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Revanth Reddy Mourns Sowcar Janaki



Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed deep sorrow over the demise of veteran actress and Padma Shri awardee Sowcar Janaki, remembering her as one of Indian cinema's enduring performers. Janaki passed away in Chennai on Friday at the age of 94. Her death brought tributes from political leaders and members of the film fraternity. Reports said she had been undergoing treatment for age-related health complications. Revanth Reddy recalled that Janaki began her artistic journey at a young age through stage performances before making a lasting impact on the film industry. Her debut in the 1950 Telugu film Shavukaru earned her the screen name by which she became widely known. The Chief Minister noted that Janaki's career extended across nearly seven decades and encompassed more than 400 films in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi. Her versatility enabled her to portray a wide variety of characters and work with several generations of actors and filmmakers. Revanth Reddy said the memorable characters portrayed by the veteran actress would remain in the hearts of audiences for generations. He described her passing as an irreparable loss to the Indian film industry. Janaki was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2022 for her contribution to art and cinema. She also received the Kalaimamani award and other recognitions during her long career. The Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences

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REVANTH REDDY LOSING GROUND WITHIN PARTY..?

G. RAVI KIRAN

As long as a political leader remains strong among the people, nobody dares to question or challenge him. Opposition parties may criticise him, but leaders within his own party usually hesitate to speak against him. However, once signals emerge that a leader is losing public support, the political noise begins to rise. People who once hesitated start speaking openly. Once the confidence grows that a leader may fall behind and lose power, political attacks against him intensify. The developments in Telangana, particularly the direct criticism of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy by Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy and the aggressive stand taken by Minister Konda Surekha's daughter Susmitha, appear to indicate the same trend.

When Revanth Reddy became Chief Minister, he initially faced several problems within the Congress system. He patiently worked on bringing the high command onto his side. During the Cabinet expansion and while inducting leaders from other parties, he largely followed the directions of the high command. Subsequently, the high command increased its preference for Revanth Reddy. At the same time, he managed to bring the Komatireddy brothers into line and then moved ahead more aggressively.

However, there are now growing assessments that anti-incumbency against the government is increasing among the people. Analysts say by-elections and local body election results cannot be treated as the final benchmark and that the situation could change by the time of the general elections. At the ground level, the first impact is being felt in the real estate sector. The second is the delay in payments under various welfare schemes. The political strategy of filing cases against BRS leaders has also faced setbacks during investigations. Nevertheless, action has been taken against some leaders in connection with Singareni tenders, an IAS-related issue, alleged corruption and, most recently, revenue-related matters. All these developments are working in



favour of Revanth Reddy by reducing potential competition. Perhaps that is why he has increasingly been saying that he will remain Chief Minister even in 2029. But the situation on the ground among the people appears to be different.

Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, who once strongly projected Revanth Reddy as the Chief Minister, has reportedly become silent over issues concerning the film industry. He said there would be no increase in ticket prices for films. However, following the controversy involving Allu Arjun and the HYDRA action concerning Nagarjuna's property, there was a perception that the entire film industry had come under Revanth Reddy's control. Venkata Reddy is said to have been hurt by developments that allegedly weakened his authority over his own portfolio and by the handling of the Ponguleti issue in his district. Rajagopal Reddy, meanwhile, had been a rebel from the beginning, but supported Revanth after reportedly receiving an assurance of a ministerial position.

Later, however, following the controversy that emerged in Thungathurthi, Rajagopal Reddy reportedly came to believe that Revanth had played a role from behind the scenes. Since then, he has once again started directly attacking the Chief Minister. His warning to be cautious about people who have come from outside was also seen as an indirect attack on Revanth Reddy.

The Konda Surekha episode is also becoming increasingly difficult for the Chief Minister. The political developments involving her daughter Susmitha indicate that the Konda family is prepared to confront the Revanth camp. Earlier, Susmitha had reportedly challenged the police in connection with the OSD issue. Though the controversy had heated up because of her comments, it later cooled down following a compromise.

However, when Revanth Reddy recently announced that Revoori Prakash Reddy would contest again from Parkal, Susmitha responded sharply, directly questioning who he was to make such a statement. Soon after, the old OSD case resurfaced and a case was registered against the former OSD. When the PCC sought an explanation from Konda Surekha, she reportedly said that she had nothing to do with what her daughter had said. On the other hand, Susmitha said that she did not need to listen to her mother and father. This clearly suggests that the Konda family is prepared for a confrontation.

One after another, leaders are beginning to challenge Revanth Reddy. If circumstances turn favourable, there are already several Congress leaders who may be ready to pull him down. The real question is how these developments will unfold and what political consequences they will ultimately produce.

Revanth Reddy's US Visit Cancelled

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's proposed visit to the United States has been cancelled after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) denied political clearance for the US leg of his overseas tour. The Chief Minister, who is currently in London, is now scheduled to return to Hyderabad on August 23 instead of travelling to Boston. The development was confirmed by the Chief Minister's Office and reported by multiple national news outlets. The Telangana government had sought clearance for both the United Kingdom and the US visits under established policy and protocol. While permission was granted for the UK leg, political clearance was not granted for the proposed US programme. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday that foreign visits by chief ministers and other dignitaries are assessed by the ministry before political clearance is issued. He said the programme proposed for Reddy's US visit was not considered appropriate to the office held and the stated purpose of the trip. The US visit was planned as part of the TelanganaRising initiative, with the Chief Minister expected to meet leading educational institutions and explore partnerships in education, skills and technology. Proposed engagements included institutions such as Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Northeastern University and Virginia Tech. Reddy has instructed officials to proceed with the proposed US programme and work towards finalising MoUs and partnership agreements despite his absence.



Reddy said the objective was to bring globally recognised educational and skills institutions to Hyderabad and create wider opportunities for Telangana's youth. He expressed disappointment over what his office described as a "political denial" but said he would respect the Centre's decision and return to India. Meanwhile, Reddy will continue his scheduled engagements in the UK. His programme includes interactions with academic and institutional representatives associated with Oxford, Cambridge, the London School of Economics, London Business School and the University of London, besides meetings with sports institutions. The Chief Minister said his broader objective was to develop Hyderabad as a global knowledge hub by attracting leading international education and skills institutions. The state government said officials would continue pursuing partnerships envisaged under the US programme. The MEA has clarified that the UK visit received clearance, while the US leg did not.

Revanth Invites Oxford to Telangana



London, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday visited the historic University of Oxford as part of the Telangana Rising delegation and invited the institution to explore large-scale educational and research initiatives in Hyderabad. During discussions with Professor Maya Tudor of the Blavatnik School of Government and Professor Faisal Devji of Balliol College, the Chief Minister presented the Telangana Rising vision and outlined the State government's plans to develop Hyderabad into a global centre for education, research and innovation. Revanth Reddy invited Oxford to consider bringing its executive education programmes, specialised research expertise and academic capabilities to Hyderabad. He also proposed establishing a dedicated centre in the city to provide advanced learning and research opportunities for students, professionals and researchers from Telangana. K. Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Minister's Advisor and Ex-officio Special Chief Secretary, explained the opportunities available to foreign universities under the National Education Policy. He highlighted Hyderabad's potential as a location for international academic institutions and outlined the advantages of establishing a presence in Telangana.

The Oxford academics responded positively to the proposals and expressed interest in exploring collaboration with the Telangana government in education, research and skill development. The State delegation also invited Oxford representatives to attend the Telangana Rising Global Summit, scheduled in Hyderabad from December 7 to 9, 2026. The Chief Minister later visited Somerville College, where he viewed a portrait of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, an alumna of the institution. The portrait was gifted to the college by Sonia Gandhi in 2002. Revanth Reddy subsequently visited the Utilita Bowl, operated by the GMR Group, along with GMR Group Corporate Chairman Kiran Kumar Grandhi. The integrated facility includes a golf course, sports infrastructure and a hotel. He held discussions with GMR representatives and the group's global sports team on developing world-class sporting facilities in Telangana and invited the company to invest and partner with the State. The engagements formed part of Telangana's broader effort to attract global institutions and investment under its Telangana Rising 2047 vision. The Chief Minister was also scheduled to visit Emirates Stadium to watch the English Premier League fixture between Arsenal and Coventry.

Governor Calls for Credible Journalism



Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Friday stressed the importance of accurate, impartial and credible journalism in strengthening democracy. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the National Conference of the Federation of Press Clubs in Hyderabad. The Governor said accuracy, fact-checking and public interest should remain at the heart of journalism. He cautioned that

the growing influence of artificial intelligence and social media had transformed the way news was produced and consumed, making it increasingly important for journalists to verify information before publication. Shukla urged the media to play a proactive role in countering fake news, deep-fakes and misinformation. He emphasised the need to provide members of Generation Z with reliable information and promote digital and AI literacy so

that young people can distinguish credible reports from misleading content. The Governor also cautioned media organisations against allowing the race for speed and online visibility to compromise journalistic standards. He said the pursuit of viral content or sensational headlines should never take precedence over truth, ethics and public interest. He called upon journalists and media organisations to contribute to national awareness campaigns, particularly those aimed at creating a drug-free India under the Nasha Mukti Bharat initiative and strengthening efforts towards a TB-free India. Shukla expressed hope that the Federation of Press Clubs would develop into an inclusive, democratic and politically non-partisan platform representing the interests of the media community while promoting responsible journalism. He said the media's credibility was fundamental to maintaining public trust and strengthening democratic institutions. Journalists, he added, have a responsibility to ensure that information reaching citizens is accurate

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Modi Pushes India as Global Space Hub

