Bhatt, Shagun Sharma, Avika Gor, Orhan Awatramani (Orry), Harsh Gujral, Jasmin Bhasin, Rubina Dilaik, Karan Wahi, Rithvik Dhanjani, Ruhaanika Dhawan and Vishal Aditya

Singh. Morkel's appearance brought together the worlds of cricket and entertainment, creating one of the most talked-about moments of the show's new season.

Bumrah Ruled Out, Auqib Nabi Gets Maiden India Test Call-Up



India's pace attack has suffered a major setback ahead of the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, with star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah ruled out due to injury. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed that Bumrah has not fully recovered from the left knee injury he sustained during the ODI series against England.

The Men's Selection Committee has named Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi as Bumrah's replacement. The 29-year-old receives his maiden call-up to the senior Indian team after impressive performances in domestic cricket and India A matches. Hailing from a remote village in Baramulla, Auqib Nabi becomes only

the third cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir to earn a senior India call-up after Parvez Rasool and Umran Malik. While Rasool and Malik represented India in limited-overs cricket, Nabi now has the opportunity to make his mark in the Test format. Nabi has been one of the standout performers in domestic cricket, claiming

104 wickets across the last two Ranji Trophy seasons. He picked up 60 wickets during the 2025-26 season and played a key role in helping Jammu and Kashmir win their maiden Ranji Trophy title. He also impressed during the recent India A tour of Sri Lanka, where he took six wickets in two first-class matches. According to the BCCI, Bumrah's knee swelling proved more serious than initially expected. The Sports Science team at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru decided against rushing the experienced pacer back into action, considering India's busy international schedule. Meanwhile, batter B Sai Sudharsan remains under observation and will participate in the series only after receiving fitness clearance following his recovery from a foot injury. The two-match Test series between India and Sri Lanka begins on August 15 in Galle. The Indian squad will be led by Shubman Gill, with KL Rahul serving as vice-captain. The team also includes Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar, Dhruv Jurel and Auqib Nabi.

Babar Explains Abbas' Omission from Second Test

Pakistan captain Babar Azam has explained the decision to leave out experienced pacer Mohammad Abbas from the playing XI for the second and final Test against the West Indies, saying the team selection was based on the conditions in Port of Spain. The decision came as a surprise because Abbas had been Pakistan's standout bowler in the opening Test, claiming a five-wicket haul despite his team's crushing 90-run defeat. However, Pakistan opted to make four changes, including handing Test debuts to Ubaid Shah and Awas Zafar. Speaking at the toss after the West Indies elected to bat first, Babar said the team management had adjusted the combination to suit the pitch conditions. "We have a couple of changes because of the conditions. Abdullah Shafique comes in for Shan, and we are making four changes, including two debutants. We need to play more competitive cricket, avoid losing wickets in clusters, build strong partnerships, and maintain discipline in bowling," Babar said. When questioned about dropping Abbas despite his impressive performance in the first Test, Babar reiterated that the decision was purely based on the playing condi-

tions. "The conditions demanded a different combination, so we decided to include an extra spinner," he said. The second Test also marked the debut of Ubaid Shah, the younger brother of Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah, along with Awas Zafar. At the end of the opening day's play, the West Indies were well placed at 239 for five. Justin Greaves remained unbeaten on 64, while captain Roston Chase was not out on 36. Earlier, opener Brandon King provided a brisk start with 46 runs off 50 deliveries. For Pakistan, Mohammad Ali claimed two wickets, while debutant Ubaid Shah, Ali Usman and Sajid Khan picked up one wicket each. Pakistan will now look to bounce



back in the second Test after losing the series opener, with the new-look bowling attack aiming to level the two-match series against the West Indies.

