



VIJAYAWADA | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 145 | SUNDAY | AUGUST 23 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA □ HYDERABAD



"Work To Solve People's Problems, Not For Positions", Says Goa CM Pramod Sawant

Vijayawada, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant urged young people entering politics to focus on resolving public problems rather than seeking positions, saying political leadership should be judged by the changes brought at the grassroots level. He called upon youth to become accessible, accountable and inclusive leaders, adopt innovative ideas and uphold the 'Nation First' spirit while contributing to the goal of building a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. Sawant was speaking at the first day of the 'Viksit Bharat Young Political Leader Dialogue' organised by the BJP Yuva Morcha at the School of Architecture and Cultural Studies in Vijayawada. Young representatives selected from various districts across the State participated in the programme. He outlined five principles for young political leaders- accessibility to the public, accountability, inclusivity, innovative thinking and putting the nation first. He suggested that youth aspiring to enter politics should first gain experience through education, employment or business. He expressed the hope that young leaders would

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North Andhra To Be Developed As Industrial Corridor: CM Naidu

Madugula (Anakapalli dist), August 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday announced plans to develop North Andhra as an industrial corridor and transform Anakapalli district into the No. 1 district in Andhra Pradesh, with major investments in steel, data centres, pharmaceuticals and aluminium. Participating in the Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra programme at Alamanda Koduru, Naidu said Anakapalli would no longer be known only as a jaggery centre but would emerge as a major industrial and knowledge-economy hub. He said the ArcelorMittal Steel City was under construction and several other industries were being established in the region. The Chief Minister announced plans for an industrial township spread over 10,000 acres, along with a skill centre to equip local youth for emerging employment opportunities. He described the

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Lokesh Seeks Teachers' Support To Make AP Education Best In Country

Vizianagaram, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

HRD, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh called upon teachers, officials and public representatives to work together to make Andhra Pradesh's education system the best in the country. Addressing a cluster school complex teachers' meeting at Zilla Parishad Girls' High School, Dasannapeta, he said education reforms had been completed and the focus should now shift entirely to achieving 100 per cent results. Speaking through video conference with teachers across the State, Lokesh said teaching methods must evolve with changing student mindsets and stressed innovative, student-centric and stress-free learning. He highlighted Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), formative and summative assessments, critical thinking and extracurricular activities. He announced that he would attend cluster school complex meetings every month to understand teachers' grassroots-level concerns. He also

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10,060 Government Jobs Clear Finance Hurdle

» Job Calendar To Roll Out In Four Phases; 3,231 Posts In September



K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Amaravati: The state government has cleared recruitment to 10,060 vacant government posts through direct recruitment in four phases under the 2026 Job Calendar. The Finance (HR-I Plg. & Policy) Department, through G.O.Ms.No.81 dated August 22, accorded permission to recruiting agencies including APPSC, APSLPB and DSC to fill the posts, paving the way for the recruitment process to move forward. The recruitment will be implemented in four phases. Phase-I covers 1,523 posts, which were already notified by the Higher Education

Department on May 15. Phase-II comprises 3,231 posts, with notifications scheduled for September 15, while Phase-III will cover 2,311 posts and Phase-IV another 2,995 posts, with notifications scheduled for October 15. The Government said the vacancies were finalised after consultations with departments and examination by the Group of Ministers on employment generation. Posts were prioritised based on functional requirements, departmental criticality, public service delivery and the objectives of Swarnandhra@2047. The vacancies cover several

key sectors. Phase-II includes Group-I posts, police, agriculture, animal husbandry, welfare, industries, planning and other departments. Phase-III covers Group-II services, engineering, irrigation, electricity, excise and other technical posts. The final phase is largely focused on education, with 2,995 posts, including SGTs, School Assistants and other positions, to be filled through DSC. The Government has directed all departments to confirm vacancies, roster points and qualifications to the recruiting agencies in advance. Recruitment will have to comply with the Presidential Order, 2025, reservation policy, service rules and roster requirements. The order, issued by Peeyush

Kumar, Principal Finance Secretary, said skilled human resources were essential for effective public service delivery and that recruitment would be undertaken in a structured and phased manner through the Annual Job Calendar. The move follows the State Cabinet's approval of the 10,060-post recruitment plan on August 18. Speaking to True Point, Samayam Hemanth Kumar, AP Unemployed JAC State President, said "The government's decision has brought fresh hope to unemployed youth. We expect the recruitment drive to be expanded further by increasing vacancies and relaxing age limits, particularly in Group-1, 2, 3 and 4 services, Library and Police departments."

AP Job Calendar 2026: Phase-wise Recruitment			
Phase	Vacancies	Notification Date	What the GO Confirms
Phase I	1,523	15-05-2026	Higher Education Department: Already Notified
Phase II	3,231	15-09-2026	Various Depts: Group I, Police, etc., Rationalized Posts
Phase III	2,311	15-10-2026	Engineering & Group II Services: Technical & Administrative Roles
Phase IV	2,995	15-11-2026	School & Adult Education: SGT, School Assistants & Instructors

Naidu Proposes BRICS Youth And Sports Innovation Network

Visakhapatnam, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said sports and youth could serve as powerful unifying forces among BRICS nations despite differences in languages, cultures and geographies. Speaking at a cultural programme and official dinner held in connection with the BRICS Youth and Sports Ministers' meetings in Visakhapatnam, he proposed establishing a BRICS Youth and Sports Innovation Network with Visakhapatnam as its hub. Naidu welcomed ministers, delegates, youth leaders, athletes and coaches from BRICS partner nations and said sports reflected the culture, traditions and way of life of people. Describing Visakhapatnam as the 'City of Destiny' and a jewel of India's east coast, he said the city offered natural beauty and economic oppor-



tunities. He noted that it had been recognised for the second consecutive year as the country's number one 'City on the Rise' for employment and talent and was also among the safest cities for women.

Sports For Health And Economic Growth

Naidu said technology-driven lifestyles were increasing stress among youth and emphasised sports, yoga and meditation for mental resilience. He said physical exercise promoted a healthy body, calm mind and discipl-



plined life. He said the sports sector generated employment for athletes, coaches, trainers, physiotherapists, event managers and entrepreneurs, while sports tourism and international events boosted local economies. Under the Apex 2036 initia-

tive, the government is creating a system to identify and nurture talent from grassroots to the international stage. It plans to establish 56 residential district sports schools across 28 districts, linked with state academies and Centres of Excellence.

Amaravati Sports City, Nellore Hub

Naidu said Amaravati Sports City would anchor a comprehensive sports ecosystem, while Nellore would be developed as a hub for sports equipment and apparel manufacturing and Visakhapatnam as an international water sports centre. He said the proposed network would connect athletes, coaches, universities, experts, startups and entrepreneurs. He invited BRICS nations to partner in sports manufacturing, high-performance training, water sports, international events and sports tourism to groom future champions.



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu boards a special flight from Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram to Gannavaram, marking his maiden flight from the newly inaugurated airport after concluding the BRICS summit in Visakhapatnam. Other officials accompanied the Chief Minister on the flight.

Lokesh Inaugurates Modernised ZP High School at Chandrampalem



Visakhapatnam, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Human Resources Development Minister Nara Lokesh inaugurated the modernised Zilla Parishad High School at Chandrampalem in Madhurawada, Visakhapatnam district, on Saturday. The school was developed with the support of Divis Labs as part of efforts to strengthen educational infrastructure and provide better facilities for students. Vedic scholars accorded Lokesh a traditional welcome with a Purna Kumbham on his arrival at the school. The Minister later inspected the newly modernised classrooms, playgrounds and other infrastructure facilities and interacted with students. The programme was attended by TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, local MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Divis Labs Director Neelima, MLC Vepada Chiranjeevi, VMRDA Chairman

Pranav Gopal, Collector Abhijith Kishore, officials, party leaders, students and others.

Lokesh reviewed the facilities developed at the school and appreciated the efforts taken to create a better learning environment for students. The modernised infrastructure includes improved classrooms and facilities for sports and other student activities.

In a friendly interaction with students, Lokesh and MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao joined them for a game of volleyball. The activity created an enthusiastic atmosphere among the students, who actively participated and interacted with the leaders.

The inauguration highlighted the importance of collaboration between the government and private organisations such as Divis Labs in improving educational infrastructure and providing students with quality facilities.

BRICS Youth Ministers Chart Roadmap For Youth Cooperation



Visakhapatnam, August 22 | TPN Bureau

The BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting, organised by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, concluded in Visakhapatnam on Saturday with the adoption of a Joint Statement on strengthening youth cooperation and meaningful participation in development. The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse, along with Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs,

Sunil Paliwal. The meeting built on the outcomes of the BRICS Youth Summit and BRICS Youth Council Meeting held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on August 19-20. Youth representatives, young leaders, policymakers and senior officials from BRICS member and partner countries participated in discussions on youth cooperation and inclusive development. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said India had launched several initiatives to empower young people and highlighted MY Bharat, a platform for volunteering, learning, leadership and civic engagement, with over 25 million youth registered. The Joint

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Slippers, Water Cans, Buckets, Sticks Fly As Student Clash Turns Ugly

Fight Between Northeastern And Telugu Students Sparks Tension



K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Kakinada: Tension prevailed at SK College of Nursing in Valasapakala, Kakinada, after a dispute between students from the Northeast and local students escalated into a physical confrontation following allegations over a missing mobile phone. Several students reportedly sustained injuries in the incident, which later came under the intervention of the district administration and police. According to reports, a student from Manipur staying in the college hostel had lodged a complaint with Sarpavaram police after her cellphone went missing. Although the phone was subsequently found, the dispute between the two groups reportedly continued. Verbal arguments escalated and students from both sides allegedly came out of the hostel and engaged in a scuffle on the road. Visuals circulating in connection with the incident showed injured students from the Northeast. Reports also raised allegations that some Northeast students felt vulnerable and believed that their complaints had not received adequate attention. Students and community



members have sought a fair and impartial inquiry and equal protection for all students, irrespective of their place of origin. Several students reportedly suffered minor injuries, while two were shifted to the Kakinada Government Hospital for treatment. Police reached the college

after being informed of the confrontation. The Kakinada District Collector's Office, in its statement on the incident, said the dispute arose between students from the Northeastern States and Telugu students over the missing mobile phone. The Northeast students had expressed dissatisfaction, alleging that the man-

agement had ignored their complaints and given priority to local students. After being informed of the developments, the District Collector and District SP directed officials to intervene and resolve the issue. The Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), Trainee Joint Collector (JC) and Medical and Health Department officials also visited the hostel, interacted with the students and counselled them to restore normalcy. As an immediate precautionary measure, officials shifted the students from the Northeastern States to another hostel. Police also relocated 31 students from other States with their consent to prevent the dispute from escalating further. The Collector's Office said the Northeast students expressed satisfaction with the intervention by the district administration and police. Students from Manipur also thanked the officials for their support. Meanwhile, officials have initiated an inquiry into the incident and are examining whether the college has the required permissions and whether adequate facilities are being provided to the students.

Space Skill Workshop Inspires Students at Nidamaru ZPHS

ARN Mahesh

The Science City of Andhra Pradesh (SCAP) organised a one-day Space Skill Workshop at Zilla Parishad High School, Nidamaru, Mangalagiri mandal, Guntur district, as part of National Space Day celebrations. The programme aimed to create awareness among school students about space science, technology and India's achievements in space exploration. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with Muskan Educom Foundation, an ISRO-authorized organisation. Respected persons explained the applications of rockets, satellites, space rovers, telescopes, Virtual Reality (VR) and other emerging space technologies. Students were introduced to their basic principles and applications in research, communication and



exploration. The programme focused on experiential learning, with students actively participating in demonstrations and practical activities involving space science models and technologies. The interactive sessions encouraged students to ask questions and develop greater interest in science and innovation. **Hydro Rocket Launch..**

A major attraction was the hands-on preparation and launch of a Hydro Rocket by students under the guidance of resource persons. The activity helped them understand pressure, propulsion, force and motion through practical experience.

CEO Interacts

During the closing ceremony,



Venkateswarlu Kesineni, Chief Executive Officer, Science City of Andhra Pradesh, interacted with students and enquired about their workshop experience. He explained how the activities connected with classroom learning and stressed the importance of experiential education in developing scientific temper, creativity, innovation

and problem-solving skills. Students and school authorities appreciated the initiative, saying it provided government school students with valuable exposure to space science. Science City of Andhra Pradesh said it would continue promoting scientific awareness, innovation and experiential learning among students across the state.

Pawan Kalyan Arrives In Kerala For Follow-Up Treatment

Thrissur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan arrived in Kerala on Saturday evening for follow-up treatment after undergoing surgery on his right shoulder. He landed at Kochi airport and proceeded directly to an Ayurvedic hospital near Thrissur, where he will undergo specialised therapy. The Deputy Chief Minister is scheduled to receive treatment at the hospital as part of his post-operative recovery. His visit is focused on continuing the prescribed follow-up care and therapy following the recent shoulder surgery. Pawan Kalyan's arrival in Kerala was



followed by his onward travel from Kochi to the hospital where the treatment will be administered.

Hariprasad Inspects Lepakshi Emporium



Hyderabad, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad, Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation, Jana Sena Party PAC and State Joining Committee member, and Joint Chittoor District President, visited the Lepakshi

Emporium showroom in Hyderabad on Saturday. During his visit, Hariprasad inspected the handicraft products displayed at the showroom and interacted with staff about measures to promote traditional handicrafts and the skills of Andhra Pradesh artisans. He stressed the need to create wider markets for products made by local artisans through Lepakshi and increase recognition for Andhra Pradesh handicrafts across the country. Hariprasad assured that the Corporation would take necessary steps for the welfare of artisans, expand marketing opportunities and strengthen the development of Lepakshi Emporiums. He said efforts would be made to provide greater visibility and market access to traditional handicrafts while supporting artisans and preserving their skills.

Advanced Cancer Treatment Centre Coming Up at Kakinada GGH

Kakinada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

An advanced cancer treatment centre is being established at Kakinada Government General Hospital (GGH), with a Rs. 36.6-crore Dual Energy Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machine sanctioned to provide radiotherapy services. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said the facility would benefit cancer patients from seven districts. The LINAC machine is being funded through ONGC's CSR funds following Pawan Kalyan's initiative and consultations. A mobile cancer screening vehicle costing Rs. 3.5 crore will also be made available soon for early detection. Proposals are in place for a CT simulator, HDR brachytherapy machine and dosimetry systems. A Rs. 7-crore Red Cross-funded building is nearing completion.



pletion, with Atomic Energy Regulatory Board approval for a radiotherapy bunker. Pawan Kalyan thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh and Red Cross management for their support. The centre is expected to reduce the need for patients to travel to Hyderabad, Chennai and Visakhapatnam for treatment.

CMRF Aid Brings Relief to Poor Families



Nidadavole, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques and Letters of Credit (LOCs) worth Rs. 48.39 lakh to 45 beneficiaries at his camp office in Nidadavole on Saturday. Of the beneficiaries, 39 received CMRF cheques worth Rs. 25.53 lakh, while six were given LOCs worth

Rs. 22.85 lakh. Durgesh said 1,092 people in the Nidadavole constituency had so far received financial assistance of Rs. 7.66 crore through CMRF, LOCs and special aid. He said the government was committed to supporting poor families facing serious illnesses and unexpected accidents, ensuring that medical expenses did not push them into financial hardship. The assistance is being distributed every 15 days to eligible beneficiaries, he said. Durgesh said the coalition government was working towards building a 'Healthy Andhra Pradesh' with the support of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Beneficiaries thanked the government and the Minister for timely assistance.

