



Independence Day Greetings
Dear Readers and Esteemed Staff,
On the occasion of **India's 80th Independence Day**, we extend our warmest wishes to all our readers, contributors, correspondents, and members of our newspaper family. May this Independence Day remind us of the sacrifices that secured our freedom and inspire us to contribute towards a stronger, more united, peaceful and progressive India. Let us celebrate not only the freedom we inherited, but also the responsibility we carry towards building the India of tomorrow.

Holiday Announcement

Please note that our newspaper office will remain closed today, **August 15, on account of Independence Day. Consequently, there will be no print edition of the newspaper tomorrow, August 16.** Regular publication and office operations will resume thereafter as per the usual schedule. We sincerely thank our readers for their continued trust and support. Wishing you and your families a very Happy 80th Independence Day!

- The Editorial Team TPN

Fee Reimbursement to Reach Students Early



Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced that fee reimbursement funds would be credited directly to eligible students' bank accounts in advance every academic year, removing the need for students to repeatedly approach authorities for the benefit.

Speaking at a public meeting at the HMDA grounds on Necklace Road, the Chief Minister said the government would deposit around Rs.2,400 crore annually under a more transparent fee reimbursement system. He clarified that colleges would not be permitted to withhold students' certificates on the grounds of unpaid fees.

Earlier, Revanth Reddy unveiled statues of social reformers Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule installed opposite the HMDA grounds and paid floral tributes. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Konda Surekha, Ponnampabbhakur, Vakiti Srihari and Azharuddin, along with government advisors, legislators and other public representatives, attended the programme. The Chief Minister stressed the growing importance of technical skills, saying academic qualifications alone could no longer guarantee employment. He encouraged students to pursue training through ATCs, polytechnics and skill universities. He cited opportunities for trained nursing professionals in countries such as Japan and South Korea. Revanth Reddy also highlighted opportunities in sports, saying the Young India Sports University would support talented athletes. He announced that outstanding sportspersons could receive a government job and a cash reward of Rs.1 crore for major achievements.

He cautioned students about the impact of artificial intelligence and technological changes on conventional engineering and IT jobs, urging them to continuously upgrade their skills. The Chief Minister said Young India Integrated Residential Schools were being developed to provide quality education while promoting social harmony and reducing caste-based divisions. He said the Phule statues should serve not merely as memorials but as sources of inspiration for students to pursue education, social responsibility and broader societal development.



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Strong Economic Resilience Amid Global Uncertainty

New Delhi, August 14 | TPN Bureau

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday highlighted India's strong economic performance and said the country continues to remain the fastest-growing major economy despite growing instability and conflicts across the world. Addressing the nation on the eve of the 80th Independence Day, she said India's growth rate is expected to remain significantly above the global average.

The President noted that geopolitical tensions and armed conflicts in different regions are affecting economies worldwide. Against this challenging backdrop, she said initiatives such as the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan have strengthened India's economic foundations while also supporting national security and self-reliance. Murmu stressed that India's development is being pursued alongside environmental protection. She said the country has made substantial progress on several Sustainable Development Goals targeted for 2030 and highlighted the rapid expansion of renewable energy in recent years. Speaking about India's digital transformation, the President said the country has created one of the world's most extensive digital ecosystems. Digital payments, she observed, have become common even



among small businesses, street vendors and rural shops. India now accounts for more than half of global real-time digital payment transactions, she added. Murmu also said technology

has helped the government deliver welfare benefits directly to citizens with greater transparency and efficiency. She highlighted major expansion in highways, railways,

waterways and aviation infrastructure. According to the President, improved connectivity is opening new avenues for businesses, supporting employment generation and strengthening investor confidence.

She said India's economic progress, technological capabilities and infrastructure expansion demonstrate the country's resilience and its determination to pursue inclusive and sustainable growth despite global uncertainties.

President Approves 78 Gallantry Awards

New Delhi, August 14 | TPN Bureau

President Droupadi Murmu has approved 78 gallantry awards for personnel of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the eve of Independence Day 2026, honouring acts of exceptional courage and sacrifice. The list includes 13 awards announced posthumously. The President approved nine Kirti Chakras, including seven posthumous awards. The Kirti Chakra is the country's second-highest peacetime gallantry decoration. The honours also include one Bar to Shaurya Chakra, 19 Shaurya Chakras, five Bars to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 36 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and five Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

Five Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel were awarded the Kirti Chakra posthumously for their bravery during counter-terror operations. Head Constable Jagbir Singh, Selection Grade Constable Balvinder Singh, SGCT

Jaswant Singh and SGCT Tariq Hussain were honoured for their actions during a 2025 encounter in Kathua, where two terrorists were eliminated.

Head Constable Bashir Ahmad of the Jammu and Kashmir Police also received the Kirti Chakra posthumously. He killed a terrorist during an encounter in Kathua district before succumbing to injuries. Uttar Pradesh Police STF Inspector Sunil Kumar was similarly awarded the Kirti Chakra posthumously for his role in an operation against a gangster. Among the Army recipients were Lieutenant Colonel Manoj Francis, Major Jitendra Rathee and Havildar Gajendra Singh. Havildar Gajendra Singh received the honour posthumously for his extraordinary bravery during an encounter in the dense forests of Kishtwar in January. Despite sustaining multiple bullet wounds, Singh reportedly evacuated two injured soldiers and later returned to engage the terrorists. He critically wounded a wanted foreign terrorist before succumbing to his injuries at the scene. The awards recognise the courage, dedication and supreme sacrifice of personnel who served in challenging operational conditions.



Bhatti Hails Phule Couple's Ideals

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the Telangana government was working with the ideals of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule at the centre of its welfare and development agenda. He was speaking after Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy unveiled statues of the Phule couple at Necklace Road in Hyderabad.

Bhatti Vikramarka described Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule as great social reformers who dedicated their lives to eliminating social inequalities and ensuring dignity and opportunities for disadvantaged communities. He said installing their statues was intended not merely as a tribute but also as an inspiration for people to follow their principles. The Deputy Chief Minister said the Congress government was committed to strengthening the self-respect and welfare of poor and weaker sections. He claimed that around 56 per cent of Telangana's population belonged to weaker communities and said the government was using scientific data to formulate policies for their development. He highlighted Telangana's socio-economic, educational, employment and political survey, describing it as a scientific caste census that could serve as a model for the country. He said the findings would help the government frame reservation policies for Backward Classes, particularly in local bodies. Bhatti said the government had also expanded educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. He noted that overseas scholarship

P3

Russian Cosmonauts Salute India from Space



Moscow, August 14 | TPN Bureau

As India prepares to celebrate its 80th Independence Day, three Russian cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) extended warm greetings to the people of the country, highlighting the enduring friendship between India and Russia. Pyotr Dubrov, Anna Kikina and Andrey Fedyaev recorded a special video message from about 408 kilometres above Earth, proudly displaying the Indian Tricolour inside the orbital laboratory. They congratulated India on eight decades of independence and recalled the long history of cooperation between the two nations, particularly in space exploration.

The cosmonauts also remembered Soviet space pioneer Yuri Gagarin, whose historic human spaceflight is being commemorated 65 years after his achievement. Gagarin's 1961 visit to India became an important chapter in the friendship between the two countries. India-Russia space cooperation dates back to the early years of India's space programme. A major milestone came in 1975 when Aryabhata, India's first satellite, was launched using a Soviet rocket. The partnership reached another historic point in 1984, when Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian to travel into space aboard Soyuz T-11. Sharma's mission, conducted as part of an Indo-Soviet Friendship Mission, included scientific experiments and became a landmark in India's space history. His famous response, "Saare Jahan Se Achha," when asked how India looked from space, remains deeply remembered. Russia subsequently supported India's space

P3



Cabinet Clears Smart Ration Cards

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat, approved several major decisions, including the distribution of smart ration cards to beneficiaries on the occasion of Independence Day.

The government said the number of ration card beneficiaries had increased from 2.81 crore to 3.42 crore after 62 lakh additional people were included. Arrangements have been made to distribute smart cards to all beneficiaries.

The Cabinet also decided in principle to hold the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2.0 on December 7, 8 and 9 under the theme "Invest Telangana." A committee led by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Vivek Venkataswamy, will oversee preparations. The Bharat Future City plan will be unveiled at the summit, which aims to attract investments in defence, aerospace and pharmaceuticals. The Cabinet encouraged cultivation of seven fine-grain paddy varieties during

the Vanakalam season. It also reviewed record Yasangi procurement of 81.16 lakh metric tonnes at MSP. Of this, 63.62 lakh tonnes are being procured by the Centre, while the remaining 17.54 lakh tonnes will be sold through e-auction at a base price of Rs.2,389 per quintal.

ITIs, ATCs and polytechnic colleges were brought under Young India Skills University. The Cabinet also approved Young India Integrated Residential Schools in seven constituencies.

To promote cleaner transport, the government approved a Rs.200 crore Telangana Auto-rickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme. Eligible drivers can receive subsidies of up to Rs.1.5 lakh to convert existing vehicles or purchase new electric autos.

The HILT policy application deadline was extended to October 31. The Cabinet also sanctioned Rs.2,100 crore for Phase-II of the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme, expected to irrigate about one lakh acres.

The capacity of the Gudendoddi Pumped Storage Project was approved for enhancement from 1.19 TMC to 15 TMC, along with a consultant study on solar power generation.

Bhatti Extends Independence Day Greetings

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka extended warm Independence Day greetings to the people of Telangana and the nation, reaffirming the state government's commitment to welfare, development and social justice.

In his message, Bhatti Vikramarka said the people's government is drawing inspiration from the sacrifices and struggles of freedom fighters and national leaders who secured India's independence. He stated that the government is working with determination to ensure that every poor family lives with dignity, every farmer remains prosperous and every young person is confident about the future.

The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted several flagship welfare initiatives being implemented by the government. He said programmes such as Indiramma Houses, aimed at helping poor families realize the dream of owning a home, Rythu Bharosa for farmers, women's economic empowerment initiatives, youth employment opportunities, education, healthcare and social security schemes are being given top priority.

Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized that the true meaning of independence is realized only when the lives of the poor improve and every household experiences progress and security. He said the government is committed to building a Telangana where every family can live with self-respect and dignity. He further stated that economic growth gains significance only when its benefits



reach the most vulnerable sections of society. According to him, the government is focused on ensuring that the fruits of development reach the doorstep of the poorest citizens.

Paying tribute to freedom fighters, he said the government remains committed to carrying forward their ideals by promoting social justice, equality, welfare and inclusive development. He added that Telangana is moving forward with a vision of becoming a stronger and more prosperous state.

Expressing confidence in the continued support of the people, Bhatti Vikramarka said the government would work tirelessly to bring happiness to poor families and create new opportunities for future generations. He concluded by conveying heartfelt Independence Day wishes to all citizens.

Revanth Reddy Calls Education the Key to Change

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

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P3

From Freedom to Global Leadership: India's Journey Towards 2047

India's journey since Independence is no longer merely a story of overcoming colonial rule; it is the story of a civilisation rebuilding its confidence and finding its place in a rapidly changing world. From food security and industrialisation to digital technology, space exploration and global diplomacy, the India of today is vastly different from the India of 1947.

The transformation is visible in science and innovation. Chandrayaan-3's successful landing near the lunar south pole, the Aditya-L1 solar mission, the expansion of digital public infrastructure and the global adoption of India's digital payment capa-

bilities reflect a country increasingly capable of developing solutions at scale. India's pharmaceutical sector has also emerged as a global strength. The country exports medicines to nearly 200 countries and has become one of the world's largest producers of vaccines.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated another dimension of India's capabilities. The development and manufacture of Made-in-India vaccines, particularly Covaxin, and the subsequent Vaccine Maitri initiative allowed India to supply vaccines to countries across the world. By 2023, India had supplied more than 298 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to

around 100 countries under the initiative. India's diplomatic footprint has expanded alongside its economic and technological capabilities. Its engagement with the United States, Russia, Japan, Europe, the Gulf, Africa and the Indo-Pacific reflects an increasingly confident foreign policy. India's G20 presidency and its advocacy for the Global South further strengthened its voice in international affairs.

Yet achievement must never become complacency. India still faces formidable challenges-inequality, unemployment, educational gaps, environmental pressures, rural distress

and the need to create opportunities for its enormous young population. The ambition before the nation is therefore much larger: Viksit Bharat @2047. The goal cannot simply be a larger economy. It must mean a country where prosperity is inclusive, technology serves ordinary citizens, institutions remain strong, women and youth participate equally, and every Indian has the opportunity to live with dignity. The next 21 years will define the India of the next century. The freedom won by our ancestors gave us the nation; the responsibility of our generation is to build its future.

- Editor



Pushkaralu Preparations Gain Pace

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Preparations for the Godavari Pushkaralu-2027 gained momentum with a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting chaired by Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat. Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Konda Surekha, Tummala Nageswara Rao, Seethakka, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Vivek Venkataswamy and Adluri Laxman Kumar, along with Government Advisor Sudarshan Reddy and senior officials, reviewed arrangements. The meeting examined the preliminary action plan prepared by TGSRTC for transporting devotees. The RTC has proposed making 85 Pushkar ghats and 22 nearby bus stations across five erstwhile districts operational. Modernisation of the 22 bus stations is estimated to cost Rs.66 crore, while temporary shelters, passenger waiting areas and parking facilities are expected to require another Rs.22 crore, taking the total estimated infrastructure requirement to Rs.88 crore. Officials proposed



improving platforms, roads, sanitation, drinking water, electricity and passenger amenities. Temporary bus stations will be established at locations without permanent facilities. Parking areas and shuttle services will also be arranged at crowded ghats. To meet increased demand, TGSRTC has proposed operating around 30 per cent more buses than during the previous

Pushkaralu. Route maps covering ghats, bus stations, distances and connectivity will be prepared, along with district-wise plans for peak days. Special transport arrangements are being planned for devotees arriving from Telangana and neighbouring states, including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Major arrangements are planned at

Dharmapuri and Kaleshwaram in the Karimnagar region, Basara and Pochampad in the Nizamabad-Adilabad regions, Kaleshwaram and Mangapet in Warangal, and Bhadrachalam and surrounding ghats in the Khammam region. Officials were directed to coordinate transport, disaster response, risk management and specialised teams to ensure safe and smooth movement of pilgrims.

Phule Ideals Will Guide Social Justice: Ponnam



Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar described the unveiling of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule statues in the heart of Hyderabad as a historic occasion and a proud moment for Telangana. He said the statues, alongside that of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, would inspire younger generations to follow the ideals of social equality, education and justice. Speaking at the event, Ponnam said the Congress government was committed to translating the principles of the Phule couple into governance. He recalled that Jyotiba Phule challenged caste discrimination, untouchability, superstition, child marriage and the marginalisation of widows at a time when such practices were deeply entrenched. He said Phule regarded education as the strongest instrument for social transformation and worked throughout his life to secure dignity and equal opportunities for disadvantaged communities. He also highlighted Savitribai Phule's pioneering

role in women's education, noting that she overcame severe social opposition to educate girls and promote women's empowerment. Ponnam stressed that there should be no discrimination based on caste, religion, gender or economic status. He said women must be empowered not only through education but also through financial independence. The Minister highlighted Telangana's caste census as an important step towards scientifically assessing the social and economic position of Backward Classes and advancing social justice. He said the government was also pursuing commitments made in the Kamareddy Declaration. Ponnam thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, cabinet colleagues, public representatives, BC organisations and social activists for supporting the statue installation. He said the initiative represented not merely a tribute to the Phule couple but a pledge to carry their vision forward.

Phule Ideals to Inspire Future Generations



Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud said the installation of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule statues on Necklace Road would help preserve their legacy and inspire future generations to pursue education, equality and social justice. Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, Goud recalled the Phule couple's lifelong struggle against untouchability, caste discrimination and social inequality. He described them as visionaries who challenged the oppressive social order and established schools to provide education to women and marginalized communities. Goud said Jyotiba Phule believed education was essential for the progress of society and worked to ensure that disadvantaged sections gained access to learning and equal opportunities. Savitribai Phule, he added, courageously broke social barriers to promote women's education and empowerment. The PCC chief said placing their statues in a prominent location in the heart of Hyderabad was a significant step towards ensuring that their contributions remain remembered. He thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Cabinet colleagues for supporting the initiative. Goud said the government's efforts to honour leaders associated with the Backward Classes reflected its commitment to social justice and inclusive development. He also announced that a statue of Sardar Sarvai Pannam Goud would be unveiled on August 18. He called upon people to carry forward the ideals represented by the Phule couple-education, equality, social justice and women's empowerment-and contribute to building a more balanced and inclusive society.

Telangana Team to Study Philippines Worker Policies

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

A Telangana delegation comprising two MLAs and members of the Telangana NRI Advisory Committee will visit the Philippines from August 17 to 21 to study labour regulations, overseas migration and welfare measures for workers. The delegation will examine policies and practices followed in the Philippines and explore measures that could be adapted to address challenges faced by Telangana workers employed abroad, particularly in Gulf countries. During the five-day visit, the team is expected to interact with experts working on labour and migration issues as well as officials of the Indian Embassy in Manila. Discussions will focus on worker protection, migration management and welfare mechanisms for overseas employees. The study tour comes as the Telangana government is considering the establishment of a Gulf and Other Overseas Workers Welfare Board. The delegation is expected to gather information that could assist the state in developing a comprehensive framework for protecting migrant workers and supporting their families. According to a statement by advisory committee member Swadesh Parikipandla, the delegation will include committee chairman Dr B.M. Vinod Kumar, vice-chairman Manda Bheem Reddy, Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas and Nizamabad Rural MLA Dr R. Bhupathi Reddy, along with other committee members. The Philippines has considerable experience in managing overseas employment and protecting migrant workers, making it a useful destination for the Telangana delegation's study. Officials and committee members are expected to assess the country's institutional mechanisms and welfare practices and identify approaches that could potentially be implemented in Telangana. The proposed board is intended to strengthen support systems for overseas workers and address issues related to recruitment, migration, employment conditions and welfare. The delegation's findings are expected to contribute to the government's future policy decisions on overseas worker protection.