Member players has always been central to how we set the league up. That exposure accelerates their development and strengthens Associate cricket," he added. Several UAE players, including Muhammad Waseem, Khuzaima Tanveer, Junaid Siddique, Haider Ali, Ajay Kumar and Muhammad Rohid, have used the league as a platform to establish themselves in international cricket. White said the first player auction before Season 4 reflected the growing confidence franchises have in home-grown talent. He noted that watching UAE players become match-winners for both their franchises and the national team has been one of the league's biggest achievements. White also highlighted the player-friendly environment offered by the tournament, with teams based in one location, excellent facilities and the opportunity for players to stay with their families during the competition. Season 5 of the DP World ILT20 will be held in a dedicated November-December window, allowing many of the world's top cricketers to participate while continuing to provide opportunities for UAE and Associate Member players. White expressed confidence that the upcoming edition would once again deliver high-quality cricket and further strengthen the game's growth in the region.

ILT20 Aims to Develop UAE Cricket : CEO David White



The DP World ILT20 has played a key role in developing cricket in the United Arab Emirates, and nurturing local talent remains the league's highest priority, according to CEO David White ahead of the tournament's fifth season. White said the league has established itself as a major sporting event in the

UAE, but its greatest success lies in helping local and Associate Member players improve by competing alongside some of the world's best cricketers. "It is pleasing to see the DP World ILT20 firmly established on the UAE sporting calendar. Our ambition has always been to contribute to the long-term develop-

ment of cricket in the UAE," White said. Every DP World ILT20 franchise is required to include UAE and Associate Member players in its squad. White said this policy ensures emerging players receive valuable opportunities instead of merely filling squad positions. "Creating opportunities for Associate

T Dilip Bids Emotional Farewell as India Fielding Coach



Former India fielding coach T Dilip has shared an emotional farewell message after ending his five-year stint with the Indian men's cricket team. His contract was not renewed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) following India's T20I tour of Zimbabwe, bringing an end to a successful tenure that began in November 2021. Subhadeep Ghosh has replaced Dilip as the new fielding coach and will join the Indian team for the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, beginning on August 15. In an emotional post on Instagram, Dilip reflected on his journey with the national team and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve Indian cricket. "Five years. It's difficult to find the right words for a journey that has meant so much. When I first walked into this setup, I came in with one simple intention-to give everything I had every single day. Fielding has always been my way of contributing to the game I love," he wrote. Dilip also recalled the popular fielding medal tradition introduced during his tenure, which became a dressing-room highlight, particularly during the 2023 ODI World Cup. He said the enthusiasm shown by players for the medal and the positive atmosphere it created would remain one of his fondest memories. During his tenure, India won two ICC Men's T20 World Cups in 2024 and 2026, the ICC Champions Trophy in 2025, and two Asia Cup titles in 2023 and 2025. The team also finished runners-up in the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup and the ICC World Test Championship. The Hyderabad-based coach thanked the BCCI, former head coach Rahul Dravid, current head coach Gautam Gambhir, and captains Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer for their trust and support. "As this chapter comes to a close, I'll always be grateful that, for five unforgettable years, I had the honour of wearing the India badge. Forever grateful. The journey continues," Dilip said.

Vinesh Phogat Says Wrestlers to Appeal Brij Bhushan Verdict



Olympian Vinesh Phogat and wrestler Bajrang Punia have expressed disappointment after a Delhi court acquitted former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the sexual harassment case filed by women wrestlers. The wrestlers confirmed they would challenge the verdict in a higher court. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ashwini Panwar of the Rouse Avenue Court acquitted Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and co-accused Vinod Tomar, former WFI assistant secretary, of all charges. In a joint statement, Vinesh and Bajrang said the women wrestlers had shown immense courage in coming forward against a powerful individual. They alleged that Brij Bhushan used his influence to intimidate victims and discourage them from pursuing the case. "We had to gather a lot of courage to take to the streets and get an FIR registered against a powerful politician. Using power and muscle power, Brij Bhushan intimidated many girls into withdrawing their names. However, several women wrestlers stood firm and continued fighting in court," the state-

ment said. The wrestlers also claimed that the state machinery worked to protect Brij Bhushan from the beginning of the case. Despite the trial court's decision, they said they remain determined to continue the legal battle. Vinesh confirmed that the complainants have already instructed their lawyers to file an appeal against the verdict. "The women wrestlers have instructed their lawyers to appeal against this verdict, and it will be filed as soon as possible. We have not lost hope, and the wrestlers will continue their fight," she said. The case originated from protests held at Jantar Mantar in 2023 by leading wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, demanding action against Brij Bhushan over allegations of sexual harassment. Following the Supreme Court's intervention, Delhi Police registered two FIRs and filed a 1,500-page chargesheet under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code. While Brij Bhushan welcomed the acquittal, calling it an honourable verdict, the complainants are now preparing to move the High Court to challenge the ruling.

