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Medical Student Case Raises Questions Over Police Investigation

CH Raju Rajamahesndravaram :

The delayed emergence of details surrounding the hit-and-run incident involving two medical students in Rajahmundry has triggered questions over the handling of the case, even as police maintain that there was no political pressure on the investigation. With one of the victims, Dr. K. Priyanka, battling for her life on a ventilator in Hyderabad, allegations of delayed action and omission of key legal provisions have added to public concern. The incident occurred on August 3 near Prasad Aditya Mall when a Tata Nexon allegedly rammed into a scooter carrying first-year PG medical students Venu Turyamalli Venkata Durga Sai Umesh, a first-year MD Radiology student from Vijayawada, and K. Priyanka, a first-year PG Dermatology student. According to police, the car was being driven recklessly after an altercation involving security personnel at the mall. The victims suffered serious injuries and were shifted to the hospital. The East Godavari district police have rejected allegations of political interference. SP Narasimha Kishore said the accused had assaulted security personnel at the mall and subsequently drove away at high speed. He said the car struck the students three times, causing severe injuries. Police also stated that evidence indicated that the accused were under the influence of alcohol. Both accused have been arrested and remanded in judicial custody, while police are seeking their custody for further investigation. The case, however, has drawn fresh criticism from Rashtriya Praja Congress pres-



ident Meda Srinivas, who questioned the manner in which the FIR and investigation were handled. He alleged that crucial provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, including Section 184 relating to dangerous driving and Sections 134 and 187 concerning responsibilities after an accident, were not included in the FIR. "The actions of the DSP in handling Dr. Priyanka's case raise several suspicions. Despite the victim clearly stating that the accused struck them with a car and fled the scene, why were critical provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act omitted from the FIR? Was this done deliberately to protect the accused, dilute the seriousness of the case or facilitate easy bail?" Srinivas asked. He also questioned whether Sections 307 and 308 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) were appropriately considered,

alleging that official intervention may have influenced the framing of charges. Srinivas demanded that the government treat the case as a special matter, hand over the investigation to the AP CID and remove the present DSP from involvement in the case. The controversy intensified after former YSRCP MP Margani Bharat Ram criticised the handling of the incident, following which local MLA Aditya Reddy (Vasu) released the FIR on social media. The victim's family also approached the media seeking greater government intervention. The police have denied any political pressure and maintained that the investigation is proceeding according to law. With Priyanka's condition remaining critical, demands for a transparent investigation and accountability have now intensified.



AI-ENABLED SMART STREET LIGHTING PROJECT TO TRANSFORM URBAN ANDHRA PRADESH

ARN Mahesh

In a major push towards energy efficiency and smart urban infrastructure, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power is set to roll out India's first AI-enabled smart street lighting project in Andhra Pradesh. The initiative will be implemented in partnership with the state's Municipal Administration & Urban Development (MA&UD) Department and the Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration (CDMA). The project will replace around 10.5 lakh conventional street lights across 123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with Individual Light Monitoring (ILM)-enabled smart LED lights. In the first phase, 7.5 lakh lights will be installed, followed by an additional 3 lakh under an extended scope. Each light will be connected to a centralized control and monitoring system, enabling real-time tracking, remote operation, adaptive dimming,

and predictive maintenance. EESL estimates that the project will reduce electricity consumption by nearly 20%, resulting in annual energy savings of about 19.57 million units. The initiative is also expected to significantly lower municipal electricity bills, reduce carbon emissions, and improve operational efficiency. Officials said the project builds on the success of the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), which has already replaced over 1.3 crore street lights nationwide. Andhra Pradesh aims to set a national benchmark in smart lighting with this advanced deployment. State officials emphasized that the initiative will enhance public safety, ensure better-lit streets, and strengthen urban governance through data-driven decision-making. EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit reaffirmed the organization's commitment to completing the project on schedule and making it a model for the country.

Naidu Inspects Prakasam Barrage



Amaravati, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday inspected the rising water levels at Prakasam Barrage in Vijaya wada and reviewed the flow of Godavari water into the Krishna River system through the Pattiseema project. He said the abundant inflows were helping sustain irrigation in the Krishna delta despite rainfall deficits. Naidu briefly halted his convoy at the

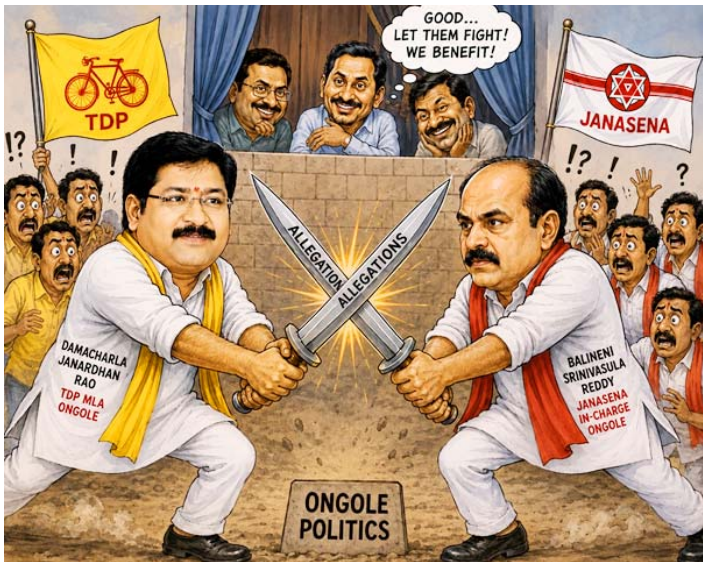
barrage while returning to his residence after participating in World Tribal Day celebrations in Vijaya wada. He inspected the barrage, which was brimming with Godavari water, and remarked that the structure looked particularly impressive with the plentiful inflows. Officials informed the Chief Minister that 17.52 TMC of Godavari water had been diverted to the Krishna River through the Pattiseema project so far this season. They also said that 521 TMC of Godavari water had been discharged into the sea due to substantial upstream inflows. Naidu said the steady flow through Pattiseema was enabling the release of water to agricultural fields in the Krishna delta through various canals downstream of Prakasam Barrage. Officials

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Rift in Ongole Coalition Deepens as Balineni, Damacharla Trade Serious Allegations

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Ongole: Tremors started in the coalition parties in Ongole, raising concern among activists, as a political war of words between Ongole MLA Damacharla Janardhan and JanaSena in-charge and former minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy intensified. The latest exchange of allegations between the two leaders has exposed underlying tensions within the TDP-JanaSena-BJP alliance in the constituency. Both leaders, who have long been political rivals, are now at the center of a growing controversy. Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, who earlier represented YSRCP and before that Congress, had been a key opponent of Dama charla Janardhan, a loyal TDP leader who stood by the party even during difficult phases. In the previous elections, Damacharla Janardhan defeated Balineni when the latter was in YSRCP. The political equations shifted after the fall of the YSRCP government, when Balineni Srinivasa Reddy joined JanaSena, a partner in the ruling coalition. His entry into the alliance reportedly created friction with Damacharla Janardhan, particularly in Ongole, where both leaders command significant influence. The situation escalated after Balineni Srinivasa Reddy accused Damacharla Janardhan of acting "as if he is the king and the minister," alleging unchecked authority. He claimed that even TDP leaders were facing difficulties due to Damacharla's conduct. Balineni further alleged corruption, stating that half of



the bars in Ongole were owned by the MLA and that irregularities had occurred in DWCRAs loans under the supervision of the MLA's Personal Assistant. He also accused Dama charla's followers of collecting large sums through sand dumps and encroaching land in Rajupalem for shrimp ponds. Responding sharply, Damacharla Janardhan dismissed the allegations and launched a counterattack. He alleged that Balineni Srinivasa Reddy was attempting to create discord within the alliance and claimed that pamphlets circulated against him were traced back to Balineni's associate Murali. He further accused Balineni and his family of

past irregularities, including forming a liquor syndicate and engaging in extortion during the previous government. Damacharla Janardhan also challenged Balineni to publicly swear at Kanipakam regarding the allegations and asserted that his electoral victory with a 34,000 majority reflected public trust. He added that Balineni was indirectly working for YSRCP leaders while using JanaSena as a platform. With both leaders refusing to back down, the escalating political confrontation is likely to impact coordination within the coalition at the grassroots level, raising concerns among party cadres in Ongole.

Medical Student Priyanka Dies of Injuries Sustained in Hit-and-Run

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Priyanka, a PG medical student who was critically injured in a hit-and-run incident in Rajamahendravaram on August 3, died while undergoing treatment at KIMS, Secunderabad, on Sunday. Doctors confirmed that she breathed her last at 3:25 PM. Her body will be shifted from KIMS to Gandhi Hospital for post-mortem examination after the arrival of Rajamahendra varam police and her father, Venkatesh. Priyanka hailed from Eklaspur in Aija Mandal of Jogulamba Gadwal district. After completing her MBBS, she was pursuing first-year PG in Dermatology at GSL Medical College in Rajanagar, East Godavari district. Her parents had settled in Hyderabad. According to the available details, Priyanka had gone to Prasad Aditya Mall in Rajamahendravaram on the night of Aug 3 to watch a movie. While returning on a two-wheeler with fellow medical student Venu Turyamalli Venkata Durga Sai Umesh, traffic congestion had



brought vehicles to a halt near the theatre gate. At that time, Suravarapu Dushyanth of Namavaram and Andrew William Joseph of Lalacheruvu allegedly rammed their car into the students' bike while driving at

high speed under the influence of alcohol. The car reportedly struck the students two more times and ran over Priyanka after she fell, causing severe head injuries. She was initially admitted to a private hospital in Rajamahendravaram. As her condition deteriorated, she was shifted to KIMS, Secunderabad, on Wednesday for advanced treatment. Despite medical efforts, she died on Sunday. Earlier, Priyanka's father Venkatesh expressed deep anguish over the incident and the response of the state government. Speaking to reporters, he said his daughter had been battling for life in the ICU and questioned the lack of response from the leadership. He said they never imagined that their daughter, who had secured a medical seat on merit, would face such a tragedy, adding that their lives had been plunged into darkness. He also demanded stringent punishment for those responsible for the incident. Police are expected to conduct further investigation and complete legal formalities following the post-mortem examination.

Amaravati, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep sorrow over the death of medical student K. Priyanka, who succumbed to injuries sustained in a road accident in Rajahmundry on August 3. He directed officials to ensure strict action against those responsible for her death and invoked stringent legal provisions to secure severe punishment. Naidu said the death of

Strict Action Ordered in Medical Student Priyanka's Death

During a teleconference with district officials on Sunday, the Chief Minister spoke to the District Collector and Superintendent of Police (SP) and sought details of the investigation. Officials informed him that the accused had already been arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Naidu said the death of

Priyanka, who had a promising career ahead of her, was deeply distressing. He recalled that he had reviewed her condition with district officials while she was undergoing treatment and expressed concern over the loss of a young medical student. Officials briefed the CM on the sequence of events, stat-

ing that Priyanka was initially treated in Rajahmundry before her family shifted her to Hyderabad for advanced medical care. The Chief Minister directed the authorities to provide Rs.20 lakh financial assistance to Priyanka's bereaved family and assured them of all necessary support. He also instructed officials to ensure that the case was pursued firmly and that those responsible faced appropriate punishment under law.

CM Naidu Announces Major Push for Tribal Welfare and Development



Vijayawada, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu

said the coalition government was committed to protecting the rights and welfare of tribal communities and was working to

ensure that every tribal family had access to safe drinking water and housing by 2027. He also announced measures to strengthen livelihoods, skill development, connectivity and tourism in tribal areas. Addressing the International Day of Tribals at Ambedkar Kala Vedika in Vijayawada, Naidu said the government had allocated Rs.4,764 crore for the comprehensive development of 27.39 lakh tribals in the State. Through the Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITD AS), special focus was being placed on infrastructure, employment, livelihoods, skill development and improved living standards. The Chief Minister said roads were being provided to 2,336 tribal habitations on a mission-mode basis. Under the 'Adavi Talli Bata' initiative, 905 km of roads had been laid at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore. To improve healthcare access in remote areas, feeder

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Pawan Kalyan Condolences Death of PG Medical Student Priyanka

Amaravati, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed deep sorrow over the death of PG medical student Dr. Priyanka, who was critically injured after being struck by a car allegedly driven recklessly by youths under the influence of alcohol in Rajamahendravaram. Pawan Kalyan said it was heart-breaking that Priyanka's promising life was cut short when she was poised to serve society as a doctor. He assured that the Alliance government would take steps to ensure severe punishment for those responsible for the incident. He prayed for peace to Priyanka's soul and conveyed his deepest condolences to her bereaved family.

Jagan Mohan Reddy Opposes Withdrawal of Disha Bill

Amaravati, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy criticised the Naidu government's decision to withdraw the Disha Bill, calling it a setback to the safety of women and children in Andhra Pradesh. In a statement posted on his X handle, he said the Disha initiative introduced during the YSRCP government was designed as a comprehensive framework for crime prevention, swift police response, time-bound investigation and speedy justice. Jagan Mohan Reddy said more than 1.51 crore people had downloaded the Disha App and police had responded to 31,607 emergency calls. He highlighted the establishment of 18 Disha Mahila Police Stations, deployment of 13,500

Women Police personnel, dedicated patrol vehicles, 13 Special PCOSO Courts and 12 Special Women's Courts. He claimed that the average investigation period in crimes against women had declined from 156 days in 2017 to 28 days by 2022. He also cited 214 convictions in cases involving crimes against women and children and a 27 % decline in such crimes by May 2024. Jagan Mohan Reddy argued that the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita could not replace the specialised emergency response, policing, forensic and judicial mechanisms created under Disha. He urged the State Cabinet to reverse its decision, stating that Disha should be protected and strengthened rather than withdrawn.

Local Body Polls Heat Up in State Amid Rising Political Tensions

Ravi Podili

The political climate in Andhra Pradesh is witnessing a steady rise in intensity as the State prepares for local body elections expected within the next two months. Both the ruling alliance and the opposition YSR Congress Party are actively mobilising their cadre, sharpening strategies, and setting the stage for what is likely to be a fiercely contested grassroots electoral battle.

Alliance Leadership Issues Early Election Directives

Senior leaders of the ruling alliance, including Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh, have already issued clear directives to party cadre to prepare for the elections. These instructions have sparked discussions within political circles, particularly regarding coordination among alliance partners and candidate selection at the local level. The leadership is said to be emphasising organisational readiness and

early groundwork to secure an advantage.

Jagan Mohan Reddy Pushes for Competitive Contests

Simultaneously, YSR Congress Party chief and former Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has reportedly conveyed strong instructions to party constituency in-charges and MLAs. According to sources, he has made it clear that the party must be prepared for direct contests rather than allowing unanimous elections. He is believed to have warned that any uncontested victory would be treated as a failure of the respective in-charge, signalling the party's intent to actively challenge the ruling alliance across all levels.

Growing Competition Within Alliance Ranks

Interestingly, internal competition within the ruling alliance itself is emerging as a significant factor. Aspirants for village-level posts such as Sarpanch, MPTC and ZPTC are already assessing their prospects even before reservation categories are finalised. Reports from rural



areas suggest that alliance leaders are attempting to identify and secure favourable candidates early, which could lead to friction among partners. In some instances, there are discussions about strategies to limit opposition participation during the nomination process.

Allegations of Pressure and Nomination Barriers Surface

Adding to the political heat are allegations circulating in rural areas that poten-

tial candidates opposing the ruling party may face pressure, legal cases or harassment. While these claims remain unverified, they have raised concerns about the fairness of the electoral environment. Local elections often involve complex social dynamics, including family ties and local rivalries, making the situation more sensitive and potentially volatile.

JC Prabhakar Reddy's Remarks Stir Controversy

Further intensifying the debate are remarks made by former Tadipatri MLA JC Prabhakar Reddy, who publicly stated that he would not facilitate nominations for certain individuals and hinted that some may have to leave their villages. These comments have triggered widespread discussion, with political observers noting that such statements could contribute to an atmosphere of fear at the grassroots level.

Debate Over Repeating Past Political Practices

Another narrative gaining traction is the allegation from alliance leaders that similar tactics were used during the previous YSR Congress Party government to prevent their candidates from filing nominations. Reports suggest that some leaders are now considering adopting comparable strategies. This has sparked a broader debate on whether repeating criticised practices previously undermines democratic values and electoral integrity.

Institutions Face Crucial Test Ahead of Polls

As the election process approaches, the responsibility now shifts to institutions such as the Election Commission and the police. Key questions remain on whether they can ensure a level playing field, provide adequate protection to candidates, prevent violence, and guarantee a fear-free voting environment. Given that even minor local contests can escalate into larger conflicts, vigilance at every stage from nominations to results-is essential.

Electoral Integrity at Stake in Upcoming Contest

While the election results will ultimately reflect the political strength of the ruling alliance and the opposition YSR Congress Party, concerns about the electoral process itself could overshadow the outcome. The upcoming local body elections are not merely about victory or defeat but about preserving democratic principles. The next two months will determine whether the polls become a battleground of political power or a model of fair and transparent democratic practice

APJUDA Revises Strike Plan As Govt Calls Expert Committee Meeting

Vijayawada, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors' Association (APJUDA) has revised the phases of its proposed strike over stipend revision, with the agitation set to begin with Phase 0 from August 10. Under Phase 0, interns, Junior Residents, Super-Specialty PGs, PGs posted in DRP and peripheral postings, and Senior Residents will attend all duties while wearing black bands and holding silent protests. APJUDA said the modification in the phase and nature of the agitation would not mean withdrawal of the strike. The association said its core demands remained unchanged and that it would continue the agitation until a satisfactory resolution was reached. It also announced that a press note would be issued on August 10 regarding the continuation of the strike and details of Phase I. Meanwhile, the Office of the Director of Medical Education, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada, issued proceedings on August 9 regarding the constitution of an Expert Committee to examine the existing stipend revision



system. The committee will meet at 2 pm on August 10 at A P I I C, Mangalagiri, to discuss enhancement of stipends for interns (House Surgeons), Post Graduates (Degree and Diploma), Super-Specialty, MDS and DNB students learning Modern Medicines in Government Medical and Dental Colleges with effect from January 1, 2026. The committee will be chaired by the Secretary to Government, HM & FW, Andhra Pradesh, with the Director of Medical Education, AP, as Member-Convener. The Director of Secondary Health, AP, and Registrar, Dr NTR UHS, Vijayawada, will be members. The President/Secretary, APJUDA, will also be a member. The committee will consider inflation, cost of living, stipend structures in other States, uniformity, sustainability and administrative feasibility while recommending a scientific methodology for future stipend revisions. APJUDA said it hoped the authorities would take constructive action to resolve its demands and avoid further disruption to healthcare services.

700 Crochet Lace Artisans Get Free Eye Check-ups

Narasapuram, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Eye check-ups were conducted for 700 crochet lace artisans at the Narasapuram International Lace Trade Center on Sunday as part of an initiative taken under the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The camp was organised in collaboration with Kiran Eye Hospital, Kakinada, and was held from 8 am to 5 pm. The artisans underwent comprehensive examinations, including computerized vision tests, intraocular pressure checks, retinal scans, slit-lamp examinations and blood sugar tests. Vision-related problems were identified in 552 artisans, who will be provided free spectacles. They will also be allowed to choose frames according to their preference. Medicines and



eye drops were distributed free of cost to those requiring treatment. Cataracts were detected in 40 individuals. Of them, 15 have been scheduled for free surgeries at Kiran Eye Hospital, Kakinada, on Monday. The remaining 25 cataract patients will undergo free surgeries on subsequent dates according to their convenience, officials said. Earlier, free spectacles had been distributed to 141 artisans. Twenty paramedical staff members and ambulances have been deployed by the Health Department to support the medical camp and surgical arrangements.

