



Veteran Actress Sowcar Janaki Dies At 94



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SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON?

G Ravi Kiran

Amaravati : Yes, something is definitely happening. Is the unity within the alliance wavering like a hidden fire under the ashes? Are the internal differences that began with ego clashes and dominance now turning into a war in the backdrop of the local body elections? That is what it appears to be. Listening to Pawan Kalyan's recent comments, it seems even more evident.

Though his remarks may appear to be part of a political strategy, they also seem to clearly convey that the Jana Sena will not lose its identity and will not simply accept whatever the TDP says. For quite some time, some Kapu leaders, both within and outside the party, have been repeatedly criticising Pawan Kalyan. Their question has been: "How can we accept whatever the TDP says? What about our position and our future?" Pawan Kalyan's latest comments appear to be an answer to these concerns.

The Jana Sena contested 21 seats in the Assembly elections, but Pawan has now made it clear that the decision was limited to the circumstances prevailing at that time. Things are different now, he said, adding that decisions would be taken in the local body elections in a way that protects the self-respect of the Jana Sena. Will this stand continue until the end? Or is it merely a political drama being played by the leaders of both parties to pacify the growing dissatisfaction? Some are raising doubts over this as well.

There is already considerable discussion over why Pawan Kalyan has not been attending Cabinet meetings and, more importantly, why he has not been attending the Assembly. Everyone knows that he has health issues. But if his health condition prevents him from attending party meetings, reviews and even meetings of his own ministry, the question is why it permits him to attend Cabinet and Assembly sessions. If continuously sitting through a Cabinet meeting is difficult, some are asking what would prevent him from attending the Assembly for a short while, making his presence felt and leaving.



Now, Pawan has announced that he will be travelling to Kerala for around 20 days for health-related treatment. Nobody can deny or question that. But on a day when the Assembly was in session, Pawan held a meeting with Jana Sena MLAs. Why, then, did he not attend the Assembly?

Amaravati is a prestigious project for the government, and everyone knows that. Pawan Kalyan attended the Amaravati 2.0 event when Prime Minister Narendra Modi came. But after that, he has not visited Amaravati again. Why?

Some believe that these developments are the result of internal disputes. However, leaders of both parties maintain that these are merely speculations.

The allegations are that the problem began soon after the alliance government

Krishnalanka Police Station on caste lines. Lokesh did not respond. Other ministers also remained silent. Chandrababu openly reprimanded them, asking how they could remain silent. Whenever there has been a political attack against Pawan, Chandrababu has been responding, but other TDP leaders have generally not reacted.

The same thing happened in the case involving YouTuber Ravan. Only after Chandrababu directly intervened and instructed them did other TDP leaders and ministers enter the scene and speak out. Until then, there had been no significant response.

On the other hand, when the YSRCP recently targeted Lokesh over the DSC issue, there was no strong response from the Pawan Kalyan side either. He condemned the YSRCP campaign only once initially and did not pursue the issue afterwards. From the outside, such a gap between the two sides is clearly visible.

At the same time, political analysts are speculating that Pawan Kalyan himself could be an obstacle to Lokesh becoming Chief Minister in the future. There is also discussion that this could be the reason why both sides are playing a game of political hide-and-seek and attacking each other indirectly.

Recently, when a Jana Sena NRI was considered for a position, some TDP supporters strongly objected on social media, claiming that he had criticised NTR, Chandrababu and Lokesh in the past and therefore should not be given the post. The issue was compared with the earlier Mahasena Rajesh ticket controversy. This triggered strong counterattacks from Jana Sena supporters as well. A major war broke out between the cadres of both parties on social media.

There are already suspicions within the TDP that if circumstances change in the future, the BJP could put Pawan Kalyan at the forefront and steer the political narrative through him. That is why, despite appearing friendly on the surface, both sides seem to be playing their own political games underneath.

Reports suggest that something is happening within the alliance.

Pawan Kalyan's comments have created a stir.

Indirect signals that there will be no compromise in the local body elections.

Is the real problem between Pawan Kalyan and Lokesh?

Has Lokesh been dominating administrative affairs from the beginning?

Has Pawan Kalyan objected to this dominance?

Pawan Kalyan has stayed away from Cabinet and Assembly meetings.

His absence is being attributed to health issues.

On the other hand, he regularly attends Jana Sena and meetings related to his departments.

In the custodial death and Ravan cases, Chandrababu was the only one to support Pawan Kalyan.

Pawan Kalyan has not paid much attention to the DSC issue.

Revanth Reddy's US Visit Cancelled

Hyderabad, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's proposed US visit has been cancelled after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) denied political clearance for the US leg of his overseas tour. Reddy, currently in London, will return to Hyderabad on August 23 instead of travelling to Boston. The Telangana government had sought clearance for both the UK and US visits. While the UK leg was approved, political clearance was denied for the US programme. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said foreign visits by chief ministers are assessed before political clearance and the proposed US programme was not considered appropriate to the office held and stated purpose. The US visit was planned under the TelanganaRising initiative, with Reddy scheduled to meet with institutions including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Northeastern University, and Virginia Tech to explore partnerships in education, skills, and technology. Reddy instructed officials to continue the proposed programme and work towards finalising MoUs and partnerships. He said the objective was to bring globally recognised educational and skills institutions to Hyderabad and expand opportunities for Telangana's youth. Meanwhile, Reddy will continue engagements in the UK, including interactions with representatives of Oxford, Cambridge, London School of Economics, London Business School and University of London. The MEA reiterated that the UK visit received clearance, while the US leg did not.



BRICS Youth, Sports Ministers' Meets To Begin In Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

India will host the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting and BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting in Visakhapatnam on August 22 and 23 under India's BRICS Chairship 2026. Ministers and Heads of Delegation from all 11 BRICS member nations will participate in the two-day engagements. The meetings will be chaired by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, with Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse participating. Secretary, Youth Affairs Sunil Paliwal and Secretary, Sports Hari Ranjan Rao will also attend. The Youth Ministers' Meeting on August 22 will focus on youth development and empowerment, covering education, skills, entrepreneurship, wellbeing and sustainable development. Discussions will consider recommendations from the BRICS Youth Council Meeting and BRICS Youth Summit. The meeting is expected to adopt the BRICS Youth Ministerial Joint Declaration and BRICS Youth Cooperation Framework. The Sports Ministers' Meeting on August 23 will focus on strengthening cooperation in sports, including traditional and indigenous sports, sports technology and sports manufacturing. A Sports Manufacturing Conclave, bilateral meetings, cultural programmes

Visakhapatnam Gets RS.1,000-Crore Drinking Water Plan



Visakhapatnam, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana said the government was prioritising infrastructure development in Visakhapatnam, with focus on drinking water, roads, street lighting and sewage management. Narayana held a review meeting on development works within GVMC and VMRDA limits at the VMRDA office on Friday with public representatives, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg and VMRDA officials. Gajuwaka MLA and State TDP President Palla Srinivasa Rao, Government Whip and West MLA P.G.V.R. Naidu (Ganababu), Anakapalli MP C.M. Ramesh, MLAs Ganta Srinivasa Rao, P. Vishnu Kumar Raju, Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, Vamsi Krishna Srinivas, Panchakarla Ramesh

India Seen As Bright Spot For Growth And Hope: Modi

New Delhi, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the world increasingly viewed India as a bright spot for growth and hope, as he addressed the Economic Times World Leaders Forum 2026 on Friday. Speaking on the theme 'Shared Futures', he said India was pursuing next-generation reforms at policy and governance levels while improving ease of living. Modi said political stability and policy continuity were driving rapid development. He highlighted the shift from a "prohibited unless permitted" approach to "permitted unless prohibited", stressing that government-citizen relations should be based on trust rather than suspicion. He contrasted the earlier License Raj-era "Production Linked Punishment" approach with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. He said PLI had attracted RS.2.5 lakh crore in investments, generated RS.22 lakh crore in production and sales, driven RS.15 lakh crore in exports and created over 14 lakh



jobs. The Prime Minister highlighted reforms including the removal of more than 40,000 compliances and abolition of over 1,500 obsolete laws. He also cited railway safety upgrades, digital public infrastructure, e-Sanjeevani, Digi Yatra and Fastag as examples of governance reforms improving citizens' lives. Modi said policies should remain pro-people, pro-growth and pro-development. He highlighted PM-KUSUM and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana as examples of long-term reforms aimed at empowering farmers and households. He said the government's "Reform Express" would continue towards the goal of Viksit Bharat.

Tanapalli Land Dispute Must Be Decided by Evidence, Not Political Power



Suman Babu Veerisetty

The Tanapalli land dispute raises serious questions about political influence, land ownership, accountability and the credibility of statements made by public representatives. Allegations against former Tirupati MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy are significant as the alleged incident reportedly occurred in 2023, when he was in political power. Farmer Cherukuri Venkateswara Prasad has alleged that his land was occupied, trees were cut and a road was laid through his property. Crime No. 253/2026 was registered at Tiruchanur police station following a Vigilance and Enforcement report and subsequent proceedings by the district administration. According to Tirupati SP L Subba Rayudu, the case followed a Vigilance report and the Collector's request for criminal action. The SP directed the

Tiruchanur CI to register the case on August 11. Police said the CCTNS process initially listed the Collector as complainant based on the forwarding letter.

The reported responses during police questioning also raise questions. Karunakar Reddy reportedly acknowledged that land exists in his wife Revathi's name but said he did not know how much land she owned, while also claiming he had never seen or heard of the neighbouring farmer. His son Abhinay reportedly acknowledged around 20 acres but denied that any road was forcibly laid. Such claims must ultimately be tested against documentary and physical evidence. At the same time, allegations cannot be treated as proven facts. The police must examine revenue and ownership records, survey maps, photographs, local witnesses and evidence concerning the

3 TMC Lifted, but 68 Kurnool Tanks Still Await Water



Bandike Srinivasu

Kurnool : Despite 3 TMC of water being lifted from the Srisailem Project into the Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi canal for Rayalaseema's drinking water needs, not a drop has reportedly reached 68 tanks in the erstwhile Kurnool district even after 15 days. The delay is linked to the pending sanction of RS.2.78 crore required to divert water from the main canal to the tanks in the Don, Pattikonda and Panyam constituencies. District Chief Engineer Kabir Basha had reportedly sought approval and funds for the 2026-27 financial year two months ago, but the proposal is yet to receive clearance. The situation has become more concerning amid deficient rainfall and the impact of El Niño. Although rains in the upper Krishna basin increased inflows into Srisailem, the available water is also being utilised for drinking water requirements of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

and downstream power generation.

The proposed diversion requires about 1.238 TMC over 90 days to fill the 68 tanks. A dedicated pumping system at Alankonda, near the 90-km point of the Handri-Neeva main canal, was constructed at a cost of around RS.220 crore. The system, comprising pumps, pressure and gravity mains and a 200-km pipeline network, was designed to provide irrigation and drinking water to 68 tanks covering about 10,130 acres.

However, the scheme requires annual maintenance through outsourced agencies. The government sanctioned RS.38 lakh for the January-March 2025 period and RS.85.24 lakh for 2025-26. The latest proposal estimates RS.2.78 crore for April 2026-March 2027. Water availability itself is also becoming a concern. The Srisailem reservoir stood at around 875.40 feet, against its full level of 885 feet, with storage of about 165.92 TMC against a capacity

AP's Cities Set For RS.7,469 Crore Infrastructure Makeover



K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati : The state government is preparing for a major urban infrastructure overhaul, with the State Government according administrative sanction for RS.7,469.46 crore under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) for roads, drainage, parks, street lighting and central medians across Urban Local Bodies. The move, approved by the Council of Ministers and Finance Department and notified through GO.Rt.No.1067, includes RS.5,500 crore for capital works and RS.1,969.46 crore as the estimated interest component over 10 years. The HAM programme is part of a much larger urban push. Projects worth RS.40,743.67 crore are sanctioned, under implementation or planned across all 123 ULBs, covering water supply, sewerage, roads, sanitation, greenery and other civic infrastructure. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana said the Government was moving away from isolated

projects towards integrated urban development. "Roads cannot be planned separately from drainage, drinking water, sanitation, lighting and public spaces. The objective is to provide better roads, proper drainage, reliable basic services, safer streets and better public spaces," Narayana said. The road component is particularly significant. Of the State's assessed 25,626-km urban road network, around 21,238 km has already been improved, leaving a 4,388-km gap proposed for coverage under HAM. DPRs have been prepared for 4,388 km of roads, 541 parks, 20,340 lighting points and 1,186.56 km of medians. The financing model provides RS.2,200 crore upfront through LRS/BPS funds, while concessionaires will finance RS.3,300 crore. Their investment will be repaid through 40 quarterly instalments over 10 years, with the concessionaire also responsible for operation and maintenance during the period. Speaking to True Point, Principal Secretary, MA&UD S. Suresh Kumar said the pro-

gramme was based on measurable infrastructure gaps rather than expenditure alone. "Progress will be measured in terms of capacity created, networks completed, households connected and assets maintained. The RS.40,743-crore programme reflects the Government's effort to create infrastructure ahead of demand," Suresh Kumar said. The wider programme also includes 724 MLD additional water-treatment capacity, 9,608 km of water-distribution networks, 1,443 MLD sewage-treatment capacity and 23,612 km of storm-water drainage to bridge identified gaps. Urban greenery is receiving attention too, with 58 new parks developed, 110 refurbished and 45 under development, alongside 4.43 lakh saplings planted along 2,165 km of urban roads. The Government says the overall programme is aligned with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's Swarna Andhra 2047 vision, seeking to make Andhra Pradesh's cities more liveable, greener, better connected and investment-ready.

Urban Infrastructure Push	
Total HAM sanction — ₹7,469.46 crore	Urban road gap — 4,388 km
HAM capital works — ₹5,500 crore	
Roads with drains — ₹4,655.82 crore	
Parks — ₹509.12 crore	
Street lighting — ₹247.28 crore	ULBs covered — 123
Central medians — ₹87.78 crore	
ULBs	
	Wider urban projects — ₹40,743.67 crore

Where the ₹5,500 Crore Capital Works Will Go	
Roads with drains — ₹4,655.82 crore	
Parks — ₹509.12 crore	
Street lighting — ₹247.28 crore	
Central medians — ₹87.78 crore	
Total — ₹5,500 crore	

APJUDA Rejects 3% Stipend Hike, Seeks 20% Revision

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (APJUDA) strongly objected to the State Government's August 19 press note on stipend revision, saying the proposed hikes failed to reflect inflation, stipend disparities and the wider concerns of junior doctors. Addressing a press conference, APJUDA State President Dr. Eswar Shankar, General Secretaries Dr. Lukman Ali, Dr. Dinakar Srinivas and Dr. Ravi Teja Naik, and Vice Presidents Dr. Jogi Kamal and Dr. Bhargav Sai Naidu said the proposed 5% baseline hike for interns and 3% annual increase for PG and super-specialty residents amounted to a decline in real income.

The association demanded a 20% base fitment correction in 2026, followed by annual revision linked to CPI inflation plus 3% real growth. It said Andhra Pradesh's stipends were around 15% lower than Telangana for interns and PG residents and 35-37% lower for Senior and Super-Specialty Residents, warning of a possible brain drain. APJUDA rejected the government's comparison of PG stipends with Assistant Professor salaries, stating that first-year PGs currently receive ₹60,823 and would receive ₹72,988 after a 20% hike, still below faculty earnings. The association said the proposed 20% revision would cost ₹117.21 crore, only 0.6% of the ₹19,264-crore health and medical budget for 2026-27. It



also demanded recruitment of young specialists instead of raising the retirement age of medical faculty. APJUDA further sought strict enforcement of

NMC regulations limiting non-medical MSc/PhD teachers to 15% in pre-clinical and para-clinical departments. It alleged their recruitment had reached 27-30% in the

State and called for strict verification of qualifications and experience. The association urged the government to hold high-level talks and issue a comprehensive Governm

ent Order addressing its demands. APJUDA said it would wait two more days for a written response and announce its next course of action if no resolution was reached.

Nara Lokesh Arrives in Visakhapatnam on Commercial Flight



Visakhapatnam, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh arrived at Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport in Visakhapatnam on Friday on a commercial flight, travelling alongside regular passengers. It was the first time he arrived at the airport through a commercial flight since its operations commenced. At Bhogapuram Airport, Lokesh received a grand welcome from TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, MP

Kalisetti Appalanaidu, MLAs Lokam Nagamadhavi, Vishnu Kumar Raju and Eswar Rao, MLC Vepada Chiranjeevi, Vizianagaram Parliamentary Party President Kimidi Nagarajuna, Visakhapatnam Parliamentary Party President Chode Venkata Pabbhiram and former MLC Duvvuram Ramarao. Party leaders, public representatives, workers and fans welcomed Lokesh enthusiastically. He is scheduled to tour the Bheemili and Vizianagaram constituencies on Saturday.

Kollu Ravindra Reviews Arrangements For CM's Madugula Visit

Madugula, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra directed party workers to take responsibility for making Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Madugula a grand success. He held a review meeting with party workers in K. Kotapadu mandal of Madugula constituency along with Zonal Observer Bendalam Ashok, District Party President Bathula Tataiah Babu and MLA Bandaru Satyanarayana Murthy. Ravindra said the Chief Minister visits a constituency on the third Saturday of every month as part of the 'Swarnandhra



Swachh Andhra' programme. He said the government was committed to keeping the State clean and stressed that maintaining environmental cleanliness was everyone's responsibility. He said a special meeting with party workers would be held and later inspected arrangements at the meeting venue with alliance leaders. Ravindra directed officials to provide all necessary amenities to ensure that people faced no inconvenience.

BJP OBC Morcha Hails BC Reservation Move



Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

BJP OBC Morcha State President Rongala Gopi Srinivas described the Andhra Pradesh government's decision to provide 34% reservation for BCs in rural local bodies and 33.33% in urban local bodies as historic. He congratulated Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, saying the move would strengthen BC political representation. Speaking at the BJP state office on Friday, Gopi Srinivas alleged that the previous YSRCP government reduced BC reservation in local bodies from 34% to 24%, causing injustice to the community.

He urged the government to ensure BC political reservations were not diverted to other sections and protect the community's rights. Gopi Srinivas highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's measures, including constitutional status for the National Commission for Backward Classes through the 102nd Amendment, the 105th Amendment empowering states on BC lists and 27% OBC reservation in central educational institutions and NEET. Media In-charge Kilari Dilip, Maresh, Tullimilli Ramakrishna, Choraugudi Shivalalitha, Undavalli Krishna Rao, Kandula Subrahmanyam Yadav and Ketanaboyina Hanumantha Rao participated.