New Delhi, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday interacted with the CEOs and founders of 20 space-sector start-ups at Seva Teerth, urging them to make India a leading global destination for space technology, talent, companies and investment. The interaction focused on expanding the applications of space technology beyond launches and satellites and integrating them into sectors that directly affect people's lives. Modi called for greater use of space-based solutions in agriculture, livestock and dairy management, environ-

mental monitoring, weather forecasting, defence and space-debris management. The Prime Minister encouraged entrepreneurs to develop indigenous technologies and explore collaborations with organisations outside the space sector. He suggested that companies working on space-debris tracking and removal could partner with environmental institutions, while space-tech firms serving agriculture could work with agricultural universities and government departments to help farmers make better-informed decisions. Modi said India has a major opportunity to strengthen its position in the global space economy



as several countries lack either the resources or willingness to make large investments in the sector. He called for an ecosystem in which the world looks towards India whenever it considers space technology and innovation. The Prime Minister also stressed the importance of attracting international talent and investment. He urged closer engagement between space start-ups and Atal Tinkering Labs to encourage curiosity about science and space among school-children from an early age. The participating companies represented a wide range of technologies, including rocket systems, reusable launch vehicles, satellites, avionics, advanced

propulsion, defence intelligence, space-debris removal and AI-driven weather and climate intelligence. The start-ups included Skyroot Aerospace, Agnikul Cosmos, Pixxel, Dhruva Space, GalaxEye, PierSight, Bellatrix Aerospace, Digantara, SatSure, Suhora Technologies and others. The entrepreneurs highlighted the progress of India's private space industry and credited policy reforms and increased private participation with creating new opportunities. They also said their companies were investing in indigenous capabilities and developing technologies within India. According to a recent government factsheet, India's space ecosystem

had expanded to around 440 registered start-ups by August 2026, while the country's space economy was valued at about \$9 billion. The government has also introduced financial and technology-support measures, including the Rs 1,000-crore Antariksh Venture Capital Fund and a Technology Adoption Fund aimed at supporting private space innovation. Modi's interaction underscored the government's objective of transforming India's rapidly expanding private space industry into a major contributor to economic growth, technological self-reliance and global space leadership.

Irrigation Land Payments to Be Fast-Trackd

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has directed the Irrigation Department to accelerate compensation payments for land acquired for various irrigation projects, with officials instructed to complete pending processes on a mission mode.The decision was taken during an emergency video conference chaired by Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy with district Collectors, chief engineers and senior departmental officials. The meeting reviewed delays in land acquisition compensation and rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) payments.Officials were informed that around Rs 1,200 crore was currently available for disbursement and should be released to eligible beneficiaries without unnecessary delay. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has already sanctioned Rs 5,000 crore specifically to address land acquisition and R&R-related requirements connected with irrigation projects.The government has so far released Rs 2,782 crore for the purpose, of which approximately Rs 566 crore has reached beneficiaries. Another Rs 989 crore was reportedly at different stages of disbursement, while Rs 199 crore



remained available with districts where payment procedures had not yet begun. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Chief Minister had given clear priority to resolving land acquisition and R&R issues so that pending hurdles would not affect the progress of irrigation projects. He stressed that adequate financial resources were being made available and that procedural delays should not prevent eligible landowners from receiving compensation.District Collectors were instructed to deploy additional personnel and constitute special teams wherever required to expedite the process. Officials were also directed to complete acquisition proceedings, consent awards and token generation in advance.Once award numbers and token details are submitted, the Irrigation Department will coordinate with the Finance Department to secure the necessary fund releases, the Minister said.The government's latest instructions are aimed at clearing long-pending compensation cases and removing administrative bottlenecks affecting irrigation projects across Telangana. Officials have been asked to closely monitor the progress and ensure that available funds reach beneficiaries at the earliest.

Vivek Assures Polytechnic Students



Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

State Labour, Employment, Training, Factories and Mines Minister Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy on Friday met protesting students at Masab Tank Polytechnic College and assured them that their academic and employment prospects would not be affected by the proposed administrative changes.The Minister addressed concerns surrounding the move to bring polytechnic colleges under the Energy Department. He categorically ruled out any possibility of privatisation and said the institutions would continue to remain under government control.Vivek assured students that their existing courses, syllabi and examination system would remain unchanged. Diploma certificates would continue to have the same recognition, while there would be no increase in tuition fees, he said.He also clarified that the Engineering Common Entrance Test (ECET), lateral-entry admissions into the second year of B.Tech programmes and fee reimbursement schemes would not be altered. If required, the government would issue a special Government Order to provide clarity on these assurances. The Minister further announced

that the government was considering a monthly stipend of Rs 2,000 for polytechnic students. He said substantial investments were also being planned to strengthen infrastructure and upgrade laboratories in government polytechnic colleges, with an estimated allocation of Rs 600 crore to Rs 800 crore.Explaining the rationale behind bringing the colleges under the Energy Department, Vivek said the move was intended to strengthen technical education, improve practical training and create better employment opportunities through stronger links with industries. He also sought to allay concerns among teaching and non-teaching employees. According to the Minister, there would be no changes to the salaries, service conditions or promotion opportunities of faculty and staff.Vivek urged students and faculty members not to be apprehensive about the proposed changes, stressing that the government's objective was to improve technical education and expand career opportunities rather than disrupt the existing system.The interaction was aimed at addressing the students' concerns directly and providing clarity on the government's plans for polytechnic education in Telangana.

22A Errors Hit Property Loans

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Errors in Telangana's Section 22A prohibited-properties list are increasingly affecting property transactions and lending, with owners reportedly unable to sell or mortgage properties while banks and housing finance companies are keeping some loan applications pending.Section 22A of the Registration Act restricts registration of transactions involving specified categories of land, including government, assigned, endowment, Waqf and certain other protected properties. However, recent reports indicate that several privately owned properties have also been placed on the prohibited list, creating uncertainty for genuine owners.The issue has become particularly significant for home-loan applicants. Lenders normally conduct detailed title verification before accepting property as collateral. A 22A entry can therefore prevent a bank from completing the security process, even when the applicant claims valid ownership documents. The controversy intensified after the state government acknowledged problems in the prohibited-properties records. Revenue Minister Ponguliti Srinivas Reddy apologised for the difficulties caused to landowners and said officials had made mistakes while

updating the records. The government has also initiated steps to review genuine applications and rectify errors.Reports indicate that owners in several Hyderabad localities and neighbouring districts have encountered difficulties. Properties in areas including Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills have reportedly appeared on the prohibited list, prompting residents to approach revenue and registration authorities for corrections. The problem has also reached the courts. The Telangana High Court has dealt with cases challenging the inclusion of privately held properties in prohibited lists, highlighting the legal complications surrounding property classification and government records. For borrowers, the uncertainty can affect fresh home loans, loans against property and other transactions requiring clear title. Existing loans may not be immediately affected, but complications could arise if lenders later face difficulties enforcing security over properties subsequently classified under 22A.The government has directed officials to examine genuine cases and upload supporting records to facilitate verification. Meanwhile, property owners and financial institutions are awaiting a comprehensive resolution to the issue.

Seethakka Assures Field Assistants



Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka on Friday assured Field Assistants that the Telangana government was committed to addressing their long-pending concerns, including wage disparities, job security and their demand for regularisation.The Minister met representatives of Field Assistants in Hyderabad and discussed their grievances. She said several of their issues had remained unresolved for years and criticised the previous government for removing Field Assistants from service. She pointed out that the present government had taken steps to reinstate them. Seethakka acknowledged differences in remuneration among Field Assistants and said the government would work towards ensuring uniform wages, irrespective of the size of a Gram Panchayat or the volume of work handled there.She also assured the representatives that measures would be considered to provide greater job security. On their demand to be converted into Full-Time Employees

(FTEs), the Minister said a decision would be announced after consultations with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. The Minister stressed that Field Assistants have an important role in strengthening the Employment Guarantee Scheme in rural areas. She urged them to actively mobilise workers and ensure that eligible labourers receive employment opportunities.Seethakka said the current daily registration of labourers under the scheme was below two lakh and called for efforts to increase the figure to at least 12 lakh. She questioned why Telangana was unable to mobilise more workers when other States were recording better participation.She urged Field Assistants to adopt a proactive approach and work closely with rural communities to improve implementation of the employment guarantee programme.The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department is responsible for implementing rural development programmes in Telangana.

Raidurg Land Sets New Price Record

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad's real estate market touched a new high on Friday after an acre of prime land in the upscale Raidurg area fetched a record Rs 264 crore in a state government e-auction.The Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIIC) auctioned a 5.25-acre land parcel located at Panmaktha in Survey No. 83/1. MSN Realty, the real estate arm of pharmaceutical major MSN Group, emerged as the highest bidder and secured the entire parcel at the record price.The latest auction has set a new benchmark for land values in Hyderabad's key commercial corridor. The winning bid translates into an overall transaction value of approximately Rs 1,386 crore for the 5.25-acre property. The latest price has surpassed the previous record established in the same survey number in May, when an acre was sold for Rs 237 crore through an auction. The sharp increase in the value within a few months highlights the continued demand for strategically located commercial and mixed-use properties in and around Hyderabad's information technology corridor.Raidurg has emerged as one of the city's most sought-after real estate destinations due to its proximity to major technology companies, corporate offices, commercial developments and transport infrastructure. The locality forms part of

Hyderabad's prominent western business district, which has attracted significant investments from technology, financial services and other sectors.The record-breaking auction also underscores the strong investor interest in government-owned land located in established commercial zones. Such auctions have become an important source of revenue for the state while providing opportunities for large businesses and developers to acquire strategically positioned properties.Industry observers said the latest transaction could further influence land valuations in neighbouring areas, particularly those with access to major business districts and infrastructure projects. The premium commanded by the Raidurg parcel reflects both its location and the limited availability of large land parcels suitable for high-value commercial development.The transaction comes amid sustained activity in Hyderabad's property market, with demand remaining strong for office, residential and mixed-use developments in the western and north-western parts of the city.With the Rs 264 crore-per-acre benchmark, the Raidurg auction has reinforced Hyderabad's position among India's major real estate investment destinations and highlighted the premium attached to land in its established IT and business corridors.