Forest Academy Promotes Environmental Awareness

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana State Forest Academy (TGSFA) observed World Environment Day 2026 by conducting a series of awareness programmes for school students, focusing on environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and climate change. TGSFA Director and Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Dr. Priyanka Varghese said educating young people about environmental issues is essential for building a responsible society. She urged students to understand their role in protecting nature and actively contribute to conservation efforts. The programme featured environmental awareness videos, elocution competitions and a snake awareness demonstration. Around 120 students representing 14 government and private schools participated in the activities. The sessions provided students with insights

into forests, wildlife and the importance of maintaining ecological balance. Dr. Varghese highlighted rising temperatures, pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss as major challenges confronting the world. She stressed that environmental protection cannot be left solely to government agencies and called for collective participation from citizens. Forest Academy faculty members interacted with the students and explained how environmental education can encourage sustainable habits and contribute to a greener future. The programme concluded with students taking a pledge to protect nature through practical measures, including planting trees, conserving water, reducing waste and maintaining clean surroundings. The initiative sought to encourage students to become environmentally conscious citizens and spread awareness about conservation within their communities.

16 Telangana Police Personnel Honoured

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Sixteen Telangana police personnel have been selected for prestigious service and gallantry medals announced by the Central Government ahead of Independence Day. The honours recognize exceptional courage, dedication and meritorious service. Three junior commandos-B. Sathya Rao, K. Sandeep Kumar and J. Vamshi Krishna-have been awarded Gallantry Medals for their courageous service. Narsaiah Jogula, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, and R. Jagadishwar Reddy, Superintendent of Police, have received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service. Ten other police personnel were honoured with Medals for Meritorious Service. They include Inspector P. Jagadeeshwar, ADCP P.

Venkata Ramana, DSPs Bhumana Ravi Kumar Reddy, Bachalakura Ramesh and Bupathi Srinivasa Rao, ACPs Gangaram Ashala and R.G. Siva Maruthi, Head Constables C. Ramulu and K. Thirupathi Raju, and Assistant Commandant D. Satyanarayana. Home Guard Yadaiah Medipalli was also among the awardees. In addition, two Telangana Fire Services personnel, leading firefighters M. Ashok and T. Narasimha Chary, received Medals for Meritorious Service. The awards form part of the national list announced for Independence Day, comprising 301 Gallantry Medals, 92 President's Medals for Distinguished Service and 664 Medals for Meritorious Service. The recognition highlights the commitment and sacrifices of personnel serving in police and emergency services across the country.

Phule Statues Unveiled



Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Minister Konda Surekha described the unveiling of statues of social reformers Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule at the HMDA grounds as a historic occasion. She participated in the programme and expressed gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for facilitating the installation. Surekha said Jyotirao Phule devoted his life to fighting caste discrimination, untouchability and social inequality. She highlighted his efforts to promote education among disadvantaged communities and secure equal rights and opportunities. She also recalled his pioneering work with Savitribai Phule in promoting girls' education at a time when women were largely denied access to schooling. The Minister said the Phule couple's contributions to women's rights, widow welfare and social justice continue to inspire society. She said the statues would serve as symbols of equality, education, women's empowerment and social justice for future generations. Surekha said the Telangana government was committed to improving

opportunities for Backward Classes (BCs), claiming that the administration was moving ahead with its proposal for 42 per cent reservation for BCs. She said Telangana had become the first state to submit related proposals to the Centre and stressed the need for greater representation in education, employment and politics. The Minister also highlighted welfare and educational initiatives for poor and middle-class students, including distribution of uniforms and books, breakfast and nutritious mid-day meals, improved infrastructure and efforts to raise educational standards. She said the government was working to empower women and girls through education, adding that educating a girl contributes to the progress of families and society. Surekha also referred to welfare programmes such as Indiramma housing and free electricity for poor families. She said the government aimed to follow the ideals of the Phule couple by promoting equality, social justice and inclusive development. She concluded that the statues would inspire people to carry forward the reformers' vision and help build a more inclusive Telangana with greater opportunities for marginalized communities.

Mahesh Goud Warns Against Party Indiscipline



Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud said party discipline would remain the top priority and warned leaders against making public statements that could undermine the organisation. During an informal interaction, he said comments made by Rajagopal Reddy should have been avoided, while acknowledging that the senior leader's concerns were understood. Goud said the Congress High Command was aware of the

remarks and made it clear that crossing the party line would not be tolerated. He described Rajagopal Reddy as a good friend but stressed that disciplinary standards would be maintained. On the state's financial situation, Goud blamed the previous BRS government under K. Chandrashekar Rao for the debt burden and said several bills had remained pending since 2018. He claimed that CM Relief Fund assistance was released after the Congress government assumed office. Goud said Telangana's fine-grain rice scheme was unique and urged people not to believe misinformation. He assured that the party and government would work in coordination and said the party would have a role in important policy decisions. He alleged that the BRS was conducting a campaign against Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. Regarding upcoming nominated posts, Goud said capable persons would be selected, with 60 per cent positions expected to go to experienced leaders and 40 per cent to newcomers.

Telangana Cabinet Clears Global Summit 2.0

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Cabinet on Friday approved the organisation of the three-day Telangana Rising Global Summit 2.0, tentatively scheduled for December 7, 8 and 9. The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, decided to constitute a sub-committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, with Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and G. Vivek as members. Special committees will also be formed to coordinate the event. Unlike last year's summit, which focused on the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, this year's programme will centre on the theme "Invest Telangana." The government plans to unveil the Future City Master Plan and highlight investment opportunities in defence, aerospace and pharmaceutical sectors. Exhibitions showcasing Telangana's startups, industries and technological innovations are also planned. The summit is intended to attract fresh investments, strengthen industrial growth and contribute to increasing the state's Gross State Domestic Product. The Cabinet also approved major reforms in technical education and skill development. Industrial Training Institutes, Advanced Training Centres

and polytechnic colleges will be brought under the Young India Skills University. The institutions will be removed from the Telangana Education Act framework and shifted from the Industries Department to the Shakti Department. The Cabinet approved Young India Integrated Residential Schools in Adilabad, Nirmal, Mudhole, Boath, Sirpur, Gajwel and Dubbaka constituencies. The government plans such complexes in 113 constituencies, with approvals now granted for 86. Officials were instructed to expedite land acquisition and construction in the remaining locations. The Chief Minister directed authorities to complete ongoing works quickly, with classes planned from the 2027-28 academic year wherever facilities are ready. The Cabinet also sanctioned an estimated Rs 2,100 crore for Phase-II of the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project. The scheme is expected to provide irrigation to nearly one lakh acres while meeting drinking and industrial water requirements. Additionally, the capacity of the Gudem Doddi Pumped Storage Project was approved for expansion from 1.19 TMC ft to 15 TMC ft. A consultant will also be appointed to assess the feasibility of solar power generation under the project.

Massive Tiranga Yatra

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

A massive Tiranga Yatra was organised on Hyderabad's Tank Bund on Friday under the aegis of the BJP, with hundreds of youth, students, party workers and citizens participating in the patriotic rally ahead of the 80th Independence Day. BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao led the programme. Before the rally, special prayers were offered at the Sri Kanaka Durga Ammavari Temple in Bashirbagh. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Rajya Sabha Member Dr. K. Laxman joined Ramchander Rao and other BJP leaders at Tank Bund. The rally proceeded from the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar towards the statue of Swami Vivekananda, with participants carrying the national flag and raising patriotic slogans. Addressing the gathering, Ramchander Rao extended advance Independence Day greetings and expressed happiness over the large participation of young people. He said the enthusiasm of the youth reflected their commitment to the nation and instilled confidence in the country's future. He called upon citizens to strengthen patriotism, national unity and integrity and remain prepared to make sacrifices for the country when required. Ramchander Rao thanked all participants for joining the Tiranga Yatra with enthusiasm and discipline. He urged people to march forward together in the spirit of patriotism while upholding the values of national unity and integrity.

Kishan Reddy Urges Patriotic Unity

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy called upon citizens to celebrate Independence Day with patriotism and participate in Tiranga Yatras being organised across the country. Extending his greetings ahead of the celebrations, he urged every Indian to hoist the national flag at home and join rallies carrying the Tricolour. Kishan Reddy said the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, launched in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call, had resulted in the national flag being displayed at crores of homes over the past five years. He said the initiative was intended to strengthen

national pride and honour those who sacrificed their lives for the country. Recalling the death of Sama Jagan Mohan Reddy, an ABVP activist at Kakatiya University, the Union Minister said he was killed after opposing the alleged burning of the national flag by Naxalites. He described the incident as a reminder of the sacrifices made in defence of the national flag. Kishan Reddy alleged that certain forces, both within and outside the country, were attempting to undermine India's unity and development. He claimed that the country had made significant progress in infrastructure, poverty reduction and efforts to combat terrorism under the Modi government. He accused some opposition forces of being unhappy with India's development and alleged that attempts were being made to create divisions and instability. He urged citizens to remain vigilant and protect national unity, integrity and security. The Union Minister also criticised opposition parties over their alleged conduct during Operation Sindhur and accused them of placing political interests above national interests. Kishan Reddy further raised the issue of the national song 'Vande Mataram', alleging that leaders of the Majlis party in Telangana had opposed it. He challenged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to clarify whether action would be taken against those opposing the song, asserting that the state government must uphold laws passed by Parliament. He called upon citizens to reject divisive politics and work collectively towards strengthening the nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dattatreya Calls for Flag Respect

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya called upon citizens to respect the national flag and strengthen the spirit of patriotism and national unity while addressing a Tiranga Yatra at Tank Bund in Hyderabad. Dattatreya said it was a matter of great pride and happiness to witness people participating in the Tiranga Yatra with the Tricolour. He emphasized that every Indian should uphold the dignity of the national flag and contribute to protecting the country's unity and integrity.



Referring

to the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign launched in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call, he said citizens were not only hoisting the national flag at their homes but also taking part in rallies carrying the Tricolour with pride. He described the Tricolour as a powerful symbol of patriotism and nationalism, adding that such campaigns help strengthen national consciousness among people. Dattatreya urged India's 1.4 billion citizens to demonstrate their commitment to the nation by respecting the flag and promoting unity beyond social and regional differences. He congratulated and thanked all participants in the massive Tiranga Yatra organized under the aegis of the Bharatiya Janata Party, and appealed to citizens to continue nurturing the spirit of patriotism and national integrity.

Gen Z Must Lead the Future: Bandi Sanjay

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar called for greater political opportunities for the younger generation, particularly Gen Z, while addressing a large gathering at the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra' in Hyderabad on Thursday. The Tiranga Yatra, organised under the leadership of BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao, witnessed the participation of thousands of people at Liberty. Bandi Sanjay said it was encouraging to see people from different castes, religions and regions marching together with the national flag and raising patriotic slogans. He said the Tricolour represents India's history, sacrifices and aspirations. Explaining its symbol-



ism, he said saffron represents courage and sacrifice, white stands for peace, green signifies development and prosperity, while the Ashoka Chakra represents continuous progress.

The Union Minister said the Yatra was intended to remind younger generations of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters and others who laid down their lives for the country. He urged youth to understand the responsibilities that come with being citizens of India. Bandi Sanjay praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, claiming that 25 crore people had been lifted out of poverty during his tenure. He also highlighted developments in roads, railways and aviation, besides referring to military operations and efforts to strengthen internal security. He urged people to rise above political differences and contribute to national development. "Instead of asking what the country has done for you, think about what you have done for the country," he said. On political representation for Gen Z, Bandi Sanjay said there was no disagreement over the proposal to enable young people to enter legislative bodies at 21. He called for a wider national debate and challenged the Congress government to demonstrate its commitment by giving Gen Z opportunities in the state Cabinet, MLC elections and MLA tickets.

Laxman Calls for National Unity

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha Member Dr. K. Laxman urged people to participate enthusiastically in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and Tiranga Yatras, saying the initiatives would strengthen patriotism and honour the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call, Laxman said Tiranga Yatras were being organised across the country and people were being encouraged to hoist the national flag at their

homes. He recalled that India's independence was achieved through the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters who faced imprisonment, the gallows and bullets during the struggle against British rule. Laxman said every Indian had a responsibility to remember those sacrifices and protect the country's unity and integrity. He stressed that caste, religion, region and language should remain secondary to national identity. Describing India as the world's largest democracy and a symbol of unity in diversity, he said people belonging to different communities and cultures had remained united because of their shared commitment to the nation. Laxman said Prime Minister Modi had assumed office for a third consecutive term with the support of the people and that the country was progressing towards development. He called upon citizens to work collectively towards the goal of 'Viksit Bharat'.

He also warned against attempts by foreign and domestic forces to create divisions based on caste, religion or regional identities. He urged citizens to reject such efforts and demonstrate that India cannot be divided. Laxman called for Tiranga Yatras in every village and neighbourhood and urged people to display the national flag proudly as a symbol of unity and integrity.

Etela Rajender Calls for National Unity

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Malkajigiri MP Etela Rajender called upon citizens, particularly the youth, to remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters and work collectively to protect India's unity and integrity. He was addressing participants of a Tiranga Yatra held at Tank Bund in Hyderabad ahead of Independence Day. Rajender recalled the sacrifices of legendary freedom fighters, including Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev and Chandra shekhar Azad, who laid down their lives for the country while raising patriotic slogans. He said the independence enjoyed today was the result of the courage and sacrifices of countless martyrs. He highlighted India's diversity, saying people from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Kutch to Arunachal Pradesh remained united despite differences in language, culture and traditions. Rajender said independence had created opportunities for people from humble backgrounds to reach the highest constitutional offices. He cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's journey and President Droupadi Murmu's rise as examples of the possibilities created by democracy.

He urged the present generation never to forget the sacrifices of the past and stressed that patriotism also carried a responsibility to safeguard the nation. Rajender called upon citizens to proudly display the Tricolour and support efforts to strengthen India's development, unity and integrity. He also greeted and thanked the youth and people participating in Tiranga Yatras across Hyderabad and the country.



BRS Accuses Congress of Land Grabbing

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Malla Reddy and BRS General Secretary R.S. Praveen Kumar launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, accusing it of causing hardship to farmers and targeting their lands. They alleged that the government was using land-related provisions, including Section 22-A, to adversely affect farmers. Malla Reddy said Congress had become synonymous with "plunder" and alleged that farmers were facing severe difficulties under the present administration. He questioned the circumstances under which Section 22-A restrictions were introduced and asserted that the BRS would continue to stand with farmers. R.S. Praveen Kumar alleged that the Congress government began targeting farmers soon after coming to power. Referring to the controversy in Lagacharla, he claimed that hundreds of acres had been taken away from farmers and said BRS was the first political party to oppose what it described as land-related irregularities. He alleged that 62 farmers from Lagacharla had been sent to Sangareddy Jail and said BRS lead-

ers were prepared to face imprisonment rather than surrender their lands in Bomraspet. He accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of having a history of land-related controversies and alleged that the government was protecting those involved in land transactions. Praveen Kumar said BRS would intensify its legal and political fight over the issue. He announced that the party would approach the National Human Rights Commission and file another Public Interest Litigation in the Telangana High Court. If necessary, he said, the party would approach the Supreme Court. He demanded the suspension of the concerned Collector and RDO until the allegations were properly investigated. Praveen Kumar also alleged that certain Congress leaders were involved in land scams at the behest of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. He warned that BRS would continue its campaign until justice was delivered to affected farmers. The allegations made by the BRS leaders were political claims and would require verification by the concerned authorities.

Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on the cards while Modi's photograph was absent. Rao also sought clarity on the government's plan to distribute 1.06 crore ration cards, including details of newly issued cards compared with the existing 90 lakh cards. He demanded transparency regarding the printing process, tendering, contractor selection and expenditure. He urged the government to fulfill commitments made to ration dealers, including increased commissions and honorariums, and address complaints over broken rice supplied through the public distribution system. Rao further suggested expanding the range of commodities available through ration shops. Citing Karnataka as an example, he proposed supplying items such as toor dal, cooking oil, ragi, sugar and wheat, while allowing beneficiaries to choose alternatives to rice. He called for a review of the ration card process and urged the government to ensure stronger food security measures for Telangana's poor.

Raghunandan Rao Demands Modi Photo on Ration Cards

New Delhi, August 14 | TPN Bureau

BJP MP Raghunandan Rao on Friday objected to the Telangana government's decision to issue smart ration cards without Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph and demanded that his image be included in future cards. Rao alleged that the Centre was bearing a major share of the foodgrain distribution cost while the state government was displaying photographs of its own leaders on the cards. He claimed that of the six kilograms of rice being distributed to beneficiaries, five kilograms were supplied through the Central government's contribution. The MP questioned the inclusion of Chief Minister A.

Talasani Challenges CM Over Housing

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav criticised the Congress government over its housing programme and alleged that it was failing to match the housing initiatives undertaken during the previous BRS regime. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, he demanded that the government provide houses to poor families free of cost. Talasani said the BRS government, under former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, constructed double-bedroom houses with basic amenities to enable poor families to live with dignity. He claimed that 69,000 double-bedroom houses were completed in Hyderabad city, with 16,000 units constructed at Kollur alone. He said each double-bedroom unit cost around Rs.9.50 lakh and was provided with facilities including electricity, roads, drainage, drinking water and elevators. He recalled that the then Governor had appreciated the quality of the houses, comparing them favourably with government residential facilities elsewhere. Talasani challenged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to visit the completed housing projects and inspect them personally. He said he had also shown the double-bedroom houses to Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka.

Questioning the present housing scheme, Talasani asked why beneficiaries were required to contribute Rs.6 lakh and why Rs.10,000 was being collected along with applications. He demanded clarity on the size of plots proposed for the houses. He also raised objections to the inclusion of poor and middle-class families' lands under Section 22-A restrictions. Talasani questioned the authority for placing lands under the category and alleged that commissions of 30 to 40 per cent were involved in the process. He said details would be revealed later. Talasani further criticised remarks allegedly linking traditional prayers and rituals with black magic, saying worship was part of Indian traditions. He said Telangana Bhavan, which recently completed 20 years, had evolved into a "Janatha Garage" by standing with people and opposing policies affecting different sections of society.



