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# TRUE POINT

HYDERABAD | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 134 | MONDAY | AUGUST 10 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : HYDERABAD □ VIJAYAWADA

## TG Mineral Corporation Under Fire Over Delayed Sand Booking Refunds, Customers Cry Neglect

ARN MAHESH

Hyderabad: Several customers who booked sand through the Telangana Mineral Development Corporation (TGMDC) portal are facing severe hardships due to prolonged delays in receiving refunds for cancelled or incomplete bookings. Aggrieved consumers allege that despite repeated complaints and visits to TGMDC offices, their refund requests have remained pending for months, with some cases stretching beyond a year.

Customers who paid online for sand bookings through the official portal claim that when orders were cancelled or could not be fulfilled, the money deducted from their accounts was not returned within a reasonable timeframe. Many consumers say they have been forced to wait endlessly without any clear explanation from the authorities regarding the status of their refunds.

Several affected customers have alleged that the negligence of TGMDC staff has added to their frustration. Those who approached the corporation's offices directly reportedly faced delays, with officials allegedly asking them to return another day without providing a proper solution.

"We reach the office by 9 AM and are made to wait until 5 PM, only to be told to come back the next day. How long are we expected to tolerate this?" a frustrated customer said, highlighting the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens.

Consumers further claimed that their repeated attempts to seek help through



phone calls, office visits, and online grievance platforms have failed to bring any response. They criticised the lack of transparency over why refunds are being delayed and when the pending amounts would actually be credited.

The affected customers stated that the issue is causing both financial and mental distress, especially for those who depend on timely refunds. They questioned how a government-backed organisation could fail to provide basic customer service after collecting payments through a digital booking system.

Experts pointed out that while online platforms have made payment collection faster and more convenient, refund mechanisms must also operate with the same efficiency and accountability. They stressed the need for a fixed timeline for processing refunds and stronger monitoring systems to prevent such delays.

## CM Extends World Tribal Day Greetings

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended greetings to tribal communities on the occasion of World Tribal Day, appreciating their long-standing efforts to preserve nature, culture and traditional practices.

In his message, the Chief Minister described tribal culture as a way of life deeply connected with nature and forests. He said tribal communities have preserved their traditions and protected the environment across generations, making their knowledge and collective way of living valuable for humanity.

Revanth Reddy said the traditional knowledge, culture, customs and community-based lifestyle of tribal societies offer important lessons for the wider world, particularly in the context of environmental conservation.

He emphasised the need to respect the rights, identity and cultural heritage of tribal communities while working col-



lectively for their welfare, development and self-respect.

The Chief Minister called for continued efforts to ensure that tribal communities receive opportunities for progress while their unique cultural identity and traditional heritage are protected.

He said society as a whole should stand together in support of tribal communities and contribute towards their inclusive development and empowerment.

## KCR Visits Peddi Family, Hands Over Rs.2.25 Crore Aid

Warangal, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

BRS president and former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) on Sunday visited the family of former Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy at Nallabally and offered his condolences to the bereaved family.

KCR paid floral tributes to a portrait of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy and recalled his long association with the former MLA. He later handed over cheques totalling Rs.2.25 crore to the family as financial assistance and assured them of continued support from the BRS.

Recalling Peddi Sudarshan Reddy's association with him since the Telangana statehood movement, KCR said his close associate had stood firmly by him during several difficult phases of the movement. He said Peddi had made significant contributions to the Telangana struggle and later played an important role in the



development and strengthening of the BRS. KCR said the services and commitment of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy would always be remembered by the party and its leadership. He described him as a committed associate who had remained with the movement through challenging times.

The former Chief Minister said he considered it his personal responsibility to extend support to Peddi's family during their

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## Bhatti Vikramarka Visits UC Berkeley Energy Centre



Berkeley, California, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka visited the India Energy & Climate Center (IECC) at the University of California, Berkeley, where he held discussions on India's renewable energy commitments, energy security and Telangana's emerging role in the clean energy transition.

Bhatti Vikramarka visited the IECC at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy as part of his engagement in the United States. The discussions focused on practical strategies to accelerate renewable energy deployment and address the technological, economic and policy challenges associated with India's transition towards cleaner energy sources. The India Energy & Climate Center brings together expertise in clean energy technology and public policy, along with innovation from Silicon Valley and California's experience in developing advanced energy systems. The centre works on strategies aimed at supporting faster and more sustainable transformation of energy systems.

During the interaction, participants discussed India's ambitious renewable energy goals, including the target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity by 2030. The discussions also examined the importance of energy security and the opportunities emerging from the declining costs of renewable energy technologies.

Key areas discussed included policy design, modernisation of power grids, integration of energy storage systems, industrial decarbonisation and strategies to ensure that the transition towards clean energy remains economically inclusive.

Particular attention was given to Telangana's experience in expanding renewable energy and devel-

oping new models for clean power generation. The state has been pursuing a comprehensive Green Power Policy aimed at increasing renewable energy capacity and attracting investments into the sector.

The Telangana delegation highlighted the state's efforts to expand solar power and other renewable energy sources, along with initiatives involving women self-help groups and farmers. Programmes such as PM-KUSUM, which promotes decentralised solar energy and supports farmers, were discussed as examples of initiatives that can combine clean energy generation with rural economic opportunities.

The discussions also highlighted Telangana's focus on providing reliable 24x7 electricity, developing a manufacturing ecosystem for clean energy equipment and integrating renewable power with industrial development.

Bhatti Vikramarka emphasised the importance of ensuring that Telangana's energy transition contributes not only to environmental sustainability but also to economic growth, industrial competitiveness and energy security.

Officials and researchers at the meeting also explored possibilities for future collaboration between Telangana and the India Energy & Climate Center. Potential areas include technical cooperation, capacity building for policymakers and joint research on challenges affecting the power, industrial and transport sectors.

The participants also discussed climate resilience and mechanisms to accelerate the adoption of clean technologies while maintaining reliable energy supplies.

The engagement is expected to provide opportunities for Telangana to benefit from international expertise and research in clean energy policy, technology and energy-system planning as the state works towards expanding its renewable energy footprint.



## Uttam Reddy: CM Assured Rs.5,000 Crore for Irrigation Projects

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

State Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy has said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has assured Rs.5,000 crore to address land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) requirements for irrigation projects across the state. Of the total amount, Rs.2,000 crore has already been released, while the remaining Rs.3,000 crore is under process, Uttam Kumar Reddy said. He added that the government was committed to ensuring that irrigation projects nearing completion do not face delays due to a shortage of funds.

The minister made the remarks while reviewing the progress of irrigation projects in Karimnagar, Jagtial, Peddapalli and Rajanna Sircilla districts. He directed district collectors and irrigation officials to give priority to resolving land acquisition issues and obtaining forest and environmental clearances. Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to address pending land-related matters and take steps to resume the remaining works on the Mid Manair Left Canal. He said revised estimates, land acquisition, tendering and statutory clearances should be pursued simultaneously instead of being taken up sequentially.

The minister also reviewed the proposed Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Reservoir at Pathipaka in Dharmaram mandal of Peddapalli district. The project is expected to bring around 10,000 acres of new land under irrigation and help stabilise irrigation facilities covering approximately 2.4 lakh acres.

The benefits of the proposed reservoir are expected to extend across the Dharmapuri, Choppandandi, Peddapalli, Ramagundam and Manthani Assembly constituencies. Officials have been asked to expedite preparations for the project. A detailed project report is expected to be submitted by the end of August, according to officials cited in reports.

Uttam Kumar Reddy also directed the irrigation department to prepare a project-wise inventory of pending works and bottlenecks. The inventory should clearly mention the tasks that remain incomplete, funds required, current status and the deadline proposed for resolving each issue.

The minister stressed that land acquisition, R&R and forest-related issues should not be allowed to hold up irrigation projects indefinitely. He instructed officials to immediately submit proposals wherever additional funds were required. He said the government would prioritise funding for such proposals and reiterated that the primary objective was to complete ongoing irrigation projects and ensure that water reaches the intended ayacut without further delay.

The minister's review comes as the Telangana government seeks to

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## KTR Invited as Chief Guest for Dubai Bathukamma Event

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) working president and former minister K T Rama Rao (KTR) has been invited as the chief guest for the Bathukamma celebrations to be organised by the Emirates Telangana Cultural and Welfare Association (ETCA-UAE) in Dubai. The celebrations are scheduled to be held on October 11 at Al Ahli Sports Club, marking the beginning of this year's Bathukamma festivities. The festival celebrations will continue until October 18. ETCA-UAE representatives met KTR at his residence in Nandi Nagar on Friday and formally invited him to attend the event. During the meeting, KTR unveiled the poster for the upcoming Bathukamma celebrations. The association representatives said ETCA has been organising Bathukamma celebrations in the UAE for the past 16 years. The annual event aims to promote Telangana's rich cultural heritage and traditional practices among the Telugu-speaking expatriate community through Bathukamma and various cultural programmes.