CM To Visit Eluru District On Monday

Eluru, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will visit Eluru district on Monday and participate in a series of programmes at Kalidindi village in Kaikaluru constituency, with a focus on land rights and farmer welfare. According to the schedule, the Chief Minister will leave the camp office at 10:30 am and reach Kalidindi at 10:45 am. At 11 am, he will interact with farmers at the Tahsildar's office and distribute Pattadar pass-books under the 'Mee Bhumi - Mee Hakku' programme. At 11:55 am, Naidu will participate in the Praja Vedika public meeting and address local issues and government initiatives. Later, at 2:50 pm, he will hold a review meeting with TDP cadres from Kaikaluru constituency. He is scheduled to return to the camp office by 4:55 pm. Parthasarathi Reviews Arrangements Minister for Housing, Information and Public Relations Kolusu Parthasarathi inspected arrangements for the 'Mee Bhumi - Mee Hakku' programme at Kalidindi on Sunday. He reviewed arrangements at the helipad, public meeting venue and party cadre meeting area, besides transportation, catering, parking and traffic management. Parthasarathi directed officials of all departments to coordinate closely and ensure that the programme was conducted smoothly without causing inconvenience to the public. Kaikaluru MLA Kamineni Srinivas, Eluru District TDP President and MLA Badeti Chanti, former MLA Ganta Murali, Chief Minister's Programme Coordinator Pendurthi Venkatesh, former Chairman of the Livestock Development Corporation Kotha Nagababu, along with other public representatives and officials, participated in the inspection.

Govt Schools Need Strong Leadership And Quality Education



Tirupati, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Government schools should be strengthened through quality education, effective leadership and equal opportunities for every student, State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh, B. Srinivasa Rao said on Saturday.

Addressing Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) from Tirupati, Chittoor and Nellore districts under Zone-3 at the SNA-SPARSH training programme at Rahul Function Hall in Tirupati, he said every member of the School Education Department had a responsibility to build confidence among parents and the public in government schools. Srinivasa Rao stressed effective teaching, experiential learning and student-centred approaches. He urged teachers to understand students' learning needs and use their skills and experience to

improve learning outcomes. He advised Headmasters to function as leaders and mentors, regularly review classroom practices and, when necessary, personally engage in teaching. He directed schools to effectively implement the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach to strengthen foundational reading, writing and numeracy skills. He also stressed proper use of HPC cards and encouraged students to develop reading habits through greater access to library books. Srinivasa Rao called for effective utilisation of Science Labs, STEM Labs, Atal Tinkering Labs, PAL Labs and other facilities to promote experimentation, creativity, scientific thinking

and problem-solving. He said the government was spending Rs. 1,500 crore on the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme and instructed Headmasters to ensure nutritious meals and monitor their quality. He also directed regular monitoring of schools, timely distribution of textbooks, notebooks, uniforms and other materials through SRKVM, and stronger parent-school engagement through Mega Parent-Teacher Meetings. State Finance Controller Rajagopala Rao, Kadapa Regional Joint Director K. Samuel, Tirupati District Educational Officer KVN Kumar, PM SHRI representative S. Prasada Rao, SCERT Lecturer Suresh and other officials attended.

AP Women Paddle to Bronze at ASMITA National Championship



Bhopal, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh's women paddlers secured a bronze medal at the ASMITA League of Nations Canoeing & Kayaking National Championship 2025-26 held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on August 8 and 9. The Andhra Pradesh Senior Women's C4 team won the bronze medal in the Canoe C4 200 Metres event, displaying strong teamwork and determination against national-level

competition. The medal-winning team comprised Jagavarapu Sowjanya of Visakhapatnam district, Shaik Shabana Parveen of NTR district, Vanamadi Mounika of West Godavari district and J. Saraswathi of NTR district. The achievement is seen as an encouraging development for women's participation in canoeing and kayaking in Andhra Pradesh. The growing presence of women athletes from the State in national

competitions is helping strengthen AP's position in the discipline. B. Balaram Naidu, President of the Canoeing & Kayaking Association of Andhra Pradesh (CKAAP), Executive Member of the Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association (IKCA) and Advisor to the Asian Canoe Confederation (ACC), congratulated the athletes on their performance. He said the medal reflected the paddlers' dedication, discipline and teamwork. He also

appreciated the contribution of coaches, technical teams, parents and sports officials in supporting the development of canoeing and kayaking in the State. The latest success is expected to encourage more women athletes to take up the sport and pursue opportunities at national and international levels. Continued training, quality coaching and institutional support would help Andhra Pradesh paddlers achieve greater success in future competitions.

Congress Observes Quit India Day



Vijayawada, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Congress leaders observed the 84th Quit India Day at Andhra Ratna Bhavan, the State Congress Office in Vijayawada, on Sunday by hoisting the national flag and extending greetings to people, party leaders and workers. Speaking on the occasion, APCC Vice-President and In-charge of Administration Kolanukunda Shivaji alleged that the spirit of the freedom movement was under threat under the Modi regime. He claimed that citizens were being denied basic rights, including freedom, equality, democracy and freedom of expression. Shivaji alleged that those questioning the government were being arrested and booked under stringent laws, while students, poets, writers, artists, intellectuals and journalists were being detained for prolonged periods. He also alleged that communal conflicts had increased across the country.

He accused the Centre of misusing the CBI, Income Tax Department and Enforcement Directorate against political opponents. Referring to the Election Commission's "SIR" exercise, he expressed concern over voter deletions and said such developments could push the country into a serious crisis. Shivaji appealed to civil society to support Rahul Gandhi and said the Congress could lead the country towards inclusive development and protect democratic values. He urged people to vote out the Modi-led alliance in 2029. The leaders also observed Youth Congress Foundation Day and greeted its leaders and workers. V. Gurunadham, Naraharisetty Narasimha Rao, Meesala Rajeswara Rao, Ansari, R. Surya Prakash, Ghouse, Satyavathi, Ashok Kumar, Ganesh, Nelapati Subhash, Vemu la Srinivas and Youth Congress leaders Ankamraju, Jagan and Nagella Kishore attended.



AP TET Records High Attendance In Telugu Papers

Vijayawada : The AP TET June 2026 examinations recorded high attendance across the State on Sunday. In the morning Paper IA-Telugu (SGT) exam, 12,621 of 13,872 candidates (90.98%) appeared at 60 centres. In the afternoon Paper IA-Telugu and Minor Media (SGT) exam, 8,174 of 8,829 candidates (92.58%) attended across 46 centres. Vizianagaram recorded the highest morning attendance at 97.31%, while Krishna topped the afternoon session with 96.20%. Convener M.V. Krishna Reddy said the exams were conducted peacefully.

Alliance Partners' Local Body War Heats Up Across State

Ravi Podili

The battle for Andhra Pradesh's upcoming local body elections is beginning to expose a new political fault line within the ruling alliance. While Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Janasena and BJP leaders are preparing to prevent the YSRCP from regaining ground, competing claims over key municipal and corporation posts are creating tensions among alliance partners in several constituencies.

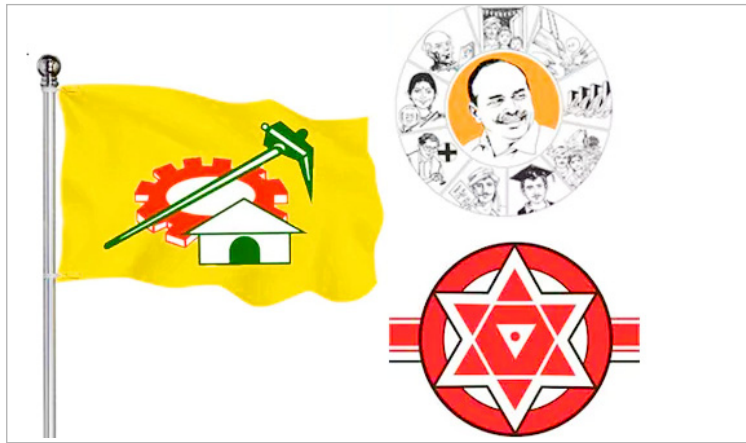
Local Polls Set To Trigger Fresh Political Contest

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has already announced that local body elections will be held soon. The enumeration process has been completed and the Election Commission is expected to release the final voter list shortly.

The elections are attracting attention against the backdrop of the 2021 local polls, when the then YSRCP government faced allegations of using coercive tactics to prevent opposition candidates from filing nominations. Videos of incidents, including the confrontation involving 'Grandpa Anji Reddy', had generated widespread discussion on social media. The YSRCP subsequently won all 13 Zilla Parishad chairperson posts.

YSRCP Faces Tougher Challenge

The political situation has changed significantly since 2024, with the YSRCP fail-



ing to secure the status of principal opposition party. Several senior leaders have subsequently left the party, while those remaining are attempting to rebuild the organisation.

The alliance parties are now preparing to contest the local elections with the stated objective of preventing the YSRCP from winning key local bodies. TDP leaders are even seeking to capture Pulivendula municipality, represented by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

TDP-Janasena Rivalry In Jaggayapeta

However, the principal challenge for the alliance may come from within. In sever-

al constituencies, TDP and Janasena leaders are competing for control over municipalities and corporations.

Jaggayapeta municipality has emerged as a prominent example. A long-standing political rivalry exists between local MLA Sriram Tathayya and former MLA Samineni Udayabhanu. Udayabhanu, who contested the recent elections on a YSRCP ticket and lost, later joined Janasena and is currently serving as the party's NTR district president.

Tathayya, who previously served as municipal chairman, is reportedly seeking the chairman's post for a TDP candi-

date. Udayabhanu, meanwhile, has publicly expressed his intention to secure the municipality for a Janasena candidate as a political gift to Pawan Kalyan.

Ongole Corporation Becomes Another Flashpoint

A similar contest is emerging in the Ongole Corporation between local MLA Damacharla Janardhan and former minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy.

TDP MLAs are reportedly keen to retain control over key local bodies, arguing that surrendering the chairman's post to leaders who recently defected from the YSRCP could weaken their political influence. Leaders who shifted from the YSRCP to Janasena, however, contend that their support for the alliance should be recognised through political representation.

Alliance Faces Test Of Coordination

The competing claims have intensified lobbying within the alliance and, in some places, resulted in heated exchanges between senior leaders. While the common objective remains defeating the YSRCP, the distribution of local power could test the political understanding between TDP and Janasena.

With local body elections approaching, the alliance partners now face the delicate task of balancing electoral unity with competing ambitions for control over municipalities and corporations.

Savitha Challenges Jagan Over Mega DSC Claims

Amaravati, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

BC, EWS Welfare and Handlooms and Textiles Minister S. Savitha challenged YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to attend the Assembly and debate the allegations surrounding the 2025 Mega DSC teacher recruitment.

In a video statement issued on Sunday, Savitha said the Mega DSC was conducted transparently and without scope for irregularities under the supervision of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. She appealed to Jagan not to undermine the efforts of unemployed youth who had worked hard to secure teaching jobs.

Savitha said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had conducted more than 14 DSC recruitments in the past and filled over two lakh teacher posts without allowing corruption or irregularities. She criticised the previous YSRCP government for allegedly failing to conduct even a single DSC recruitment during its five-year tenure.

The Minister alleged that Jagan had opposed the DSC process from the beginning and that attempts were made to obstruct the recruitment process through legal challenges after the notification was issued. She said Lokesh overcame the hurdles and completed the Mega DSC process.



Savitha claimed the recruitment had brought hope to around 16,000 families and accused the YSRCP of insulting teachers who had secured jobs through the process.

'Come to Assembly and Debate'

Savitha challenged Jagan to attend the Assembly if he had doubts about the recruitment process. She said the government was prepared to give him sufficient time to present his arguments and was even ready for a full-day debate on the Mega DSC.

She warned that teachers and candidates would strongly oppose attempts to discredit their hard work and said the government would stand by them.

Dagadarthi Airport Tenders Soon: Minister Anam

Nellore, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Endowments Minister Anam Ramana rayana Reddy said tenders for the construction of the long-awaited Dagadarthi Airport in Nellore district would be invited soon, with the government according priority to the project after the proposed airport at Kuppam. Speaking to reporters at his camp office in Santapet, Nellore, on Sunday, the Minister said steps were being taken to accelerate the airport project in coordination with the Union Civil Aviation Ministry. Discussions were underway with the Centre to expedite the remaining procedures and move the project forward, he said. Anam said the state government had secured the necessary permissions for acquiring additional land required for the airport and had authorised the district administration to proceed with the land acquisition process. Officials were working to complete the process at the earliest, he added.

The Minister said preliminary efforts related to the airport project had already been completed and tenders for the construction works would be called shortly. He expressed confidence that completion of the airport would provide a significant boost to the economic and overall development of Nellore district. He reiterated that the state government was committed to expediting the project and ensuring that the required infrastruc-



ture works progressed without unnecessary delays.

Speaking at a press conference at Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy's residence in Santapet, Nellore, on Sunday, Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy said he found no "Gen-Z" youth at protests organised in Nellore City, Nellore Rural and Sarvepalli constituencies. He sarcastically described the participants as "Gen-F" and "Gen-GE", questioning hunger strikes by senior leaders in the name of unemployed youth. He said the protests had become a subject of public ridicule and cited the Mega DSC teachers' protest at Konda Reddy Buruju in Kurnool as a response to YSRCP's campaign.

The meeting was attended by Legislative Council member Beeda Ravichandra, Gopalapuram MLA Venkataraju, Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy, Kavali MLA Dagumati Venkata Krishna Reddy, Kandukur MLA Inturi Nageswara Rao, Udayagiri MLA Kakarla Suresh and Venkatagiri MLA Kurugondla Ramakrishna, among others.

'YSRCP Has Lost Public Trust,' Says Minister Dola Swamy



Prakasam, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy launched a sharp attack on YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing the opposition party of creating unnecessary controversy over the recently conducted DSC teacher recruitment. Speaking to the media during his visit to Prakasam district on Sunday, the Minister said the DSC recruitment was conducted transparently and alleged that YSRCP leaders had filed more than 350 cases in an attempt to obstruct the process. He said the courts had subsequently dealt with the cases. Swamy questioned the opposition's criticism of the recruitment after candidates had already joined government service. He said it was surprising that YSRCP leaders were now alleging injustice after the selected candidates had reportedly been working for several months.

The Minister also referred to a Public Interest Litigation filed in connection with the DSC recruitment, saying the Andhra Pradesh High Court had dismissed it. He further claimed that an adjournment motion raised in Parliament on the issue was also rejected. Swamy said no DSC candidate had come forward publicly alleging that they had been denied justice, while YSRCP leaders were conducting rallies in villages over the issue. He described the opposition campaign as politically motivated. The Minister accused the previous YSRCP government of irregularities and claimed that government employees were increasingly speaking out against its alleged practices. He said the party had lost public confidence because of what he described as its record of misrule and irregularities. Swamy also questioned YSRCP leaders for demanding the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, asserting that the opposition had no moral standing to make such demands. He said people were unlikely to trust the YSRCP again despite its attempts to revive its political campaign.

Police Notices Cannot Silence Youth, Says Botsa

Tadepalli, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Botsa Satyanarayana condemned the Chandrababu Naidu government for allegedly using the police machinery to obstruct YSRCP's statewide rallies scheduled for August 10. Botsa said attempts to suppress the voices of students and unemployed youth were undemocratic and unconstitutional. He asserted that YSRCP would conduct peaceful rallies across Assembly constituencies despite police notices, denial of permissions and other restrictions. The rallies will demand a CBI investigation into the alleged DSC-2025 question-paper leak and recruitment irregularities, the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, immediate payment of pending Fee



Reimbursement and Vasathi Deevana dues, and implementation of the promised unemployment allowance. Botsa said YSRCP programmes conducted over the past several days had remained peaceful and democratic, but police were issuing notices to party leaders and workers across the State to prevent Monday's rallies.

"Holding peaceful rallies and protests is a constitutional right. Police notices cannot be used to imprison democracy or silence young people questioning the government," he said. He questioned the government's opposition to an independent investigation into DSC-2025 if there were no irregularities. He said students were facing difficulties due to pending Fee Reimbursement and Vasathi Deevana payments, while unemployed youth were awaiting the promised allowance. Botsa alleged that the use of State machinery reflected the government's fear of public scrutiny and an attempt to shield Nara Lokesh from accountability. He said the rallies would be held as scheduled on August 10 and the agitation would continue until the demands were addressed.

Janasena Leaders Hit Back At YSRCP Over 'Gen Z' Remarks

Mangalagiri, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Janasena State General Secretary and AP Mala Welfare Corporation Chairman Dr. Pedapudi Vijay Kumar and Janasena State Secretary and Madiga Welfare Corporation Director Bethapudi Vijay Shekhar criticised YSRCP leaders for their remarks on Gen Z and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Addressing the media at the Janasena Party central office in Mangalagiri on Sunday, Pedapudi Vijay Kumar said it was ironic for YSRCP leaders to speak about the youth after allegedly failing to address unemployment and drug addiction during their tenure. He said Pawan Kalyan had focused on development and welfare and claimed that 8,571 km of CC roads and hundreds of kilometres of BT roads had been constructed through the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development departments within two years. He also cited 2,710 km of roads taken up under the 'Atavitali Bata' programme to connect remote villages. Pedapudi questioned Yerragondapalem MLA Tatiparthi Chandrasekhar's absence from developmental programmes, including the foundation-laying ceremony for Jal Jeevan Mission works in Markapuram. He alleged that around Rs.200 crore worth of development works



were being undertaken in the constituency. He said Pawan Kalyan had resumed official duties soon after surgery and was overseeing development, health camps and welfare initiatives. He also referred to measures against red sandalwood smuggling and the 'Hanuman Project' to address human-wildlife conflicts. Bethapudi Vijay Shekhar alleged that YSRCP had failed to provide a job calendar and misled unemployed youth over recruitment. He criticised the party's 'Gen Z' war programmes and challenged its leaders to offer constructive criticism on public issues.

CM Naidu Announces Major Push for Tribal Welfare and Development

Continue

ambulances, 108 and 104 mobile medical units had been arranged, while cell towers were being established to strengthen digital connectivity.

Naidu said the government would provide value addition, processing and branding support for forest produce to ensure greater economic benefits for tribal communities. Seethampeta turmeric, Rampachodavaram rubber, Parvathipuram pineapple, honey and palm jaggery would be promoted through improved processing and marketing. He said Araku Coffee, for which the government had laid the foundation as a major brand 25 years ago, had now gained global recognition. The State was encouraging coffee cultivation across another one lakh acres and promoting coffee, pepper and turmeric as major commercial crops in agency areas. He noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promoted Araku Coffee internationally by presenting it as a gift to the Australian Prime Minister, while an Araku Coffee stall had also been established in Parliament. The Chief Minister said 1.5 lakh tribal youth would receive skill training to improve their employment and livelihood opportunities. Special initiatives



would also prepare tribal students for competitive examinations. Nineteen MoUs signed on the occasion were expected to benefit around 60,000 people. Naidu said the government would examine alternatives to protect employment opportunities for local tribal youth after GO No. 3 was struck down. He also highlighted the potential of tribal regions for tourism, saying their forests, greenery and natural landscapes could attract visitors while creating economic opportunities for local communities.

Recalling President Droupadi Murmu's journey from an ordinary tribal woman to the highest constitutional office, Naidu said her achievements demonstrated the potential of tribal communities when opportunities were created. He urged tribal youth and citizens to contribute to society and nation-building through excellence in farming, education, employment, entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Naidu Inspects Prakasam Barrage

Continue

said 3,928 cusecs was being released through the Krishna Eastern Main Canal, 3,115 cusecs through the Krishna Western Main Canal and 115 cusecs through the Guntur Channel. In total, 7,158 cusecs of water was being released into the canal network to support irrigation across the delta. The Chief Minister observed that Pattiseema water was providing much-needed relief to farmers and helping revive crops amid the severe rainfall deficit attributed to El Niño conditions. He directed officials to adopt efficient water-management measures and take all necessary steps to address irrigation challenges arising from the deficient rainfall. Naidu stressed the importance of optimally utilising available water resources to safeguard crops and ensure adequate irrigation supplies throughout the delta region.

Chandrasekhar Reddy Seeks CBI Probe Into Mega DSC-2025



Vijayawada, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy demanded an immediate CBI investigation into alleged irregularities in Mega DSC-2025 and sought the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh to ensure an independent probe. Speaking at the YSRCP central office, Chandrasekhar Reddy clarified that the party was not seeking cancellation of the DSC or removal of candidates already appointed, but wanted

a comprehensive investigation and justice for deserving candidates. He said the Purama Naveen episode was central to the alleged scam. Naveen, an outsourcing employee in SCERT, which was involved in question-paper preparation, secured first rank in one category and sixth in another. He said candidates were producing evidence of question papers being circulated among students and coaching centres, with similar links emerging from Madanapalle, Ongole and other districts. Chandrasekhar Reddy also alleged irregularities in Sports Quota recruitment, TET eligibility, reservations and normalization, including unexplained increases in marks. He said candidates raising objections were being targeted with cases despite peaceful protests. He announced that the issue would be raised in the upcoming Legislative Council session. "We are asking only for a CBI probe. If there was no wrongdoing, the investigation will clear everyone. Lokesh must resign first and allow the truth to come out," he said.