Chandrababu to Inaugurate Veligonda Project on August 31



Amaravati, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Dr. Nimmala Ramanaidu announced that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate the Veligonda project on August 31, fulfilling a three-decade-old dream of people in the backward and fluoride-affected Prakasam region. He said Phase-I of the project would divert 10.7 TMC of Krishna river water

to Nallamala Sagar, providing irrigation to 4.47 lakh acres and drinking water to 23 lakh people across the undivided Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts. Ramanaidu said Chandrababu distributed another Rs. 250 crore in compensation to Veligonda project evacuees on Saturday, taking the total compensation released in three phases over 40 days to Rs. 760 crore. He said Rs. 2,250 crore had been paid to Polavaram evacuees during the Alliance government's two-year tenure. The Minister alleged that the previous YSRCP government failed to complete Veligonda works despite claiming to dedicate the project. He assured that every eligible evacuee would receive justice. Ongole MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, MLAs Kandula Narayana Reddy, Ugra Narasimha Reddy and Ashok Reddy participated.

PAV Backs Junior Doctors' Strike

Visakhapatnam, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Praja Arogya Vedika (PAV) has extended its support to the ongoing strike by the Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (APJUDA), which is demanding a hike in stipends, adequate security for on-duty doctors and timely monthly payments. PAV State President Dr. M.V. Ramanaiyah and General Secretary T. Kameswara Rao said the junior doctors' demand for a 30 per cent increase in their existing stipend was fair and reasonable. They urged the government to immediately hold talks with the protesting doctors and resolve their grievances. They said poor patients dependent on government hospitals were facing severe hardships due to the strike, which had entered its 13th day. Kameswara Rao said citing lack of funds to enhance stipends for doctors providing essential public healthcare was unacceptable. PAV also questioned the government's failure to implement earlier Government Orders mandating annual stipend revisions and warned that public support for the agitation could grow further.

Kauluri Rajesh Wins National Best Teacher Award

Uday Banavath

Vizianagaram : Kauluri Rajesh, a teacher at Chananallupeta Primary School in Nellimarla Mandal of Vizianagaram district, has been chosen for the National Teachers Awards 2026, bringing national recognition to Andhra Pradesh. The Union Ministry of Education selected 48 school teachers from across India for the annual honour, including 26 men and 22 women. President Droupadi Murmu will present the awards at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on September 5, observed as Teachers' Day. Three Telugu educators have made it to the national list - Rajesh from Andhra Pradesh, Bompelli Bhavani from Gandhari in Kamareddy district, Telangana, and Jelli Prakash Rao, Post Graduate Teacher (English) at PM SHRI GMSSS school in Mayabunder, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Rajesh has earned recognition for combining technology and innovative teaching practices to improve learning outcomes. He developed AI-assisted study resources to support students preparing for competitive examinations and created a Learning Management System that has



reached 2,200 schools. He also developed a mobile application offering lesson plans and interactive activities for teachers. He has worked as a textbook author and National Resource Person for the NCERT, conducted three national-level webinars on ICT tools and contributed to the development of online courses for teachers. Bhavani was recognised for introducing activity-based learning and using digital platforms such as Instagram

and YouTube to make teaching more effective. She has also received a State-level Best Teacher Award from Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and was selected among 28 headmistresses to study Finland's education system.

Prakash Rao, a native of Razole in the erstwhile East Godavari district, has received seven district and State-level awards. Despite working at a remote school with limited facilities, he helped students access better educational resources. He also played a key role in introducing an Education Department tableau at the 2019 Andaman Republic Day parade.

Governor, Pawan Kalyan, Lokesh Congratulate Rajesh

Governor S. Abdul Nazeer and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan congratulated Kauluri Rajesh, teacher of MPPS Chinamallupeta in Vizianagaram district, on his selection for the National Teachers' Awards 2026.

The Governor said the honour recognised Rajesh's dedication and commitment and was a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh's teaching fraternity and people.

Pawan Kalyan described Rajesh's selection as a proud achievement for the State's education sector. He appreciated Rajesh's innovative use of AI and technology, efforts to strengthen foundational learning and commitment to empowering students. He also highlighted Rajesh's journey from a government school student to a teacher in the same system and then to national recognition.

Pawan Kalyan also congratulated Bompelli Bhavani, Headmistress from Gandhari, Kamareddy district, Telangana, and Jelli Prakash Rao from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands on their selection. HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh congratulated Kauluri Rajesh, teacher at Chinamallupeta Primary School in Nellimarla mandal, Vizianagaram district, on his selection for the National Best Teacher Award. Lokesh praised Rajesh's innovative use of AI and WhatsApp automation to strengthen Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and help thousands of students prepare for competitive examinations. He also highlighted Rajesh's contribution as a textbook author and his journey from a government school student to a nationally recognised teacher.

Lokesh Urges Educated Youth to Enter Politics for Social Change

Visakhapatnam, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh inaugurated the modernised Chandrapalem ZP High School in Madhurawada, developed under 'Project Chandra' with support from Divis Labs. Vedic scholars accorded him a traditional Purna Kumbham welcome. Lokesh inspected classrooms, sports facilities and infrastructure before playing volleyball with students and paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Interacting with students, Lokesh said the government aimed to transform government schools to corporate-school standards. He announced a special 'She Play' policy to create more opportunities for girls in sports and said sports infrastructure would be developed in every school. He urged educated youth to enter politics and work for societal change rather than merely seeking positions. He advised students to follow current affairs, technology and national developments along with academics. Lokesh said his philosophy was that "society is the temple and people are the gods," stressing the importance of helping others. He also recalled his mother's role in shaping his life and said he decided to enter politics after witnessing the respect people showed Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Divis Labs Director Neelima stressed hard work, teamwork and determination. MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao praised Lokesh's efforts in education. TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, MLC Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao, VMRDA Chairman Pranav Gopal, Collector Abhijit Kishore, officials, teachers and students attended.

Rs. 250 Crore More Sanctioned for Veligonda Evacuees

Amaravati, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Social Welfare Minister Dr. Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy said the Alliance government has released Rs. 518 crore towards rehabilitation and compensation for Veligonda project evacuees and sanctioned another Rs. 250 crore on Saturday. He said the Alliance government deserves credit for completing the Veligonda project works within two years of assuming office and is committed to resolving the issues faced by evacuees. The Minister announced that Krishna waters would be diverted into Nallamala Sagar by the end of August. He said completion of the project would provide a permanent solution to drinking water and irrigation problems in the western Prakasam region and boost agriculture and economic development. He described it as a historic milestone that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who laid the foundation stone for Veligonda in 1996, would now inaugurate the project. The Minister appealed to people to accord a grand welcome to the Krishna waters by performing 'Jalaharathi' and celebrating the long-cherished achievement.

Rs. 10,200 Crore for Safe Drinking Water in Municipalities

Visakhapatnam, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Municipal Administration P. Narayana said the government is prioritising infrastructure development across 123 municipalities, with Rs. 10,200 crore being spent on safe drinking water projects and Rs. 5,500 crore sanctioned for roads. Speaking after a review meeting at the VMRDA conference hall, Narayana said Underground Drainage (UGD) works worth Rs. 4,200 crore were being taken up under the Urban Challenge Fund, while drinking water pipeline works were progressing under AMRUT and other schemes. He said all essential infrastructure works would be completed within a year. Narayana alleged that the previous YSRCP government diverted municipal taxes and left behind huge quantities of garbage. He said 140 tonnes of accumulated waste had been cleared so far and stressed the need for waste-to-energy projects. For municipalities under VMRDA jurisdiction, Rs. 269 crore was allocated for UGD and drainage works, including Rs. 24 crore each for Elamanchili and Nellimarla, Rs. 27 crore for Narsipatnam and Rs. 194 crore for Vizianagaram. Another Rs. 139 crore would be sanctioned for roads, he said. Elamanchili MLA Sundarapu Vijay Kumar and Nellimarla MLA Lokam Naga Madhavi thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Narayana for prioritising infrastructure development.

Narayana Reviews Urban Development Works in VMRDA Region



Visakhapatnam, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana held a review meeting with municipal officials within the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) limits to assess development works in various municipalities. MLAs Sundarapu Vijayakumar and Lokam Madhavi, Municipal Commissioners of Elamanchili, Narsipatnam and Nellimarla, Director of

Municipal Administration Sampath Kumar and VMRDA In-charge Commissioner Ketan Garg attended the meeting. Narayana alleged that the previous YSRCP government left heaps of uncollected garbage across 123 municipalities despite collecting garbage tax. He said 153 lakh tonnes of waste had remained uncollected, while the present government had removed 14 million tonnes so far. He said 10 waste-to-energy plants were planned between 2014 and 2019, with two now operational. Narayana said Rs. 10,200 crore was allocated under the Urban Challenge Fund, while funds were sanctioned for Elamanchili, Nellimarla, Narsipatnam and Vizianagaram. AMRUT works, drinking water connections and underground drainage projects would be completed within a year, he said.

Durgesh Hails Chiranjeevi's Service to Society



Rajamahendravaram, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh hailed Megastar Chiranjeevi as a noble figure who inspired his fans to take up social service. Durgesh attended Chiranjeevi's 71st birthday celebrations at Jenda Panja Road in Rajamahendravaram as chief guest and cut a massive cake. He said Chiranjeevi had encouraged fans to participate in blood and eye donation drives and established a blood bank that helped save numerous lives. Durgesh also praised the actor's youthful appearance and new film 'Kaaka'. He recalled Chiranjeevi's contribution to Andhra Pradesh tourism during his tenure as Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism. Durgesh also appreciated 15 Nidadavolu IT Wing members who donated blood in Hyderabad on his call. Chiranjeevi's daughter Konidela Sushmita presented certificates to the donors.



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya, along with BRICS youth and sports ministers and delegates, planted saplings under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' at Thottakonda. They also visited the Maha Stupa, wells, kitchen and meditation centres, learning about the site's Buddhist heritage and archaeological remains.

Lokesh Assures Action On Grievances At 82nd Praja Darbar

Visakhapatnam, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Human Resources Development Minister Nara Lokesh conducted his 82nd 'Praja Darbar' at the TDP party office in Visakhapatnam on Saturday, drawing a large number of people and party activists seeking his intervention in various issues. Lokesh warmly welcomed the visitors and interacted with them individually. Several members of the public and TDP activists submitted representations outlining their grievances and requests. The representations covered various personal, public and organisational issues, with people seeking assistance and appropriate action from the Minister. Lokesh patiently listened to the concerns raised by the visitors and assured them that their representations would be examined. He said efforts would be made to resolve the issues through the concerned



departments and authorities.

Party workers and members of the public expressed appreciation for the opportunity to directly meet the Minister and bring their concerns to his notice. Lokesh also posed for photographs with several visi-

tors and party activists, maintaining a friendly interaction throughout the programme. The 'Praja Darbar' has emerged as a platform for people and party workers to directly communicate their concerns to Lokesh. The Minister reiterated

his commitment to examining the representations and taking steps to address genuine grievances. Large crowds continued to gather at the party office during the programme, reflecting the public and party workers' response to the initiative.

YSRCP Alleges Industries Leaving AP Over Coalition Harassment

Tadepalli, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP spokesperson Putta Sivashankar alleged that industries are leaving Andhra Pradesh due to harassment and extortion demands from coalition leaders. Speaking at the YSRCP Central Office on Saturday, he claimed the industrial sector had entered a crisis since the coalition government came to power. Sivashankar said the RS.6,675-crore Tata Power project proposed in Nellore shifted to Odisha, while the RS.3,538-crore Websol project planned at Naidupeta moved to West Bengal. He demanded that the government explain why these investments left the State and challenged its claims of attracting RS.24 lakh crore in investments and creating 20 lakh jobs. He alleged that land allotted during YS Jagan's tenure to Coca-Cola in Anakapalli and Azad Mobility in Sri Sathya Sai district was taken back, while GINFRA and Jupiter projects also faced cancellations. Sivashankar further alleged that cement and thermal industries in Rayalaseema were facing pressure from coalition leaders over transport, ash and other contracts. He named UltraTech, Dalmia, Vicat, Srichakra and Bharathi Cements among companies allegedly facing interference. He said Andhra Pradesh, which ranked first in Ease of Doing Business during Jagan's tenure, including the Covid period, had now slipped to eighth position. He also criticised the government's celebration of an ASSOCHAM award to APMDC, calling it corporate lobbying rather than an achievement.

Arun Kumar Challenges Lokesh to Accept CBI Probe into DSC

Tadepalli, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP MLC Dr Mondithoka Arun Kumar challenged Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh to order a CBI investigation into DSC-2025 and APPSC, alleging double standards in the government's approach to recruitment probes. Arun Kumar questioned how 372 Sports Quota teacher posts were filled without a regular examination, why Government Orders and rules were repeatedly changed, and how questionable participation certificates were accepted. He also questioned how a person associated with the question-paper system secured Rank 1. He alleged that Lokesh discussed the issue in the Assembly but failed to respond to DSC-related questions in the Legislative Council. Arun Kumar asked why Lokesh, who attended two of the four Council sitting days, did not present the same PowerPoint presentation before the Opposition. He recalled that Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had challenged the government to order CBI probes into both DSC and APPSC. "If you believe the recruitments were transparent, accept the challenge," he said, demanding that Lokesh take moral responsibility and resign. Arun Kumar also questioned the silence of BJP and Jana Sena leaders on the issue. He said YSRCP would continue its fight alongside unemployed youth until a CBI probe was ordered. He further criticised the government over alleged double standards on law and order and called for equal application of the law.

BJP Executive Reshuffle Sparks Cabinet Speculation In Telugu States

Ravi Podili
Senior Journalist

Amaravati : The BJP's long-awaited national executive committee has triggered an unusual political debate in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with the inclusion and exclusion of leaders from the two Telugu States being viewed through the lens of a possible Union Cabinet reshuffle. The new committee includes former Union Minister and Rajamahendravaram MP Daggubati Purandeswari as National Vice President and young leader Vishnuvardhan Reddy as a member. While AP BJP leaders might ordinarily have welcomed the representation, party circles are interpreting Purandeswari's elevation as a possible indication that she may no longer be in contention for a Union ministerial berth. Purandeswari was widely considered a strong contender for the BJP quota in the Union Cabinet, particularly given her previous ministerial experience. The BJP, which has limited organisational strength in AP, is also keen to expand its footprint in the State and many party leaders had expected another MP to be inducted into the Union Cabinet.

At present, AP has three Union ministers - Rammohan Naidu and Pemmasani Chandrasekhar from the Telugu Desam Party and Srinivasa Varma from the BJP. Party circles speculate that any additional berth from AP could potentially go to the Jana Sena Party, another NDA ally.