The organisers are making arrangements to bring together Telangana expatriates from different parts of the UAE for the October 11 celebrations. A large gathering is expected to participate in the festivities. ETCA president Cheeti Jagadish Rao, along with Kondam Ashok Reddy, Gandhari Satyanarayana, Padala Linga Reddy, Punugoti Surender Rao, Rishitha Akkenapelli, Sandhya and

Bhanu Teja, among others, met KTR during the invitation.

**KTR Enquires About Gulf Workers** During the interaction, KTR enquired about the welfare of Telangana workers living in Gulf countries. He sought information about employment opportunities, problems faced by workers and the challenges encountered by Telangana expatriates. KTR appreciated

## CM to Attend Varuna Yagam at Nagarjuna Sagar



Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

A Varuna Yagam, a special Vedic ritual seeking abundant rainfall, will be conducted at Nagarjuna Sagar on Monday, with Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy scheduled to participate in the Purnahuti ceremony. The ritual will be held at the premises of the Vijay Vihar Tourism Guest House in Nagarjuna Sagar. The Chief Minister will attend the concluding offering ceremony at 3 pm, according to his schedule. As per the itinerary, Revanth Reddy will leave Hyderabad by helicopter at 2 pm and reach the BC Residential School at Nagarjuna Sagar Hill Colony at around 2.45 pm. From there, he will proceed to the Vijay Vihar Tourism Guest House, where the Varuna Yagam will be con-

ducted. Following the completion of the Purnahuti, the Chief Minister is scheduled to leave Nagarjuna Sagar for Hyderabad at around 4 pm. As many as 108 Ritwiks (priests) will participate in the Varuna Yagam, while 11 Homa Kundams have been set up for the ritual. The yagam will be performed by priests and Vedic scholars associated with the Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. The ritual is being organised to seek abundant and timely rainfall and adequate inflows into reservoirs in the Krishna and Godavari river basins. The prayers are aimed at ensuring sufficient water availability for agriculture, drinking water needs and other requirements across Telangana. Varuna Yagam is traditionally performed as a prayer to Varuna, the Vedic

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## Telangana DGP CV Anand Launches TG-VEER for Police Martyrs' Families



Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Director General of Police CV Anand on Sunday launched TG-VEER, a dedicated grievance portal aimed at providing a single platform for the families of police martyrs to raise issues related to financial assistance, compassionate appointments, plot allotments and other welfare benefits. During his visit to Warangal district, Anand interacted with the families of 28 police martyrs belonging to the Warangal Commissionerate who lost their lives while fighting Maoist insurgency, according to an official release. The newly launched TG-VEER portal is designed to simplify the process of registering and monitoring grievances raised by the families of police personnel who died in the line of duty. It will bring together details of each martyr's service profile, family information and benefits already received by the family. The portal will also contain a centralised repository of relevant government orders and welfare provisions, enabling senior police officers to monitor grievances at both unit and state levels.

As part of the initiative, the DGP distributed QR code-enabled family cards to the families of the martyrs. By scanning the QR code, family members can directly access the TG-VEER portal and register their grievances. Anand directed officials of the Special Intelligence Branch (SIB), which developed the portal, to immediately coordinate with police units across the state and collect details of pending grievances from all families of police martyrs.

He asked the officials to prepare a consolidated report so that the issues could be reviewed

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## Quit India Movement Inspired Freedom Struggle, Says TPCC Chief



Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud said the younger generation must understand the historical significance of the Quit India Movement and the sacrifices made by thousands of freedom fighters to secure India's independence.

Speaking on the occasion of Quit India Day, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the movement launched a decisive phase in India's freedom struggle. He recalled that Mahatma Gandhi gave the historic call on August 8, 1942, which mobilised people across the country against British rule.

He said leaders including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose inspired the freedom movement and played a significant role in awakening national consciousness. According to him, the Quit India Movement became one of the major forces that eventually compelled the British to leave India.

The TPCC chief said the younger generation, particularly those involved in contemporary movements, should study the history of the freedom struggle and understand the sacrifices made by people who gave up their lives and livelihoods for the country.

He alleged that attempts were being made to diminish the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, while the BJP was trying to appropriate the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He said those who undermine the Constitution and democratic institutions must also be challenged through democratic means.

Referring to recent youth-led movements, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the Gen Z generation should draw inspiration from the Quit India Movement and understand the importance of standing up for democratic values. He said no matter how powerful a person or organisation may be, democracy ultimately gives people the strength to hold them accountable.

The TPCC chief also spoke about the Congress government's performance in Telangana, claiming that the state was witnessing significant progress in development and welfare programmes. He criticised the previous BRS government, alleging that it had failed to deliver meaningful development during its decade in power.

He also dismissed claims by BRS leaders regarding employment generation, describing their statements as exaggerated and urged the opposition to engage in constructive criticism instead of making what he called false allegations.

Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed confidence that the Congress government's development and welfare initiatives would help the party return to power in the next elections. He also assured Congress workers that their efforts and sacrifices would not be forgotten.

On electoral issues, the TPCC chief alleged that attempts were being made to delete voters' names during the electoral roll revision process. He said the Congress was working to prevent the deletion of eligible voters and protect their right to vote.

He called upon people to participate in efforts to safeguard democracy without discrimination based on caste or other social divisions, stressing that protecting constitutional and democratic values remained a collective responsibility.

## Ministers prays to Bhagyalakshmi Ammavaru



Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, along with state ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Konda Surekha, and Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, offered silk clothes to Sri Bhagyalakshmi Ammavaru at the historic temple near Charminar on the occasion of the Ashada Bonalu festivities. The Congress leaders reached the Sri Bhagyalakshmi Ammavaru Temple at Charminar, where temple authorities and organisers accorded them a warm welcome. They later had darshan of the deity and performed special prayers as part of the Bonalu celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders prayed for the well-being, health and prosperity of the people of Telangana. They also sought the blessings of the goddess for the continued development and progress of the state.

The leaders said Ashada Bonalu is an important festival that reflects Telangana's rich cultural heritage, traditions and spirit of community participation. They noted that the celebrations bring people together irrespective of differences and serve as an important expression of the state's cultural identity. Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ponnam Prabhakar, Konda Surekha and Anil Kumar Yadav extended their greetings to people across Hyderabad and Telangana on the occasion of Bonalu. They wished devotees a peaceful and joyful festival and prayed for the welfare of families across the state.

The leaders also offered prayers for timely and adequate rainfall across Telangana. They expressed hope that the state would receive sufficient rains, leading to good agricultural output and prosperity for farmers.

They said favourable weather conditions and adequate water availability were essential for agriculture and the overall economic well-being of the state. The leaders prayed that farmers would have a prosperous agricultural season and that crops and livestock would flourish with the blessings of the deity.

The Sri Bhagyalakshmi Ammavaru Temple, located near Charminar, witnesses large gatherings of devotees during the annual Bonalu festivities. Special arrangements are generally made to facilitate the movement and darshan of devotees during the celebrations.

The visit of the Congress leaders formed part of the religious and cultural activities associated with the Ashada Bonalu celebrations in Hyderabad.

Congress leaders, elected representatives, party workers, temple organisers and a large number of devotees were present during the programme.

The leaders reiterated their wishes for the success of the Bonalu festivities and called for the celebrations to be conducted in a spirit of devotion, harmony and respect for Telangana's traditions.

# Minister Attends Gowlipura Mahankali Bonalu Celebrations



Hyderabad, Aug 9 TPN Bureau

State Minister for Sports, Dairy Development, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Youth Services Vakiti Srihari participated in the Bonalu celebrations at the Gowlipura Mahankali Temple in Hyderabad on Sunday. The minister visited the temple and performed special prayers to the presiding deity, seeking the blessings of Mahankali Ammavaru for the welfare and prosperity of the people of Telangana.

On behalf of the state government, Srihari offered silk clothes (pattu vastralu) to the goddess as part of the Bonalu festivities. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said Bonalu is an important festival that reflects the rich cultural heritage, traditions and spiritual beliefs of the people of Telangana. He said the festival serves as a symbol of the state's distinctive cultural identity and religious traditions.

Srihari said the celebrations provide an opportunity for people to come together and express

their devotion while preserving customs that have been passed down through generations. He said Bonalu reflects the deep spiritual faith and cultural richness of Telangana.

The minister said he considered it a matter of great fortune to have the opportunity to offer silk clothes to the goddess for the second consecutive year.

He prayed that, with the blessings of Mahankali Ammavaru, Telangana would continue to progress and that people across the state would enjoy peace, prosperity, good health and



happiness. He also wished that the Bonalu celebrations would conclude peacefully and successfully, with devotees able to participate in the festivities with devotion and enthusiasm.

The temple priests accorded the minister a traditional welcome with Poorna Kumbham upon his arrival at the temple premises. Srihari subsequently participated in the special rituals and offered prayers to the deity.

The Gowlipura Mahankali temple witnessed a large gathering of devotees as part of the Bonalu celebrations. Devotees participated in the festivities with traditional fervour and offered Bonam to the goddess.

Saritha Tirupathayya Yadav, chairperson of the Telangana Sheep and Goat Development Cooperative Federation, along with local public representatives, temple committee members, party leaders and a large number of devotees, participated in the programme.