Revanth Reddy Calls Education the Key to Change

Continue

economic empowerment initiatives, youth employment opportunities, education, healthcare and social security schemes are being given top priority. Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized that the true meaning of independence is realized only when the lives of the poor improve and every household experiences progress and security. He said the government is committed to building a Telangana where every family can live with self-respect and dignity. He further stated that economic growth gains significance only when its benefits reach the most vulnerable sections of society. According to him, the government is focused on ensuring that the fruits of development reach the doorstep of the poorest citizens. Paying tribute to freedom fighters, he said the government remains committed to carrying forward their ideals by promoting social justice, equality, welfare and inclusive development. He added that Telangana is moving forward with a vision of becoming a stronger and more prosperous state. Expressing confidence in the continued support of the people, Bhatti Vikramarka said the government would work tirelessly to bring happiness to poor families and create new opportunities for future generations. He concluded by conveying heartfelt Independence Day wishes to all citizens.

Bhatti Hails Phule Couple's Ideals

Continue

support under the Jyotirao Phule Overseas Scholarship programme had increased from 300 beneficiaries under the previous administration to 700 under the Congress government. He said the government was giving special attention to residential education infrastructure. According to him, 100 Young India Integrated Residential Schools were being constructed across Telangana, with significant funding allocated for the initiative. The Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted improvements in welfare residential schools, including a 40 per cent increase in diet charges and a 200 per cent rise in cosmetic charges, aimed at improving facilities for students. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government would continue implementing policies focused on education, welfare, equality and social justice. He expressed confidence that the Phule couple's ideals would inspire future generations and guide Telangana towards inclusive development.

Russian Cosmonauts Salute India from Space

Continue

ambitions through launch services and technological cooperation, including assistance in developing cryogenic propulsion technology. The partnership continues through India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme. Indian astronaut-designates received training at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre in Russia, gaining experience in spacecraft operations, emergency procedures, survival techniques and physical conditioning. The Russian crew also showcased winning entries from a joint space-themed competition involving Roscosmos and ISRO, encouraging young people to dream about future exploration. Wishing Indians peace and prosperity, the cosmonauts concluded their message by reaffirming the enduring bond between the two nations. Their Independence Day tribute from orbit symbolised decades of scientific cooperation and the continuing journey of India and Russia toward new achievements in space.



Road Encroachments Cleared



Quthbullapur, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Gajularamaram Circle Town Planning officials have intensified action against road encroachments, warning that unauthorized occupation of public roads will not be tolerated. Acting on the directions of the Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner and the Quthbullapur Zonal Commissioner, officials conducted a special clearance drive on Friday. The operation focused on the road stretch between Usha Mullapudi Hospital and Chandragiri Nagar Junction, where several encroachments were removed to improve traffic movement and ensure better access for commuters. Officials said the drive was aimed at restoring the road space and preventing obstructions caused by unauthorized structures. Gajularamaram Deputy

Commissioner U. Venkat Ramulu warned that strict action would be initiated against individuals involved in unauthorized construction or fresh encroachments. He said officials would continue to monitor vulnerable areas to prevent violations. Authorities stated that regular inspections would be carried out to identify illegal constructions and encroachments at an early stage. They also urged residents and commercial establishments to avoid occupying public roads or carrying out construction without proper permissions. Assistant City Planner R. Sumitra and Town Planning Supervisor B. Saritha Sen supervised the clearance operation along with town planning staff. Officials said similar enforcement measures would continue in the circle to maintain clear roads and facilitate smooth traffic flow.

Ganesh Arrested in Investment Fraud Case

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Cyberabad Economic Offences Wing (EOW) police have arrested businessman Kondapalli Ganesh, popularly known as "Laddu Ganesh" for his high-profile bids in the My Home Bhooja Ganesh laddu auction, in connection with an alleged investment fraud case. According to a senior EOW official, preliminary investigation indicates that a portion of the money collected from investors may have been diverted towards excise-related auctions. Investigators are examining financial transactions to establish the amount allegedly diverted, the accounts used to route the funds and the businesses in which the money was reportedly invested. Police are also verifying allegations that Ganesh diverted funds through associates and benami entities and acquired properties in their names. The EOW is tracing the complete financial trail to determine the total amount collected from investors. Preliminary information suggests that Ganesh allegedly collected around ₹33 crore from more than 130 individuals and diverted part of the money into other ventures. The

case was registered following a complaint by Sylvia Srinivas Reddy, 55, who alleged that Ganesh persuaded her and her husband to invest ₹31 lakh by promising returns of six per cent per month, payable quarterly. She claimed that Ganesh presented himself as a businessman involved in wine shops and real estate ventures. The complaint stated that Ganesh and another accused, Boyinapalli Kiran, met the couple after being introduced through a resident and explained the proposed investment arrangement. Although an agreement was reportedly executed on non-judicial stamp paper, the promised returns were allegedly not paid and the principal amount was not returned. Other individuals named in the complaint were also reported to have invested, with the combined amount allegedly reaching ₹5.34 crore. Ganesh attracted public attention after winning the My Home Bhooja Ganesh laddu auction with a ₹29 lakh bid in 2024 and later placing a record ₹51.07 lakh bid in 2025. Police are continuing to investigate the financial transactions and allegations raised by investors.

Seven-Year Age Relaxation for Uniformed Jobs

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has extended the upper age limit for direct recruitment to uniformed services by another two years, providing eligible candidates with a total age relaxation of seven years beyond the prescribed limit. The latest decision covers recruitment in several departments, including police, fire services, prisons, Special Protection Force, excise, transport and forest services. The move is expected to provide additional opportunities for unemployed youth seeking government jobs in these sectors. According to GO Ms. No. 122, issued by the General Administration Department on Friday, the additional two-year relaxation will be applicable over and above the five-year concession previously granted under GO 87, issued on May 18, 2026. The earlier order had provided a five-year increase in the

upper age limit for a period of one year beginning May 18. The government has now decided to further extend the concession following representations from unemployed candidates. Officials said several aspiring applicants had approached the government requesting additional relaxation, stating that it would enable more eligible candidates to participate in upcoming recruitment drives. The decision is expected to benefit candidates who crossed the standard upper age limit but remain within the newly permitted range. The government said the measure was aimed at widening access to recruitment opportunities and addressing concerns raised by job seekers. The latest order will apply to the specified uniformed services and is expected to bring relief to thousands of candidates preparing for government recruitment examinations and selection processes.

Say No to Food Adulteration

Tarnaka, August 14 | TPN Bureau

National Consumer Rights Commission Chairman Soma Rammoohan has called upon people to remain vigilant against food adulteration and make quality and safety a priority in their daily lives. He expressed concern over the growing consumption of adulterated and substandard food products and warned of their potential long-term impact on public health. Speaking at a meeting in Hyderabad on food safety, Rammoohan said regular consumption of adulterated food could contribute to serious health problems and potentially increase the burden of diseases over the next five to 10 years. He urged consumers to collectively take a pledge to reject adulterated food and choose safer, quality products. Rammoohan advised people to exercise greater caution while purchasing or consuming prepared food. He suggested that consumers prefer establishments with open kitchens, where the preparation process can be observed, instead of relying solely on conventional restaurants, hotels and food outlets. According to him, visible food preparation enables customers to assess cleanliness, hygiene and the quality of ingredients being used. Such awareness, he said, could help reduce the risks associated with adulterated food and encourage food businesses to maintain better standards. He also urged consumers to be particularly careful while purchasing and consuming non-vegetarian food items. Rammoohan stressed that individuals have an important role in protecting their own health by making informed choices about what they eat. He appealed to the public to remain alert and collectively work towards creating greater awareness about food quality, hygiene and consumer safety.



Snapchat Gang Held for Gold Theft

Quthbullapur, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Petbasheerabad police have arrested two men accused of targeting women through Snapchat, developing online relationships and allegedly stealing their gold jewellery. The arrests brought an end to a suspected two-member gang operating through social media. The prime accused was identified as Sagar Chowdary, alias Sai Sunil, 25, from Sangareddy district, while his associate was identified as Shivangula Bharat Kumar, 28. According to ACP Shankar Reddy, the accused allegedly used rented luxury cars and stylish appearances to create an impression of being wealthy. He would then approach women through Snapchat, establish contact and gradually build personal relationships. Police said that after gaining the confidence of the victims, the accused allegedly met them in person and stole their gold jew-

ellery before fleeing. Investigators have so far identified around 20 women who were allegedly cheated by the gang. Preliminary investigation indicated that approximately 35 to 40 tolas of gold had been stolen. Police said Bharat Kumar allegedly assisted in disposing of the stolen jewellery. During the investigation, police recovered three tolas of gold and seized four mobile phones. Officials also said the accused had previous criminal cases registered against them. Police suspect that more women could have been targeted through social media platforms and are investigating possible additional victims. Authorities urged people to exercise caution while developing relationships with strangers online. Petbasheerabad CI Vijayavardhan, Crime Inspector Ajay and other police personnel participated in the media conference.



HYDRA Reviews Lake and Flood Control Works

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

HYDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath inspected several lake restoration projects and flood-prone areas in Hyderabad on Friday, directing officials to strengthen measures for the smooth movement of stormwater and prevent waterlogging. Ranganath, accompanied by HYDRA Additional Director Varla Papayya, Additional Commissioner Anand Kumar and ACPs Puppala Thirumala and Srikanth, reviewed restoration works at Ibrahimbagh Lake in Neknampur, Bhagirathamma Lake and Tautanikunta Lake in Nanakramguda. He instructed officials to scientifically design inlet and outlet systems as part of lake development works to improve floodwater management. He also directed that Sewage Treatment Plants be completed alongside the lake



restoration projects. Emphasising the importance of adequate storage capacity, he called for complete desilting

so the lakes could accommodate larger volumes of floodwater. The Commissioner later inspected flood-sensitive locations around Gachibowli, Hyderabad Central University, Biodiversity Park and Malkam Cheruvu. He reviewed box-drain construction with officials from CMC, GHMC and MMC. HYDRA officials said desilting of inlets and the preparation of box drains at Khajaguda and Malkam Cheruvu had reduced flood risks. At HCU, Ranganath inspected pipelines designed to carry stormwater across the road. Officials said a stormwater drain connecting HCU Road to Pochammakunta had been completed, helping prevent water stagnation. Ranganath also inaugurated restoration works at Nallagandla Lake along with local farmers. Residents participated in the programme and expressed support for the lake's restoration and development.

Alumni Gift Boosts School Security

Quthbullapur, August 14 | TPN Bureau

An alumnus of the Zilla Parishad High School in Jedimetla village has taken an initiative to strengthen the safety and security of students by donating a CCTV surveillance system to his former school. Erola Kranti Kiran contributed ₹2 lakh towards the installation of 20 CCTV cameras across the school premises. The system is intended to ensure continuous monitoring, enhance student safety, protect school property and keep a watch on the surrounding areas. ACP Shankar Reddy and Petbasheerabad SHO Vijay Vardhan attended the programme and formally inaugurated the CCTV surveillance system. The police officials appreciated the

alumnus for contributing to the institution where he had studied. Speaking at the event, ACP Shankar Reddy said CCTV cameras play an important role in improving security at educational institutions. He suggested that similar surveillance systems should be installed in schools wherever possible to create a safer environment for students and staff. SHO Vijay Vardhan said the newly installed cameras would help safeguard students and teachers while also providing protection to school infrastructure and other property. He appreciated Kranti Kiran's initiative and said alumni contributions could play an important



role in supporting educational institutions. School officials and staff congratulated Kranti Kiran for donating the CCTV system. They expressed hope that the surveillance network would serve as an effective security shield for the school and its students.

Mega Handloom Mall Set Up in Uppal



Uppal, August 14 | TPN Bureau

A major shopping complex with 210 shops has been established in Uppal with the objective of promoting handloom

products and providing better marketing opportunities for weavers, producers and textile traders. Film actress Sreeleela is scheduled to inaugurate the mall on August 16. Organisers recently conducted

a preparatory meeting to discuss arrangements for the inauguration. Managing Partner Gujja Satyam said the project was developed under the guidance of five managing partners and a founders' committee. He said the initiative was undertaken in association with Gaddam Venkatesham, Vanam Narasimha, Krishna and Chirram Das Dhananjay. According to Satyam, the shopping complex has been designed to accommodate a wide range of businesses, including textile outlets and gold jewellery shops. A key objective is to create a larger market for handloom products and provide direct marketing opportunities for families dependent on the weaving profession, particularly members of the Padmashali community. He said handloom weavers and producers manufacture quality fab-

rics but frequently face difficulties in reaching consumers because of inadequate marketing facilities. The new complex is expected to bridge this gap by bringing producers, traders and customers onto a common platform. Satyam expressed confidence that the mall would help increase the consumption and visibility of handloom fabrics while improving income opportunities for weavers through direct sales. Organisers are making extensive arrangements for the inaugural programme and expect the presence of Sreeleela to attract public attention to the new commercial centre. They said the mall is intended to become a prominent marketplace for handloom products, textiles and related businesses, while strengthening opportunities for the weaving community.

Food Safety Lapses Found at Cloud Kitchen

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Food safety officials identified several hygiene and storage violations during an inspection of Wacky Wok Cloud Kitchen in Kondapur, prompting concerns over food handling and sanitation practices at the establishment. During the inspection,

officials found that the freezer was not maintaining adequate cooling, resulting in vegetables becoming spoiled. The freezer was also reportedly poorly maintained and unhygienic. Signs of pest activity were observed in the premises, raising further concerns about food safety standards. Officials noted that utensils

were not being properly sanitized with hot water. The inspection also revealed the use of synthetic food colours in food preparation. The colours were discarded at the site by the officials. The inspection team, however, recorded several positive practices followed by the cloud kitchen. Food handlers were found wearing hairnets while working, helping maintain basic hygiene during food preparation. Officials also found no expired raw materials at the premises. The kitchen was reportedly following FIFO (First In, First Out) and FEFO (First Expiry, First Out) systems for managing food stocks.

These practices help ensure that older or soon-to-expire ingredients are used before newer supplies. The premises were also equipped with fly catchers to help control insects. Officials further noted that vegetarian and non-vegetarian food preparation areas were properly segregated. The findings highlight the importance of maintaining proper refrigeration, pest control, utensil sanitation and safe ingredient handling in commercial kitchens. Food safety authorities are continuing inspections to ensure that establishments comply with prescribed hygiene and food safety requirements.

Assigned Land Holders Demand Rights

Patancheru, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Members of the Telangana Assigned Land Owners Welfare Association staged a protest at the Patancheru Mandal headquarters on Friday, demanding that the government immediately grant full ownership rights to beneficiaries of assigned lands across the state. The association submitted a representation at the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, highlighting the long-pending demands of assigned land holders. The programme was led by Association State President Errola Shivaiah and presided over by State Vice-President Rudraram Shankar. Association leaders said they chose the Ambedkar statue to highlight their grievances as successive governments had allegedly failed to address the



issue despite repeated representations over the past five to six years to MROs, RDOs, District Collectors, MLAs, MPs and Ministers.

They claimed that around 24.45 lakh acres of assigned land in Telangana support nearly one crore economically weaker people. Granting ownership

rights, they said, would provide greater security and improve the livelihoods of thousands of poor families. The leaders pointed out that similar ownership rights had reportedly been granted to assigned land holders in Andhra Pradesh about three years ago, as well as in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. They recalled that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had announced in the Assembly in 2021 that the relevant law would be amended. They also cited Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 2022 Warangal Rythu Declaration promise to grant rights within 100 days of coming to power. Questioning the continued delay, the association leaders said the protest was aimed at highlighting government inaction and urged authorities to fulfil the long-standing demand. State leaders Guvvala Shivashankar and Ashagari Ramulu, along with Sangareddy district, Patancheru constituency and Mandal-level representatives, participated in the programme.

Leadership Is a Great Responsibility

Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Leadership is not merely a position of authority but a great responsibility accompanied by challenges, said renowned personality development expert and Lead India President Lion Capt. Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy. He made the remarks while attending the investiture ceremony of democratically elected class, block and school student representatives at Johnson Global School. As the chief guest, he inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp and paying floral tributes to Goddess Saraswati. Dr. Madhusudhan Reddy said leaders at different levels, from families and villages to districts, states and nations, have played a crucial role in driving social progress by developing and applying their leadership abilities. He said effective leaders must possess distinctive



qualities and innovative thinking to inspire others and achieve meaningful goals. He advised students aspiring to become

importance of responsibility, decision-making and clarity of thought in effective leadership. During the ceremony, badges and ceremonial sashes were presented to the elected student representatives, while flags were handed over to block leaders. The newly elected student leaders later participated in a parade and presented a salute before the chief guest. Students also presented cultural programmes that added colour to the event. Around 700 students participated in the programme and took a leadership oath. Johnson Global School-SVJC Junior College management representatives Ootkuri Mahipal Reddy, Vangala Santosh Reddy, Kantala Ram Reddy, Simhachalam Hari Krishna and Meda Venkata Varaprasad attended the ceremony. The management later felicitated Dr. Madhusudhan Reddy for his participation and guidance.

CPI Leaders Criticize Centre's Policies

Nalgonda, August 14 | TPN Bureau

CPI District Assistant Secretaries Palla Devender Reddy and L. Shrawan Kumar urged people to oppose what they described as anti-people policies of the BJP-led Central government. They made the remarks while attending the CPI's Praja Chaitanya

Yatra' in Nalgonda town on Friday. Addressing participants, the leaders alleged that the Centre's policies were increasing economic pressure on ordinary families. They particularly criticized the rise in prices of essential commodities, petrol, diesel and cooking gas. The CPI leaders said repeated increases in the cost of basic necessities

were making it increasingly difficult for middle-class and economically weaker sections to manage household expenses. They called upon people to collectively raise their voice against policies that, according to them, were adversely affecting the livelihoods of common citizens. The leaders appealed to the public to participate in democratic



movements and strengthened efforts to bring greater accountability in governance. They said the 'Praja

Chaitanya Yatra' was aimed at creating awareness among people about economic and social

issues and mobilizing public support against policies they consider detrimental to public welfare.