Telangana Leaders See Fresh Hope

Unlike AP, the BJP has a stronger organisational presence in Telangana and is working towards capturing power in the State. The exclusion of Telangana from the new national executive has therefore generated optimism among several BJP MPs hoping for ministerial opportunities. Telangana already has Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay in the Union Council of Ministers. Party leaders had feared that inclusion in the national executive could reduce their chances of entering the Cabinet. The absence of Telangana representation has instead fuelled expectations of another ministerial berth for the State. The executive committee announcement followed a prolonged delay after Nitin Nabin assumed charge as BJP National President. With elections due in six States during the first half of next year, the party leadership is also preparing for organisational challenges. For now, Vishnuvardhan Reddy appears to be the clearest beneficiary in AP, having secured a national-level organisational role despite not previously holding a major government position.

Lokesh Calls for Stronger TDP Cadre Network, Challenges Jagan on DSC

Vizianagaram, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

TDP National General Secretary and Minister Nara Lokesh said party cadres were the backbone of the TDP and assured hardworking workers of recognition and appropriate responsibilities. Addressing a cadre meeting in Vizianagaram constituency, he said the TDP had spent RS.160 crore on cadre welfare and urged workers to strengthen public outreach ahead of local body elections. Lokesh praised Vizianagaram MLA Aditi Gajapathi Raju for prioritising public welfare and recalled the services of Ashok Gajapathi Raju. He said the Alliance government was committed to North Andhra's development through projects including the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Railway Zone and Bhogapuram International Airport, besides efforts to attract TCS, Cognizant and Infosys. He urged workers to use the 'My TDP' app and actively participate in the 'Intintiki TDP' programme. Lokesh also accused YSRCP of obstructing development and alleged attempts to block investments. On the DSC issue, Lokesh issued his fifth chal-



lenge to former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, asking him to fix a date and time for a public debate. He said 16,000 teacher posts had been filled transparently through DSC. Lokesh urged cadres to remain connected with people, resolve their issues and work unitedly for better results in the local body elections. MP Kalisetti Appalanaidu, MPAs Aditi Gajapathi Raju and Arimilli Radhakrishna, TDP Politburo member Sri devi and party president Kimidi Nagarajuna participated.

Varla Ramaiah Challenges Jagan to Open Debate on Mega DSC



Vijayawada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

MLC Varla Ramaiah criticised former Chief Minister and YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he lacked political understanding and subject knowledge. Speaking after Vijayawada MP Kesineni Chinni congratulated him on assuming office as MLC, Ramaiah said doubts about Mega

DSC recruitments should be raised with officials rather than making public allegations. Ramaiah said senior officials had already explained the recruitment process and were available from 10 am to 5 pm to clarify doubts. He urged politicians not to make statements that could hurt the sentiments of around 16,000 teachers who secured jobs after extensive preparation. He alleged that Jagan was jealous of Human Resources Development Minister Nara Lokesh's growing popularity and challenged him to an open debate on Mega DSC and APPSC issues. Ramaiah said the APPSC Group-1 matter was sub judice before the High Court and that everyone should await its verdict. MP Kesineni Chinni also criticised YSRCP leaders over allegations concerning "bridge players," stating that not a single application had been received or appointment made under such a category. He said Bridge is a skill-based sport recognised under Central Government guidelines.

BRICS Delegates Visit Historic Thotlakonda Buddhist Site

Visakhapatnam, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of representatives from BRICS nations visited the historic Thotlakonda Buddhist site in Visakhapatnam on the first day of the BRICS Sports Ministers' Conference. Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, along with youth and sports ministers and delegates from BRICS countries, participated in the visit. The delegates planted saplings at the ancient Buddhist site and inspected its Mahastupa, wells, kitchen and meditation centres. Archaeology officials briefed

the foreign delegates about the historical significance of Thotlakonda, its archaeological remains and the Buddhist way of life that prevailed in the region during the period. The visit provided the delegates an opportunity to explore Andhra Pradesh's rich Buddhist heritage and cultural history. The historic site, located along the Visakhapatnam coast, is among the important Buddhist archaeological sites in the region. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to attend a dinner hosted for the foreign delegates in Visakhapatnam this evening as part of the BRICS meetings.

Satya Kumar Yadav Extends Birthday Wishes To Chiranjeevi

Vijayawada, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav extended heartfelt birthday greetings to Megastar Chiranjeevi, praising his contribution to the Telugu film industry and his long-standing artistic career. In his message, Satya Kumar Yadav said Chiranjeevi's achievements and journey had inspired generations of people and earned him a special place in the hearts of the public. He also appreciated the actor's commitment to social service and his efforts to contribute to society beyond the film industry. The Minister expressed hope that Chiranjeevi would continue serving people and achieve greater success in the years ahead. He prayed for Chiranjeevi's continued good health, happiness and longevity, invoking the blessings of Lord Sri Venkateswara. Satya Kumar Yadav conveyed his wishes on the occasion of Chiranjeevi's birth day and hailed the actor's enduring influence on Telugu cinema and society.

Elderly Vastu Expert Donates RS.50,000 for Amaravati

Anakapalli, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

An inspiring gesture by an elderly man, Rattayya, drew appreciation during the 'Swarnandhra-Swachhandhra' programme at A. Koduru in K. Kotapadu Mandal, Anakapalli district. Rattayya, a Vastu expert, donated 750,000 from his savings towards the development of Amaravati and the Polavaram project and handed over the amount to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu during the public meeting. Rattayya said he had contributed half of his savings to the cause of Amaravati. He had previously donated money and gold towards the Polavaram project and the construction of the capital city. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu specially commended Rattayya for his generosity and commitment despite his advanced age. He said the elderly man's decision to part with his hard-earned savings reflected his deep affection for the State and his desire to see Amaravati completed. The Chief Minister recalled that Rattayya had made similar contributions in the past and appreciated his continued support for major development projects. He said such gestures from ordinary citizens provide moral strength to the government and its efforts to rebuild the State. Chandrababu Naidu observed that Rattayya's contribution and spirit should inspire others to support the development of Andhra Pradesh and the completion of key projects.

"Work To Solve People's Problems, Not For Positions", Says Goa CM Pramod Sawant

Continue

emerge as policymakers, grassroots organisers, technology users and social entrepreneurs. AP BJP President PVN Madhav said 'Viksit Bharat' was possible only through a 'Viksit Andhra Pradesh' and urged the youth to become active partners in nation-building. He called upon them to work with the spirit of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas". Madhav said financial inclusion, infrastructure, self-reliant manufacturing and social equality were essential for achieving a developed India. He highlighted developments in digital financial services, roads, railways, ports, airports and indigenous manufacturing. He urged youth to take pride in India's history, culture, traditions, languages, arts and scientific heritage and draw inspiration from the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Recalling his association with Pramod Sawant during their Yuva Morcha days, Madhav praised his journey from an Ayurvedic doctor to Goa Chief Minister. MLA Kamineni Srinivas described youth as the backbone of the nation and urged them to lead value-based lives. MLA Sujana Chowdary stressed the importance of technology, saying "Village intelligence" was superior to Artificial Intelligence and human intelligence was the greatest of all. He called upon youth to develop Artificial Intelligence, Human Intelligence, Village Intelligence and Political Intelligence. BJP MP Raghunandan Rao advised youth to think responsibly rather than emotionally and asked them to consider what they could contribute to the country instead of what the country had given them. He said Narendra Modi was working to realise Swami Vivekananda's dream of making India a 'Vishwa Guru'. BJP Yuva Morcha State President Sunil Reddy said the mindset of youth was crucial to achieving 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and called upon every young person to participate in nation-building from the village level. Nagothu Harikrishna, Bethireddy Aditya, Ajesh Yadav, Aditya, Paidikondala Sindhu, Navya, Tejaswini, Naveen, Mohan Vamsi, Vinod and others participated.

North Andhra To Be Developed As Industrial Corridor: CM Naidu

Continue

recently inaugurated Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) Airport as a jewel for North Andhra and said it would boost the region's development. Naidu strongly criticised what he termed misinformation over water requirements for data centres. He said the projects would require only 3.5 TMC of water and clarified that water received through the Polavaram project would be used to fill tanks across Anakapalli district. Godavari water would be brought to the district in the first week of September, he said. Works on the NTR Reservoir would be taken up at Rs.29 crore, while the Raivada project would also be completed. On cleanliness, Naidu urged people to adopt 'Mana Ooru-Mana Badhyata' (Our Village-Our Responsibility) and dedicate the third Saturday of every month to cleanliness and social welfare. He called for every village to become zero-waste and appreciated Green Ambassadors and sanitation workers for their efforts. He said the government had disposed of 143 lakh metric tonnes of waste across the State over the past two years and was working to increase green cover to 50 per cent. Naidu also called for "political cleansing", urging voters not to allow money to influence elections and to support governments working in the public interest. He defended the DSC recruitment process, stating that there had been "not even one per cent corruption" in the recruitment and alleging that more than 300 petitions had sought to obstruct the process. He said the State aimed to become a developed State with high per-capita income by 2047, in line with India's goal of becoming a developed nation. Ministers Vangalapudi Anitha, P Narayana and Kollu Ravindra, MPs CM Ramesh and Chintakayala Vijay, and MLA Bandaru Satyanarayana Murthy participated.

Lokesh Seeks Teachers' Support To Make AP Education Best In Country

Continue

urged teachers to use the LEAP app to submit suggestions and grievances.

Lokesh Takes 'Student Among Students, Teacher Among Teachers' Approach

Lokesh said the government had implemented the 'One Class, One Teacher' system in 10,000 schools and filled 16,000 teacher posts through DSC, with another 3,000 teachers to be recruited this year. During the inauguration of modernised Zilla Parishad High School buildings at Chandrampalem in Bheemili constituency, Visakhapatnam district, developed with support from Divis Laboratories, Lokesh interacted directly with students and encouraged them to raise questions. The campus now has modern classrooms, laboratories, a mineral water plant and a modern playground. Lokesh recalled that the school had earlier faced waterlogging and said he encouraged Divis Laboratories to support its modernisation after understanding students' difficulties. At Dasannapeta, he also sat through a chemistry revision class with teachers and later discussed their concerns with senior officials. He said his approach was shaped during the 'Yuva Galam' padyatra, when he witnessed teacher shortages and families migrating for employment. B. Srinivasa Rao, Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, participated in the meeting.

BRICS Youth Ministers Chart Roadmap For Youth Cooperation?

Continue

Statement focuses on education, training and skills, youth entrepreneurship, science and technology, social and cultural participation, poverty and inequality, health and sports, environment and sustainability, youth exchanges and inclusion. Delegates also participated in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation drive, planting saplings in honour of their mothers, and visited the historic Totlakonda Buddhist Monastery. On the sidelines, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya held bilateral meetings with counterparts from South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. Discussions focused on skill development, youth entrepreneurship, digital platforms, exchange programmes and capacity building. The meeting was held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, themed "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

Massive Welcome for Lokesh in Vizianagaram



Vizianagaram, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh received a grand welcome on his arrival in Vizianagaram on Saturday, with the Y Junction turning into a sea of people as thousands of party workers, supporters and residents gathered to greet him. The welcome programme was organised under the

leadership of local MLA Aditi Gajapathi Raju. A large number of TDP activists and supporters turned out in the party's traditional yellow attire, creating a festive atmosphere along the route. The 'Yellow Army' gathered in massive numbers to welcome Lokesh and express their support. Party workers and supporters raised slogans and cheered as the Minister

arrived in the city. The celebrations featured traditional Kolatam performances, drum beats and energetic dance programmes. Supporters and local groups performed Kolatam to add a cultural touch to the welcome celebrations, while drums and music created a lively atmosphere at the Y Junction. The large gathering reflected the enthusiasm among TDP workers and supporters during Lokesh's visit to Vizianagaram. Local leaders and party activists coordinated the arrangements and ensured that the welcome programme proceeded amid the enthusiastic participation of the public. Lokesh's arrival drew significant attention in the city, with supporters lining the roads to catch a glimpse of the Minister. The colourful celebrations and large turnout marked a vibrant reception for Lokesh in Vizianagaram.

Kuchipudi Performance Captivates Devotees at Indrakeeladri



Vijayawada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

A Kuchipudi dance performance held at Indrakeeladri on Saturday evening captivated devotees as part of the "Dha rmapatham" cultural programme organised by the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam in Vijayawada. The recital was presented by a troupe led by young Vijayawada artist Nethi Rishitha, drawing the attention of devotees who had gathered for Goddess Durga's darshan. The artists showcased various classical dance forms, creating a devotional atmosphere and receiving appreciation from the audience. The performance added a cultural dimension to the temple's Dhar mapatham programme, blending classical art with devotion in the presence of Goddess Durga. Following the recital, the Devas thanam felicitated the participating artists by presenting them with Shesha Vastram and Prasadam. Temple authorities appreciated the artists for their performance and contribution to the cultural programme, which provided devotees with an opportunity to witness a traditional classical dance recital.

Awareness Programme on Duchenne Disease on Sept 7

Vijayawada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Shobharani Sunkara, Founder and Executive Director of the Amaravati Rare Diseases Organization, sought District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha's support for an awareness programme on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) on World Duchenne Awareness Day, Sept 7. She submitted a representation at the Collectorate on Saturday. Lakshmisha responded positively and assured coordination and support from relevant departments. He said collective efforts were being made to achieve the vision of a 'Healthy Andhra' and improve public health.



Shobharani Sunkara said the programme would create awareness among parents, caregivers, the public and medical professionals about early diagnosis, genetic testing, treatment, rehabilitation and social support. She said the 2026 theme, "Access Changes Lives," would highlight timely access to healthcare, education and support for families affected by DMD and other rare diseases.

Sugar Control Rice Launched



Vijayawada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

The Rotary Club of Greater Amaravati agreed with DVR Dia Sugar Control Rice to create employment opportunities and promote healthier communities. The product was formally launched by IMA National President and renowned sexologist Dr. G. Samaram at his hospital near Benz Circle on Saturday. Dr. Samaram expressed concern over rising diabetes, citing unhealthy lifestyles, stress, poor dietary habits and inadequate physical activity. According to laboratory reports shared by the company, DVR Dia Rice has a Glycemic Index (GI) of 51, placing it in the lower-GI range. He said lower-GI foods may help reduce sharp rises in blood glucose after meals. He advised people with diabetes to follow medical guidance, maintain a balanced diet and exercise regularly rather than rely on any single food product. Rotarian Dr. Kodali Valli, Dr. Himabindu Gottapu, Dr. Chilakapati Ram Chand and DVR Dia Rice representatives Shiva and Puppala Appa Rao attended.

Goa CM Pramod Sawant Offers Prayers At Durga Temple

Vijayawada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant offered special prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam on Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Saturday. Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi) and EO V.K. Seena Naik welcomed him. Vedic scholars blessed Sawant after darshan, while temple authorities presented him with Seshavastram, a portrait of Goddess Kanaka Durga and Teertha-Prasadam. Earlier, Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash welcomed Sawant to Andhra Pradesh, saying his visit could strengthen cooperation with Goa in tourism.



industries, skill development and employment. He said AP, under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, was focused on investments and employment and was ready to collaborate with Goa. District In-charge Collector M. Naveen welcomed Sawant at Vijayawada International Airport. Assistant Collector Namrata Agarwal, District SP V. Vidyasagar Naidu, State BJP President TVN Madhav and Gudivada RDO G. Balasubrahmanyam were also present.