The minister said the government's efforts would continue to support Telangana's cultural traditions and festivals while ensuring facilities for devotees during major religious celebrations.

## KTR's temple visit shows power of Bhagyalakshmi - Bandi Sanjay

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister and senior BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar took a dig at BRS working president K T Rama Rao (KTR) over his recent visit to the Bhagyalakshmi temple near Charminar, saying the development showed the "power" of the deity. Speaking during the Bonalu celebrations at the Lal Darwaza Simhavahini Mahankali Temple in Hyderabad's Old City on Sunday, Sanjay recalled KTR's earlier remarks mocking his temple visits during the GHMC elections. Sanjay said KTR had ridiculed him when he visited the Bhagyalakshmi temple during the election campaign. Referring to KTR's recent visit to the same temple, the

Union Minister said the deity had now brought about a change in his attitude. He said KTR's temple visit demonstrated the "immense power" of Bhagyalakshmi Mata and remarked that even those who had earlier mocked temple visits had eventually sought the deity's blessings. The BJP leader also questioned the funds allocated by the Telangana government for Bonalu celebrations at the Lal Darwaza temple.

Sanjay said the temple attracts more than one lakh devotees during the festival but alleged that only Rs.5.5 lakh had been allocated for the Bonalu celebrations. He questioned whether such a small amount could meet the requirements of an event attended by such a large number of devotees.

He also questioned the allocation

of funds for religious and cultural programmes. Sanjay claimed that the government had allocated Rs.33 crore for Ramzan-related programmes, while only Rs.20 crore was being provided for Bonalu celebrations.

He questioned the disparity in the allocations and said greater attention should be given to providing facilities and infrastructure for devotees attending the Bonalu festivities.

Sanjay also criticised the previous BRS government over its alleged failure to fulfil promises made for the development of the Lal Darwaza Ujjaini Mahankali Temple. He alleged that former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) had promised Rs.20 crore for the development of the temple but failed to release the



funds. Sanjay accused the previous government of neglecting the temple and said greater accountability was needed in matters concerning religious and cultural institutions. He said the BJP would give special importance to Bonalu celebrations if it came to power in Telangana. He

promised that the festival would be organised on a grand scale in the Old City, with improved facilities for devotees and substantial funding for infrastructure. Sanjay also said the BJP would work towards developing the Bhagyalakshmi temple on the lines of the Golden

Temple, with the aim of making it a major spiritual and cultural destination. His remarks came during the annual Bonalu celebrations at Lal Darwaza, which witnessed large participation from devotees across Hyderabad and surrounding areas.

## Minister Calls Gandhi's Ideals a Guiding Light for New Generations

strength of people united by a common objective. Under Gandhi's leadership, the movement encouraged ordinary citizens to participate in the struggle against British rule through non-violent means. Surekha said the freedom enjoyed by citizens today was achieved through the sacrifices of thousands of freedom fighters who endured imprisonment, hardships and persecution. Remembering their contribution should not be limited to commemorative occasions, she said, but should inspire citizens to uphold the values for which they fought. The minister called upon people, particularly the younger generation, to understand the history of India's freedom movement and draw inspiration from the ideals of the

national leaders and freedom fighters. She emphasised that protecting democratic values was an important responsibility of every citizen. Remembering the sacrifices of freedom fighters should motivate people to work towards strengthening democracy, constitutional values and social harmony, she said. As part of the Quit India Day programme, several competitions were organised at Gandhi Bhavan. Minister Konda Surekha, along with Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, presented merit certificates to the winners of the competitions. The event brought together Congress leaders, party workers, participants and others who paid trib-

ute to the freedom movement and its leaders. Surekha said Mahatma Gandhi's message of truth and non-violence remained particularly important in the present era. She urged people to incorporate the spirit of service and sacrifice into public life and work towards the welfare of society. She also called upon citizens to remember the responsibilities that accompany freedom and democracy. The values of tolerance, equality, justice and peaceful participation, she said, must continue to guide society. The minister concluded by urging everyone to honour the legacy of freedom fighters by protecting democratic institutions and upholding the ideals that shaped India's independence movement.

## Minister Calls for Stronger Protection of Tribal Rights

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Dhanasari Anasuya, popularly known as Seethakka, said the history of tribal communities is deeply rooted in struggles for rights, freedom and equality and called for stronger implementation of the constitutional safeguards provided to Adivasis. Speaking about the challenges and aspirations of tribal communities, Seethakka said Adivasi history has been marked by continuous struggles since their ancestors began living in forests. From battling harsh natural conditions to resisting rulers and colonial forces, tribal communities have played a major role in several historic movements, she said.

She recalled the struggles of Sammakka and Sarakka, Birsu Munda, Ramji Gond and Komaram Bheem, who fought against different forms of oppression. She said tribal communities had consistently stood at the forefront of movements for freedom, equality and their traditional rights, with many making significant sacrifices.

Seethakka said constitutional safeguards were subsequently provided to tribal communities,

including provisions relating to autonomy, land rights, employment and livelihood. She noted that Dr BR Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru played important roles in establishing constitutional protections through the Fifth and Sixth Schedules for tribal areas. However, she said inadequate understanding among officials and improper implementation of these provisions had resulted in tribal communities continuing to face difficulties.

Seethakka stressed that the struggle for tribal rights should not be viewed as opposition to any particular caste or community. "We do not need to hate any caste or oppose people from any region. We should demand the rights that are legitimately due to us," she said.

She pointed to the continuing reverence for Alluri Sitarama Raju in tribal areas as an example of how Adivasi communities have historically welcomed and lived alongside people from different backgrounds.

Seethakka said tribal communities should maintain harmony with everyone while fully exercising the special rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution. She added that every government has a responsibility to implement these safeguards.



The minister praised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his focus on poor, tribal and disadvantaged communities. She said Telangana had undertaken a caste census, including efforts to assess the status of Backward Classes, and expressed confidence that tribal issues would also be addressed without causing injustice to any section. She said six tribal MLAs were working together and meeting ministers to seek additional funds for constituency development, forest areas and tribal welfare.

According to Seethakka, tribal communities from Achampet to Adilabad share common demands, including rights over forests, access to employment opportunities and secure housing.

She urged officials to treat everyone equally and listen patiently to the grievances of poor tribal people, stressing that a person's value should not depend on their appearance or social status. Seethakka also urged tribal communities to preserve their languages, traditional dress, customs and clan identities, describing them as essential elements of their cultural identity and tools for protecting their rights.

Recalling Komaram Bheem's slogan of "Jal, Jangal, Zameen", she said Telangana's statehood movement was also built around demands for water, funds and jobs. She called upon tribal youth to draw inspiration from Komaram Bheem and work towards protecting their rights, culture and identity.



# HC Orders Interim Restoration of BRS Activist's Facebook Account

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana High Court has directed the interim restoration of public access in India to the Facebook account of BRS activist Tajnoth Raghuvveer, also known as Raghuvveer Rathod, in another legal development concerning social media content and freedom of expression. The order was passed on August 7, 2026, in W.P. No. 24449 of 2026, filed by Raghuvveer challenging the blocking of his Facebook account. The petitioner alleged that the action violated his fundamental right to freedom of speech and principles of natural justice. The High Court directed Meta Platforms to respond to the petition and issued notice to the company. The matter has been posted for further consideration on September 7, 2026. In the meantime, the court ordered that public access to the Facebook account "Raghuvveer Rathod" be restored in India until further orders. The development has been welcomed by the BRS Legal Cell, which has been representing several party supporters and social media activists facing police action over their political posts and online activities. According to the BRS Legal Cell, several activists supporting the party have



faced cases and alleged attempts at arrest since the Congress government came to power in Telangana. The legal wing has claimed that some of these cases were politically motivated and that police action in certain instances was undertaken without following due procedure. The BRS Legal Cell said it has intervened in several cases involving social media activists, challenging police action, opposing mechanical arrests and remands, and bringing alleged procedural

violations before the courts. The latest High Court order is being projected by the party as another significant development in its legal campaign concerning the rights of social media users and political activists. The legal wing also pointed to the Nalla Balu vs State of Telangana case, in which the Telangana High Court laid down safeguards relating to cases registered over social media activity. The BRS Legal Cell said the judgment represented an impor-

tant step towards ensuring that police investigations involving online content comply with constitutional and procedural safeguards. The party further claimed that the Supreme Court has supported the principles underlying these safeguards in matters concerning social media-related FIRs. The BRS Legal Cell said the recent judicial interventions underline the importance of due process while dealing with political speech and online activity. It argued that law enforcement agencies must follow established procedures and cannot arbitrarily restrict citizens' constitutional freedoms. The restoration of Raghuvveer's Facebook account is, however, an interim order and does not constitute a final adjudication of the underlying dispute. Meta has been directed to respond to the petition, and the case will come up for further hearing in September. The development is likely to draw further attention to the continuing legal and political debate in Telangana over social media posts, police cases against online activists and the balance between regulation of digital platforms and freedom of expression.