USA Cricketer Akhilesh Reddy Banned for Eight Years Over Corruption



United States cricketer Bodugum Akhilesh Reddy has been banned from all forms of cricket for eight years after being found guilty of breaching three provisions of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Anti-Corruption Code. The punishment relates to corruption during the 2025 Abu Dhabi T10 tournament in the United Arab Emirates. The ICC, which acted as the Designated Anti-Corruption Official for the tournament on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board, announced that Reddy's suspension has been backdated to November 21, 2025, the date on which he was provisionally suspended. According to the ICC, the Anti-Corruption Tribunal found Reddy guilty of attempting to influence the outcome of matches, encouraging another player to engage in corrupt activities, and obstructing the investigation by deleting messages and data from his mobile phone. The charges stem from an incident on November 19, 2025, before the opening match involving the Aspin Stallions. The tribunal found that Reddy approached a teammate, identified only as "Player A", and allegedly asked him to deliberately concede extra runs while bowling at the request of team management. The teammate refused the proposal and immediately reported the matter to the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit. Shortly afterwards, the player was dropped from the playing XI before the match. During the investigation, Reddy admitted to deleting WhatsApp messages and call logs exchanged with the teammate. He claimed the deletions were part of routine "data hygiene" on his phone. However, the tribunal rejected the explanation, ruling that he had intentionally destroyed evidence relevant to the investigation. The decision was delivered by a three-member tribunal comprising Michael J. Beloff KC, Justice Kate O'Regan and Lloyd Mhishi following detailed hearings. Reddy, 26, made his international debut for the United States against the Cayman Islands in the North America T20 Cup. He has represented the USA in four T20 Internationals, claiming one wicket. The ICC said the case underlines its continued commitment to protecting the integrity of cricket and taking strict action against corruption at all levels of the game.

Mamitha Baiju Calls Suriya Inspiring at Vishwanath & Sons Audio Launch

The audio launch of Vishwanath & Sons, starring Suriya and Mamitha Baiju, was held in Chennai with much fanfare ahead of the film's theatrical release on August 14. The event was attended by the cast and crew, with fans gathering in large numbers to celebrate the upcoming release directed by Venky Atluri. During the event, actor Mamitha Baiju shared her excitement about working alongside Suriya for the first time. She described the opportunity as a dream come true and said she had always hoped to share screen space with the popular actor. According to Mamitha, she had earlier missed an opportunity to act with Suriya, making her role in Vishwanath & Sons even more special. Speaking about her experience on the film's sets, Mamitha praised Suriya for his dedication, discipline and professionalism. She said his commitment to every role and his method of preparing for characters impressed her throughout the shooting schedule. Observing his work ethic, she added, became a valuable learning experience that would benefit her career in the years to come. Mamitha said Suriya's passion for cinema and his ability to remain focused on every

aspect of his performance make him one of the industry's most respected actors. She noted that his humility and friendly nature created a comfortable working environment for the entire cast and crew. The actor also showered praise on Suriya's personality, calling him charming and good-looking. She remarked that everything he does has a unique appeal and that his presence naturally attracts attention. Her comments drew loud cheers and applause from fans attending the audio launch, many of whom welcomed the on-screen pairing of Suriya and Mamitha. The event also featured the unveiling of the film's songs and interactions with the cast and crew, building excitement ahead of its release. Director Venky Atluri expressed confidence that the film would entertain audiences with its emotional story, engaging screenplay and strong performances. Vishwanath & Sons marks another major release for Suriya, who has a strong fan following across South India. Expectations are high for the film, especially after the positive response to its promotional material and music. Mamitha Baiju, who has been gaining



popularity with her recent performances, is expected to play an important role in the film. Her remarks about Suriya quickly went viral on social media, with fans appreciating the mutual respect shared by the lead actors. With just days left for its theatrical release on

August 14, Vishwanath & Sons has generated significant buzz. The combination of Suriya, Mamitha Baiju and director Venky Atluri has raised expectations, and the makers are hoping the film will attract audiences across multiple languages when it reaches cinemas.