Jindal Steel, IITH Sign MoU

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Jindal Steel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) to establish a Centre of Excellence at the institute's campus in Kandi, Sangareddy district. The agreement was signed on Thursday, August 20.The proposed centre will focus on accelerating the adoption of advanced steel solutions across infrastructure, construction, engineering and strategic industrial sectors. The partnership will bring together IITH's research and technical capabilities with Jindal Steel's expertise in steel manufacturing, metallurgy and engineering. The initiative is expected to support the development and demonstration of applications for structural steel, with an emphasis on solutions that can improve efficiency, performance and sustainability across different sectors.The collaboration will include joint training programmes, workshops, technical symposia, demonstration projects, internships, placement opportunities and academic modules. The centre will also engage with government agencies and industry stakeholders to assess advanced steel applications and explore opportunities for wider adoption.

Jindal Steel Managing Director V.R. Sharma said the partnership with IITH would help expand the use of high-strength and value-engineered steel in India's infrastructure and industrial sectors. He said combining academic research with industry experience could help demonstrate steel solutions that are stronger, lighter, faster to implement and more efficient.The collaboration adds to IITH's growing network of industry-oriented research partnerships. The institute currently hosts more than 30 Centres and Centres of Excellence and describes research and industry collaboration as key components of its academic mission.IITH has previously entered into partnerships with industry and academic institutions to advance research, technology development and skills. Its official records highlight collaborations involving areas ranging from clean energy and critical minerals to advanced manufacturing and artificial intelligence.The new Jindal Steel-IITH centre is expected to create a platform for closer interaction between researchers, students and industry professionals while supporting the development of innovative steel applications for India's rapidly expanding infrastructure and manufacturing requirements.

Minister Cleans Neglected Office Toilets



Nagarkurnool, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Tourism and Culture Juppally Krishna Rao expressed strong displeasure over official negligence after finding poor sanitation and delays in public services during a surprise inspection at the Mandal Revenue Office in Pentlavelli on Friday.The Minister inspected the revenue office and reviewed the status of applications and files pending with officials. He questioned the staff about delays in processing requests from the public and sought explanations for the lack of timely action. Juppally expressed dissatisfaction with the functioning of the office and reportedly pulled up the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) and other personnel over the issues. He stressed that government offices should function efficiently and provide services to citizens without unnecessary delays.During the inspection,

the Minister noticed that the toilets on the office premises were in an extremely unhygienic condition. Angered by what he described as official negligence, Juppally took the unusual step of cleaning the toilets himself.He poured water and scrubbed the uncleaned areas, sending a strong message to the officials present. The unexpected action reportedly left the staff surprised.The Minister's gesture was intended to highlight the importance of cleanliness and accountability in government offices. He indicated that officials responsible for maintaining public facilities should not neglect basic sanitation.The incident drew attention locally, with the Minister's action underscoring the need for government employees to remain responsive to citizens and maintain workplaces in proper condition. The inspection also served as a reminder that public offices must uphold standards of cleanliness while ensuring that applications and files are processed promptly.

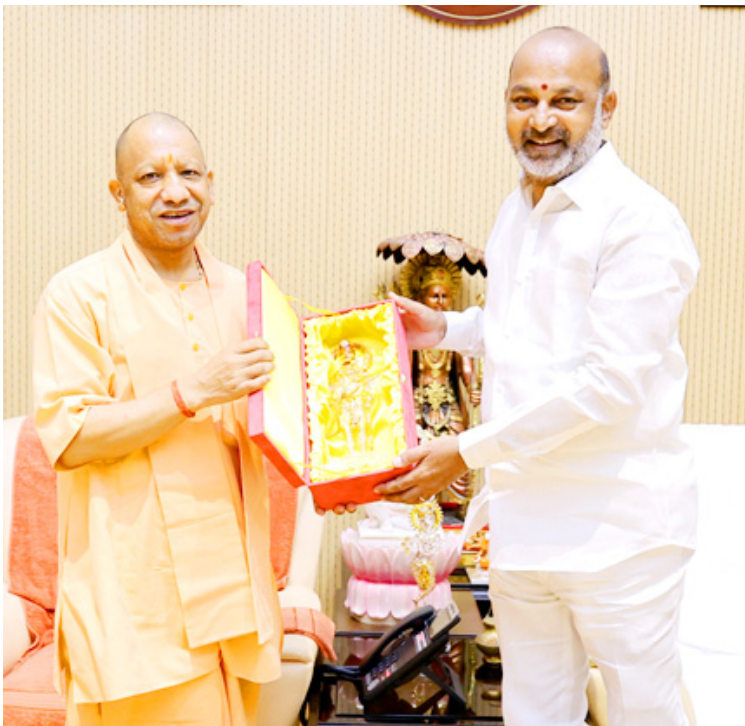
Hyderabad Braces for Sultry Weather

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad is experiencing a distinctly sultry spell this monsoon, with high morning humidity giving way to a sharp drop in moisture levels during the afternoon. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, has forecast similar conditions through August 27, with partly to generally cloudy skies and chances of light rain and thunder-showers.According to the local weather bulletin, relative humidity across the city has remained high during the mornings, generally ranging between 70% and 80%. However, afternoon heating has resulted in a substantial decline in moisture levels, with humidity recorded at around 5.30 pm falling to nearly 30% to 39%.The combination of high early-morning humidity and strong afternoon heating has made weather conditions feel particularly uncomfortable for residents. Maximum temperatures have remained around 32°C to 33°C, while minimum temperatures have hovered between 23°C and 25°C.The unusual pattern comes dur-

ing the latter part of the monsoon, when Telangana generally experiences more frequent rainfall. Instead, Hyderabad has been witnessing alternating periods of moisture, sunshine and dry conditions, contributing to a sticky atmosphere during the day.The IMD's seven-day outlook indicates that the prevailing weather pattern is likely to continue until August 27. The city is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy, with intermittent possibilities of light rainfall and thundershowers. The forecast also indicates the possibility of occasional dust storms in some areas. Residents may therefore experience rapid changes in weather conditions, particularly between the morning and afternoon hours. Weather officials have advised people to remain prepared for sudden showers while also taking precautions against heat and humidity during periods of stronger afternoon sunshine. The prevailing conditions underline the variable nature of Hyderabad's mid-monsoon weather, with significant changes in humidity and temperature occurring within the same day.

Bandi Sanjay Meets Yogi Adityanath



Lucknow, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Friday and held discussions for more than half an hour on political and developmental issues concerning Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. Bandi Sanjay, who was visiting Uttar Pradesh after attending development programmes of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), proceeded to the Chief Minister's official residence for the meeting. According to party sources, the discussions focused mainly on the BJP's political position in Telangana and preparations for the forthcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Yogi Adityanath reportedly said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was extending full cooperation for Telangana's development and argued that a BJP-led "double-engine government" in the state could accelerate development and help address several longstanding issues. Referring to Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister highlighted the development achieved through coordination between the state and central governments. He

said the continued presence of BJP governments at both levels had enabled Uttar Pradesh to secure greater support and implement major development initiatives. The leaders expressed the view that Telangana could similarly benefit from closer coordination with the Centre if the BJP formed the government in the state. They said a unified effort by BJP leaders and cadres would be crucial to strengthening the party's prospects. The meeting also covered the political atmosphere in Telangana. The leaders reportedly assessed the BJP's organisational position and expressed confidence that the party had opportunities to expand its influence if its leadership worked together. Discussions also turned to Uttar Pradesh's electoral prospects. Yogi Adityanath expressed confidence that the BJP would retain power in the state and said the party would seek a third consecutive term under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. The meeting concluded with discussions on strengthening the BJP's organisational efforts and political strategy in both states.

Telangana Urges Judicious Groundwater Use



Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has stepped up measures to conserve groundwater after assessing that the state's water reserves remain inadequate for the remainder of the current Kharif season. The government has indicated that only around seven lakh acres of agricultural land, out of more than 30 lakh acres covered by various irrigation projects, may receive irrigation water during the season. Against this backdrop, officials from the Agriculture, Panchayat Raj and other departments have been instructed to create awareness among farmers about the careful and efficient use

of groundwater. Officials were told that water demand is expected to rise significantly during September and October. With rainfall conditions remaining uncertain, farmers have been advised against excessive extraction of groundwater through borewells. The government particularly urged officials to discourage the use of automatic starter motors for borewell pumps, as such systems can lead to unnecessary pumping and excessive depletion of underground water reserves. Farmers are being encouraged to draw only the quantity of water required for their crops. Authorities have also been asked to prepare

daily reports on groundwater availability and communicate the information to farmers. Such updates are expected to help cultivators make informed decisions regarding irrigation and water usage. Officials noted that recent rainfall had not significantly improved groundwater levels. Water storage in reservoirs was also described as less than satisfactory, raising concerns over water availability during the coming months. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao reviewed the preparedness measures during an interdepartmental meeting convened to discuss the possible impact of El Nino conditions. He stressed the importance of strengthening water conservation measures at the grassroots level. The Minister also directed officials to concentrate on restoring the state's approximately 44,000 tanks and lakes. Reviving these traditional water bodies is expected to improve rainwater storage and contribute to groundwater recharge. The government's latest measures are aimed at preventing excessive groundwater depletion and ensuring that available water resources are used efficiently during the remaining crop season.

Governor Calls for Credible Journalism

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balanced and properly verified. The Governor's address highlighted the growing challenges facing journalism in the digital era and the need for media professionals to adapt to emerging technologies without compromising established ethical standards. He summed up his message with an emphasis on putting facts first, keeping public interest at the centre of journalism and ensuring that credibility remains above sensationalism.

Revanth Reddy Mourns Sowcar Janaki

Continue

to Janaki's family, friends, colleagues and admirers. He prayed for her soul to rest in peace and expressed his sympathies to those mourning her death. Her passing marks the end of a remarkable chapter in South Indian cinema, with her extensive body of work continuing to be remembered by audiences across generations.