YSRCP Seeks Stronger Protection For Tribal Rights

Tadepalli, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP tribal leaders said justice, dignity and meaningful representation for Adivasis could be restored only with Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy returning as Chief Minister. The remarks were made during International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples celebrations at the YSRCP Central Office under the leadership of Plains Area ST Cell President Gunda Surendra. MLC and YSRCP General Secretary Lella Appi Reddy attended as chief guest. Surendra highlighted welfare measures implemented during the Y.S. Jagan Government, including the establishment of a separate ST Commission, conversion of 157 tandas and gudums into panchayats, and distribution of ROFR patas covering 3.20 lakh acres to 1.70 lakh beneficiaries. He also cited the Rs.500-crore medical college at Paderu, Rs.153-crore engineering college at Kurupam, multi-specialty hospitals under five ITDAs and the AP Tribal University at Salur. The leaders alleged that the coalition government had failed to honour commitments on G.O. No. 3, Tribal Advisory Council representation and tribal rights. They recalled that the YSRCP Government had constituted a Cabinet sub-committee and pursued a review petition after G.O. No. 3 was struck down. They demanded stronger protection of the 1/70 Act, establishment of ITDAs for plains-area tribals and greater political mobilisation to safeguard Adivasi rights. They resolved to intensify their efforts and work towards bringing Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy back as Chief Minister.

YSRCP Warns Bonda Uma Over Remarks Against Brahmins, Vysyas

Tirupati, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Former Deputy Speaker Kona Raghupathi warned Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Uma to change what he described as intimidating and disrespectful conduct towards the Brahmin and Vysya communities or face a strong public movement. Speaking with former MLA Malladi Vishnu after a Brahmin community meeting in Tirupati, he demanded that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu take immediate action against the MLA. Raghupathi said an elected representative should maintain dignity and refrain from threats, personal attacks and arrogant behaviour. Referring to Vijayawada Central, he questioned Bonda Uma's alleged attitude towards Brahmins despite nearly 47,000 voters from the community residing in the constituency. He said YSRCP would stand firmly with Malladi Vishnu and would not tolerate threats or personal attacks against him.

Vishnu Seeks Focus On Brahmin Welfare

Malladi Vishnu alleged that the coalition government had neglected the welfare of Brahmins over the past two years. He demanded the restoration of the Rs.10,000 assistance under the Garuda scheme for funeral expenses, measures concerning the hereditary priesthood, and the protection of low-income temples. Vishnu also sought completion of nearly 700 proposed Vedic appointments in TTD and greater support and recognition for Vedic scholars. He said Brahmin welfare would receive specific priority in the forthcoming YSRCP manifesto, including assistance for marriages, Upanayams and funerals. He asserted that YSRCP, under the leadership of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, would continue fighting against the alleged suppression of peaceful protests and for people's rights.

CM Committed to Tribal Welfare: Kesineni Chinni



Vijayawada, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) said the welfare, development and protection of Adivasi rights remain priorities under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking at a World Tribal Day programme organized by the state government at Ambedkar Kala Vedika, he said the goal of 'Swamandhra' is to take development to the remotest tribal hamlets.

Kesineni Chinni said Adivasis have shared a deep relationship with land, water and nature for thousands of years and praised their rich cultural heritage. He said the election of Droupadi Murmu as President of India reflects the importance given to tribal communities by the NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chinni said tribal youth are benefiting from DSC recruitment drives under Education Minister Nara Lokesh and noted that 29.28 percent of funds are being allocated for tribal education. He also highlighted sanctioned development funds for tribal areas in the Tiruvuru constituency.

He said true development would be achieved only when education, healthcare, roads, drinking water and employment reach the last tribal gudem, while protecting their culture, traditions and rights.

New Higher Education Hub Opens

Vijayawada, Aug 10 | TPN Bureau

The Dr. N.T.R. PG Centre for Higher Education, established under Krishna University, is emerging as a new hub for higher education and skill development in Vijayawada. The centre offers PG, PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificate courses designed to meet contemporary academic and employment needs. For the 2026-27 academic year, PG programmes include M.Sc. Microbiology, M.Sc. Organic Chemistry, and M.A. English and Communicative Studies. One-year PG diploma courses are offered in Agribusiness Management, Teaching, Fire and Industrial Safety Technology, and Logistics

and Supply Chain Management.

Six-month diploma programmes cover emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Journalism and Mass Communication, Computer Applications and Business Management, besides languages, music, yoga and other disciplines. Krishna University Vice-Chancellor K. Ramji said the centre was established to provide accessible higher education and employment-oriented skills to students in Vijayawada and Amaravati. Principal E. Dileep said the Diploma in Hospitality Management would commence on August 24. For details, students can contact 9494747401 or 9885390222.

Gannavaram Yoga Teams Shine at Amaravati Cup 2026

Machilipatnam, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Yoga athletes from the Gannavaram constituency secured outstanding results at the Amaravati Cup 2026 district-level yoga competitions and selection trials held at the Machilipatnam Indoor Hall on Sunday. The teams from the constituency secured first place in the district and qualified for the state-level competitions. Gannavaram constituency Sports In-charge Dhaniyala Nagaraju said the athletes displayed exceptional talent and discipline throughout the competitions. He congratulated the participants for their achievement and expressed confidence that they would continue their strong performance at the state level.



M. Pavani secured first place in the Artistic Solo category, while P. Lalitha Rajeshwari topped the Traditional category. B. Sathvik won first place in Artistic Solo, while P. Navaneeth Tina and B. Sathvik secured the top position in the Rhythmic Group category. Ch. Nehanand and Ch. Dhanush also secured first place in the Artistic Pair category. The successful athletes and their coaches were congratulated for bringing recognition to the Gannavaram constituency through their performance.

Massive Devotee Rush at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

A massive rush of devotees was witnessed at Indrakeeladri on Sunday, coinciding with the last Sunday of the Ashada month and the arrival of Ashada Saare groups. The temple premises witnessed heavy crowds from 6 AM, with devotees reaching the shrine through Ghat Road and Sri Kanaka Durga Nagar route.

To manage the rush and facilitate quicker darshan, the Devasthanam, under Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Naik, coordinated with One Town police and implemented extensive crowd-control measures. Antaralaya darshan was suspended from 9 AM to 3 PM, while all paid darshan categories were cancelled during the period. All queue lines were converted into free darshan lines. VIP darshan was suspended



from 8 AM to 3 PM. Cold drinking water was supplied to devotees through mobile dispensers, while the Executive Officer personally distributed buttermilk to those waiting in queues. The temple administration remained on the ground to monitor the situation and ensure the safety and convenience of devotees. Officials estimated that around one lakh devotees could visit the temple by the end of the day. The Executive Officer and Chairman coordinated with officials to regulate the crowds and ensure smooth movement of devotees.

Govt Committed To Tribal Welfare And Development, Says Collector

Machilipatnam, August 9 | TPN Bureau

District Collector D.K. Balaji said the government was firmly committed to the welfare and development of Adivasis and urged tribal communities to safeguard Aadhaar and other essential documents to access welfare schemes.

Addressing World Tribal Day celebrations at the PGRS Conference Hall in the Krishna Collectorate on Sunday, Balaji paid tributes to Alluri Sitarama Raju, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Sant Sevalal Maharaj, Ekalavya, Chenchu Lakshmi and Vennelakanti Raghavayya. The Collector said Aadhaar and other documents were essential for avail-

ing housing, ration cards, pensions, loans, employment and educational benefits. He advised tribal people to keep all personal documents safely in a bag or file, noting that loss of Aadhaar could create difficulties in obtaining replacements.

He also urged tribal families to maintain a permanent place of residence wherever possible, saying frequent migration could disrupt children's education and affect access to welfare schemes. He assured that the administration would explore all possible avenues to address the problems faced by tribal communities.

Focus On Education Balaji stressed that education was crucial for the economic, social and educational advancement of tribal

communities. He urged parents to prioritise their children's education and advised youth to develop financial and social awareness alongside formal education. Recalling his experience in tribal areas of Chhattisgarh, he said lack of basic numeracy and market knowledge had resulted in tribal people losing income to middlemen during tamarind collection. Kits Distributed

The Collector distributed educational kits containing blankets, shawls, notebooks, pens and pencils to tribal students through Kusumahara Yuva Seva Sangham. Cultural performances by students marked the occasion. ST Corporation Executive Director J. Satyavathi, Tourism Department Officer G. Ramalakshmana Rao, trib-



al leaders Barotu Jyothilal Naik, Kumbha Ravi Kiran, Kumbha Ayyappa, Kandula Pavan and Maddela Pandurangaro, Tribal

Welfare Department staff P. Shivakumar and E. Subrahmanyam, students and tribal community members attended.

Kesineni Chinni Offers Prayers at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) visited Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam on Indrakeeladri with his family and offered prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga. Temple Chairman Borra Radhakrishna Gandhi and Executive Officer V.K. Seena

Naik welcomed the MP and made arrangements for his darshan. Vedic scholars offered blessings, following which Kesineni Sivanath performed special prayers and presented traditional offerings, including a saree, to the Goddess. The temple also conducted the 'Suryopasana Seva' on Sunday morning with devotion and grandeur. Vedic scholars per-

formed rituals according to scriptural traditions, chanting Aruna Parayana, Mahasoura Parayana and Surya Ashtottara Shatanamavali.

Following the worship, special Harathi was offered to Goddess Kanaka Durga and Teertha-Prasadam was distributed to devotees. Temple authorities advised devotees wishing to participate in Arjita Sevas to obtain tickets through the official Manamitra WhatsApp service or temple counters.

Andhra Pradesh Intelligence Chief Mahesh Chandra Ladda also visited the temple with

his family and sought the blessings of the Goddess. Chairman Borra Radhakrishna Gandhi and Executive Officer V.K. Seena Naik facilitated his darshan and arrangements. Temple priests, officials and devotees participated in the spiritual programmes. Temple officials said special arrangements were made to facilitate the participation of devotees in the spiritual programmes and to regulate the movement of visitors on the busy Sunday. Priests and temple staff coordinated the rituals and ensured that devotees received Teertha-Prasadam



after the completion of the worship. A large number of devotees participated in the Suryopasana Seva and offered prayers to Lord Aditya and Goddess Kanaka Durga.

The temple authorities encouraged devotees to make use of the advance booking facility for Arjita Sevas through the Manamitra WhatsApp service and temple counters.

'Bhakti Ranjani' Concert Held at Indrakiladri



Indrakiladri, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

As part of the 'Dharmapatham' cultural programmes at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy

Devasthanam, the 'Bhakti Ranjani' musical concert was held on Sunday evening at the Sri Mallikarjuna Mahaman dham. The programme was presented by S. Nagaraju, Asthana Vidwan of Sri Varadarajulu Swamy, Lakshmi, Kuppan, along with his troupe. The devotional concert, held on the seventh floor of the Mahaman dham,

attracted a large number of devotees. S. Nagaraju performed on the doli, while M.B. Ganesh and C.K. Mohan presented nada swaram performances. N. Subrahmanyam performed on the saxophone and S. Krishnamurthy also presented a doli performance. The artists rendered popular devotional songs and compositions on traditional instruments, creating a spiritual atmosphere on Indrakiladri.

Devotees who attended the programme appreciated the performances and experienced spiritual fervour. Temple officials congratulated S. Nagaraju and his troupe for their devotional presentation and honoured the artists by presenting them with the Goddess's prasadam. The musical programme formed part of the Devasthanam's efforts to promote devotional and traditional art forms through the 'Dharmapatham'

cultural series. The combination of Nadaswaram, doli and saxophone performances added to the festive atmosphere on the temple premises and drew the attention of devotees. The audience expressed their appreciation for the artists and their devotional presentation. Temple authorities said such cultural programmes provide devotees with an opportunity to experience spiritual music while visiting the sacred hill shrine.

Mega Health Camp Held at RGUKT Nuzvid

Nuzvid, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

A mega health camp was organized at RGUKT Nuzvid on Sunday under the aegis of Gifford Memorial Hospital (American Hospital), Nuzvid, marking the completion of 100 years of the hospital's medical services. Students, faculty, staff and their family members participated and availed themselves of free medical consultations.

Specialists in orthopedics, gynecology, general medicine, pediatrics, ophthalmology, dermatology, respiratory medicine, pulmonology and physiotherapy conducted medical examinations and provided consultations. The camp was inaugurated by RGUKT Vice-Chancellor Prof. Maddali Lakshminarayana Rao. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Maddali Lakshminarayana Rao said the university gives high priority to student health and advised students not to ignore health problems. He encouraged them to consult qualified doctors and seek timely medical advice. He appreciated Gifford Memorial Hospital for



providing free specialist services and said such initiatives help create health awareness and support early detection of illnesses among students and staff.

Administrative Officer Dr. Lakshmana Rao, Gifford Hospital doctors Dr. Shyam James Daniel, Dr. Jaya Vedamani, Dr. Praveen Kumar, Dr. Asma Sultana Mulla, Dr. Vijayalakshmi Pogula and Dr. Deepthi Chinnam, campus hospital doctors Dr. Koteswara Rao and Dr. Priyanka, Pharmacist Vijayababu and other hospital staff participated in the camp.

DPO Orders Strict Monitoring Of Drinking Water Facilities

Peddathummid, August 9 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Panchayat Officer M. Dhanalakshmi on Sunday inspected drinking water schemes, village ponds and Overhead Service Reservoir (OHSR) tanks at Peddathummid Gram Panchayat in Bantumilli Mandal, directing officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water and maintain water infrastructure effectively. During her visit, Dhanalakshmi reviewed the cleanliness, maintenance and repair works of drinking water facilities and instructed officials to regularly inspect water sources, pipelines, supply systems and OHSR tanks. She ordered periodic cleaning of the tanks and measures to maintain water quality. The District Panchayat Officer also directed officials to prevent water wastage, maintain cleanliness around drinking water facilities and ensure efficient distribution to all residents. She stressed the need for proactive measures to prevent drinking water shortages and instructed officials to promptly



address public complaints. After inspecting the village ponds, Dhanalakshmi directed officials to keep their surroundings clean, undertake required repairs and implement measures for water conservation. She emphasised continuous monitoring of sanitation, drinking water supply and water-resource management across the Gram Panchayat. She instructed the officials to coordinate effectively and ensure that problems related to drinking water and sanitation were resolved without delay. Panchayat officials and staff, Gram Panchayat representatives, DLPO, MPDO, DyMPDO, AE (RWS), the Special Officer and Panchayat Secretaries participated in the inspection.

Patriotism and Creativity Shine in Students' Art



Vijayawada, August 9 | TPN Bureau

A drawing competition was organized at Babu Museum in Vijayawada on Sunday by the

'Bright Minds' organization and Lions Club (Commerce Wing) to mark the upcoming 80th Independence Day. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha attended as chief guest and inaugurated the event, interacting with students and observing their artwork.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. G. Lakshminisha said drawing and artistic activities help nurture patriotism, national spirit and creativity among students. He encouraged children to develop creative skills alongside academics and appreciated the organizers for providing a platform to identify and encourage young talent.

Around 250 children participated enthusiastically in the competition, creating artworks depicting the Tricolour, national leaders and the spirit of independence. The competition was conducted in four categories based on age and talent levels.

Prizes, certificates and mementos were presented to talented students, including Richi Siddhartha, Sri Dhruithi, B. Abhinay, Skanda, Tanmaya Chaitra Dhanvi, Aaradhya, Vaishnaya, Nikshitha, Rebecca Joys, Midhilesh, Riya, Naga Karthika and Diya Sri. Dr. Lion Y.S. Suresh Babu, Commissioner, Babu

Museum; K. Ramadevi, Officer, Tagore Memorial Library; Chandrika, UPPS Faculty; and Lions Club (Commercial Wing) representatives Srimannarayana, Prabhu and Purnima presented the awards. Participation certificates were also given to all students who took part in the competition. The students participated with enthusiasm across all four categories, showcasing their imagination through colourful depictions of the national flag, freedom fighters and national leaders. Organizers said the competition provided children with an opportunity to express their patriotic feelings while



developing confidence and artistic abilities. District officials and organizers appreciated the students for their active participation and encouraged them to pursue activities that

match their interests. They said such programmes help identify hidden talent at an early age and create opportunities for children to develop their creative potential.

Recruitment Drive For 129 Jobs At Varun Motors On August 12

Vijayawada, August 9 | TPN Bureau

A company-specific recruitment drive will be conducted at the Varun Motors Nexa Showroom in Poranki on August 12 to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth in the district, District Collector D.K. Balaji said. The drive, organized under the aegis of the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC), will begin at 9.30 a.m. at the Varun Motors Nexa Showroom opposite Priya Pickles in Poranki. District Skill Development Officer Dr. P. Naresh Kumar said 129 vacancies are available across various departments at Varun Motors Private Limited. Candidates aged 18 to 30 years with qualifications ranging from 10th standard, Intermediate and ITI to

Diploma, B.Tech (Mechanical) and any degree are eligible. Selected candidates will receive salaries ranging from \$12,000 to \$28,000 per month, besides other incentives, depending on their qualifications and experience. Selection will be based on interviews conducted during the recruitment drive. Collector D.K. Balaji urged unemployed youth to make use of the opportunity and participate in the recruitment process. Eligible candidates must register with their complete details on the Naipunyam portal before attending the drive. They should carry their resume or biodata, Aadhaar card, Aadhaar-linked mobile number, PAN card and photocopies of educational certificates. For further details, candidates can contact 79813 68429, 96767 08041, 99854 44333 or 99892 31431.

CPM Opposes Vijaya Dairy Milk Price Hike

Vijayawada: CPM State Secretariat Member Ch. Babu Rao said the postponement of the proposed Vijaya Dairy milk price hike was a victory for the people's movement, but demanded that the decision be withdrawn completely. The Krishna Milk Union had announced a 22 per litre increase from August 10. Babu Rao said CPM opposed the move, noting that another 22 hike had already been implemented less than four months ago. The party organized a dharna at the dairy near Lenin Center and announced plans for wider protests. He said the public had strongly opposed the price increase and warned that another agitation would be launched if the hike was reintroduced. He also alleged that attempts were being made to take over the Krishna Milk Union undemocratically.

Sandhya Rani Asserts Adivasi Development is National Development

Vijayawada, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Grand celebrations of World Adivasi Day were held at Ambedkar Kalavedika in Vijayawada, where Minister Gummidi Sandhya Rani extended greetings to Adivasi communities. She interacted with tribal families and joined them in the traditional Thimsa dance. Sandhya Rani said August 9 is observed globally to recognize the rights, culture and traditions of Adivasis. Explaining the term Adivasi, she said "Adi" means first or original and "Vasi" means inhabitant. She said India is home to around 100 million Adivasis belonging to more than 700 tribal communities, whose way of life is closely connected with nature. She said the forest is central to Adivasi life and emphasized that protecting forests and tribal communities is essential for the environment and human existence. "The development of Adivasis is the development of the nation," she said.



The Minister highlighted the Telugu Desam government's initiatives for tribal welfare, recalling that during NTR's tenure, GO 275 enabled tribal communities to access DSC employment opportunities. She said educational institutions, including primary schools, junior colleges, ITIs, polytechnics and degree colleges, were established for tribal students. Sandhya Rani said Chief Minister Nara

Chandrababu Naidu introduced GO-3 in 2000 for tribal welfare and criticized the previous government for failing to file a review petition after it was struck down. She said the Alliance government is consulting legal experts and examining all options to protect tribal interests in the Supreme Court. She said the government aims to safeguard the future of tribal generations and

cautioned against using tribal youth for political purposes. She highlighted tribal students' Guinness World Records in yoga and Thimsa dance and said insulting their achievements amounts to insulting the tribal community. The Minister reaffirmed that the Alliance government is committed to tribal rights, education, employment and development and pledged to reintroduce GO-3.