Nithiin's Alias Rukmini Announced Under Nani's Banner



Actor Nani has officially announced the second film under his production house, Unanimous Productions, with Nithiin playing the lead role. Titled Alias Rukmini, the romantic drama will be directed by Murali Kanth Devasoth, who won appreciation for his work in Dhandoraa. The project was formally launched with a traditional pooja ceremony and has already generated excitement among movie lovers. The makers unveiled the title through a creatively designed announcement glimpse that offered audiences a first look at the film's unique storytelling style. The video introduces the central character, Krishna, played by Nithiin, while also hinting at the emotional and romantic journey that forms the heart of the narrative.

The title glimpse begins with director Murali Kanth Devasoth narrating the story of Krishna, a Class 10 mathematics teacher. As the narration unfolds, viewers are taken into a dreamlike world filled with visually rich sequences inspired by fictional novels written under the pen name "Rukmini." The imaginative presentation immediately caught the attention of audiences and sparked curiosity about the story. In one of the most memorable moments in the announcement video, Nani interrupts the narration and asks, "Who is Rukmini?" Krishna then reveals that Rukmini is his wife, while a soulful background score enhances the emotional impact of the scene. The simple yet effective reveal has been widely appreciated for creating intrigue without revealing too much about

the plot. The glimpse also showcases several fictional novel titles, including Vratham Venkanna, Garam Gopal and Aameku Aame Ante Istam. These titles provide subtle hints about Rukmini's personality and suggest that the film will combine romance, emotions and imaginative storytelling in a distinctive manner. Produced by Deepthi Ganta under the Unanimous Productions banner, Alias Rukmini is described as a romantic drama with bold emotional themes. The makers believe the film will offer a fresh cinematic experience by blending heartfelt emotions with an unconventional narrative style. The project brings together an experienced technical team. Acclaimed cinematographer Jomon T. John ISC will handle the visuals, while Vijai Bulganin has been roped in to compose the music. Avinash Kolla will serve as the production designer, and Srjana Adusumilli will oversee the editing. The film is currently in the pre-production stage, with regular shooting expected to begin soon. More details regarding the female lead and supporting cast are likely to be announced in the coming weeks. For Nithiin, Alias Rukmini marks another important project as he looks to deliver a strong comeback with a fresh and emotionally driven role. With Nani backing the film as producer and Murali Kanth Devasoth directing, expectations are already high. The title glimpse has received a positive response on social media, raising anticipation for further updates as the film moves into production.



The makers of Agadha have released the official trailer of the upcoming mystical horror thriller ahead of its theatrical release on August 14, creating excitement among horror film enthusiasts. Veteran producer MS Raju returns to the director's chair with the film, which promises a blend of supernatural mystery, horror and mythology. Presented by Ajay KR and produced by Kasi Visalakshi Balusu under the Sri Adi Varaha Productions LLP banner, Agadha features story, screenplay and direction by MS Raju. The film is set to release in Telugu, Tamil,

Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi, aiming to reach audiences across India. The newly launched trailer introduces viewers to a dark and mysterious world where supernatural forces drive the central conflict. The story begins with Mahadevi, played by Kamakshi Bhaskarla, investigating the mysterious suicide of a pregnant woman named Mahima, portrayed by Ulka Gupta. As Mahadevi searches for answers, she uncovers shocking secrets that point to the involvement of Agadha, an evil supernatural force responsible for the tragic events. As the