Farmers' Awareness Meet



Adilabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

An agricultural awareness meeting will be held on Saturday in Varthamannur village under the aegis of the IL Tractor brand, with the objective of helping farmers tackle common crop-related challenges and improve farm management practices. The programme is expected to focus on crop diseases, sap-sucking pests and other problems that can affect crop growth and productivity. Farmers will be provided guidance on identifying such issues at an early stage and adopting suitable preventive and control measures. Organisers said special emphasis would be placed on the safe and appropriate use of pesticides. Experts will advise farmers on selecting suitable pesticides and following recommended practices while dealing with different crop diseases and pest attacks. The ses-

sion will also highlight the importance of taking timely measures to protect crops and minimise losses. The organisers said the awareness programme would provide farmers with an opportunity to discuss crop-related problems and receive practical suggestions. They encouraged farmers to make use of the guidance offered during the meeting and adopt scientifically recommended methods in their fields. Farmers from Varthamannur and nearby villages have been urged to attend the programme in large numbers. Organisers expressed hope that the meeting would help improve awareness about crop protection, reduce damage caused by diseases and pests, and contribute to better agricultural productivity. The initiative is aimed at strengthening farmers' knowledge and helping them respond effectively to common challenges faced during crop cultivation.

80 Youths Join BRS



Marpalli, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Former Vikarabad MLA Dr. Metuku Anand participated in a BRS workers' meeting held at Panchalingal village in Marpalli mandal on Friday, where around 80 youths from various political parties joined the BRS in a significant show of support. The programme began with Dr. Anand garlanding the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He later hoisted the BRS party flag and inaugurated the party's newly estab-

lished office by cutting the ribbon. Addressing the workers' meeting, Anand interacted with the party cadre and provided directions on strengthening the organisation at the village level. He called upon party workers to remain closely connected with people and work actively on issues affecting local communities. The induction of the youths was described by party leaders as a major boost to the BRS organisation in Panchalingal. They said the participa-

tion of young people reflected growing enthusiasm among the youth towards the party. Party workers highlighted the importance of strengthening grassroots-level activities and maintaining a strong relationship with the younger generation. The gathering concluded with leaders and workers expressing confidence that the latest additions would further strengthen the BRS cadre in the village and contribute to expanding the party's organisational presence in the area.

Restore Narmala Project on War Footing: Chada

Rajanna Sircilla, August 14 | TPN Bureau

CPI leader Chada Venkat Reddy urged the Telangana government to take immediate steps to revive the Narmala Project, describing it as a crucial source of irrigation for farmers in Mustabad and Gambhiraopet mandals. Speaking on the issue, Chada expressed concern over the project's prolonged neglect since its construction between 1946 and 1951. He said extensive silt accumulation had reduced its original storage capacity from 2.2 TMC to nearly 1.2 TMC, despite earlier claims of desilting under Mission Kakatiya. The CPI leader noted that the project once supported irrigation across nearly 22,000 to 23,000 acres but was now unable to adequately serve farmers. He demanded complete removal of silt, modern repairs and installation of suitable gates to improve water storage. Chada proposed allocating 7500 crore for comprehensive development of the project and suggested transforming the



surrounding area into a tourism destination. He also called for a permanent water supply arrangement by completing Package 9 of the Kaleshwaram project and establishing connectivity with Yellampalli, Mid Manair and Kondapochamma projects. According to him, bringing Godavari water to Narmala would provide a lasting solution to the region's irrigation needs. Chada said the CPI would submit a representation to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior officials. He affirmed that the party would continue its campaign to protect and restore the project.

Erukala Leaders Demand Action



Hyderabad, August 14 | TPN Bureau

An Erukala Tribal Self-Respect Meeting was held at Erukala Nancharama Nagar in Mansoorabad under the leadership of Kandela Venkateswarlu. The meeting was organised by the Erukala Association to discuss issues concerning the community and demand greater social justice. Speakers alleged that the Erukala community had suffered considerable injustice under the previous government in Telangana. They said the community supports the Congress party with the hope that its political fortunes and future prospects would improve. Leaders also credited the Congress with extending reservation benefits to the Adivasi Erukala community. They recalled the recognition given to senior Congress leader Buddha

Satyanarayana, a resident of the Mansoorabad division of LB Nagar constituency and a Director of the Hyderabad Market Committee, after Revanth Reddy became Chief Minister. However, community representatives alleged that Jakki Prabhakar Reddy made casteist and derogatory remarks against Satyanarayana, which they said amounted to an insult to the entire Erukala community. Police subsequently registered an FIR against him under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The leaders demanded his immediate arrest and warned of large-scale meetings with civil society groups if action was delayed. Telangana State Erukala Association president Koothati Ramulu and several community representatives attended the programme.

CPI Calls for 'Chalo Delhi' on September 1



Mancherial, August 14 | TPN Bureau

CPI State Secretariat member Kalavena Shankar criticized communal politics, describing them as a threat to the country's social fabric and development. He made the remarks at the concluding meeting of the 'Praja Poru Yatra' held at CCC Corner on Friday evening. The programme, chaired by Mandal Secretary Jogula Mallaiah, focused on key public concerns including education, healthcare and employment. Before the meeting, CPI leaders and workers took out a procession from Shirke Colony Junction to CCC Corner. Addressing the gathering, Shankar said communal divisions would not improve the living conditions of workers or ordinary citizens. He stressed the need for collective action to safeguard social justice and protect the rights of disadvantaged sections.

He announced that the CPI would organise a 'Chalo Delhi' programme on September 1 to highlight issues concerning workers, farmers, labourers, youth, women and the general public. Shankar appealed to party cadres, workers and supporters to participate in large numbers and make the Delhi programme successful. He said sustained public movements were necessary to draw attention to people's concerns and demand effective government action. District Secretary Ramadugu Laxman and several party leaders, including Mekala Dasu, Chandrasekhar, Veerabhadrayya, Lingayya, Karukuri Nagesh, Khelendar, Lingam Ravi, Chandrakala, Baji Saida, Sammayya, Rajeshwar Rao, Kishan Rao, Ravinder, Devi Pochanna, Paul and Satyanarayana, attended the meeting.

Case Filed Over Monitor Lizard Hunting

Palvancha, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Forest Department officials have registered a case against a man from Ulvanuru village in Palvancha mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district for allegedly hunting monitor lizards with dogs and posting videos of the acts on Instagram. The action followed information shared by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), South Region, Chennai. Acting on the directions of the Bhadradi Kothagudem District Forest Officer and the Kinnersani Wildlife Management Forest Divisional Officer, forest officials conducted an inquiry in Ulvanuru and identified the accused as Yasa Chanti. Officials said the accused allegedly used dogs to chase and capture monitor lizards and subjected the animals to harassment before recording and uploading videos of the incidents on social media. As monitor lizards receive the highest level of legal protection under Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection



Act, 1972, forest authorities registered a case under the relevant provisions of the Act. The accused was subsequently produced before a court. Officials warned that acts involving the hunting, capture or harassment of protected wildlife would invite strict legal action. They also appealed to the public not to participate in or promote activities that cause harm to wildlife. Forest Range Officer G. Kavitha Madhuri supervised the investigation, with Forest Section Officers S. Krishnaiah and B. Sunitha, Forest Beat Officers B. Irulal and B. Venkatram, and other range personnel assisting in the case.

Govin Store Opens on Main Road

Tarnaka, August 14 | TPN Bureau

A new Govin store offering footwear and apparel has opened on the Uppal-Tarnaka main road, providing customers with a wide range of products under one roof. Television personality and 'Jabardasth' fame Hyper Aadi attended the inauguration as the chief guest. The store brings together footwear and clothing designed to suit different customer preferences, age groups and budgets. Its

footwear collection includes products for men, women and children in a variety of colours, designs and styles. Customers can choose from formal, casual and semi-formal footwear, along with sports shoes, sandals, slippers and slides. The store also offers a broad selection of men's apparel, covering casual, formal, semi-formal and lifestyle categories. Company representatives said the outlet was established to provide a con-

venient shopping experience where customers can compare products based on their preferred style, design, type and price range without having to visit multiple stores. They said the outlet caters to the shopping requirements of the entire family, with footwear and men's clothing available at the same location. The management invited residents of Habsiguda, Uppal, Tarnaka and surrounding areas to visit the new outlet and explore its range of products.



SP Inspects Bharosa Centre

Nalgonda, August 14 | TPN Bureau

Nalgonda District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar said Bharosa Centres play an important role in ensuring timely justice and providing comprehensive support to women, girls and children affected by sexual harassment and violence. The SP made a surprise inspection of the Bharosa Centre in Nalgonda on Friday to review the services being offered to victims. During the visit, he inspected the counselling rooms, case management procedures and official records maintained at the centre. Pawar also interacted with the staff and sought details about the cases being handled and the assistance extended to vic-

tims. He reviewed the functioning of the centre and stressed the importance of providing sensitive and victim-friendly support. The SP directed personnel to create a safe and trustworthy atmosphere where victims could speak openly about their grievances without fear or hesitation. He emphasized that staff members should treat every case with sensitivity and ensure that affected women and children receive the necessary support throughout the process. Pawar said institutions such as Bharosa Centres are essential in helping vulnerable victims overcome trauma and access appropriate legal, counselling and support services. He instructed the staff to remain respon-



sive to victims' needs and ensure that their concerns are addressed promptly. The inspection was aimed at strengthening the

centre's functioning and improving the quality of assistance provided to those seeking help.

Editorial

A Journey of Freedom and Responsibility

India's 80 years of independence are not merely a celebration of a historic date; they are a reflection of how far a nation can travel when freedom becomes a shared responsibility. From the struggles of our freedom fighters to the ambitions of today's youth, India's journey has been filled with sacrifice, challenges, achievements, and hope.

Independence gave us the right to shape our own destiny. Over eight decades, India has grown in science, technology, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and global influence. Yet, true progress cannot be measured only by economic growth or technological achievements. It must also be measured by how equally opportunities reach every citizen, how respectfully we treat one another, and how responsibly we protect our environment and democracy. The 80th year should therefore make us ask an important question: What kind of India do we want to build for the next 80 years? A developed nation is not created by governments alone. It is built through the everyday choices of its citizens-by students who learn with purpose, professionals who work with integrity, leaders who serve honestly, and communities that stand together beyond differences.

Our freedom fighters dreamed of an India that would be independent not only from foreign rule, but also from poverty, inequality, ignorance, and injustice. Their dream is still unfinished.

As we celebrate 80 years of independence, let us not merely look back with pride. Let us look forward with courage. Freedom is our inheritance, but the future is our responsibility. The strongest tribute to those who gave us independence is to use that freedom wisely and leave behind an India that is more united, educated, compassionate, sustainable, and powerful than the one we inherited.

Editor

Victim Compensation: The Missing Shield for Vulnerable Children



Laws in India dealing with child labor, bonded labor, human trafficking and sexual offences against children are stringent. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, laws against bonded labor and provisions dealing with trafficking of children provide a strong legal framework to protect victims and punish offenders. Yet, despite these stringent laws, convictions in many cases remain disappointingly low. The result is a dangerous message to society: the law may be strict on paper, but the fear of punishment is often weak in practice. One of the major reasons for the poor conviction rate is the withdrawal or change of testimony by victims and witnesses. Cases are sometimes weakened or dismissed when victims turn hostile or retract their statements. In some cases, the culprits are being acquitted because of technical reasons in framing the case. A child or a vulnerable woman, who has faced exploitation may be under enormous

psychological, social and economic pressure. Fear of the accused, threats to family members, social stigma, dependence on the perpetrator and financial inducements can all influence a victim's decision. In most of the cases, the victims are from weaker sections in the society and the age old local settlements by the village or community elders influence the victim's family. This is where victim compensation assumes enormous importance. Government of India and the States have created a Victim Compensation Fund to go to the rescue of the victim immediately, but is not being implemented properly.

For a poor family, justice cannot be separated from economic survival. A child rescued from labor may return to a family that has lost an important source of income. A bonded laborer may have no savings, land or employment. A girl rescued from trafficking may have nowhere safe to live and no means of supporting herself. If such victims are

expected to cooperate with a long and difficult criminal justice process without adequate financial and social support, they remain vulnerable to further exploitation.

The situation of trafficked girls is particularly disturbing. Rescue alone does not constitute rehabilitation. When a girl is rescued from prostitution or trafficking but is subsequently left without secure accommodation, education, vocational training, employment and financial assistance, she may once again become vulnerable to traffickers. Poverty and dependency can push survivors back into the same exploitative circumstances from which they were rescued.

Victim compensation should therefore not be treated merely as a payment made after a court verdict. It should be viewed as an instrument of protection, rehabilitation and justice. Compensation should reach eligible victims at the earliest possible stage, with interim finan-



cial assistance available while the criminal case is still pending. There is also a need to simplify the process of claiming compensation. Victims and their families often do not know their rights or the procedures involved. Legal services authorities, police, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, District Child Protection Units and NGOs should proactively assist victims in applying for compensation. Children should not be expected to navigate complicated legal and administrative procedures on their own.

Financial assistance should also be linked with a comprehensive rehabilitation package. All eligible Government welfare schemes should be provided to the victim and victim's family. For child laborers, this could include education, bridge schooling, nutrition, counseling and skill development. For bonded laborers, compensation should be accompanied by livelihood support and assistance in rebuilding an independent life. For POCSO survivors, long-term psychological counseling, education, safe accommodation and family support are essential. Trafficking survivors require even stronger protection, including secure housing, vocational training, employment opportunities and sustained financial assistance. Most importantly, compensation should not become a substitute for prosecution. The victim deserves both rehabilitation and justice. The State must ensure that economic

assistance does not weaken the criminal case against the perpetrator. Investigation must be professional, evidence must be preserved, witnesses must be protected and trials involving children must be conducted in a sensitive and timely manner, preferably in designated Child Courts. The real test of a country's commitment to vulnerable people is not merely how severe its laws are, but how effectively those laws protect victims after exploitation has occurred. A law without enforcement creates little fear among offenders; compensation without rehabilitation creates little security for survivors. India needs a victim-centered approach in which compensation, protection, rehabilitation and prosecution work together. Every rescued child should have a pathway back to education and a safe family environment. Every bonded laborer should have the means to rebuild an independent livelihood. Every POCSO survivor should receive dignity, counseling and sustained support. Every trafficked girl should be protected from being pushed back into exploitation.

Justice should not end with rescue. It must continue until the victim is safe, financially secure, rehabilitated and able to live with dignity. That is when stringent laws will begin to create not only punishment for offenders, but genuine fear among perpetrators and real hope for survivors.

Let's hope for a Safe and Happy India on this 80th Independence Day.

How Can Gen-Z Build Constructive Democratic Movements?

From Agitation to Transformation

India's Gen-Z is not merely protesting; it is asking a deeper question: Can spontaneous anger become organised democratic power? From the NEET-UG 2026 controversy to historic struggles for social justice, regional dignity and public accountability, young citizens are rediscovering the power of collective action. Yet the real test begins after the protest: can a movement convert moral energy into lasting institutional reform? The NEET episode became a powerful symbol of this awakening. Allegations of paper leaks and other irregularities affected lakhs of aspirants and triggered protests at JNU, Delhi University and elsewhere. Student groups demanded a re-test, accountability, and even the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. However, it is important to correct a common misconception: the protests did not culminate in Pradhan's resignation. The Union government instead ordered a CBI investigation into alleged irregularities, while demands for reform of the National Testing Agency (NTA) intensified.

What made the contemporary youth response significant was its ability to cross traditional organisational boundaries. Protests involved students associated with

different ideological backgrounds, while autonomous voices emerged alongside organisations such as SFI, AISE, AISA, Muslim Student Union, Ambedkar Student Association, Dalit Student Union, Adivasi-Dalit-Bahujan student groups, BSF, PDSU and ABVP. This diversity demonstrates both the strength and complexity of Gen-Z mobilisation: a movement can become wider when it is not controlled by a single political identity. India's history offers several lessons. The Mandal movement advanced the demand for 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes in education and employment. The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) led a mass movement around Assam's identity and resource concerns. In Telangana, students became central to the separate-state movement, demanding jobs, dignity and socio-cultural self-respect. Their struggle drew support from poets, artists, intellectuals, journalists, lawyers, doctors, teachers and people from every section, with political parties joining at different stages. The Telangana experience is especially instructive. Professor Jayashankar, Biyyala Janardhan Rao, Keshavrao Jadhav, Lakshman, Burra Ramulu, Kodandaram, Ghanta Chakrapani, Erukonda



Thirumali, Simhadri, P.L. Visweshwara Rao, Mallepalli Laxmaiah, Pasham Yadagiri, Allam Narayana, Gaddar, Goreti Venkanna, Guda Anjanna, Jayaraj, Ande Sri, Vimalakka, Maraju Veeranna, Belli Lalitha and Professor Kasim represented a broad cultural-intellectual ecosystem. Singareni workers, employees and students participated in the Sakala Janula Samme, Vantavarpu, Sagara Haram, Millennium March, Chalo Assembly, student Padayatra and Telangana Vidyarthi Garjana. These actions demonstrated that sustained mobilisation can cross caste, religion and party boundaries. But Telangana also exposes the

danger of unfinished transformation. Joint Action Committees (JACs) and other platforms faced political interference, internal divisions and the difficulty of translating movement aspirations into post-movement governance. The Telangana Students' JAC contributed significantly to the statehood struggle, but the broader promise of social justice remained contested. The lesson is clear: winning a demand is not the same as transforming a system. Gen-Z movements possess major strengths. Their autonomy can bring diverse citizens together without rigid party labels. Their command of technology enables rapid documentation, fact-sharing and mobilisation. Their prefer-



ence for constitutional, non-violent action can also protect democratic legitimacy. Yet they face weaknesses: unstable leadership can make long-term pressure difficult, while total rejection of parliamentary politics can create a vacuum that established parties may occupy.

The way forward is constructive struggle. First, temporary protests should evolve into autonomous, permanent platforms for public education, legal support, policy research and grassroots organisation. Second, young citizens should engage parliamentary democracy without surrendering their independence, developing ethical leaders from within their own ranks. Third, movements must demand structural reform rather than only individual resignations-strengthening examination systems, improving the NTA, protecting education and employment, and making healthcare and public institutions more accountable.

The wider intellectual question echoes Karl Marx, Antonio

Gramsci and Zygmunt Bauman: political change requires confronting not only governments but also entrenched cultural and institutional hegemonies. Sonam Wangchuk's public mobilisation, and the solidarity shown by Chandrashekhara Azad, Prakash Raj, Shabana Azmi, Jyothika, Sekhar Kammula and Pa. Ranjith, show how social causes can gain wider resonance. However, Wangchuk's 2026 hunger strike concerned Ladakh's statehood and Sixth Schedule demands, not NEET.