## CM to Attend Varuna Yagam at Nagarjuna Sagar

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deity associated with water and rainfall, seeking favourable weather conditions and sufficient rains. The programme comes at a time when adequate rainfall and reservoir inflows remain crucial for irrigation and agricultural activities in the state. The Krishna and Godavari river systems are particularly important for Telangana's irrigation and drinking water requirements. The participation of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in the Purnahuti ceremony is expected to highlight the government's focus on water availability and the state's agricultural needs. Arrangements have been made at the Vijay Vihar Tourism Guest House for the ritual, with priests and Vedic scholars from Yadagirigutta scheduled to conduct the ceremonies.

## KTR Invited as Chief Guest for Dubai Bathukamma Event?



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ETCA representatives for their continued efforts to preserve and promote Telangana's culture and traditions among the diaspora. He said the initiatives taken by overseas Telangana associations to showcase the state's cultural heritage on an international platform were commendable. KTR also acknowledged ETCA's efforts in supporting Telangana workers facing difficulties in the Gulf. The BRS working president assured the representatives of his support in addressing issues concerning Telangana expatriates. ETCA representatives recalled KTR's earlier efforts to assist Telangana residents who had become stranded in Gulf countries and help facilitate their return to India. They thanked him for his support in taking up the concerns of Telangana workers and expatriates.

**Bathukamma Festivities From October 11**

Bathukamma, one of Telangana's most prominent cultural festivals, will be celebrated this year from October 11 to October 18. The festivities will begin with Engili Pula Bathukamma and conclude with Saddula Bathukamma on October 18. The festival is centred around colourful floral arrangements, with women gathering in groups to sing traditional songs and perform dances around the decorated Bathukamma. Over the years, Bathukamma celebrations have also gained popularity outside Telangana. Telugu and Telangana associations in countries across the Gulf and other parts of the world organise events to help expatriates maintain their cultural connections with their homeland. The Dubai event is expected to bring together Telangana families from across the UAE and provide a platform to celebrate the state's traditions and cultural identity.

## KCR Visits Peddi Family, Hands Over Rs.2.25 Crore Aid

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difficult period. He assured the family members that the BRS would continue to stand by them and provide assistance whenever required. KCR's visit to Nallabally attracted a large gathering of BRS leaders, workers and supporters. Party activists and local residents gathered along the main roads to welcome the former Chief Minister and catch a glimpse of him during his visit. The large turnout reflected the strong connection between Peddi Sudarshan Reddy and the BRS cadre in the region, with party workers recalling his role in the Telangana movement and his political career. BRS leaders accompanying KCR also expressed solidarity with the bereaved family and said the party leadership would continue to support them. The financial assistance of Rs.2.25 crore was handed over as part of the party's commitment to stand by the family, while KCR's interaction with the relatives was aimed at offering personal support and condolences. The visit also provided an opportunity for BRS workers in the Nallabally area to interact with their party president. The roads leading to the venue witnessed significant crowds as supporters assembled ahead of and during KCR's visit. KCR reiterated that Peddi Sudarshan Reddy's contribution to the Telangana movement and the BRS would remain part of the party's history. He said the sacrifices and efforts of those who worked for the separate state movement would always be remembered and honoured.

## Telangana DGP CV Anand Launches TG-VEER for Police Martyrs' Families

Continue

systematically and taken up with the concerned departments. During the interaction, several families brought long-pending issues to the DGP's attention. These included demands related to ex-gratia payments, financial assistance, allotment of plots, registration and title issues, pensions and other welfare benefits. Anand assured the families that he would personally take up their concerns with the state government and pursue their resolution. The DGP also spoke about his personal association with Warangal, where he began his police career as an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in the Warangal Rural Sub-Division. Recalling his early years in the region during the peak of Maoist activity, Anand said he understood the hardships faced by families whose loved ones were killed while performing their duties. He recalled the difficult period when police personnel regularly faced ambushes and armed exchanges with Maoist groups. The peace and stability prevailing in the region today, he said, had been built on the sacrifices of police officers and personnel who placed their duty to the public above their own safety and lives. The TG-VEER initiative is expected to provide a more structured mechanism for addressing the welfare concerns of police martyrs' families and ensuring that eligible benefits reach them without unnecessary delays.

## Uttam Reddy: CM Assured Rs.5,000 Crore for Irrigation Projects

Continue

accelerate the completion of pending irrigation works and improve water availability for farmers across several districts. Uttam Kumar Reddy said better coordination among district administrations, irrigation officials and other departments was essential to overcome administrative and statutory hurdles and ensure that projects are completed within the targeted timelines.

## V.C. Sajjanar Inspects Bonalu Security at Laldarwaja Temple

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Sunday inspected security arrangements at the Lal Darwaja Sri Simhavahini Mahankali Ammavari Temple on the occasion of Ashada Masa Bonalu. Sajjanar offered special prayers to the goddess and greeted women devotees visiting the temple for the festival. He assured devotees that extensive security arrangements had been put in place to ensure their safety during the celebrations. Around 2,400 police personnel have been deployed in two shifts to manage the large crowds and maintain law and order in and around the temple. Crime teams have also been positioned at key locations, while pickets have been established at temples and other sensitive points. The Commissioner said additional CCTV cameras and drones were being used to monitor the temple premises and procession routes. A special command and control room has also been established at Laldarwaja to continuously monitor the situation and coordinate security operations. Speaking to the media, Sajjanar said security arrangements would remain in place for nearly 48 hours in the areas surrounding the temple. He said the festival was progressing peacefully so far



with the cooperation of devotees and the public. The police have also deployed advanced artificial intelligence-based surveillance technology as part of the security arrangements. AI-enabled cameras are being used to monitor crowds and suspicious activity and help police quickly identify suspected thieves and chain-snatchers. The Commissioner urged devotees to cooperate with the police and follow security instructions while participating in the Bonalu celebrations. He said the deployment of personnel, surveillance systems and control-room monitoring was aimed at ensuring that devotees could celebrate the festival safely and without disruption. The Lal Darwaja Bonalu celebrations are among the major events during the Ashada festival season in Hyderabad and attract large numbers of devotees from across the city and surrounding areas.

## D.K. Aruna Assures Fair Compensation for Railway Land Acquisition

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Mahbubnagar BJP MP D.K. Aruna assured farmers affected by land acquisition for the Dhone-Mahbubnagar railway doubling project that efforts would be made to secure compensation in line with the market value of their land. Aruna was speaking at a programme held at Konnur in Madanapuram mandal of Wanaparthy district, where compensation cheques were distributed to families affected by the acquisition. As many as 128 farmers are set to lose 27.4 acres of land for the railway project. Appreciating the farmers for voluntarily coming forward to part with their land, Aruna said she would take up their concerns with the district administration. She assured the affected farmers that she would discuss the matter with the Collector and work towards ensuring that they receive fair compensation based on the prevailing market value of their properties. The MP said the railway doubling project was important for improving connectivity and strengthening rail infrastructure in the region. She thanked the farmers for cooperating with the project despite the difficulties associated with giving up their agricultural land. Aruna also spoke about the problems faced by residents at several locations in the erstwhile Mahbubnagar dis-



trict due to railway level crossings. She said proposals had already been submitted for the construction of railway overbridges (ROBs) at locations where people were facing inconvenience and safety concerns because of railway gates. According to Aruna, the Central government is currently providing 100 per cent financial support for the construction of railway overbridges in eligible locations. She said the proposals would help address long-standing problems faced by people living near railway crossings and improve road connectivity across the region. The MP said efforts would continue to coordinate with the concerned authorities and expedite infrastructure projects benefiting the people of the erstwhile Mahbubnagar district. Mahbubnagar MLA Madhusudhan Reddy, RDO Subramanyam and BJP district president Srinivas Reddy were among those who attended the programme.

## Ex-BRS MLA Rohit Reddy Convicted in Rs.34.23 Lakh Cheque Bounce Case

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Former Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) MLA Pilot Rohit Reddy was convicted in a Rs.34.23 lakh cheque-bounce case by the First Metropolitan Court on Saturday. The court also issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against him after he failed to appear when the judgment was pronounced. The case was filed by Intellidecs Pvt Ltd, which had appointed Rohit Reddy as one of its directors to assist in expanding the company's business. According to the complaint, company director Pinnapareddy Jaya Aditya Reddy alleged that Rohit Reddy diverted company resources for personal benefit instead of using them for business development. He was also accused of undertaking trips to Jammu and other places at the company's expense while citing business expansion activities. The complaint further alleged that the former MLA used office resources for personal purposes. When the company questioned him over the alleged irregularities, Reddy reportedly agreed to forgo his advisory fee and resigned as a director on February 7, 2014. In August 2014, the two sides reportedly reached an agreement under which Reddy agreed to pay Rs.34.23 lakh towards the liabilities. The following month, he issued a cheque for the same amount towards settlement of the dues and also executed a promissory note. However, when the cheque was present-



ed for encashment, it was returned unpaid. The company presented the cheque again four days later, but it was reportedly dishonoured for the same reason. The company subsequently issued a legal notice to Reddy in January 2015, demanding payment of the outstanding amount. The notice was returned with the postal endorsement "refused". Following this, Intellidecs filed a complaint against him in 2015. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court found the former MLA guilty and held that the provisions of Sections 138 and 142 of the Negotiable Instruments Act were applicable to the case. The court noted that under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, the fine imposed in a cheque dishonour case can extend to twice the amount of the cheque. Since the cheque involved in the case was for Rs.34.23 lakh, the court observed that the maximum fine could extend to Rs.68.46 lakh. Reddy was not present in court when the judgment was pronounced. Taking note of his absence, the First Metropolitan Court issued a non-bailable warrant against him. The court further directed that the plea of guilty on conviction would be considered at the time the accused is produced before the court. The case dates back more than a decade and relates to financial transactions between Reddy and Intellidecs Pvt Ltd during his tenure as a director. The latest court order marks a significant development in the long-running cheque dishonour proceedings.