Kolikapudi's WhatsApp Status Sparks Political Buzz

Tiruvuru, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

A WhatsApp status posted by Tiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao has sparked discussion in political circles and gone viral on social media. Reportedly, in the post, he questioned a former Chief Minister and MLA, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, over attending weddings and condolence events while missing Legislative Assembly proceedings. He said attending the Assembly was a constitutional responsibility and asked whether such an absence could be justified. The post has drawn considerable attention online.

Doctors Stage '3% vs 30%' Protest Over Stipend Hike

Vijayawada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Doctors staged a unique protest in Vijayawada on Saturday opposing the government's proposed 3% stipend hike and demanding a 30% increase. As part of the protest, doctors painted "3% vs 30%" on their faces and hands to highlight the difference between the government's proposal and their demand. The protest was aimed at drawing the attention of the public, government and media to their demand for a substantial increase in stipends. The doctors said the proposed 3% hike was inadequate and did not reflect the ground realities faced by medical professionals.

They cited the rising cost of living, the financial burden associated with medical education and training, increasing working hours and the critical services rendered by doctors in government hospitals as reasons for seeking a higher stipend. They said their demand for a 30% hike was not merely about a percentage but represented recognition of their workload, responsibilities and contribution to the healthcare system.



Displaying the message "3% vs 30%"

Displaying the message "3% vs 30%"

Displaying the message "3% vs 30%"

on our faces - 30% on our hands," the doctors said the protest symbolised their determination to continue pressing for a fair increase. They urged the government to reconsider its proposal and respond positively to their demands. The protesting doctors appealed to the government to take immediate steps to resolve the issue and provide a fair stipend hike. They said they would continue their agitation until their demand for a 30% increase was considered favourably, stressing that they would not settle for the proposed 3% hike.

Seena Naik Inspects Temple Security, Leads Swachh Andhra Pledge



Vijayawada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam Executive Officer V.K. Seena Naik conducted a surprise inspection of the temple's scanning point on Saturday. He examined the

Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam Executive Officer V.K. Seena Naik conducted a surprise inspection of the temple's scanning point on Saturday. He examined the

VIP Entry Register and other records maintained at the facility and reviewed the security arrangements. Seena Naik instructed scanning point in-charge Anuradha, Junior Assistant, to strictly follow official duties and responsibilities. He directed staff to enforce temple security regulations, particularly those related to cellphone usage at the scanning point. He also stressed maintaining discipline and expediting the screening process to avoid inconvenience to devotees. Personnel

were instructed to ensure smooth and efficient screening while adhering to all security protocols. Swachh Andhra The "Swachhata Hi Seva" pledge was conducted at Indrakeeladri on Saturday as part of the "Swachh Andhra" initiative under the leadership of EO V.K. Seena Naik. The programme was held at 9.30 am on the seventh floor of Sri Mallikarjuna Maha Mandapam, opposite the Rajagopuram. Temple officials and staff from sanitation, security and

other departments participated and took the Swachh Andhra Pledge. Addressing them, Seena Naik urged staff to devote time daily to cleanliness and participate in shramadan. He stressed the importance of household and community toilets in achieving an Open Defecation Free society and called for awareness on proper waste management and regular septic tank cleaning. He said sanitation and security personnel have a key role in maintaining a clean and pleasant environment for devotees.

Advance Security Arrangements for Vice President's Visit

Gannavaram, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District In-charge Collector M. Naveen directed officials to make comprehensive security and protocol arrangements for the Vice President of India's visit to Vijayawada International Airport on Aug 24. At a coordination meeting held at the airport on Saturday with District SP V. Vidyasagar Naidu and SPG officials, he reviewed route security, convoy movement, traffic control and protocol arrangements. The Vice President is scheduled to travel by road from the airport to Pusunuru village in Musunuru mandal,

Eluru district, and return to the airport. Naveen ordered arrangements for the control room, green room, VIP reception and parking areas. He directed officials to conduct advance security checks using bomb disposal and video surveillance teams. Medical teams, ambulances, emergency equipment and fire tenders must remain ready, while Pinnamaneni Siddhartha Medical College should ensure emergency medical facilities. Gannavaram Police Station will be prepared as a safe house. Airport Director Lakshminanta Reddy, Airport CSO K. Dharmendra, Assistant Collector Namrata Agarwal, Gudiv



ada RDO G. Balasubrahmanyam, Gannavaram Tahsildar Sivayya, Special Branch CI Y. Satya Kishore and officials from police, medical, fire and airport departments attended.

NTR Police Conduct Cleanliness Drive

Vijayawada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Police conducted cleanliness drives at police stations and offices across the district on Saturday as part of the State Government's 'Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra' initiative and 'Swachh Andhra Day'. The programme was held under the directives of NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Raja Sekhara Babu. Cleanliness drives were organized at all police stations, ACP and DCP offices, as well as SB, CCRB and AR units. Police personnel cleaned office premises, surrounding areas, quarters and nearby roads, while ensuring that stagnant sewage did not accumulate in potholes. Staff were sensitized on maintaining clean surroundings, proper waste disposal and environmental protection. Police officers and staff also pledged to create awareness among colleagues and neighbours about cleanliness and maintaining healthy surroundings.



Serial House Thefts Solved, Accused Arrested

Tiruvuru, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Tiruvuru Circle Police arrested Chintala Gopalrao alias Gopi, 32, in connection with a series of thefts from locked houses in Mallela, West Madhavaram, Chimalapadu and Kalagara villages. Acting on the orders of NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekar Babu,

under the supervision of Rural Zone DCP B. Lakshminarayana and leadership of Mylavaram Sub-Division ACP P. Ramachandra Rao, Circle Inspector K. Giribabu formed special teams. Police analyzed CCTV footage, vehicle movements and technical evidence to identify the accused. He was apprehended near Putrela village in Vissannapeta mandal. Police recovered

130 grams of gold, 200 grams of silver, ₹2,00,000 cash, an Access scooter and an iron rod. Vissannapeta SI M. Arjuna Raju and his team played a key role in the investigation. Police advised residents to secure valuables and report suspicious movements.



Lakshmisha Stresses Voter Awareness

Vijayawada, August 22 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha stressed public participation in the 'Swarnandhra-Swachhandhra' programme and urged citizens to make cleanliness a personal responsibility. Participating in a programme at the Community Hall in G. Konduru on Saturday, he inspected stalls set up by the Women and Child Welfare, Agriculture, Medical and Health, and Panchayat Raj departments. He called for waste segregation, effective functioning of waste-to-wealth centres and avoidance of single-use plastics. Green Ambassadors and women promoting wet and dry waste segregation were felicitated. DPO T. Seethamahalakshmi, G. Konduru Mandal Parishad President Vemulakonda Lakshmi Tirupattamma, MPDO B. Srinivasa Rao and Tahsildar D. Rebekah Rani participated. At a workshop for Self-Help Group women at the RYZ Centre in Guntupalli, Ibrahimpatnam, Lakshmisha urged women to develop skills and pursue self-employment. Organised by the DRDA, the workshop trained 70 women under Sushma, founder of Nari Vastra. DRDA Project Director A.N.V. Nanchara Rao participated. No Need To Panic Over Voter Notices DRO M. Lakshminarasimham and representatives of TDP, BJP, AAP, INC and CPM partici-



ated. Chess Tournament On Sunday

The Rotary Club of Greater Amaravati, in association with the NTR District administration, will organise a one-day open chess tournament for schoolchildren on August 23 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Sri Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall in the NTR District Collectorate. Lakshmisha will attend as chief guest. Charter President Dr. Kodali Valli, Club Founder Dr. Ch. Ramchand and chess coach K. Suresh participated in the poster launch. Focus On Mediation At a meeting of the Mandal Legal Services Committee, Lakshmisha said mediation could provide speedy and amicable dispute resolution, particularly in family cases. He called for strengthening village-level mediation services and announced a workshop next week involving officials and mediators. PGRS Nodal Officer G. Jyothi and mediators participated.

MBBS, BDS Provisional Merit List Displayed

Vijayawada, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Dr NTR University of Health Sciences has displayed the provisional merit position of candidates who applied for MBBS and BDS admissions under the Competent Authority Quota for 2026-27.

The university informed candidates to verify details and submit grievances through their respective login IDs with valid supporting documents by Aug 25. A total of 14,310 candidates were found eligible, while 306 candidates were asked to re-upload documents. Three

applications were rejected, and 382 candidates paid the fee but did not submit required documents. Four PwBD candidates were found ineligible for the medical course. The university said grievances without proper supporting documents would not be considered.

CM Naidu Gives Rs 250 Crore More to Veligonda Displaced Families

Undavalli, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu handed over a cheque for an additional Rs 250 crore in compensation to families displaced by the Veligonda project, acknowledging their sacrifices in giving up their lands and homes for the project. The cheque was handed over to representatives of the displaced families at the Chief Minister's residence in Undavalli. With the latest release, the total compensation provided by the government to families affected by the Veligonda project has reached Rs 768 crore.

Chandrababu Naidu said the government was committed to supporting families who had made significant sacrifices for the implementation of the irrigation project.

The additional compensation is aimed at providing further financial relief to those displaced by the project. Minister



Nimmala Ramanaidu, MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, MLAs Kandula Narayana Reddy, Mukku Ugra Narasimha Reddy and Muttumula Ashok Reddy attended the programme. Yerrago

ndapalem TDP in-charge Guduri Erection Babu also participated. The government reiterated its commitment to addressing the concerns of displaced families and ensuring that eligible

beneficiaries receive the compensation due to them. The latest Rs 250 crore release takes the overall compensation extended to Veligonda project displaced families to Rs 768 crore.

CPR Awareness Programme Held for Bhimadole Circle Police

Eluru, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

A police drill and CPR awareness programme was conducted for staff at the Bhimadole Circle Police Station under the instructions of District SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore and Eluru DSP D. Shravan Kumar. The programme was led by Inspector Krishna. Police personnel from

Bhimadole and Dwarakaturumala stations received training in immediate first aid and CPR for emergencies such as heart attacks and sudden cardiac arrest. The training was conducted in coordination with medical officers. Participants were briefed on responding calmly during emergencies, assessing a victim's condition, alerting medical services promptly and providing

first aid until medical personnel arrive. The importance of following the correct CPR technique was also explained. Bhimadole SI Madina Basha and Dwarakaturumala SI Sudheer, along with other police personnel, participated in the programme. Inspector Krishna said knowledge of CPR could help anyone save a life during an emergency.



The programme aimed to improve police personnel's preparedness to respond effectively to medical emergencies.

Kambala Srinivas Announces Major Sravana Gift for Women

East Godavari, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Executive Committee Member and Viswa Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Rama Sena President Kambala Srinivas announced a major service initiative to sup-

port women in East Godavari district during the auspicious month of Sravana. Speaking at a press conference at Manjeera Hotel on Saturday, Srinivas said the "Kambala Kanuka - Vanitala Veduka" programme was inspired by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's spirit of service and spiritual outlook. He announced plans to distribute nearly one lakh silk saris free of cost to women across various villages. He also announced the distribution of 4,000 gold

pendants as Sravana gifts for women to wear during Varalakshmi Vratam and other religious rituals. Srinivas said the initiative was aimed at promoting women's welfare, preserving Hindu traditions and providing support without political motives.

He said the programme would help bring joy and dignity to poor families during the holy month. The initiative, focused on women's empowerment, Dharma and social service, has received strong response from local women, he added.

Two Women's Murder Cases Solved, Accused Arrested



Markapuram, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Markapuram District Police solved two murder and gold theft cases in DG Peta village, C.S. Puram Mandal, and arrested Pavali Suresh, 32, of the same village. The cases relate to the murders of Pavali Venkata Subbamma, 56, on Aug 13, 2026, and Dega Rattamma, 66, in Oct 2024.

District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju said eight special teams investigated the cases using technical and physical evidence. During interrogation, Suresh allegedly confessed to both murders. Police recovered an axe, iron plough handle, one gold chain and 27 grams of melted gold from

him. The stolen property included two gold chains, two pairs of earrings and two ear studs. The SP said the accused attacked the women while they were returning after collecting fodder and stole their ornaments. Markapuram OSD Navajyothi Mishra, Kanigiri In-charge DSP Sridhar Babu, CIs D. Vinod Kumar, U. Srinivas, M. Rajesh, SK Khaja Vali and Kamalakara, SIs Venkateswara Reddy, Anuk, Koteswara Rao, Rajesh, Narasimha Rao, Siva Krishna Reddy and Kotaiah, CIs Charan and Baburao, and Guntur Range Crime Parties participated.

Megastar Chiranjeevi's 71st Birthday Celebrated

Chirala, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

The 71st birthday of Megastar Chiranjeevi was celebrated grandly in Chirala town on Saturday. The celebrations were jointly organised by the Janasena Party and Radha-Ranga Mitra Mandali at the latter's office opposite Chirala One-Town Police Station. As part of the celebrations, a cake was cut and sweets were distributed. Speakers praised Chiranjeevi's journey from a family without a film background to becoming a Megastar through hard work and self-effort.



They said he continues to serve as a guiding force and pillar of support for the Telugu film industry. Participants also highlighted his contribution to social service through the Chiranjeevi Blood Bank and Eye Bank, describing him as an inspiration for selfless public service. Janasena Party leader

Guduru Prasad, Radha Ranga Mitra Mandali Bapatla District President Gokul Kiran Babu, leaders Chunduru Vasu, Hanumakonda Kishore, Palavalasa Srinivas, Papishetti Anjibabu, Chunduru Ramakrishna and Ravuru Balaji, along with party leaders, activists and Mega fans, participated.

MLA Malakondaiah Inaugurates Modern Fire Engine



Chirala, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

MLA Madduluri Malakondaiah inaugurated a state-of-the-art fire engine allocated to Chirala at the local fire station on Friday. The vehicle was procured as part of measures initiated by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to modernise Andhra Pradesh Fire Services and develop it into one of the best systems in the country. State-of-the-art fire engines were procured at a cost of Rs 34 crore using 15th Finance Commission funds. Speaking on the occasion, Malakondaiah said the Fire Department plays a crucial role in preventing loss of life and prop-

erty during accidents and emergencies. He said the modern fire engine would help firefighters respond quickly to emergencies and undertake rescue operations more effectively. The vehicle would also strengthen emergency services and enable the Fire Department to provide faster and improved assistance to people in Chirala constituency and surrounding areas. NDA alliance leaders, Fire Department officials and staff participated in the inauguration programme. The MLA expressed confidence that the new vehicle would significantly improve firefighting and rescue capabilities in the region.

SIR-2026 Campaign Days Announced in Markapuram

Markapuram, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha announced that SIR-2026 campaign days are being conducted in accordance with Election Commission directives. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be available at respective polling stations from 10 am to 5 pm on Aug 22, 23, 29 and 30. Voters can verify their electoral details and submit claims, objections or applications for corrections to BLOs during the



special campaign days. As part of the programme, District Collector M. Vijaya Sunitha inspected the hearing process at polling stations 124 and 126 in

Seethanagulavaram village, Tarlupadu Mandal. During the inspection, she reviewed the handling of voter claims and objections and directed the concerned revenue staff to expedite the resolution of pending claims. The Collector urged voters to utilise the campaign days to verify their details and submit necessary applications within the prescribed period. She instructed officials to ensure that all claims and objections are examined and resolved according to the Election Commission guidelines.