Agadha Trailer Unveils Supernatural Battle Between Good and Evil

investigation progresses, Mahadevi finds herself caught in a terrifying battle between divine powers and dark forces. The trailer suggests that the film revolves around the timeless struggle between good and evil, with mythological and spiritual elements adding depth to the horror narrative. Kamakshi Bhaskarla appears to deliver an intense performance as the determined woman seeking the truth behind the mysterious incidents. Her character is shown confronting terrifying supernatural entities while attempting to stop the evil force from causing further destruction. Shravan Reddy plays the film's primary antagonist and makes a strong impression in the trailer with his menacing screen presence. His character appears to be closely connected to the dark supernatural force, setting the stage for an intense confrontation. The trailer features several frightening sequences filled with gore, violent visuals and supernatural imagery. While the horror elements are graphic and may not be suitable for sensitive viewers, they appear to support the film's

dark storyline rather than serving as mere visual spectacle. The production design, cinematography and sound design contribute significantly to the eerie atmosphere, creating a sense of suspense and fear throughout the trailer. The visual effects also hint at a large-scale supernatural drama with mystical elements woven into the narrative. Apart from Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Ulka Gupta and Shravan Reddy, the film also stars Jovika Vijay Kumar, Siju, Roshan and Shreya Rani Reddy in pivotal roles. The supporting cast is expected to play key parts in unfolding the mystery surrounding Agadha. With its blend of mythology, horror, mystery and supernatural action, Agadha has generated considerable curiosity ahead of its release. The trailer has received a positive response on social media, with viewers praising its atmospheric visuals, gripping storyline and haunting background score. The film will hit theatres worldwide on August 14, where audiences can witness MS Raju's return to direction with an ambitious mystical horror entertainer.

Producer Confirms Fauzi Will Release on December 3

Rumours surrounding the release of Prabhas' upcoming film Fauzi have been laid to rest after producer Ravi Shankar confirmed that the pan-Indian romantic war action drama will arrive in theatres on December 3, 2026, as originally announced. The clarification has brought relief to fans who had been concerned about reports suggesting a possible postponement. Over the past few days, speculation had spread across social media claiming that the big-budget entertainer might miss its scheduled release due to production-related delays. The rumours quickly gained traction, leading to uncertainty among moviegoers eagerly awaiting one of the most anticipated releases of the year. Addressing the speculation, producer Ravi Shankar firmly dismissed the reports and assured fans that there has been no change in the release schedule. He confirmed that the film is progressing according to plan and will hit the big screen on December 3 as previously announced by the makers. The confirmation has been welcomed by Prabhas fans, who have been eagerly following every update related to the project. With the release date now officially reaffirmed, attention has shifted to the film's promotional campaign, particularly its first musical update, which fans have been eagerly waiting for. Fauzi is directed by Hanuma Raghavapudi, known for presenting emotional stories with strong characters and visually rich sto-



rytelling. The film marks his first collaboration with Prabhas and is expected to showcase the actor in a new role set against the backdrop of romance and war. The project is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers on a massive scale and is reportedly being made with a budget exceeding 7700 crore, making it one of the

most expensive Indian films currently in production. The makers are aiming for a grand pan-Indian release across multiple languages. The film also marks the Telugu cinema debut of actor Imanvi, who has been cast opposite Prabhas as the female lead. The fresh pairing has already attracted attention, with audiences looking forward

to seeing the duo share screen space for the first time. Apart from Prabhas and Imanvi, Fauzi features an impressive ensemble cast that includes Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty and Jayaprada in pivotal roles. The presence of several experienced actors has further raised expectations for the film. Music for Fauzi is being composed by Vishal Chandrasekhar, whose work in recent films has earned widespread appreciation. Fans are particularly excited about the soundtrack, with many expecting the first single to be released in the coming weeks as part of the promotional campaign. As production continues smoothly, the makers are expected to begin extensive promotions closer to the release. With the release date now officially confirmed and rumours put to rest, anticipation for Fauzi continues to grow. Given Prabhas' pan-Indian popularity, Hanuma Raghavapudi's direction and Mythri Movie Makers' grand production values, the film is expected to be one of the biggest theatrical attractions of 2026.