## 4.2 Kg Ganja Chocolates Seized in Rangareddy

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

The State Task Force (STF) of the Prohibition and Excise Department apprehended a 39-year-old man and seized 4.2 kg of ganja chocolates from his possession in Rangareddy district on Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, the STF team detained Ajay Singh, son of Sitaram Singh and a resident of Nanakramguda in Serilingampally, and recovered the ganja chocolates allegedly being carried by him. A mobile phone was also seized during the operation. Following the arrest, the accused, the seized contraband and relevant documents were handed over to the Kondapur police for further investigation and necessary legal action. The seizure comes amid intensified efforts by enforcement agencies in Telangana to curb the illegal sale and distribution of narcotic substances, particularly in and around Hyderabad and Rangareddy district. In a separate operation on the same day, the Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE), in coordination with the Abdullapurmet police, apprehended a 30-year-old driver for allegedly peddling hash oil. The authorities seized 200 ml of hash oil valued at approximately Rs 2.5 lakh from the suspect. According to the police, the accused, Burse Narendra Srinivas, was intercepted after he got down from a bus on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) along the Vijayawada-Hyderabad highway. The operation was conducted based on information regarding the alleged transportation and sale of hash oil. Srinivas is reportedly a native of Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh and is currently residing in Gurranguda in Balapur, Rangareddy district. Police said Srinivas had previously worked as a driver but later became addicted to alcohol and ganja. He allegedly entered the illegal drug trade after developing the habit, according to the investigation. The latest operations highlight the continued focus of Telangana's enforcement agencies on tracking drug networks and intercepting narcotics being transported through the Hyderabad metropolitan region. Officials have been conducting targeted operations based on intelligence inputs and coordinating with local police stations to identify individuals involved in the possession, transportation and sale of prohibited substances. Both cases have been handed over to the concerned police authorities for further investigation. The accused are expected to face legal action under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

## N. Ramchander Rao Challenges Rahul Gandhi to Meet Telangana Students

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Sunday challenged Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to visit Hyderabad and listen to the grievances of students allegedly affected by delays in clearing fee reimbursement dues. In a statement, Rao questioned when Gandhi would bring his 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' programme to Telangana. He alleged that while Gandhi had been touring various parts of the country, particularly states governed by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), and speaking about the concerns of students and youth, he was yet to address similar issues in Telangana. Rao claimed that the future of nearly 20 lakh students belonging to Backward Classes (BCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Economically

Backward Classes (EBCs) was at risk because of the alleged failure of the Telangana government to clear long-pending fee reimbursement dues. According to Rao, several students were facing difficulties in pursuing higher education and seeking employment because educational institutions had allegedly withheld their original certificates over unpaid fees. He claimed that fee reimbursement dues dating back to the 2020-21 academic year were still pending, with the total arrears estimated at between Rs 10,000 crore and Rs 12,000 crore.



"Is Rahul Gandhi unaware of the situation, or does his concern for students end wherever the Congress is in power?" Rao asked. The BJP state president also referred to the Telangana High Court's observations on the issue, claiming that the court had repeatedly questioned the state government over the delay in clearing fee reimbursement dues. Rao further criticised Gandhi over promises allegedly made during his visit to Ashoknagar in Hyderabad during the 2023 Telangana Assembly election campaign. He said Gandhi had promised a job calendar, employment opportunities and an unemployment allowance within 100 days of the Congress forming the government. Rao alleged that these commitments remained unfulfilled even after more than two-and-a-half years of Congress rule in the state. He challenged Gandhi to hold the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' programme in Ashoknagar and directly interact with the students and unemployed youth to whom the alleged promises were made. Rao said Gandhi should address the concerns of Telangana's students if he was genuinely committed to representing the interests of the country's youth.



## Former Mayor Visits Bonalu Temples



Medipally, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Former Mayor Jakkappa Venkat Reddy visited the Sri Bangaru Maisamma and Sri Pochamma temples in Peerzadiguda, Medipally, on Sunday as part of the Bonalu festival celebrations. Reddy visited the temples along with his family and performed special prayers before seeking the blessings of the presiding deities. He prayed for the happiness, health and prosperity of the

people and wished that every family would be blessed with peace and joy. On the occasion, Reddy extended his greetings to people celebrating Bonalu and wished that the festival would be observed with devotion, harmony and happiness. A number of devotees also visited the temples and participated in the special prayers and festivities. The temple premises witnessed a festive atmosphere as devotees offered prayers and sought the blessings of the goddesses.

## Senior Journalist Balaram Elected Central View Owners' Association President



Secunderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Senior journalist Elakonda Balaram was unanimously elected as the new president of the Central View Apartment Owners' Association in New Bhoiguda, under the Bansilalpet Division of the Sanathnagar Assembly constituency. The new executive committee was elected on Sunday following the completion of the previous committee's term. Along with Balaram as president, hairyalakshmi was elected vice-president, Sherly as general secretary and Lalitha as treasurer. Einstein Samuel, Ramya Yelamanchili, Selvi Francis, Janaki and Somanath were elected as members of the managing committee.

Speaking after their election, the newly appointed office-bearers said the welfare of apartment residents would remain their top priority. They promised to work towards improving infrastructure and amenities in the apartment complex in line with changing needs. The new committee members also said they would work collectively with the cooperation of all residents to promote the overall development and welfare of the apartment community. Residents welcomed the unanimous election of the new executive committee and congratulated Balaram and the other newly elected members. They expressed confidence that the new team would work effectively to address residents' concerns and improve facilities in the apartment complex.

## Bonalu Festival Celebrated With Devotion

Nacharam, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Bonalu festivities were celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion in Nacharam on Sunday, drawing a large number of devotees to local temples. Devotees offered Bonam to the presiding goddess after performing special prayers and rituals. Women dressed in traditional attire carried decorated Bonam pots and participated in processions to temples, adding a festive atmosphere to the celebrations. Temples in the area were specially decorated for the occasion, while organisers made arrangements to facilitate the smooth movement and darshan of devotees. The temple surroundings remained crowded throughout the day as people arrived in large numbers to seek the blessings of the goddess. Women, youth and children participated enthusiastically in the celebrations. Devotees offered prayers for the well-being, prosperity and good health of their families and the wider community, expressing hope that the blessings of the goddess

would bring happiness and peace to all. The police made elaborate security arrangements to ensure that the festivities passed off peacefully without any untoward incidents. Special measures were also taken to regulate traffic and prevent inconvenience to commuters in and around the temple areas. Festival organisers arranged drinking water and other basic amenities for devotees attending the celebrations. Volunteers also assisted visitors and helped maintain order amid the large gathering. The Bonalu celebrations brought together people from different sections of the locality, reflecting the strong cultural and devotional traditions associated with the festival. The atmosphere remained lively throughout the day as devotees took part in prayers, processions and other traditional activities. The celebrations concluded peacefully, with devotees seeking the goddess's blessings for the health, happiness and prosperity of their families.

# Sajjanar Flags Elderly Neglect Amid Cybercrime Rise

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar has expressed concern over the growing vulnerability of senior citizens to cybercrime, attributing part of the problem to a lack of supervision and support from their children. In a statement issued on Sunday, the Commissioner said that 403 cybercrime cases involving elderly victims were registered in Hyderabad over the last 19 months, with senior citizens losing a staggering Rs. 102.02 crore to fraudsters. Trading-related scams accounted for the largest share of the losses, with elderly victims losing Rs. 55.88 crore. Digital arrest scams resulted in losses of Rs. 31.93 crore, while OTP-related frauds caused losses of Rs. 4.94 crore. Investment frauds accounted for another Rs. 2.79

crore, Sajjanar said. The Commissioner also highlighted the growing threat of dating fraud. Since January last year, senior citizens have reportedly lost Rs. 70.11 lakh in such scams, with fraudsters allegedly exploiting loneliness and emotional vulnerability among elderly people. 'Children Not Supervising Parents' Sajjanar said police investigations had brought out an unusual but worrying pattern in several cases. According to him, some children were not monitoring their elderly parents' financial transactions or activities on their phones and approached the police only after large amounts of money had been lost. He said elderly parents were often left to manage their phones, banking activities and online interactions without adequate guidance because their children were busy with



their own lives. The Commissioner urged family members to maintain regular communication with elderly parents and take an interest in their digital and financial activities without compromising their independence. Despite the continuing threat, Sajjanar said awareness campaigns and repeated warnings by the police were showing