Gen-Z should therefore beware of both political co-option and political isolation. The future belongs to movements that can protest with courage, negotiate with wisdom, organise with discipline and legislate with responsibility. If today's youth can transform hashtags into institutions, outrage into policy, and protest into meaningful participation, India's democratic future will not merely be defended-it will be renewed.

Enrolment Is Not Enough-Every Child Must Stay in School

Parents Association of Andhra Pradesh (PAAP) As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, one uncomfortable question deserves urgent attention: Are the benefits of education reaching every child equally? Independence is meaningful only when every child has the opportunity to learn, remain in school and build a dignified future. For Andhra Pradesh, the challenge is no longer simply getting children into classrooms-it is ensuring that they remain there. UDISE+ 2024-25 data presents a worrying picture. Andhra Pradesh recorded a 15.5% secondary-school dropout rate, compared with 11.5% nationally. Its secondary Gross Enrolment Ratio

(GER) of 89.4% and higher-secondary GER of 67.8% are comparatively strong, yet the transition rate from secondary to higher secondary is only 76%. In other words, access to education does not automatically translate into educational continuity. The reasons are complex. The shortage of secondary and higher-secondary schools, particularly in rural areas, can increase travel distances. School rationalisation may unintentionally deepen this problem where safe transport is unavailable. For adolescent girls, concerns over safety, domestic responsibilities and mobility can become decisive barriers. Economic hardship also pushes many 15-18-year-olds towards employment or

household work. National data shows that supplementing household income and domestic chores are among the major reasons adolescents remain outside school. Quality is equally important. A child who reaches higher classes without strong foundational learning is more likely to lose confidence and eventually disengage. Parents moving towards private schools also signals a crisis of trust in public education. Financial assistance can reduce the burden on families, but cash support alone cannot guarantee retention or learning outcomes. Andhra Pradesh's schemes, including Thalliki Vandanam, along with Vidya Deevana and Vasathi



Deevana, can play an important supportive role. But gov-

ernment spending must be judged not merely by enroll-



ment numbers, but by whether children actually complete their education with meaningful learning. The way forward requires a comprehensive approach: upgrade more schools to secondary and higher-secondary levels; strengthen foundational learning; improve teacher training and infrastructure; provide safe transport, especially for rural girls; empower School Management Committees and parent associations; and introduce vocational and skill-oriented pathways for

older students. India cannot claim educational progress while thousands of children disappear from the system before completing school. The true measure of educational freedom is not how many children enter Class 1, but how many are still standing in the classroom when they reach Class 12. On this Independence Day, Andhra Pradesh must turn enrolment into retention, schemes into outcomes, and education into genuine social opportunity.

THE TORCHBEARERS OF INDEPENDENT BHARAT

On this great occasion of the 80th Independence Day celebrations of Bharat, I extend my heartiest congratulations to each Bharatvasi. I also pay my respectful tributes to all freedom fighters who sacrificed themselves to secure independence for Bharat. Last week during my visit to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, I had the honour of hoisting our National Flag as a part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and paying homage and commemorating the first hoisting of the Tiranga by our great patriot Shri Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose ji. It was indeed a deeply moving experience for me to stand on that very sacred soil where Shri Netaji's Azad Hind Fauj first raised the Tiranga on Indian territory on 30th December 1943. This occasion also brought to my memory Shri Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose ji's visit to Madurai in September 1939 at the invitation of Pasumpon Muthura malinga Thevar ji. This historic moment had inspired countless patriots of the region.

Another deeply inspiring moment was my visit to the National Memorial Cellular Jail, where the great sons of Mother Bharat Shri Veer Savarkar ji, Shri Yogendra Shukla ji, Shri Batukeshwar Dutt ji, Shri Sachindra Nath Sanyal ji, and many others

were imprisoned and kept in solitary confinement by the colonial forces. Even today, the walls of the National Memorial echo the stories of courage, suffering, and supreme sacrifice of those who laid down their lives so that Bharat might live in freedom and dignity. The visit inspired me to pen down this article as a mark of paying my homage to all the torchbearers who ignited the flame of patriotism within millions of people, leading the nation towards independence. I was immensely pleased to launch the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign in the Andaman Islands on 9 August, as we commemorated the Quit India Movement. In 1942, Father of the Nation, Rashtrapita Mahatma Gandhiji launched the 'Quit India Movement', giving the Nation a stirring slogan, "Do or Die". As a result of this call, a fervent desire for independence spread across the country.

Today, thanks to the generation that stood against the colonial forces of their day, we are fortunate to breathe the air of freedom and live with constitutional rights under a democratic system. Millions of brave freedom fighters across the length and breadth of this Nation struggled with unwavering dedication and sacrifice, and many laid down their precious lives

to see our Mother Bharat free.

Tapestry of the freedom fighters

Freedom fighters, be they from Kashmir in the north or Tamil Nadu in the South; from Gujrat in the west or Assam in the east, people belonging to all regions, backgrounds, ages, and gender joined together for one common goal - the freedom of Mother Bharat.

The valour of Rani Lakshmbai ji of Jhansi, the enduring symbol of resistance during the First War of Independence; the courage of Mangal Pandey ji, the fearless call of Bal Gangadhar Tilak ji, who awakened a nation with the declaration, "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it" - every voice strengthened the march towards freedom. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai challenged colonial economic domination by launching India's first indigenous shipping enterprise, proving that the fight for independence was waged not only on the battlefield but also in commerce. The revolutionary zeal of Bhagat Singh ji, Rajguru ji and Sukhdev ji inspired generations to embrace sacrifice in the cause of liberty, while the indomitable spirit of Rani Gaidinliu ji kept the flame of resistance burning in the North-East against British



rule. In Assam, the young Kanaklata Barua ji, carrying the National Flag with unflinching courage, laid down her life while leading the Quit India Movement. Bhagwan Birsa Munda ji and many other tribal leaders led historic resistance against colonial rule. Many more are the stories of resilience, courage and determination that can be pulled out from the pages of history. Together, they form a rich tapestry of courage and sacrifice, reminding us that India's freedom was won through the collective resolve of countless heroes whose legacy continues to inspire generations.

Tiruppur in the freedom movement

As we celebrate this

Independence Day, I pay homage to Tiruppur Kumaran, popularly known as Kodi Kaatha Kumaran (Kumaran, the Protector of the Flag). He came to be known by this title after sacrificing his life in Tiruppur (my native place) during the freedom struggle, refusing to let the national flag fall even in the face of death. Even at a young age, the flame of patriotism burned brightly in Kumaran's heart. Inspired by the call of "Swaraj (self-rule) is our birthright", he joined the freedom struggle. Deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, Kumaran founded the "Desabandhu Youth Association" to awaken the spirit of nationalism within the people, especially



C.P. Radhakrishnan

Vice-President of Bharat

the youth. Kumaran firmly believed that true freedom could be achieved only when people became conscious of the injustices of colonial rule and developed the courage and clarity to resist them. Committed to Gandhian principles of social reform, he actively championed the cause of prohibition, viewing it as an essential step towards social and national regeneration. As part of this, he participated in the picketing of toddy shops, encouraging people to shun alcohol and embrace self-discipline in the larger cause of India's freedom. Kumaran led a march on January 10, 1932, during the Civil Disobedience Movement. Holding the national flag in his hands and accompanied by a few brave souls, the powerful chants of 'Vande Mataram' echoed on the streets of Tiruppur. The colonial forces attacked the group, with 'Vande Mataram' on his lips and the flag held close to his body, Kumaran sustained head injuries and laid down his life for the Nation. He was only 27 years old at the time of his death.

As I pen down the age of

Tiruppur Kumaran, I am reminded of the several other youths who martyred their lives for Mother Bharat. Young souls, to name a few: Bhagat Singh (23), Sukhdev (23), Rajguru (22), Khudiram Bose (18), Kanaklata Barua (18), Anant Laxman Kanhere (19), Vanchinathan (25), and many others sacrificed their mortality, becoming immortal in the pages of the Indian Freedom Movement.

I commend the initiative of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shriman Narendra Modi ji, in bringing the unsung heroes of our National Movement to the centre stage. I pay my tributes to the known and the unknown freedom fighters. On this momentous occasion, let us reflect and renew our commitment to our Motherland. Let us dedicate ourselves to building a Viksit Bharat @ 2047 in this Amrit Kaal and work together for the progress and prosperity of our nation. That will be the most fitting tribute we can pay to the bravehearts who fought with unwavering courage and sacrificed their lives to win our freedom.

Jai Hind! Long Live Mother Bharat!

Grassroots Whistleblower Movement to Straight India's Economic Trajectory



Ram Kamal

Social Engineer

Part 4/5

India @80 is currently securing a bright economic future, but there is ambiguity regarding leadership after Prime Minister Modi and whether economic benefits are truly reaching the most marginalized citizens. This disparity necessitates a re-evaluation of India's economic model to suit present and future needs. We need to have a leader who is courageous enough to stop the counterfeit currencies and tax evasions. We are now at peak in collecting tax and spending too. But it is time to have an Economic policy for the nation that is flexible and forward looking. During the Constituent Assembly debates, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar opposed locking the Constitution into a rigid "socialist" framework, arguing that future generations should have the flexibility to choose their own economic governance. However, in 1976, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi inserted the terms "socialist" and "secular" into

the Preamble to support her "Garibi Hatao" poverty alleviation program. This one mini constitution has now become a major financial burden under the pretext of welfare and systemic leakage. Today, India spends approximately 960,207* Crores annually on welfare activities, yet nearly half of these funds end up in the wrong hands and Gharibi is still Gharibi, because they are not getting any welfare. Addressing this massive expenditure requires comprehensive audits. The government must ensure that only eligible citizens receive funds, while those who have escaped poverty should be integrated into the tax base to aid nation-building. It is high time India to implement 'Economic Reservations' rather than the caste-based ones.

Persistent Roots of Corruption While top-level political corruption has significantly decreased under the current administration, grassroots and individual bribery con-

India @ 80

tinue to flourish. A 2020 Transparency International study noted that 39% of Indians had recently paid bribes for public services, which is an improvement from 62% in 2005, but still highlights a pervasive issue. Even with digital initiatives like Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) removing traditional middlemen, corrupt officials and agents continue to find loopholes to demand bribes. The primary avenues for this ongoing corruption include:

Public Services and Extortion: Middlemen facilitate daily bribery within the bureaucracy, often acting on behalf of top-level bureaucrats who delay processes to manipulate tenders.

Highway Extortion: The trucking sector is heavily victimized, facing constant extortion at police and regulatory checkpoints despite reforms like GST. Truckers pay an estimated 7222 crore in bribes annually, and 60% of forced stoppages are designed solely for extortion, causing massive productivity delays.

Welfare Siphoning: High-profile schemes like the National Rural Health Mission and MGNREGA suffer from immense financial leakage. Corrupt officials frequently pocket wages assigned to fake rural workers, which degrades infrastructure quality and stalls poverty reduction. Furthermore, secondary extortion persists at local panchayat levels, where officials demand bribes simply to issue beneficiary cards.

Public Procurement: State-funded infrastructure projects are often hijacked by cabals of corrupt officials, politicians, and contractors. Their tactics include collusive bidding, price inflation, and routing funds through shell companies.

Resource Monopolies: Historically, opaque administration led to monumental losses, such as the 2012 Coal Allocation Scam, though such resource allocations are under stricter scrutiny today.

Corporate Favoritism: Political authority is



sometimes leveraged to favor specific corporate monopolies, a practice ironically criticized by opposition leaders who engaged in the same behavior when in power. Government should create a 'Grassroots Whistleblower Movement' To eradicate this developmental anarchy and protect national wealth, India needs robust checks

and balances. Rather than relying on foreign-instigated protests, audits and the government should implement a grassroots "Har Village Whistle Blowers" program, inspired by the Prime Minister's "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign. By selecting dedicated nationalists as village-level whistleblowers and empowering them through a

strong Whistleblowers Protection Act, India can effectively stop the erosion of its national funds. They can also whistle at the corrupt officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau. Yes, not to forget that we also have a department in the name of the Anti-Corruption Bureau across the nation and it is inactive.

**Approximate study*

79 Years of Independence. But Are We Truly Free?

Political freedom was achieved in 1947. The unfinished task is to make liberty, equality, dignity and social justice a lived reality for every Indian. Every August 15, India enters a patriotic mood. Flags are hoisted, songs are played and freedom fighters are remembered. But when celebrations end, everyday realities return: unemployment, poverty, caste discrimination, agrarian distress, educational inequality, inadequate healthcare and rising living costs. This raises an uncomfortable question as India marks 79 years of Independence: Has political freedom truly become freedom in the lives of every Indian? August 15, 1947, was a historic turning point. The end of British rule was the result of decades of struggle and sacrifice. Yet Independence was not merely the departure of a foreign ruler. It was the beginning of a larger democratic project. **Ambedkar and the Unfinished Promise of Freedom+** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar under-

stood that political independence alone could not guarantee freedom. If political power changed hands while caste oppression, social exclusion and economic inequality continued, freedom would remain incomplete. For Ambedkar, democracy required liberty, equality and fraternity in everyday life. Political democracy could not survive without social democracy. What does freedom mean if social status is still influenced by birth? What does equality mean if caste continues to affect education, employment, marriage and political power? What does independence mean to a poor family that cannot afford quality education or healthcare? Ambedkar played a central role in framing the Constitution, which guaranteed equality, fundamental rights, abolition of untouchability and safeguards for social justice. But constitutional promises matter only when they become realities in people's lives. **A Nation That Has Progressed and a Nation Still**

Struggling

India has made significant progress in agriculture, industry, science, space technology, digital infrastructure and connectivity. Its global standing has also grown. But development cannot be measured only through highways, skyscrapers, metro systems, digital transactions or economic statistics. Its real test is whether benefits reach the people at the bottom. A country may send spacecraft into orbit, but a poor child must have quality education. A growing economy means little if a young graduate cannot find dignified employment. Agricultural progress means little if farmers cannot earn a secure livelihood. When young people struggle with uncertain recruitment, farmers struggle for fair returns, families fall into medical debt, or citizens face caste discrimination, the promise of freedom remains unfinished.

Students Are Asking Questions

India's students and young people are asking these questions. Student mobilisation



Basada Sampath Yadav

Education Expert
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at Delhi's Jantar Mantar has highlighted examination irregularities, paper leaks and accountability. In Jharkhand, students and job aspirants have also protested alleged recruitment irregularities. At their core is a simple demand: a fair examination, a transparent recruitment process and a secure future. For a student who has spent years studying and preparing for examinations, a paper leak is not merely an administrative failure. It can destroy years of effort and opportunity. A democracy must listen when its young citizens raise such questions. **When Politics Exploits Identity**

When citizens demand education, employment, healthcare, agricultural security and social justice, political parties should offer credible solutions. Instead, caste, religion, region and identity are

often used for electoral mobilisation. When young people ask for jobs, they are sometimes shown caste. When citizens ask for development, they are sometimes shown religion. But hatred does not create jobs, polarisation does not increase farmers' incomes and caste conflict does not reduce poverty. The central questions should remain: Who has opportunity? Who controls political power? Who receives quality education? Who has economic security? Who is excluded? And who is accountable? **Freedom Must Include the Freedom to Question** Democracy is not simply the right to vote once every five years. It is also the right to question authority, criticise government policy and protest peacefully. The government is not the nation. A political party is not the nation. A political leader is



not the nation. The nation is its people. Criticising the government is not hating the country. Raising questions about injustice is not disloyalty. Democracy becomes stronger when citizens can question power without fear. **When Will Independence Become Complete?** India achieved political independence in 1947. Our challenge is to make that freedom meaningful in everyday life. A poor child must have quality education. A young person must have dignified employment. A farmer must receive

a fair return for labour. A woman must have freedom over her own life. No citizen's opportunities should be determined by caste, religion, birthplace or region. No citizen should fear questioning the government. On August 15, we should hoist the national flag, remember the freedom fighters and honour their sacrifices. But we must also look at the poor child, unemployed graduate, indebted farmer, woman fighting for autonomy and citizen facing discrimination. Patriotism is not merely saluting the national flag; it is protecting the dignity of every person who lives under it. In 1947, one generation won political freedom for India. Our responsibility is to transform that freedom into social justice, equality and dignity. That is the unfinished promise of Independence. After 79 years, the question remains: We became free from colonial rule in 1947. Have we succeeded in making freedom real for every Indian? **(On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day)**

India's 80th Independence: Gen G and Yuva Shakti Opening a New Horizon

As India prepares to celebrate its 80th Independence Day in 2027, the country stands at a remarkable historical threshold. Eight decades have passed since 15 August 1947, when India emerged from colonial rule and embarked upon the difficult journey of building a democratic, sovereign and modern nation. The India of 2027 will be very different from the India of 1947. It will be younger in aspiration, more digital in character, more confident globally and increasingly driven by a generation that sees opportunity not merely within national boundaries but across the world. At the centre of this transformation will be Gen G and India's Yuva Shakti-the immense energy, imagination and ambition of its young people. The 80th Independence anniversary therefore should not be regarded merely as a ceremonial milestone. It should become an occasion to ask what kind of India the next generation wants to inherit and what kind of India it is prepared to create. Independence was once about freedom from foreign domination. Today, freedom must also mean freedom from poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, social discrimination, technological backwardness and the limitations imposed by outdated thinking. India's youth constitute one of the country's greatest strengths. Their aspirations

are increasingly shaped by technology, entrepreneurship, global communication and a desire for meaningful participation in national development. Gen G, broadly understood as the generation growing up amid rapid digital transformation and global connectivity, is entering a world where artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, renewable energy and digital platforms are changing the meaning of work and opportunity. Their India will not be defined only by traditional institutions; it will increasingly be shaped by innovation and knowledge. Yuva Shakti is more than a demographic advantage. It is a force of transformation. Young Indians today are not merely seeking employment; millions want to become entrepreneurs, creators, researchers, innovators, social leaders and problem-solvers. The digital revolution has fundamentally altered the relationship between young people and knowledge. A student in a small town can access lectures from the world's leading universities, learn sophisticated skills online, build a digital enterprise and communicate with audiences across continents. This democratisation of knowledge has enormous implications for India's future. The challenge is to ensure that digital access becomes universal and that rural and economically disadvantaged young people are



not left behind. India's 80th Independence should therefore place education at the heart of national priorities. The education system of the future must go beyond examinations and degrees. Critical thinking, creativity, scientific temper, communication skills, digital literacy, vocational competence and ethical responsibility must become integral to learning. A young person equipped with knowledge but lacking imagination will struggle in the new economy. The future of Yuva Shakti also depends upon employment. India's demographic strength can become a demographic dividend only when young people receive productive opportunities. The expansion of manufacturing,

infrastructure, tourism, agriculture-based industries, green technology, healthcare, artificial intelligence and the knowledge economy can generate new avenues. Skill development must be closely connected to the prosperity of India. Entrepreneurship can play a decisive role in this transformation. The young should be encouraged to take calculated risks, experiment with new ideas and accept failure as part of innovation. A society that treats failure as disgrace will discourage entrepreneurship. A society that treats failure as learning will produce innovators. India needs an ecosystem in which a young entrepreneur from a village receives almost as much encouragement to

experiment as a technology professional in a metropolitan city. At the same time, Yuva Shakti must remain connected with India's civilisational values. Modernity does not require cultural amnesia. The India of the future can be technologically advanced while remaining deeply conscious of its pluralistic heritage. Young Indians must understand that patriotism is not merely emotional celebration on Independence Day. The greatest strength of India's youth is its diversity. Young people from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from the Northeast to Gujarat bring different languages, cultures, traditions and experiences. This diversity should become a source of