No Political Pressure In Priyanka Case, Says East Godavari SP



Rajahmundry, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

East Godavari District SP Narasimha Kishore said there was no political pressure in the investigation into the case involving medical student Dr. Priyanka, who was critically injured after being hit by a car near Prasad Aditya Mall in Rajahmundry. Addressing a press conference at the District SP's office on Sunday, Narasimha Kishore said Dr. Priyanka was undergoing treatment on a ventilator in Hyderabad. Police were in regular contact with her father regarding her health. The SP dismissed social media reports

about the investigation and said the probe was being conducted impartially in accordance with the directions of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. According to Narasimha Kishore, the two accused allegedly drove recklessly while fleeing after an altercation with security staff at Prasad Aditya Mall. He said they allegedly rammed their car into medical students travelling on a scooter three times, seriously injuring Dr. Priyanka, before fleeing the scene. Police registered a case at 10 pm on August 3 after receiving information from Swatantra Hospital, based on a complaint lodged by the victim's friend, Venkata Durga Sai. The SP said both accused had been arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Preliminary evidence indicated that they were allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. He said police would seek severe punishment for the accused and would file a petition in court on Monday seeking their custody for further interrogation. The SP assured that the investigation would continue impartially and that strict legal action would be taken based on the evidence.

Over 200 Families Join TDP In Presence of MLA Ashok



Giddalur, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

More than 200 families joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) at a programme held at the Shadi Khana Function Hall in Giddalur town under the leadership of MLA Muthumula Ashok Reddy. Among those who joined the party were 9th Ward Councillor Muddarla Lakshmidevi and her husband Srinivasulu, and 14th Ward Councillor Nasari Suhani and her husband Srinivasulu, along with several YSRCP sympathizers. MLA Muthumula Ashok Reddy welcomed the new members into the TDP by draping them with party scarves. He

expressed happiness over the large-scale joining, stating that people were being attracted to the TDP's ideology and the development and welfare programmes of the alliance government. Before the joining programme, floral tributes were paid to the statue of Sri Krishnadevaraya. A large rally was subsequently organized from Kummerankatta Center to the Shadi Khana Function Hall, with the participation of party leaders, workers and supporters. TDP leaders and workers, alliance party leaders, supporters and a large number of citizens attended the programme. The newly joined members expressed their support for the TDP and its leadership, stating that they were willing to work alongside party cadres for the development of Giddalur constituency. The event concluded with party leaders welcoming the new members and calling for greater unity among TDP and alliance party workers.



New Madrasa-Masjid Inaugurated

Denduluru, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

A newly constructed Madrasa-Masjid, established under the aegis of Jamia Abul Hasan at Somavarapadu in Denduluru Mandal of Eluru district, was inaugurated recently in a grand ceremony. Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar attended the event as the chief guest and congratulated Muslim religious elders, madrasa administrators and students. Sharif, former Legislative Council Chairman and Government Advisor on Minority Welfare, also attended the programme. Chintamaneni Prabhakar warmly greeted Sharif on the occasion. Children welcomed the MLA with roses upon his arrival. Muslim religious elders and madrasa administrators later honoured him with shawls and bouquets. The MLA presented certificates of appreciation to students who excelled in various competitions conducted by the madrasa. Addressing the gathering, Chintamaneni Prabhakar emphasized the importance of developing a value-based lifestyle among citizens for the country's integrity, development, social progress and welfare. He called upon educational and training institutions to take responsibility for nurturing good values and character among children from an early age. He said the alliance government in the state is committed to the welfare of Muslim minorities and assured continued support and cooperation for welfare activities benefiting children through madrasas. Alliance leaders, Muslim religious elders, madrasa administrators, students and others participated in the programme.

FCRA Amendments Strengthen Transparency And National Security

Giddalur, August 9 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Media Representative Dr. Eluri Ramachandra Reddy said the amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) introduced by the Central Government would strengthen national security, transparency and accountability in the utilisation of foreign funds. Speaking at a press conference in Giddalur, he said foreign contributions could support education, healthcare, poverty alleviation and social service, but their misuse against national interests must be prevented. Eluri Ramachandra Reddy said the amendments seek to improve transparency in the utilisation of foreign funds, strengthen monitoring of financial transactions and ensure accountability for activities undertaken with such contributions. He stressed the need for strict oversight to prevent foreign funds from being used for anti-national activities, terror-linked operations, social discord, misinformation and forced religious conversions. He clarified that the objective was to prevent misuse without obstructing legitimate voluntary organisations engaged in public welfare. He called for stronger mechanisms to monitor the income and expenditure of organisations receiving foreign contributions and effective legal action against violations. BJP Giddalur Town President Appiseti Uday Shankar, BLA-1 representative Akula Nagesh, BJP leader Muppuri Srinivasulu and other BJP leaders participated in the programme.



Police Step Up Tight Security For CM's Visit

Eluru, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Ahead of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Kalidindi Mandal in Eluru district on Monday, District SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore conducted a special briefing for police officers and personnel deployed for security duties. Eluru Range IG G.V.G. Ashok Kumar inspected the locations scheduled to be visited by the Chief Minister and issued necessary instructions to officials. The SP directed personnel to work according to their assigned sectors, maintain punctuality and remain vigilant throughout the duty. Special surveillance was ordered at the helipad, public dais, galleries, meeting venue, entry points, convoy route, rooftops, parking areas and traffic diversion points. Entry into the galleries and meeting venue will be permitted only after thorough screening by Bomb Disposal team. Continuous CCTV monitoring of the dais and galleries from the control room was also ordered.



Strong barricading and traffic arrangements will be put in place at the helipad and along the convoy route to ensure smooth movement of VIPs and the public. Police personnel were instructed to maintain real-time communication through wireless sets and remain at their designated locations. The SP warned that negligence or unauthorised absence from duty would invite strict departmental action. Eluru District Additional SP (Admin) Y. Prasad Rao, Eluru DSP D. Sravan Kumar, SB Inspector Malleswara Rao, Kaikaluru Town Inspector Ramakrishna and Rural Inspector V. Ravikumar participated in the briefing.

Prakasam BC Forum Condemns Attacks on BC Communities

Ongole, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

The Prakasam District BC People, Employees and Workers' United Forum condemned what it described as continuing attacks and alleged discrimination against BC communities and employees in the district. The forum called upon BC leaders to rise above party affiliations and unite for greater political representation. The forum cited three recent incidents. It alleged that BC and SC leaders at the YSRCP office in Singarayakonda were abused and assaulted during a discussion, following which those allegedly attacked faced disciplinary action and suspension. Referring to YSRCP formation day celebrations, the forum alleged that a woman leader was attacked and that BC members who intervened were booked in cases. It questioned the party's disciplinary process and alleged that SC, ST and BC members were being unfairly targeted. The forum also alleged that Murali, belonging to the BC Yadav community in the Telugu Desam Party, was targeted through what it termed vindictive and illegal cases in connection with a complaint concerning the Ongole MLA. The forum urged BC leaders and members to conduct meetings, set aside political differences and work collectively to prevent further attacks and secure greater political empowerment for BC communities.

Hemanth Kumar Questions YSRCP's Commitment To Kapus

Visakhapatnam, August 9 | TPN Bureau

AP Nirudyoga JAC State President Samayam Hemanth Kumar questioned YSRCP leaders' commitment to former Kapu leader Mudragada Padmanabham and the welfare of the Kapu community. Hemanth Kumar said that if YSRCP leaders genuinely respected Mudragada, they should have demonstrated it by installing his statue alongside that of YS Rajasekhara Reddy. He questioned why Kapus were not included in the BC list during the YSRCP government, alleging that the absence of BC status deprived many of employment opportunities and age-limit benefits. He said condolence meetings after Mudragada's death could not demonstrate genuine commitment. If Jagan had truly supported the Kapu community, he argued, he could have considered giving a Kapu an opportunity to serve as Chief Minister for at least two years. Hemanth Kumar alleged that recent programmes held in Mudragada's name were aimed at gaining political support among Kapu voters. He said the community would judge political parties by their policies and actions rather than speeches and condolence programmes.

Minister Durgesh Offers Ashada Sare at Temples



Nidadavolu, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh visited temples in Pandalaparru and Thimmarajupalem villages in Nidadavolu Mandal on Sunday as part of Ashada month celebrations. He offered the traditional Ashada Sare to the presiding Goddesses and performed special prayers. In Pandalaparru, the Minister worshipped Goddesses Sri Gogulamma, Sri Mahalakshmi and Sri Sattemma and offered ceremonial sarrees. He later visited Goddess Sri Kota Sattemma temple at Thimmarajupalem, where the deity was giving darshan in the special Shakambari Devi avatar, decorated with vegetables and leafy greens. He received Teertha-Prasadam after offering prayers. Temple priests and administrators welcomed Kandula Durgesh with Vedic chants and offered blessings. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister prayed for the health, longevity, happiness and

comprehensive development of the people of Andhra Pradesh. He expressed hope that the state would progress in all sectors with the blessings of the Goddess. Kandula Durgesh also interacted with devotees and extended his greetings to them. Temple officials, local leaders and a large number of devotees participated in the celebrations. The Minister said the Ashada month celebrations hold special spiritual significance for devotees and provide an opportunity for people to participate in traditional worship with devotion. He expressed happiness over the large participation of devotees and appreciated the temple authorities and local organizers for making arrangements for the celebrations. The temples witnessed a devotional atmosphere as devotees gathered to seek the blessings of the Goddesses. Local representatives, temple staff, priests and devotees joined the Minister during the special prayers and Ashada Sare offerings.

AP Handicrafts Corporation Focuses On Artisans' Health And Livelihoods



Narsapuram, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Skill Development Corporation Chairman Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad said comprehensive measures were being taken to improve the health, livelihoods, raw material access and marketing opportunities of handicraft artisans across the State. Hariprasad participated in a Mega Eye Camp for handicraft artisans at Yelamanchili-Narsapuram, organised following Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's interaction with artisans during a handicrafts festival in July. Around 600 artisans underwent screening for spectacles, cataracts, glaucoma and other eye-related conditions. Medicines and spectacles were also arranged for beneficiaries. The initiative followed complaints from lace artisans about vision problems caused by prolonged work involving

intricate designs. Eye camps had earlier been conducted at 22 locations between July 23 and 30. Ophthalmologist Dr. Shiva Prasad from Hyderabad participated in the mega camp, organised with support from Sri Kiran Hospital and DMHO authorities. Hariprasad said efforts were underway to establish a Wood Bank to provide quality wood at affordable prices to woodcarving and wooden-toy artisans. He said the Corporation was promoting 36 handicraft products under the One District-One Product (ODOP) initiative and introducing QR-code-based product identification. Eleven products had received GI tagging, while efforts were continuing for other eligible products. The Corporation was also focusing on e-commerce, B2B and B2C markets, cluster development, skill enhancement and affordable raw materials, particularly for lace artisans.

Police Conduct Surprise Searches Across Bapatla District

Bapatla, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District Police carried out large-scale surprise searches in Repalle and Chirala subdivisions as part of efforts to prevent crime and curb illegal activities. The operations were conducted on the directions of District SP B. Uma Maheswar, with 180 police personnel participating simultaneously. In the Chirala subdivision, teams searched Vinayakapuram and Parvathipuram Colony under Vetapalem police station limits. Officials checked every house and verified the identities of suspicious persons and new residents. Police seized 32 two-wheelers and three auto-rickshaws that lacked proper documents, besides confiscating 20 bottles of illegally stored liquor. In Repalle subdivision, police teams conducted searches in Allaparru and Agraharam villages under Nagaram police station limits. A total of 34 two-wheelers and three auto-rickshaws without valid documentation were seized



during the operation. SP B. Uma Maheswar said such inspections were intended to identify offenders, suspects and anti-social elements and strengthen security in vulnerable areas. He appealed to residents to cooperate with police and immediately provide information about suspicious persons or illegal activities. The SP asked the public to contact the concerned police officials, toll-free number 112 or the Bapatla District Command Control number 8333813228. He assured that the identity of informants would be kept confidential and warned that surprise inspections would continue throughout the district.

RCPI Seeks Action On Eluru Water, Sanitation Issues

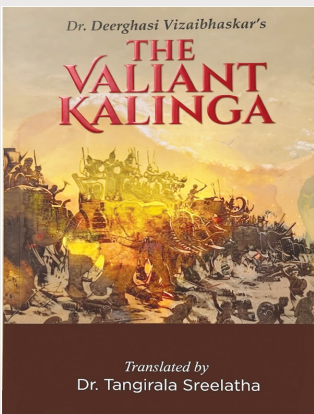
Eluru : RCPI District Secretary P. Kishore criticised the Eluru Municipal Corporation for failing to address drinking water and sanitation problems. Speaking at an RCPI city meeting at R.R. Peta, he said water was being supplied only once a day, with better access mainly for households having motor pumps. Kishore demanded contingency plans and adequate storage amid a possible rainfall deficit due to El Niño. He also flagged overflowing drains near Zilla Parishad Center, causing foul smells and inconvenience. He sought immediate sanitation measures and regular drainage maintenance. RCPI leaders B. Jagannatham, P. Shivashankar, G. Srinivasa Rao, P. Durga Prasad, L. Bhavani and Durga attended.

A Timeless Telugu Epic Reaches Global Readers

The arrival of The Valiant Kalinga, the English translation of the celebrated Telugu historical novel Veera Kalingam, marks a landmark moment in Indian literary translation. Far more than a mere linguistic transition, this work emerges as a powerful cultural revival, bringing the grandeur, spirit, and historical depth of Telugu literature to a global readership. It stands as a testament to the enduring relevance of regional narratives, transforming a treasured classic into a shared literary heritage that transcends linguistic boundaries. Translation serves as a vital bridge between languages and cultures, enabling literary masterpieces to reach wider audiences while preserving their original identity. In a multilingual country like India, it plays a crucial role in fostering intercultural understanding and safeguarding literary traditions for future generations. Translating historical fiction presents unique challenges, demanding not only linguistic competence but also historical insight and cultural sensitivity. Guided by the principles of fidelity, accuracy, readability, and contextual interpretation, the translator has sought to preserve the author's distinctive voice, narrative style, and historical authenticity. Rather than offering a literal rendering, the translation recreates the literary experience of the original while retaining its cultural ethos. Set against the glorious backdrop of Kalinga's history, the novel celebrates courage, resilience, leadership, and cultural richness. By making this remarkable work available in English, The Valiant Kalinga introduces Telugu historical literature to students, scholars, historians, members of the Indian diaspora, and readers across the world. At a time when history is often reduced to dates and events, the novel transforms the past into a living human experience, inspiring younger generations to appreciate timeless values and India's rich civilizational heritage. The author, Dr. D. Vizayabhaskar, is an eminent Telugu playwright and novelist whose works have been translated into several Indian languages and English. A nine-time recipient of the Nandi Award and the Sangeet Natak Academy Award (2010), he is widely acclaimed for his contribution to Telugu literature and theatre. The translator, Dr. Tangirala Sreelatha, Professor and Head, Department of English, Dr. RVR NRI University, is a bilingual poet, editor, literary critic, and communication trainer. With The Valiant Kalinga, she makes her debut as the translator of a full-length historical novel. Guided by the ethics of literary translation- faithfulness to the source text, preservation of the author's voice, historical authenticity, and cultural sensitivity- she has rendered the original into elegant and accessible English while retaining its literary spirit. As Nobel Laureate José Saramago observed, "Writers make national literature, while translators make universal literature." The Valiant Kalinga embodies this vision, serving as a cultural bridge that connects languages, generations, and histories while preserving the enduring legacy of Telugu literature for readers across the world.

The book will be formally launched on August 10, 2026 at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad, in the presence of eminent literary personalities, scholars, academicians, lovers of literature.

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar
Resident Editor, True Point



A Universe Enshrined in Silence: the Essence of N. Gopi's Poetry



Varala Anand

Modern Telugu literature has witnessed many distinguished poets and several accomplished scholars, but very few have succeeded in combining creative excellence with rigorous research as seamlessly as N. Gopi. His literary personality is built upon two complementary pillars, the lyrical sensitivity of a poet and the analytical precision of a researcher. Gopi's poetry is marked not by spectacular verbal fireworks but by an extraordinary ability to reveal profound meanings hidden within ordinary life. He belongs to that tradition of poets who believe that simplicity is not the absence of complexity but its highest refinement. His poems rarely seek to astonish through rhetorical flourish; instead, they invite the reader into a meditative dialogue with the everyday.

At the heart of his poetry lies an unwavering faith in humanity. The ordinary man, the ageing parent, the anonymous labourer, the lonely traveller, the child discovering the world, and the silent sufferer all become worthy subjects of poetic contemplation. His concern is not merely social documentation but the recovery of human dignity in an increasingly fragmented world. Compassion, rather than ideology, becomes the moral centre of his poetic vision.

The philosophical dimension of Gopi's poetry emerges naturally from lived experience rather than abstract speculation. His poems repeatedly meditate upon time, memory, mortality, loneliness, belonging and the fragile continuity of human existence. These reflections never assume the form of intellectual exercises; they arise organically from encounters with everyday life. Consequently, the reader does not merely understand the poem but experiences its quiet wisdom.

Another distinctive feature of Gopi's poetry is its rootedness in the cultural landscape of Telangana. His poems breathe the atmosphere of its villages, language, seasons and collective memory without becoming

regionally confined. He transforms local experience into universal human significance. In doing so, he demonstrates that authentic regional literature never narrows its vision; instead, it expands the possibilities of universality. The local becomes the gateway to the global.

One of Gopi's most enduring creative contributions is the invention and popularization of the Nani, a uniquely Telugu miniature poetic form consisting of four concise lines. Nani established a distinctly modern Telugu idiom of compressed expression. In a few carefully chosen words, a Nani often captures an entire emotional universe. If poetry represents Gopi's emotional intelligence, research reveals his intellectual integrity. At a time when literary criticism often gravitates toward theoretical abstraction, Gopi remained committed to the foundational disciplines of philology, manuscript studies and textual criticism.

His monumental research on the great Telugu philosopher-poet Vemana stands among the most significant achievements in modern Telugu literary scholarship. As an academic, teacher and institutional leader, Gopi has also strengthened the infrastructure of Telugu literary studies. He encouraged interdisciplinary research, comparative literary perspectives, archival preservation and scholarly rigour, thereby nurturing a new generation of researchers capable of engaging both classical traditions and contemporary methodologies.

Much of Gopi's poetry resides in the spaces between his words. Those silences often carry the poem's deepest meaning. His poems are not the kind one simply reads and turns the page on. Something remains within the reader after the reading is over.

Yet that very silence can occasionally become a limitation. At moments when one expects him to cry out, he whispers. Where one anticipates a volcano, he lights a small lamp. The lamp is undoubtedly

beautiful, but it does not always give enough heat.

While a substantial part of Telangana poetry directs its energies towards struggle in the external world, Gopi frequently turns inward. Time, life, memory, relationships and the search for the human within oneself become recurring concerns. His revolution, if one may call it that, often takes place in the interior landscape.

Prof. N. Gopi has had a distinguished career as a Telugu scholar, teacher, researcher and poet. He served in important academic positions, including as Head of the Department of Telugu at Osmania University and in leadership roles at Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University. His life companion, N. Aruna, is herself an accomplished poet.

Over the decades, Gopi has published a substantial body of work comprising poetry, criticism and research. Among his notable collections and works are Tangedu Poolu, Milurayi, Chitra Deepalu, Vantena, Kaalanni Nidrapo nivvanu, Chuttakud uru, Endapoda, Jala Geetham, his celebrated Naneelu, Maro Aakasam, Aksharalo Dagdh amai, Malli Vittanamloki, and Magna Sangeetham. Recently, he published a volume of poetry, Sathee Smruthi (Elegiac Poems) in memory of his wife, who left the world recently. His literary career has also been recognised with several honours, including the Central Sahitya Akademi Award, besides distinctions such as the C. Narayana Reddy Award, the Krishna Sastry Award, the Free Verse Front Award and the Dasarathi Literary Award.

Yet awards and bibliographies tell us only part of the story of any poet. A poet is ultimately recognized by the inner signature of his words.

Magna Sangeetham And perhaps one of the collections that most clearly bears N. Gopi's poetic signature is Magna Sangeetham- Immersed Music. In one memorable self-reflexive gesture, Gopi imagines himself weaving designs of



hope in the tender light of sunrise. Elsewhere, he declares that he exists within the poem, not outside it, crawling like an ant in search of the human being.