Kakinada GGH To Get \$36.6 Crore Advanced Cancer Treatment Facility

Kakinada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Efforts by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to establish an advanced cancer treatment centre at Kakinada Government General Hospital (GGH) have yielded results, with a state-of-the-art Dual Energy Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machine worth \$36.6 crore sanctioned through ONGC CSR funds. The facility is expected to benefit cancer patients from Kakinada, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, East Godavari, Anaparthi, Polavaram and surrounding districts. A mobile cancer screening vehicle worth \$3.5 crore is also expected to be made available soon for early detection. The project also includes proposals for a CT simulator, HDR brachytherapy machine and dosimetry systems. An advanced building, being constructed with \$7 crore in Red Cross funds, is nearing completion. The Atomic



Energy Regulatory Board, Pune, has permitted construction of a radiotherapy bunker, where the LINAC machine will be installed. At present, Kakinada GGH functions mainly as a cancer referral centre, forcing patients to travel to Hyderabad, Chennai and Visakhapatnam for specialised treatment. The new facility is expected to provide comprehensive oncology services locally. Pawan Kalyan

thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh and the Indian Red Cross for their support. He said the alliance government was committed to bringing advanced healthcare facilities closer to people and strengthening public health services.

CCA AP Circle Holds DLC Camps, Honours Senior Pensioners

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

The Office of the Controller of Communication Accounts (CCA), Andhra Pradesh Circle, Vijayawada, observed National Senior Citizens Day on Friday with a day-long outreach and welfare programme aimed at supporting senior citizens and retired personnel. Under the leadership of the CCA, AP Circle, the programme saw participation from super senior pensioners, retired employees and departmental staff. Dedicated

Digital Life Certificate (DLC) camps were organised using biometric and Face Authentication technology under Jeevan Pramaan, enabling pensioners to submit life certificates conveniently. Know Your Pensioner (KYP) camps were also conducted to assist pensioners in submitting KYP forms without difficulty. As part of the celebrations, senior-most pensioners were felicitated by dignitaries with traditional shawls and mementos in recognition of their long years of public service.



A tree plantation drive was organised on the office premises, with dignitaries and senior citizens planting saplings. A themed selfie point was also arranged for pensioners and their families. Senior officials said elderly citizens were

pillars of institutional wisdom and reaffirmed the department's commitment to transparent, prompt and compassionate services for pensioners. Visiting pensioners appreciated the initiative and the efforts to honour and assist them.

Minister Mandipalli Inspects RTC Facilities At Airport, Annavaram



Annavaram, August 21 | TPN Bureau
Visakhapatnam, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Transport, Youth Services and Sports Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy on Friday inspected RTC facilities at Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) International Airport and Annavaram bus stand, reviewing passenger amenities, transport services and employee concerns. Mandipalli travelled from Visakhapatnam to ASR International Airport by electric

bus and inspected the bus stand and charging station. He interacted with passengers and enquired about RTC services between Visakhapatnam and the airport. RTC Regional Manager Appalanaidu said an electric bus operates every half-hour for passenger convenience. Earlier, Mandipalli conducted a surprise inspection of the Annavaram RTC bus stand in Kakinada district. He interacted with women passengers and sought feedback on the Stree Shakti scheme and free bus travel facility, which have been in operation for a year. Women passengers expressed satisfaction with the scheme under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The Minister inspected passenger amenities and directed officials to ensure necessary facilities. He later had breakfast with drivers, conductors and RTC workers at the canteen and enquired about their concerns and working conditions. Mandipalli said passenger convenience, effective welfare scheme implementation and employee welfare should remain priorities.

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ED Searches Avinash Reddy's Premises in Vivekananda Reddy Murder Case

Shivaranjani

Amaravati: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at seven locations in Hyderabad and Kadapa on Friday as part of its money-laundering investigation linked to the 2019 murder of former minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Among the premises searched were those of Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy in Kokapet, Hyderabad, and Pulivendula. Searches were also conducted at locations linked to accused Sunil Yadav, Devireddy Siva Shankar Reddy and Erra Gangi Reddy. The ED said it seized incriminating documents and digital devices during the searches. It also recovered ₹24 lakh in unaccounted cash and two locker keys



from Avinash Reddy's premises. The investigation stems from the CBI probe into Vivekananda Reddy's murder and focuses on the financial aspects and alleged money trail connected to the case. The agency is examining financial transactions and other evidence emerging from the investigation. The searches mark a significant development in the ongoing probe, with the ED continuing to scrutinise financial evidence and material recovered during Friday's operations.

APMDC Wins Best State Linked Issuer Award

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited (APMDC), a Government of Andhra Pradesh undertaking, has received the "Best State Linked Issuer" Award at the ASSOCHAM IX National Summit & Awards on Corporate Bond Market held in Mumbai on August 20.

The award recognises APMDC's entry into the corporate bond market and mobilisation of \$9,000 crore through Secured Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs), marking a major fund-raising initiative by a State-linked entity. Under the leadership of Pravin Kumar, Managing Director, APMDC, the corporation raised the funds with State government support. The transaction reflected its financial management, regulatory compliance, administrative capabilities and corporate governance mechanisms. APMDC expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his leadership and guidance and acknowledged the support of the Finance Department, Industries & Commerce /



Mines & Geology Department and other institutions involved in the bond issuance. The award selection was based on qualitative and quantitative parameters, including governance, innovation, regulatory compliance, business excellence, operational effectiveness and industry contribution. Shortlisted organisations were evaluated by an independent seven-member jury comprising senior personalities from regulatory, financial and corporate sectors. APMDC said the recognition reinforced its commitment to financial discipline, transparency and good governance and would support sustainable development of Andhra Pradesh's mineral sector.

Search Intensified for Missing Fishermen, Says Minister Atchannaidu

Amaravati, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Agriculture and Cooperation Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said the search for the missing fishermen was continuing without interruption, with the Indian Coast Guard deploying extensive resources at sea. Atchannaidu said he spoke with Coast Guard Assistant Commanding Officer Ranjit Kumar to review the operation. Coast Guard officials said five ships, two Dornier aircraft and a helicopter were involved in the search. He said details of the missing boat had been shared with coastal authorities in Myanmar, Port Blair and areas near the Bangladesh border, asking them to remain alert for any possible sighting. Atchannaidu clarified that the search would not be suspended despite the boat not being located so far. Coast Guard officials assured him that the officer taking charge after August 24 would continue the operation.



The Minister said the State government was maintaining constant coordination with the Coast Guard and Navy to ensure the fishermen's safe return. He appealed to their families to remain courageous and assured them that all possible efforts would continue until the fishermen and their boat were traced.

RSS Coordination Meeting Concludes After Three Days of Deliberations

Visakhapatnam, August 21 | TPN Bureau

The three-day Akhil Bharatiya Samanvay Baithak of organisations inspired by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh concluded at Vignana Vihara Residential School, Gudilova, near Visakhapatnam, on Friday. Representatives of 32 Sangh-inspired organisations participated, with 326 delegates, including 49 women, attending. RSS Sarsangchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat and Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale were present along with national-level office-bearers. Addressing a press meet, RSS Sah Sarkaryavah C.R. Mukunda said the meeting reviewed social service and disaster rehabilitation activities, including flood relief in Assam. Discussions covered demographic changes, social harmo-

ny, drug abuse among youth, aspirations of younger generations and nation-building. Delegates stressed coordinated efforts by educational institutions, parents, social organisations, police and administration to build a drug-free society. The meeting also discussed self-reliant and environment-friendly development, skill development and the Sangh's Panch Parivartan initiative, with emphasis on Kutumb Prabodhan and strengthening family values. Detailed discussions were held on Artificial Intelligence, covering its opportunities, challenges and responsible use from a Bharatiya perspective. Plans to expand the activities of the 32 organisations and reach more sections of society were also reviewed.



Minister Narayana Recalls Bond with Amaravati Farmers

Amaravati, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana said Amaravati was regaining its status as the State capital due to the sacrifices and struggles of farmers. He was speaking at the re-consecration ceremony of Sri Ganga Parvati Sametha Sri Ramalingeswara Swamy and Sri Bala Koteswara Swamy temple at Thullur on Friday. Narayana said he had worked closely with farmers during the land pooling process, spending time and sharing meals at their homes. He said their sacrifices should never be forgotten and expressed hope that the objective behind surrendering their lands would be fulfilled. Recalling the farmers' Amaravati movement, he said the historic Thullur Shiva temple had witnessed their struggle.

Farmers had undertaken the "Nyayasthanam Nunchi Devasthanam Varaku" padyatra from the temple and faced hardships, particularly women, during the previous government. The Minister said works on farmers' returnable plots, including roads and basic infrastructure, were being expedited. Capital projects, including the International Sports City, railway track and Inner Ring Road, were being taken up on a project-by-project basis. He directed officials to deploy machinery and manpower to accelerate the works and reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring farmers receive due benefits for their sacrifices.

Ravi Naidu Accuses Jagan of Lies Over DSC, Group-1 Recruitment

Tirupati, August 21 | TPN Bureau

SAAP Chairman Ravi Naidu on Friday accused Pulivendula MLA Jagan Mohan Reddy of making false and baseless allegations over DSC and APPSC recruitment. Speaking at the Tirupati Press Club, Naidu said every word Jagan spoke at his recent press conference was a lie and advised him to first understand the functioning of APPSC and DSC. Naidu challenged Jagan to seek a CBI inquiry into the Viveka murder case and Group-1 recruitment process if he was serious about transparency. He alleged



that Jagan had failed to seek such an inquiry during his five-year tenure and questioned the allegations surrounding APPSC Group-1, Group-2 and Group-3

recruitment. He said teacher posts were awarded only to candidates who qualified in TET and asserted that the government would con-

tinue conducting transparent DSC recruitments every year. Naidu also warned that no leniency would be shown to candidates submitting fraudulent certificates. He alleged that the DSC controversy was being used to divert attention from the emerging SIT findings. He also demanded ED raids on Avinash Reddy's residence to uncover alleged corruption proceeds. Mahesh Yadav, Thota Vasu, Vinukonda Venkat, SVM Sridhar, Kotte Hemanth Royal, Ganji Sudhakar Reddy, Muni Ramayya and others attended.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Attends Wedding in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy visited Hyderabad on Friday and attended the wedding of the son of senior IPS officer P.S.R. Anjaneyulu. Jagan Mohan Reddy participated in the wedding ceremony held at Jalavihar Grand Lawns in Hyderabad. He met the family members and conveyed his best wishes to the newly married couple.

On the occasion, Jagan Mohan Reddy blessed Snigdha and Anantha Pinak Sharma and extended his heartfelt wishes to them for a happy and prosperous married life. Party leaders and well-wishers were present at the ceremony. The former Chief Minister's visit was limited to attending the wedding and conveying his greetings to the couple and their families. The wedding ceremony was attended by relatives, friends and other invitees, who extended their wishes to the newly married couple on the occasion.

ED Raids Are Diversion Politics, Says YSRCP Leader Srikanth Reddy



Tadepalli, August 21 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State General Secretary Gadikota Srikanth Reddy alleged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case were aimed at diverting public attention from issues confronting the coalition government. Speaking at the YSRCP

central office, he referred to alleged irregularities in DSC recruitment, ganja found in a vehicle carrying police personnel, the wheelchair protest by Sugali Preethi's mother and a hit-and-run case involving the son of ruling-party MP Lingamaneni Ramesh. Srikanth Reddy questioned the ED searches at the residence of YSRCP MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy and alleged that the raids were being portrayed as a major breakthrough. He challenged the government to order a CBI probe into DSC irregularities and said YSRCP was ready for an inquiry into alleged Group-1 irregularities. On the Vivekananda Reddy murder case, he said a SIT and later a CBI probe had been conducted and urged authorities to allow the court proceedings to continue without interference. He demanded transparency over legal expenses and said the truth should come before the people.

Accept Jagan's CBI Challenge on DSC and APPSC, Says Jupudi

Tadepalli, August 21 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State General Secretary and spokesperson Jupudi Prabhakar challenged Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh to accept Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's demand for a CBI investigation into DSC-2025 and APPSC-related issues. Jupudi demanded that the government explain why rules and Government Orders concerning DSC were repeatedly changed, why candidates who completed certificate verification were denied appointments and whether any question paper or questions were leaked. He said unemployed youth, students and the parents were seeking clear answers about from the government. He said APPSC was a constitutional institution and stated that YSRCP had no objection to an investigation into any allegations concerning the commission. He questioned why issues related to Group-1 were being raised when concerns over DSC recruitment remained unresolved. Jupudi demanded Education Minister Nara Lokesh's resignation on moral grounds, stating that continuing protests



by unemployed youth, students and parents reflected growing dissatisfaction over the recruitment process. On the Sports Quota, Jupudi said opportunities provided to accomplished sportspersons should not be equated with teacher recruitment and urged the government to address both matters separately. He also alleged that the coalition government was weakening educational initiatives introduced during the YSRCP government, including Nadu-Nedu, Amma Vodi and English-medium education. Jupudi demanded transparency in recruitment and accountability from the government on the concerns raised by candidates.

3 TMC Lifted, but 68 Kurnool Tanks Still Await Water

Continue

of 215 TMC. The issue has also triggered political criticism. The alliance won 12 of the 14 Assembly seats and both Lok Sabha seats in the erstwhile Kurnool district, yet questions are being raised over the delay in releasing funds. Kurnool MP Bastipati Nagaraju, Nandyal MP Byreddy Shabari, and district in-charge ministers Nimmla Ramanaidu and Payyavula Keshav have faced criticism over the issue. In the Assembly, Don TDP MLA Kotla Jaya Surya Prakash Reddy urged the government to release the RS.2.78 crore, engage an agency and fill all 68 tanks. He warned that further delay could create serious drinking water problems for people and livestock. With 3 TMC already moving through the main canal, the immediate question remains whether the government will act before the available water window closes.

- Water was released from the Srisailem Project 15 days ago for drinking water needs.
- 3,005 cusecs of water is being lifted into the Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi main canal.
- The 68 tanks in the erstwhile Kurnool district are still waiting for water.
- The main reason for the delay is the lack of funds.
- The government has not yet sanctioned the required RS.2.78 crore.
- Opposition parties are closely watching the delay and may raise the issue.
- Kurnool in-charge minister and Water Resources Minister Nimmla Ramanaidu has faced criticism over the delay.
- Nandyal in-charge minister and Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav has also faced criticism.
- Ministers T.G. Bharat, B.C. Janardhan Reddy and N.M.D. Farooq have also reportedly failed to secure the funds.
- Despite water reaching the Handri-Neeva main canal, the 68 tanks remain without diverted water due to the pending funds.

YSRCP Alleges Police Torture Led Fisherman to Self-Immolation

Tadepalli, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Kruthivenu ZPTC Ratnakumari alleged that police brutality in Bantumilli drove poor fisherman and Bolero driver Tirumalasetti Kanakaraju to attempt self-immolation outside the police station. She said Kanakaraju was battling for his life in hospital. Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli along with Kanakaraju's wife Lakshmi Durga Bhavani, Ratnakumari alleged that Bantumilli SI Nagaraju, a home guard and constables stopped Kanakaraju while he was returning from Vijayawada and abused him over honking. She claimed that police forcibly took him to the station despite his willingness to pay a fine. Ratnakumari alleged that Kanakaraju was confined at the police station for several hours, stripped, kicked and beaten with lathis. His mobile phone and

Bolero vehicle, which she said was the family's only source of livelihood, were allegedly seized. Police also registered a drunk-driving case against him, she claimed. She alleged that repeated threats to seize his vehicle and cancel his driving licence pushed Kanakaraju towards self-immolation. Lakshmi Durga Bhavani said her husband was the sole breadwinner for their two children and appealed for justice. Ratnakumari has demanded the suspension of the police personnel allegedly involved and sought criminal action against them. She also urged the district SP to intervene and ensure a thorough investigation into the incident. Ratnakumari assured the family that YSRCP would extend all possible support. She demanded that the government protect the rights of poor workers and ensure that allegations of police excesses were investigated impartially.

Coalition Turning AP into Liquor Hub, Alleges Karumuri

Tadepalli, August 21 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State Spokesperson Karumuri Venkata Reddy alleged that the Chandrababu-led coalition government was turning Andhra Pradesh into a liquor hub by giving priority to liquor revenue over public health and family safety. Addressing the media at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli, Karumuri Venkata Reddy claimed that alcohol-related murders, road accidents and family tragedies were increasing across the state. He alleged that liquor was being sold near schools and temples through belt shops, round-the-clock outlets and door delivery. Referring to incidents from Rajahmundry to Kurnool, including a bus accident that claimed 19 lives, he questioned the government's liquor policy. Karumuri said beer sales had increased from 1.12 crore cases in 2023-24 to 2.32 crore cases in 2025-26, while the liquor was revenue rose from RS.25,117 crore to around RS.29,000 crore. He questioned the revenue figures and demanded an explanation for the gap. He also sought details on the number of belt shops operating in the state and the quality tests conducted on 999 liquor brands. Karumuri further questioned Jana Sena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's absence from eight of 11 Cabinet meetings and criticised expenditure on special aircraft and convoys. He has demanded that the government explain its liquor policy and take measures to protect public health. Karumuri also called for equal application of the law in the Hyderabad accident case involving the son of a Jana Sena MP.

Coalition Government Neglecting Rayalaseema Farmers, Says Srikanth Reddy

Tadepalli, August 21 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP General Secretary Gadikota Srikanth Reddy alleged that the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government was neglecting Rayalaseema farmers despite severe drought conditions and warnings over the possible impact of El Niño. Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, Srikanth Reddy said adequate water was available in Srisailem but was not being fully utilised through Pothireddypadu. He said the canal had a capacity of around 50,000 cusecs but only about 8,000 cusecs was being released, leaving reservoirs such as Gorakallu, Gandikota, Velugodu, Somasila and Kandaleru inadequately filled. He alleged that farmers were struggling to obtain urea and seeds and accused the government of failing to provide sufficient crop-loss compensation and support to affected families. He recalled that the YSRCP government had provided input subsidies, crop insurance and zero-interest loans to farmers. Srikanth Reddy credited former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy with launching 83 irrigation projects under Jalayagnam and strengthening Rayalaseema's water security through Pothireddypadu. He demanded that the government prepare a comprehensive drought contingency plan, fully utilise available Srisailem water and complete pending irrigation projects to protect farmers and ensure adequate irrigation in Rayalaseema.

BRICS Youth, Sports Ministers' Meets To Begin In Visakhapatnam

Continue

and the BRICS Friendship Cycling Event are also scheduled. The Sports meeting will conclude with adoption of the BRICS Sports Joint Declaration. India's BRICS Chairship is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," with emphasis on people-centric and humanity-first development.

Naidu To Tour North Andhra, Attend BRICS Meet

Amaravati, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will tour Anakapalli, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts on Saturday, participating in the 'Swamandhra-Swachhandhra' programme and the BRICS Youth and Sports Ministers' Meeting. The Chief Minister will leave Amaravati by helicopter in the morning and reach Alamanda village in K. Kotapadu mandal, Anakapalli district. At 11:05 am, he will attend and address the gathering at the 'Praja Vedika' near A. Koduru ZP High School. The programme will continue until 1:15 pm, followed by a meeting with party cadre at 2:20 pm. Later, Chandrababu Naidu will travel to S. Kota in Vizianagaram district and visit the residence of MLA K. Lalitha Kumari at 4:20 pm. He will then proceed to Visakhapatnam to attend the BRICS summit. At 5:05 pm, he will participate in the 2nd BRICS Youth and Sports Ministers' Meeting at Novotel Hotel. The Chief Minister will return to Amaravati on Saturday night after concluding his tour.