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creativity rather than division. Yuva Shakti can build bridges where politics sometimes builds walls. Artificial intelligence will perhaps be one of the defining forces of this new horizon. It will transform education, medicine, administration, agriculture, industry and journalism. Yet young Indians must learn to use AI as an instrument rather than surrender human judgment to machines. Creativity, empathy, ethical reasoning and human relationships will remain indispensable. The journey ahead will not be easy. Inequality, unemployment, misinformation, social divisions, technological disruption and environmental crises pose serious challenges. But India's young population possesses an extraordinary reservoir of energy. If that energy is matched by quality education, opportunity, responsible leadership and democratic participation, the possibilities are immense. On the 80th Independence Day, the tricolour will once again rise above the nation. But its meaning for the young must go beyond ceremony. The saffron can inspire courage and sacrifice, white can remind them of peace and truth, and green

can symbolise hope, growth and harmony. The Ashoka Chakra can represent continuous movement-a reminder that a nation cannot remain static. India's next horizon belongs to its youth. Gen G and Yuva Shakti are not merely inheritors of the achievements of the past; they are the authors of the future. The 80th year of independence should therefore be a moment when India looks forward rather than merely backward. The real celebration of freedom will come when every young Indian feels empowered to dream, equipped to achieve and responsible enough to build a better nation. Indian Independence at 80th year can be more than an anniversary. It can be the opening chapter of a new national imagination-an India powered by knowledge, innovation, courage, compassion and the unstoppable energy of its youth. (International Tagore Award-winning multilingual writer and Poet Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of English Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond and President of Kolkata Indian American Society. Email prof.ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com)

UAE Blames Iran for Drone Attacks on Two Tankers in Strait of Hormuz

The United Arab Emirates has accused Iran of attacking two tankers operated by Abu Dhabi's state-owned ADNOC with drones in the Strait of Hormuz. No casualties were reported. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center said two vessels suffered minor damage, while the UAE Foreign Ministry called the attacks a "flagrant violation" of freedom of navigation and accused Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps of threatening global energy security. Iran had not



immediately responded. Meanwhile, efforts to resolve the Gaza conflict are gaining momentum. President Donald Trump's son-in-law and negotiator Jared Kushner is scheduled to visit the Middle East with Board of Peace high representative Nickolay Mladenov and executive board member and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The delegation is expected to meet a Palestinian technocratic group in Cairo amid efforts to advance a US-brokered ceasefire.

Shehbaz Sharif Warns India Over Indus Waters Treaty

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has warned of a "direct response" over water, calling India an "enemy of peace" for keeping the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance. Speaking ahead of Pakistan's Independence Day, Sharif described the treaty as a national "red line" and said Pakistan's water was non-negotiable. India suspended the treaty after the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 people. New Delhi said the agreement would remain suspended until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably" ends support for cross-border terrorism. Sharif's remarks come amid unrest in Balochistan, militant violence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and protests in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Political tensions also persist over former Prime Minister Imran Khan's imprisonment, adding to pressure on Sharif's government.



US Names India Among 40 Hubs in China Tariff Evasion Network

The United States has identified India and more than 40 other trading partners as potential hubs in a "shadow trans-shipment network" allegedly used by Chinese companies to evade US tariffs. The report, titled "The Great Transshipment Scam", was prepared by Peter Navarro, the top trade advisor to President Donald Trump. It examines the practice of routing Chinese goods through third countries to avoid higher US duties by creating the appearance that products originated elsewhere. Countries named in the report include India, Canada, Taiwan, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and the European Union. The report said some economies have transshipment risks embedded within legitimate trade flows, while others are considered attractive locations because of preferential US market access, lower labour costs or weaker customs oversight. Navarro said the practice became more widespread after 2018, when

the Trump administration imposed Section 301 tariffs on Chinese imports in response to what Washington described as unfair trade practices. "For years, the great transshipment scam has let Communist China launder its exports through more than 40 countries," Navarro told reporters. He said Chinese businesses had used third countries for minor processing, relabelling, repackaging, re-invoicing and routing changes to create the appearance of a different national origin while leaving much of the Chinese content unchanged. The report specifically highlighted India's Pune-Gujarat-Chennai production belt, claiming that Chinese pumps and compressors could be routed through the region and subsequently enter the US market as Indian products. Navarro argued that such practices could affect industrial manufacturing and jobs in Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus. The report estimated that the annual value of illegally trans-



shipped goods could range from about \$40 billion to \$303 billion, depending on the methodology and definition used. The White House is also working with US Customs and Border Protection on an artificial intelligence-powered system designed to identify suspicious shipments. The proposed system would analyse shipment information, routing histories and other trade data to detect potential tariff evasion.

Supply-chain diversions from China have been a longstanding concern since the US-China tariff conflict began during Trump's first presidency. Countries including Vietnam benefited as businesses sought alternative manufacturing and supply routes. Since returning to the White House, Trump has imposed sweeping tariffs on US trading partners while maintaining significant duties on Chinese imports.

USS Lincoln Faces Strain After More Than 260 Days at Sea



The USS Abraham Lincoln, supporting US military operations against Iran, has spent more than 260 consecutive days at sea, raising concerns over sailors' mental health, supplies and maintenance. The Pacific-based USS George Washington is moving towards the Middle East and is expected to replace the Lincoln. Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal called the prolonged deployment significant, while Arizona Senator Ruben Gallego, a Marine Corps veteran, is seeking a bipartisan Senate delegation visit to examine reported conditions. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth rejected reports of serious problems, saying the situation had been "completely misrepresented". Reports have cited food shortages, water contamination, plumbing problems and deck safety concerns. The Navy confirmed a sailor went overboard in August and was recovered, while US Central Command said the carrier strike group remained resilient after more than 260 days at sea.

Nepali Youths Demand Resumption of Indian Army Agniveer Recruitment

Nepali youths, former Gorkha soldiers and their family members have protested in Pokhara, demanding that Nepalese citizens be allowed to enlist as Agniveers under the Indian Army's Agnipath scheme. The protest came ahead of Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth's scheduled visit to Nepal. The Indian Ex-Servicemen Gorkha Brigade Nepal organised the march, which was attended by former soldiers, their families and youths trained to join foreign armies. The protesters urged the Balendra (Balen) Shah government to resume recruitment, arguing that serving in the Indian Army offers a better opportunity than seeking employment in Gulf countries. They demanded the immediate reopening of the Agnipath recruitment process to protect employment opportunities and preserve the long-standing Gurkha tradition. Recruitment of Nepali youths into the Indian Army was paused in 2019, initially because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nepal later suspended the process after India introduced the Agnipath scheme in 2022. Under the scheme, up to 25 per cent of recruits can be retained for permanent service after four years. The remaining 75 per cent leave with a one-time payment without pensions or other long-term career benefits. The Nepali government had argued that the scheme was inconsistent with the 1947 Tripartite Agreement between India, Nepal and Britain. Protesters also demanded that registration of organisations representing former soldiers and using the term "ex-servicemen" should not be halted. They said such organisations were important for protecting the dignity, rights and interests of former soldiers. The rally began at Pokhara Stadium and proceeded to the District Administration Office, where organisers submitted a memorandum to the Chief District Officer of Kaski.



Punjab Youth Warns Against Illegal 'Donkey' Route After Mexico Ordeal

A video of a Punjabi Sikh youth claiming he is trapped in Mexico has gone viral, with the young man warning others against using the illegal "donkey" route to reach foreign countries. In the 33-second video, the youth is seen lying on a bed and speaking while visibly distressed. He alleges that he was assaulted after attempting to escape from an illegal migration network and says he suffered injuries that have made it difficult for him to walk. The youth repeatedly appeals to people not to make the same mistake. He claims he travelled to Mexico through the "donkey" route and later tried to flee. Pointing towards the person recording the video, he alleges



that the same individual had brought him there. "I made a mistake," the youth says, adding that he has already paid the price. The

video does not disclose his name or address. The video was reportedly uploaded on August 13 and was captioned "Disgusting treatment of an Indian Sikh in Mexico." Social media posts accompanying it claim that several youths who travelled through the route are stranded in Mexico. The "donkey" route refers to illegal migration networks involving multiple transit countries. Journeys can reportedly cost between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 70 lakh, with migrants facing risks including exploitation, violence, extortion and detention. Many people from Punjab have pursued such routes in search of opportunities abroad despite the dangers.

ZEEL Wins SAT Relief To Raise Rs 3,143 Crore From Promoters

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) has secured relief from the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), allowing the company to proceed with a Rs 3,143 crore fundraise from its promoter group. The tribunal's decision comes after questioning the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) over the basis for imposing a two-month restriction on the proposed fundraising exercise. SAT allowed ZEEL to proceed with the issue and gave the company one week to complete the transaction. The dispute centres on the timing of the proposed fundraise and the regulatory restrictions surrounding it. During the proceedings, the tribunal questioned what purpose would be served by delaying the fundraising if the company could proceed with the same exercise once the two-month period had ended. The order provides ZEEL with an opportunity to move ahead with the proposed issue without waiting for the full restriction period to expire. The development is significant for the company as it seeks to



strengthen its financial position through funds from its promoter group. The Rs 3,143 crore fundraising plan is expected to provide ZEEL with additional financial resources at a time when the company continues to focus on strengthening its business operations and financial flexibility. SAT's intervention also highlights the broader question of regulatory timelines and restrictions imposed on corporate fundraising.

While SEBI had sought to maintain the two-month bar, the tribunal's observations indicated that the regulator needed to explain the practical purpose of the delay. The tribunal's decision allows ZEEL to proceed with the warrant issue within the specified timeframe. The company has been given seven days to complete the issue following the relief granted by SAT. For investors, the development removes an immediate regu-

latory hurdle facing ZEEL's fundraising plans. The successful completion of the issue could improve the company's liquidity and provide greater flexibility for its future business requirements. The case also underscores the importance of clarity around regulatory restrictions governing capital raising. SAT's questioning of SEBI focused on whether a delay would have a meaningful purpose when the proposed transaction could ultimately proceed after the restriction period. ZEEL's shares and investor sentiment could remain sensitive to developments surrounding the fundraising exercise and the company's ability to deploy the proceeds effectively. With SAT granting relief, attention will now shift to the completion of the Rs 3,143 crore issue within the one-week deadline. The outcome could provide ZEEL with additional financial support while also setting an important precedent in the ongoing debate over regulatory restrictions on corporate fundraising.

Nifty Extends Losing Streak As Media, Telecom Stocks Gain



Indian equity markets remained under pressure, with the Nifty extending its losing streak to the fourth consecutive session as selling across key sectors weighed on sentiment. The benchmark Nifty was around 24,360, while the Sensex declined by about 70 points during the session. The market faced pressure from selling in metal, auto and information technology stocks, which offset gains in selected sectors. Investors remained cautious as weakness spread across several major segments of the market. Among sectoral indices, auto, energy, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), metal, pharma and realty stocks declined between 0.3% and 1%. The weakness in these sectors contributed to the broader pressure on the benchmarks. On the other hand, consumer durables and media stocks emerged as notable gainers, with both sectors advancing nearly 1% each. Telecom stocks also witnessed buying interest, providing some support to the market amid the broader decline. The latest session marked another difficult outing for the benchmark indices, with the Nifty continuing its downward trend for a fourth session. Selling pressure in sectors such as metals, automobiles and IT remained a key factor behind the market's weak performance. The movement reflected a mixed trading environment, with investors shifting interest toward select defensive and consumption-linked segments while reducing exposure to sectors facing selling pressure. The Sensex's decline of around 70 points and the Nifty's position near 24,360 highlighted the cautious mood prevailing among market participants. Despite gains in media, telecom and consumer durables stocks, advances in these pockets were not sufficient to offset losses in several heavyweight sectors. Market participants will continue to monitor sectoral trends and broader sentiment for signs of whether the recent weakness could persist or whether buying interest may return to the broader market. The performance of metal, auto and IT stocks remains particularly important for the near-term direction of the indices, while strength in media, telecom and consumer durables could provide some support. With the Nifty now having recorded losses for four consecutive sessions, investors are likely to remain focused on developments across major sectors and the ability of the benchmarks to stabilise after the recent spell of selling.

Vodafone Idea Shares Rise 11% On Tariff Hike Expectations



Vodafone Idea shares gained nearly 11% over three trading sessions till Friday as investors increased their bets on a possible tariff hike in the telecom sector. The sharp rise followed expectations that higher mobile tariffs could improve the company's average revenue per user (ARPU) and strengthen revenue growth. The renewed interest in Vodafone Idea came after Bharti Airtel's latest move to drive ARPU, which has raised expectations that other major telecom operators could also consider increasing tariffs. Investors are closely watching the sector for signs of a broader pricing reset that could improve the financial performance of telecom companies. Vodafone Idea has faced financial challenges in recent years, making improvements in ARPU and revenue particularly important for its business outlook. A tariff increase could potentially provide an additional boost to its average revenue per user, while also improving revenue generation from its subscriber base. An analyst said a tariff hike could provide an additional boost to Vodafone Idea's ARPU and revenue. Such a move could strengthen the company's financial position if higher tariffs translate into improved revenue without causing significant subscriber losses. The recent rally in the stock reflects growing optimism around this possibility. However, the gains also raise questions about whether the potential tariff hike has already been partly factored into the share price. For investors, the key issue is whether Vodafone Idea can sustain the momentum beyond the current speculation. The company's ability to improve ARPU, retain subscribers and strengthen its financial performance will remain important factors in determining the stock's longer-term trajectory. Bharti Airtel's strategy has also increased attention on pricing in India's competitive telecom market. If other operators follow with tariff increases, the sector could see improved revenue prospects. For Vodafone Idea, even a moderate increase in tariffs could have a meaningful impact given the importance of ARPU to its business. At the same time, investors need to consider the risks associated with buying the stock after a sharp short-term rally. The absence of a confirmed tariff announcement means that the current gains are partly driven by expectations rather than an immediate change in earnings. The stock's future direction is therefore likely to depend on developments in telecom pricing, Vodafone Idea's operating performance and its ability to convert higher ARPU into sustainable revenue growth. With the shares already gaining nearly 11% in three sessions, investors may need to weigh the potential benefits of a tariff hike against the risks of buying after a rapid rise. The stock could remain sensitive to any announcements from telecom operators regarding future tariff changes.

Axis Securities Sees Up To Rs 1.9 Lakh Crore FPI Inflows If Hormuz Risk Eases

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) could invest as much as Rs 1.42 lakh crore to Rs 1.89 lakh crore in Indian equities over the next three to four months if the Strait of Hormuz reopens and geopolitical risks ease, Axis Securities said in its H1CY26 market outlook. The brokerage expects a possible improvement in foreign investor sentiment if tensions surrounding the strategically important waterway decline. The Strait of Hormuz is crucial to global energy supplies, and prolonged disruption or uncertainty around the route can affect crude oil prices, inflation expectations and financial markets. Axis Securities said easing geopolitical risks could support a recovery in India's equity markets and encourage FPIs to return to Indian stocks. The expected inflows would represent a significant boost to market liquidity and could provide support to benchmark indices. The outlook comes as investors continue to monitor developments



around the Strait of Hormuz and their potential impact on crude oil prices. India is highly sensitive to changes in global oil prices because of its dependence on imported crude. A sustained rise in oil prices can increase import costs and put pressure on inflation, corporate margins and the country's current account. If the Hormuz-related risks ease, lower concerns over energy supplies could improve the broader investment environment. This could also strengthen expectations of more stable economic condi-

tions and encourage overseas investors to increase allocations to emerging markets such as India. Axis Securities' projection suggests that the scale of potential FPI inflows could be substantial if geopolitical uncertainty recedes. The estimated Rs 1.42 lakh crore to Rs 1.89 lakh crore range over three to four months indicates the potential for a meaningful shift in foreign investor positioning. The brokerage also linked developments around the Strait of Hormuz to the recovery prospects of the Nifty 50. A reduction in

geopolitical stress could improve investor confidence and help the benchmark recover from recent volatility. However, the projected inflows remain dependent on external developments. Any renewed escalation in tensions or prolonged disruption around the Strait could keep crude prices elevated and delay the return of foreign capital. For Indian equities, the easing of geopolitical risks could therefore become an important catalyst in the coming months. Along with oil prices, investors are likely to track global interest rates, economic growth and corporate earnings while assessing the sustainability of any market recovery. Axis Securities' outlook highlights the potential impact that a change in geopolitical conditions could have on Indian markets. If the Strait of Hormuz reopens and risks ease, the expected FPI inflows could provide additional liquidity and strengthen the recovery prospects of Indian equities over the next three to four months.