Uttam Orders Speedy Land Acquisition

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

State Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday directed officials to accelerate pending land acquisition and rehabilitation works required for various irrigation projects, stressing that delays should not affect project completion schedules. The Minister held a video conference with District Collectors and senior officials of the Irrigation Department to review the status of land acquisition. District Collector Chitra Mishra participated in the meeting from the Collector's office and discussed the progress of pending cases in the district. Uttam Kumar Reddy said completing land acquisition was essential for taking irrigation projects forward and creating new ayacut, or irrigable command areas. He instructed officials to adopt a fast-track approach to acquisition and rehabilitation processes and ensure that eligible displaced persons receive compensation according to government rules. The Minister informed officials that the government had released around Rs



2,800 crore to support land acquisition requirements. He directed the concerned departments to make effective use of the funds and clear pending cases without

unnecessary procedural delays. The review focused on identifying projects where land acquisition remained incomplete and determining the steps

required to resolve bottlenecks. Officials were asked to coordinate closely with revenue and irrigation authorities so that field-level issues could be addressed quickly. Collector Chitra Mishra instructed officials to complete pending acquisition activities for irrigation projects in the district within the planned timelines. She sought details of the projects requiring additional land and reviewed the expected timeframes for completing the acquisition process. She also stressed the importance of ensuring that project works proceed according to schedule once the required land is secured. Additional Collector (Revenue) Srinivas Reddy, Revenue Divisional Officer Sharmila, Special Deputy Collector Rajeshwari and officials from the Irrigation and Land Acquisition departments participated in the video conference. The meeting highlighted the government's focus on removing land-related hurdles and ensuring that irrigation projects progress without delays.

NEET Parents Seek Action on College Fees



Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of parents of NEET and MBBS students on Friday met Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao at the party's state office, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Bhavan, and submitted a representation highlighting alleged violations by private medical colleges. The parents claimed that several colleges were collecting tuition fees for the entire five-year period, including the internship year, despite directives issued by the Telangana Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee (TAFRC) and the National Medical Commission (NMC) limiting tuition fees to the 4½-year academic period. They alleged that students who questioned the fee demands were being subjected to various forms of pressure. According to the delegation, some colleges were preventing students from attending classes, blocking biometric attendance and withholding examination hall tickets. The parents also raised concerns over stipends, alleging that certain

institutions were withholding stipends payable to students or seeking to recover amounts that had already been disbursed. The delegation demanded that excess fees collected from students be refunded immediately and that eligible stipends be paid strictly according to applicable regulations. They also sought stringent action against institutions found violating the prescribed norms. Ramchander Rao assured the parents that the Bharatiya Janata Party would support the affected students and take up their concerns with the appropriate authorities. He said the party would continue to press for implementation of the directions issued by TAFRC and NMC. The BJP leader further assured the delegation that the party would continue raising the issue with the state government until the students' grievances were addressed and appropriate relief was provided. The parents appealed for urgent intervention to protect students from financial and academic difficulties arising from the alleged fee and stipend practices.

Workshop Reviews El Nino Preparedness



Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Friday participated in a workshop at Rajendranagar focused on strengthening preparedness and coordinated action to address the possible impact of El Nino across different sectors. The workshop was organised by the Agriculture Department to assess potential risks and develop advance response measures. Officials and experts discussed the importance of taking timely steps to minimise the impact of changing weather conditions on agriculture and allied sectors. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Panchayat Raj Minister D. Seethakka and Animal Husbandry Minister Vakhti Srihari attended the programme along with senior government officials and agriculture scientists. Representatives from the Agriculture, Panchayat Raj, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries departments took part in the discussions, highlighting the need for

coordination among departments while preparing contingency measures. Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju stressed the importance of adopting sector-specific strategies and acting proactively rather than waiting for the effects of adverse weather conditions to intensify. He called for close coordination between departments, field-level officials and scientific experts to ensure timely implementation of preparedness measures. The workshop was aimed at strengthening the government's response mechanism and ensuring that vulnerable sectors are adequately prepared for possible changes in rainfall and weather patterns associated with El Niño. Officials were encouraged to identify potential challenges in advance and formulate practical measures to protect agriculture, livestock, fisheries and rural communities. The meeting underlined the Telangana government's focus on coordinated planning and early action to reduce the potential impact of climate-related risks.

Vivek's Remarks Trigger Political Row

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Labour Minister Gaddam Vivek Venkatswamy's comments about the uncertainty of his political position and the future of the Congress government have triggered a political controversy in Telangana. The remarks came during an interaction with protesting students at Government Polytechnic, Masab Tank, on Friday. The students had reportedly sought a written assurance from the Minister on commitments made during their interaction. Responding to their demand, Vivek pointed to the uncertainties involved in politics and elections. He reportedly told the students that he could not provide a guarantee about the future, as he could lose his Assembly seat and the Congress government could also be voted out in the next election. "I may lose the next election... our government may go," the Minister was heard saying in a video of the interaction that subsequently circulated on social media platforms, including X and Instagram. The comments quickly became a subject of political debate, with opposition parties using the Minister's remarks to question the stability and popularity of the ruling Congress government. The Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) seized on the statement, arguing that it reflected growing uncertainty within the ruling party and declining confidence in the government's prospects. The opposition party sought to portray the Minister's remarks as an indication that Congress leaders themselves were unsure about retaining power. The incident occurred against the backdrop of student protests and demands for assurances from the government. The students had sought clarity and written commitments regarding issues raised before the Minister. Vivek's response, however, shifted attention from the immediate student demands to the broader political implications of his remarks. The circulation of the video has intensified discussion on social media and among political circles. The Minister's comments are likely to remain a point of contention as opposition parties continue to target the Congress government over its performance and political standing in the State.

Congress Leaders Demand Action

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

A fresh dispute within the Telangana Congress has erupted following remarks made by Sushmita, daughter of Minister Konda Surekha, against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. The controversy intensified on Friday as several Congress legislators and government whips demanded action over what they described as inappropriate public criticism of the party leadership. Konda Surekha has distanced herself from her daughter's comments in her response to the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) disciplinary committee. She said the remarks reflected Sushmita's personal views and argued that she should not be held responsible for statements made by her adult daughter. Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah said criticism of the Chief Minister from within the ruling party could not be ignored. He questioned why Surekha had not condemned the remarks if she had no connection with them and stressed the need to maintain party discipline. Government Whip Vemula Veeresham also demanded that the issue be dealt with firmly. He said differences within the party should be raised through appropriate organisational channels rather than through public statements. Other Congress legislators echoed the demand for disciplinary action against leaders making remarks that could weaken the party. MLA Balu Naik alleged that attempts were being made to undermine Revanth Reddy's leadership and called for action against anyone making statements against the party. He maintained that the Chief Minister had played a key role in bringing Congress to power in Telangana. MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy also criticised Surekha, questioning her conduct within the party and alleging that public accusations were providing political ammunition to the opposition. He urged party leaders with grievances to approach the high command instead of airing them publicly. The TPCC disciplinary committee had earlier sought an explanation from Surekha over her daughter's remarks concerning Revanth Reddy and senior MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy. The episode has added to growing internal tensions within the Telangana Congress, with party leaders calling for greater discipline and resolution of differences through established organisational mechanisms. Reports also indicate that senior Congress leaders have sought stronger action in response to the controversy.

SIR Claims Period Ends September 16

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

The claims and objections window for additions and deletions in the electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process will remain open until September 16, the Hyderabad District Election Authority said. The SIR exercise began on August 17, allowing eligible citizens to seek inclusion in the electoral roll and raise objections regarding entries that require correction or deletion. Applications can be submitted to the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) or Booth Level Officer (BLO). Citizens can also complete the process online through the Election Commission of India's Voters' Services Portal and the ECINET mobile application. Officials said different forms are available depending on the nature of the request. Form 6 can be used by eligible citizens seeking fresh enrolment as voters. Form 6A is meant for eligible Overseas Indian voters seeking inclusion. Citizens who wish to object to the inclusion of a name or request deletion from the electoral roll can submit Form 7. Form 8 can be used for shifting a voter's residence, correcting details in the electoral roll, obtaining a replacement EPIC and marking a voter as a person with disability (PwD). The Election Authority has urged citizens to verify their electoral details and submit claims or objections within the stipulated deadline. Following scrutiny of the applications and resolution of objections, the revised final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on October 19. Authorities have advised voters to use the designated official channels and provide accurate information and supporting documents wherever required to ensure that electoral records remain updated and accurate.

Devotees Throng Ujjaini Mahakali Temple

Secunderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

The Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Temple in Secunderabad witnessed a heavy turnout of devotees on Friday on the occasion of Varalakshmi Vratam. As the festival coincided with a Friday during the auspicious month of Shravana, a large number of women devotees visited the temple to seek the blessings of Goddess Mahakali and perform special rituals, including Kumkumarchana. The presiding deity was specially decorated with colourful glass bangles for the occasion.

The floral arrangements and illumination added to the festive appearance of the temple, while devotional songs and the steady movement of devotees created a spiritually charged atmosphere on the premises. Women devotees offered prayers and performed rituals with devotion, seeking the well-being and prosperity of their families. The temple authorities had made advance arrangements to regulate the crowds and



ensure that devotees could have a smooth and comfortable darshan. Temple Executive Officer Gutta Manohar Reddy and his wife also participated in the celebrations. They performed Varalakshmi Puja and offered prayers to the Goddess as part of the special observances. Speaking on the occasion, Gutta Manohar Reddy said the temple had been decorated with flowers and glass bangles to mark Varalakshmi Vratam.

He said the temple administration had taken necessary measures in advance to accommodate the large number of devotees expected to attend the celebrations.

The temple surroundings were a festive appearance throughout the day, with devotees arriving in large numbers to offer prayers and participate in the Varalakshmi Vratam rituals.