Tanapalli Land Dispute Must Be Decided by Evidence, Not Political Power

Continue

alleged tree cutting and road construction. Any related civil litigation must also be considered. The political dimension makes an impartial investigation essential. If the complainant's claim that he could not approach authorities while the previous government was in power is established, it would raise serious concerns about citizens' access to justice. Similarly, allegations that the complainant's name was changed in the online FIR or that police acted under political pressure require investigation. The Tanapalli dispute should not become another political blame game. Land records and evidence, not political influence or public image, must determine the truth. At the same time, no one should be declared guilty merely based on allegations. Only a transparent, evidence-based investigation can establish ownership, determine what actually occurred and identify those responsible.

Visakhapatnam Gets RS.1,000-Crore Drinking Water Plan

Continue

Babu and Konathala Ramakrishna, and VMRDA Chairman Pranav Gopal attended. Narayana said plans were being prepared for a permanent solution to drinking water issues across the State's 123 municipalities. With Godavari water expected to reach Visakhapatnam, storage locations had been identified. A RS.1,000-crore drinking water infrastructure project would facilitate supply of 135 litres per household daily and significantly ease the city's water crisis. He said STP projects worth RS.1,500 crore were being prepared, with treated water proposed for industrial use. He dismissed claims that data centres would cause water shortages as baseless. Road and street-lighting works would be taken up on an urgent basis, he said, adding that delayed roadworks would resume after the required Government Order. Plans were also being prepared for 12-storey housing complexes at Velampeta, with 400-square-foot units for eligible beneficiaries. Narayana said municipal elections were sub judice and the process would proceed after the court verdict.

Veteran Actress Sowcar Janaki Dies At 94

Chennai, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Veteran South Indian actress Sowcar Janaki, one of Indian cinema's most respected artistes, died in Chennai on Friday at the age of 94. She passed away at 1:59 pm after being hospitalised following a decline in health. Nadigar Sangam president and actor Nassar confirmed her death. Born Sankaramanchi Janaki in 1931, she began as a radio artiste before entering films. Her career started with the 1950 Telugu film Shavukaru, alongside N.T. Rama Rao, which gave her the name by which she became famous. Janaki acted in more than 400 films across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam during a career spanning over seven decades. Known for her versatility, she played lead and character roles alongside several generations of leading actors. Her contribution to Indian cinema was recognised with the Padma Shri in 2022. Governor Justice S. Abdul Nazeer described her as a legendary artiste who made an indelible mark on Indian cinema through remarkable performances and versatile acting. He noted that she acted in more than 370 films in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada and earned a special place in the hearts of Telugu people. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock over her death, saying her memorable characters would keep her alive in people's hearts. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan described her contribution to Telugu cinema as unforgettable. HRD Minister Nara Lokesh said Janaki earned an indelible place in Telugu audiences' hearts through diverse roles in around 400 films. Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy termed her death an irreparable loss to Telugu cinema and recalled her performances alongside N.T. Rama Rao, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, M.G. Ramachandran and Sivaji Ganesan. Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh expressed shock over the demise of renowned senior actress and Padma Shri awardee 'Shavukaru' Janaki, describing her death as an irreparable loss to the Telugu film industry. Durgesh recalled that Janaki earned fame through the film Shavukaru and acted in over 400 Telugu, Tamil and Kannada films. Born in Rajamahendravaram, she won millions of admirers through her natural acting and diverse roles. He con

Sailajanath Accuses Chandrababu of Betraying Rayalaseema's Water Rights

Tadepalli, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Sake Sailajanath on Friday accused Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of betraying Rayalaseema's water rights and demanded that the government immediately fill the region's reservoirs while water was available in Srisailem. Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, he questioned why Rayalaseema projects remained inadequately filled despite Srisailem holding over 180 TMC of water and being nearly 90 per cent full. Sailajanath said Velugodu, Brahmamsagar, Somasila and Kandaleru under the Telugu Ganga system were below 50 per cent storage. Gorakallu, Owk, Gandikota, Paidipalem, Vamikonda and Chitravathi also had considerable vacant capacity. He questioned why only around 8,000 cusecs was being released through the Pothireddypadu Head Regulator, despite its 40,400-cusec

capacity, and demanded immediate release of 40,000 cusecs when Srisailem levels permitted. He said the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme was conceived as an insurance mechanism and claimed nearly 90 per cent of its works had been completed. He questioned whether the remaining works were halted due to an understanding with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Sailajanath also alleged that the government cancelled tenders issued during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure to increase Handri-Neeva capacity to 6,300 cusecs, reducing effective flow to around 3,800 cusecs. With crops drying and farmers facing distress, he demanded full releases through Pothireddypadu, Malyala and Muchumarri. He announced that YSRCP would visit the Pothireddypadu Head Regulator on August 24 to protest the government's alleged neglect of Rayalaseema's water rights.

OBC Welfare Association Seeks Justice for 1998 DSC Candidates

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

All India OBC Welfare Association National President Angirekula Varaprasad Yadav urged Education Minister Nara Lokesh to provide justice to candidates who qualified in the 1998 DSC recruitment and appoint them as Academic Instructors.

Addressing a press meet at the OBC Welfare Association State Office in Labbipet, along with 1998 DSC Qualified Remaining Candidates Association President Dr. Epanangandla Srinivas, Varaprasad Yadav said candidates had been seeking justice for nearly 25 years. He alleged that the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy Government appointed 3,885 candidates without properly following the Rule of Reservation, affecting SC, ST, BC, women, minority and PH candidates. Nearly 1,500 candidates from eight districts were



reportedly affected. He recalled assurances by Nara Lokesh during the Yuva Galam Padayatra and Nara Chandrababu Naidu during elections, and said 595 posts related to the 1998 DSC remained vacant. He appealed to Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh to appoint eligible candidates as School Assistants/SGTs or Academic Instructors. Sanjeeva, Chinni Krishna, Rajasekhar, Raman janeyulu, Satyam Singh, Gopi Krishna, Bhagyamma and Venkatamma were present.

T S Reddy Nominated for Master of Photojournalism Honour

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada-based photojournalist T S Reddy has been selected for the prestigious Master of Photojournalism honour by the India International Photographic Council (IIPC), an associate partner of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), on the eve of the 187th World Photography Day. T S Reddy is among four Indian photographers chosen for international honours. T. Narayana of Hindustan Times and Sanjay Kumar of Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi, have also been selected, while celebrated photographer Raghu Rai has been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award in Photography (posthumous). The honours will be presented in New Delhi on December 24. Beginning as an ordinary IIPC member, T S Reddy later became Chairman of its Journalism and Colour Photography wings. He has played a key role in organising national and international photo salons and promoting photography among profes-



sionals and amateurs. Associated with India Today in its English and Telugu editions for several years, he currently serves as Chief Photojournalist of Snaps India and has authored articles for national and international journals. Over a career spanning more than four decades, he contributed to documenting the First World Telugu Conference (1975) and Divi Seema Cyclone (1977). His notable works include The Leader Through the Lens, documenting Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's political journey. His honours include the Ramnath Goenka Award (2007), Kalaratna-Hansa Puraskar (2016), Fellow of Royal Photographic Society (2021) and Master of the Australian Photographic Society (2026).

Youth Gain Entrepreneurial Skills At RTIH Camp



Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

A five-day entrepreneurship training camp organised by the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH), Vijayawada-Enikepadu, concluded on Friday with a special event marking World Entrepreneurs' Day. Held from August 17 to 21, the camp aimed to promote entrepreneurial thinking and innovation among youth. Around 100 students, including those from PB Siddhartha Institute of Technology, participated in the programme. Students received training in developing an entrepreneurial mindset, identifying problems, creating innovative solutions and developing business ideas. They presented 21 innovative ideas before a panel of experts, covering civic services, public transport, healthcare, clean drinking water and agriculture. Experts reviewed the concepts and offered suggestions for further development. Dr. Hari Babu, CEO of RTIH Vijayawada, highlighted the opportunities provided by the innovation hub and urged students to turn ideas into practical solutions and pursue entrepreneurship. RTIH staff, college faculty and students participated in the programme.

SFI to Organise 'Meet Gen-Z' on August 27

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Students' Federation of India (SFI) State Secretary Prasanna Kumar announced that the SFI State Committee will organise a 'Meet Gen-Z' programme on August 27 at 10 am at Makineni Basavapunniah Vignana Kendram (MBVK) in Vijayawada. SFI national leader and former JNU Students' Union President Aishe Ghosh, who played a key role in the 'Gen-Z' movement, will participate. Addressing a press conference at MBVK, Prasanna Kumar said students across the country were raising their issues and that experiences from the Jantar



Mantar movement would be discussed. He appealed to students to participate in large numbers. He alleged that Minister Nara Lokesh made contradictory statements in the Assembly on school closures, citing NITI Aayog figures claiming 972 schools were closed and 7,000 lacked basic amenities. He also criticised the government over the Saluru school-wall collapse, fee reimbursement and scholarship arrears. He said an agitation action plan would be announced on August 27.

RS.52.50-Crore Devotee Facilities Inaugurated at Indrakeeladri

Indrakeeladri, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy on Friday inaugurated the Sri Kanaka Durga Anna Prasada Sadanam and Sri Durga Bhavani Maha Prasada Bhavan at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam on Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada. The two buildings were constructed at a combined cost of RS.52.50 crore to improve facilities for devotees. Earlier, Anam Ramanarayana Reddy offered prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga and later dedicated the new facilities to devotees. The Minister, Vijayawada MP Kesineni

Sivanath (Chinni), and other public representatives personally served Anna Prasadam to devotees. The Anna Prasada Sadanam, built at a cost of RS.26 crore over 5,400 square metres, has a dining hall capable of accommodating 800 devotees at a time. The RS.26.50-crore Maha Prasadam building, spread across 3,600 square metres, includes facilities for the preparation, packaging and storage of Pulihora, Chakkara Pongali and Laddu prasadam. The Minister said mechanized kitchens would soon be introduced to ensure faster preparation and high hygiene standards. He also announced plans for a second ghat road

from Kummariapalem, with feasibility studies underway for a 700-metre route. A seven-storey building with multi-level parking and accommodation is proposed on three acres of TTD land at Kummariapalem to serve around 15,000 people. Plans also include a new tonsure hall and a 25-foot Adi Shankaracharya statue. Comprehensive arrangements are being made for the upcoming Dasara Sharanav aratri festivities, focusing on drinking water, prasadam, sanitation and security. Government Whip Yarlagadda Venkatrao, Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram, 20-Point Programme



Implementation Committee Chairman Lanka Dinakar, Brahmin Corporation Chairman Buchi Ram Prasad and other officials were present.

Narayana Assures Diarrhea Patients of Stable Health

Uyyuru, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Minister P. Narayana visited Uyyuru Government Hospital and interacted with residents of the affected 5th Ward to review the diarrhoea situation. He was accompanied by MLA Bode Prasad, former MLC Babu Rajendra Prasad and Joint Collector Naveen. Narayana said misinformation was being spread about the situation. He stated that

nine people were currently receiving treatment, while 11 people from Uyyuru and neighbouring villages had been hospitalised, including six from within the municipality. All patients were stable, he said. Clarifying a reported death, Narayana said a person admitted on the 17th with a cardiac condition had died, but there was no connection between the death and the diarrhoea outbreak. He said Uyyuru municipality

had a separate water supply pipeline from neighbouring villages. Officials were investigating whether contamination in the municipal pipeline or problems with RO plants caused the illness. Preliminary tests found no bacteria in drinking water. Narayana said old pipelines were being replaced in 123 municipalities under AMRUT 2.0, with works worth \$98 crore underway in Uyyuru.



SCoRWWO Vijayawada Marks Independence Day with Welfare Initiatives

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

The South Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (SCoRWWO), Vijayawada Division, celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and a series of welfare initiatives for railway employees, their families and the community. The celebrations began at the Railway Stadium, where Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division, Mohit Sonakiya hoisted the National Flag. SCoRWWO Vijayawada President Versha Sonakiya later presided over celebrations at Jack & Jill English Medium School run by the organisation and hoist-



ed the National Flag. She greeted students and distributed sweets along with SCoRWWO members. Versha Sonakiya also hoisted the National Flag at E-World, where members and staff participated in the celebrations. As part of the welfare activities, she donated an LG 55-inch television to the Cancer

Ward of Railway Hospital, Vijayawada, to improve the comfort and emotional well-being of patients. She also inaugurated the SCoRWWO office at the Railway Club. The programmes reflected the organisation's commitment to patriotism, compassion, service and the welfare of the railway community.

New Brezza Gets Strong Response In Telugu States

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

The new Maruti Suzuki Brezza has received a strong response from customers across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with 555 cars sold in the two Telugu states simultaneously on Thursday. The new model was launched in the states on July 25. To mark the sales milestone, Santosh Motors, an automobile dealership in Kanuru, Vijayawada, organised a special celebration. Keys to new Brezza cars were handed over to 11 customers during the event. Santosh Motors CEO Shyam said the response reflected customers' confidence in the Maruti brand. Sales Head Arvind said the new Brezza's advanced



features, enhanced safety standards, mileage and modern design had attracted both youth and families. They said bookings had been strong from the first day and efforts were being made to ensure speedy vehicle deliveries. Customers attending the event said they chose the new Brezza for its modern features and safety standards. Representatives and staff of Santosh Motors, along with new car owners, participated in the celebrations.

Swarnandhra Swachh Andhra To Focus On Clean Krishna

Machilipatnam, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

District In-charge Collector M. Naveen directed officials to ensure the success of the 'Swarnandhra Swachh Andhra' programme scheduled for Saturday through extensive public participation and coordinated efforts to transform Krishna district into a clean district. M. Naveen held a teleconference with the ZP CEO, District Panchayat, municipal and other officials from his camp office in Machilipatnam on Friday. He instructed officials to treat the programme as a priority and complete arrangements meticulously. He ordered special sanitation drives along national highways, identifying black spots prone to waste accumulation and convert-

ing them into green spots. Responsibilities must be assigned to officials and staff to maintain cleanliness continuously. In view of the Vice President's upcoming visit, sanitation operations must be intensified in villages along the travel route, ensuring roads and surroundings remain free of garbage. M. Naveen called for large-scale sanitation drives in every village and ward, with active participation from the public and elected representatives. He directed officials to upload details of sanitation activities, participants and works on the designated online platform. He stressed that Swarnandhra Swachh Andhra should promote continuous cleanliness rather than remain a one-day programme.

Vote Protection Forum Formed to Safeguard Electoral Rights

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

A 'Vote Protection Forum' has been formed to address alleged irregularities in the ongoing electoral revision process and safeguard the voting rights of eligible citizens. The decision was taken at a round-table meeting held at Balotsav Bhavan under the auspices of the CPI(M) Andhra Pradesh Committee on Friday. Advocate Sunkara Rajendra Prasad was appointed Convener. The forum includes A.B. Venkateswara Rao, K.S. Lakshmana Rao, V. Lakshmana Reddy, Ramesh Patnaik and Kurra Vasundhara, besides representatives of civil society organisations and political parties.

The final list will be announced after further consultations. CPI(M) State Secretary V. Srinivasa Rao presided. CPI State Secretariat member Janga Ajay Kumar, YSRCP senior leader Malladi Vishnu, APCC Vice-President Kolanukonda Shivaji, AILU National Working President Sunkara Rajendra Prasad, P. Prasad of CPI(ML) New Democracy, M. Venkata Reddy of MCPI(U), Uday of CPI(ML) Liberation and others attended. It demanded extended voter registration and verification deadlines, door-to-door enrolment, correction of electoral-roll errors and acceptance of valid identity documents.

VMC Urges Residents to Observe 'Dry Day' Every Friday



Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Biologist Surya Kumar Naik urged residents to observe a 'Dry Day' every Friday to prevent mosquito breeding and control mosquito-borne diseases. Under his supervision, and following the directions of the Commissioner and advice of In-charge Chief Medical Health Officer Gopala Naik, a 'Dry Day' programme was conducted in Shantinagar on Friday. Municipal staff inspected houses and surrounding areas for stagnant water and conducted anti-larval operations wherever mosquito larvae were found.

Residents were advised to remove water collected in flower pots, coconut shells, buckets, coolers, bottles, tyres and other containers. Officials said the VMC was regularly undertaking fogging, anti-larval operations and drain desilting to control mosquitoes. However, they stressed that public participation was essential to eliminate breeding grounds and prevent diseases such as malaria. Residents were asked to empty and clean water-holding containers every Friday and prevent stagnant water indoors and outdoors. Malaria inspectors, sanitary inspectors, ASHA workers, sanitation staff and other personnel participated in the programme.

UPSC Mains Begin Smoothly

Vijayawada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

The UPSC Civil Services Main examinations commenced peacefully in Vijayawada on Friday, with District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha inspecting arrangements at SRR and CVR Government Junior College. He reviewed the conduct of the Paper-I Essay examination and directed officials to ensure that candidates faced no inconvenience. The examinations are being conducted over five days-August 21, 22, 23, 29 and 30-in two sessions from 9 am to 12 noon and 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. A total of 124 candidates are scheduled to appear at the Vijayawada centre. On the first day, 120 candidates appeared for the Essay paper, while four were absent. Officials arranged uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, medical facilities, security and special public transport services. A control room has also been established for assistance. Meanwhile, Lakshminisha called for collective efforts to transform Vijayawada into a model city for road safety under the 'Ideal Town on Road Safety' project. He unveiled the project posters at the Collectorate. The initiative is being implemented with



Honda India Foundation as the CSR partner and TRAX as the implementing agency, in coordination with the Transport and Police departments. It targets a 10-15 per cent reduction in road accident fatalities and injuries through Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency Care. The programme will address accident-prone blackspots, promote traffic discipline and create awareness among nearly 70,000 students in 105 schools and 14 colleges. Representatives of Honda India Foundation, Vijayawada NHAJ Project Director Vidyasagar, TRAX General Secretary Rajani Gandhi, Regional Program Officer M. Vasu and others attended.

Uyyuru On Alert As Officials Probe Diarrhoea Cases

Uyyuru, August 21 | TPN Bureau

The district administration has stepped up surveillance in Uyyuru town and surrounding areas following reports of residents seeking medical attention for diarrhoea symptoms, including vomiting and loose stools. Acting on the directions of Krishna District In-charge Collector M. Naveen, officials from the Medical and Health Department, municipal and panchayat departments are monitoring the situation. A team led by Food Safety Officer Ravindra Reddy conducted extensive inspections in Uyyuru and nearby areas on Friday. Officials collected four water samples from areas surrounding the affected residents' homes and five food samples from nearby eateries. The samples were sent to an NABL-accredited laboratory in Chennai for analysis.