Mega Family Is a Role Model in Service: Reddy Appalanaidu

Eluru, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Grand celebrations marking the 71st birthday of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Megastar Chiranjeevi were held at the Eluru Janasena Party office on Saturday, organised by the city committee. Reddy Appalanaidu, APSRTC Vijayawada Zone Chairman and Janasena In-charge for Eluru constituency, and former Deputy Mayor Shiripalli Sivaramakrishna Prasad attended as chief guests and cut the birthday cake. Speaking on the occasion, Reddy Appalanaidu praised the Mega Family, saying they are known not only in the film industry but also for their service activities. He described Chiranjeevi as an inspiration for blood and eye donation initiatives and praised his contribu-



tion through blood and eye banks. He congratulated Katta Adi, Devabathula Aravind and Ramiseti Kalyan, selected from Eluru for the Mega Youth Force established by Konidela Sushmita, and urged them to undertake more service activities. Mega fan association leaders Sanam Sriramakrishnamurthy, P. Jagan and Suresh Master, City President Veeranki Pandu, and other Janasena leaders and activists participated.

Advance Security Checks Completed for Vice President's Visits

Eluru, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Officials completed the Advance Security Liaison (ASL) exercise in preparation for Vice President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan's visit to Musunuru on Aug 24. Eluru Range IG G.V.G. Ashok Kumar, District Collector Vetrivel K and SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore inspected the arrangements along with the Vice President's security officials. The officials thoroughly inspected the road route, meeting venue, helipad and parking areas. Bomb disposal and dog squads were deployed to check the locations, while security arrangements along the convoy route were reviewed. Authorities directed officials to establish continuous surveillance through drones



and CCTV cameras. Arrangements for parking ramps were also reviewed, with instructions to take proactive measures to prevent traffic congestion. SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore directed all departments to coordinate closely and ensure the Vice President's visit proceeds smoothly without any security lapses. Sub-Collector B. Vinutha, Nuzvid DSP K.V.V.N.V. Prasad, SB Inspector Malleswara Rao and other officials participated in the ASL exercise.

Oil Palm Farmers Allege Exploitation by Middlemen

Eluru, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham demanded protection for oil palm farmers from alleged fraudulent practices by companies and middlemen. Speaking at Anne Bhavan in Eluru on Saturday, District Secretary K. Srinivas and senior leader Guthikonda Venkata Krishna Rao alleged that middlemen at certain weighbridges were resorting to unfair practices. They claimed that fruit bunches collected from farmers during the day were sprayed with water overnight to artificially increase their weight before being transported to factories. They alleged that factory managements subsequently reduced purchase prices citing high moisture content, causing farmers a loss of around Rs 450 per tonne last month. The leaders demanded an immediate stop to water spraying and arbitrary rejection



of bunches as "unripe". They also sought continuous inspections of weighing practices and measures to ensure farmers receive government-mandated prices and compensation. They demanded resolution of the Oil Extraction Rate issue through construction of a new Oilfed factory at Pedavegi. They warned of agitations if the issues remain unresolved.

Kolleru Lanka Villages Uphold Tradition and Discipline: Badeti Chanti



Eluru, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

TDP District President and Eluru MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti) praised the Lanka villages of the Kolleru region for upholding strong traditions, unity and discipline. He said the services of late Saidu Gangaraju for the welfare and unity of people in the villages remained an inspiration. MLA Chanti attended the 103rd birth anniversary celebrations of Saidu Gangaraju as chief guest at the Eluru Zilla Parishad meeting hall on Saturday. The programme was organised under the leadership of State Vaddi Corporation

Chairperson Ghantasala Venkata Lakshmi. Chanti paid tributes to Gangaraju by garlanding his portrait. Nine students from Kolleru Lanka villages who excelled academically were presented with the Saidu Gangaraju Award-2026. Each student received Rs 5,000, a memento, books and a certificate of appreciation. Chanti said Gangaraju's efforts for the unity and rights of Kolleru people and development of their villages would remain unforgettable. He assured support for constructing a community hall and urged residents of the Lanka villages to move forward unitedly.

CPI Calls for Upholding Ideals of Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy



Eluru, Aug 22 | TPN Bureau

CPI District Secretary Mannava Krishna Chaitanya called upon party activists to strive towards realising the ideals of late Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, former CPI National Secretary and former MP. His first death anniversary was observed at Spurthi Bhavan on Saturday under the auspices of the CPI District Committee.

Krishna Chaitanya and BKMU District Secretary Bandi Venkateswara Rao paid tributes by garlanding Sudhakar Reddy's portrait. Speaking on the occasion, Krishna Chaitanya recalled Reddy's relentless struggles at the national level from his student days for the rights of students, youth, workers and farmers. He urged activists to draw inspiration from his life and fight against what he described as anti-people, anti-worker and anti-farmer policies of the Central and State governments. Bandi Venkateswara Rao recalled Reddy's role as BKMU National Vice-President in securing agricultural land and house sites for landless poor. He urged activists to make the "Change Must Come - We Must Bring Change" campaign successful.

Editorial

Why Do Officials Wake Up Only After a Mishap?

Whenever a mishap occurs, officials immediately come forward and announce a series of measures to prevent such incidents in the future. But the real question is: where were these officials before the tragedy happened? What were they doing when the violations were taking place? If the authorities are responsible for monitoring construction and ensuring compliance with rules, why do they act only after lives are lost? In Hyderabad, a building was reportedly constructed on just 50 square yards and extended to seven floors. The structure eventually collapsed, resulting in deaths. After the incident, the Commissioner of HYDRAA announced that all such illegal and unsafe buildings would be demolished. This raises an important question: why did the authorities fail to identify the building when it was being constructed? The responsibility cannot simply be placed on the builders. The officials concerned must also be held accountable. Town planning officials, field-level inspectors and the commissioners responsible for the respective areas cannot escape responsibility if illegal constructions are allowed to come up under their watch. Permissions, inspections and enforcement mechanisms exist precisely to prevent such disasters. Unfortunately, governments often respond to tragedies with immediate announcements, hoping to calm public anger. But announcing demolitions after deaths have occurred is not a solution. Accountability must begin with those who failed to perform their duties. Governments and officials must understand that public safety cannot be treated as a post-disaster exercise. Rules are meaningful only when they are enforced before a tragedy, not after it. Every such incident should result in a thorough investigation into who permitted the violation, who failed to inspect it and who ignored complaints. Unless responsibility is fixed on both the violator and the officials who allowed the violation, such incidents will continue to repeat. *Governments must act before disasters, not merely react after them.

- Editor

Let Marriage Remain A Lifelong Bond

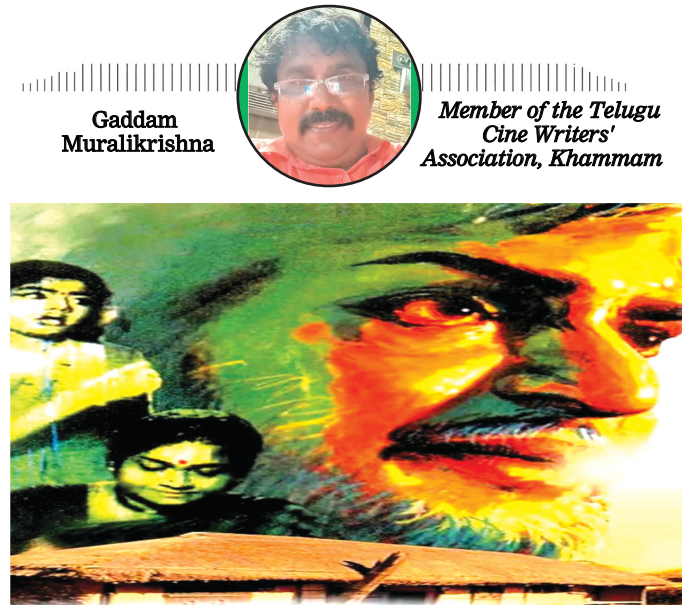
A song from Badi Pantulu offers timeless wisdom on love and togetherness



Marriage is a bond meant to endure through every stage of life. In today's changing times, when minor misunderstandings can sometimes grow into big differences and even lead couples towards separation, an old Telugu film song carries a timeless message about love, companionship, understanding and staying together until the very end. "Mee nagumomu..." - From the movie Badi Pantulu "Mee nagumomu kanulara kananindu..." (May my eyes behold your smiling face until the very end...) "This song from the movie Badi Pantulu is one of my absolute favourites. Today's younger generation really needs to listen to and understand this song. For young men and women who allow minor misunderstandings to fester, rush to court for divorces and allow cracks to form in their marital bonds, this song serves as a Bhagavad Gita-a guiding light. Many Telugu films have been made about the bond between husband and wife and the sanc-

tity of the Thali (sacred wedding thread). However, lyricist Acharya Atreya has comprehensively captured the essence of a strong marital relationship-mutual love, understanding, trust and the inability to bear separation-in this song. Noted artists Anjali and NTR conveyed profound emotions, while K.V. Mahadevan composed a melodious, soul-soothing score. All in all, this song is a boon and a piece of wise counsel for today's youth. "Upacharale chesitino, eragaka apacharale chesitino.. Odidudukulalo todai untini.. Mee aduguna adugai nadachitini..." (Did I offer mere pleasures, or did I unknowingly commit wrongs? Yet, I stood by you through life's ups and downs, walking step for step alongside you...) Years ago, the family dynamic was defined by the husband earning the livelihood while the wife managed the household; today, the situation is quite different. Now, both husband and wife hold jobs. So, Anjali is equal to NTR... yet, the bond

must remain intact. A husband and wife must preserve that connection, as well as the essence and profound meaning of that song. "Rekkalu vacchina pillalu velaru.. Rekkalu alasi meerunaaru, pandutakulamu migilitimi, inkennipandugalu chudanuntimi.. Mee nagumomu naa kanulaaraa kananindu..." (The children have grown wings and flown away, while we remain with weary wings... We are like autumn leaves now; how many more festivals are left for us to see? Let my eyes behold your smiling face...) Children grow up and leave home for jobs or business needs; this is a natural course of events. In the end, only the husband and wife remain. It is when a couple is left alone after the children have moved on-that the true value and necessity of the husband-wife relationship become apparent. This bond, meant to endure until the very end, should be severed only by Lord Yama, the God of Death-not by trivial, senseless arguments or petty



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reasons. Many people come and go in a person's life, leaving behind their own experiences, but the relationship between a husband and wife is different. Once united, they should not part ways; they must stay together and walk life's path together until the end. Regardless of who earns the income or who depends on whom-whether due to health issues or advancing age-one must cherish and protect the other with the utmost care, just as the eyelid shields the eye, much like the actor Late Ranganath did. Such is the bond between husband and wife-a connection that endures together until the very end. There is no substitute for the bond between husband and wife. Even if one were to exist, it would be like a dim, murky shadow-never the radiant moonlight of a full-moon night, nor should it ever be. The bond between husband and wife is, at

its core, a friendship. If the two conduct themselves like soulmates, separation will never occur. Sharing love only serves to deepen it. Once this is realised-once the essence of this song is truly understood-anger will vanish, and the thought of parting ways will never arise. They will remain together forever, like a devoted pair of birds. "Shatamanam Bhavati Shatayuh Purushash-Shatendriyah..." Seek the meaning of this sloka and understand it. May you, as husband and wife, flourish for a hundred years; honour the institution of marriage and live accordingly. Listen to the song "Nagumomu..." whenever you feel angry with your partner. Your sulking and anger will drift away like wisps of cotton-I guarantee it. That's all for today's musings! We shall certainly meet again with another topic. Signing off now.

International Children's Film Festival in Hyderabad: The Need of the Hour



Some festivals entertain us for a few days, and some festivals leave behind a cultural memory. Hyderabad's International Children's Film Festival belonged to the second category. For years, the city was identified across the world with the Golden Elephant, the International Children's Film Festival of India. It brought together children, filmmakers, animators, teachers, critics and young film enthusiasts from different countries and created a rare cultural space where childhood itself became the centre of cinema.

Today, reviving such a festival in Hyderabad is not merely a nostalgic wish. It is the need of the hour. The history of the festival is impressive. The Golden Elephant was organised in Hyderabad biennially and became one of the important international platforms for children's cinema. The 18th edition in 2013, for instance, screened around 200 films from 48 countries across multiple venues and attracted a very large young audience. The 20th edition in 2017 screened nearly 300 films from 50 countries, while film-making, storytelling and animation workshops introduced children to the creative process behind cinema.

The 2017 festival also demonstrated how deeply such an event could connect with children. Young participants attended screenings, interacted with filmmakers and took part in the Little Directors programme and creative workshops. But the festival subsequently disappeared from Hyderabad's cultural calendar. A city that once welcomed the world's children through cinema was left without this important annual or biennial

cultural window. Cinema is not merely entertainment. For children, cinema can be a second classroom. A good children's film can introduce a child to another country without requiring a passport. It can make another language familiar, another culture understandable and another child's dream emotionally close. It can speak about friendship, nature, courage, disability, poverty, imagination, science, war and peace without turning these subjects into dry lessons.

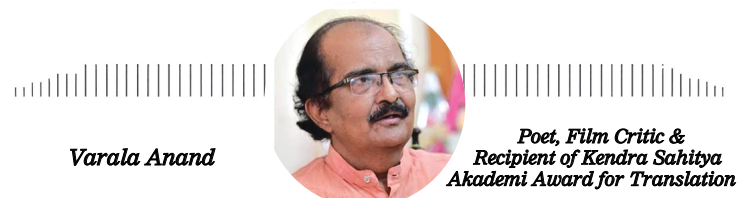


In an age when children spend increasing amounts of time before screens, the question is no longer whether children will watch films. They certainly will. The question is: what kind of films will they watch? A carefully curated international children's film festival can provide an answer. Commercial cinema largely follows the logic of the market. Children's cinema must follow another logic: the logic of imagination, curiosity and emotional growth. Animation, fantasy, documentary, short film and experi-

mental cinema can open doors that conventional entertainment often leaves closed. Hyderabad has a legacy to reclaim. Hyderabad has all the ingredients necessary to become a major centre for children's cinema. It has a vibrant film industry, experienced film professionals, educational institutions, theatres, cultural organisations and an increasingly international identity. More importantly, it already possesses a history that gives the proposed festival cultural legitimacy.