Shravana Celebrations Held at Vijaya Durga Temple

Saidabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

The Sri Vijaya Durga Devi Temple in Saidabad witnessed devotional celebrations on Friday on the occasion of the second Friday of the auspicious month of Shravana.



Temple chairman Sri Sunil Reddy and his wife Smt. Sangeetha Reddy performed special rituals at the temple. The programme featured the recitation of Sri Lalita Sahasranam by women devotees, while members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad conducted special worship of Varalakshmi Devi. The temple premises reverberated with devotional hymns and songs dedicated to the Goddess, creating a spiritual atmosphere for devotees. Latha Sri also addressed the gathering on the significance of the celebrations. A large number of devotees attended the programme and participated in the rituals with devotion.

Following the religious proceedings, Sangeetha Reddy honoured women devotees by presenting them with sarees. Vishwa Hindu Parishad members distributed pasupu-kumkuma and tambulam among women devotees as part of the traditional celebrations. Later, Temple Chairman Sunil Reddy and Alli Shravan organised Annadanam, providing free meals to devotees who attended the programme.

The celebrations concluded with devotees offering prayers and seeking the blessings of Sri Vijaya Durga Devi for the well-being and prosperity of their families. Sangeetha Reddy, Latha Sri, Mahalakshmi, Sunila, Avanthi, Harshini, Roopa and several other devotees participated in the celebrations. The organisers said the programme was conducted with the aim of preserving traditional religious practices and bringing devotees together during the auspicious Shravana month.

Photojournalist Wins State-Level Award



Santoshi Mata Adorned with Bangles

Secunderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Special prayers and devotional programmes were held at the Jai Sri Santoshi Mata Temple in Jeera, under the Ramgopalpet division of Secunderabad, on Friday on the occasion of the second Friday of the holy month of Shravana. The presiding deity was beautifully decorated with a variety of colourful bangles, creating a special attraction for devotees. Large numbers of women devotees visited the temple to offer prayers and seek the blessings of the Goddess. The temple premises remained crowded throughout the day as devotees observed the Shravana Friday rituals with devotion. Women devotees offered turmeric, vermilion and traditional vayanam to one another while fulfilling their vows. Temple committee members made special arrangements to manage the gathering and ensure devotees had a smooth darshan. The temple premises were also decorated for the occasion. A Maha Annadanam programme was organised by

the temple committee in the afternoon for women and other devotees. A large number of visitors participated in the food donation programme and received prasadam. Temple priest Bhaskarachari said devotees have strong faith in Santoshi Mata and consider her a compassionate Goddess who fulfills the wishes of devotees and supports them during difficult times. He said devotees particularly believe that offering prayers and fulfilling vows can bring blessings related to marriage and children.

He announced that the birth anniversary celebrations of Jai Sri Santoshi Mata would be held on a grand scale on Rakhi Purnima on August 28. Special arrangements are being made for the expected gathering of thousands of women devotees. The bangles used to adorn the deity will also be distributed among married women on the occasion. Temple committee members Manoj Kumar Goud, Namala Prem Kumar, Anupama, Ganesh, Sanjay, Arun Goud, Kumar Yadav, Raju and Anjaneyulu Yadav, along with devotees, participated in the celebrations.

Service Workers Honoured on Varalakshmi Puja

Quthbullapur, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Varalakshmi Vratam celebrations at the residence of Dr. Preethi Reddy, Vice-Chairperson of Malla Reddy University, took on a special social dimension this year as around 300 Anganwadi and ASHA workers were honoured for their dedicated service to women and children.

The Varalakshmi Puja was held at Dr. Preethi Reddy's residence in Kompally on Friday. Following the traditional prayers, the participating Anganwadi and ASHA workers were felicitated and presented with customary offerings, including pasupu,

kumkuma and tambulam. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Preethi Reddy said the contribution of Anganwadi and ASHA workers at the grassroots level was invaluable. She noted that their work in areas such as women's health, child nutrition, welfare and community awareness directly contributes to the well-being of families. She said the occasion provided an opportunity to recognise the women who work closely with communities and play an important role in delivering health and welfare initiatives. Encouraging and appreciating their efforts, she added, would motivate them to continue their service with greater dedication and responsibility.



Varalakshmi Vratam is traditionally observed for prosperity,

happiness and the well-being of families. Honouring women who dedicate themselves to improving the health and welfare of other women and children added a meaningful social dimension to the festival.

Dr. Preethi Reddy expressed hope that the blessings of Goddess Varalakshmi would bring health, peace, happiness and prosperity to every family. She emphasised that a society becomes stronger when its women and children are healthy and secure.

After the puja, she interacted warmly with the Anganwadi and ASHA workers, took selfies with them and appreciated their commitment. The event combined religious devotion with recognition of grassroots community service, making the Varalakshmi celebrations particularly significant.

Commissioner Reviews Animal Care Centre



Quthbullapur, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. G. Srijana, IAS, on Friday reviewed the ongoing development works at the Animal Care Centre in Mahad evapuram under the Gajularamaram Circle and directed officials to speed up pending works. Dr. Srijana, accompanied by Additional Commissioner (Sanitation) Venugopal Reddy and Quthbullapur Zonal Commissioner Pinkesh

Kumar, visited the Animal Care Centre and inspected the progress of various works being undertaken at the facility. During the field visit, the Commissioner particularly reviewed the construction of the protection wall around the centre. She sought details from officials regarding the status of the work and instructed them to ensure that the pending works were completed without unnecessary delay. The Commissioner also conducted a field-level

inspection of the proposed pet park at the Animal Care Centre. She discussed with officials the infrastructure and other facilities required for the proposed park and the overall development of the premises. Officials briefed the Commissioner on the measures being taken to improve the Animal Care Centre and strengthen facilities for animal protection and care. Dr. Srijana instructed the concerned departments to work in coordination and regularly monitor the progress of the development activities.

She stressed the need for timely completion of the proposed works and directed officials to address requirements at the field level to ensure effective development of the facility. The inspection was attended by Gajularamaram Circle Deputy Commissioner U. Venkat Ramulu, Superintendent Engineer Sakubai, Executive Engineer Govardhan Goud, veterinary staff and other officials from the Gajularamaram Circle. The review is expected to help accelerate ongoing infrastructure works and facilitate further development of the Animal Care Centre and the proposed pet park.

Free Medical Camp Held for Poor

Quthbullapur, August 21 | TPN Bureau

A free medical camp was organised at Dundigal Thanda-2 on Friday to provide accessible healthcare services to economically disadvantaged residents. The camp was conducted under the leadership of former councillor Shankar Naik, with doctors from Suraram Malla Reddy Narayana Hospital attending and examining local people.

Doctors carried out basic health screenings, including blood pressure and blood sugar tests, and assessed various health complaints reported by residents. Medical advice was provided to patients suffering from knee, back and neck pain, numbness, nerve weakness, cough, breathing difficulties, gastric problems and fever. Residents requiring medication were provided medicines free of cost based on the doctors' recommendations. Hospital staff also explained the medical services and facilities available at the hospital, including diagnostic tests, scans and surgical procedures for patients who may require further treatment.

Speaking at the programme, Shankar Naik said such medical camps were particularly useful for poor families who often face financial difficulties in accessing healthcare. He urged people not to ignore health problems and advised them to seek medical



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consultation at the earliest. Naik said efforts would continue to organise more service-oriented programmes based on the needs of local communities. He emphasised that timely medical attention could help prevent minor health concerns from developing into serious problems. The programme was attended by BRS senior leaders Ravinder Naik, Bal Singh and Malla Reddy, along with doctors, hospital staff and other volunteers. The organisers said the camp was aimed at bringing essential healthcare closer to residents and supporting families who need medical assistance.

GHMC Intensifies Monsoon Civic Drive

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) continued its 10-day Special Monsoon Drive across the city, carrying out intensive sanitation, civic and public health activities in 30 wards as part of efforts to keep Hyderabad clean and prepared for monsoon-related challenges. On Day 10 of the drive, GHMC teams removed 40.5 metric tonnes (MT) of legacy municipal solid waste and 19 MT of construction and demolition waste. As part of monsoon preparedness, officials filled 94 potholes, cleaned 156 catch pits and cleared three culverts. Another five MT of floating material and silt was removed from vulnerable locations. The civic body also initiated five rainwater harvesting structures and surveyed four non-residential buildings.

Eight public toilets were inspected, while 58 commercial waste bins were installed at shops to improve waste collection and management. Public awareness activities formed another key component of the drive. Three bulk waste generator awareness meetings and two registrations were conducted, while information, education and communication sessions were held in five schools, covering 186 participants. GHMC health and veterinary teams carried out 249 information and awareness activities, besides pyrethrum spraying at 248 locations. Measles were also undertaken for vaccination and shelter transfer of stray dogs. As part of welfare activities, 296 Indiramma sarees were distributed and nine awareness camps were organised for self-help group women, benefiting 39 participants. In addition, 20.8 MT of pruned tree branches and 7.7 MT of dry and green waste from 28 parks were lifted.



The civic body said the Special Monsoon Drive demonstrates its continued efforts to strengthen sanitation, public health and monsoon preparedness across Hyderabad.

Two Lose Rs 1.58 Crore in Trading Scams

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Two people were allegedly cheated of more than Rs 1.58 crore in separate cyber fraud cases after being lured with promises of high returns through stock market trading and investment schemes, police said. In the first case, a woman from Saidabad reportedly came across a trading advertisement on Facebook in May. The advertisement featured the name of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, making it appear authentic. After she clicked the link, unidentified individuals contacted her, collected her identity documents and added her to a Telegram group. The fraudsters initially displayed profits on small investments, allegedly encouraging her to put in larger amounts. She eventually transferred Rs 71.84 lakh in several installments. Her account was later shown to have generated profits of Rs 9.85 crore. When she attempted to withdraw the purported returns, the fraudsters demanded additional payments. Suspecting that she had been deceived, she approached the cybercrime police. In the second case, a youth from Sultan Shahi reportedly responded to a Telegram advertisement promising substantial returns from stock market investments. After contacting the number provided, he was introduced to a person identified as Aravind, who allegedly assured him of significant profits. The victim, Waseem, subsequently invested Rs 86.50 lakh through multiple transactions. When he sought to withdraw his funds, the suspects allegedly demanded further payments. Suspecting a scam, he approached the cybercrime police and lodged a complaint. Hyderabad Cybercrime Police have registered cases and launched investigations into both incidents. Officers are examining transaction records, digital communications and other evidence to identify and trace those behind the alleged fraudulent investment operations.