During the inspections, officials destroyed around 10 kg of Gobi Manchurian and chicken dishes prepared using banned synthetic food colours. A notice was also issued to a business establishment operating without a valid food licence. Food safety officials will conduct continuous inspections in Uyyuru and surrounding villages for the next 7 to 10 days and take action against outlets violating regulations. Medical and Health Department officials are ensuring necessary treatment for affected individuals. Authorities advised residents to consume safe drinking water, including boiled and cooled water, maintain food hygiene and seek medical care if symptoms develop. Officials said the exact cause can be confirmed only after laboratory reports are received and urged people not to panic.

Farming Costs Rose, But the Family Pulled Together

Uday Banavath

Devanakonda: Ramanjaneyulu, a farmer from Kanaka Dinne village near Velamukuru in Devanakonda mandal of Kurnool district, is facing severe difficulties in carrying out agricultural operations due to inadequate rainfall, the impact of El Niño and rising cultivation costs.

Ramanjaneyulu has been cultivating chilli and tomato crops, but the difficult farming conditions have added to the financial burden on his family. With rainfall remaining insufficient, farmers in the area are struggling to protect their crops and manage seasonal agricultural activities. The rising cost of cultivation has further increased the pressure on small and marginal farming families.

The difficulties became more evident on Friday when Ramanjaneyulu had to carry out farm work without the help of oxen. He was unable to afford the rental cost of



the animals required for agricultural operations. As schools were closed on Friday, his children joined him in the field along with other family members to complete the work.

Instead of hiring oxen, the family members themselves pulled the ropes attached to the traditional sowing implement, known as a gorru. Working together, they pulled the implement across the field and

carried out the required farm operations. The incident highlights the hardships faced by farming families in rural areas, where increasing input and labour costs are making cultivation increasingly difficult. For farmers dependent on seasonal rainfall, inadequate rains and changing weather patterns have added another layer of uncertainty. Ramanjaneyulu's family was compelled to depend on their own physical labour to continue farming after being unable to meet the cost of hiring oxen. The sight of children and other family members pulling the gorru reflected the financial strain faced by the household. The situation has drawn attention to the growing challenges confronting farmers, particularly those cultivating crops such as chilli and tomato that require considerable investment. Farmers are hoping for better rainfall and support to meet cultivation expenses and sustain their agricultural activities.

MLA Chanti Vows to Make Constituency Grievance-Free

Eluru, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

TDP District President and Eluru MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti) said efforts were being intensified to transform Eluru into a model constituency by resolving public grievances and ensuring welfare benefits reach every eligible beneficiary. A large number of people attended the Praja Darbar held on Friday at the MLA's camp office in Powerpet and submitted representations concerning pensions, housing sites and other issues. MLA Chanti resolved some grievances on the spot and directed officials to take immediate action on others. Speaking on the occasion, Chanti said steps were being taken to improve public health and financial security while helping eligible families realise their dream of owning a house. He said the government was committed to transpar-



ently extending schemes, including pensions and Thalliki Vandanam, to all eligible beneficiaries. Chanti also criticised YSRCP leaders over their allegations concerning Mega DSC. He said they had failed to substantiate their claims and questioned why they did not raise the issue in the Assembly despite Education Minister Nara Lokesh issuing an open challenge. He suggested that YSRCP should first seek an inquiry into irregularities in previous Group-1 examinations highlighted in the SIT report. He advised YSRCP leaders to act responsibly and focus on public issues.

Anaparthi MLA Raises Farmers' Urea Distribution Issues in Assembly

Amaravati, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy raised several difficulties faced by farmers in urea and DAP distribution during the fourth day of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly monsoon session. He urged the government to simplify the digital process and ensure technology does not inconvenience farmers. Ramakrishna Reddy said farmers were struggling with OTP requirements under the AP AIMS app. While owner-farmers require two OTPs, tenant farmers need three, often forcing them to wait at Rythu Bharosa Kendras when landowners are unavailable. He said the delay could also result in wage losses for agricultural labourers. He pointed out problems in DAP allocation, including unclear balances after the first instalment and difficulties faced by farmers with 50-cent holdings who are allocated half a bag. He sought changes to display updated balances and resolve half-bag allocation issues. The MLA also highlighted prob-



lems where landowners have holdings in multiple locations and tenant farmers cultivate Endowments Department lands under a single LP number. He said treating the entire district as one unit under the central NFSF app was causing uneven distribution. He cited Pedapudi Mandal, where the target was 610 tonnes but bookings had already reached 720 tonnes. Ramakrishna Reddy further raised disparities in crop insurance premiums between districts, noting rates of \$70 in Konaseema, \$760 in Kakinada and over \$500 in East Godavari. He urged the government to formulate a uniform approach to prevent confusion among farmers in neighbouring areas.

Srivari Mettu Vendors' Protest Completes Two Years

Tirupati, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

The protest by small-scale vendors at Srivari Mettu completed two years on Friday, with CITU State Vice-President Kandarapu Murali demanding immediate justice for 28 families who have been denied livelihoods. The agitation began on August 21, 2024, and completed 730

days. Murali, along with CITU District President S. Jayachandra and State Committee member G. Balasubramanyam, visited the protest camp outside the TTD administrative building. He alleged that the vendors, who had served pilgrims on the Srivari Mettu route for over 25 years, were deprived of their livelihoods citing tiger movement.

Murali questioned why shops continue on the Alipiri route despite tiger sightings and incidents, while vendors at Srivari Mettu have been denied permits. He said the vendors had also helped apprehend red sandalwood smugglers and assisted pilgrims during medical emergencies. He questioned the delay despite assurances from TTD Board Chairman



B.R. Naidu, Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani and TTD Additional EO Venkayya Chowdary. He

urged the TTD management and state government to resolve the issue and restore the vendors' livelihoods. Srivari Mettu Small-Scale Vendors' Association President Chittibabu, Gen eral Secretary Madhu, Yug andhar, Ganesh, Ram babu, Prakash, Sonu, Rammurthy, Pencha layya, Mallika rjun, Gopi and Rajash ekhar participated.

EAGLE, Police Conduct Cannabis Checks on Coromandel Express



Eluru, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Special checks targeting the illegal transportation of cannabis were conducted on the 12841 Coromandel Express at Eluru under the aegis of EAGLE. The operation was carried out following the orders of EAGLE IGP Ake Ravi Krishna and District SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore. Personnel from EAGLE, Police, Excise, Government

Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) jointly participated in the inspection. The train, which was arriving from Odisha via Eluru, was thoroughly checked for the illegal transportation of narcotics. During the operation, suspicious individuals were identified and their bags and luggage were carefully inspected. The coordinated checks were aimed at preventing the movement of cannabis through railway routes and strengthening surveillance against narcotics trafficking. Eluru Rural SI Nagababu, EAGLE RSI B. Udayabhaskar, Excise SI Gouri Shankar and other personnel participated in the drive.

Speaking on the occasion, EAGLE RSI Udayabhaskar said inspections and surveillance would continue in coordination with various departments to curb the illegal trafficking of narcotics. He appealed to the public to cooperate with enforcement agencies and promptly report information regarding cannabis or other narcotics. He said members of the public could contact the EAGLE helpline at 1972 or the emergency number 112 to share information on narcotics trafficking. Officials said coordinated operations would continue to strengthen checks on railway routes.

Bishop Dr Thomas Receives Best Nation Builder Leader Award

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Bishop Dr Thomas, founder of the Dahinchu Agni (Consuming Fire) ministry, has received the Best Nation Builder Leader Award 2026 from the US-based United Nations University for Global Peace, recognising his spiritual and humanitarian services. Dr Thomas said he has served the Lord for 36 years and dedicated his resources to supporting the poor, marginalised and destitute. His ministry provides daily meals and essentials to beggars, vocational training and sewing machines to widows, and free education and meals to 100 orphaned children. It also assists victims of natural disasters. Koyye Moshenu Raju, Chairman of the



Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council; Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, Minister for Social Welfare; Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao, Vijayawada Central MLA and TDP Vice President; and Sridhar, Secretary, Minority Welfare Department, congratulated him. At a prayer meeting at the Dahinchu Agni Auditorium on Friday, devotees and volunteers honoured Dr Thomas with a shawl.

Rotary Club of Nidadavolu Wins Club Excellence Award

Nidadavolu, August 21 | TPN Bureau

The Rotary Club of Nidadavolu, under Rotary International District 3020, has received the prestigious Club Excellence Award for the 2025-26 year in recognition of its dedicated service and community welfare initiatives. The award acknowledged the club's efforts to uphold Rotary objectives and serve people across the region. The club also secured several awards in various categories, including Community Service, Vocational Service, New Generation Service, Public Image, Disease Prevention, Water and Sanitation, and Maternal and Child Welfare. The recognitions were presented for a range of welfare and service activities carried out by club members for the benefit of the community. Members of the public congratulated 2025-26 Rotary Club President Meesala Sivarama Hariprasad, Secretary Darapureddy Srirama Pratap, Treasurer Guntupalli Satya Sai and all club members on the achievement. They appreciated the members' commitment, dedication and spirit of service, stating that the multiple recognitions reflected the collective efforts of the club. They expressed hope that the awards would encourage the Rotary Club of Nidadavolu to expand its welfare programmes and undertake more community service initiatives in the coming year.



Physician Dr. Davidson Solomon Passes Away, Chirala Mourns

Chirala, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Prominent physician Dr. Davidson Solomon, known for his dedicated medical and humanitarian services in the Chirala region, passed away, leaving the local medical community and many patients in grief. Dr. Davidson Solomon was widely respected for providing medical care and free services to people living with HIV/AIDS. Beyond treatment, he offered continuous counselling and emotional support, helping patients overcome fear, stigma and social misconceptions associated with the dis-



ease. He treated medicine as a service to humanity and earned the trust of patients and their families through his compassionate approach. His efforts to help HIV/AIDS patients live with dignity and confidence in society were

widely appreciated. His death has been mourned by the local community and voluntary organisations working for the welfare of HIV/AIDS patients. Family members said the funeral rites will be held on Sunday, August 23, at 3 PM.

Farmers Urge Officials to Restore Irrigation Water



Pittalavanipalem, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Farmers of Alluru village in Pittalavanipalem Mandal have urged irrigation officials to restore irrigation water supply through the canal, alleging that water meant for their village is being diverted to Peddapalli village in the Repalle constituency. The farmers said the diversion has created serious difficulties for their agricultural activities and could result in heavy financial losses if crops do not receive adequate water. They recalled that Alluru had earlier received irrigation water through the canal. According to the farmers, cultivation is currently taking place on only about 10 acres in Alluru, while more than 500 acres are being cultivated in Peddapalli. They urged officials to consider the extent of cultivated land while deciding water distribution. The farmers said they had approached the irrigation office and brought the issue to officials' attention. They appealed for an immediate review of the diversion and requested that irrigation water be supplied to Alluru to protect their crops and investments.

Collector Announces SIR-2026 Drive on August 22, 23

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

District Election Officer and East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri announced that special campaign days under the Special Intensive Revision-2026 (SIR-2026) of electoral rolls will be held across the district on August 22 and 23, following Election Commission of India guidelines. BLOs and BLO Supervisors have been directed to remain available at polling stations across all eight Assembly constituencies from 9 AM to 5 PM to assist voters and receive applications. Form-6 will be accepted for new voter registration, Form-8 for corrections or changes in voter details, and Form-7 for objections or deletion of names from the electoral roll. Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to scrutinise applications and complete online processing without delay. BLO Supervisors must personally inspect polling stations and monitor attendance, receipt of applications and services provided to voters. AEROs, Additional AEROs and Mandal



Special Officers have been instructed to remain available in the field and coordinate with BLOs during the campaign. Officials were also asked to conduct extensive awareness programmes at village and ward levels, encouraging eligible citizens to register and existing voters to verify their details. The Collector warned that disciplinary action would be taken against BLOs and BLO Supervisors absent from duty without prior permission. She directed the Joint Collector, EROs, AEROs, Additional AEROs, Mandal-level officials and election staff to work together to ensure accurate and transparent electoral rolls.

Nookalamma Decorated with \$10 Lakh for Varalakshmi Vratam

Anakapalli, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

The Sri Nookalamma Temple in Anakapalli witnessed grand celebrations on Friday on the occasion of Varalakshmi Vratam, observed on the second Friday of the Shravana month. The presiding deity was presented in the form of Dhana Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth, drawing a large number of devotees. Priests and temple staff decorated Goddess Nookalamma and the temple premises with currency notes worth approximately ?10 lakh. The unique decoration, made using notes of various denominations, attracted the attention of devotees and added grandeur to the celebrations. Women devotees began arriving at the temple from the early hours to participate in the special festivities. Several women performed Varalakshmi Vratam rituals and special pujas collectively within the temple premises. They offered naivedyam and sought the blessings of Goddess Nookalamma for the well-being and prosperity of their families.



Devotees offered special prayers to the deity in her Dhana Lakshmi form, seeking health, longevity and Ashta Aishwaryam, the eight forms of prosperity. The temple witnessed a festive and spiritual atmosphere throughout the day, with devotees participating in the rituals and seeking the Goddess's blessings on the auspicious occasion.

Gangamma Thalli Adorned with Bangles for Varalakshmi Vratam

Tirupati, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of Varalakshmi Vratam on Friday, the presiding deity at the Tatayyagunta Gangamma Thalli Temple in Tirupati was adorned with a unique arrangement of bangles and offered special darshan to devotees. Temple Chairman Mahesh Yadav, along with board members, priests and Executive Officers, made special arrangements for the occasion. Devotees turned up in large numbers to seek the blessings of Gangamma Thalli and participate in the special religious observances. The temple



premises witnessed a festive atmosphere as devotees performed prayers and offered worship during the auspicious Varalakshmi Vratam celebrations.

Children in Need of Care and Protection: A Crisis Society Cannot Ignore

A child needs very little to grow into a happy and responsible citizen, a safe home, loving parents, nutritious food, education, health-care and protection from abuse and exploitation.

A child is not born with the ability to choose his or her parents, family, economic circumstances or social environment. Yet, every child is born with a right to care, protection, dignity, education and a safe childhood. The increasing number of Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) raises a deeply uncomfortable question: Are families and society gradually failing in their responsibility towards children?

CNCP is not merely a legal category. Behind every such child is a story of neglect, poverty, abandonment, exploitation, family breakdown, abuse or circumstances beyond the child's control. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, as amended in 2021, defines a broad range of children as needing care and protection. This includes orphaned, abandoned, surrendered, neglected, homeless and street-connected children, children who are exploited or forced into labour or begging, and others requiring state care and protection.

Is the problem increasing?

There is no single, continuously updated national statistical series that proves that the total CNCP population is increasing every day. In fact, the Government itself recognizes the need for better mapping and district-level databases to understand the number and trends of children in difficult circum-

stances. Mission Vatsalya requires State Child Protection Societies and District Child Protection Units to maintain such databases. **Why are children being abandoned or surrendered?**

It would be unfair to blame every parent who gives up a child. The reasons can be complex. Extreme poverty, unemployment, homelessness, migration, domestic violence, death of a parent, illness, disability, unwanted pregnancy, social stigma, family conflict and lack of support can push parents into desperate decisions.

There are also cases where children are abandoned because parents simply do not want to accept responsibility. Some parents may regard a child as a financial burden, particularly when the child has a disability or requires long-term medical care. In other cases, children are left behind because of family breakdown, remarriage, substance abuse or irresponsible behavior. In my experience as a Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee, I have witnessed some adolescent mothers abandoning children born due to illegal relationships too.

But poverty cannot become an excuse for abandonment. Nor can society remain a silent spectator. Parents have a moral and social responsibility to protect and nurture their children. At the same time, society and the State have a responsibility to support families when they are unable to cope.

What do child rights say?

India's child-protection framework is based on the principle that the best interests of the child must come first. The JJ Act seeks to pro-



vide care, protection, development, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration through a child-friendly approach.

The law also recognizes that institutional care should not become the permanent solution. Mission Vatsalya promotes both institutional and family-based non-institutional care, including sponsorship, foster care, adoption and after-care.

Child Welfare Committees are empowered to make appropriate decisions for CNCP children.

The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) is central to determining what should happen to a CNCP child. Child Care Institutions, District Child Protection Units, Specialized Adoption Agencies, foster-care systems and other statutory mechanisms are intended to work together for the child's rehabilitation and reintegration. Importantly, a surrendered or

abandoned child is not a child without rights. That child too has the right to safety, identity, health-care, education, emotional support, family-based care wherever possible, and a future with dignity. The solution must begin with families.

The first solution is prevention rather than institutionalization. Vulnerable families should be identified before they reach the point of abandoning a child. ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers are the ultimate frontline compass for finding and protecting most vulnerable families. Mission Vatsalya provides for sponsorship support of ₹4,000 per month per child for vulnerable children living with biological or extended families, helping meet education, nutrition and health needs. Foster care and after-care support are also part of the program. Such assistance should reach families



BVS Kumar

Former Chairman
Child Welfare Committee
Krishna district

quickly and without excessive bureaucracy. A small amount of timely financial assistance may prevent a child from entering institutional care.

Second, parenting education and counseling must become part of community child-protection programs. Parents should understand that children are not economic commodities or burdens.

Third, every surrendered or abandoned child should receive professional psychological assessment and counseling. Separation from parents can create lifelong emotional trauma. Food and shelter alone are not enough.

Fourth, the government should strengthen foster care, sponsorship and adoption. Adoption must always follow the legal process and the best interests of the child. India's CARA system provides a structured mechanism for adoption of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children.

Fifth, Child Helpline and community vigilance need to become stronger. Under Mission Vatsalya, Child Helpline 1098 is integrated with the emergency response system and is now being implemented across all 36 States and Union Territories. Finally, every village, ward and municipality should have a child-protection network involving teachers, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, police,

local bodies, NGOs and responsible citizens.

A collective responsibility

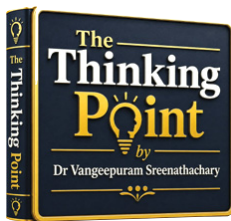
The growing visibility of CNCP children should not be treated merely as a welfare issue. It is a warning about the health of our families and society. A child should never become homeless because a family became helpless. Every abandoned child represents a failure somewhere, of a family, a community, a system or society. But every rescued and rehabilitated child represents an opportunity to correct that failure.

The real solution is to strengthen families, support vulnerable parents, prevent separation, protect children from abuse and exploitation, and provide family-based rehabilitation wherever possible. India has the laws, institutions and programs necessary to protect vulnerable children. What is needed now is stronger implementation, better data, quicker intervention and, above all, a change in social attitude. Let us build a Country, where no child is abandoned because a family is poor, no child is surrendered because support was unavailable.

The real measure of a child-protection system is not how many children it rescues after they are abandoned, but how many families it succeeds in strengthening before abandonment happens.