India's 100-GWh Battery Pipeline May Not End EV Dependence On China

India is building a battery manufacturing pipeline of around 100 GWh, but the emerging capacity may not be enough to make the country's electric vehicle (EV) supply chains independent of China. While domestic cell manufacturing is expanding, major gaps remain across the upstream battery ecosystem, leaving Indian manufacturers dependent on Chinese technology and supply chains. The development of a domestic battery industry is considered critical for India's EV ambitions. Batteries account for a significant portion of an electric vehicle's cost, making local production important for reducing import dependence and strengthening the country's manufacturing capabilities. However, the current pipeline of planned and emerging battery capacity does not automatically translate into a fully domestic supply chain. India's upstream battery ecosystem remains largely underdeveloped, particularly in areas involving critical materials, components and manufacturing technologies. The dependence on Chinese tech-



nology remains a key challenge. China has established a strong position across several stages of the global battery value chain, including cell manufacturing, processing of battery materials and the production of important components. Indian companies may therefore continue to rely on Chinese suppliers even as domestic cell manufacturing capacity increases. The gap is particularly important because expanding cell production without developing supporting industries could leave manufacturers exposed to external supply disruptions, pricing pressures and technology dependence. A domes-

tic battery plant can assemble cells locally while still relying on imported materials, equipment or intellectual property. India's planned battery capacity could strengthen the country's position in the EV market, but domestic cell manufacturing may still fall short of creating complete self-reliance. Building a broader ecosystem will require investment in raw materials, processing facilities, component manufacturing and battery technology. The issue is also significant for India's efforts to expand electric mobility. Automakers and battery manufacturers need reliable access to competitively priced cells

and materials as EV adoption increases. Continued dependence on overseas suppliers could limit the benefits of local manufacturing and expose the industry to global supply-chain disruptions. The development of indigenous battery technology will therefore remain an important priority. Increasing domestic research, manufacturing capabilities and access to critical minerals could help reduce dependence on China over the longer term. For investors and policymakers, the 100-GWh pipeline represents progress but also highlights the scale of the challenge. Capacity expansion alone will not guarantee supply-chain independence unless India develops the upstream industries required to support battery production. India's EV transition is consequently entering a phase in which the focus is shifting from simply producing more battery cells to building an integrated ecosystem. Until that ecosystem develops, key parts of the country's EV supply chain could remain dependent on China despite rapid growth in domestic battery manufacturing capacity.

Gaja Capital IPO Puts Private Equity Model To Public-Market Test

Gaja Capital is preparing to take its private-equity business to the public markets, putting its investment model and financial performance under greater scrutiny from public investors. The proposed initial public offering (IPO) comes as India's alternative asset management industry continues to expand rapidly. Gaja Capital earns income across multiple funds and investment stages, giving it exposure to different parts of the private-equity investment cycle. Its funds have generated an average multiple on invested capital (MOIC) of 3.3 times, highlighting the returns produced across its investment portfolio. According to CRISIL, Fund 3 and Fund 4 of Gaja Capital are positioned in the first quartile of their respective categories. The performance of these funds could become an important factor for investors assessing the company's prospects as it enters the listed market. The IPO also comes against the

backdrop of strong growth in India's alternative asset management sector. The country's alternative asset industry is growing at an annual rate of around 29%, creating opportunities for investment managers with established fundraising capabilities and track records. Gaja Capital's public-market debut would give investors an opportunity to participate in the economics of an alternative asset manager rather than investing directly in individual private companies. The business model allows the firm to generate revenue from managing funds and benefiting from investment performance across different stages. The company's financial performance has also shown strong growth, while its fund pipeline provides visibility over future business opportunities. A continued ability to raise capital and deploy it effectively will be crucial to maintaining growth after the listing. However, the transition from a pri-



ate-equity business to a publicly listed company brings a different set of expectations. Public investors are likely to closely examine fund performance, fee income, fundraising momentum and the sustainability of returns. The valuation attached to the IPO could also determine how the market views Gaja Capital's business model. While a strong historical MOIC and the performance of Fund 3 and Fund 4 provide positive

indicators, future returns will remain dependent on investment conditions and the performance of portfolio companies. The listing could also offer a broader test of how India's growing alternative asset management industry is valued by public markets. As more capital moves into private equity and other alternative investments, established managers may increasingly look toward stock exchanges for access to capital and greater visibility. For Gaja Capital, the IPO represents more than a fundraising exercise. It will test whether a private-equity model built around fund management, investment performance and long-term capital creation can command sustained investor confidence in the public market. With India's alternative asset sector expanding at a strong pace, Gaja Capital's listing could become an important reference point for the valuation and future direction of publicly traded alternative asset managers.

AI Turns Independence Day Photos Into Patriotic Digital Art

As India prepares to celebrate Independence Day, artificial intelligence tools are giving users a new way to add a patriotic touch to their photographs and social media profiles.

Platforms including ChatGPT, Gemini, Nano Banana, Canva and Adobe Express are increasingly being used to transform ordinary photographs into personalised Independence Day-themed artwork. With detailed prompts, users can create posters, profile pictures, greeting images and elaborate digital compositions without needing advanced editing skills.

The trend is attracting students, professionals and content creators looking to create distinctive visuals for August 15. Users can upload a photograph, describe the desired setting and allow an AI editor to generate an image featuring elements such as the Indian tricolour, India Gate, the Red Fort, the Ashok Chakra and traditional Indian clothing.

Popular ideas include cinematic portraits with the Red Fort in the background, India Gate scenes featuring fighter jets leaving saffron, white and green trails, and studio portraits with a glowing Ashok



Chakra. Other concepts place people in traditional attire while incorporating subtle national colours.

Creative effects are also proving popular. Users can request tricolour light leaks, golden-hour lighting, neon-inspired city scenes and dramatic patriotic backgrounds. Artistic treatments such as watercolour, oil painting and pop-art effects can turn photographs into stylised Independence

Day artwork.

For those seeking simpler designs, prompts can create layered paper-cut illustrations featuring the Indian flag, India Gate and flying doves. Minimalist vector portraits, glassmorphism layouts and banners carrying Independence Day messages offer options suitable for social media posts.

Some prompts take a more dramatic approach. Double-exposure portraits can combine a person's pro-

file with India Gate and a waving flag, while falling saffron and green petals can add a softer visual effect. Other concepts feature an eagle flying across a tricolour sky or recreate old photographs with selective colour added to the Indian flag.

Social media-focused prompts can produce profile pictures with subtle tricolour borders, wide banners carrying messages such as "August 15, 2026 - Happy Independence Day" and 3D animated characters holding miniature Indian flags.

Using these tools generally involves uploading a suitable base photograph where supported and describing the desired lighting, background, colours and composition. More specific prompts can help users achieve a closer match to their preferred visual style.

The growing popularity of these AI-generated images highlights how Independence Day celebrations are expanding beyond physical decorations and traditional greetings. For many users, artificial intelligence has become another creative tool for expressing patriotism in a personalised digital format.

Nagaland Minister Shares KYC Video Highlighting Facial Recognition Struggle

A humorous video shared by Nagaland minister Temjen Imna Along has sparked an online discussion about the limitations of facial recognition technology and the need for alternative methods of identity verification.

The video, which has crossed 3.5 lakh views and received more than 10,000 likes, shows a man from the Northeast struggling to complete a KYC process because facial recognition technology repeatedly fails to capture his face properly.

Along shared the clip with the caption, "Struggle is real." In the video, villagers can be seen holding the man's face and stretching his eyelids in an attempt to help him take a clearer photograph for the KYC verification process.

The humour in the video revolves around a familiar stereotype that people from the Northeast look alike. However, the clip also prompted viewers to discuss whether biometric and facial recognition systems are sufficiently equipped to handle the wide range of natural facial features found among Indians.

Several users focused on the technology rather than the joke, arguing that people should not face difficulties in completing essential



identity verification because of their natural physical characteristics.

"The technology is the problem, not you. They didn't considered all possible cases for Indians," one user commented.

Another user tagged X's artificial intelligence chatbot Grok and asked about iris-scanning technology that could work for people with an epicanthic fold. The term refers to an eyelid structure in which the upper eyelid covers part of the inner corner of the eye and is commonly seen among people of several Asian populations.

Other users suggested that identity verification systems should offer alternative biometric options when facial recognition does not work effectively.

"We should create alternative methods if people are facing problems nobody should suffer due to their natural biological traits," one user wrote.

Another suggested allowing fingerprint verification as an alternative to facial recognition.

The discussion also extended to international technology. One user questioned whether countries such as China, Japan and other Southeast Asian nations had developed systems capable of dealing with similar challenges and asked why comparable solutions were not being adopted by the Indian government.

While the original video was intended as light-hearted social

media content, the response highlighted a practical issue surrounding the growing use of automated identity verification. Facial recognition systems are increasingly used for digital services, banking and other verification processes, making accessibility and accuracy important concerns.

Temjen Imna Along is an active social media user and frequently shares humorous videos and observations on X and other social media platforms. His posts often combine entertainment with broader messages about everyday life.

Previously, Along shared a video featuring Indore's dancing cop, who attracted attention by managing traffic while performing Michael Jackson-style dance moves. Along accompanied that post with a message encouraging people to create their own platforms for self-expression and personal growth.

The latest KYC video has similarly moved beyond simple entertainment, prompting users to question whether technology should offer more flexible options when automated systems struggle with naturally occurring differences in appearance.

25-Year-Old Reportedly Rejects Rs 1 Crore Job Over Toxic Work Culture

A reported decision by a 25-year-old professional to turn down a Rs 1 crore job offer has sparked a lively discussion online about whether a high salary is always worth accepting when the workplace environment is unhealthy.

The story was shared by Muskan Atar, an IIM Lucknow alumna and Senior Product Manager, in a LinkedIn post. According to Atar, a friend of hers rejected the lucrative offer because he did not want to work in what he considered a toxic workplace.

Atar said she had also declined similar opportunities in the past, but admitted that making such a choice at 25 would have been difficult for her.

She pointed to factors such as family responsibilities, peer pressure and lifestyle aspirations that might have influenced her to accept the offer. Despite that, she praised her friend's ability to prioritise his long-term goals over an immediate financial benefit.

According to Atar, the friend comes from a background similar to hers. She described his willingness to walk away from the sub-

stantial salary as a sign of strong personal conviction and clarity about what he wants from his career.

Her post has prompted a wider conversation about changing attitudes towards employment, particularly among younger professionals. For decades, a large salary has often been viewed as one of the strongest indicators of career success. However, discussions around workplace stress, burnout and employee well-being have increasingly brought company culture into the spotlight.

Atar argued that the next generation of workers may place greater importance on factors beyond compensation. She suggested that employers will need to adapt as employees increasingly consider purpose, well-being and meaningful growth when evaluating career opportunities.

The post drew varied reactions from social media users. One person responded with a Ravi Kishan meme accompanied by the comment, "Money follows, my brother." Another user said awareness about mental health and work-



place conditions was growing. The person acknowledged that money remains important but argued that a toxic or unusual work environment could be a reason to reject an otherwise attractive opportunity. The user added that this perspective had developed after a decade of working in MNCs and PSUs and called the 25-year-old's decision commendable.

Another commenter said the future of work would increasingly be shaped by people seeking pur-

pose, well-being and meaningful professional growth rather than compensation alone.

The reported decision has therefore raised a simple but increasingly relevant question for modern workers: how much money is enough to compromise on workplace happiness?

For the young professional at the centre of the discussion, the answer appears to have been clear. Rs 1 crore was not enough to make a toxic workplace worthwhile.

Developer Questions Work-From-Home Refusal After Knee Surgery

An Indian software developer has sparked an online discussion after claiming that his employer refused to let him work from home while he recovers from knee surgery, despite his job being capable of being performed remotely.

The employee, who is currently serving his notice period, said he expects to face difficulty walking and commuting to the office for several weeks following the operation. He therefore requested a temporary work-from-home arrangement that would allow him to continue working while recovering. According to the developer, his role can be performed entirely from home and working remotely would not affect his productivity or responsibilities. However, he said the company's HR department rejected his request, telling him that there was no provision for work from home.

The decision reportedly left the

employee questioning whether such a refusal was reasonable, particularly because he claimed other employees had previously been permitted to work remotely.

He said some colleagues had received approval from their managers to use Azure Virtual Desktop access while working from home. In an attempt to remove any additional cost concerns, the developer even offered to pay for the required licence himself. Despite that offer, he said his request was not accepted.

The situation has become particularly complicated because the employee is already serving his notice period. He reportedly fears that taking medical leave instead of continuing his work remotely could extend his final working date.

The developer subsequently turned to Reddit to ask whether his employer was legally entitled



to refuse a temporary remote-working arrangement despite his medical condition and the nature of his job.

The discussion has prompted questions about how companies handle temporary workplace accommodations for employees recovering from surgery or other medical procedures. While remote work has become common in many technology roles, individual companies can still have different policies regarding when and how employees may work outside the office.

The case also highlights the difference between a job being techni-

cally suitable for remote work and an employee having an automatic right to work remotely. Whether an employer must provide such an arrangement can depend on company policy, employment terms and applicable labour laws.

For the employee, however, the issue appears less complicated. He says he is willing to continue performing his duties and has even offered to cover the technology cost required for remote access. His concern is primarily the difficulty of physically travelling to the office while recovering from knee surgery.

The online debate has therefore moved beyond one employee's request, raising a broader question about workplace flexibility: when an employee can perform the same job from home but temporarily cannot commute, should companies make exceptions for medical recovery?

A Husband Turns His Wife's Childhood Flower Memory Into A Giant Garden



A childhood memory about flowers inspired a Chinese man to transform an empty valley into an enormous garden dedicated to his wife, creating what is described as the world's largest and most varied hollyhock garden. Zhou Xiaolin and his wife, Yin Jie, have been married for 35 years and have no children. They now spend much of their time surrounded by colourful flowers and pets, choosing a life centred on nature and companionship rather than wealth or conventional family expectations.

The unusual story began in 2013, when Yin spoke about her childhood memories of hollyhocks growing in Beijing. She recalled how much she loved the flowers. Zhou took the comment seriously and decided to create a garden where she could enjoy them every day.

At the time, Zhou had no experience in gardening. Determined to fulfil his wife's wish, he sold his house, purchased land in Zhuanlong Town and began teaching himself how to cultivate hollyhocks.

Over the next decade, he collected seeds from different parts of China and abroad. What started as a personal gesture gradually developed into an expansive flower garden covering about 80 hectares in Chengdu, Sichuan province.

Zhou and Yin continue to look after the garden themselves. Their dedication eventually attracted national attention after the couple appeared on a China Central Television programme, where they were described as a "dream couple."

The story has also sparked conversations on Chinese social media about happiness and what makes a fulfilling life. Many users praised the couple for choosing a simple lifestyle built around shared interests and affection. One social media user observed that life could be about more than earning money and raising children, while another praised the importance of finding a partner who understands, admires and cherishes you. For Zhou, a passing comment from his wife became a decade-long project. His garden now stands not only as a remarkable collection of flowers but also as an enduring expression of love, proving that sometimes the most unusual monuments can grow quietly from the smallest memories.

Cab Driver Uses ChatGPT To Learn English For His Baby Daughter



A late-night taxi ride turned into an unexpected lesson in ambition and parenthood when management consultant Tushar Jejani discovered why his driver was speaking fluent English into his phone.

At around 5 am, Jejani was travelling to the airport on an almost empty road when he noticed the driver speaking confidently in English. The driver was discussing his morning routine and their current location, which initially made Jejani uncomfortable. He wondered whether the driver was sharing details of his journey with someone else.

The driver soon noticed his passenger's uneasiness and began speaking with him. He asked whether Jejani was travelling for business or leisure. The two continued chatting for around ten minutes, with the driver speaking in English while Jejani responded in Hindi.

Unable to contain his curiosity, Jejani eventually asked who the driver had been talking to on the phone. The answer surprised him. The driver had not been speaking to another person. He was using ChatGPT to practise his English pronunciation and fluency. The driver explained that he had recently become the father of a baby girl and wanted to improve his English so he could teach her as she grew up. His goal was to give his daughter a stronger foundation for the future.

The revelation made a lasting impression on Jejani. What initially appeared to be an ordinary early-morning taxi ride suddenly became an example of how technology can be used for personal growth and family aspirations.

The driver was using artificial intelligence not simply as a convenience, but as a learning partner. Without expensive coaching classes, formal training or traditional educational resources, he was using a smartphone and an AI tool to develop a skill he believed could benefit his daughter.

The experience also prompted Jejani to reflect on the broader impact of technology. While artificial intelligence often raises concerns about automation and job losses, the driver's story offered a different perspective.

For him, AI was not about replacing a human being. It was about helping him learn something new and prepare for his child's future.

A simple conversation before sunrise therefore became a reminder that ambition can come from anywhere-and sometimes, the most meaningful lessons can emerge during an unexpected taxi ride.

VVS Laxman Set To Become BCCI Director Of Cricket

VVS Laxman is set to be appointed as the Director of Cricket by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), a newly created position that will place him higher in the cricket board's hierarchy than Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir and selection committee chairman Ajit Agarkar. Laxman, who currently heads the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE), is expected to continue in his existing role while taking on additional responsibilities under the new designation. Sources said his contract at the CoE is likely to be extended for another two years. During his tenure at the CoE, Laxman has overseen several key areas of Indian cricket, including junior teams, player rehabilitation and development pathways for both men and women cricketers. Under the expanded role, he is also expected to take responsibility for



staff appointments. The creation of the Director of Cricket position is aimed at establishing a more structured connection between different levels of

Indian cricket. The role is expected to bring senior coaches, selectors, the Centre of Excellence and youth development pathways under a more unified approach to talent identification and player development. For Laxman, the appointment represents a significant expansion of his responsibilities. His existing involvement with players and teams across various stages of the development system has already placed him at the centre of India's cricketing structure. The development also comes at a time when questions have emerged over the future of Ajit Agarkar. His tenure as chairman of the national selection committee is scheduled to end in September. His role has attracted attention in recent months, particularly over decisions concerning the future of Rohit Sharma and

Virat Kohli in India's ODI team. Gambhir's coaching future has also been discussed amid India's position in the World Test Championship points table. The upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka could have a bearing on his future in red-ball cricket. However, the proposed changes are not expected to immediately affect either Gambhir or Agarkar. Sources said both are set to retain their current positions until the 2027 World Cup. The new structure would therefore give Laxman a broader coordinating role while allowing Gambhir and Agarkar to continue handling their existing responsibilities. His appointment could mark a significant change in the way the BCCI manages the transition from junior cricket to the senior national teams.