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Engineer Duped in Fake ACB Scam

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Cyber fraudsters posing as Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials allegedly cheated a government engineer of Rs 10 lakh by threatening him with surprise raids over purported corruption allegations. The victim, an Executive Engineer with the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department and a resident of Kompally, reportedly received a WhatsApp call from an unknown number in July. The caller introduced himself as an ACB official and claimed that a complaint had been lodged against

the engineer. According to the complaint, the fraudster told the engineer that ACB personnel were preparing to conduct surprise searches at his premises. The caller allegedly offered to prevent the raids if the engineer paid money. Fearing possible action against him, the official transferred a total of Rs 10 lakh to the fraudster in several installments, police said. The victim reportedly became suspicious when the caller subsequently demanded additional money. Realising that he might have fallen victim to a cyber scam, the engineer approached the Cyberabad

Cybercrime Police and lodged a complaint. Police registered a case and began an investigation to identify the individuals behind the fraudulent calls and trace the money transfers. Officials have repeatedly advised people to remain cautious when receiving calls from persons claiming to represent government agencies. Genuine officials do not demand money through unofficial channels to stop investigations or raids. The Cybercrime Police are examining the digital evidence, transaction details and communication records as part of the investigation.

Sammakka-Saralamma Saga Set for Big Screen



Secunderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Renowned production house Maestro Creations is gearing up to produce a high-budget pan-India historical film based on the legendary story of Sammakka and Saralamma, the revered tribal warrior figures worshipped as forest goddesses in Telangana. Director Venkat said the upcoming film aims to showcase Indian culture, spirituality, courage and human emotions through a grand cinematic experience. The project is expected to combine historical storytelling with advanced visual technology to bring the legendary characters and their era to life. According to the director, discussions are currently underway with leading studios, including companies in the United States, for specialised work involving visual effects, pre-visualisation, virtual production and computer graphics.

The filmmakers are planning to use large-scale technology to create an immersive portrayal of the historical setting and the extraordinary lives of Sammakka and Saralamma. The production team is also in the process of finalising prominent actors for key roles. The makers are reportedly planning to release the film around the time of the upcoming Sammakka-Saralamma Maha Jatara, one of Telangana's major tribal religious festivals. Film industry sources said the project is being planned on a large scale and is expected to attract attention across different regions of the country. The official title of the film, along with details of the cast and technical crew, are likely to be announced soon. The filmmakers hope the project will introduce the inspiring legacy of Sammakka and Saralamma to a wider national and international audience through a visually rich historical narrative.

Private Schools Observe Bandh for Rupa Reddy

Ichoda, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Private school managements in Ichoda mandal headquarters of Adilabad district observed a voluntary bandh on Friday in protest against the death of Principal Rupa Reddy. Several private educational institutions remained closed in response to the call, with representatives describing the bandh as successful. The private school managements and teachers expressed deep shock and grief over Rupa Reddy's death and demanded justice for her. They called upon the government to take immediate steps to strengthen the safety and security of teachers, principals and other personnel working in the education sector. Representatives of private educational institutions demanded a comprehensive investigation into the circum-



stances surrounding Rupa Reddy's death. They urged the authorities to establish the facts through a thorough inquiry and take appropriate legal action against anyone

found responsible. The management also appealed to the government to extend necessary support to Rupa Reddy's family during the difficult period. They said

the incident had caused concern among education professionals and highlighted the need for stronger measures to protect those working in schools. The association representatives thanked private school managements, teachers and staff members for extending their cooperation and voluntarily participating in the bandh. They said the collective response reflected the education community's concern over the incident and its demand for justice. The representatives further appealed to the authorities to ensure that the investigation was conducted fairly and that appropriate action was taken based on its findings. The bandh remained peaceful, with participating institutions expressing solidarity with Rupa Reddy's family and reiterating their call for greater protection and accountability in the education sector.

Special Bus Service Launched for Students

Banswada, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana State Government Agricultural Advisor and Banswada MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy on Friday inaugurated a dedicated bus service aimed at helping students from several villages reach SRNK Degree College more conveniently. The new service will connect Banswada with the college through Kollur, Damarancha, Rythunagar, Annaram, Kishtapur, Birkur, Thimmapur and the Bommandevpalli crossroads. Students from these areas had reportedly been facing difficulties in reaching the college on time because of limited transport facilities. Pocharam Srinivas Reddy was informed about the students' problems on August 7 while he was travelling towards the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Thimmapur in connection with development-related activities. Students from Kishtapur and Birkur brought their concerns to his notice and requested better transportation. Responding to their request, the MLA contacted Banswada

Depot Manager Ravi Kumar and asked him to arrange a special bus service. Following the directions, transport officials introduced the service on Friday. Pocharam formally launched the bus at the Banswada bus stand and travelled along with the students to SRNK Degree College. He also instructed the depot manager to ensure that the service operates in both the morning and evening, allowing students to travel to and from the college without difficulty. Students, particularly women students, expressed their appreciation to the MLA for responding promptly to their concerns and arranging the facility. Banswada Depot Manager Ravi Kumar, SRNK Degree College Principal Gangadhar, and public representatives and leaders from Banswada, Birkur and Nasrullabad mandals attended the inauguration. The special service is expected to improve daily connectivity for students from the surrounding villages and reduce delays in reaching the college.

BJP Seeks Probe into 22A Irregularities



Karimnagar, August 21 | TPN Bureau

BJP Karimnagar district president Sainee Malleshham has demanded a comprehensive inquiry into alleged irregularities in the '22A' prohibited lands list and called for strict action against those responsible. Malleshham submitted a representation to senior officials at the Collectorate on Friday, accompanied by BJP leaders and cadres. He alleged that wrongful inclusion of private and patta lands in the prohibited list had caused severe hardship to thousands of farmers and landowners. He demanded that the issue be investigated through a judicial inquiry and said Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy should resign, accepting moral responsibility for the alleged lapses. He also called for an investigation into allegations concerning the transfer of properties worth thousands of crores from a Phoenix real estate firm to a company owned by the Minister's family.

Malleshham sought a digital forensic audit of changes and additions made to the Dharani and Bhu Bharathi portals from the previous government's tenure to the present. He also demanded a detailed white paper on 22A lands in Karimnagar district, listing details by mandal, village and survey number. The BJP leader urged the government to immediately remove wrongly included private and patta lands from the prohibited list and establish a special grievance redressal mechanism. He also sought an inquiry into officials and intermediaries allegedly involved in altering land records and demanded criminal and departmental action against those found guilty. Malleshham warned that the BJP would intensify its agitation on behalf of farmers if the government failed to address the demands. Mayor Kolagani Srinivas, Deputy Mayor Sunil Rao, BJP leaders, corporators and party activists participated in the programme.

BRS Warns Against School Relocation



Secunderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Padmarao Nagar BRS in-charge Gurrampawan Kumar Goud has warned that the party would launch an agitation if the government proceeded with plans to relocate the government primary school in Hamali Basti, which has been serving the local community for more than five decades. Local residents recently brought the issue to the notice of MLA and former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, expressing concern over reports that the school could be shifted due to declining student enrolment. Responding to their concerns, Talasani instructed Pawan Kumar Goud to visit the area and assess the situation. Pawan Kumar Goud visited the school on Friday along with residents and local leaders. Residents said nearly 200 students had studied at the school in the past but that enrolment had subsequently declined. They also pointed out that the Deputy Inspector of Schools office was currently functioning in part of

the school premises. Residents claimed that sufficient space was available on the campus and said they had repeatedly requested the authorities to introduce Classes 6 and 7. They questioned the reported proposal to relocate the existing school instead of expanding its facilities and improving enrollment. Speaking during the visit, Pawan Kumar Goud said government schools in areas predominantly inhabited by economically weaker sections should be strengthened rather than shifted. He urged the government to drop any proposal to relocate the Hamali Basti school and take steps to improve its facilities. He warned that any attempt to shift the institution would be opposed by the BRS along with local residents. If necessary, he said, they would stage a protest and lay siege to the offices of the District Educational Officer and Hyderabad District Collector. Local leaders Satyanarayana, Kausalya, Raju, Durga, Aruna, 'Ambulance' Suresh, Ravi, Mahender Goud, Mukka Srinivas and others participated in the programme.

Woman Dies by Suicide

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

A 24-year-old woman died by suicide at a private hostel in KPHB on Friday, reportedly after becoming distressed over difficulties in finding a suitable job. The deceased was identified as Yamini, a native of Chilakaluripet in Andhra Pradesh's Palnadu district. She had recently travelled to Hyderabad in search of employment and was staying at a women's hostel on Road No. 1 in KPHB. According to local residents, Yamini had been making efforts to secure a job but was reportedly unable to find suitable employment despite repeated attempts. She was said to have been upset over the situation. Police said Yamini was found hanging from a ceiling fan inside her hostel room. The incident came to light

on Friday, following which the KPHB police were informed. A police team reached the hostel and began an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death. The exact reasons behind the extreme step are yet to be established, and officials are examining all available information as part of the inquiry. Police are also expected to record statements from hostel management, friends and other persons who may have been in contact with Yamini. The incident has highlighted the emotional and financial pressures that young people can face while seeking employment away from their hometowns. The KPHB police are continuing their investigation and will determine the circumstances leading to the woman's death based on the evidence collected.