When Age Needs Dignity

Growing Older Should Never Mean Becoming Invisible



An elderly father sits quietly in the living room. His children are nearby, his grandchildren are busy with their phones, and the television fills the room with sound. The house is not empty. Yet, for him, it may feel painfully silent.

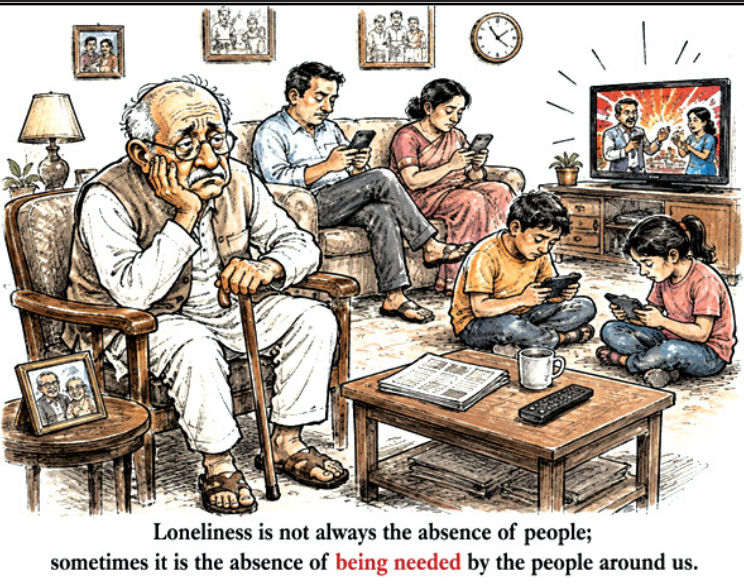
This is one of the less visible realities of ageing. Loneliness in old age does not always mean living alone. A person may share a home with an entire family and still feel emotionally isolated-when nobody seeks their opinion, listens to their stories, asks how they feel, or simply sits beside them for a conversation. Perhaps that is why loneliness needs a deeper definition: it is not always the absence of people; sometimes it is the absence of being needed by the people around us. As we observe World Senior Citizens' Day on 21st August, this deserves our attention.

The Need to Feel Needed

Ageing changes more than the body. It can quietly change a person's place within the family and society. Retirement may take away a professional identity, children become independent, and responsibilities gradually pass into younger hands. What hurts is not merely having less to do, but feeling there is less to contribute. For decades, today's seniors raised families, built careers, solved problems and carried responsibilities. When others no longer depend on them, some may quietly wonder: "Does anyone still need me?" Human beings need not only care and security, but also purpose, participation and dignity. Growing older should never mean becoming invisible. Elders need opportunities to advise, contribute, decide and belong.

When Care Becomes Only Physical

Many families genuinely care for their elders. Medicines are purchased, doctor visits arranged, meals prepared and physical comfort ensured. Yet, in our busy lives, we sometimes mistake caregiving for connection. An elderly person needs more than food, medicine and comfort. They need conversation, inclusion and someone to ask, "What do you think?" A ten-minute conversation may sometimes mean more than an expensive gift. Respectful care also means allowing older people to do what they still can. Excessive protection can unintentionally reduce independence and self-worth. The real question is not merely, "Are we taking care of our elders?" but



Loneliness is not always the absence of people;
sometimes it is the absence of **being needed** by the people around us.

Dr Vangeepuram
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"Do they feel valued, heard and included?"

From Dependence to Participation One of the greatest gifts we can offer older people is not sympathy, but participation. Age may reduce physical strength, but it does not erase experience, wisdom or the desire to contribute. Families can seek elders' advice and give them meaningful responsibilities. Communities can involve senior citizens in mentoring young people, sharing professional knowledge, volunteering or neighbourhood activities. Such engagement benefits both generations. We must also resist treating every older person as helpless. Many simply want to remain useful and independent for as long as possible. The question should shift from "What can we do for them?" to "What can we continue to do with them?" That small shift can restore something invaluable: a sense of purpose.

The Bridge Between Generations

A child who spends time listening to a grandparent's story receives something no screen can provide-a living connection with another generation. Older people carry memories of families, struggles, traditions and social change. When grandchildren listen, ask questions or seek advice, they are quietly saying: "You still matter to me." The exchange works both ways. Young people can help elders navigate technology, while elders offer perspective and lessons drawn from experience. A healthy family should not allow generations merely to live under the same roof; it should help them live in one another's lives. Sometimes, the best gift we can give an ageing parent or grandparent is simply

our unhurried presence.

Small Acts, Profound Meaning Supporting older people does not require grand gestures. Call an elderly parent even when there is nothing important to discuss. Sit beside them without constantly checking the phone. Seek their opinion. Encourage friendships, hobbies and routines. Celebrate what they can still do. Above all, listen without hurrying them. An oft-repeated story may be more than information; it may be a way of revisiting a meaningful life and sharing a part of themselves. Respect in old age is reflected in time, patience, inclusion and attention. Sometimes, making someone feel valued begins with a simple question: "Tell me-what do you think?"

Dignity Has No Retirement Age

World Senior Citizens' Day should make us examine how older people experience everyday life within our homes and communities. Longer life is a triumph, but those added years must carry meaning, choice and belonging. Our elders do not ask us to stop our lives for them. They ask, often without saying it, for a place within our lives. One day, if we are fortunate, we too will grow old. The society we create for today's elderly is also the society we are creating for our future selves. Let us add life to their years-not merely years to their lives. Age may change what a person can do; it should never change how much a person matters.

(The Author is a Consultant Psychologist, Rehabilitation Professional - RCI, Academic & Research Mentor, and Guinness, Asia, Limca & India Book Records Holder)

Let Us Question Our Responsibility Before Blaming Children



Recently, I watched a Korean series titled 'Teach You a Lesson' with great interest. In the series, Choi Ga-yoon, a teacher deeply committed to children, is killed by a student addicted to drugs. The tragedy raises a disturbing question before the family, education system and government: "Where were we when this student was turning into such a serious criminal?"

Though the story is fictional, the questions it raises are real. The recent incident in Telangana, in which Class X students allegedly attacked and killed their school principal with a knife for money, has similarly shocked parents, teachers, schools, government and society.

The crime must be condemned, the law must take its course, and those responsible must face appropriate consequences. But as a teacher, my concern goes beyond punishment. How did these children get exposed to drugs? How did intoxicating substances reach them? Who noticed changes in their behaviour? Why did they need money? Who was listening to the problems growing inside their minds? If we do not ask these questions, we may simply be waiting for another tragedy.

Parents today provide children with good schools, clothes, mobile phones, internet access and coaching. But children need something even more valuable-time and freedom to talk. Instead of asking only, "How many marks did you get?", parents should ask, "What happened to you today?", "Who are your friends?", "Is anything troubling you?" and "Is anyone influencing you towards harmful habits?" Before checking a child's room, we should learn to check the child's mind. Facilities are important, but children also need values, discipline, empathy and responsibility.

A teacher is not merely a person who teaches a textbook. A teacher must also notice changes in a stu-

Kasula Ravi Kumar

Poet, Teacher &
Founder - LEAD Rural
Libraries

dent's behaviour. Frequent absenteeism, loss of interest in studies, anger, unusual spending, suspicious friendships, substance use, violence or detachment from family and school may be warning signs. Instead of immediately calling a child "bad," we should ask, "What happened to this child?" Parents, teachers, counsellors, school authorities and relevant professionals must intervene before a problem becomes a crisis. Every school therefore needs a strong counselling system. Counselling should not be reserved for students who are already in serious trouble. Children should regularly learn about the dangers of drugs, bad company, anger management, emotional regulation, social-media influence, the ability to say "No" and the importance of seeking help. Every child should have someone trustworthy to whom they can speak without fear.

At the same time, teachers also need protection. When a teacher or principal loses life at the hands of a student, it is not merely a personal tragedy; it raises questions about school safety. What happens when teachers receive threats? Is there an early-warning system for violent behaviour? Are parents, schools and authorities working together when a student displays serious behavioural problems? Protecting teachers' rights does not mean reducing students' rights. The safety of teachers and students are two wings of the same education system.

The growing exposure of school-children to drugs is also a serious social problem. We must ask not only what the child did, but also

who supplied the substance, who sold it and how it reached the child. Government departments, police, health authorities, child-welfare agencies, schools and local bodies must work together. Prevention must become stronger than reaction.

The lesson from 'Teach You a Lesson' is not that we should respond with greater harshness. Children need clear boundaries, discipline and accountability, but they also need understanding and hope. A young person's mistake should never become an excuse for ignoring a crime, but neither should punishment prevent us from understanding the journey that led to it.

It is easy to identify a criminal after a crime has been committed. The greater responsibility is to identify a child who is moving towards becoming one-and help that child before it is too late.

If we allow this tragedy to become just another news story, we have learnt nothing. But if it leads to stronger counselling, safer schools, responsible parenting, effective drug prevention and better coordination among institutions, the tragedy can become a turning point.

Let us not prepare children merely for examinations; let us prepare them for life. Let us put books in their hands, values in their minds, compassion in their hearts and courage to seek help when they struggle.

Punishment after a crime is necessary, but prevention before the crime is far more important. Only by moving in this direction can we offer a true tribute to the bereaved family!

After 80 Years, How Mature and Nationalist is Our Politics?

Let me begin by once again quoting former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Churchill was staunchly opposed to Indian independence and held deeply skeptical views regarding the country's capacity for democratic self-governance. His comments on the subject often reflected his belief in British imperial rule and his skepticism toward Indian political leaders. When discussing the prospect of granting independence to India, Churchill made a grim prediction. He said, "If Independence is granted to India, power will go to the hands of rascals, rogues, freebooters. All Indian leaders will be of low caliber and men of straw. They will have sweet tongues and silly hearts. They will fight amongst themselves for power and India will be lost in political squabbles. A day would come when even air and water would be taxed in India." Even after 80 years, there is a prevailing public sentiment that politicians are mere opportunists driven by personal gain rather than national service. Consequently, encountering a politician in personal or public life often evokes the image of a thief or a liar. Although there have been true gentlemen in our political arena, their tenures have often been short-lived. The remedy lies in bringing strong ideology into politics

and governance, with nationalism being the most effective. A look at progressive post-colonial countries reveals that those prioritizing a nationalist vision in their policymaking are the ones advancing most rapidly. For the uninitiated reader, it is worth recalling the true meaning of political science. Simply put, politicians are individuals specializing in creating and implementing policies that foster a country's democratic values and growth. How many such leaders do we actually come across in India today? It has become fashionable to compare India with other global democracies. Depending on the ideological leaning of the survey, India often ranks below the top 50. This is despite the fact that we daily navigate intricate, multifaceted challenges, ranging from religious diversity and reservation policies to regional divides, while unfortunately often relegating poverty alleviation to an afterthought. Churchill firmly believed that India's diversity would act as an insurmountable barrier to its stability and growth. He argued that India, with its vast multitude of languages, castes, and religions, was even more diverse than Europe, and that granting dominion status would fracture the unity painstakingly built by the British Raj over a century and a half. He contended that responsible government required levels



of literacy and education that would remain remote in India for at least a generation. This was one of his greatest misconceptions. The wisdom, tolerance, and education of the Indian people do not stem merely from school textbooks; they are ingrained in their very DNA. Whether Hindu, Muslim, or Christian, all are inherently Bharatiya in their bloodline. Present-day India is predominantly a nation of youth, yet our state assemblies and national Parliament are largely occupied by aging veterans. There is a slight

relief now: the average age of Members of Parliament (MPs) in the 18th Lok Sabha is 56 years, a marginal decrease from the 17th Lok Sabha's 59 years. Currently, 11% of MPs are aged 40 or below, 38% are between 41 and 55, and 52% are over the age of 55. Recent political dramas witnessed in Parliament and across Delhi reaffirm that foreign 'toolkits' can easily undermine a developing India with minimal effort, especially if they can orchestrate a massive social media campaign. This destabilization is highly sought after by

nations attempting to topple a government that has elevated the Indian economy to top global ranks and secured unprecedented respect for Indians abroad. India is now emerging as a powerhouse, capable of first satisfying its domestic market with world-class, indigenously manufactured products, before looking toward global markets. This extends to defense manufacturing-a sector historically monopolized by a few global powers wielding muscle power. These countries, often under the leadership of the US, have been known to foment

Ram Kamal



Social Engineer

global unrest and support radical elements to sustain their arms sales. It is widely acknowledged that the US and its allies' benefit from unrest in the Middle East, not only to sell arms but also to maintain a monopoly over oil and gas. They have played a role in cultivating modern radical Islamic factions, planting the seeds for numerous extremist groups. Drawing on my personal experience as a journalist in the Middle East, covering events from the Kuwait invasion through the Gulf War, I can attest that the vast majority of Muslims are inherently peaceful. However, since the mid-1980s, the foreign funding of radical opposition groups in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan has coerced many peaceful Muslims into becoming silent spectators, intimidated by radical clerics and extremist factions. A similar dynamic threatens Indian Muslims today. The social fabric of brotherhood we once enjoyed is eroding, and these toolkits are actively deployed to amplify fear among Indian Muslims and Christians, a narrative often amplified by the political opposition. They took FCRA

and spread fear mongering among Christians. Fact is that 16% is only coming in the accounts of Christian missionaries and India is warring against the Urban Naxals rather than religious minorities. These global actors do not want peace in India, nor do they want India to become a threat to their lucrative enterprises. I consciously use the term "entering the global defense market" rather than "arms trading," as the nature of our exports is defensive. However, current destabilization toolkits are working effectively in India, often aided by an elite class of scholarly, anti-national individuals. This is precisely why recent parliamentary debates on "Urban Naxals" resulted in severe disruptions. Tomorrow as the last of this series, we will discuss how we can cleanse Indian politics and ensure the smooth functioning of Parliament. For context, our Parliament has one of the lowest numbers of working days globally, operating for only about 60 days a year, often without effective discussion. Amidst these "Politricks," how can we possibly expect genuine grassroots development to take place in India?

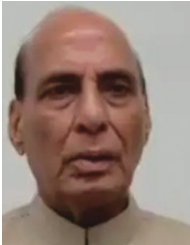
Tarique Rahman Likely To Visit India Soon

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is expected to visit New Delhi between August 23 and 25, amid continuing tensions between India and Bangladesh over Dhaka's demand for the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Rahman, who leads the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, was initially expected to travel to India on Friday. However, the visit is now likely to take place next week. The proposed trip comes at a sensitive time in India-Bangladesh relations, with Sheikh Hasina's extradition emerging as a major point of disagreement between the two countries. Hasina has been living in India since August 2024, when she left Bangladesh following widespread protests that led to the fall of her government. Bangladesh has since repeatedly sought her extradition. She was later sentenced to death in absentia by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal after being convicted of crimes against humanity. Hasina has rejected the charges and described them as politically motivated. Dhaka has made the extradition issue a key demand in its engagement with New Delhi. Bangladesh has formally asked India to hand over Hasina under the extradition treaty between the two countries. The issue has become a major test for bilateral relations. India, meanwhile, has maintained that the extradition request is being examined through established legal procedures. Indian officials have indicated that the decision would involve the appropriate legal process rather than being determined solely on political or diplomatic considerations. The situation became more complicated after Hasina participated in a virtual press interaction from New Delhi earlier this month. Bangladesh strongly objected to the event, arguing that political activities by its former leader from Indian territory could affect bilateral relations. India subsequently clarified that it had no role in organising the interaction and did not endorse the views expressed by Hasina. Against this backdrop, Rahman's proposed visit assumes considerable diplomatic significance. Discussions could focus on the extradition request as well as broader bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries. India and Bangladesh share strong economic, security and regional interests. A meeting between Narendra Modi and Tarique Rahman could therefore provide an opportunity to address current tensions and explore areas of cooperation. The proposed August 23-25 visit will be closely watched for any developments on the Sheikh Hasina extradition issue and the future course of India-Bangladesh relations.



Rajnath Singh Slams Congress Over Vande Mataram

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has strongly criticised the Congress over its decision to recite only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram at party programmes. Describing the decision as "extremely regrettable", Singh said the issue was not merely political but connected to respect for the national song and the country's constitutional values. Speaking on the controversy, Singh questioned the Congress's approach towards Vande Mataram and said Parliament is the country's highest legislative institution. He argued that decisions and laws made by Parliament must be respected by all political parties. The Defence Minister also referred to the Congress Working Committee's 1937 resolution on Vande Mataram. He alleged that the Congress had then compromised with the demands of the Muslim League and claimed that such political compromises contributed to circumstances that eventually resulted in Partition. Singh accused the Congress of repeating what he described as a similar mistake in the present day by allegedly compromising with radical elements. He warned that such an approach could have serious consequences for the country in the future. The controversy erupted after the Congress decided to continue singing only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram during its organisational programmes. The party has defended the decision by pointing to its historical position adopted in 1937. The BJP has strongly attacked the Congress over the issue, accusing the opposition party of disrespecting the national song and questioning its commitment to national symbols. The dispute has also been linked to an incident during Independence Day celebrations at the Congress headquarters. BJP leaders alleged that senior Congress leaders were seen talking while Vande Mataram was being rendered. (Singh described the Congress stand as "unconstitutional and reprehensible" and warned that such positions could create serious political consequences. The Vande Mataram controversy has now become another major flashpoint between the BJP and Congress, with the ruling party making patriotism and national identity central to its criticism, while Congress continues to defend its historical position on the rendition of the national song.