The old Golden Elephant festival was not simply a film exhibition. It was a meeting place between childhood and world cinema. The city became a temporary global village where children could watch films from different cultures and discover that their dreams, fears and joys were shared by children thousands of kilometres away. That tradition deserves revival. From spectators to young creators. A new festival should go beyond screening films. It should include film appreciation programmes, animation workshops, storytelling sessions, screenplay writing, photography,

sound design, dubbing, filmmaking and mobile-film workshops. Children should be encouraged not merely to watch cinema but to understand how cinema is made. The Little Directors concept of the earlier festival offers an inspiring model. In 2017, children participated in filmmaking workshops and a special competitive section for films made by children themselves. Imagine a



exchange a children's film festival can create. A festival for every child. The new festival must not remain confined to Hyderabad's elite schools or a few multiplexes. Its real success should be measured by how far it travels. Films can be screened in schools, universities, district headquarters, rural cultural centres and community spaces across Telangana. Mobile screening units can take cinema to children who may never enter a multiplex. The 2017 festival itself had considered screenings beyond the main Hyderabad venues, including district-level participation. A revived festival could turn this into a permanent outreach programme. A cultural investment in the future. There is also a larger question here. **What kind of citizens do we want to create?** Children exposed only to commercial entertainment may become consumers of images. Children

exposed to diverse cinema can become readers of images. They can learn to question, interpret, empathize and imagine. Cinema can teach a child that the world is larger than his or her neighbourhood, language and immediate experience. This is particularly important in today's digital age, when children have access to an unprecedented volume of visual content. The answer is not to keep children away from cinema and screens. The answer is to give them better cinema and the ability to understand it. **Hyderabad can once again open its doors to the world.** The International Children's Film Festival was once one of Hyderabad's distinctive cultural signatures. Its return would therefore be more than the revival of an old event. It could become a new cultural mission. The Telangana government, the film development institutions, educational organisations, filmmakers and the private sector could come together to establish a professionally curated festival with international partnerships. The Golden Elephant legacy could be remembered, while the new festival could be given a contemporary identity reflecting the realities of today's children. Children do not inherit only the world we build for them. They inherit the imagination with which we teach them to see the world. An international children's film festival can nurture that imagination. Hyderabad has hosted the festival before. It has the infrastructure, the film culture and, most importantly, the memory. What it needs now is the will to open the doors again. **Let the screens light up.** Let children enter the darkness of the cinema hall with wonder in their eyes. And let Hyderabad once again become a city where the world comes to meet its children.

Next 6 months is very critical for India?

Foreign Lobbies Target India Amidst Parliamentary Decline

This caption is not accidental. After deep research on the deep state operations in India and USA, I came to this conclusion. The recent events have ascertained us that, now the deep state is in a good control over corrupting Indian minds and make a big unrest in the country, till India sign with US trade agreement first and then destroy India's development focused nationalistic government.

The recent decision to send the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) amendment to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) was the result of intense international lobbying orchestrated by the US "deep state" and the Christian lobby.

All these uproar over the FCRA is a smokescreen for a much larger geopolitical agenda. Despite Christian NGOs receiving only 16 percent of the estimated 72 lakh crore in foreign contributions that entered India over the last decade, the Catholic Church has been at the forefront of the opposition. The irony is that Catholics are not much into the conversion business, but they are into creating wealth for the system by acquiring lands and building commercial complexes in the backdrop of churches and educational



institutions. Catholic churches have perfect management and accounting system and know better than anyone to legally do these activities. They simply cry yes to the opposition propaganda that stems not from a fear of property confiscation, but from a strategic intent to corner the Modi government on behalf of US interests. In fact, other Christian factions like the Believers Church, self-pro-

claimed ministries of smart pastors and the Pentecostal Missions are the one into conversions and even was the backbone of funding for the Mao Naxals. But they are silent in this cry game. The major funds are coming to the wrong hands in the pretext of NGOs, but we are not witnessing any development from these funds. For a good government, it is good to have a regulation to know and have an account of what

we do by private or government. Everything must be accounted. The primary target of these international actors is allegedly Union Home Minister Amit Shah, with the opposition repeatedly demanding his resignation to isolate the Prime Minister. Everybody knows the fact that Amit Shah is Modi's strength and the next possible PM candidate. By hook or crook, if the opposition can make few

martyrs and snatch Shaw's resignation, they expect India will go destabilize.

Let us look at the Parliamentary Inefficiency of ours. Amidst these external pressures, the Indian Parliament is facing severe internal challenges. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has criticized the opposition for using Parliament for sloganeering and deliberately avoiding constructive debates. A comparison with global counterparts highlights a sharp decline in legislative scrutiny in India.

We surely need an institutional Reform. Instead of engaging in substantive debate, MPs frequently resort to walkouts and protests. During the Monsoon Session of 2026, the Lok Sabha functioned for



Ram Kamal

Social Engineer

only 15% of its scheduled time, costing taxpayers an estimated 72.5 crore per day in wasted resources.

For the betterment of the nation and the vibrant fabric of Indian Democracy, our politicians have to live beyond their political colours and their constant attempts to grab the seat to become rulers. They must look at their primary duty of learning the needs of their constituency's development, education, infrastructure and employment opportunities than unnecessarily wasting their time to destabilise a

stabilized government who are mandated by the public to rule them for the next 5 years. Why do we want to become the puppet of foreign deep states to make fast growing India miserable and become a global market for their products?

Do not forget that we are living in an era of instant information. This instant information is transparent and can be also made tainted. As a policy, the Government of India must introduce a policy of penalizing every lie in the society and upheld transparent and truthful information.

It is not a ban for freedom of expression, if the expressions are not sincere and truthful. There is a thin line between, the truth and lie. Let me close this series once again with Winston Churchill's quote, Truth must always be escorted with lies.

Metric	Global Counterparts	Indian Parliament
Annual Sittings	US: ~160 days; UK/Aus: Fixed annual calendars	Shrunk to under 60 days; the 17th Lok Sabha held only 274 sittings over five years
Committee Scrutiny	Embedded in routine lawmaking	Bills referred to Standing Committees dropped from 71% (2009-14) to just 16% (2019-24)
Lawmaking Pace	Deliberative, pre-legislative consultation	Frequently rushed; e.g., the 10% EWS reservation was passed in two days

1984 Riot Victims Demand Rahul Gandhi Apology

Families of victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and Sikh community leaders staged a protest outside Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's residence in New Delhi on Saturday, demanding an apology over remarks allegedly describing former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar as a "hero" and "role model."

The protest was organised after Sajjan Kumar died on Thursday. Kumar, a former Congress MP and senior party leader, had been convicted in a case connected to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. His death has now triggered fresh political controversy, with Sikh groups objecting strongly to statements made by some Congress leaders following his demise.

The protesters were led by Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) president Harmeet Singh Kalka and general secretary Jagdeep Singh Kahlon. They gathered near Rahul Gandhi's residence on Sunehri Bagh Road, where heavy police barricading was put in place.



DSGMC representatives questioned whether the Congress considers Sajjan Kumar a hero despite his conviction in cases related to the 1984 violence. They specifically sought clarification from Rahul Gandhi over the remarks attributed to Congress leaders. The controversy intensified after Congress leader Deepender Singh Hooda reportedly referred to Kumar in favourable terms. Sikh leaders said such comments were deeply hurtful to families who lost

relatives during the riots and demanded that Rahul Gandhi personally apologise to the community. "Forty-two years later, the wounds of our families have been reopened," a DSGMC leader said, according to the report. The protesters argued that comments portraying Kumar as a role model or hero were unacceptable given the history of the 1984 violence and the legal proceedings against him. The 1984 anti-Sikh riots remain one of the most painful chapters in

India's political history. Thousands of Sikhs were killed in violence that erupted following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards.

For the protesting families, the latest remarks have revived memories of the violence and their long-standing demand for accountability and justice. They said political leaders should exercise greater sensitivity when speaking about individuals convicted in cases linked to the riots.

Police maintained a heavy security presence around Rahul Gandhi's residence as the demonstration continued. The protesters reiterated that they wanted an apology from Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders, along with a clear clarification on the party's position regarding Sajjan Kumar. The controversy is likely to put the Congress under renewed political pressure over its handling of the legacy of the 1984 riots and its relationship with the Sikh community.

BJP Vows No Compromise On Vande Mataram

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has passed a resolution asserting that there will be "no compromise" on the honour and legacy of Vande Mataram. The resolution was adopted at a meeting of the party's newly appointed office-bearers on Saturday, amid a political row over the Congress decision to sing only the first two stanzas of the national song at its programmes.



BJP president Nitin Nabin, who chaired the meeting, said the party strongly condemns and opposes the Congress Working Committee's August 19 decision to reaffirm its 1937 resolution limiting Vande Mataram to its first two verses at Congress events. The BJP accused the Congress of compromising the national song for what it described as political convenience and appeasement. Nabin said the party would oppose any attempt to subject Vande Mataram to "communal pressure, political appeasement or narrow vote-bank politics." As part of its response, the BJP announced a nationwide campaign aimed at spreading awareness about the history, meaning and national significance of Vande Mataram. The campaign will particularly focus on younger generations, with the party saying it wants to ensure that the historical association of the song with India's freedom struggle is not forgotten.

According to the resolution, the BJP will work to protect what it called the honour, dignity, heritage and national character of the "Purna Vande Mataram." The party also plans to highlight Mahatma Gandhi's views on the song, including his description of Vande Mataram as an anti-imperialist slogan associated with strong national sentiment. Nabin said the complete national song consists of six verses, and the BJP wants future generations to understand both its historical background and its role in the freedom movement.

The resolution has come at a time when Vande Mataram has once again become a political flashpoint between the BJP and Congress. The BJP has made the issue one of national identity and cultural heritage, while the Congress has maintained its position on how the song should be rendered at party functions.

The latest BJP resolution is therefore likely to intensify the political debate, particularly as both parties seek to frame the issue around nationalism, history and the legacy of India's freedom struggle.

With the nationwide awareness campaign now announced, Vande Mataram is expected to remain a prominent political issue in the days ahead.

India Pays Record LNG Prices Amid War

Indian energy companies are paying some of the highest prices for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in years as the ongoing US-Iran conflict disrupts global supplies and shipping routes. The sharp increase in spot-market prices is adding pressure on Indian gas buyers, particularly as supplies through the Strait of Hormuz remain affected.



State-run GAIL India recently paid more than \$23 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) for an LNG cargo scheduled for delivery in September. Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation also reportedly paid in the mid-\$23 range per mmBtu for a September shipment.

The prices represent a steep increase compared with normal market conditions. Before the latest disruptions, LNG spot prices were significantly lower, allowing Indian companies to source imported gas at more competitive rates. The conflict has changed that equation by creating uncertainty around both availability and transportation.

The Strait of Hormuz is particularly important for India because a significant share of the country's LNG imports normally passes through the strategic waterway. Qatar is a major supplier of LNG to India, while other Gulf producers also depend heavily on the route. Any prolonged disruption therefore has the potential to significantly increase procurement costs.

The higher LNG prices are also affecting industrial and commercial gas consumers. Companies that rely on imported LNG may face increased operating costs if expensive spot-market supplies are required to compensate for disrupted contracted volumes. Some gas distributors have already had to source alternative supplies at prices substantially above pre-war levels. For India, the situation highlights the vulnerability created by dependence on imported energy. The country imports a large portion of its crude oil and natural gas requirements, making international shipping routes and geopolitical developments important factors in domestic energy costs. The government has been attempting to reduce the impact by diversifying energy sources and maintaining adequate reserves. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said India has sufficient stocks of crude oil, LNG and LPG to manage supply disruptions, while the country has also expanded the number of nations from which it sources energy. However, higher LNG procurement costs could still have wider economic consequences if the disruption continues. Expensive natural gas can increase costs for power generation, fertiliser production, petrochemicals and several manufacturing industries. With the conflict continuing to disrupt energy shipments, Indian buyers are likely to remain under pressure in the international LNG market. The duration of the disruption around the Strait of Hormuz will be crucial in determining whether these elevated prices are temporary or develop into a longer-term challenge for India's energy sector.

Rashtrapati Bhavan Withdraws Tarique Visit Statement



In an unusual diplomatic development, Rashtrapati Bhavan withdrew an official statement referring to Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's proposed visit to New Delhi, less than an hour after issuing it. The move has created fresh uncertainty over the timing and programme of his India visit.

The original statement, released around 2 pm on Friday, said the Change of Guard Ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan would not be held on Saturday, August 22. The reason given was a full rehearsal for the ceremonial welcome of the Bangladesh Prime Minister. However, the statement was withdrawn roughly an hour later. The President's Secretariat issued another communication saying that the earlier press release stood withdrawn. The development came before either India or Bangladesh had formally announced the visit, adding to speculation surrounding the diplomatic schedule.

The episode is particularly significant because the ceremonial welcome mentioned in the statement would normally indicate that preparations were already underway for a visiting head of government. A formal reception for a foreign leader generally includes a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan, making the reference to a full rehearsal notable. The Ministry of External Affairs, however, maintained that it had no fresh information to share on the proposed visit. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that if there was any update, it would be communicated later.

The uncertainty comes amid delicate relations between India and Bangladesh. Tarique Rahman's government has been seeking the extradition of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has been staying in India since leaving Bangladesh following the political upheaval of 2024. Dhaka has repeatedly raised the issue with New Delhi. Rahman had also indicated earlier that his India visit would depend on the creation of an appropriate diplomatic environment based on mutual trust and a dignified invitation. Bangladesh has been seeking progress on several sensitive issues before the visit.

Reports had suggested that Rahman could travel to India around the time of the upcoming BRICS Summit, but Bangladesh had not formally confirmed the proposed trip. Reuters also reported that Dhaka was awaiting India's response on its extradition request and that the visit remained uncertain.

The withdrawal of the Rashtrapati Bhavan statement has therefore added another layer of uncertainty. While the exact reason for recalling the communication has not been officially explained, the episode has drawn attention because it appeared to prematurely reveal preparations for a high-level diplomatic visit.

For now, both sides have maintained caution, leaving the timing and final programme of Tarique Rahman's proposed India visit unclear.

Shillong Fuel Panic As Assam-Meghalaya Tensions Rise

Tensions between Assam and Meghalaya have escalated following violence in Shillong, triggering panic buying at fuel stations across the Meghalaya capital. Long queues were reported at several petrol pumps, with some outlets reportedly running out of fuel as concerns grew over a possible disruption in supplies from Assam.



The latest development came after violence during a Khasi Students' Union (KSU) protest in Shillong on August 19. More than 30 tourist vehicles were reportedly vandalised, prompting Assam-based taxi and commercial vehicle operators to block Meghalaya-bound vehicles at several entry points.

Trump's \$400 Million White House Ballroom



US President Donald Trump's ambitious \$400 million White House ballroom project has received a temporary legal boost after the US Supreme Court allowed construction to continue while a broader legal battle over the project proceeds. The development has brought renewed attention to what exactly is being built beneath and around the White House. The project is being constructed on the site of the former East Wing, which was demolished to make way for the new complex. The East Wing, originally built in 1902 during Theodore Roosevelt's presidency and expanded in 1942, housed the First Lady's offices and the White House movie theatre. At the centre of the project is a massive 90,000-square-foot ballroom, equivalent to around 8,360 square metres. The ballroom is expected to become one of the largest additions ever made to the White House complex and is designed to provide a much bigger venue for official receptions and major events. But the project goes far beyond the ballroom itself. A substantial underground complex is also being constructed beneath the site. Trump has described the underground facilities as including bomb shelters, medical facilities and protection against drones and missiles. The administration has characterised the broader development as an integrated security and military-related complex. According to a Justice Department filing submitted to the Supreme Court, the overall East Wing project, including both underground and above-ground construction, was around 65 percent complete as of August 14. The administration has argued that continuing construction is important for national security and the protection of the president, White House personnel and visitors. The project has nevertheless triggered a major legal dispute. The National Trust for Historic Preservation sued the administration after the East Wing was demolished and construction began, arguing that the project required congressional approval and other reviews. A federal judge had ordered above-ground construction to stop, while allowing underground work and construction necessary for White House safety and security to continue. The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit later upheld the order, saying the president does not have unrestricted authority to reshape the White House without Congress. Trump's administration appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that stopping construction would create security risks. Chief Justice John Roberts subsequently issued an administrative stay allowing construction to proceed temporarily while the justices consider the case. The Supreme Court's decision does not represent a final ruling on whether the ballroom project is legally authorised. The broader dispute over presidential power, congressional approval and preservation of the historic White House is still continuing. If completed, the project will significantly transform the White House complex, combining a huge ceremonial ballroom with an extensive underground security infrastructure.