Police Explain Non-Arrest in Fatal Accident

Hyderabad, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Madhapur police have clarified that L. Sanjush, 21, who was allegedly driving the car involved in a fatal road accident that claimed the life of a young woman, was not arrested as investigators did not find sufficient grounds to warrant arrest at that stage. The accident occurred on August 16 near Inorbit Mall in Madhapur. The victim, Bharati Mukhi, 26, was employed as a saleswoman at Lifestyle Store. According to police, Bharati and her colleague Pooja Ashok had gone near ITC Kohenur to collect meals and were returning towards Inorbit Mall when a car bearing registration number TG-09-G-0666 allegedly struck Bharati while she was crossing the road. Bharati sustained serious head injuries and was taken to Apollo Hospital, Jubilee Hills, where doctors declared her dead. Madhapur police registered a case and identified Sanjush as the person allegedly driving the vehicle. He was detained during the investigation. Police said preliminary tests for alcohol and drugs were negative. His blood samples were subsequently collected and sent to the Forensic Science

Laboratory for scientific analysis. The vehicle was also seized and sent for inspection by the Motor Vehicle Inspector, with the report awaited. Kukatpally DCP Ritiraj said the alleged offence carries a punishment of less than seven years and therefore police were required to determine whether arrest was necessary in accordance with Supreme Court guidelines. After examining the material available at the time, investigators found no circumstances requiring immediate arrest, she said. Instead, Sanjush was served a notice under Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), directing him to appear before investigators and cooperate with the probe. The DCP rejected allegations that police had deliberately avoided arrest to favour the suspect. She said the decision was based on legal requirements, the circumstances of the case and the evidence available at that point. Police said the investigation remains underway. The MVI report, autopsy findings and other evidence will be examined before further action is taken. Arrest may follow if subsequently collected evidence warrants it, officials said.

Panchayat Secretary Held in Bribery Case

Mancherial, August 21 | TPN Bureau

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials on Friday arrested a Panchayat secretary for allegedly accepting a ₹13,000 bribe from a resident seeking permission to construct a new house at Lingayipalli village in Jannaram mandal. Adilabad ACB DSP G. Madhu said the accused, identified as J. Varalaxmi, was caught red-handed while allegedly receiving the bribe through a digital payment application. Acting on a complaint, ACB personnel laid a trap and apprehended her during the transaction. According to the ACB, the complainant had approached the Panchayat secretary for construction permission. Varalaxmi allegedly demanded ₹20,000 to process the request. She later agreed to accept ₹13,000, following which the complainant approached the anti-corruption authorities. Officials said the trap was successfully executed and the accused was taken into custody for further legal proceedings. The ACB is continuing action in accordance with the

law. The agency cautioned government employees and members of the public that accepting or offering bribes through digital payment platforms is also punishable under anti-corruption laws. Officials said transactions made through applications such as PhonePe and Google Pay do not make an illegal payment legitimate and can be traced during an investigation. The ACB urged citizens who encounter demands for bribes from public servants to report such incidents promptly so that necessary action can be initiated. Members of the public can contact the Telangana ACB through its toll-free helpline 1064. Complaints can also be submitted through WhatsApp at 9440446106, the agency's Facebook page, Telangana ACB, and its X account, formerly known as Twitter, @TelanganaACB. The latest arrest highlights the ACB's continued efforts to curb corruption in government offices and deter officials from demanding illegal payments for routine public services.

Woman's Body Found in Car Trunk

Hannakonda, August 21 | TPN Bureau

A woman's body was found inside the trunk of an abandoned car near the RTC bus stand at Elkathurthy mandal headquarters in Hannakonda district on Friday, triggering concern among local residents. The vehicle had reportedly remained parked at the location for several days. Residents noticed a foul smell coming from the car and alerted the police. Officers reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem examination as part of the investigation. Police identified the deceased as Ankitha Manasa, 33, of Centenary Colony in Godavari Khani, Peddapalli district, after finding an Aadhaar card at the scene. Investigators traced the vehicle to Milkuri Vinod, a software employee from Karimnagar. According to police sources, Vinod allegedly told investigators that Manasa suffered a seizure while they were in a room in Karimnagar and died

subsequently. He reportedly claimed that he placed her body inside the car and abandoned the vehicle out of fear. However, Manasa's parents have alleged that their daughter was killed and reportedly accused Vinod of involvement in her death. They also claimed that Vinod had taken Manasa from their residence three days before the body was discovered. The conflicting versions have prompted police to examine the circumstances surrounding Manasa's death and determine whether she died due to natural causes or whether foul play was involved. Warangal Central Zone DCP Dara Kavitha and Kazipet ACP Prashanth Reddy, along with other police officials, visited the location and reviewed the investigation. Police are awaiting the post-mortem report and examining available evidence, including statements and other relevant material. Further action will be taken after the findings establish the cause and circumstances of the death.

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-

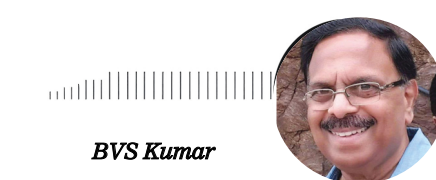


vide care, protection, development, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration through a child-friendly approach. The law also recognizes that institutional care should not become the permanent solution. Mission Vatsalya promotes both institutional and family-based non-institutional care, including 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

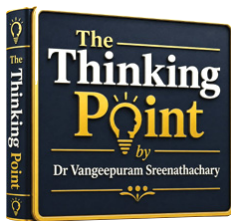
The growing visibility of CNCP children should not be treated merely as a welfare issue. It is a warning about the health of our families and society. A child should never become homeless because a family became helpless. Every abandoned child represents a failure somewhere, of a family, a community, 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.

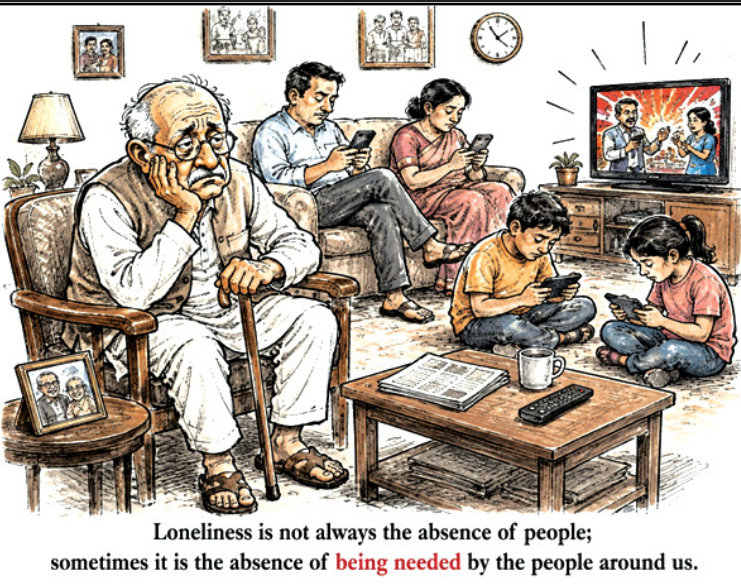
This is one of the less visible realities of ageing. Loneliness in old age does not always mean living alone. A person may share a home with an entire family and still feel emotionally isolated-when nobody seeks their opinion, listens to their stories, asks how they feel, or simply sits beside them for 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



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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-

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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

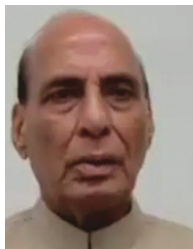
Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is expected to visit New Delhi between August 23 and 25, amid continuing tensions between India and Bangladesh over Dhaka's demand for the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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 organizing 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 neighboring 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



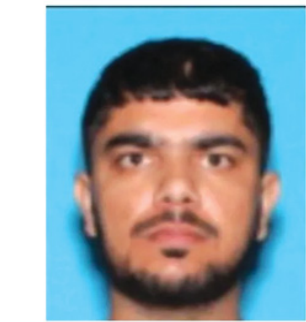
incidents off Yemen and Somalia, according to Indian officials. The incidents have renewed concerns over the safety of Indian seafarers operating in waters already affected by geopolitical tensions and piracy threats. Indian authorities are expected to closely monitor the situation and coordinate efforts 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.

New Amrit Bharat Train Links Gorakhpur, Delhi

Indian Railways has approved a new Amrit Bharat Express connecting Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh with the national capital, Delhi. The new service is expected to provide a convenient and affordable travel option for passengers travelling between eastern Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. The Gorakhpur-Delhi Amrit Bharat Express will operate once a week. Train number 15095 will depart from Gorakhpur every Thursday at 10:45 PM and reach Delhi at around 12:50 PM the following day. The return service, train number 15096, will leave Delhi every Friday at 2 PM and arrive in Gorakhpur

the next morning at around 6:25 AM. The new service is scheduled to begin from Gorakhpur on August 27, while the first return journey from Delhi is expected to start on August 28. The train will cover several important stations along the route, offering direct connectivity to passengers from multiple towns and cities. According to the approved route, the train will halt at stations including Khalilabad, Basti, Gonda, Burhwal, Sitapur, Bareilly, Moradabad and Ghaziabad before reaching Delhi. These stoppages are expected to benefit passengers from

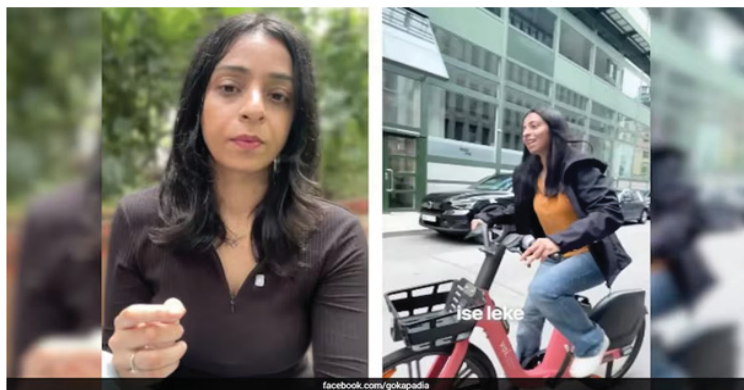
these regions who regularly travel to the national capital for work, education, business and other purposes. The introduction of the train is part of Indian Railways' broader expansion of the Amrit Bharat Express network. These trains are designed to provide faster and more comfortable long-distance travel while remaining accessible to ordinary and middle-class passengers. The Gorakhpur-Delhi route is already served by several trains, but the new Amrit Bharat Express will provide passengers with another direct travel option. Its overnight schedule could be



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.