A 'Let Us Move Together' Path for Southern India's Development

CM Naidu's Proposals Aim For A Stronger South

Southern India developing individually is one approach; developing as an interconnected economic region is another. Giving greater importance to the second approach, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu placed a series of proposals before the 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council. The meeting, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and held at Kovalam-Mahabalipuram near Chennai, discussed the joint development of southern states, resolution of inter-state issues and better coordination between the Centre and the states. The most significant idea in Chandrababu's proposals was that of a "Connected South." He proposed a stronger transport network linking Amaravati, Bengaluru and Chennai, along with a bullet train corridor connecting Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. He also suggested routing the corridor through Kuppam. Since Kuppam is his own Assembly constituency, the proposal could invite political debate. However, it would be more appropriate to view it in the larger context of strengthening Andhra Pradesh's integration with the Bengaluru-Chennai industrial and economic corridor. From Transport to Logistics The bullet train was not the only proposal. Chandrababu also suggested creating a common logistics network and dry ports across southern states. If implemented, such a system could reduce the time and cost of freight movement while connecting ports, industrial centres and inland markets through an integrated logistics network. Andhra Pradesh has a long coastline and major port potential; Tamil Nadu possesses strong industrial and port infrastructure; and Karnataka has enormous technological and services-sector strength centred around Bengaluru. Connecting these complementary strengths through efficient transport and logistics could provide a fresh impetus to the southern economy. Power, Education and Skills Another proposal was to strengthen the integration of southern states' power grids with the national grid. Chandrababu also called for a consortium of universities and skill-development institutions across the South. This is particularly significant because future investments will require more than land, electricity and connectivity. They will need a skilled workforce. Bengaluru's technology ecosystem, Chennai's industrial strength, Kerala's human-resource capabilities and the emerging educational and industrial opportunities in Andhra Pradesh could together form a powerful regional skill-development platform. Such cooperation could help the South compete more effectively for global investments and emerging industries. From Disaster Management to Tourism Chandrababu's proposal for a Mutual Aid Force among southern states is another forward-looking idea. During floods, cyclones, heavy rains, industrial accidents or other disasters, states could provide each other with trained personnel, equipment and technical assistance. A permanent mechanism of this nature could significantly strengthen regional disaster-management capabilities. He also proposed a common spiritual tourism circuit connecting Tirupati with major pilgrimage destinations such as Kashi, Ayodhya and the Char Dham. Tirupati, one of India's most prominent pilgrimage centres,



could serve as an important gateway for connecting southern pilgrims and tourists with spiritual destinations across the country. From 31 Per Cent to a \$10 Trillion Economy Chandrababu pointed out that southern states together contribute around 31 per cent of India's GDP and suggested that the southern economy could potentially reach \$10 trillion by 2047. The figure represents more than an economic target. It reflects the argument that southern states can increase their contribution to India's growth by combining cooperation with competition. The South already possesses considerable strengths in technology, manufacturing, services, ports, IT, healthcare, education and tourism. If these strengths are better integrated, southern India could evolve from a geographical region into a powerful economic growth centre. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also highlighted the importance of high literacy, skilled human resources and technological capabilities in the development of southern India, while assuring the region of the Centre's support. But Water Will Be the Real Test Cooperation among southern states sounds easier than implementing it. The most difficult issue is likely to be water. Chandrababu proposed greater cooperation among Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on river-water management. He also argued that linking the Godavari and Cauvery could potentially transfer more than 500 TMC of water and help address Tamil Nadu's long-term water requirements. He called for a long-term national plan for linking the Ganga and Cauvery as well. However, river interlinking is not merely an engineering exercise. It involves water rights, interstate agreements, environmental clearances, rehabilitation, financial costs and the actual availability of surplus water. Different states have already expressed differing views on various aspects of

Chennu Peddiraju



Senior Journalist

the Godavari-Cauvery proposal. Therefore, taking such projects forward will require political consensus as well as scientific and legal processes. Chandrababu's emphasis on time-bound preparation of Detailed Project Reports and approvals indicates an attempt to move such proposals beyond announcements towards defined implementation timelines. Andhra Pradesh's Own Agenda Alongside the broader southern development agenda, Chandrababu also placed several Andhra Pradesh-specific issues before the Centre. He sought faster resolution of the division of institutions listed under Schedules IX and X of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, along with issues relating to resource deficits and Section 56. He also sought continued central support for Polavaram, the South Coast Railway Zone and Amaravati. At the same time, he called for faster approvals for proposals including Dugarajapatnam Port, a refinery, the Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada Metro and the Kadapa-JSW railway link. The larger message from the Southern Zonal Council is therefore not merely about individual projects. It is about creating a framework in which southern states can grow together by connecting their strengths. For that vision to become reality, however, political consensus among states, sustained support from the Centre, financial resources and effective implementation will all be essential. If the southern states can combine competition with cooperation and connect their infrastructure, human resources, industries and markets, the region has the potential to become one of the principal engines of India's economic growth in the decades ahead.

Israel Builds Gallows For Palestinian Prisoners

Israel is constructing a facility intended to carry out executions by hanging, according to National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who shared a video showing the site under construction. The facility is reportedly being prepared for Palestinians convicted of terrorism-related offences under Israel's new death-penalty law. In the video, Ben-Gvir visits an unidentified location and points towards the construction work, saying it will be used to execute people he describes as "terrorists". He said a dedicated death-row section and gallows are being built as part of the facility. The site is also expected to include viewing booths where relatives of victims can watch executions. Ben-Gvir said such arrangements exist in other countries and indicated that families would be allowed to attend through special visitor permits. The development follows the passage of a new death-penalty law by Israel's Knesset in March 2026. Under the legislation, Palestinians convicted in relevant terrorism cases can face death by hanging. The law has generated intense



political and international controversy, particularly because of its application to Palestinians and concerns about different legal treatment for Jewish extremists. Ben-Gvir, a prominent far-right member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition, has been one of the strongest supporters of the legislation. He has repeatedly called for tougher measures against Palestinian pris-

oners and has presented the construction of the facility as the fulfilment of a political promise. The exact location of the facility has not been publicly disclosed. Israeli reports indicate that it is being constructed at a prison site in central Israel, with a dedicated section planned for prisoners sentenced to death. The planned viewing booths have attracted particular attention.

Critics argue that allowing victims' families to watch executions risks turning capital punishment into a public spectacle rather than a judicial process. Human-rights organisations have also raised concerns over the discriminatory nature of the new law and its potential implications for fundamental rights. Israel has historically made extremely limited use of the death penalty. The new legislation therefore represents a significant shift in the country's approach to capital punishment. The construction comes amid continuing tensions surrounding Israel's military operations in Gaza and the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Ben-Gvir's latest announcement is likely to intensify international scrutiny of Israel's treatment of Palestinian prisoners and its new approach to capital punishment. With the gallows and death-row facilities now reportedly taking shape, the issue is expected to remain a major source of political and human-rights controversy both inside Israel and internationally.

US-Iran Tensions, Hormuz Crisis Dominate Headlines

Tensions between the United States and Iran remain high as diplomatic efforts to end the nearly six-month conflict continue to face uncertainty. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has criticised the latest US sanctions campaign, accusing Washington of using economic pressure to distract from its own domestic problems and mounting debt concerns. The confrontation has also kept the Strait of Hormuz at the centre of global attention. Iran maintains that the strategically important waterway remains closed, while US President Donald Trump has insisted that the strait is open and has rejected claims that fresh negotiations with Tehran are currently scheduled. The conflicting positions have raised fresh concerns about the future of global energy supplies. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important energy routes, carrying a significant share of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments. Disruptions in the waterway have already contributed to higher crude prices and increased concerns over inflation across

major economies. The situation became more uncertain after a temporary ceasefire agreement expired. Tehran has warned that it could adopt a more aggressive military posture if diplomatic efforts fail, while Washington has ruled out extending the existing arrangement on terms it considers unacceptable. Iran has also demanded major concessions, including relief from US sanctions, the release of frozen Iranian assets and an end to military pressure. Tehran has linked the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz to progress on these issues. The conflict is also having a wider economic impact. Higher energy prices are adding pressure to inflation, while rising borrowing costs in the US and other economies are increasing concerns about the financial consequences of a prolonged confrontation. Meanwhile, a number of other major international developments are adding to global uncertainty. Two commercial vessels carrying a total of 22 Indian nationals were reportedly hijacked by pirates in separate



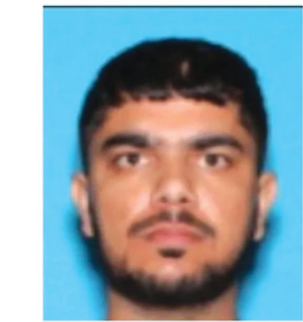
incidents off Yemen and Somalia, according to Indian officials. The incidents have renewed concerns over the safety of Indian seafarers operating in waters already affected by geopolitical tensions and piracy threats. Indian authorities are expected to closely monitor the situation and coordinate efforts to ensure the safety of the crew members. In another major development, a charter plane crashed in western Alaska, killing all eight people on board. The aircraft

reportedly went down near a remote radar facility, with authorities beginning investigations into the cause of the crash. The combination of the US-Iran confrontation, uncertainty around the Strait of Hormuz, threats to maritime security and other international incidents has created a volatile global environment. The coming days will be closely watched for any breakthrough in US-Iran diplomacy, particularly over the future of the Hormuz shipping route.

FBI Adds Indian National Kamal To Most Wanted List

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation has placed an Indian national identified as Kamal on its Most Wanted list over his alleged links to the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised Crime Group, which US authorities describe as a transnational criminal organisation. According to the FBI, Kamal is wanted in connection with an alleged conspiracy to interfere with commerce through extortion. A federal arrest warrant was issued against him on July 1, 2026, by the US District Court for the Central District of California in Los Angeles. The FBI has alleged that the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised Crime Group originated in Punjab and subsequently expanded its activities into the United States. Authorities are investigating the group's alleged involvement in organised criminal activities and extortion operations on American soil. Kamal's addition to the FBI's wanted list is part of a broader US effort to crack down on transnational criminal networks with

links to India. American authorities have increasingly focused on alleged connections between Indian organised crime groups and criminal activities targeting members of the South Asian community in the United States. The FBI has appealed to the public for information that could help locate Kamal. Authorities have also urged anyone with relevant information about his whereabouts or the case to contact the nearest FBI office, US embassy or consulate, or submit information through the agency's online reporting system. The development comes shortly after another Indian national, Major Singh, was placed on the FBI's wanted list over alleged links to the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang. The two developments highlight growing US scrutiny of organised crime networks with alleged connections to gangs operating in Punjab and elsewhere in India. The Lawrence Bishnoi gang has been accused by Indian authorities of involvement in several serious crimes, including extortion,



targeted killings and other violent activities. The group has also attracted international attention because of alleged operations extending beyond India. US authorities have increasingly described such networks as transnational organisations, particularly where their alleged activities involve recruitment, extortion, violence or criminal coordination across international borders. For Kamal, the federal arrest warrant means he is now wanted



in the United States on serious criminal allegations. The FBI has not disclosed his current location, and it remains unclear whether he is believed to be in the US or another country. The latest action demonstrates Washington's growing focus on criminal networks with international reach. It also indicates that alleged links between Indian gangs and overseas criminal operations are receiving greater attention from US law-enforcement agencies.

Taylor Swift's Ex On Russia's Wanted List

Conor Kennedy, the 32-year-old son of US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and former boyfriend of pop star Taylor Swift, has been placed on Russia's international wanted list. Russian authorities accuse him of serving as a mercenary while fighting alongside Ukrainian forces during the Russia-Ukraine war. Kennedy has been charged under Article 353 of the Russian Criminal Code, which covers participation as a mercenary in an armed conflict or military operation. If arrested and convicted in Russia, he could face between seven and 10 years in prison. A Moscow court reportedly authorised Kennedy's arrest in absentia on August 12. His legal representatives challenged the decision, but an appeals court upheld the ruling. The proceedings were conducted behind closed doors. Kennedy's alleged involvement dates back to 2022, when he travelled secretly to Ukraine and

joined the country's International Legion. He later revealed that he had fought alongside Ukrainian forces in the Kharkiv region. At the time, Kennedy said he had been deeply affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and wanted to help defend the country. He reportedly joined despite having no previous military experience and initially kept his identity and location secret from his family and friends. Kennedy spent around two and a half months in Ukraine before returning to the United States in October 2022. He subsequently resumed his law studies and continued his professional career. His father, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., had expressed concern about his son's decision to travel to a war zone but later said he was proud of him for following his convictions. Conor Kennedy is a member of one of America's most prominent political families. He is the grandson of former US



Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and the grand-nephew of former US President John F. Kennedy. However, he became widely known internationally for a different reason when he briefly dated Taylor Swift in 2012. The relationship lasted only a few months but attracted considerable media attention because of Kennedy's famous family background. More than a decade later, Kennedy has returned to international headlines for his alleged involvement in the Ukraine con-

flict. His inclusion on Russia's wanted list means he could face arrest if he enters a country where Russian authorities can seek his detention. The case also highlights the continuing legal consequences of foreign nationals who joined Ukraine's International Legion after Russia's invasion. Moscow has repeatedly described foreign fighters serving with Ukrainian forces as mercenaries and has pursued criminal cases against some of them. For now, Kennedy remains outside Russian custody. His arrest in absentia and placement on the international wanted list, however, have turned his brief involvement in the Ukraine war into a significant legal issue with the potential for a lengthy prison sentence in Russia.

Six Indians Among Crew Of Hijacked Ship



Six Indian nationals were among the 10-member crew of a Cameroon-flagged cargo ship hijacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia. The incident has raised fresh concerns over maritime security in the region, where piracy had declined significantly in recent years but has shown signs of returning. The vessel, identified as M/V LUTUF, was seized near Marraya in Puntland's Eyl district. According to local officials, the ship was around 3.5 nautical miles from the coast when pirates took control of it and later moved it towards the Nugaal coastline. The 10-member crew included six Indians, one Turkish national, one Georgian and two Serbian security guards. The condition and exact whereabouts of the crew remained unclear after the hijacking. The ship, owned by Polar Movement Shipping, was reportedly carrying Turkish-made weapons intended for a military training facility in Mogadishu. It was also transporting communications and satellite equipment. The nature of the cargo has added another layer of concern to the incident. Reports indicated that eight armed pirates were involved in taking control of the vessel. The attackers were suspected to have links with a group accused of hijacking another merchant vessel, the M/V Sward, earlier this year. After seizing LUTUF, the pirates reportedly moved the vessel towards the Somali coastline near Garmaal in Puntland's Dangoroyo district. The incident triggered efforts to monitor the vessel and assess the situation involving the crew. The situation later took an unexpected turn when two Turkish-owned vessels approached the hijacked ship. Turkish helicopters and drones were also reportedly monitoring the area. According to local officials, a small boat carrying two men approached LUTUF and delivered khat, a stimulant commonly consumed in Somalia. After the boat returned to shore, an airstrike reportedly took place, killing four people and injuring two others. However, details surrounding the strike, including who carried it out and the identities of those affected, remained unclear. The latest incident highlights continuing security challenges for commercial vessels operating around Somalia and the Gulf of Aden. International naval operations had helped bring Somali piracy under control over the past decade, but attacks have periodically resurfaced amid instability in the region. The presence of six Indian nationals makes the incident particularly significant for India. Indian sailors have previously been involved in piracy-related incidents in waters around Somalia and the Arabian Sea. Authorities are expected to closely monitor the situation and work towards establishing contact with the crew members. Ensuring the safety of the six Indian sailors and other crew members remains the immediate priority as efforts continue to determine the circumstances surrounding the hijacking.

Imran Khan Back In Jail After Hospital Check-Up

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has been moved back to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, just hours after he was shifted to a hospital in Islamabad for a medical evaluation. Doctors reportedly declared him medically fit to remain in custody following a d e t a i l e d examination. Khan was



taken to a hospital after Pakistan's Supreme Court directed authorities to provide specialised medical care amid concerns over his health. A medical team comprising an ophthalmologist, cardiologist and physician examined the 73-year-old former premier. According to Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, the doctors completed a detailed assessment and found Khan fit to return to prison. He was subsequently taken back to Adiala Jail after the medical examination. The hospital transfer itself had become a point of controversy. The Supreme Court had directed authorities to take Khan to Shifa International Hospital, a private facility in Islamabad. However, the government later disclosed that he was taken to the government-run Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences for the examination. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party and his family have repeatedly raised concerns over his health and demanded access to specialised medical treatment. His supporters have also questioned the conditions in which he is being held and have sought greater access for his family and doctors. The Supreme Court's intervention came after months of concerns surrounding Khan's health. His legal team had argued that he required specialised medical attention and should be examined by an independent team of doctors. The government, meanwhile, has maintained that Khan is being provided appropriate medical care and that it is prepared to facilitate treatment whenever required. Officials have also indicated that further medical treatment could be considered if doctors recommend it. Khan has remained behind bars since August 2023 and is facing multiple legal cases. His imprisonment continues to be a major political issue in Pakistan, with his PTI party maintaining pressure on the government over his detention and health. The latest hospital episode has once again brought attention to Khan's medical condition and the circumstances surrounding his imprisonment. While authorities have said that doctors found him fit to remain in custody, his party and supporters are expected to continue demanding specialised care and greater access to him. For now, Imran Khan remains at Adiala Jail after undergoing the medical examination. His health and the implementation of the Supreme Court's directions are likely to remain closely watched in the coming days.

Israel Opens Criminal Probe Into Hind Rajab Death

The Israeli military has opened a criminal investigation into the deaths of five-year-old Palestinian girl Hind Rajab, members of her family and two paramedics who were killed while attempting to rescue her in Gaza. The development marks a significant shift in Israel's position, as the Israel Defense Forces have now



acknowledged that their troops fired at the vehicle carrying Hind and her relatives. The case dates back to January 29, 2024, when Hind was travelling with members of her family as they attempted to leave Gaza City amid Israeli evacuation orders. Their vehicle came under fire in the Tel al-Hawa area. Hind survived the initial attack but became trapped inside the damaged car. Several members of her family were killed. During the ordeal, she managed to speak with an emergency operator from the Palestine Red Crescent Society and repeatedly pleaded for help. Her phone conversations with the emergency operator later became a key part of the international attention surrounding the case. Hind told the operator that a tank was near the vehicle and expressed fear as she waited for rescuers. The Palestine Red Crescent subsequently dispatched an ambulance after receiving clearance to reach the location. Two paramedics, Yusuf al-Zeinou and Ahmed al-Madhoun, travelled towards the vehicle in an attempt to rescue Hind. Contact with the ambulance was later lost. Around 12 days after the incident, Hind, her relatives and the two paramedics were found dead. For more than two years, the circumstances surrounding their deaths remained disputed. The Israeli military had previously stated that its forces were not present in the area when the incident occurred. That position has now changed. On August 19, 2026, the IDF acknowledged that its troops had fired at the vehicle carrying Hind and her relatives and also at the ambulance that was attempting to reach her.

Sensex, Nifty End Flat After Volatile Session

Indian benchmark indices ended almost unchanged on Friday, August 21, after a volatile session marked by cautious trading. The Sensex gained just 3.11 points, or 0.00 percent, to close at 77,540.83, while the Nifty 50 added 20.15 points, or 0.08 percent, to settle at 24,252.00. The market remained range-bound for most of the day as investors balanced positive domestic sentiment against concerns over elevated crude oil prices and global bond yields. Despite the lack of strong direction in the benchmark indices, broader market activity remained relatively mixed.

Among the Nifty constituents, Power Grid Corporation, HDFC Life, Nestle India, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bharat Electronics were among the notable gainers. On the other hand, Maruti Suzuki, Trent, InterGlobe Aviation, Infosys and HCL Technologies featured among the major laggards. Sectoral performance was also uneven. Buying interest was visible in metal and realty stocks, while auto, FMCG, IT, media and pharmaceutical stocks faced selling pressure. Private banks remained relatively strong, with the sector benefiting

from improving earnings expectations. The broader market showed a slightly positive bias. At one point, more than 2,000 stocks were advancing, although the gap between gainers and losers narrowed as the session progressed. Small-cap stocks continued to outperform, while mid-cap stocks remained comparatively subdued. Global factors continued to influence investor sentiment. Rising crude oil prices remained a key concern, particularly because higher oil prices can increase inflationary pressures for an oil-importing economy such as

India. Brent crude was trading around \$92.9 per barrel and was on track for a weekly gain of more than 5 percent. The Indian rupee also remained under pressure during the week. It closed at around ₹95.69 against the US dollar on Friday, marking a weekly decline of about 0.3 percent. Continued intervention by the Reserve Bank of India helped prevent the currency from weakening beyond the psychologically important ₹96-per-dollar level. Despite Friday's flat close, the week remained challenging for Indian equities. The

Nifty 50 declined around 0.5 percent for the week, while the Sensex lost approximately 0.6 percent. Concerns over crude prices, global bond yields and geopolitical tensions kept investors cautious. The IT sector was among the weaker performers, falling 2.6 percent for the week amid concerns surrounding US inflation. In contrast, private banking stocks performed relatively well, with Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank among the notable weekly gainers. Overall, Friday's session reflected a market caught between selective



buying and persistent global concerns. With crude prices, bond yields, currency movements

and foreign investor flows likely to remain key triggers, volatility could continue in the coming sessions.