positive results. The average number of cybercrime cases involving senior citizens has reportedly declined from 24 cases per month in 2025 to 17 cases per month in 2026. Bank Staff Help Prevent Frauds The Commissioner appreciated bank employees for their vigilance in identifying suspicious transactions and intervening before victims lose

their money. He said there had been instances where bank officials noticed elderly customers suddenly closing fixed deposits or attempting to transfer unusually large sums through RTGS and NEFT to unfamiliar accounts. In several cases, bank employees reportedly spoke to the customers and helped prevent potential fraud. Sajjanar warned that cybercriminals were increasingly exploiting the fears, trust and innocence of senior citizens to target their life savings. He reiterated that there is no such thing as a "digital arrest" and said no government department or investigative agency would demand money through phone or video calls. People should immediately disconnect such calls and verify claims through official channels. The Commissioner also cautioned against attractive part-

time job offers and online trading schemes circulated through WhatsApp and Telegram that promise unusually high returns. Before investing, people should verify whether the platform or intermediary is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He also warned against paying additional taxes or fees to withdraw supposed profits. Sajjanar advised citizens never to share bank account details, OTPs, Aadhaar or PAN information with strangers. He said the increasing awareness among senior citizens was encouraging, noting that some were voluntarily asking banks to impose transaction limits to protect themselves. He urged families, banks and senior citizens to remain collectively vigilant against cybercrime.

## BRS Leader Vinod Kumar Joins Bonalu Celebrations

Quthbullapur, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Bonalu celebrations were held with religious fervour across Sai Baba Nagar in Division 292 of Quthbullapur on Sunday, with streets echoing with devotional chants and the beats of traditional drums. Women and devotees from several localities and colonies participated in Bonalu rituals in large numbers, creating a

vibrant festive atmosphere across the area. Ghatalu processions and traditional celebrations added to the spiritual fervour. BRS senior leader Warala Vinod Kumar participated in the celebrations along with devotees. He offered Bonam and performed special prayers to the goddess, later interacting with residents and taking part in the festivities. Speaking on the occasion,

Vinod Kumar prayed for the blessings of the goddess to remain upon the people and wished every family happiness, prosperity and good health. He said Bonalu holds a special place in Telangana's cultural traditions and reflects the state's rich heritage. Women carrying Bonam offerings participated enthusiastically in the celebrations, while youth and local residents joined the festivities.



The sound of drums and devotional chants filled the streets, adding to the festive spirit. BRS leaders Rajkumar

Mudiraj, Telugu Talli Nagar president Tara Singh, Maitri Nagar president Gattu Ashok, Jai Bheem Nagar president

Bhaskar, Raju Yadav, Badri, Jaishimha Reddy, Mahesh Goud, Warala Sai and others participated in the celebrations.

## World Tribal Day Celebrated Grandly at Osmania University



Tarnaka, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

World Tribal Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at Osmania University on Sunday, with students, faculty members and representatives of tribal organisations participating in large numbers. The event was organised at the Arts College premises under the leadership of Ajay, a leader of the OU Tribal Students Forum. As part of the celebrations, a massive rally was taken out from the university's main gate to the Arts College. Tribal students dressed in traditional attire participated in the rally, highlighting their cultural identity and heritage. Traditional dances and cultural performances organised after the rally emerged as major attractions of the programme. Students and participants showcased various aspects of tribal traditions, arts and customs, creating a vibrant atmosphere on the university campus. Speaking on the occasion, leaders of tribal organisations called for greater opportunities for tribal youth in education and employment. They urged

the Central and state governments to ensure effective implementation of constitutional rights and reservation provisions meant for tribal communities. The speakers stressed the need to preserve tribal culture, traditions, art forms and heritage and pass them on to future generations. They said collective efforts were necessary to protect the distinct identity and cultural practices of tribal communities. The representatives also highlighted issues faced by tribal people in areas including education, employment, land rights and forest rights. They urged governments to take concrete measures to address these concerns and ensure that tribal communities receive the benefits and protections guaranteed to them. The organisers called upon students, civil society and government agencies to work together for the protection of tribal rights, culture and traditions. The celebrations concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to preserving tribal heritage and promoting greater educational and economic opportunities for tribal youth.

## Suraram Construction Raises Setback, Approval Concerns

Quthbullapur, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Questions have been raised over an ongoing construction project in Suraram, within the Gajularamam Circle limits, with local residents alleging that the work at the site may not match the approved building plan. The construction, located behind Peacock Restaurant, has reportedly drawn attention over allegations that a still-plus-three-penthouse structure is being developed with what residents describe as zero setbacks. However, the exact details of the sanctioned plan and whether the ongoing construction complies with the approved permissions are yet to be officially established. Residents have urged the Town Planning authorities to inspect the site and verify the construction against the sanctioned building plan. They said an on-ground inspection would help establish whether the allegations of violations have any basis. The issue has also raised questions about the enforcement of building regulations. Locals want officials to examine aspects including building permissions, required setbacks, number of floors and permissions related to the proposed penthouse structure. Residents have further alleged that construction activity is progressing rapidly while Town Planning officials are occupied with



other official programmes. They have questioned whether construction violations, if any, are taking place in the absence of regular monitoring. However, the allegations remain unverified, and there has been no official confirmation so far that the construction violates sanctioned permissions. Locals have demanded an immediate inspection of the site and comparison of the approved plan with the structure currently under construction. They said appropriate action should be taken under the relevant rules if any violations are confirmed. The matter is now likely to depend on an official field inspection and verification of the sanctioned building permissions and the actual construction at the site.

## Grand Bonalu Celebrations at Shantan Durgamatha Temple

Secunderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Bonalu celebrations were held with great fervour at the Sri Shantan Durgamatha Temple in New Boiguda, Secunderabad, as part of the Ashada month Basti Bonalu festivities. A grand Thottela procession was taken out on the main road near Metro Pillar No. 1305 and Sterling Majestic Apartments. The procession featured traditional drum beats, energetic performances by Potharajus and devotional dances, drawing large crowds of devotees. Devotees arrived with their families to offer Bonam and Odi Biyyam to the goddess and fulfil their vows by carrying decorated Thottelas. The temple premises remained crowded throughout the celebrations. Temple chairman Thakur Harinath Singh said the temple, which began as a small shrine in 1998, had gradually developed with the support and contributions of devotees. He said



the goddess had earned the faith of devotees as a deity who fulfils their wishes. Harinath Singh said residents of the colonies and surrounding localities had been blessed with happiness and prosperity through the grace of the goddess. Despite several challenges during the temple's development, a committee was formed with the support of Padmarao Nagar residents, and Bonalu celebrations have been organised on a grand scale every year, he said. He added that daily rituals, including the offering of incense, lamps and naivedyam,

were being performed at the temple. He assured devotees that efforts would continue to further develop the temple in the coming years. Temple committee members Hari tha Singh, Harsha, Vinay Thakur Singh and Shyam Sunder Singh, BJP leaders Gundu Krishna and Karnakar Naidu, committee members Venkataswamy, Yadagiri, Keshavulu, Sandeep, Jaggaayya, Krishna, Shyam, Gopal and Neelakantha, along with a large number of local residents and devotees, participated in the celebrations.

## BJP Leader Gopal Goud Leads Grand Bonalu Celebrations



Nacharam, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Bonalu celebrations were held on a grand scale in Nacharam on Sunday as part of the Ashada month festivities, under the leadership of Pothagan Gopal Goud, BJP Medchal Urban District spokesperson. The celebrations were organised in the Nacharam HMT Nagar division, where devotees participated in traditional festivities accompanied by drum beats and Kolatam performances. Gopal Goud, along with his family, offered Bonam to the goddess and performed special prayers. A large number of devotees attended the celebrations and sought the blessings of the goddess. The temple premises and

surrounding areas witnessed a vibrant festive atmosphere as devotees fulfilled their vows and participated in the rituals with devotion. Speaking on the occasion, Gopal Goud said he prayed for the blessings of the goddess to remain upon the people of the country. He wished that everyone would be blessed with good health, happiness and prosperity. He also called upon people to uphold Hindu traditions and work towards protecting Sanatana Dharma. BJP Labour Wing district coordinator Yogeshwar Reddy, Gandamala Gopi, Naveen Goud, Naveen Chintu, Manjula Vani, along with local women and a large number of devotees, participated in the celebrations.