Sweden Tax Comparison Sparks India Debate Foreign Tourists Praise Delhi Metro's Safety

An Indian woman living in Sweden has sparked a heated online discussion after comparing the taxes people pay in India and Sweden. In a social media post, Gopi Kapadia said she had previously paid around 30% tax in India and pointed out that people in Sweden also pay taxes at similar levels. However, she questioned the difference in public services and benefits available to taxpayers in the two countries. Kapadia highlighted several facilities that, according to her, Swedish taxpayers benefit from. These include clean air and water, better roads, strong infrastructure, healthcare, children's education and various social security benefits. She used these examples to raise a broader question about what Indian taxpayers receive in return for paying taxes. Her post asked users to consider whether the public services available in India match the tax burden faced by citizens. The comparison quickly attracted attention on social media, with people offering sharply different opinions. Some users supported her argument and criticised the quality of public infrastructure and services in India. They argued that taxpayers should be able to see a more visible return through better roads, healthcare, public transport, sani-



Others, however, said that directly comparing India with Sweden is not straightforward. One major argument was the huge difference in population. Sweden has a much smaller population than India, making the delivery of public services and administration considerably different. Some commenters also pointed to differences in tax compliance between the two countries. The debate therefore moved beyond the simple question of whether people pay 30% tax. Users discussed how taxation works, how governments distribute resources and how effectively public money is converted into services. The discussion also highlighted

the expectations taxpayers have from governments. For many people, paying taxes is not only about contributing to government revenue but also about receiving quality public infrastructure, health-care, education, social security and a better standard of living. At the same time, critics of the comparison argued that India faces challenges on a completely different scale because of its enormous population and diverse economic conditions. Kapadia's post has consequently become a wider debate about taxation and governance rather than simply a comparison between two countries. The question of what citizens should expect in return for their taxes continues to generate strong reactions online.

Two foreign tourists have sparked a social media conversation after praising the Delhi Metro, describing it as cleaner and safer than the London Underground. The women, who were travelling on the Delhi Metro for the first time, said several features of the system impressed them, particularly its cleanliness, security arrangements, air conditioning and women-only coaches. The tourists shared their experience through an Instagram video posted by the travel account @nomadiclovers_. The video, titled "POV: Delhi Metro is cleaner and safer than London Underground", quickly attracted attention online. According to the women, security was one of the most noticeable features. They pointed out that passengers undergo baggage scanning and metal-detector checks at every station entrance. They also noticed separate security queues for women, which they said made the process more convenient. The tourists were equally impressed by the air conditioning. They noted that cooling was available not only inside the trains but also at the stations. For travellers unfamiliar with Delhi's hot weather, they said this made their metro experience considerably more comfortable.



Another feature that stood out was the women-only coach. The tourists said the first coach of every train is reserved for female passengers and is clearly identified with pink signage. They also highlighted that the rule is enforced, with male passengers entering the reserved coach facing fines. The women said the availability of a dedicated coach made them feel more relaxed while travelling during crowded hours. They suggested that other cities, particularly in Europe, could consider adopting similar measures to improve women's safety on public transport. Ticket affordability also caught their attention. The tourists said they paid around £0.30 each for their journey and

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.

New Hire Quits Just Six Hours Into Job

A new employee's decision to resign just six hours after joining a company has sparked a debate about honesty and transparency in recruitment. The unusual incident was revealed in a viral LinkedIn post by Harshit Srivastava, founder of Delhi-based Hiring Insider. According to his account, the employee discovered the reality of the job during his very first day of training and decided to walk away. The story began when an existing employee decided to leave his job. Before accepting his resignation, the manager reportedly asked him to find and train his replacement so that he could be relieved early. The employee agreed and took responsibility for interviewing candidates, selecting one and helping the company hire his successor. When the new employee joined, his predecessor began explaining the actual nature of the work. This included the workflow, organisational structure, stakeholders, deadlines, workload and work-

place policies. Instead of presenting an idealised version of the position, the departing employee reportedly explained what the job was really like. That honest explanation appears to have shocked the new recruit. After spending several hours learning about the responsibilities involved, he approached the manager and resigned. He had reportedly been on the job for only six hours. The manager was furious and questioned the departing employee about what he had told the newcomer. The response was simple: he had explained everything the manager had asked him to teach. The incident also exposed a possible gap between the company's recruitment pitch and the actual job. According to Srivastava, the responsibilities presented during the hiring process appeared significantly different from the workload the new employee encountered after joining. The departing employee was later asked to remain longer



because the company suddenly had no one available to handle the work. The post triggered a strong reaction on social media. Many users argued that the episode demonstrated why companies need to be transparent about job responsibilities during recruitment. They said a polished interview may attract candidates, but misleading them about the actual nature of a position can quickly result in resignations.

Others pointed out that job descriptions often fail to reflect the real workload, deadlines and expectations employees face after joining. The incident has therefore become more than just an unusual resignation story. It has sparked a wider conversation about workplace transparency, realistic job descriptions and whether companies should give candidates a genuine picture of their roles before hiring them.

US-Based NRIs Warn Indians Against Moving Abroad



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.

Man Spared Execution Eight Times Dies At 101

Francis Clifford Smith, believed to be the oldest and longest-serving inmate in US history, has died at the age of 101. Smith spent more than seven decades behind bars, after being convicted of murdering a night watchman during a 1949 robbery in Connecticut. He maintained his innocence throughout his life. Smith was just 25 when he was convicted in 1950 for the killing of Grover Hart, a night watchman at the Indian Harbor Yacht Club in Greenwich. The case against him was largely based on circumstantial evidence. Questions about his conviction continued to emerge over the years, including claims by another prisoner who said he had participated in the robbery and murder. What made Smith's story particularly extraordinary was the number of times he came close to execution. His execution was scheduled eight times, and on each occasion he was spared. He even



received what was supposed to be his final meal eight times. In 1954, his death sentence was finally commuted to life imprisonment. Smith's life behind bars was not without controversy. In 1967, he escaped from prison and was

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.

After spending more than 70 years in prison, Smith was eventually granted supervised release in 2020. At the age of 95, he moved to a nursing facility that cared for elderly people connected to the US justice system. During his long years at Osborn Correctional Institution, Smith developed an unusual reputation. He secretly carried bread from the prison dining hall and fed birds outside. The habit earned him the affectionate nickname "Birdman" of Osborn. Prison officials said other inmates and staff often overlooked the practice because they knew he was simply feeding the birds. Smith died peacefully in his sleep in June while living under supervised parole. A spokesperson for the nursing facility said he essentially died of old age. His death marked the end of an extraordinary life that involved decades in prison, repeated execution dates, an escape, parole violations and persistent claims of innocence.

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



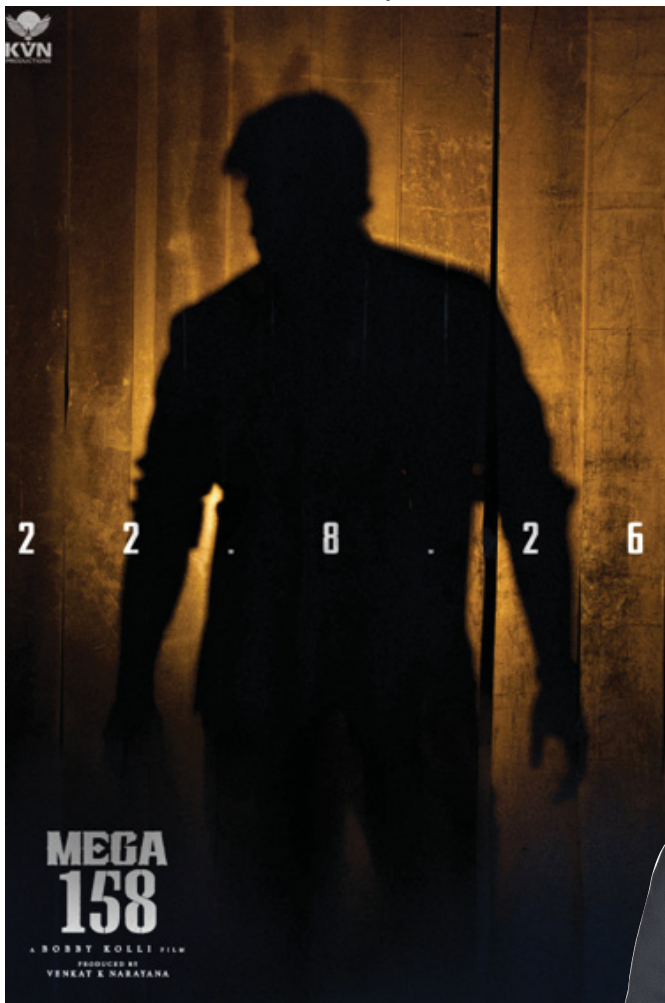
India captain Shubman Gill has taken a proactive step to address a batting weakness ahead of the second Test against Sri Lanka. With the crucial match scheduled to begin in Colombo on August 23, Gill spent considerable time working specifically on his technique against left-arm spin during Friday's training 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.