Cash Market Traders Face Lower F&O Losses: SEBI

Investors who participate more actively in India's cash equity market tend to record lower losses in the futures and options segment, while traders heavily dependent on derivatives face significantly poorer outcomes. This is the key finding of a new Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) study analysing individual traders' performance during FY26. According to the study, around 18.6 lakh F&O traders, or 24% of all individual derivatives traders, had no cash-market turnover during FY26. More than 54% of F&O traders recorded cash-market turnover of less than ₹1 lakh, including those with no cash-market activity. In contrast, only around 8% had cash-market turnover exceeding ₹1 crore. SEBI found a clear relationship between cash-market participation and trading outcomes. The proportion of traders making losses declined progressively as their cash-market activity increased relative to their derivatives activity. In other words, investors who had a greater presence in the cash segment generally suffered smaller losses in F&O trading. The study also highlighted a major difference in trading intensity. Traders in the lowest cash-participation category had average F&O turnover of about ₹5.44 crore per trader. By comparison, those whose cash-market turnover was more than five times their F&O turnover recorded average



F&O turnover of only around ₹10 lakh. This indicates that derivatives-heavy traders are not only more likely to lose money but are also significantly more active in terms of trading volumes. Higher turnover can increase exposure to market volatility as well as transaction costs. However, SEBI cautioned that participation in the cash market does not automatically protect investors from losses. Even among traders with substantial cash-market activity, losses remained widespread. The regulator also observed that, within similar levels of cash-market participation, higher F&O turnover was generally associated with a greater proportion of loss-making traders. The pattern was broadly similar in FY25 as well. The findings come against the backdrop of continued difficulties faced by retail investors in India's derivatives market. In FY26, individual traders' aggregate net losses in equity derivatives declined to around ₹91,685 crore, from approx-

imately ₹1.12 lakh crore in FY25. Yet about 87.7% of individual F&O traders still ended the year with losses. SEBI's latest findings therefore underline the risks associated with excessive dependence on leveraged derivatives trading. While the cash market itself carries investment risks, a balanced approach with lower derivatives exposure appears to be associated with better outcomes. The study also reinforces the regulator's broader concern over high-frequency speculative trading by retail investors. Despite recent regulatory measures aimed at reducing excessive derivatives activity, F&O trading continues to result in substantial losses for individual participants. For retail investors, the message from the study is clear: greater derivatives exposure and aggressive trading do not necessarily translate into better returns. Instead, excessive F&O activity can significantly increase the probability and scale of losses.

FPIs Return To Auto, Financial Stocks In August

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have sharply changed their stance towards Indian equities, with automobile and financial services stocks emerging as major beneficiaries of renewed overseas buying in the first half of August. The shift comes after months of heavy selling pressure, signalling a possible improvement in foreign investor sentiment towards select Indian sectors. According to sectoral data compiled by SBI Securities from NSDL figures, FPIs invested around ₹4,393 crore in the automobile sector during the first half of August. This marks a significant turnaround from July, when foreign investors sold auto stocks worth approximately ₹4,574 crore. Despite the recent buying, the auto sector has experienced substantial FPI outflows over a longer period. Foreign investors have withdrawn around ₹35,739 crore from the sector over the past five months. The latest inflow therefore represents a notable reversal in the trend. The financial services sector witnessed an even stronger return of foreign capital. FPIs invested

approximately ₹6,950 crore in financial services stocks during the first half of August, making the sector the biggest recipient of foreign money during the period. The renewed interest suggests that overseas investors are becoming more comfortable with valuations and growth prospects in the financial space. Overall, FPIs invested around ₹16,600 crore in Indian equities between August 1 and 15. This followed an investment of about ₹20,200 crore in July, marking the second consecutive month of strong foreign buying after four months of heavy selling. The shift in foreign flows has been particularly significant because FPIs had aggressively reduced their exposure to Indian equities earlier this year. They pulled out nearly ₹1.17 lakh crore in March, followed by ₹60,847 crore in April, ₹32,963 crore in May and ₹49,340 crore in June. The prolonged selling had weighed heavily on market sentiment. Several factors appear to be encouraging foreign investors to return. Relatively attractive valuations in parts of the Indian market, improving cor-

porate earnings and expectations of easier monetary policy in the United States have helped improve the appeal of Indian equities. The auto sector's turnaround is particularly noteworthy. After facing sustained foreign selling, automobile stocks are once again attracting overseas investors. The renewed buying could provide additional support to the sector, especially if domestic demand and corporate earnings continue to remain resilient. Financial stocks are also benefiting from stronger investor confidence. The sector's large weight in benchmark indices means sustained FPI buying could have a broader influence on the Indian market. However, the foreign buying is not uniform across all sectors. Telecom and power stocks remained under pressure during the first half of August, indicating that FPIs are being selective



rather than returning indiscriminately to Indian equities. The latest data suggests that foreign investors may be gradually rebuilding their India exposure after a prolonged period of caution. Whether this marks the beginning of a sustained reversal will depend on global interest rates, currency movements, crude oil prices and the trajectory of corporate earnings. For now, the return of foreign money to autos and financial services offers a positive signal for Indian equities, particularly after months of persistent FPI selling.

Quantum Mutual Fund Launches New Flexi Cap Fund

Quantum Mutual Fund has launched a new Flexi Cap Fund, giving investors another option to participate in equity markets across different market-cap segments. The New Fund Offer (NFO) opened on August 21, 2026, and will remain available for subscription until September 11. The new scheme is designed as an open-ended equity fund and will have the flexibility to invest across large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap stocks. This approach allows the fund manager to adjust the portfolio depending on valuations, market conditions and the long-term growth potential of individual companies. The fund will use the BSE 500 Total Return Index (TRI) as its benchmark. The benchmark covers companies across various segments of the Indian equity market

and provides a broad reference point for evaluating the scheme's performance. The minimum investment required during the NFO period is ₹500, with additional investments permitted in multiples of ₹1. This relatively low entry requirement makes the scheme accessible to a wide range of retail investors looking to begin or expand their mutual fund investments. The fund will be managed by Chirag Mehta, Chief Investment Officer and fund manager, along with Ketan Gujarathi, Fund Manager - Equity. Their responsibility will include identifying investment opportunities across market-cap categories and managing the portfolio based on the fund's investment strategy. Flexi-cap funds have gained popularity among investors because



they are not restricted to a particular market-cap segment. Unlike large-cap or mid-cap funds, the category allows fund managers to move between different segments depending on market opportunities. Quantum Mutual Fund's latest offering comes at a time when investors are increasingly looking for diversified equity investment options. With valuations varying significantly between sectors and market-cap categories, flexibility can allow fund managers to allocate capital to areas offering rela-

tively better opportunities. However, like other equity mutual funds, the Quantum Flexi Cap Fund will be exposed to market risks. Returns are not guaranteed and investors should consider their investment horizon and risk appetite before investing. The NFO will remain open until September 11, 2026, after which the scheme will move into its regular open-ended structure, allowing investors to buy and redeem units according to the applicable scheme rules. Overall, Quantum Mutual Fund's new Flexi Cap Fund provides investors with a diversified equity option that can invest across large-, mid- and small-cap companies. With a ₹500 minimum investment and a flexible mandate, the scheme is aimed at investors seeking long-term participation in India's equity market.

Gold Finance Stocks Jump Up To 8% On JPMorgan Call

Shares of leading gold-financing companies surged on Friday after global brokerage JPMorgan initiated coverage on the sector with a positive outlook. IIFL Finance, Muthoot Finance and Manappuram Finance gained between 2% and 8% during the trading session, as investors reacted to the brokerage's bullish stance. IIFL Finance emerged as the biggest gainer among the three stocks. Its shares climbed as much as 8% to hit an intraday high of ₹687.10 on the NSE. The stock later pared some of the gains due to profit booking but was still trading around ₹678.05, up 6.49%, during the afternoon session. Muthoot Finance and Manappuram Finance also witnessed buying interest. Their shares rose 2.15% and 2%, respectively, following JPMorgan's initiation of coverage. The brokerage assigned an 'Overweight' rating to all three companies, signalling its expectation of further upside. For IIFL Finance, JPMorgan has set a target price of ₹750, suggesting an upside potential of around 18% from the levels considered by the brokerage. According to the report, IIFL Finance is in the early stages of a turnaround, with improving profitability expected to support a potential re-rating of the stock. JPMorgan has assigned a target price of ₹3,400 to Muthoot Finance, implying approximately 14% upside. The brokerage



believes the stock's underperformance so far this year has created an attractive entry opportunity. Muthoot Finance shares were reportedly down around 22% year-to-date before Friday's move. Manappuram Finance has received a target price of ₹395 from JPMorgan, indicating an upside potential of nearly 13%. The brokerage believes the company's turnaround has begun and pointed to its June-quarter performance as evidence of improving business momentum. JPMorgan's positive view is based partly on the broader growth potential of India's gold-loan market. The brokerage described gold loans as secured retail credit and highlighted the segment's robust growth. Rising gold prices have also increased the value of collateral available to lenders, potentially supporting loan growth.

The positive brokerage report comes at a time when gold prices have remained elevated, creating favourable conditions for gold-financing companies. Higher gold values can increase borrowers' loan eligibility while supporting lenders' secured-credit portfolios. Friday's sharp movement therefore reflects renewed investor interest in the gold-finance segment. With JPMorgan turning bullish on IIFL Finance, Muthoot Finance and Manappuram Finance, market participants will now closely track whether the expected turnaround and growth in gold loans translate into sustained earnings improvement. For now, the brokerage's Overweight ratings and attractive target prices have provided a fresh trigger for the three stocks, with IIFL Finance leading the rally with gains of up to 8%.

US Bond Yields Rise Amid Debt, AI Borrowing



The US government bond market is facing renewed pressure as long-term Treasury yields remain near multi-year highs. Bond prices have fallen sharply, pushing yields higher, with the 30-year US Treasury yield moving above 5.3% and the 10-year yield hovering around 4.7%. The sell-off has raised concerns about the growing US debt burden, rising borrowing requirements and persistent inflation risks. In an effort to calm the market, the US Treasury has announced an expansion of its debt buyback programme. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said buybacks would be increased from \$2 billion to at least \$4 billion per session from September 9. The operations will focus mainly on longer-dated Treasuries and are intended to improve liquidity and market functioning. One of the biggest reasons behind the rise in Treasury yields is the enormous size of US government debt. The national debt has crossed \$40 trillion, while the government continues to run a large budget deficit. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the deficit at around \$2.1 trillion, equivalent to 6.4% of GDP for the fiscal year through September. As the government borrows more money, it needs to issue more Treasury securities. Investors then demand higher yields to absorb the additional supply. Higher yields, in turn, increase the government's interest burden and could potentially create a cycle of rising borrowing and debt-servicing costs. The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence infrastructure is another factor influencing the bond market. Technology companies are raising substantial amounts of debt to finance data centres, power infrastructure and other AI-related investments. Global AI-related debt issuance has reportedly reached around \$570 billion. Large technology companies have also issued significant amounts of corporate bonds, competing with government debt for investor capital. With corporate borrowers offering attractive yields, some investors may shift money away from Treasuries, adding further pressure to government bond prices and pushing yields higher. Geopolitical tensions have added another layer of uncertainty. The Iran war pushed Brent crude prices to a wartime peak of \$118 a barrel, contributing to concerns about higher inflation. When investors fear that inflation could remain elevated for longer, long-term government bonds become less attractive because fixed interest payments lose purchasing power. This has contributed to selling pressure in longer-duration Treasuries. Higher Treasury yields are also affecting consumers. The average 30-year US mortgage rate has risen to around 6.75%, increasing monthly borrowing costs for homebuyers. Higher mortgage rates can weaken housing demand, reduce consumer spending and place additional pressure on economic growth. The impact is not limited to the United States. The US Treasury market is central to the global financial system, and rising American yields can push borrowing costs higher in other major economies as well. Bond yields in countries including the UK, Germany, France and Japan have also moved to multi-year highs. The key question for investors is whether the current bond sell-off represents a normal adjustment to higher debt and inflation risks or could develop into a deeper market shock. For now, the combination of \$40 trillion in US debt, heavy government borrowing, AI-related corporate financing and geopolitical inflation risks is keeping pressure firmly on long-term Treasury yields.

particularly convenient for those who prefer travelling during the night and reaching Delhi the following afternoon. The new service is also expected to improve connectivity between eastern Uttar Pradesh and the national capital. With important cities such as Basti, Gonda, Sitapur, Bareilly and Moradabad included along the route, passengers from these areas will have an additional rail option for travelling to Delhi. Railway authorities have advised passengers to check the latest official timetable before travelling, as departure and arrival timings may be subject to operational changes.

were able to find seats in the women-only coach. Their comments quickly drew reactions from social media users. Several users agreed with their assessment, describing the Delhi Metro as clean, fast and secure. Others encouraged the tourists to explore destinations beyond the popular Delhi-Agra-Rajasthan tourist circuit and experience other parts of India. The viral post has once again highlighted Delhi Metro's growing reputation among international visitors. For these tourists, the combination of affordability, security, connectivity, comfort and dedicated facilities for women made their first Delhi Metro experience particularly memorable.

A message from an Indian couple living in the United States has triggered a fresh debate among young Indians dreaming of moving abroad. The couple has urged youngsters to think carefully before leaving India, arguing that the reality of life in the US can be very different from the expectations created by social media and popular perceptions. The couple explained that when they initially moved to the US, the country appeared to be an attractive option for career growth, higher salaries and a better lifestyle. However, after spending years there, they said they had experienced challenges that are often overlooked by people planning to migrate.

One of their biggest concerns was the feeling of belonging. One of them said that despite living in the US for years, they still did not feel completely accepted by American society. This emotional aspect of migration, they suggested, is something young Indians should consider alongside salary packages and career opportunities.

The couple also pointed to the long and uncertain journey involved in building a stable life abroad. Immigration procedures, waiting for permanent residency, job security and the pressure to establish oneself can take years. According to them, migrants may have to make significant personal and professional sacrifices before achieving the stability they originally imagined.

Another point they raised was that India itself has changed considerably. Opportunities in technology, business, startups and other professional sectors have expanded, allowing skilled Indians to build successful careers without necessarily relocating overseas. One of the couple's members said that if he had to make the decision today, he might choose to remain in India rather than move to the US.

Their comments have divided social media users. Some agreed that youngsters often focus only on foreign salaries while ignoring loneliness, immigration uncertainty, cultural adjustment and the time required to achieve financial stability. Others argued that moving abroad continues to offer valuable opportunities, international exposure and professional growth.

The debate ultimately highlights a larger reality: moving abroad is neither automatically a path to success nor necessarily a mistake. For young Indians considering migration, the decision depends on career goals, financial expectations, family priorities and the ability to adapt to a different society.

recaptured 12 days later. He was granted parole in 1975 but returned to prison roughly 10 months later after being arrested for petty larceny and weapons possession, violating the conditions of his release.

Sri Lanka Make Big Changes Ahead Of Colombo Test

Sri Lanka have made significant changes to their squad ahead of the second and final Test against India, scheduled to begin in Colombo on August 23. Facing a must-win situation after losing the opening Test in Galle, the hosts have brought in two new players in an attempt to strengthen both their batting and spin-bowling options. Off-spin all-rounder Sahan Arachchige and top-order batter Kamil Mishara have been added to the Sri Lankan squad. Arachchige replaces Ramesh Mendis, while Mishara comes in for Nishan Fernando following his disappointing performance in the first Test. Arachchige's inclusion is particularly interesting. The all-rounder has represented Sri Lanka in five ODIs and one T20I and recently impressed while captaining Sri Lanka A against India A. He finished that series as the second-highest run-scorer with 209 runs, behind India's Sai Sudharsan, who scored 332. His ability to contribute with both bat and ball could provide Sri Lanka with greater balance in the Colombo Test. Mishara, meanwhile, has been drafted in to strengthen the top order. Sri Lanka struggled to build sustained partnerships during the first Test, and the team management will be hoping that the change can provide more stability against India's bowling attack. Sri Lanka are also dealing with an injury setback. Experienced batter



Dinesh Chandimal has been ruled out, with Pasindu Sooriyabandara continuing in the squad as his replacement. The hosts now have limited room for error, as another defeat would hand India a 2-0 series victory. India currently lead the two-match series 1-0 after registering a convincing 165-run victory in Galle. Sri Lanka were bowled out for 284 in their first innings and could manage only 206 in the second, while India posted 462 in their first innings before securing victory. The Colombo Test therefore carries enormous significance for the

home side. Sri Lanka will need substantial improvement from both their batting and bowling departments if they are to prevent India from completing a series sweep. The inclusion of Arachchige could also signal Sri Lanka's intention to strengthen their spin resources. With conditions in Colombo expected to assist spin as the match progresses, his off-spin could provide captain Dhananjaya de Silva with another bowling option alongside Prabath Jayasuriya. Sri Lanka's revised squad includes

Lahiru Udara, Kamil Mishara, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Kamindu Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva, Sahan Arachchige, Sonal Dinusha, Niroshan Dickwella, Keshara Nuwantha, Prabath Jayasuriya, Milan Ratnayake, Lahiru Kumara, Asitha Fernando and Vishwa Fernando. With India holding the advantage and Sri Lanka fighting to stay alive in the series, the second Test promises to be a crucial contest. The hosts have clearly opted for change, and their new-look combination will now have to deliver under pressure in Colombo.