These images reveal his essential identity as a poet.

What strikes me most about Magna Sangeetham is that the collection is filled with the poet himself, not the lecturer, not the commentator, not the preacher, but the poet.

Much contemporary poetry often carries within it an orator delivering a speech, a commentator explaining the world, or a moralist instructing the reader. In Magna Sangeetham, however, it is the poet who remains visible throughout. This distinction matters. Poetry is among the finest forms of human expression, and Gopi attempts to bring it into conversation with another profound artistic expression music. That fusion of poetry and music is one of the qualities I find particularly attractive in the collection. More importantly, the poems are suffused with the poet's restless search for the human being, his longing, his desires, his hopes and aspirations, and ultimately his attempt to search for himself.

In lines that may be rendered as: Silence within the heart blossomed into melody within meditation rhythm found its home. Gopi transforms inner silence into the metaphor of a raga. Silence, for

him, is not emptiness. It is an inner music awaiting articulation. When rhythm enters the profound inwardness of meditation, life itself begins to resemble music.

This perhaps brings us closest to the essence of N. Gopi's poetry. His silence is not vacant. It is inhabited. There are memories in it, wounds in it, compassion in it and questions in it. Above all, there is an enduring search for the human being. His affection for books and the printed word offers another revealing glimpse into his personality. In a characteristically warm and playful passage, he invites us into his home with the promise of serving "a meal of letters" not an intoxicant that produces forgetfulness, but a medicine that restores the mind. If granted another birth, he says, he would wish to be born beside a library, and he bows in gratitude before the printing press that sanctified his right to live.

Behind those words stands more than a poet. There stands a lifelong reader, teacher and seeker for whom the printed word is almost sacred.

A Rare Literary Bonding: R.K.Narayan and Graham Greene



Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

Former Affiliate Faculty,
Virginia Commonwealth
University, USA.

V. S. Naipaul once assessed the fictional mode of R.K.Narayan by saying that he "wrote from deep within his community", and did not, in his treatment of characters, "put his people on display". This is a technique which we find abundantly used also in Graham Greene's novels. In R.K.Narayan's apartment in Madras, Greene's books, all in autographed hardbacks, have pride of place. "He was a big support for me," says R.K.Narayan, "editing, titling and proofing my works besides finding publishers." This continued up to the '60s when Narayan became more established.

The tale of friendship started long back in 1934. At that time, the publishers rejected his novel. The dejected writer told one friend to dump his manuscript into the Thames. Fortunately, that friend, instead, showed it to Graham Greene who was then living in Oxford, gave the manuscript its name, Swami and Friends in which the fictional town of Malgudi was first introduced in Swami and Friends. With Graham Greene as the mentor in England, the novel was published. What is more, it was acclaimed as one of the

most evocative accounts of childhood ever.

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Narayan is known the world over as R.K. Narayan, who shortened his pen name to R.K. Narayan after British novelist Graham Greene, who became his mentor and friend for more than 50 years, advised him in 1935 because his name sounded difficult for the old ladies in libraries in England to remember and that is done to increase sales of his books in England.

After meeting Graham Greene, Narayan stopped in England on his way to the US, where he was going on a Rockefeller grant. They discussed the plot for The Guide and Greene suggested that Raju, the main character, should finally die. Narayan began and finished The Guide while at Berkeley and in his autobiography My Days, noted how they had killed Raju before he was born. Greene kept Narayan informed of what he was writing and Narayan often commented on what Greene had written.

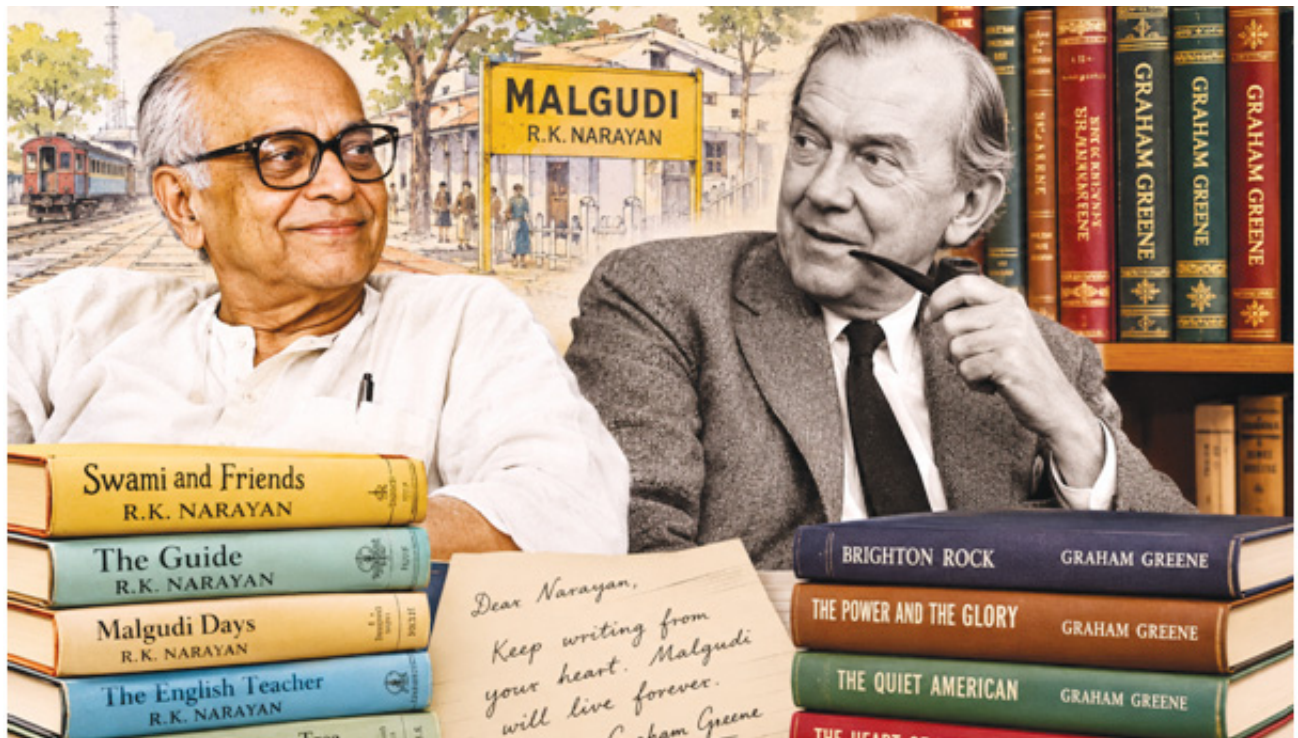
Narayan overcame his immense grief and wrote The English Teacher (1945), an account of his wife's death and how he communicated with her spirit through psy-

chic experiments. All these days Graham Greene supported him immensely. At Greene's suggestion, Narayan rewrote - and in 1977 republished - his 1938

Karnataka travelogue, The Emerald Route. Greene also asked him why he had left out of Malgudi Days (a collection of short stories published in 1982) one of his best stories, "a story about all us storytellers", as Greene described it. A few years later, Under the Banyan Tree appeared in a collection of short stories with the same title.

This friendship between Graham Greene and R.K.Narayan is one of the central themes of Narayan's first biography written by journalist N. Ram and his wife Susan, who knew Narayan since 1936. According to N.Ram, "A relationship like theirs is rare in the literary world." But the driving force behind the project is Susan, a book critic and admirer of R.K.Narayan. The couple have been allowed access to over 100 letters written by Greene to Narayan, and 50 from Narayan to Greene, which were earlier supposed to be lost.

It may not be irrelevant here to recall that Graham Greene's 'Babbling April', his first set of poems, was published in 1925, while he was at Balliol College, Oxford, from where he graduated



with a second-class degree in history. It is here that Narayan met him for the first time. During this time he met R.K. Narayan, and after that, one of his best novels, 'Brighton Rock', was published in 1938 and was later adapted into films. 'Brighton Rock', a murder thriller, by Greene is considered one of his best novels and was adapted for two films, one play, one radio dramatization and a musical. The Power and the Glory, published in 1940, was made into the film 'The Fugitive' in 1947. There is some similarity between The Guide and The Power and the

Glory. Critics have considered Narayan to be the Indian Chekhov due to the similarities in their writings, the simplicity and the gentle beauty and humour in tragic situations. Greene considered Narayan to be more similar to Chekhov than any Indian writer.

According to Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri, Narayan's short stories have the same captivating feeling as his novels, with most of them less than ten pages long, and taking about as many minutes to read. Lahiri tried to classify him as belonging to the pantheon of

short-story geniuses that include O. Henry, Frank O'Connor and Flannery O'Connor.

Lahiri also compares him to Guy de Maupassant for their ability to compress the narrative without losing the story, and the common themes of middle-class life written with an unyielding and unpitiful vision. But it was Greene whose influence helped Narayan to begin his literary journey.

On 8 November 2019, his book Swami and Friends was chosen as one of the BBC's 100 Novels That Shaped Our World and this was the book

which he published with Graham Greene's appreciation in England. It shaped no less the career of R.K.Narayan as the world-acclaimed novelist.

(About author of the article: International Dickens Medal Winner, Multilingual writer and poet Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of English Virginia Commonwealth University and Retd. Head, Post Graduate Dept of English, Dum Dum Motijheel College. Email prof.ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com)

Mamata Banerjee Alleges Attack On Car

Kolkata Trinamool Congress chief and former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday alleged that her car was attacked with bricks and stones by unidentified persons in North 24 Parganas district, claiming she could have been killed in the incident. Banerjee was travelling to Halisahar to visit the family of Birju Keot, the husband of a former Trinamool councillor who allegedly died in police custody. Her convoy faced protests on the way, with demonstrators surrounding her vehicle, smearing mud on it and allegedly throwing shoes and water bottles. Protesters also raised slogans of "Chor bhagao" as police personnel attempted to disperse the crowd and clear the route for



Banerjee's convoy. Speaking to reporters after the incident, Banerjee alleged that stones were thrown at her car in the presence of police personnel. She said the situation could have turned fatal if the vehicle's windows had not been closed. "Anti-socials from outside threw stones at my car in front of the police. If my

car windows were not closed, it could have split my head open. I could have died," Banerjee said, alleging that the police failed to provide adequate protection. Trinamool Congress leaders accompanying Banerjee also criticised the administration over the incident. Lok Sabha MP Kalyan Banerjee accused

Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari of using the police to control the situation, while Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen also expressed anger over the alleged attack. The Bharatiya Janata Party, however, denied any involvement. State BJP president Samik Bhattacharya condemned the incident and said violence by party workers would not be tolerated. He maintained that the BJP had no connection with the attack and urged the police to identify and take action against those responsible. Banerjee had travelled to North 24 Parganas to meet Keot's family. Keot was arrested on extortion charges and remanded to five days of police custody by a court last Friday. His wife, Jenny Sharma, a former councillor of

Kanchrapara municipality, has alleged that he was tortured and beaten to death inside the lock-up. The allegations have triggered a fresh political confrontation in the state, with the Trinamool Congress questioning the functioning of the police and the BJP distancing itself from the violence. Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee also criticised the police over Keot's death, arguing that the matter raised serious questions about the rule of law. He alleged that Keot had been taken into custody despite his name not appearing in the FIR. The police are yet to respond to the allegations surrounding Keot's custodial death or provide details on the reported attack on Banerjee's convoy.

Jharkhand Students Continue Protest Despite Government Talks



Ranchi Talks between the Jharkhand government and students protesting alleged irregularities in competitive examinations on Sunday made some progress, but failed to end the agitation, with students continuing to demand a CBI probe. The protest entered its 16th day as concerns mounted over the health of students observing an indefinite hunger strike. Student groups are expected to decide on the future course of their agitation, but said their demand for a CBI investigation remains unresolved. The state government has agreed to several demands, including the formation of a committee headed by a retired High Court judge to examine allegations of examination irregularities. However, students said they were not satisfied with the alternative to a CBI probe.

Student leader Ravindra Paswan said the government had accepted most of their demands related to examination reforms, but differences remained on issues including age relaxation and the demand for a CBI inquiry into the CGL examination.

"The government did not agree to a CBI inquiry. Instead, it proposed a judicial inquiry under a retired judge. If financial irregularities are detected, the ED will also be involved. However, students continue to demand a CBI inquiry," Paswan said.

Jharkhand Minister Sudivya Kumar said the discussions were positive and that a fast-track court would be established to deal with cases related to examination irregularities. He added that chargesheets would be filed within 90 days.

The government has also proposed cancelling three examina-

tions - the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) examinations of 2023 and 2025 and the 14th preliminary examination, according to sources.

The administration is also willing to examine financial transactions linked to the alleged irregularities through the Enforcement Directorate. All examinations conducted by Lucknow-based private testing agency TSR Data Processing Pvt Ltd will be scrutinised, sources said.

As part of broader reforms, the government plans to approach institutions including IIM and XISS for assistance in improving the functioning of the JPSC and Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission.

JPSC Members Resign Three members of the JPSC PT examination - Ajita Bhattacharya, Anima Hansda and Jamal Ahmed - resigned on Sunday ahead of their scheduled appearance before the CID on Monday. They submitted their resignations to the Governor.

The latest talks followed several rounds of discussions between the Hemant Soren-led government and student groups over the past few days. Representatives of NSUI, Jharkhand Chhatra Morcha and Adivasi Chhatra Sangh have also participated in discussions.

Student leader Devendra Nath Mahto has been on an indefinite hunger strike, while another protester, Rahul Krantim, is under medical supervision. Six protesters are currently observing a hunger strike.

Despite the government's latest assurances, students have indicated that the agitation, including the indefinite fast, will continue until their key demands are addressed.

Shah Presents President's Colour To Puducherry Police

Puducherry Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday presented the President's Colour to the Puducherry Police, praising the force for its commitment and dedication to maintaining law and order and protecting the Union Territory's internal security. Addressing the gathering after presenting the honour, Shah described the occasion as a "golden episode" in the history of the Puducherry Police. He said the force, despite having around 5,000 personnel, had effectively maintained security across a Union Territory spread across different parts of southern India, including Puducherry, Yanam in Andhra Pradesh and Mahe in Kerala.

"The President's flag is the most honourable moment for any police force," Shah said, adding that Puducherry Police had



earned the distinction through a strong sense of commitment and dedication rather than merely following official orders. Shah also recalled the role played by the police during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying the force had gone beyond its regular duties to serve people, particularly women and children, during the challenging period.

The Home Minister also spoke about the Centre's

criminal law reforms, highlighting the replacement of the British-era Indian Penal Code with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. He said the new criminal laws were aimed at ensuring justice for citizens and were based on three key principles - technology, timelines and trust.

Shah also outlined the Centre's development initiatives in Puducherry, saying the government had invested around Rs 39,000

crore in the Union Territory over the past nine years. He said major road expansion and other infrastructure projects worth thousands of crores had also been undertaken. According to Shah, Puducherry received around Rs 3,500 crore in Central funds between 1950 and 2014, while the NDA government allocated Rs 13,762 crore to the Union Territory between 2014 and 2026.

He said several welfare initiatives, including Lakhpati Didi, Ujjwala, PM Awas Yojana, direct benefit transfers and sanitation programmes, had benefited around seven lakh people in Puducherry. Shah assured the Union Territory that the Centre remained committed to its development and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government had worked to strengthen

Puducherry over the past 12 years.

The ceremony was held at the Puducherry Armed Police Ground in Gorimedu. Puducherry DGP Shalini Singh, Lieutenant Governor K Kailashnathan, Chief Minister N Rangasamy and Home Minister A Namassivayam were among those present.

President Droupadi Murmu had announced the conferment of the President's Colour on Puducherry Police on May 8 in recognition of its exceptional service, discipline and distinguished achievements.

The President's Colour is the highest honour awarded to a military unit or state or Union Territory police force. Previous recipients include the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and several state police departments.

CPCB To Act Against States Over Biomedical Waste Violations

New Delhi The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that action will be taken against states and Union territories that fail to comply with rules governing the disposal of biomedical waste. The development came during proceedings before the NGT in a case concerning violations in the handling, treatment and disposal of biomedical waste by healthcare facilities and waste treatment centres. In an order dated August 5, a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz Ahmad took note of a CPCB report on the practice of "deep burial" of biomedical waste across 17 states and Union territories. Deep burial is permitted only in rural or remote

areas where a Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility is not available. Under the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, the method requires prior approval from the designated state authority and must comply with prescribed safeguards.

The tribunal noted that 9,178 healthcare facilities were using deep burial for biomedical waste disposal. Of these, only 5,715 were found to be compliant with the applicable requirements.

Among the major violations was the failure to maintain the required groundwater level. The rules require the groundwater table to remain at least six metres below the burial pit. The CPCB report found 477 healthcare facilities failing to meet this requirement.



Another 341 facilities were found to be operating without the necessary authorisation from the prescribed authorities.

The NGT also highlighted significant variations in compliance among states and Union territories. In Uttar Pradesh, all 111 healthcare facilities examined were found to be non-compliant. Similarly, all 33 facilities assessed in Rajasthan were found to

have violated the applicable requirements.

The CPCB told the tribunal that communications had already been sent to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the states and Union territories where violations were identified.

The pollution control body said that if the authorities fail to ensure compliance

within eight weeks, directions would be issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Section 5 provides the Centre with wide-ranging powers to issue binding directions for environmental protection, including regulating or shutting down operations and stopping essential services.

The tribunal directed the CPCB to continue monitoring compliance and submit a further progress report at least one week before the next hearing, scheduled for October 28, 2026.

The action comes amid growing scrutiny of biomedical waste management practices, with the tribunal stressing the need for healthcare facilities to follow environmental safeguards to prevent contamination of soil and groundwater.

Delhi Metro Passengers Confront Man Over Alleged Secret Filming



New Delhi A routine journey on the Delhi Metro reportedly turned uncomfortable after two women confronted a middle-aged man whom they suspected of secretly filming them during their commute.

The incident allegedly took place at Lok Nayak Bhawan Metro station as the women were travelling towards Green Park in the evening. According to one of the women, they noticed the man sitting nearby and became suspicious that he was taking photographs or recording videos of them without their knowledge. The situation reportedly became more disturbing when the man allegedly continued staring at the women even after realising that they had noticed him. The women then confronted him and asked to check his phone.

The man reportedly denied taking their pictures. However, according to the women, he was seen deleting photographs and videos from the device while they watched. He subsequently showed them the phone, apparently believing that the deleted files were no longer accessible. The women then checked the phone's recycle bin and allegedly found the video there, according to their account of the incident. They confronted the man and told him that recording or photographing people without their consent was inappropriate. A video showing the confrontation was later posted on Instagram, where it attracted considerable attention. The video was captioned, "Can

women really ever be safe?" and triggered a wider discussion about privacy and women's safety in public spaces.

Several social media users expressed anger over the alleged incident and questioned why women are frequently left to confront uncomfortable or potentially threatening situations during everyday travel.

Some users also called for stronger action against people who secretly photograph or record strangers without their consent.

One user commented that the lack of reaction from other passengers to the alleged behaviour reflected a broader problem in society. Another criticised the man's alleged denial despite the women reportedly finding the video in the phone's recycle bin. Others urged the women to report the incident to the authorities and ensure that the man did not escape accountability. The incident has once again highlighted concerns surrounding privacy, harassment and safety on public transport, particularly in crowded urban spaces. While the circumstances of the alleged recording remain based on the women's account shared online, the video has prompted renewed calls for passengers to intervene responsibly and for authorities to take complaints of such behaviour seriously. The incident also underlined the challenges women can face while travelling alone or in public spaces, where seemingly routine journeys can quickly become uncomfortable and distressing.

Air India Pilot's Dope Test Requires Confirmatory Check

New Delhi The pilot-in-command of an Air India Phuket-Delhi flight that experienced a sudden altitude drop earlier this week has returned a screening result requiring confirmatory testing for psychoactive substances, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said on Sunday. The development came after both pilots of the Airbus A320 underwent mandatory psychoactive substance screening following the serious aviation incident. MoCA said the screening result of the pilot-in-command indicated a finding that required further examination. The pilot's sample has now been sent to a designated laboratory for confirmatory analysis, with the final report awaited. Air India, meanwhile, said it was not

aware of the reported test result.