# Two Days of Rain Boost Water Levels in Karimnagar Projects

Karimnagar, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Two days of rainfall triggered by a recent weather system have brought much-needed relief to the erstwhile Karimnagar district, with major irrigation projects receiving substantial inflows after a prolonged rainfall deficit. The improved rainfall has raised water levels in the Yellampally, Mid Manair and Upper Manair reservoirs, strengthening prospects for irrigation in the region. However, several smaller tanks and ponds are yet to reach full capacity. The Yellampally project is currently receiving around 13,000 cusecs of inflows. Of this, around 12,600 cusecs is being lifted through four motors at the Nandi and Gayatri pump houses. The project has a present storage of around 18 TMC ft, against its full reservoir capacity of 20.175 TMC ft. Water from Yellampally is being diverted to the Mid Manair Reservoir through the flood flow canal. Irrigation officials

said approximately 11 TMC ft of water has so far been lifted from Yellampally and diverted towards Mid Manair. The Mid Manair reservoir has also recorded a significant improvement in storage following the recent rainfall and inflows. Its current storage stands at around 21.334 TMC ft, compared with its full storage capacity of 27.55 TMC ft. Mid Manair is receiving approximately 15,411 cusecs of water. Of this, around 12,600 cusecs is coming from the Gayatri pump house, while another 2,811 cusecs is flowing in from the reservoir's catchment area. With the storage level improving, irrigation officials have started releasing water from Mid Manair into the Lower Manair Dam (LMD). Around 5,000 cusecs is currently being released through three flood gates. The increased inflows have also improved storage levels at LMD. Its water storage has risen to around 6.5 TMC ft, compared with 5.5 TMC ft

three days earlier. The reservoir has a total storage capacity of 24 TMC ft and is receiving an additional 850 cusecs from its catchment area. The Upper Manair Reservoir, which has a storage capacity of around 2 TMC ft, is currently overflowing. The reservoir is located near Narmala in Gambhirapet mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district. Officials said the recent rainfall had provided some relief to the region after relatively poor rainfall during the first two months of the monsoon. The improved inflows into major reservoirs are expected to strengthen water availability and help irrigation officials manage water resources more effectively. The rainfall has also raised hopes among farmers dependent on irrigation projects in the region. Officials are continuing to monitor inflows and reservoir levels closely as further rainfall will determine the overall water availability for the remainder of the agricultural season.



# Bonalu Celebrations Held Grandly in Mallikarjuna Nagar

Patancheru, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

The Bonalu Jatara of Sri Pochamma and Bhu Lakshamma temples was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at Mallikarjuna Nagar Colony in Rudram village, under Isnapur Municipality in Sangareddy district. The celebrations were organised under the leadership of local councillor Raju, with residents participating in large numbers. Women dressed in traditional attire carried Bonam on their heads and took part in a procession to the temple. The colony streets wore a fes-

tive and spiritual look as devotees gathered for the celebrations. Devotees offered naivedyam to the goddesses and performed special prayers seeking blessings for the well-being, prosperity and happiness of their families. BRS councillors Pandu and Venkat attended the Bonalu celebrations as chief guests. They visited the temple and offered special prayers. Speaking on the occasion, they appreciated the residents for preserving cultural traditions and organising the Bonalu Jatara with devotion. They prayed for the good



health, happiness and prosperity of all the people and wished that the goddess would bless every

family. The celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from colony elders, women and youth. Local leaders Gopal,

Narsimulu, Prasad, Mahesh, Lakshmi narayana, Yadaiah, Sudhakar and Raju, along with members of the P.

Vamsi Youth group and a large number of residents, participated in the event and contributed to its successful conduct.

# Rs.54 Crore Mephedrone Seized in Bhuvanagiri, Four Held

Hyderabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Police have arrested four persons and seized 27 kg of mephedrone, a banned narcotic substance valued at around Rs.54 crore, in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, officials said on Sunday. The contraband was allegedly being transported to Nagpur in Maharashtra for distribution. The arrests followed a special operation by the Bibinagar police based on credible information about the movement of the drug. According to Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Superintendent of Police Akshansh Yadav, police intercepted a car near the outskirts of Kondamadugu village on August 8. During a search of the vehicle, officers recovered 27 kg

of mephedrone along with two plastic cans containing nearly 40 kg of acetone. Acetone is a chemical commonly used as a solvent and can also be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic substances. During questioning, the four accused allegedly told investigators that the mephedrone had been manufactured illegally at a laboratory in Kondamadugu between August 5 and 7. Police suspect that several other individuals were involved in the operation. Based on information obtained during the interrogation, police conducted a raid on the suspected manufacturing facility. During the search, they reportedly seized equipment allegedly used in the production of the synthetic drug, including a reactor and a centrifuge. Police said the four



arrested individuals included an alleged organiser and financier of the drug manufacturing operation, persons involved in the manufacture and transportation of the contraband, and the individual who was reportedly responsible for the laboratory. The accused are from dif-

ferent parts of the country. Two of them are from Maharashtra, while one is from Assam and another from Hyderabad. Following their arrest, the four accused were produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody. Police said some of the key accused, including the alleged owner of

the laboratory, are still absconding. Special teams have been formed and efforts are underway to trace and arrest them. The seizure is being viewed as a major breakthrough in the fight against the illegal manufacture and distribution of synthetic drugs in Telangana. Investigators

are also expected to examine the wider network involved in procuring chemicals, manufacturing the drug and transporting it to other states. Police said further investigation is underway, while the seized laboratory premises and equipment will be dealt with according to law.

# Telangana Adivasi Leaders Pledge Fight for Jal, Jangal, Jameen

Adilabad, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

International Adivasi Day was observed across the erstwhile Adilabad district on Sunday, with tribal organisations, government officials and leaders organising programmes to highlight the rights and welfare of Adivasi communities. Various Adivasi organisations, including Thudum Debba, Adivasi Sena and Adivasi Sankshema Parishath, conducted special programmes across the district. Adivasi communities also took out processions in Adilabad, Utnoor and Asifabad as part of the observance. At programmes held at different locations, Adivasi leaders and community members took an oath to continue their struggle to protect their rights over Jal, Jangal and Jameen (water, forests and land). Former Adilabad MP and Raj Gond Sava Samiti state president Soyam Bapu Rao participated in a programme at Utnoor and urged forest officials to stop what he described as attacks and harassment of Adivasi people.

Bapu Rao also appealed to former Adilabad MP Godam Nagesh to take up the land-related problems faced by Adivasis with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and seek a permanent solution, stating that several of the issues involved central government-related matters. Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju said the Telangana government was committed to protecting the rights and interests of Adivasi communities. He said the government would continue working to address issues affecting tribal people and ensure that constitutional safeguards provided to them were protected. Adilabad Collector Rajarshi Shah, Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan, ITDA Project Officer Manda Makarandu and several Adivasi leaders attended the programme at Utnoor. Speaking on the occasion, Thudum Debba state president Godam Ganesh said Adivasis continued to face serious hardships even decades after India attained independence. He alleged that members of tribal communities were still facing difficulties and humiliation in their interactions with for-



est officials. Ganesh called upon both the Telangana and Central governments to take effective measures to safeguard the constitutional rights of Adivasis. He stressed that issues concerning land, forests and traditional livelihoods should be addressed through proper implementation of existing laws and constitutional protections. The International Adivasi Day programmes also highlighted the importance of preserving tribal culture, traditions and identity. Speakers emphasised that the rights over natural resources were closely linked to the social and economic survival of tribal communities. The observances witnessed

participation from Adivasi organisations, community representatives, government officials and local residents. Processions and cultural programmes were organised at several locations to mark the occasion. Adivasi leaders said the Jal, Jangal and Jameen slogan represented the long-standing struggle of tribal communities to protect their traditional lands, forest resources and livelihoods. They called for greater coordination between governments, officials and tribal organisations to resolve pending issues and ensure that Adivasis receive the benefits and protections guaranteed to them under the Constitution.

# Congress Stages Dharna, Seeks KTR's Resignation

Karimnagar, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau

Congress leaders and activists in Sircilla staged a protest at Gandhi Chowk on Sunday, demanding the resignation of BRS working president and Sircilla MLA K T Rama Rao (KTR), alleging that he had failed to address the problems faced by people in his constituency.



The dharna was led by Congress town president Sura Devaraju, who accused KTR of remaining largely absent from Sircilla despite his responsibilities as the elected representative of the constituency. Addressing the protesters, Devaraju recalled that KTR had promised ahead of the Assembly elections that he would stay in Sircilla twice a week and personally address local issues. However, he alleged that the BRS working president had not stayed in the constituency for several months.

Devaraju further claimed that KTR had not visited any ward in Sircilla after the municipal elections. He questioned whether the MLA had been regularly monitoring civic issues and interacting with residents to understand their problems. The Congress leader also questioned KTR's role as the Leader of the Opposition, asking whether he had raised the issues affecting Sircilla residents with the state government. He sought to know what purpose continued representation served if the elected representative was unable to address the problems of the constituency. Devaraju also targeted the previous BRS government over pending dues to handloom weavers. He alleged that around Rs.350 crore in bills payable to weavers had remained pending during the BRS regime. According to Devaraju, the Congress government cleared the pending bills

after assuming power. He claimed that the payment of the outstanding dues had provided relief to the weaving community, which forms an important part of Sircilla's economic and social landscape. The Congress leader also levelled allegations against BRS councillors, claiming that KTR had failed to check alleged corruption at the municipal level. He accused the BRS leadership of not taking adequate steps to address civic issues and alleged that political activities in Hyderabad had received greater attention than problems in Sircilla. Congress activists raised slogans demanding that KTR step down as MLA and questioned his availability to the people of the constituency. The protesters alleged that issues relating to civic infrastructure, municipal administration, employment and the welfare of weavers required regular intervention from the elected representative. The dharna is part of the Congress party's continuing political criticism of KTR and the BRS in Sircilla. The allegations made during the protest were political claims by Congress leaders, while KTR and the BRS were not immediately reported to have responded to the charges. The protesters said they would continue to highlight what they described as the MLA's failure to remain accessible to constituents and demanded greater accountability from elected representatives.