One Bad Game Won't Define Kuldeep Yadav

India's Kuldeep Yadav may have endured a difficult outing in the first Test against Sri Lanka, but the team management has made it clear that his place and reputation remain intact. India's spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule backed the left-arm wrist-spinner ahead of the second Test in Colombo, insisting that one match cannot determine the value of a proven match-winner. Kuldeep finished the opening Test in Galle with figures of 1/103 from 25 overs. His numbers were underwhelming compared with the impact made by other Indian bowlers. However, Bahutule explained that Kuldeep was given a specific role according to the conditions and adjusted his bowling accordingly. The coach pointed out that the pitch and match situation demanded different bowling speeds and trajectories during various stages of the Test. Kuldeep adapted to

those requirements and attempted to execute the plans set by the team. His performance, therefore, cannot be judged simply by the number of wickets he took. India already have a strong group of spin options in the squad. Along with Kuldeep, the team has Ravindra Jadeja, Manav Suthar and Saransh Jain. The management is expected to assess the Colombo conditions before finalising the bowling combination for the second Test. The decision could come down to whether India need an additional spinner or a fast bowler. Bahutule stressed that pitch conditions will be the primary factor behind the selection rather than Kuldeep's figures from Galle. The coach also highlighted Kuldeep's long-standing importance to the Indian team. Despite occasional difficulties on slower surfaces, he remains a bowler capable of changing matches. His



variations, control and ability to take wickets make him a valuable option, particularly when conditions begin assisting wrist-spin. At the same time, Manav Suthar has strengthened his case for a continued role. The young spinner impressed in Galle with his accuracy and consistency. Bahutule praised his ability to maintain the required lengths while generating good revolutions on the ball. The

coach believes Suthar is developing rapidly and has become a dependable option for the team. India enter the Colombo Test with confidence after taking a 1-0 lead in the two-match series with a 165-run victory in Galle. The visitors now have an opportunity to complete another series win in Sri Lanka. For Kuldeep, the second Test provides a chance to respond strongly. With the team management continuing to back him, the spinner will be eager to convert that confidence into a match-winning performance. The final combination will ultimately depend on the conditions in Colombo. But one thing is clear from Bahutule's comments: Kuldeep Yadav's quiet performance in Galle has not changed India's faith in one of their most experienced and dangerous spin options.

Devdutt Padikkal's Remarkable Test Comeback Story

Devdutt Padikkal has made a remarkable return to India's Test setup, turning a long wait for another opportunity into one of the biggest highlights of the first Test against Sri Lanka. After being out of the Test side for 14 matches, the left-handed batter announced himself in style by scoring his maiden Test century in Galle. Padikkal's comeback was not simply about getting another chance. The 26-year-old arrived in Sri Lanka as a more mature and physically stronger cricketer, having worked on several aspects of his game during his time away from international cricket. His improved preparation and greater clarity at the crease were evident throughout his innings. He was drafted into the Indian squad after Sai Sudharsan was ruled out through injury. With an opportunity opening up at No. 3, Padikkal grabbed it immediately. He scored a brilliant 167 in the first innings, displaying remarkable composure against Sri Lanka's spin attack. His innings



included 15 boundaries and a six and played a major role in India posting a commanding total. The performance was particularly significant because Padikkal had previously struggled to establish himself in Test cricket. His earlier opportunities had produced only limited returns, and he had subsequently spent a considerable period away from the national side. Instead of allowing that setback to affect him, he used the time to develop his game and strengthen his approach.

His ability to handle spin was one of the most impressive aspects of his performance in Galle. Padikkal showed excellent footwork and patience, allowing him to counter Sri Lanka's spinners effectively. His understanding of match situations also stood out, reflecting the greater maturity he has developed over the years. Padikkal's journey has now put him firmly into the conversation for India's No. 3 position. With Sai Sudharsan also regarded as a long-term option, the competition for

the spot could become an interesting selection challenge for the Indian team management. His century also came on a memorable day for Indian cricket. Padikkal became the first Indian batter to score a Test century on Independence Day, adding another special achievement to his comeback story. The left-hander followed his century with a useful 44 in the second innings, further strengthening his case. He was subsequently named Player of the Match as India defeated Sri Lanka by 165 runs in Galle. More importantly, Padikkal's comeback demonstrates how patience and preparation can transform a career. Once considered one of India's promising young batters, he now appears to have returned as a more complete player. His performance in Galle has therefore done more than produce a maiden Test hundred. It has potentially opened a new chapter in Devdutt Padikkal's international career and given India another strong option in the top order.

Australia Need Fresh Faces After Bangladesh Shock

Australia's shocking nine-wicket defeat to Bangladesh in the Darwin Test has triggered serious questions about the future of the country's Test team. Former Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie believes the current squad is ageing and that selectors will need to introduce fresh talent over the next six to 12 months. Bangladesh produced one of the biggest upsets in recent Australian Test history, outplaying the hosts throughout the match. Gillespie felt Australia's batting was the biggest concern, particularly in the first innings, while praising Bangladesh for playing patient and disciplined Test cricket. Despite the setback, Gillespie expects Australia to respond strongly in the second Test in Mackay. The hosts have already made one change, bringing Matt Renshaw into the squad in place of Jake Weatherald. There could also be a debate over whether Scott Boland should come into the playing XI, but Gillespie believes Josh Hazlewood



deserves to retain his place after taking six wickets in the first innings in Darwin. Gillespie was particularly critical of Australia's batting problems. Marnus Labuschagne, who scored just 31 in the second innings, is under pressure after repeatedly getting dismissed while chasing deliveries outside the off stump. The former pacer warned that Labuschagne needs significant runs in Mackay to protect his place in the side. The bigger concern, however, is Australia's ageing core. Gillespie believes the selectors must start preparing for a generational transition

rather than relying indefinitely on established stars. He identified several young domestic players, including Ollie Peake, Jayden Goodwin, Campbell Kellaway and Sam Konstas, as potential future Test options. Australia's pace attack remains one of its biggest strengths. Gillespie backed Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Hazlewood, arguing that the trio bowled well in Darwin and could perform better if they maintain the same approach in Mackay. He also believes Cameron Green needs to move beyond being labelled a promising player. Green scored 104 in the second innings at Darwin, but Gillespie stressed that consistent performances will be essential if he is to establish himself as a long-term Test star. The former pacer also pointed to emerging bowling options such as Callum Viddler, Jhye Richardson, Nathan McAndrew and Jordan Buckingham.

Harry Brook Not Ready For England Test Captaincy

England batter Harry Brook is being viewed as a potential future Test captain, but former England cricketer Jonathan Agnew believes the youngster is not yet ready to take on the responsibility. While praising Brook's extraordinary batting talent, Agnew feels the 27-year-old still needs to develop the maturity required to lead England in the longest format. Brook recently produced an impressive performance against Pakistan in the first Test at Headingley, scoring 91 and helping England establish a strong position. His attacking approach and ability to dominate bowlers once again highlighted why he is regarded as one of England's most gifted batters. Agnew has compared Brook's talent with former England greats such as Kevin Pietersen and David Gower. However, he believes Brook has occasionally failed to make the most of his ability. His dismissals in Australia, particularly while attempting aggressive

Treesa-Gayatri End India's 15-Year Medal Wait



India's Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have created history at the 2026 BWF World Championships in New Delhi. The Indian women's doubles pair secured a medal by storming into the semifinals, ending a 15-year wait for India to win a medal in the women's doubles category at the World Championships. The unseeded Indian duo produced a stunning performance in the quarterfinals, defeating China's seventh-seeded pair Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian in a thrilling contest. The victory was particularly significant because the Chinese combination entered the match as one of the tournament's strongest contenders. Treesa and Gayatri showed remarkable composure despite facing a high-quality opponent. Their aggressive attacking play, quick movement and ability to maintain pressure at crucial moments helped them complete a memorable comeback. The win not only guaranteed them a podium finish but also marked a major milestone in their rapidly developing partnership. The achievement comes after a difficult period for the Indian pair. Treesa and Gayatri had been away from competitive badminton for around two and a half months because of injury concerns. Their return at the World Championships therefore carried additional pressure, especially with the tournament being held on home soil at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Before reaching the quarterfinals, the duo had already made their intentions clear by defeating Japan's seventh-ranked pair Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi in straight games. The Indians won that Round of 16 clash 21-16, 21-12, displaying impressive control against a highly rated opposition. Their latest achievement also has a special place in Indian badminton history. India had last won a women's doubles medal at the World Championships 15 years ago. Treesa and Gayatri have now become the latest pair to bring the country back onto the podium in the discipline. The result is another important step in the development of the young Indian combination. Treesa's attacking game and Gayatri's ability to complement her partner have made them one of India's most promising doubles pairs. Their performances in New Delhi suggest that they are capable of challenging the world's best on the biggest stages. The home crowd has also played an important role throughout their campaign. Competing in front of passionate Indian supporters, the duo have responded to the atmosphere with confidence rather than pressure. With a semifinal place secured, Treesa and Gayatri now have an opportunity to go beyond the bronze medal they have already assured themselves. Their historic run has already given Indian badminton fans a major reason to celebrate, but the pair will be hoping that their World Championships journey is far from over. Regardless of what happens next, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have already written their names into Indian badminton history by ending a 15-year wait for a women's doubles World Championships medal.

Gill Works On Weakness Ahead Of Colombo Test



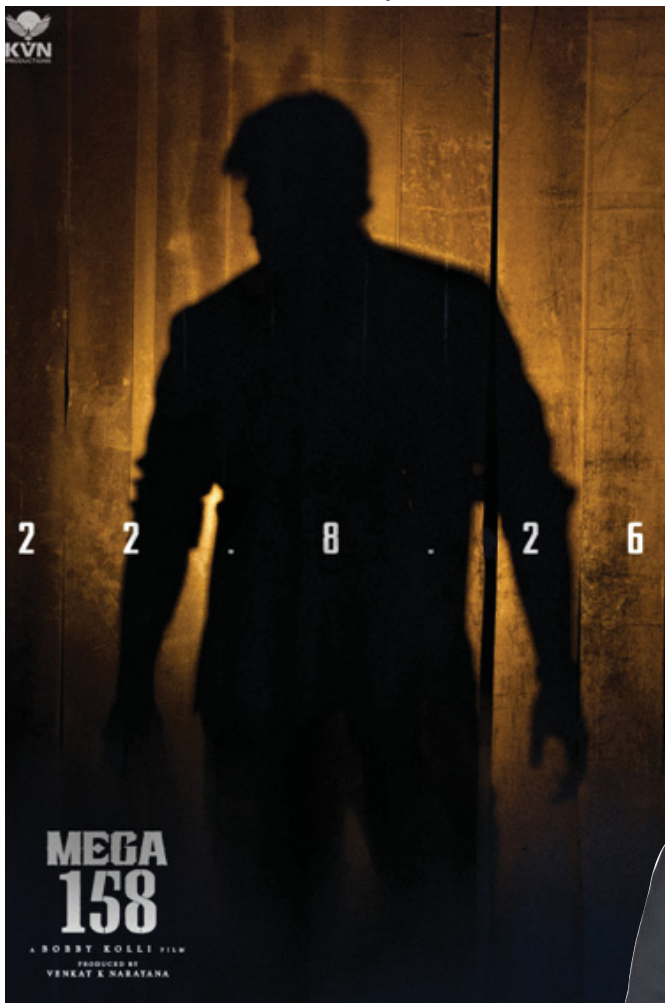
India captain Shubman Gill has taken a proactive step to address a batting weakness ahead of the second Test against Sri Lanka. With the crucial match scheduled to begin in Colombo on August 23, Gill spent considerable time working specifically on his technique against left-arm spin during Friday's training session. Gill's decision comes after an underwhelming outing in the opening Test at Galle. The Indian skipper was dismissed twice by Sri Lankan left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya, scoring only 16 and 8 in the two innings. Despite Gill's struggles, India produced a dominant performance and secured a 165-run victory to take the lead in the two-match series. The Indian team's training session at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo saw Gill spend extended time facing left-arm spin. He took on India's Manav Suthar and Ravindra Jadeja, along with local bowlers, to sharpen his approach against the particular style of bowling that has troubled him. Gill has faced difficulties against orthodox left-arm spinners in Test cricket, with his technique and coverage of the line coming under scrutiny. He has been dismissed by left-arm spin 11 times across his 42 Test matches. The repeated dismissals have made it an area that opponents could look to exploit, especially on spin-friendly pitches. India's spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule also provided an insight into Gill's training. According to Bahutule, the skipper was making adjustments to suit the conditions in Colombo and was putting in the necessary work to counter the threat. The timing of Gill's preparation is significant. Sri Lanka could look to make greater use of spin in the second Test, particularly after seeing the problems Jayasuriya created for the Indian captain in Galle. Sri Lanka have also made changes to their squad ahead of the must-win encounter, adding off-spinner Sahan Arachchige and batter Kamil Mishara. For Gill, the upcoming Test is an opportunity to respond with the bat while also leading India towards a series victory. His form will be particularly important as India look to maintain their advantage and complete a 2-0 sweep. The second Test will begin on August 23 at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club. India currently lead the series 1-0 following their convincing win in Galle. With Gill now specifically working on his weakness against left-arm spin, the Sri Lankan bowlers can expect a more prepared and determined Indian captain in the second Test.



The situation has led England to turn back to Joe Root as Test captain. Root has taken over the leadership role for a second time, but Agnew believes his latest stint may not continue for too long, potentially lasting only until the end of the next Ashes series. That could give Brook a clear window to establish himself as Root's eventual successor. Agnew feels the batter has enough time to demonstrate that he possesses the maturity and leadership qualities required for the position. However, Brook is not the only potential candidate. Young all-rounder Jacob Bethell is also highly regarded as a future leader and could emerge as a serious contender if he continues to develop. For Brook, the immediate priority will be his batting. Agnew believes that if he continues producing high-quality performances and shows greater maturity on and off the field, the captaincy opportunity could eventually come his way.

Mega 158 Title Glimpse Set For Chiranjeevi's Birthday

Megastar Chiranjeevi's upcoming film with director Bobby is gearing up for a major reveal. The makers have officially announced that the much-awaited title glimpse of the film, currently referred to as Mega 158, will be unveiled on August 22, coinciding with Chiranjeevi's birthday. A special pre-look featuring Chiranjeevi's silhouette has already been released, creating considerable buzz among fans. The upcoming project marks the second collaboration between Chiranjeevi and Bobby after their successful film Waltair Veerayya. That movie emerged as one of the major winners during the 2023 Sankranti season, and expectations are naturally high for their next outing. Announcing the title glimpse, director Bobby teased fans with the promise of a completely new version of the Megastar. The promotional material describes the film as showcasing a "new avatar" and "new attitude," while also promising to present a different side of Chiranjeevi. The pre-look maintains a mysterious tone, with only the actor's silhouette being revealed. The film is being made as a big-budget action entertainer and marks KVN Productions' entry into Tollywood. The production house is backing the project on a grand scale, adding to the anticipation surrounding the movie. The cast also includes Anaswara Rajan and Nivetha Thomas in important roles. Their inclusion has added further curiosity about the film's storyline and character dynamics. Meanwhile, music director Thaman is composing the soundtrack and background score for the project. Although the makers have kept several details under wraps, the pre-look and promotional announcements indicate that Chiranjeevi will be seen in a distinctly different presentation. The combination of Bobby's mass-oriented filmmaking and Chiranjeevi's screen presence is expected to be one of the film's biggest attractions. With the title glimpse scheduled for August 22, fans are eagerly waiting to discover the film's official title, Chiranjeevi's new look and the overall tone of the project. The birthday reveal is expected to provide a clearer picture of what Bobby and Chiranjeevi have planned this time. For now, the makers are keeping the suspense intact, but the pre-look has already generated strong curiosity. All eyes are now on Chiranjeevi's birthday, when Mega 158 will finally reveal its official identity to the audience.



Salman Khan's Vamsi Paidipally Film Titled Monster

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's upcoming action entertainer with Telugu director Vamsi Paidipally is generating significant buzz. The film, which has been tentatively referred to as SVC63, is reportedly titled Monster. However, the makers are yet to officially confirm the title. The report comes amid growing interest in the much-awaited collaboration between Salman, Vamsi Paidipally and producer Dil Raju.

The movie is being produced by Dil Raju under the banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations and is being mounted as a high-scale action spectacle. Vamsi Paidipally, who has previously delivered films such as Yevadu, Oopiri and Maharshi, is directing the project. The film marks his collaboration with Salman Khan for the first time, making it one of the most anticipated projects in his career.

Lady Superstar Nayanthara has been roped in as the female lead. Her presence adds further star power to the project, while the makers are reportedly planning a strong action-driven narrative around Salman Khan's character. Details regarding the storyline and the characters are being kept under wraps.

According to the latest report, Salman Khan is personally performing several action sequences in the film.

This decision reportedly came after his body double suffered a heart attack. Salman is said to be keen on ensuring that the shooting schedule remains unaffected and has therefore stepped in to perform the demanding action portions himself.

The film is expected to offer Salman in a larger-than-life action avatar. Given Vamsi Paidipally's experience in handling commercial entertainers and Dil Raju's reputation for producing ambitious projects, expectations are naturally high.

The movie is currently progressing with its shooting schedules, while the team continues to maintain secrecy around the major plot points. Earlier reports suggested that the makers were also considering prominent actors for the antagonist's role, indicating that the film could feature a powerful face-off with Salman Khan.

If the reported title Monster is officially confirmed, it could perfectly complement the film's action-oriented image. The project is scheduled to hit theatres during Eid 2027, giving the makers considerable time to complete production and post-production work.

With Salman Khan's star power, Nayanthara's presence, Vamsi Paidipally's direction and Dil Raju's production, Monster is shaping up to be one of the major pan-India releases to watch out for in 2027.



Regina Cassandra Turns Villain For Mookuthi Amman 2

Nayanthara's much-awaited fantasy entertainer Mookuthi Amman 2 is creating strong curiosity ahead of its release. The sequel to the 2020 hit Mookuthi Amman is being directed by Sundar C, who is known for his commercial entertainers and horror-comedy films. The latest update reveals an interesting addition to the cast, with actress Regina Cassandra set to play the antagonist. According to the latest reports, Regina Cassandra has been given a powerful and unique character in the film. The director is said to have designed a completely different look for the actress, adding an element of surprise to her role. While the makers have not revealed many details about her character, her presence as the villain is expected to create an interesting conflict with Nayanthara's divine character.

The first installment, Mookuthi Amman, was directed by RJ Balaji and featured Nayanthara in the titular role. The film blended fantasy, comedy and devotional elements and went on to attract considerable attention among Tamil audiences. For the sequel, Sundar C has taken over as director, while Nayanthara is returning as Mookuthi Amman.

The sequel is being mounted on a much larger scale. Senior producer Dr. Ishari K. Ganesh is backing the project under the Vels Film International banner, with the reported production budget exceeding Rs. 100 crore. The makers are expected to deliver a visually rich fantasy entertainer with a bigger canvas and more elaborate production values.

Nayanthara's return is one of the biggest attractions of the film, while Regina Cassandra's antagonist role has now added another layer of interest. The combination of two prominent actresses in opposing roles could become one of the major highlights of the movie. The film has also reportedly secured a lucrative post-theatrical streaming deal. According to reports, Jio Hotstar has acquired the digital rights after the streaming platform viewed the completed film. This has further increased expectations surrounding the project. With Sundar C at the helm, Nayanthara reprising her popular divine role and Regina Cassandra stepping into an unusual negative character, Mookuthi Amman 2 is shaping up as an ambitious sequel. The makers are expected to reveal more details about the characters and storyline as the promotional campaign gathers momentum.