Harbhajan Singh Says T20 Era Has Reduced Patience In Test Cricket

Former India spinner and World Cup winner Harbhajan Singh has expressed concern over the declining patience among the current generation of Test batters, saying the aggressive approach shaped by T20 cricket has reduced the frequency of marathon innings in the longest format. Harbhajan, who made his India debut in 1998, said modern batters often find it difficult to remain at the crease for long periods and build massive scores. He pointed to the rarity of 250s and 300s in contemporary Test cricket as evidence of the changing approach. "In this era of T20s, the current generation do not possess the requisite patience like batters of yesteryears," Harbhajan said in a podcast interview with PTI. He noted that playing a large number of attacking shots inevitably increases the chances of dismissal. Recalling the previous generation, Harbhajan highlighted players

such as Brian Lara, Chris Gayle, Virender Sehwag, Matthew Hayden, AB de Villiers and Jacques Kallis, who combined attacking strokeplay with the ability to bat for extended periods. Lara famously scored 400 in a Test innings, while several others recorded triple centuries and huge double centuries. The most recent Test triple-centurions include Pakistan's Azhar Ali in 2016, Australia's David Warner in 2019, England's Harry Brook in 2024 and South Africa's Wiaan Mulder in 2025. Harbhajan also recalled how Australia transformed Test batting in the early 2000s. He said that from around 2001, Australia regularly aimed to score at a faster rate than other teams and often targeted 350 runs in a day, while many other sides were satisfied with around 250. According to Harbhajan, the faster pace of Test cricket also forced



bowlers, particularly spinners, to change their methods. Bowlers had to develop different plans, build pressure through dot balls and encourage aggressive batters to attempt unfamiliar shots. He said Test cricket has undergone a complete transformation, citing England's Bazball approach as an example. While England may aim to score 500 in a day, Harbhajan

noted that such aggression can also result in a team being dismissed for 70 or 80. Despite recognising the evolution of the format, Harbhajan said he misses the uncertainty of earlier Test matches, when games could remain evenly poised until the fifth day. He also attributed part of the shift away from red-ball cricket to the Indian Premier League. Harbhajan said the IPL provides young players with rapid recognition, substantial financial rewards and opportunities to reach the Indian team. He recalled that earlier players such as Amol Mjumdar and Amarjeet Kaypee scored heavily in domestic cricket but never represented India because there was limited space in the senior team. With three international formats now available, he said players have more opportunities to break into the national side.

Ricky Ponting Slams Australia's Batting Against Bangladesh

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting has criticised the team's batting performance in the first Test against Bangladesh, saying early-season rustiness cannot fully explain the technical flaws displayed by the top order. Australia were dismissed for 198 after choosing to bat first, with Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud producing a superb spell of 6-55. Steve Smith was the only Australian batter to make a substantial contribution, scoring 71, as the hosts struggled against Bangladesh's bowling attack. Ponting said Australia appeared short of match practice but insisted the technical shortcomings were too significant to be ignored. "There was a lot of early-season rustiness, they haven't played for a long time, but you can't excuse some of the technical issues and flaws we saw from the top order in particular," Ponting said on SEN's Fireball. He also questioned Australia's decision to bat first, particularly after Bangladesh had been bowled out for just 54 in their warm-up game. Ponting felt Australia's seamers could have been extreme-

ly difficult to face on the opening morning and believed the team should have expected a substantially bigger total than 198 after winning the toss. Ponting also raised concerns about Australia's reluctance to introduce younger players. He noted that the current side is the oldest Australian Test team since 1928, with all-rounder Cameron Green, 27, the only player under 30. The former captain said selectors had missed opportunities to assess emerging Australian talent in recent matches. While acknowledging that the Sheffield Shield numbers of young batters have not been particularly strong, Ponting urged selectors to look beyond statistics and consider talent and potential. He suggested Australia may need to rely more on instinct when selecting players, arguing that the current batting group has not consistently reached the standard expected in Test cricket. Australia have 21 Tests scheduled until the end of the World Test Championship cycle, including home matches against New Zealand and away series against



South Africa and India. Ponting expects the demanding schedule to naturally lead to greater rotation, with Australia potentially using 16 to 18 players during the period. Ponting also suggested that a defeat against Bangladesh could accelerate discussions about changes within the team. He said the current group had remained together for a long period and questioned whether selectors had been reluctant to make difficult decisions. According to Ponting, Australia have had opportunities

to alter the batting combination for at least 12 months. However, he maintained that the team still has time to recover in the ongoing Test and should remain favourites. He pointed out that Australia will eventually bat again on a pitch expected to be at its best. Ponting said that second innings would provide an important test of whether the current batters remain capable of meeting the demands of Test cricket or whether selectors should consider other options.

Mitchell Starc Fumes At Mehidy Hasan During Heated Test Exchange

Australia pacer Mitchell Starc lost his cool during a heated exchange with Bangladesh batter Mehidy Hasan Miraz on the second day of the first Test, after the batter ran across the pitch during a quick single. The incident occurred when Mehidy nudged a delivery from Starc towards the off side and immediately set off for a run. As Starc's follow-through was also close to the same area, Mehidy altered his path and ended up running across the centre of the pitch. Umpire Kumar Dharmasena noticed the incident and warned Mehidy about running on the protected area of the wicket. The Bangladesh batter attempted to explain his actions, saying, "He is in the pathway." The explanation appeared to frustrate Starc, who responded sharply: "It's my follow-through,

not yours. Get off the wicket." The exchange quickly attracted attention and footage of the confrontation went viral on social media, adding an intense moment to an otherwise dominant day for Bangladesh. Bangladesh finished the second day on 351 for 6, establishing a 153-run lead over Australia with four wickets still in hand. Tanzid Hasan played a major role in putting the visitors in a commanding position, becoming the first Bangladeshi batter to score a Test century in Australia. Tanzid scored 101, while Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto contributed an entertaining 84. Mehidy remained unbeaten on 32 at stumps, with Hasan Mahmud on 13. The pair had put together a crucial unbeaten 40-run partnership to strengthen Bangladesh's position.



Tanzid, playing only his second Test, produced a composed innings in favourable conditions. The 25-year-old survived a significant chance on 62 when he edged Nathan Lyon towards first slip, but Steve Smith was unable to hold on

to the sharp opportunity. The opener eventually reached his century with a push through mid-off against Lyon. He took 188 balls to complete the milestone, hitting eight fours and a six during his innings. His stay at the crease ended soon afterwards when he attempted to attack Lyon and was caught by Mitchell Starc at deep mid-off. Bangladesh's strong batting display has put Australia under considerable pressure in the opening Test. The visitors are seeking their maiden Test victory in Australia at their third attempt, while Australia face the challenge of containing Bangladesh's growing lead. The heated exchange between Starc and Mehidy provided one of the most talked-about moments of the day as Bangladesh continued to control the contest.

Tanzid Tamim Makes History With Maiden Test Century In Australia



Tanzid Hasan created a historic moment for Bangladesh by becoming the first Bangladeshi batter to score a Test century in Australia. The 25-year-old achieved the feat in only his second Test, producing a composed innings against Australia. Tanzid reached his maiden Test hundred after facing 188 balls, hitting eight fours and one six. He brought up the milestone with a controlled shot through mid-off against Nathan Lyon, triggering celebrations in the Bangladesh camp. His century came during Bangladesh's first Test against Australia at the Marra Cricket Ground in Darwin. The landmark innings also came as Bangladesh pushed for a possible maiden Test victory on Australian soil. Tanzid had a crucial escape when he was on 62. He edged Nathan Lyon towards first slip, but Steve Smith was unable to hold on to the sharp chance. Tanzid made the most of the reprieve and continued to bat with confidence. He had started the day alongside Mominul Haque with Bangladesh on 96-1 after Australia had been bowled out for 198 on the opening day. The Australian bowlers improved their performance, but the Bangladesh batters showed patience, taking singles and waiting for opportunities to attack. Tanzid reached his half-century from 102 balls shortly before the drinks break. Mominul was also moving towards a fifty, but was dismissed for 49 after attempting to punch a Josh Hazlewood delivery through the off side. The thick edge was taken by wicketkeeper Alex Carey. The partnership between Tanzid and Mominul produced 102 runs and took Bangladesh to 138-2, leaving them 60 runs behind Australia's first-innings total. Najmul joined Tanzid after Mominul's dismissal and increased the scoring rate against an Australian attack that was beginning to tire. Tanzid eventually fell soon after reaching his century when he attempted to hit Lyon out of the ground but found Mitchell Starc at deep mid-off. Despite his dismissal, Tanzid's innings had already secured his place in Bangladesh cricket history. His achievement marked the first Test century by a Bangladeshi batter in Australia and came remarkably early in his international Test career. The Bangladesh team celebrated the milestone enthusiastically, with players and support staff acknowledging the significance of Tanzid's performance. His century also strengthened Bangladesh's position as they continued their pursuit of a historic Test victory over Australia.

Gautam Gambhir Faces Crucial Test As India Take On Sri Lanka

Gautam Gambhir's credentials as India's red-ball head coach will face a major test when India begin their two-Test series against Sri Lanka. A string of disappointing results and changes to the support staff have increased the pressure on Gambhir and the team to revive their Test fortunes. Under Gambhir, India have enjoyed an impressive run in white-ball cricket, winning the Champions Trophy, Asia Cup and T20 World Cup. However, their Test record has been far less convincing. Home series defeats against New Zealand and South Africa have damaged India's World Test Championship ambitions. The departure of two assistant coaches and a fielding coach has added to the need for a fresh approach. While Gambhir is not expected to be removed immediately if India fail to win in Sri Lanka, the team's red-ball direction is likely to come under greater discussion. India face a difficult challenge in Galle, where Sri Lanka have established a strong record. The hosts have won 27 of the 49 Tests played at the venue since 1998, with spin traditionally playing a major role. Sri Lanka no longer have legends such as Muttiah Muralitharan and Rangana Herath, but Prabath Jayasuriya and Ramesh Mendis remain important threats. Their ability to exploit the conditions could test India's batting line-up, which has recently struggled against quality spin.



India's current squad has similarities with the team that toured Sri Lanka in 2017. The Virat Kohli-led side completed a 3-0 series victory, including a win in Galle, and subsequently began a dominant period in Test cricket. The 2026 team, led by Shubman Gill, will hope for a similar spark. Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel face an important series after recent underwhelming performances, while Sarfaraz Khan could also be in contention. India will rely heavily on KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Devdutt Padikkal and Gill for runs. Padikkal has an opportunity to strengthen his claim for the No. 3 position before Sai Sudharsan returns from injury. India are expected to field three spinners in Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar and Ravindra Jadeja. Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna will lead the pace attack and will be expected to provide breakthroughs. Sri Lanka, led by Dhananjaya de Silva, will look to challenge India despite limited recent Test cricket. The hosts played their previous Test series in the West Indies in June-July after nearly a year without red-ball cricket. With both teams looking to rebuild, the series could become an important turning point for Gambhir and India's Test campaign.



Kajal Aggarwal Reveals Why She Never Allowed Navel-Focused Scenes

Actress Kajal Aggarwal has once again grabbed attention after an old interview resurfaced on social media, in which she spoke candidly about the long-discussed "navel obsession" in commercial cinema. Her comments have sparked fresh conversations among movie lovers and industry followers.

Speaking in the interview, Kajal said she was always clear about her personal boundaries while signing films. She revealed that she never allowed filmmakers to deliberately focus the camera on her navel or shoot scenes that made her uncomfortable. The actress explained that while glamour is a part of mainstream cinema, every performer has the right to decide what they are comfortable doing on screen. According to Kajal, respecting an actor's boundaries is just as important as presenting a character effectively. She added that she never felt pressured to accept such shots simply because they had become a trend in certain commercial films. Instead, she preferred to let her performances and the strength of her characters speak for themselves. Kajal's remarks have received mixed reactions online. Many social media users praised her for standing by her principles and respecting her own comfort level, while others pointed out that filmmaking styles have evolved significantly over the years. The actress has enjoyed a successful career across Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi cinema, working with several leading stars. She has often been appreciated for balancing glamorous roles with performance-oriented characters, making her one of the most popular actresses in South Indian cinema.

AP Aims to Become a Film Hub Minister Durgesh



Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said the state government is committed to developing Andhra Pradesh into a major hub for the film industry, with a focus on strengthening infrastructure and attracting investments. The minister was speaking at the grand success meet of Korean Kanakaraaju, held at the Gurajada Kalakshetram in Visakhapatnam. He congratulated the film's cast and crew and praised actor Varun Tej for what he described as one of the finest performances of his career. Durgesh said Varun Tej had displayed remarkable maturity by convincingly portraying two contrasting shades—a highly entertaining character and a powerful gangster. He said the actor had effectively brought out the differences between the two roles while showcasing the legacy of the Mega family. The minister also appreciated comedian Satya for his trademark humour and said his performance had entertained audiences in theatres. He praised heroine Reethika for her impressive performance and said the combination of Varun Tej, Satya and Reethika had worked well on screen. Durgesh said he and other public representatives, who regularly face political criticism and counter-criticism, thoroughly enjoyed the film as a source of entertainment. He particularly appreciated the decision to shoot the movie around Anantapur and retain the flavour, dialect and tempo of the Rayalaseema region. On developing the film industry in Andhra Pradesh, the minister invited producers and industrialists to invest in basic infrastructure such as dubbing theatres and re-recording studios. He assured investors that the government would provide suitable land and necessary support. Durgesh said Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu were working with a clear vision to establish a strong film ecosystem in the state. He congratulated director Merlapaka Gandhi for his engaging storytelling and settled screenplay, and producers Rajiv Reddy and S. S. J. (S. S. Jaga) for the film's success. He also expressed happiness over working with MLC Nagababu. The minister said he was grateful to Pawan Kalyan for his support and expressed pride in serving under his leadership and the guidance of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Ram Charan-Sukumar's RC17 Gets Major Update; Shoot to Begin Soon

The much-awaited reunion of Ram Charan and ace filmmaker Sukumar is finally moving ahead, with a major update bringing excitement to fans eagerly waiting for RC17. After delivering the blockbuster Rangasthalam, the duo is all set to collaborate once again on what is expected to be one of the biggest pan-India projects in the coming years.

According to the latest reports, Sukumar has completed most of the pre-production work and locked the final version of the script after spending several months developing the story. The filmmaker reportedly worked on multiple concepts before finalizing the one he believed would best suit Ram Charan's image and performance. The latest buzz suggests that the film is expected to be officially launched very soon, with principal photography likely to commence in the coming weeks. Both Ram Charan and Sukumar are said to be keen on beginning the project after ensuring every aspect of the script and pre-production is in place.

'Vadala' Movie Review: Jagapathi Babu's Performance Shines in an Underwhelming Emotional Drama

Veteran actor Jagapathi Babu returns to the big screen with Vadala, an emotional family drama directed by Akella V. Krishna. Co-starring Laya and Hrithika Srinivas, the film attempts to blend relationships, emotions, and suspense but falls short due to an inconsistent screenplay and predictable narration. The story revolves around a seemingly happy family whose peaceful life is disrupted by an unexpected turn of events. As hidden truths begin to surface, the characters are forced to confront emotional conflicts that test their relationships and personal values. The film explores themes of family bonds, trust, sacrifice, and redemption. Jagapathi Babu delivers a sincere and composed performance, carrying much of the emotional weight of the film. His screen presence and mature acting stand out, especially in the emotional scenes. Laya makes a decent comeback, portraying her role with grace, while Hrithika Srinivas performs her part convincingly. The supporting cast also delivers satisfactory performances. Director Akella V. Krishna chooses an emotional narrative but struggles to keep the audience engaged throughout the film. While the premise has potential, the screenplay progresses at a slow pace, and several scenes feel repetitive. The emotional moments work in parts, but the lack of gripping twists reduces the overall impact. On the technical front, veteran cinematographer Chota K. Naidu captures the visuals effectively, giving the film a polished look. The production values are decent, and the background score by Karthik B. Kodakandla complements the emotional tone of the story. However, tighter editing could have made the narrative more engaging. The film's biggest strength is Jagapathi Babu's performance and a few emotionally charged sequences. However, the predictable storyline, sluggish pacing, and lack of strong dramatic highs prevent it from becoming a memorable family entertainer. Overall, Vadala is a sincere emotional drama that benefits from Jagapathi Babu's acting but is let down by weak storytelling and an uneven screenplay. Audiences who enjoy slow-paced family dramas with emotional themes may find parts of the film engaging, while those looking for a gripping narrative may come away disappointed.



Priyanka Chopra's Stunning New Look From Varanasi Takes the Internet by Storm

Global star Priyanka Chopra has once again captured the spotlight after director S.S. Rajamouli unveiled a striking new look of the actress from his much-awaited pan-world film Varanasi on the occasion of her birthday. The newly released images have gone viral across social media, generating massive excitement among fans. In the latest stills, Priyanka appears in her character Mandakini, sporting a bold all-black outfit paired with curly hair and an intense expression. The powerful makeover presents a fierce yet graceful avatar, hinting at the strong role she plays in the epic action-adventure film. Rajamouli shared the new posters with a special birthday message for Priyanka, wishing her a wonderful year ahead while introducing fans to another glimpse of her character. The images quickly spread across social media platforms, with fans praising her transformation and calling it one of her most striking looks in recent years. Varanasi marks Priyanka Chopra's return to Indian cinema after a long gap and her first collaboration with acclaimed filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli. The film also stars Mahesh Babu in the lead role and Prithviraj Sukumaran in a pivotal character, making it one of the most anticipated Indian films currently in production. The film is being mounted on a massive international scale, with shooting taking place across multiple countries and featuring breathtaking action sequences. Priyanka is said to play a powerful and emotionally layered character, adding to the excitement surrounding the project. Fans flooded social media with compliments after the new posters were released. Many praised Priyanka's commanding screen presence and applauded Rajamouli's visual presentation. The hashtag related to Varanasi began trending soon after the first-look images were unveiled. With Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra, and Prithviraj Sukumaran sharing screen space under Rajamouli's direction, expectations for Varanasi continue to soar. The latest glimpse has only heightened anticipation, with movie lovers eagerly waiting for more updates from what is expected to be one of Indian cinema's biggest releases.