# Telangana Committed to Protecting Adivasi Rights: Seethakka

Nalgonda, Aug 9 | TPN Bureau



State Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dhanasari Anasuya, popularly known as Seethakka, said the state government was committed to protecting the constitutional rights of Adivasi communities and ensuring their overall development.

Seethakka was speaking after unveiling a statue of tribal freedom fighter Komaram Bheem at central Aswaraopeta in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district on Sunday. The statue was installed by the Adivasi Joint Action Committee as part of World Adivasi Day celebrations. The minister said Adivasis were not opposed to any particular caste or people from any region but were fighting for their legitimate rights and protection of their traditional livelihoods. She said the state government was taking steps to ensure that Adivasi communities received rights over forest land and had access to basic facilities such as education, healthcare and employment opportunities. Seethakka directed officials to treat Adivasis with dignity and respect whenever they approached government offices with their grievances. She said officials should listen to their problems patiently and work towards resolving them. The minister said the government was giving special attention to the development of agency areas and claimed that development works worth around Rs.1,200 crore had been taken up in Aswaraopeta. Recalling Komaram Bheem's famous slogan "Jal, Jangal, Zameen" (Water, Forest, Land), Seethakka said his struggle had inspired generations of Adivasis to fight for their rights. She said Telangana's own statehood movement had drawn inspiration from similar aspirations, reflected in the slogan "Neeru, Nidhulu, Niyamakalu" (Water, Funds, Jobs). She said the government wanted Adivasi communities to live without facing persistent difficulties and assured that efforts would continue to improve living conditions in tribal areas. Seethakka also urged Adivasi youth to make full use of the educational, skill development and employment opportunities being provided by the state government. She called upon young people to pursue education and acquire skills that would enable them to reach the highest positions in various fields. The minister stressed that the language, culture, traditions, festivals and lifestyle of Adivasi communities were integral to their identity. She said preserving these cultural elements was essential for future generations. "Our language, attire, culture and traditions give us our identity and recognition. Therefore, there is a need to protect and preserve them," she said. Seethakka also announced her support for establishing a tribal museum dedicated to Komaram Bheem at the urban park in Aswaraopeta. She said such an institution would help preserve and showcase the history, culture and traditions of tribal communities for future generations. The World Adivasi Day programme witnessed the participation of Adivasi representatives, local leaders, officials and community members. The unveiling of the Komaram Bheem statue was highlighted as an important step towards honouring his legacy and strengthening awareness of tribal history and rights.

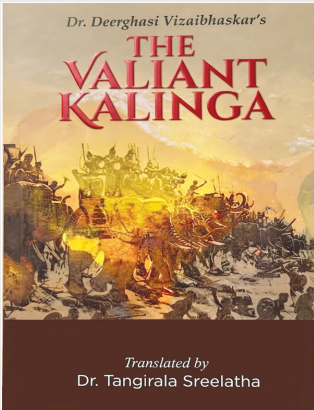


## A Timeless Telugu Epic Reaches Global Readers

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

Poet, Film Critic & Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award

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.

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



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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.

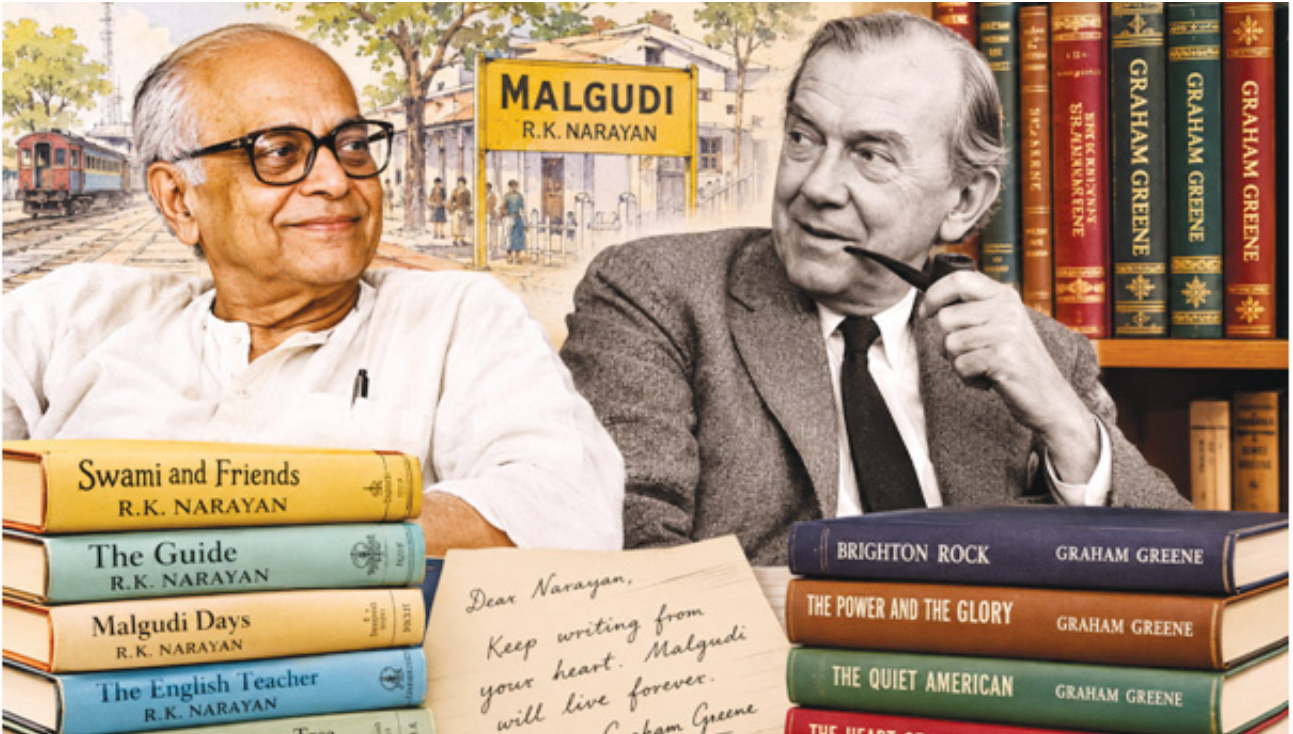
Narayan overcame his immense grief and wrote The English Teacher (1945), an account of his wife's death and how he communicated with her spirit through psy-

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

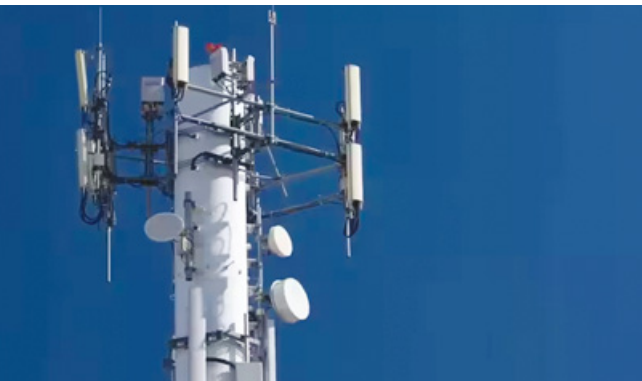
for commodity markets. Any escalation in the region could disrupt energy supplies and push crude oil prices higher. Higher energy costs could, in turn, increase inflationary pressures across major economies and complicate the outlook for interest rates. The impact could extend beyond crude oil. Higher 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

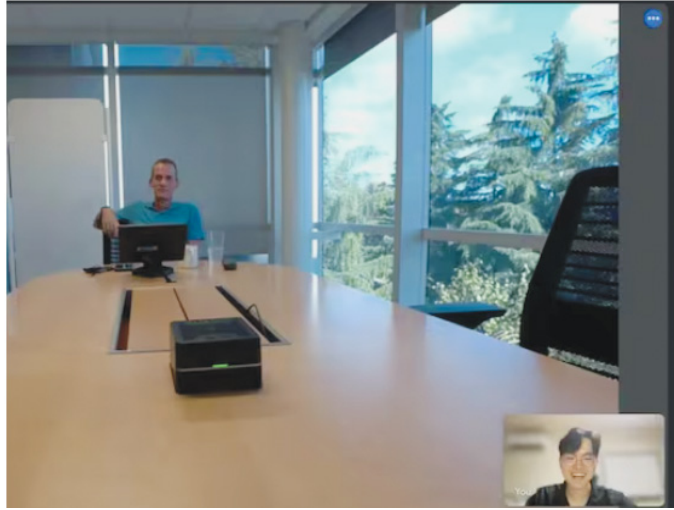
several measures to strengthen the new system. Aligning cash and derivatives trading hours until the close could help eliminate the hedging gap. Stronger market-making requirements, a deeper securities lending and borrowing ecosystem and real-time publication of auction order imbalances could also improve 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 boldest 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 Srihara 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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