The incident involved Air India flight AI2379, operating from Phuket to Delhi. The aircraft, an Airbus A320 with registration VT-EXO, experienced a sudden loss of altitude of around 300 feet while cruising. The aircraft subsequently stabilised and landed safely in Delhi. Several passengers and members of the cabin crew reportedly suffered injuries during the incident. The aircraft was carrying 137 passengers, including three infants, along with eight crew members comprising two pilots and six cabin crew.

MoCA said the incident has been classified as a "serious incident" and is being investigated by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).



As part of the prescribed procedures following such an occurrence, both flight crew members underwent the required screening. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken both pilots off the roster pending completion of the investigation and the prescribed testing process. The ministry stressed that

no final conclusion should be drawn from the initial screening result until the confirmatory laboratory analysis is completed.

"Further action, as appropriate, will be taken based on the outcome of the investigation and confirmatory test results," a MoCA spokesperson said. The ministry reiterated that aviation authorities

remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of flight safety and ensuring that incidents are thoroughly investigated.

The latest development comes as investigators examine the circumstances surrounding the sudden altitude loss and the injuries reported on board. The confirmatory test and findings of the AAIB investigation are expected to determine whether any further regulatory or disciplinary action is warranted.

Until the final laboratory report is received, the initial screening result does not by itself establish that the pilot was under the influence of any prohibited substance while operating the flight.

Israel Rejects Trump's Gaza Plan, Netanyahu Says

Israel: Israel has rejected U.S. President Donald Trump's 15-point plan for Gaza and will not agree to a full withdrawal of its forces until Hamas is completely disarmed, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday. Netanyahu's remarks underline the major differences that remain between Israel and the United States over how to bring an end to the Gaza conflict and establish long-term security in the region. Trump had announced last month that his initiative, known as the Board of Peace plan, had reached a major breakthrough. The proposal was presented as a framework aimed at ending the war, securing the release of hostages and prisoners, and creating conditions for a new political and security



arrangement in Gaza. However, Netanyahu said Israel would not accept any arrangement that allows Hamas to retain its military capabilities. He insisted that the group must fully surrender its weapons before Israel can consider withdrawing its forces. The disagreement comes despite a ceasefire agreement reached last October. Although the truce was intended to reduce violence and create space for negotiations, Israel has continued to carry out strikes in Gaza, citing security concerns and the need to prevent Hamas from rebuilding its military infrastructure. Hamas has ruled Gaza for

nearly two decades and remains at the centre of the conflict. The current war began after the group launched its October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, in which around 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 others were taken hostage, according to Israeli authorities. Trump has said Hamas agreed to give up its weapons as part of the proposed framework. That position, however, remains one of the most difficult elements of the plan, with Israel demanding complete disarmament before making major security concessions. The latest comments from Netanyahu could complicate Washington's efforts to push the plan forward. While Trump has repeatedly expressed confidence that his

proposal could provide a path toward ending the conflict, Israel's insistence on Hamas's complete disarmament highlights the challenges facing any peace arrangement. The future of Gaza remains uncertain, with questions still surrounding security control, governance, reconstruction and the role of Hamas. International efforts to establish a lasting settlement are likely to depend on whether the parties can bridge their differences over disarmament and an Israeli military withdrawal. For now, Netanyahu's position signals that Israel is unwilling to accept a settlement that leaves Hamas armed, even as the United States seeks to advance Trump's proposed framework for ending the conflict.

Russia Explores Rail Link to India Through Iran and Pakistan



Russia: Russia is considering the possibility of developing a direct railway connection to the Indian Ocean and India through Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan as Moscow seeks alternative trade routes amid growing risks along key maritime corridors. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin said the feasibility of such a railway link should be examined to reduce dependence on routes exposed to disruptions around the Bosphorus and the Strait of Hormuz. Speaking to Russian news agency TASS, Khusnullin said several routes could be explored. One potential corridor would pass through Turkmenistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan before reaching the Indian Ocean and providing access to India.

The proposal could eventually create an overland freight corridor connecting Russia with India, offering an alternative to conventional maritime transportation. Such a route could become strategically important for trade between the two countries if shipping through major waterways faces prolonged disruptions. The Strait of Hormuz has emerged as a particular concern because of its importance to global energy supplies. The waterway, located between Iran and Oman, is one of the world's most important maritime chokepoints, carrying a significant share of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments. Recent military tensions involving Iran, Israel and the United States have increased concerns about the security of shipping through the region. Any prolonged disruption in the strait could affect international energy markets and force countries to look for alternative transportation and supply routes. For Russia, the proposed rail corridor could also complement its broader efforts to strengthen overland trade connections with Asian markets. Moscow has increasingly focused on developing transport corridors that reduce its dependence on traditional European routes and vulnerable maritime passages.

However, building a railway through Turkmenistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan would present major logistical, financial and security challenges. The proposed route would cross several countries with different infrastructure standards, political conditions and security environments. Coordinating customs procedures, railway systems and cross-border freight movement would also require substantial investment and international agreements. Khusnullin also highlighted the need for greater investment in Russia's domestic construction industry. He said the sector currently has the capacity to absorb an additional one trillion rubles in investment every year. According to him, sustained funding over a five-year period could allow the industry to expand its capacity further and undertake larger construction projects. The proposed India rail connection remains at an exploratory stage, but the idea reflects Moscow's growing interest in creating resilient land-based trade corridors linking Russia with South Asia and the Indian Ocean.

Taylor Swift Songs Removed From Trump Posts

Some Taylor Swift songs have been removed from social media videos posted by U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign and the White House after her music was used in several posts promoting the administration. The development comes amid a broader dispute between artists and the Trump administration over the use of copyrighted music in political messaging. Dozens of musicians, including Sabrina



Carpenter and Ariana Grande, have previously objected to their songs being used by Trump or his political operation. Swift has not recently made public comments about Trump, but she endorsed his Democratic rival, then-Vice President Kamala Harris, during the 2024 presidential election. Swift had also criticized Trump during the 2020 campaign, writing on social media that he was aware she did not want him to remain president. Trump has repeatedly attacked the pop star publicly. Following her endorsement of Harris, Trump posted that he hated Swift. He later questioned her popularity after criticizing her again. Despite their political differences, Trump's campaign used two Swift songs on its TikTok account during the past week. One video played on titles and lyrics associated with Swift's music while pairing them with messages about Trump, immigration and criticism of the previous Biden-Harris administration. The campaign also previously used Swift's music in a video featuring Trump at the White House and at a UFC event. The post included a song associated with the upcoming Toy Story 5 project and praised Trump's support among Americans. The White House has also used Swift's music in its social media content. In April, it posted footage of Trump meeting the crew of the Artemis II mission at the White House, accompanied by Swift's song High Infidelity. Another White House TikTok video posted in November featured The Fate of Ophelia, a song from Swift's album The Life of a Showgirl. The video included images of American landmarks, the U.S. flag and photographs of Trump, including his 2023 arrest mugshot. That post attracted significant attention online. A White House spokesperson said at the time that the administration was aware news organizations would widely amplify the video. The Trump administration's communications team has frequently incorporated popular music into its social media posts, using songs alongside footage highlighting immigration enforcement, military operations and other political activities. Neither the White House nor Swift's representatives immediately commented on the reported removal of the songs. The latest development again highlights the tension between political campaigns seeking to use popular culture and artists who do not want their work associated with political messages.

Indonesia Closes Mount Bromo As Wildfire Spreads

Indonesia: Indonesia has closed all tourist access to Mount Bromo National Park in East Java after a wildfire rapidly expanded across the popular volcanic destination. The closure took effect on Saturday evening and will remain in place for an undetermined period, according to the park authorities. The decision was taken as a precaution to protect tourists, staff and residents in surrounding areas while firefighting operations continue. The wildfire, which began on Monday, has so far burned around 176 hectares (435 acres) of land in the Mount Bromo area. The affected area has increased sharply from approximately 60 hectares recorded on Thursday, highlighting the rapid spread of the blaze.



Mount Bromo is one of Indonesia's most popular tourist destinations and is famous for its dramatic volcanic landscape and vast "sand sea" caldera. The active volcano attracts large numbers of domestic and international visitors, particularly for its sunrise views and dis-

tinctive scenery. Authorities have stepped up efforts to contain the fire as flames continue to spread across the mountain slopes. East Java's disaster mitigation agency said water-bombing helicopters and drones equipped for water spraying were being deployed to sup-

port firefighting operations. Videos shared by the national park operator on social media showed flames spreading across parts of the mountain overnight, with large areas of vegetation affected by the blaze. The authorities have not yet determined what caused the wildfire. Investigations are expected to continue once conditions become safer for emergency teams and officials to assess the affected areas. No casualties have been reported so far. The park authorities have also made arrangements for tourists who had already purchased entrance tickets. Visitors will reportedly be allowed to reschedule their trips or request refunds while the closure remains in effect.

The wildfire comes during a period when Mount Bromo continues to be a major attraction for visitors seeking to experience its volcanic landscape. The temporary closure is expected to affect tourism-related businesses and local communities that depend heavily on visitors to the national park. Officials have urged the public to avoid entering restricted areas as firefighting operations continue. Authorities will determine when tourist access can safely resume based on the progress of the firefighting effort and conditions around the volcano. For now, the priority remains containing the rapidly expanding wildfire and preventing it from threatening nearby communities and infrastructure.

Three Killed in Ukrainian Drone Attack on Belgorod

Ukrainian: Three people were killed and 25 others injured after a Ukrainian drone attack struck the Russian city of Belgorod overnight, according to local authorities. Alexander Shuvayev, acting governor of Russia's Belgorod region, said the attack caused fires in two apartment buildings. Emergency services later extinguished the flames, while several residential and non-residential properties were reported to have suffered damage. The latest attack adds to a continuing series of drone strikes and cross-border attacks linked to the Russia-Ukraine war. Belgorod, located near the Ukrainian border, has frequently come under attack during the con-

flict. Shuvayev said emergency crews were deployed to assess the damage and assist residents affected by the strikes. Authorities have not provided further details about the identities of those killed or the severity of injuries among the 25 people wounded. Russia's Defence Ministry separately reported that its air-defence systems had destroyed more than 150 Ukrainian drones during the overnight attacks. The ministry said the drones were intercepted over several areas of European Russia, as well as Crimea, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Drone activity was also reported in other parts of Russia. In Novorossiysk, a major Russian export port on



the Black Sea, drone debris fell on two facilities, according to the city's mayor, Alexander Kravchenko. He did not identify the affected sites or provide details about the extent of the damage. In the city of Ufa in Russia's Bashkortostan region, a Ukrainian drone reportedly

struck a building under construction and a crane, Russia's state-run RIA news agency reported, citing local emergency services. The incidents highlight the expanding use of long-range drones in the conflict, with both Russia and Ukraine regularly reporting attacks on

military, industrial and infrastructure targets far from the front lines. Russian authorities have continued to strengthen air-defence measures around major cities and strategic infrastructure as drone attacks become increasingly frequent. Ukraine has not immediately provided a detailed response to the reported Belgorod strike. Kyiv has previously said its military operations are aimed at weakening Russia's ability to conduct the war and targeting facilities connected to its military capabilities. The latest attacks come as fighting continues across multiple areas of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with both sides carrying out regular air and drone operations.

Turkey Says Mecca Defence Pact Is Not Against Iran



Ankara: Turkey has said the newly signed Mecca Joint Defence Agreement between Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is defensive in nature and is not aimed at Iran or any other country. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Saudi Arabia does not have a strategy to attack or eliminate Iran and instead wants an end to the violence and tensions

surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. Speaking to Anadolu Agency on Saturday, Fidan said Riyadh had told the United States that military intervention against Iran would not resolve the crisis and that dialogue and negotiations remained the preferred approach. Fidan said Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin

Salman had expressed the same position during recent discussions in Mecca, including talks involving US President Donald Trump. He stressed that the three-nation agreement does not identify any specific country as a common enemy. According to Fidan, the pact would only be activated in response to an attack against one of its members.

"There is no common threat that we have put in writing," Fidan said, rejecting suggestions that Iran was the target of the agreement. He described Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan as countries focused primarily on their own security, development and relations with neighbouring states. Their cooperation, he said, would create a defence-oriented structure rather than an offensive military alliance. Fidan also argued that tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran should not be viewed solely as a bilateral dispute, saying the involvement of the United States and Israel had also contributed to the wider regional crisis. He said Türkiye had maintained discussions with Iranian officials for more than two years and believed Iran could play a constructive role in regional cooperation if it addressed outstanding regional concerns. The Turkish foreign minister compared the pact's collective-defence principle with NATO's Article 5, under which an armed attack against one member is treated as an attack against all members. Türkiye has been a

NATO member since 1952. Fidan said the alliance would establish political and military bodies involving foreign and defence ministers as well as military chiefs. A secretariat would coordinate implementation, while assistance to an attacked member could include intelligence, logistics, ammunition or military forces depending on the situation. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement on Friday amid heightened tensions across West Asia. The agreement seeks to strengthen defence cooperation and collective deterrence among the three countries. The summit statement said an armed attack against any one of the three signatories would be regarded as an attack against all three. Fidan said the initiative had been under discussion before the latest escalation in regional tensions and could eventually expand to include other countries. He described the agreement as a major step towards greater regional stability, while emphasising that its purpose was deterrence and mutual security rather than offensive military action.

IPO Rush To Keep Dalal Street Busy Next Week

India's primary market is set for another busy week, with nine initial public offerings (IPOs) worth nearly Rs 7,700 crore scheduled to hit Dalal Street from August 10. At the same time, eight companies are set to make their stock-market debut, keeping investors and market participants focused on the IPO segment.

The upcoming IPO activity includes offerings from both the mainboard and small and medium enterprise (SME) segments. Five mainboard companies are expected to raise around Rs 7,479 crore, while four SME issues together aim to mobilise about Rs 203 crore. The strong pipeline reflects continued interest among companies looking to raise funds through the equity markets.

Among the major mainboard IPOs scheduled for the week are Dhoot Transmission, Molbio Diagnostics, Milky Mist Dairy Food, Shiprocket

and Behari Lal Engineering. Their subscription periods are spread across August 10 to August 12, giving investors several opportunities to participate in the primary market.

Dhoot Transmission is set to open its IPO on August 10 with an issue size of around Rs 3,067 crore. Molbio Diagnostics will also open its issue on the same day, with the company looking to raise nearly Rs 940 crore. Milky Mist Dairy Food will follow on August 11 with an IPO of around Rs 1,553 crore.

Shiprocket, a logistics technology company, is another closely watched offering among the upcoming issues. The company's public issue is expected to attract attention because of its presence in India's rapidly expanding e-commerce and logistics ecosystem. Behari Lal Engineering is also scheduled to enter the primary market during the week. Its IPO will add another



er industrial business to the growing list of companies seeking public capital. The upcoming listings are equally important as investors assess how newly listed companies perform on the exchanges. Strong debuts could further encourage companies waiting to tap the capital markets, while weaker performances

may lead investors to become more selective. The heavy IPO pipeline comes amid sustained activity in India's equity markets. Companies are increasingly turning to public markets to raise capital for expansion, debt reduction, working capital requirements and other corporate purposes.

With nine IPOs expected to raise nearly Rs 7,700 crore and eight new listings scheduled, the coming week is likely to be closely watched by investors. The performance of these issues could provide further clues about current investor appetite for new-age businesses, established companies and SME offerings.

Four Top Firms Add Rs 1.43 Lakh Crore In Value



The combined market capitalization of four of India's top 10 most valued companies increased by Rs 1.43 lakh crore last week, with State Bank of India (SBI) emerging as the biggest gainer. The rise came as benchmark equity indices also recorded gains during the week. SBI led the increase in market value, reflecting stronger investor interest in the country's largest public sector bank. Banking stocks remained in focus amid expectations of steady credit growth, healthy asset quality and improving profitability. Reliance Industries continued to hold the top position among India's most valuable listed companies. It was followed by Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and SBI. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Hindustan Unilever completed the top 10 list. The overall movement in market capitalisation reflected the performance of individual stocks during the week. The BSE benchmark Sensex gained 404.53 points, or 0.51 per cent, while the NSE Nifty rose 187.05 points, or 0.76 per cent. The increase in the market value of leading companies is significant because large-cap stocks have a strong influence on benchmark indices and overall market sentiment. Gains in heavyweight stocks can also strengthen investor confidence, particularly when markets are navigating global uncertainties. SBI's position as the biggest market-cap gainer highlights the continuing importance of banking stocks in the Indian equity market. Financial companies account for a significant share of major market indices, making developments in loan growth, asset quality and earnings closely watched by investors. Reliance Industries retained its position as the country's most valuable listed company. Its diversified presence across energy, telecommunications, retail and other businesses continues to make the company a key stock for domestic and international investors. The latest market-cap movement comes as investors assess corporate earnings, economic growth prospects and global developments. Interest-rate expectations, foreign investment flows and geopolitical developments are also expected to influence market direction in the coming sessions. With four of the top 10 companies adding a combined Rs 1.43 lakh crore in market value, the weekly performance points to continued strength in select heavyweight stocks. Investors will now watch whether the gains can be sustained as the market enters another trading week.

Metals Rally Faces Test From Inflation, Hormuz Risks

India's metal stocks staged a strong recovery during the week ended August 7, but the rally could face a tougher test in the coming sessions as investors prepare for key US inflation and consumption data and continue to monitor risks surrounding the Strait of Hormuz.

The metals sector has benefited from a combination of global supply concerns, improving sentiment towards commodities and expectations of supportive demand. The recent gains have also come against a backdrop of shifting expectations around US monetary policy, after weaker-than-expected US payroll data led markets to reassess the Federal Reserve's interest-rate outlook. Copper, aluminium and other industrial metals have remained in focus as



investors assess the balance between supply constraints and global economic demand. A weaker US dollar and expectations of easier monetary conditions can generally support commodity prices by making dollar-denominated metals more attractive to international buyers. However, the sustainability of the recent rally could depend heavily on upcoming

US economic indicators. Inflation data will be closely watched for clues about the Federal Reserve's next policy moves. A stronger-than-expected inflation reading could reduce expectations of monetary easing and put pressure on commodities and other risk-sensitive assets. Geopolitical developments around the Strait of Hormuz are another important factor

for commodity markets. Any escalation in the region could disrupt energy supplies and push crude oil prices higher. Higher energy costs could, in turn, increase inflationary pressures across major economies and complicate the outlook for interest rates. The impact could extend beyond crude oil. Higher transportation and production costs can affect mining, refining and manufacturing operations, potentially influencing the prices of industrial commodities. Investors are therefore likely to closely track developments in the region along with global supply-chain conditions.

The recent performance of metal stocks has also reflected expectations of continued demand from infrastructure, construction, manufacturing and other industrial sectors.

Companies linked to copper, aluminium, steel and other metals could benefit if domestic and global economic activity remains resilient. At the same time, analysts are expected to remain cautious after the sharp gains recorded by several metal counters. Elevated valuations and global economic uncertainty could lead to increased volatility, particularly if upcoming economic data changes expectations around US interest rates.

For Indian investors, movements in global commodity prices, the rupee-dollar exchange rate and domestic demand will remain important factors. With inflation data and geopolitical developments likely to influence global markets, the metals rally could face a crucial test in the week ahead.

Altius Telecom Files Papers For Rs 6,000 Crore IPO

Brookfield-backed Altius Telecom Infrastructure Trust has filed draft papers for an initial public offering that could raise around Rs 6,000 crore, marking a major development in India's telecom infrastructure investment market.

The telecom infrastructure investment trust, or InvIT, submitted its draft offer documents on August 6 as it moves towards a potential public listing. The proposed issue will comprise a fresh issue of units worth Rs 500 crore along with an offer for sale of up to 30.47 crore units by existing investors.

The offer-for-sale component will see several existing unitholders reduce their holdings. Brookfield Corporation-managed BIF IV Jarvis India is looking to sell up to 18.86 crore units, while

Anahera Investment, an affiliate of Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC, plans to offload up to 7.65 crore units. Rossland IMC Limited Partnership will sell up to 3.96 crore units.