Vijay Sethupathi Explains Decision to Avoid Cameo Roles



Actor Vijay Sethupathi has revealed why he has decided to stop accepting cameo appearances in films, saying that guest roles often create confusion among audiences and lead to unrealistic expectations. The versatile actor explained that while he enjoys supporting good stories, the way cameo appearances are promoted has prompted him to rethink such roles. Speaking about the issue, Vijay Sethupathi said that filmmakers frequently market films featuring his guest appearances as though he is the lead actor. According to him, promotional campaigns sometimes give audiences the impression that he has a major role in the film, even when his screen time is limited. The actor said this approach creates confusion among viewers who buy tickets expecting to see him throughout the film. When they realise that his role is only a brief appearance, it can lead to disappointment and affect the overall reception of the movie. He added that such misunderstandings are unfair to both audiences and the actual lead actors of those films. Vijay Sethupathi also pointed out that repeated cameo appearances can influence audience expectations regarding his own career choices. He believes it is important for viewers to clearly understand the nature of his roles rather than being misled by promotional material. To avoid such situations, the actor said he has decided not to accept cameo offers anymore and instead focus on full-fledged characters that allow him to contribute mean-

ingfully to the story. He noted that taking up substantial roles helps maintain clarity for audiences while allowing him to explore diverse characters as an actor. However, Vijay Sethupathi made it clear that there are rare exceptions to this decision. He revealed that he agreed to appear in Jailer 2 despite his new policy because the film stars superstar Rajinikanth. The actor said working alongside Rajinikanth is always a special experience and that he simply could not refuse the opportunity. His decision to be part of Jailer 2 has generated excitement among fans, who are eager to see the two acclaimed actors share screen space once again. Although Vijay Sethupathi has not disclosed details about his role, his presence is expected to add further star power to the highly anticipated sequel. Apart from Jailer 2, Vijay Sethupathi remains busy with several major projects. He is currently working on a new film directed by acclaimed filmmaker Mani Ratnam, in which Sai Pallavi plays the female lead. The project has already created significant buzz among movie lovers due to the combination of the celebrated director and two popular actors. Known for his versatility and willingness to experiment with different roles, Vijay Sethupathi continues to be one of the most respected performers in Indian cinema. While he has now decided to stay away from cameo appearances, his focus on full-length roles is expected to bring audiences more memorable performances in the years ahead.

Karthi, Mohan Raja Team Up for New Family Entertainer

Actor Karthi has officially joined hands with director Mohan Raja for a new commercial entertainer, marking the first collaboration between the two. The upcoming film will be produced by Prince Pictures and is expected to be a wholesome family entertainer blending humour, emotions and commercial appeal. The makers announced the project through social media, creating excitement among fans of both Karthi and Mohan Raja. A special announcement poster confirmed that the film has entered the pre-production stage, while further details about the story have been kept under wraps. According to the makers, the untitled project will feature a strong emotional narrative along with comedy and family-oriented entertainment, making it suitable for audiences of all age groups. The production team is currently working on script finalisation, casting and other pre-production activities before the film goes on floors.

The project is particularly significant for Mohan Raja as it will be his third film based on an original script. Earlier, the director earned critical and commercial acclaim for Thani Oruvan and Velaikkaran, both of which were based on his own stories. Known for balancing engaging storytelling with commercial elements, Mohan Raja is expected to bring the same approach to this film. For Karthi, the movie adds another exciting project to his growing line-up. The actor has built a strong reputation for choosing versatile roles across action, drama, comedy and family entertainers, making his collaboration with Mohan Raja one of the most anticipated Tamil film announcements. Prince Pictures is expected to bankroll the film on a grand scale. While the lead cast has been confirmed, the makers are yet to reveal details about the female lead, supporting actors and technical crew.



Pre-production work is progressing steadily, with regular shooting expected to commence towards the end of 2026. The title, first-look poster and additional cast and crew details are likely to be

announced in the coming months as the project moves into production. Fans are eagerly awaiting further updates on what promises to be a major commercial entertainer.