Natalie Harp Emerges As Trump's Powerful Gatekeeper



Natalie Harp, one of US President Donald Trump's closest aides, has come under growing scrutiny over her unusually close access to the president and the influence she appears to wield inside his inner circle. The 35-year-old executive assistant is frequently around Trump, works from the Oval Office and is involved in filtering information that reaches him. Harp joined Trump's team in 2022 after working as a television host at One America News Network. She became particularly known for carrying a portable printer and providing Trump with printed news reports, social media posts and other material. This earned her the nickname "human printer." Her responsibilities have reportedly expanded well beyond that role. According to reports cited by The Indian Express, Harp helps with Trump's Truth Social activity, participates in meetings and sometimes contacts people Trump sees on television. Foreign leaders have also reportedly used her as a channel when they have been unable to reach the president directly. What has attracted the most attention is the extent of her physical and professional proximity to Trump. Unlike some traditional presidential aides who operate outside the Oval Office, Harp is frequently inside the room with the president. She also regularly travels with him and has been seen aboard Marine One and Air Force One. Questions over her role intensified after she accompanied Trump during a secret aircraft switch in Turkey in July. The president had been moved from Air Force One to a smaller aircraft following a credible security threat. Harp was among the small group of aides who travelled with him during the incident. Her access has also raised questions about security procedures. Reports have suggested that Harp worked for an extended period without the security clearance normally expected for someone with such proximity to sensitive presidential information. The issue has drawn concern because of her reported involvement in communications and meetings surrounding the president. Harp's personal loyalty to Trump has further intensified the spotlight. Two letters attributed to her and reportedly written in 2023 have recently been published, containing deeply personal expressions of admiration for the president. However, the authenticity of the letters has not been independently confirmed by CNN. The White House has defended Harp, portraying her as a highly loyal and hardworking aide. Supporters say her close relationship with Trump makes her effective at anticipating his needs and managing the enormous flow of information reaching him. But critics argue that such extraordinary access to a president raises legitimate questions about oversight, security and the influence of unelected aides. For now, Harp remains one of the most trusted people in Trump's orbit. Her growing prominence, however, means that both her influence and the security arrangements surrounding her role are likely to remain under intense scrutiny

US Navy May Rename Carrier After Trump

The US Navy is reportedly considering renaming a new aircraft carrier that was originally designated to honour Doris "Dorie" Miller, a Black American Navy hero who displayed extraordinary courage during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. According to reports, the carrier could instead be named after President Donald Trump, a move that would be unprecedented for a sitting US president. The Ford-class aircraft carrier was announced as the USS Doris Miller in January 2020 during Trump's first presidential term. The decision was seen as a historic tribute to Miller, who served as a Navy cook but became a hero during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Miller was aboard the USS West Virginia when the attack began. Despite having no formal training to operate an anti-aircraft weapon, he reportedly took control of a machine gun and fired at Japanese aircraft. Before that, he helped move his badly wounded commanding officer to safety while the ship was under heavy attack.

Miller was later awarded the Navy Cross, the US Navy's second-highest military decoration for combat heroism. He continued serving during World War II but was killed in 1943 when the USS Liscome Bay was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. Around two-thirds of the ship's crew died in the attack. Reports suggest the Navy has been internally referring to the carrier by its hull number, CVN-81, rather than the previously announced Doris Miller name. Discussions about a possible renaming have reportedly been taking place for several months. The Navy has not confirmed that a final decision has been made. The possibility of naming the carrier after Trump has generated strong criticism from veterans and civil rights groups. Critics argue that replacing Miller's name would diminish the recognition given to a serviceman whose bravery helped challenge racial barriers within the US military. NAACP president Derrick Johnson called the reported move disrespectful to



Miller's legacy. At the same time, sources say the Navy is considering other ways to honour Miller, including naming another warship after him. He is also reportedly being considered for a posthumous Medal of Honor, the country's highest military award for combat valor. The proposed change has attracted additional attention because US aircraft carriers have traditionally

been named after presidents and other major national figures, but no aircraft carrier has previously been named after a sitting US president. The final decision is yet to be announced. The carrier is still under construction and is not expected to enter service until around 2034. With its keel-laying ceremony approaching, the Navy is under pressure to settle the ship's official name soon.

Trump Hits Canada With 50% Tariffs

The trade relationship between the United States and Canada has taken another sharp turn after Washington imposed 50% tariffs on around \$20 billion worth of Canadian imports. The move followed the collapse of last-minute negotiations between the two long-standing allies, escalating tensions between US President Donald Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. The new tariffs target hundreds of Canadian products, including steel, automobiles, plywood, liquor, electrical equipment and hockey-related goods. The measures affect roughly 5% of Canada's exports to the United States, meaning their overall economic impact may be limited compared with the much broader trade relationship between the two countries. The tariff decision came after trade talks between Washington and Ottawa failed to produce an agreement. Negotiators had been working towards a broader deal that could have eased tariffs on key sectors such as steel, aluminium



and automobiles. However, disagreements over the final terms prevented both sides from reaching a last-minute settlement. The Trump administration defended the move by arguing that Canada had failed to address US concerns and was seeking excessive concessions. Washington has also continued to pressure Ottawa on trade barriers and market access. Canada, meanwhile, has strongly rejected the US decision. Prime Minister Mark Carney said

Ottawa would respond "dollar for dollar", signalling that Canadian retaliation could match the value of the new American tariffs. Canada also suspended further trade negotiations with Washington following the breakdown in talks. The latest escalation comes despite the deep economic links between the two countries. The US and Canada exchange hundreds of billions of dollars in goods every year, with industries on both sides heavily dependent on cross-border

supply chains. Any prolonged tariff battle could therefore increase costs for businesses and consumers and create uncertainty for manufacturers. The impact could be particularly significant in industries such as automobiles, metals, construction materials and consumer products, where American and Canadian companies are closely integrated. The dispute could also complicate the future of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the trade framework governing much of North American commerce. Continued tariff uncertainty could make future investment and supply-chain planning more difficult for companies operating across the continent. For now, the immediate focus is on how strongly Canada retaliates and whether the two governments eventually return to the negotiating table. What began as a tariff dispute is increasingly turning into a broader diplomatic and economic confrontation between two historically close allies.

Strongest El Niño Could Make 2027 Hottest Year

The world could be heading towards an exceptionally strong El Niño event, with the UK Met Office warning that the developing weather phenomenon may become the strongest in living memory. The forecast has raised concerns that 2027 could become the hottest year ever recorded, as El Niño adds further heat to a planet already experiencing record temperatures because of climate change. El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon caused by the unusual warming of surface waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. It occurs periodically and can dramatically alter weather patterns across the globe. The current event is expected to strengthen significantly towards the end of 2026 and continue influencing global weather into 2027. According to the latest forecasts, sea-surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific could rise by more than 3 degrees Celsius above normal levels. Such an intense warming would put the event in a category rarely seen in modern climate records. The combination of



this natural warming cycle and long-term human-caused global warming could push temperatures to unprecedented levels. Climate scientists are particularly concerned about the potential impact on global temperatures. El Niño typically raises average temperatures worldwide because heat stored in the Pacific Ocean is released into the atmosphere. With background temperatures already elevated because of greenhouse gas emissions, the additional warming could result in another major global temperature record. The effects, however, would extend far beyond temperature. A power-

ful El Niño can disrupt rainfall patterns, trigger droughts in some regions and bring unusually heavy rain and flooding to others. Agriculture, water supplies and food production could therefore face significant pressure. India could also feel the impact. El Niño has historically been associated with weaker or irregular monsoon conditions in India, although the exact effect varies from one event to another. A particularly strong event could increase the risk of heatwaves and influence rainfall patterns across different parts of the country. Other parts of the world are also

preparing for potentially severe consequences. South America, parts of Asia and Australia could experience significant changes in rainfall, while some regions may face prolonged drought. At the same time, other areas could see stronger storms and flooding. The emerging forecast has therefore renewed concerns about global climate resilience. Scientists stress that El Niño itself is a natural phenomenon, but climate change is increasing the baseline temperature from which these events occur. If the current projections materialise, 2027 could surpass previous global temperature records, potentially overtaking 2024, which was among the hottest years ever recorded. For now, scientists will continue monitoring Pacific Ocean temperatures and atmospheric conditions. The strength of the event will become clearer over the coming months, but the early warning is already prompting governments and communities to prepare for potentially extreme weather.

Two Injured In Edmonton Gurdwara Stabbing

Two men were injured after a stabbing incident at a gurdwara in Edmonton, Canada, during morning prayers on Friday. A 27-year-old man was arrested at the scene following the attack at the Nanaksar Gurdwara in northeast Edmonton. Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident, including whether it may have been hate-motivated. The incident took place at around 5 am local time while morning prayers were underway ahead of a wedding ceremony. According to police and temple representatives, the suspect entered the gurdwara and attempted to move towards the prayer area. Staff members confronted him after noticing his behaviour. The situation quickly escalated, resulting in two men being

stabbed. The victims, aged 75 and 51, sustained injuries that were described as non-life-threatening. Emergency medical teams treated the victims before they were taken for further medical attention. Police officers arrived at the gurdwara after receiving multiple emergency calls. The suspect was detained at the scene. Police said he appeared to be carrying a screwdriver when officers arrived. Edmonton Police Service Acting Inspector Eric Stewart said the suspect was known to police and had a significant history of violent offences dating back to 2015. Reports also indicate that the man had been released from federal prison just one day before the incident. Authorities have not yet established a motive for the attack. However, the Edmonton Police



Service's Hate Crimes Unit is involved in the investigation. Police are examining whether ideology or hate may have played any role in the incident before deciding on additional charges. The incident has caused concern within Edmonton's Sikh community, particularly because it occurred inside a place of worship

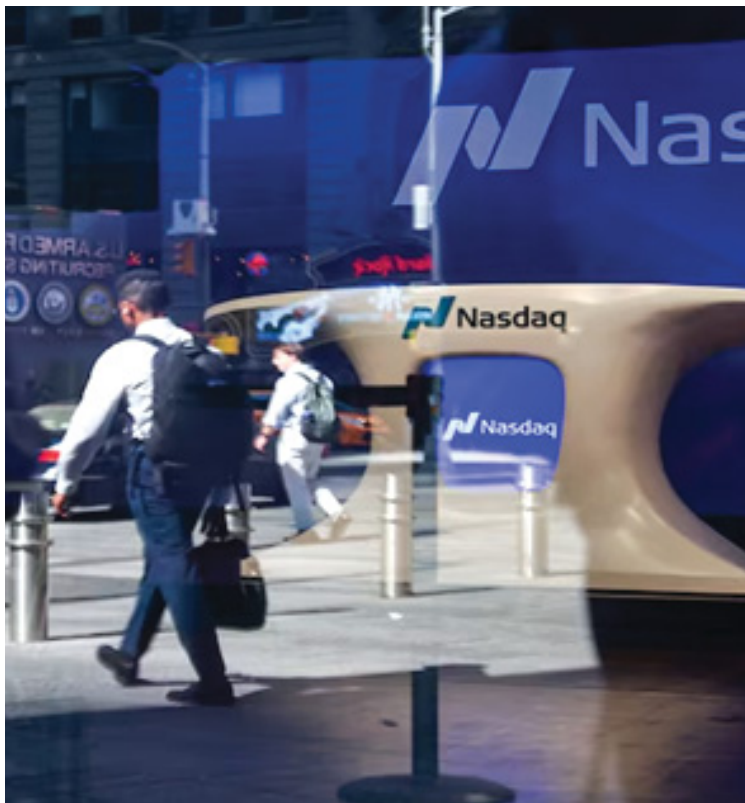
during prayers. Community representatives have called for increased vigilance and better security measures at gurdwaras. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney condemned the incident, describing the attack as appalling and expressing sympathy for the injured and the wider community. He also praised Edmonton police for their swift response. Despite the disruption, the scheduled wedding ceremony at the gurdwara later went ahead. Police continue to investigate the incident, while charges against the suspect were still pending at the time of the initial reports. The attack has once again raised questions about security at places of worship in Canada and the need to ensure that religious communities can gather safely without fear of violence.

Wall Street Rebounds, But Ends Week Lower



US stock markets closed higher on Friday, but the major indices still ended the week in negative territory as investors remained concerned about rising government bond yields and uncertainty surrounding Iran and the broader Middle East situation. The rebound provided some relief after a volatile week, but failed to erase the losses accumulated in previous sessions. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 517.80 points, or around 1%, on Friday. The S&P 500 advanced 33.21 points, while the Nasdaq Composite added 113.29 points. Despite the gains, all three major indices recorded weekly declines. The S&P 500 fell 1.43% for the week, the Nasdaq dropped 2.05%, and the Dow slipped 0.85%. A major concern for investors throughout the week was the sharp movement in US Treasury yields. The rise in long-term borrowing costs has increased pressure on equity valuations, particularly technology and growth stocks. The 10-year Treasury yield ended around 4.73%, while the 30-year yield remained above 5.2%. The bond market has been under pressure amid concerns over inflation, higher government borrowing and the growing US debt burden. The US Treasury attempted to ease some of the pressure by announcing an expansion of its bond-buyback programme. However, yields resumed their upward movement later in the week, highlighting continuing investor concerns. Geopolitical developments involving Iran also remained a key factor influencing markets. Rising tensions and concerns over possible disruptions to oil supplies pushed crude prices higher. Brent crude was trading around \$93 per barrel, adding to worries that higher energy costs could intensify inflationary pressures and complicate expectations for future interest-rate policy. Friday's recovery was supported by encouraging economic data and strength in several sectors. Materials, healthcare and financial stocks led the gains, while utilities lagged. Ross Stores also gained after reporting better-than-expected results, providing an additional boost to the retail sector. Investors are now turning their attention to upcoming corporate earnings, inflation data and the Federal Reserve's policy signals. The Jackson Hole gathering and comments from Fed Chair Kevin Warsh are expected to be closely watched for clues about the future direction of interest rates. With bond yields, oil prices and geopolitical risks continuing to dominate sentiment, Wall Street could remain volatile in the coming sessions.