The fresh capital raised through the IPO will be used primarily to invest in the trust's portfolio assets and meet capital expenditure requirements. A portion of the proceeds may also be used for general corporate purposes. Unlike the fresh issue, proceeds from the offer for sale will go directly to the existing selling unitholders. Altius has emerged as a major player in India's telecom infrastructure space. The trust has a portfolio spanning around 2.58 lakh telecom sites and approximately 3.15 lakh tenancies across all 22 telecom circles



in the country. The proposed IPO comes at a time when India's telecom sector is undergoing continued infrastructure expansion. Rising data consumption, increasing smartphone usage and the rollout of next-generation mobile networks have created sustained demand for telecom towers

and related infrastructure. For investors, the Altius offering could provide an opportunity to gain exposure to telecom infrastructure through an InvIT structure. Such investment vehicles typically generate income from infrastructure assets and distribute a significant portion of their cash flows to

unitholders, subject to applicable regulations and financial performance.

The size of the proposed issue also makes Altius one of the more closely watched upcoming public-market offerings. The participation of major institutional investors and the trust's large asset base are likely to draw attention as investors assess its growth prospects, cash flows and valuation. The final IPO size, price band, issue dates and other details are expected to be announced later as the regulatory process progresses. The proposed listing could further deepen India's listed infrastructure investment market and provide investors with another avenue to participate in the country's expanding digital and telecom infrastructure ecosystem.

Broader Markets Extend Gains As Smallcaps Rally



India's broader equity market continued its upward momentum during the week, with small- and mid-cap stocks attracting strong buying interest. Several smallcap counters posted sharp gains, with some stocks rising as much as 20%, highlighting renewed investor appetite for higher-growth segments of the market.

The broader market performance came even as benchmark indices remained relatively steady. Sectoral indices also contributed to the positive sentiment, with the Nifty PSU Bank emerging as the strongest performer during the week.

The Nifty PSU Bank index gained around 5%, supported by buying interest in public sector banking stocks. Expectations of healthy credit growth, improving asset quality and stable earnings continued to support sentiment towards the banking sector. The Nifty Auto index also performed strongly, rising around 3%. The gains came after several automobile companies reported robust sales numbers for July, encouraging investors to take a positive view of the sector's demand outlook. The information technology sector was another contributor to the market's gains. The Nifty IT index advanced around 2.7%, helped by positive earnings developments and improved investor sentiment towards technology stocks.

Smallcap stocks, however, remained the major attraction during the week. Several counters recorded double-digit gains, with the top performers climbing up to 20%. Such sharp movements reflected strong buying interest in selected stocks and improved sentiment across the broader market.

The rally in smaller companies comes after a period of heightened volatility in the broader market. Investors have been closely tracking corporate earnings, sector-specific developments and domestic economic indicators while looking for opportunities beyond large-cap stocks.

Analysts and market participants are likely to remain cautious despite the recent gains, as smallcap stocks can experience significant price swings. Strong rallies in individual counters can also increase the importance of valuations and company-specific fundamentals.

The performance of broader indices suggests that market participation is not limited to large-cap stocks. Investors are increasingly looking at sectors and companies that could benefit from improving domestic demand, earnings growth and favourable business conditions.

With PSU banks, automobiles, IT companies and select smallcaps leading the gains, the latest weekly performance points to a broadening of market participation. Investors will now watch whether the momentum in broader indices can continue in the coming sessions amid changing global cues and domestic market developments.

Closing Auction Needs More Market Participation

India's newly introduced Closing Auction Session (CAS) is aimed at improving price discovery and making the closing price more representative. However, its success could depend less on the auction mechanism itself and more on how actively institutional investors and other market participants take part.

The closing price is crucial for calculating index levels, valuing mutual funds and exchange-traded funds, and settling derivative contracts. Globally, closing auctions have worked effectively because institutional investors, funds, market makers and other participants create deep and competitive order books.

In India, however, concerns have emerged over the structure of the new system. Under the CAS framework, the cash market closes at 3:15 pm, while futures and options trading continues until 3:40 pm. This creates a



25-minute period during which derivative positions remain exposed to market movements, while participants have limited ability to hedge them through the underlying cash market. Another concern is the change in the methodology used to determine the closing price. The earlier 30-minute volume-weighted average

price helped reduce the impact of sudden price movements by considering trades across a period. A single auction price, particularly when the order book is relatively shallow, could have a greater influence on the final settlement value. Participation is therefore emerging as the biggest challenge. In developed markets,

pension funds, index funds, ETFs, proprietary trading firms and designated market makers actively participate in closing auctions. Their presence helps create sufficient liquidity and improves price discovery.

In India, participation remains largely voluntary, while market makers are not required to continuously provide quotes during the auction. Without broader participation, even a well-designed auction mechanism may struggle to generate an efficient and representative closing price.

India's experience with the pre-open auction also highlights the importance of participation. Despite operating for more than 16 years, the pre-open session still accounts for only a small portion of overall daily turnover. In several developed markets, opening and closing auctions represent a much larger share of traded value. Market experts have suggested

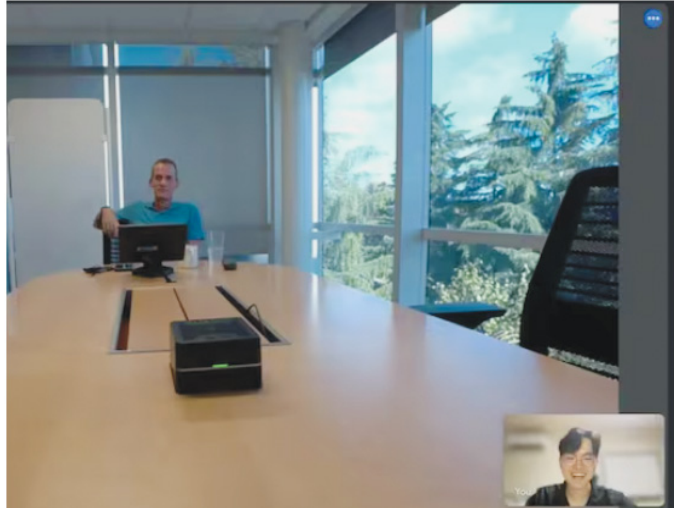
several measures to strengthen the new system. Aligning cash and derivatives trading hours until the close could help eliminate the hedging gap. Stronger market-making requirements, a deeper securities lending and borrowing ecosystem and real-time publication of auction order imbalances could also improve transparency and encourage participation. The Closing Auction Session is ultimately a step towards making India's markets more transparent and improving the quality of closing prices. However, an auction mechanism alone cannot create liquidity.

The effectiveness of the system will depend on whether enough investors, institutions and liquidity providers actively participate. As the new framework evolves, deeper participation will be essential for ensuring that the closing price accurately reflects genuine market demand and supply.

Google Intern's Simple Calendar Invite That Got Him Face-To-Face With Jeff Dean

Getting a meeting with one of the biggest names in technology can sound like a near-impossible task, especially for an intern. But former Google intern Yoonseok Yang discovered that sometimes, the bold-est approach is simply asking. In a story that has now caught attention online, Yang revealed that he once managed to meet Google technology legend Jeff Dean after sending him what he described as a random calendar invitation. The incident happened in 2022, when Yang was working as a Google intern. Rather than going through a complicated chain of introductions or waiting for an official opportunity, he noticed that Dean's calendar was accessible to employees, including interns. Yang decided he had little to lose and sent Dean a meeting invitation. To his surprise, Dean accept-

ed. The unexpected response left Yang with an opportunity that many technology enthusiasts would consider extraordinary. The next day, he shared a photograph of himself with Dean with his team. According to Yang, his colleagues were stunned that an intern had managed to get a meeting with one of Google's most influential engineers so casually. "Everyone was shocked," Yang recalled in his post. For Yang, the meeting was more than an unusual workplace anecdote. He described Dean as one of his biggest inspirations and said it was difficult to imagine Google without his influence. Dean's reputation at Google goes far beyond his senior position. During his 27 years at the company, he played a major role in some of its most important engineering developments and became one of the most



respected figures in the technology industry. What made Yang's story even more interesting was Dean's response when the old incident resurfaced online. After Yang shared the story on X, Dean replied that he remembered

their conversation. "I remember this. It was great chatting with you!" Dean wrote. The exchange quickly highlighted a side of corporate culture that can sometimes disappear behind the image of huge

organisations and senior executives: accessibility. For an intern, sending an unexpected invitation to a legendary engineer might appear risky. In Yang's case, however, the simple decision paid off with a memorable meeting and a story worth sharing years later. The episode also comes at a significant moment for Dean. After 27 years at Google, he is leaving the company to co-found a new AI venture called Discovery Loop with longtime collaborators and leading researchers. The start-up aims to use artificial intelligence to automate experimental work in science and engineering.

While Dean's career is filled with major technological achievements, Yang's story offers a more personal glimpse of the engineer - one where a simple calendar invitation was enough to open the door.

Chinese Women Switched At Birth Meet 37 Years Later After Growing Up Just 4 Km Apart



Two women in southern China have discovered that they were switched at birth 37 years ago, only to learn that they had spent their entire lives growing up just four kilometres apart.

Huang Xiaolin and Li Hui were born just 55 minutes apart at Qingyuan People's Hospital in Guangdong province in October 1989. According to a report by the South China Morning Post, both newborns were briefly shown to their mothers before being taken to the nursery.

At the time, the hospital did not use identification wristbands for newborns. Instead, babies wore identical hospital clothes and were identified through name cards placed inside their swaddling clothes. How the mix-up occurred remains unclear.

The two girls went on to grow up in completely different family circumstances.

Huang was raised in a relatively comfortable household by adoptive parents who worked for the government. Her adoptive father noticed that her blood type differed from his and that she did not resemble him. His suspicions eventually contributed to the couple's divorce when Huang was five.

Years later, Huang attempted to rebuild her relationship with her adoptive father. In 2022, she took a DNA test, expecting answers about her family. Instead, the results revealed something far more shocking: neither of the people she had always considered her parents were biologically related to her.

With help from police, Huang began tracing her biological family. In April last year, her search led her to Li Hui, revealing the decades-old hospital error.

Li had grown up in a much less comfortable household. Her parents ran a small grocery shop, but the family's financial situation deteriorated after her adoptive father lost their savings in an investment scam. Li eventually left secondary school to help support the family, working various jobs, including as a tour guide, hotel receptionist and salesperson.

Years of financial pressure and demanding work also affected her health. She later developed a blood disorder and underwent surgery to remove her thyroid.

When Huang and Li finally met at a cafe, both described the encounter as nervous, exciting and slightly awkward. Perhaps the most astonishing revelation for Li was learning that her biological parents had been living only about four kilometres away from her all along.

The discovery inevitably made both women wonder how different their lives might have been had the hospital error never occurred.

Despite the extraordinary circumstances, neither woman has chosen to abandon the families who raised them. Li continues supporting her adoptive mother, who has no pension, while Huang's adoptive mother reportedly does not want the discovery to disturb the other family.

The women later sought their original birth records from the hospital but were told the files could not be found. Some staff members involved in the maternity ward had retired, while others had died.

After 37 years, the mystery may never be fully explained. But for Huang and Li, a decades-old hospital mistake has unexpectedly created a new connection between two women whose lives began in the same place - and unfolded just four kilometres apart.

Bengaluru Bachelor Reveals His Rs.12 Lakh Cost Of Living

Living in Bengaluru can be expensive, especially when rent, food, travel and everyday services quietly add up. One city resident has offered a glimpse into his spending, revealing that he spent around Rs.12 lakh during a little more than two years of living in the city as a bachelor.

Harsh Agarwal shared details of his expenses in a video posted on his Instagram page, "unfiltered bachelor". According to Agarwal, his monthly living costs come to roughly Rs.50,000.

Agarwal said he shares a rented villa with friends, paying around Rs.28,000 every month towards rent. His other regular expenses include approximately Rs.5,000 for groceries and another Rs.4,500 for cooking and maid services. Internet and miscellaneous expenses account for about Rs.1,000 a month, while fuel costs him around Rs.3,000. Food is another significant expense, with Agarwal spending nearly Rs.5,000 each month on eating out and ordering food.

He also estimated that travelling between Bengaluru and his hometown costs him around Rs.4,000 per month. Taken together, these expenses add up to approximately Rs.50,000 every month. Agarwal calculated that this works out to nearly Rs.6 lakh a year and around Rs.12 lakh over two years.

The breakdown has sparked discussion about how quickly the cost of urban living can accumulate, even when individual expenses appear manageable.

Agarwal said Bengaluru is "very expensive" and pointed out that people may not immediately realise where Rs.50,000 goes each month. From house rent and food-delivery orders to fuel and weekend spending, several smaller expenses can collectively make a substantial dent in one's income.

"You finally calculate your living expenses and reality hits hard," Agarwal wrote on social media.

His experience highlights a common challenge for young professionals living independently in major cities. While Rs.50,000 a month may initially seem manageable, rent, groceries, domestic help, transportation, food and occasional travel can quickly push monthly spending higher.

The post also serves as a reminder that tracking expenses can make a significant difference. For bachelors living away from home, keeping an eye on recurring costs and discretionary spending could help prevent seemingly small purchases from turning into a six-figure annual expense.

Popeyes Sued Over Alleged Object In Chicken

A routine fast-food meal in Houston has turned into a legal battle after a Texas couple alleged that they found a condom-like object embedded inside a piece of fried chicken purchased from Popeyes.

Justin Howard and Danielle McKinnon are seeking more than \$1.5 million in damages from Popeyes, its parent company and a local franchise operator over the alleged incident.

According to a lawsuit filed on August 3 in Harris County District Court, the couple purchased chicken from a Popeyes outlet on South Sam Houston Parkway West on July 25. Howard allegedly bit into one of the pieces before noticing what appeared to be a condom-like object lodged inside the food.

The lawsuit describes the discovery as a frightening experience that immediately ended



what was supposed to be an ordinary meal. The couple said they stopped eating and became concerned about whether they might have swallowed part of the unidentified object or been exposed to contaminated food.

The lawsuit also raises questions about how the object could have ended up inside the chicken and whether other food items from the same order may have been affected. The couple's legal action names Restaurant Brands

International, which owns Popeyes and Burger King, along with Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen and franchise operator AAMANA Businesses, according to reports.

The petition reportedly accuses the companies of negligence, improper food handling and violations of Texas consumer protection laws.

The couple also alleges that their experience became more upsetting when they returned to the restaurant to report what they had found.

According to the lawsuit, staff members allegedly laughed at their complaint and repeatedly attempted to replace the chicken with another order rather than properly investigate the matter or provide a refund.

The couple claims they eventually received a refund after insisting on the issue. The unusual complaint also attracted attention outside the

courtroom. Houston community activists Candice Matthews and Quanell X reportedly visited the restaurant in late July, calling for the matter to be investigated.

They also urged the outlet to temporarily stop selling chicken while the alleged contamination was examined.

Popeyes, which began in New Orleans in 1972, has grown into a major international fast-food brand with more than 4,000 restaurants.

For now, the allegations remain claims made in a lawsuit, and the court will determine what actually happened and whether the defendants are legally responsible.

The case could ultimately hinge on evidence identifying the object, determining how it allegedly entered the food and establishing whether the couple suffered damages as a result.

Air India Picks CEO Who Nearly Led Pakistan's PIA

Air India has appointed former Ethiopian Airlines chief Tewolde Gebremariam as its new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, but the move has an unusual twist: he was reportedly also in line to take charge of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

Gebremariam, widely regarded as one of Africa's most successful aviation executives, will succeed Campbell Wilson, who announced his resignation in April and is expected to step down in September.

According to reports, PIA had shortlisted Gebremariam as its next chief executive after the airline's recent privatisation. His appointment was reportedly awaiting mandatory security clearances before it could be formally announced.

Arab News subsequently reported that PIA had selected

him for the top job, citing officials familiar with the matter. A major shareholder in the airline also reportedly confirmed the decision, describing Gebremariam as an experienced executive capable of leading a major turnaround.

The reported PIA appointment came shortly after Pakistan completed the first phase of privatising the airline. Management control was transferred to a consortium led by the Arif Habib Group, which planned to inject fresh capital into the carrier and support fleet expansion and new routes. However, the plan appears to have changed dramatically.

Air India's board announced that Gebremariam had been selected following a global search involving internal and external candidates. The airline said it was looking for an executive with experience in



large-scale airline turnarounds, safety management and profitable growth.

Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran said the carrier had completed an initial phase of stabilisation and fleet commitments under Wilson and was now entering a new stage focused on execution and expansion. Gebremariam brings more than three

decades of aviation experience to the role. He spent over 36 years with Ethiopian Airlines, eventually becoming Group CEO in 2011. He remained in the position until 2022. During his leadership, Ethiopian Airlines expanded significantly, with its revenue reportedly increasing more than fourfold and its fleet nearly tripling. Gebremariam

also oversaw the airline's integration into Star Alliance and the development of its aircraft maintenance and training capabilities.

His move to Air India places him at the helm of one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets. The Tata Group-owned carrier operates around 185 aircraft and is pursuing an aggressive international expansion strategy.

PIA, by comparison, operates a much smaller fleet of around 30 aircraft and is also attempting to modernise and expand following privatisation.

The unusual sequence of events means Gebremariam has gone from reportedly waiting for security clearance to lead Pakistan's national airline to becoming the person chosen to steer India's flagship carrier - making his appointment an intriguing chapter in South Asian aviation.

Singapore Life Costs Rs.3 Lakh A Month, Influencer Reveals

Living in Singapore may offer world-class infrastructure, safety and a high standard of living, but it can also come with a hefty monthly bill. Instagram content creator Kritika Jain has shared a detailed breakdown of the expenses she and her partner face while living in a one-bedroom apartment in central Singapore.

According to Jain, the couple spends between \$4,700 and \$4,900 every month, which works out to roughly Rs.3.01 lakh to Rs.3.14 lakh based on current exchange rates.

The biggest expense by far is housing. Jain said the couple pays around \$3,000, or approximately Rs.2.2 lakh, every month for their one-bedroom apartment in central Singapore. This alone accounts for more than 60 per cent of their estimated monthly budget.

Food is the second-largest expense. The couple spends

around \$800 to \$1,000, or approximately Rs.75,000, on groceries and dining out each month. Jain said they eat at restaurants or order food around three to four times a week, while preparing the rest of their meals at home.

Utilities and communication bills add another \$200, equivalent to around Rs.15,000. This includes electricity, water, Wi-Fi and mobile phone expenses.

Transportation costs the couple another \$200 per month. They primarily rely on Singapore's extensive public transport network but occasionally use taxis.

The remaining \$500, or around Rs.37,000, goes towards shopping, entertainment, subscriptions and other miscellaneous expenses.

Together, the expenses push their monthly spending close to the Rs.3 lakh mark.

Sharing the figures online, Jain pointed out that living in Singapore "comes at a price"



and asked her followers whether they believed the experience justified the cost.

Her breakdown has prompted discussions about the financial realities of living in one of Asia's most expensive cities. While Singapore is known for its efficient public transport, clean surroundings, safety and strong infrastructure, housing costs can significantly

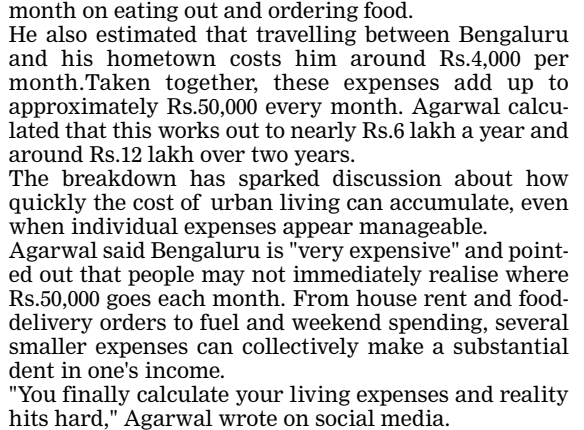
increase the overall budget for expatriates and young professionals.

Interestingly, the couple's spending also illustrates how lifestyle choices can influence the final figure. Frequent dining out, central-city accommodation, occasional taxi rides and discretionary spending all contribute to the total.

For those considering moving

to Singapore, Jain's experience offers a useful snapshot of what life could cost when choosing a centrally located home and maintaining a comfortable lifestyle.

In the end, the biggest lesson from her breakdown is simple: in Singapore, the dream lifestyle can be impressive - but the monthly bill can be equally eye-opening.



Gill, Abhishek And Arshdeep Lead Sher-e-Punjab T20 League

Indian Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill, all-rounder Abhishek Sharma and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh are among the marquee players announced for the upcoming Sher-e-Punjab T20 League. The tournament is scheduled to be held from August 30 to September 13 at the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) Stadium in Mohali. More than 450 players from Punjab are expected to participate in the auction, giving young and emerging cricketers an opportunity to compete alongside some of the state's established stars. Gill will represent Fazilka Falcons, while Abhishek Sharma has been assigned to Amritsar Soormas. Arshdeep Singh will turn out for Ludhiana Lions, with wicket-keeper-batter Prabhsimran Singh representing Jalandhar Warriors. Ramandeep Singh has been named the marquee player for Mohali Kings, while young fast bowler Gurnoor Brar will represent Bathinda Royals.

The participation of several high-profile Punjab cricketers is expected to add considerable interest to the tournament. Organisers believe the league can provide a valuable pathway for talented players from the state to gain competitive experience and potentially progress to higher levels of domestic and international cricket. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann welcomed the announcement, highlighting the state's strong cricketing tradition. "Punjab has always been a land of extraordinary cricketing talent and the Sher-e-Punjab T20 League is an important platform to showcase that talent," Mann said. He added that the presence of players such as Gill, Abhishek and Arshdeep would inspire the next generation of cricketers across the state. PCA Secretary Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer also described the announcement as an encouraging beginning to the new season. According to Hayer, the



involvement of established Indian players will allow young cricketers to learn from experienced campaigners while competing in a high-quality environment. "With a combination of established Indian stars and promising young players, the upcoming season of the Sher-e-Punjab T20 League will prove to be another important step towards strengthen-

ing Punjab's cricketing infrastructure," Hayer said. The tournament is expected to focus not only on competition but also on developing a stronger talent pipeline within Punjab. With the auction bringing together hundreds of local players, the league could offer several emerging cricketers a chance to make a mark in front of coaches, selectors and experienced

teammates. The presence of Gill, Abhishek and Arshdeep, all players who have featured prominently for India, is likely to provide additional visibility to the competition. With the tournament beginning on August 30, Punjab's young cricketing talent will now have an opportunity to share the spotlight with some of the state's biggest contemporary stars.



Laxman Rejects "Blame" Game Over India's Injury Crisis

VVS Laxman has rejected criticism of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Centre of Excellence (COE) over the growing injury concerns surrounding the Indian cricket team, insisting that player rehabilitation and fitness assessments are handled through a transparent, data-driven process.

The Head of Cricket at the BCCI COE addressed the issue during a press conference alongside board secretary Devajit Saikia. India's injury list has continued to grow, with Jasprit Bumrah and Sai Sudharsan among the latest players ruled out of the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka.

The absence of key players has raised questions about whether injured cricketers are being cleared prematurely by the COE or selected by the national team despite incomplete fitness. However, Laxman strongly pushed back against suggestions that responsibility should be assigned to one particular department or individual. "I think we don't like to use the word 'blame', because when you are using 'blame', then you are finding someone as a scapegoat," Laxman said, stressing that there is strong coordination between the COE, team management, Sports Science and Medicine staff and the selection committee.

He explained that the fitness clearance system involves regular communication between all stakeholders. When selectors request a player's fitness status, the COE prepares an updated report and shares it with the selection committee chairman, the head coach and the BCCI. Laxman also clarified the significance of the phrase "subject to fitness" attached to certain player selections. He pointed out that Bumrah and Sudharsan were selected for the Sri Lanka series with their participation conditional on receiving final fitness clearance.

According to Laxman, a player's rehabilitation is monitored progressively, with medical and sports science teams assessing whether the player is ready to move to the next stage. If recovery does not progress as expected, the selectors and coaching staff are informed immediately. "Bumrah and Sai Sudharsan were going to be picked... subject to fitness clearance," Laxman explained.

He added that this process allows selectors to identify replacements if a player fails to complete the required fitness tests before the series. Laxman maintained that the system is both "player-centric and team-centric", with fitness reports and selection decisions communicated transparently.

His comments come at a time when India are facing increasing concerns over player workload and injury management. The COE's role in rehabilitation has consequently come under greater scrutiny, but Laxman insisted that the existing system involves continuous coordination rather than isolated decisions.

He also stressed that a player appearing in a squad announcement with a fitness condition should not be interpreted as receiving a final medical clearance.

For the BCCI, the priority remains ensuring that players return to international cricket only when they are physically prepared to compete at the highest level.

Sarfaraz Likely To Replace Injured Sudharsan In Sri Lanka Tests

India batter Sarfaraz Khan is likely to be added to the squad as a replacement for injured Sai Sudharsan for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka, according to BCCI sources. Sudharsan is understood to have suffered an injury and is unlikely to regain full fitness in time for the opening Test, which is scheduled to begin in Galle on August 15. The final decision on his replacement is expected to be taken by the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

"Sarfaraz Khan is likely to replace injured Sai Sudharsan in the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka," a BCCI source told ANI.

Sudharsan has been undergoing rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. He has also participated in batting and fielding drills as part of his recovery programme. However, his progress has reportedly not been fast enough for him to be considered ready for the first Test.

The batter also did not travel with the Indian squad to Sri Lanka and consequently missed the ongoing three-day warm-up game against Sri Lanka Cricket XI in Colombo, which began on August 8. Sarfaraz, meanwhile, has previously featured for India in Test cricket and could provide additional batting depth to the squad if his inclusion is confirmed. India are dealing with several injury concerns ahead of the series. Captain Shubman Gill also suffered an injury to his right ring finger during a practice session before the warm-up match. The BCCI said Gill would sit out the first day of the practice game as a



precaution, with KL Rahul leading the side in his absence.

The medical team is continuing to monitor Gill's recovery ahead of the opening Test.

India will also be without pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has not fully recovered from a left knee injury sustained during the ODI series against England. The Men's Selection Committee has included Aquib Nabi in the squad as Bumrah's replacement. Other players facing fitness issues include Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy, who are sidelined with hamstring and quadriceps injuries respectively. Washington Sundar has also been ruled out of the opening Test because of a hamstring problem, while Akash Deep continues to recover from stress reactions in his back. The injury setbacks have created selection challenges for India ahead of an important Test assignment. The two-match series will be part of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle. India, led by Gill, are currently fifth in the World Test Championship standings, having recorded four wins and four defeats from nine matches, with a points percentage of 48.150.

With the first Test in Galle approaching, the fitness of Gill and the availability of replacements will remain key factors in India's preparations.

Brett Lee Picks Jacques Kallis As Cricket's Ultimate GOAT



Australian pace legend Brett Lee has named South African great Jacques Kallis as the greatest cricketer of all time, while placing Sachin Tendulkar at the top of his list of the best batters ever. Tendulkar is widely regarded as one of the greatest players in cricket history, and Lee also has enormous respect for the former India star. However, when asked to identify the overall GOAT, Lee believes Kallis' extraordinary all-round record gives him the edge. Speaking on the Beer Biceps podcast, Lee drew a clear distinction between being the greatest batter and being the greatest cricketer.

"I've always said that I think that the best batsman to ever play the game is Sachin Tendulkar. But the best cricketer is Jacques Kallis," Lee said. The former Australia fast bowler pointed to Kallis' remarkable statistics across formats as the major reason for his choice. "He's got the best numbers in the world. If you look at his stats, the stats don't lie. He's incredible," Lee added.

Lee and Kallis were once opponents on the international stage, but their relationship also included a brief spell as teammates in the Indian Premier League. Kallis played 56 matches for Kolkata Knight Riders between 2011 and 2014, while Lee represented the franchise from 2011 to 2013.

Lee also recalled Kallis' remarkably relaxed approach before matches. According to the Australian, the South African maintained an unusually calm demeanour even immediately before walking out to bat.

"His heart rate was about 30 beats a minute before going out to bat as he was chilled out. So relaxed," Lee recalled. He also remembered Kallis' consistent pre-match routine, including the way he put on his batting equipment.

"He'd put his left sock on first, his other sock would go in his mouth. Same thing every single day," Lee said.

Kallis' statistics underline why he is regarded as one of cricket's greatest all-rounders. In Test cricket, he scored 13,289 runs at an average of 55.37, including 45 centuries, while taking 292 wickets at 32.65 and completing 200 catches.

His ODI record was equally impressive. Kallis accumulated 11,579 runs at an average of 44.36, with 17 centuries, and claimed 273 wickets at 31.79.

The combination of elite batting, effective bowling and outstanding fielding made Kallis one of the most complete cricketers of his generation.

While Tendulkar remains Lee's choice as the greatest batter, the Australian believes Kallis' ability to influence matches with both bat and ball makes him the stronger candidate for the overall GOAT debate.

Rabada Says Home World Cup Will Bring Freedom, Not Pressure

South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada believes playing the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup on home soil will not create additional pressure on the Proteas, but instead give the team a sense of freedom and confidence. South Africa will co-host the 50-over World Cup with Zimbabwe and Namibia in 2027. With expectations surrounding the team rising after several strong performances across formats, Rabada remains convinced that the Proteas can embrace the occasion rather than feel burdened by it. Speaking at the official Cricket World Cup 2027 venue and brand announcement event in Johannesburg, Rabada said hosting the tournament would provide a unique opportunity for South Africa to defend its home territory.

"I don't feel the pressure of us playing at home and feeling the need to win it. It's almost like, we're at home and we're going to defend this fortress," Rabada said, as quoted by the International Cricket Council. For Rabada, representing South Africa is more important than worrying about outside expectations. He believes the home advantage should allow the players to focus on enjoying the tournament and performing for the national team.

"It's about representing the badge," the experienced right-arm pacer added. South Africa's confidence has been strengthened by their recent progress in international cricket. Their biggest achievement came in 2025 when they won the ICC World Test Championship at Lord's, defeating Australia in the final. Rabada is now hoping to help the



Proteas create another memorable chapter in their cricket history when the World Cup arrives in 2027. The fast bowler also revealed that one of his biggest inspirations from World Cup history is Pakistan legend Wasim Akram's performance in the 1992 final against England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Akram played a decisive role in Pakistan's comeback during the final, producing a brilliant spell that helped his team secure its first World Cup title. "One World Cup moment from the past that I'll never forget, because I'm a bowler, I'm going to go to the bowlers' club, was Wasim Akram against England in the final," Rabada said.

He particularly admired Akram's ability to combine pace, skill and intensity during a high-pressure match. "He was fast, had so much skill, and just had this presence, this heightened energy about him that he was there to play," Rabada recalled. Rabada will hope to deliver a similar match-winning moment for South Africa in 2027. With the tournament set to be staged across the southern African region, the Proteas will have the opportunity to perform in front of passionate home crowds. Rather than viewing the occasion as a burden, Rabada wants South Africa to embrace the responsibility and treat the World Cup as a chance to defend their fortress.

BCCI Seeks Government Clearance For Proposed Bangladesh Tour



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is set to approach the Government of India for permission and clarity over the proposed tour of Bangladesh, according to a report, amid strained cricketing and political relations between the two countries. The proposed white-ball series has become a matter of uncertainty, with the BCCI indicating that it cannot take a decision independently at this stage. According to a report by India Today, the board is expected to seek guidance from the government before making a final call on the tour. "We are working on it and will seek permission and clarity as far as the Bangladesh tour is concerned. We can't take any decision on our own at this stage. No decision has been taken yet, but we will soon approach the government," a BCCI source was quoted as saying. The BCCI is reportedly maintaining regular commu-

nication with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) regarding the proposed series. The BCB has also written to the Indian board, with discussions continuing over the schedule and other aspects of the tour. A window from August 29 to September 15 has reportedly been kept open for the proposed white-ball series in Bangladesh. However, the tour remains subject to clearance from the Indian government. Cricketing ties between India and Bangladesh have faced difficulties over the past year amid broader political tensions. Bangladesh had also declined to travel to India for the T20 World Cup earlier this year, following the controversy surrounding Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman and his removal from the Kolkata Knight Riders squad for IPL 2026. (The latest uncertainty comes at a busy time for Indian cricket. The Indian team is currently in Sri Lanka

for a two-match Test series, while the schedule also includes the Asian Games in Japan, which are scheduled to begin on September 24. India are also due to face Afghanistan in a T20I, with the proposed final match coming roughly a week before the Asian Games begin. Managing the team's schedule alongside the Bangladesh tour could therefore require careful planning. India last toured Bangladesh in 2022. The visit included three ODIs and two Test matches. Bangladesh won the ODI series 2-1, while India responded strongly in the longer format by completing a 2-0 Test series sweep. For now, the BCCI is waiting for greater clarity from the government before deciding whether the proposed Bangladesh tour will go ahead. The coming days are expected to provide a clearer picture of India's international schedule.

Mahesh Babu's Varanasi Drops Two Birthday Stills



Mahesh Babu's birthday on Sunday, August 9, brought a special surprise for fans from the team of Varanasi. Instead of releasing the much-awaited glimpse, the makers unveiled two exclusive stills featuring Mahesh Babu from the highly anticipated SS Rajamouli directorial. The new images offer a fresh look at Mahesh Babu as Rudhra, his character in the film. Fans had been expecting a video update on the superstar's birthday, but the makers chose to reveal two special frames from the movie. SS Rajamouli described Rudhra as a character born to fulfil a purpose much greater than himself. He carries a destiny he never asked for, while possessing qualities such as wit, vulnerability and fierceness. Rajamouli also praised Mahesh Babu for bringing both strength and fragility to the character. The filmmaker's description has added further curiosity about Rudhra and his journey in the film. The newly released stills were captured during the film's Africa schedule. The team shot important portions around Kilimanjaro and the Maasai Mara. Rajamouli highlighted the breathtaking scale of the locations, saying they were so vast that even the film's 1.43:1 IMAX frame could barely contain them. The Varanasi team had followed a similar strategy for Priyanka Chopra Jonas' birthday, releasing exclusive stills instead of a major glimpse. While fans were hoping to see fresh footage of Mahesh Babu this time, the new images have nevertheless increased anticipation for the movie. Produced by KL Narayana and SS Karthikeya, Varanasi features Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran in key roles alongside Mahesh Babu. Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani is providing the music. The film is being mounted on a massive scale and is expected to be one of the biggest Indian cinematic releases. With Rajamouli at the helm and Mahesh Babu playing the lead, expectations surrounding the project continue to rise. Varanasi is scheduled to release in theatres on April 7, 2027. Until then, the latest birthday stills have given fans another glimpse into the world of Rudhra while keeping the film's major details under wraps.



Tabu's SlumDog Glimpse To Release On August 10

Vijay Sethupathi and Puri Jagannadh's upcoming multi-lingual movie SlumDog: 33 Temple Road has received a new update, with the makers unveiling Tabu's character poster ahead of a special glimpse.

The film, which brings together Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathi and Telugu filmmaker Puri Jagannadh, has been creating curiosity among moviegoers since its announcement. The teaser was released a few weeks ago, but the team remained relatively quiet afterward without making any major

character poster has been officially released, introducing her as Gauri Hegde. The intense poster has immediately sparked curiosity about her role and the importance of her character in the story.

Adding to the excitement, the film's team has confirmed that a special glimpse of Tabu as Gauri Hegde will be released on August 10, at 11 AM. The glimpse is expected to offer audiences a closer look at her character and give them a better idea of the film's tone.

SlumDog: 33 Temple Road features a strong ensemble cast, with Samyuktha, Duniya Vijay, Brahmaji and VTV Ganesh playing important roles alongside Vijay Sethupathi and Tabu.

The movie is produced by Puri Jagannadh, Charmme Kaur and JB Narayan Rao. Kondrolla. Harshavardhan Rameshwar is composing the music for the project.



announcements. The makers have now returned with an update focused on veteran actress Tabu. Her

Allu Arjun Gives A Direct Update On 'Raaka'

Icon Star Allu Arjun has finally shared a fresh update about his much-awaited upcoming film Raaka, giving fans some clarity about the current shooting schedule.

Directed by Atlee, the film is being made on a massive scale and has been one of the most eagerly anticipated projects in Indian cinema. While fans have been waiting for official updates from the team, Allu Arjun himself has now revealed details about the ongoing shoot.

Speaking at the opening of his new multiplex in Visakhapatnam, Allu Arjun said that he had arrived directly from Mumbai, where the team is currently shooting Raaka. According to the actor, he had to temporarily step away from the shoot to attend the multiplex opening. Allu Arjun reportedly explained that he had requested the film's team for a day's break so that he could attend the event in Visakhapatnam. He also made it clear that he would return to the sets immediately after the event and continue shooting.

The actor's comments have given fans an important update about the production. They now know that the Raaka team is currently filming in Mumbai and that several sequences featuring Allu Arjun are being shot there.

The project has generated considerable buzz because of the combination of Allu Arjun and Atlee. The director is known for delivering large-scale commercial entertainers, while Allu Arjun is coming off the massive success of Pushpa 2: The Rule. Expectations surrounding their collaboration are therefore extremely high.

Although the makers have not revealed many details about the film's storyline, casting and other major elements, the scale of the production has already created significant interest among moviegoers.

Sai Abhyankar is composing the music for the film, while Sun Pictures is producing the project. The film is expected to be mounted as a major pan-Indian release.

For now, Allu Arjun's latest comments have provided fans with the update they were waiting for: Raaka is currently progressing with its Mumbai schedule, with the actor actively participating in the shoot.

Tamil cinema stars Karthi and Trisha may soon reunite on screen, with reports suggesting that the actress is being considered for Karthi's upcoming 31st film, which will be directed by Mohan Raja. According to reports, the makers are currently looking at Trisha for the female lead in the upcoming project. However, Nayanthara is said to be the team's first choice for the role. If her dates do not work out, the makers are reportedly planning to approach Trisha and finalize her for the film. The possibility of Karthi and Trisha sharing the screen again has already generated interest among fans. The two actors previously impressed audiences with their chemistry in Mani Ratnam's acclaimed historical drama Ponniyin Selvan. Karthi played Vallavarayan Vandiyadevan, while Trisha portrayed Princess Kundavai.

Their pairing received a strong response, making the latest reports about their possible reunion particularly exciting for moviegoers. Mohan Raja's upcoming film is said to be a family-oriented commercial entertainer. The project is currently in its early stages, and the makers are yet to officially announce the cast and other details. Karthi is currently busy with multiple projects. He is working on Sardar 2, which is being directed by P. S. Mithran. The actor is also part of another project with director Kalyan Shankar, with Meenakshi Chaudhary playing the female lead. The film, currently referred to as Karthi 30, is being planned as a Sankranti 2027 release. With Karthi continuing to line up interesting projects, his potential collaboration with Mohan Raja has added another promising title to his upcoming lineup. The Mohan Raja-Karthi project is expected to be officially announced soon. If Trisha eventually joins the cast, it would mark another reunion of the popular Ponniyin Selvan pair and could become one of the most anticipated aspects of the film. For now, the casting remains unconfirmed, with the makers expected to reveal more details once the project progresses further.

Trisha May Reunite With Karthi For Mohan Raja's Next



Suriya's upcoming Telugu-Tamil bilingual film Viswanath & Sons, directed by Venky Atluri, is gearing up for its theatrical release, and the makers have announced details of the grand pre-release event. The film's pre-release function will be held on August 11 in Hyderabad at JRC Conventions, Jubilee Hills. Suriya is expected to attend the event, making it an important occasion for fans and the film's promotional campaign. Directed by Venky Atluri, Viswanath & Sons has generated considerable buzz because of the combination of Suriya and the filmmaker. Venky Atluri previously delivered a successful outing with Sir, and expectations are high for his next project. Mamitha Baiju, who gained popularity with Premalu, plays the female lead opposite Suriya. Their pairing has already created curiosity among moviegoers, while the film also features a large ensemble cast. Veteran actors Radhika Sarathkumar, Raveena Tandon and Nassar are part of the cast, along with Yogi Babu, Bhavani Sre, Kali Venkat, Raghu Babu and Viva Harsha in important roles. The film has music composed by G. V. Prakash Kumar, adding another major attraction to the project. The technical team is mounting the movie on a grand scale, with the makers planning an extensive release across multiple markets. Viswanath & Sons is being produced by Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments, Fortune Four Cinemas and Sri Kara Studios. The film is scheduled to hit theatres on August 14. With the pre-release event set to take place just days before the theatrical release, the makers are expected to intensify promotions and reveal more details about the film. The August 11 event in Hyderabad is likely to be a major gathering for Suriya's fans, who are eagerly waiting to see the actor return to the screen in this much-awaited project.

Suriya's Viswanath & Sons Pre-Release Event on August 11

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