US Stocks End Week Higher, Nasdaq Slump Ends



US stocks staged a strong rebound on Friday, helping Wall Street close the week on a more positive note. The recovery was led by technology shares, with the Nasdaq 100 snapping a five-session losing streak as investors returned to riskier assets after a volatile week. The S&P 500 gained 0.4%, while the Nasdaq Composite also advanced 0.4%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average performed even better, rising nearly 1%, or more than 500 points. Despite Friday's gains, however, all three major indices ended the week lower. The S&P 500 declined 1.43%, the Nasdaq dropped 2.05%, and the Dow fell 0.85%. Technology stocks had faced considerable selling pressure during the week as investors reacted to rising US Treasury yields. Long-term bond yields climbed to their highest levels in years, making high-growth technology stocks less attractive and triggering a broader pullback in the sector. The latest rebound helped halt that slide, although concerns over elevated yields remain. Investor sentiment also received support from stronger-than-expected US economic data. The services sector showed signs of resilience, raising hopes that corporate earnings could remain healthy despite concerns over inflation and borrowing costs. Shares of retailer Ross Stores jumped after the company reported better-than-expected quarterly results and raised its full-year outlook, adding to the broader market recovery. The technology sector remained under close watch, particularly semiconductor stocks. Chip shares had been among the biggest drags on the market during the week as investors reduced exposure following a strong rally. The weakness reflected growing caution around highly valued AI and technology companies. Meanwhile, cryptocurrency-linked stocks gained significantly as Bitcoin surged more than 6%, approaching the \$80,000 level. Shares of companies including Coinbase, Robinhood and Strategy benefited from the rally in digital assets. Geopolitical developments also remained an important factor for markets. Rising tensions involving Iran pushed crude oil prices higher, raising concerns about renewed inflationary pressure. At the same time, investors continued to monitor US Treasury plans to buy back government debt and their potential impact on bond yields. Looking ahead, markets will closely track upcoming economic data, corporate earnings and signals from the Federal Reserve. With bond yields, oil prices and technology valuations still influencing sentiment, Wall Street could remain volatile in the coming sessions.

Indian Markets Extend Weekly Losing Streak

Indian equity markets ended the week on a weak note, marking their second consecutive weekly decline as global uncertainty, elevated crude oil prices and pressure in international bond markets kept investors cautious. Despite a strong rebound during Thursday's session, the benchmark indices failed to sustain the recovery. The BSE Sensex declined 468.42 points, or 0.60%, over the week to close at 77,540.83. The Nifty 50 fell 114 points, or 0.46%, finishing at 24,252. The losses underline the cautious mood among investors amid continuing concerns over global economic conditions and geopolitical developments. The broader market, however, delivered a mixed performance. The Nifty Midcap 100 ended largely flat, with stocks including Motilal Oswal Financial Services, MCX, Lenskart Solutions, Tube Investments of India, ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company and Dixon Technologies among the notable gainers.



The Nifty Smallcap 100 performed better, gaining 1.2% during the week. Welspun Corp, Jyoti CNC Automation, Aegis Logistics, Netweb Technologies India, Urban Company and Data Patterns were among the key contributors to the index's gains. Sectoral performance remained uneven. Nifty IT and FMCG indices declined more than 2% each, while Nifty PSU Bank

slipped 1.3%. On the other hand, Nifty Metal and Nifty Realty gained nearly 2% each. Nifty Media rose 1.4%, while the Nifty Private Bank index advanced by more than 1%. The decline in the broader market was also reflected in overall market capitalisation. The total market value of BSE-listed companies fell by more than ₹70,000 crore during the week. Bharti Airtel

emerged as the biggest drag, followed by TCS, SBI and Infosys. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Eternal and Axis Bank, meanwhile, were among the biggest wealth creators. Foreign investor activity also turned cautious. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) ended a three-week buying streak and became net sellers, withdrawing ₹1,601.65 crore from Indian equities during the week. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs), however, continued to provide strong support, investing ₹17,316.34 crore. Meanwhile, the Indian rupee weakened further against the US dollar. The currency ended at ₹95.43 per dollar on August 21, down 22 paise from the previous week's close of ₹95.21. Elevated crude prices and geopolitical uncertainty continued to weigh on the domestic currency. With global cues remaining uncertain and foreign investors turning cautious, market participants are likely to closely track crude prices, currency movements and overseas developments in the coming week.

Qualcomm Sells Shadowfax Stake, Shanthi Gears Deal

Several notable bulk deals took place in Indian equities on August 21, with transactions involving Shadowfax, Shanthi Gears and KDDL drawing investor attention. Among the key developments, Qualcomm reduced its holding in logistics company Shadowfax, while the promoter of Shanthi Gears increased his stake in the company. Qualcomm sold shares worth approximately ₹184 crore in Shadowfax Technologies through a bulk transaction. The development comes after a strong run for the stock since its market debut. Shadowfax shares closed at ₹255.40 on the NSE on Friday, declining 1.01 percent during the session despite heavy trading volumes. Shadowfax has delivered significant gains since its listing on January 28, 2026. The stock was initially offered at ₹124 per share and has since more than doubled, reflecting strong investor interest in the logistics and delivery services company. Despite intermittent corrections, the stock has broadly maintained an upward trend since



mid-March. In another significant transaction, the promoter of Shanthi Gears acquired a 2.7 percent stake in the company from Pacific Assets Trust. The deal highlights continued promoter interest in the industrial engineering and gearing solutions company. The transactions were part of a series of bulk deals reported in the market. Investors closely track

such transactions because large stake purchases or sales by promoters and institutional investors can offer clues about their views on individual companies. Another notable deal involved Clarus Capital, which acquired a 1.07 percent stake in KDDL. The transaction added to the list of significant institutional activity recorded during Friday's trading session.

The Shadowfax transaction is particularly noteworthy because Qualcomm was among the investors associated with the company, and the sale comes after a substantial appreciation in the stock since its listing. The partial stake reduction could therefore represent portfolio rebalancing or profit booking rather than necessarily indicating a negative view on the company's long-term prospects. Meanwhile, promoter buying in Shanthi Gears is likely to attract attention because increased promoter ownership is often closely watched by investors as a potential signal of confidence in the company's future performance. With several large transactions taking place simultaneously, Friday's bulk deals provided fresh clues about institutional and promoter activity in the Indian stock market. Investors will now watch subsequent disclosures to determine whether these transactions mark the beginning of larger stake changes or remain isolated portfolio adjustments.

Bitcoin Nears \$80,000 After Massive Weekly Rally

Bitcoin is closing in on the \$80,000 mark after recording its strongest weekly performance in more than three years. The world's largest cryptocurrency has advanced roughly 23 percent this week, putting it on track for its biggest weekly gain since March 2023. The sharp recovery comes as investors reassess the impact of rising US bond yields, fiscal concerns and renewed institutional interest in digital assets. Bitcoin had faced heavy selling pressure in recent weeks, but sentiment changed dramatically this week. The cryptocurrency climbed to around \$79,500, its highest level since May, before easing slightly. The rally has brought Bitcoin back into focus among global investors after a prolonged period of weakness. One of the major factors supporting the recovery has been the return of institutional buying. US-listed spot Bitcoin exchange-traded funds have recorded strong inflows, with weekly inflows on track to reach their highest level since January. This renewed insti-

tutional demand has provided significant support to the cryptocurrency's price. The US Treasury's decision to expand its purchases of longer-term government bonds has also played a role. The move has helped ease some pressure in the bond market and contributed to a decline in the US dollar, making alternative assets such as Bitcoin more attractive to investors. Another important catalyst has been growing optimism around US cryptocurrency regulation. Support for legislation aimed at establishing clearer rules for digital assets has improved investor sentiment and raised expectations that regulatory uncertainty could gradually decline. Bitcoin has also benefited from broader concerns surrounding the US fiscal situation. With government debt continuing to rise and long-term Treasury yields under pressure, some investors are increasingly looking toward scarce assets as a potential hedge against currency and fiscal risks. The rally has extended beyond



Bitcoin. Ethereum and several crypto-related stocks have also recorded strong gains, reflecting a broader recovery across digital assets. Ethereum has posted one of its strongest weekly performances in recent years, while shares of major cryptocurrency companies have also benefited from the renewed optimism. Despite the sharp recovery, analysts remain cautious about declaring the beginning of a sustained bull market. Bitcoin has

experienced several powerful rallies in the past that were followed by corrections, meaning investors are likely to closely monitor ETF flows, regulatory developments, interest rates and global liquidity. For now, however, momentum is firmly with Bitcoin. With the cryptocurrency approaching the psychologically important \$80,000 level, traders are watching closely to see whether the latest rally can develop into a longer-term recovery.

AMFI Launches Push To Expand Mutual Fund Reach

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has announced a fresh set of investor education initiatives aimed at taking mutual fund awareness to smaller cities and underserved sections of society. The programmes were unveiled during AMFI's 31st Foundation Day in Mumbai and will focus on first-time investors, women, self-help groups and microfinance communities. The initiatives include partnerships with the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM), Sa-Dhan and Pinkathon, along with the launch of the Bharat Nivesh Mela under the popular 'Mutual Funds Sahi Hai' campaign. AMFI said the objective is to make mutual fund investing easier to understand while improving access and investor confidence. SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey highlighted the growing role of mutual funds in India's financial ecosystem. He said mutual funds not only help households

participate in the country's economic growth but also channel savings into productive investments. At the same time, he stressed that the sector's expanding scale comes with greater responsibility towards investors. AMFI Chairman Sundeep Sikka said the industry needs to take financial awareness beyond major cities and reach communities that have traditionally had limited exposure to market-linked investments. The association believes that smaller towns, young investors and under-represented groups will play a significant role in the next phase of mutual fund growth. Under the AMFI-NISM programme, around 20 workshops will be organised across 10 to 12 major cities over the next year. The programme is expected to cover nearly 10,000 mutual fund distributors, with training focused on ethics, compliance, fiduciary responsibility, prevention of mis-



selling and churning, data privacy and business succession. AMFI has also partnered with Sa-Dhan to take investor awareness programmes to self-help group members and microfinance borrowers. Around 500 programmes across five states are planned, with an expected reach of nearly 25,000 participants. The initiative will also create a network of 100 'Nivesh Sakhis' who can serve as local points of contact for mutual fund awareness. Another key initiative is the Bharat Nivesh Mela, which will initially be piloted across five cities during World Investor Week. Focused largely on Tier-II and

Tier-III markets, the programme will use interactive activities and expert consultations to explain concepts such as SIPs, compounding, asset allocation, market volatility and fraud prevention. AMFI has separately partnered with Pinkathon to promote financial awareness and financial well-being among women. The initiative will cover events across multiple cities. AMFI CEO Venkat N Chalasani said the broader goal is to make mutual fund investing simple, accessible and trustworthy, while ensuring that expansion is supported by responsible conduct and stronger investor education.

Building Dreams with Grit and Grace



At 17, when marks, ranks and career packages often define success, Gopagoni Hamsini from Hyderabad stands out for a different reason. Her journey brings together academic excellence, technological ambition, cultural grounding, and an unusual sense of

is rooted in tradition, spirituality and culture, reflected in her interest in reciting verses from the Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita and practising meditation.



towards the future, with coding, Python and Artificial Intelligence, along with a growing ambition to become an AI engineer. Her academic record reflects her determination. She secured a 9.0 CGPA in SSC and 93.5% in Intermediate, before earning admission to SRM University through a national-level competitive examination on her first attempt. But her achievements extend far beyond academics. She earned a 'Coding Star' certificate from Codingal after ranking in the top 10th percentile in the Technology Aptitude & Coding category. She also completed the 'AI For Techies' programme, gaining exposure to AI-assisted coding and Python visualisations. Her curiosity has taken her into diverse fields. She participated in the 'Apna Chandrayaan' quiz organised by the Ministry of Education (NCERT), Government of India, and received recognition in the SEMS Olympiad Foundation National Level Talent Test. She



earned appreciation for speeches on Balagangadhar Tilak and the character of Guha from the Srimad Ramayana, participated in a Bhagavad Gita shloka recitation competition and won second prize in a drawing competition organised by Enadu. Her accomplishments also include the Educational Scholarship-2025 certificate of appreciation from the Hyderabad Press Club, recognition from the Kundinya Educational Trust, participation in dance competitions and a Gold Certificate in The Art of Living's 21-Day Meditation.

Challenge. What makes Hamsini's story particularly inspiring is her maturity beyond achievements. As the eldest daughter, she understood her family's circumstances and avoided unnecessary financial demands. She also contributed to household responsibilities and became a mentor to her younger sisters, Sahasra and Saathvika, helping them understand difficult subjects, manage examination time and overcome anxiety. With strong communication skills in Telugu, Hindi and English, Hamsini chose the HCL Early Career Program. After successfully clearing a rigorous selection process, she joined HCL Technologies as a TechBee, taking an early step towards her dream of becoming an AI Engineer while continuing her education. Hamsini's journey shows that ambition does not require abandoning one's roots. With discipline, technology, compassion and responsibility, a student can build not just a career, but a life of purpose.



and inspire others along the way. *—Shivaranjani Cherukupalli, Hyderabad*

responsibility that began to take shape while she was still in school. Hamsini, who began her early career as a Tech B professional, has learned to balance two seemingly different worlds. One

The other looks firmly



For students growing up with smartphones, the biggest challenge during study time can be the device meant to help them learn. A phone can open a lesson in seconds, but the

Turning Knowledge into a Doorway of Opportunity

ing to make education more accessible to students who needed information and guidance. Hailing from Venkata Chalam Palli, a small village in Darsi mandal of Prakasam district, Ganesh is the son of Anjaneyulu Pattipati and Bala Guravamma Pattipati. He chose education as a way to reach young people and contribute to society. "I wanted to be a leader and do something for society, so I selected the education YouTube channel," Ganesh told True Point. That decision led to PGN

sharing information about academics, examinations, careers and educational opportunities. His strength was explaining information simply and clearly. What began modestly grew into a large online learning community. PGN Education crossed 100,000 YouTube subscribers and 12.5 million views, earning him the YouTube Silver Creator Award. For Ganesh, the most rewarding recognition has come from students who found his content useful. Speaking to True Point, his father Anjaneyulu Pattipati said, "Ganesh was always

His guidance helped me understand subjects better, and FocusPet helps me stay focused while studying." The initiative later expanded into the PGN Education mobile application, which has reached more than 20,000 users. His own educational journey took him to the United States, where he pursued a Master's in Business Analytics at Sacred Heart University, strengthening his understanding of data and technology. He subsequently established PGN Technologies, exploring technology-based solutions. FocusPet emerged

from this phase, remaining connected to the students he had been helping for years. He now dreams of launching a startup in the USA to support Indian students awaiting opportunities. "I helped thousands of students to achieve their dreams. Explaining easily and simply is my skill," he says. Ganesh's journey is guided by one purpose, using



knowledge to open doors and technology to help students move through them with focus. *—Kishor CH, Ongole*

She Lost 10 Acres but Found a New Way to Grow



In Patha Naguluru village of NTR District, Pulivarthy Suseela's story begins with 10 acres of farmland and ends with 30 cents-but the smaller piece has given her something greater: independence, confidence and a renewed sense of purpose. Her 30-cent Any Time Money (ATM) Model farm earned ₹2.64 lakh in 2025-26 against a cultivation cost of ₹6,000, leaving a net income of ₹2.58 lakh and a remarkable Cost Benefit Ratio of 1:43. Its year-round diversity shows how Natural Farming can create income from limited land. Suseela grew up in a farming family

where her father cultivated paddy on 10 rainfed acres. Rising input costs, declining soil fertility and erratic rainfall pushed the family into debt. Her father, who often helped farmers with fertilizers and pesticides on credit, eventually lost all 10 acres. Suseela married a railway employee in Vijayawada at an early age. Suseela returned to her village in 2019 due to her husband's ill health and discovered Natural Farming through SHG meetings. She began with a 0.05-acre kitchen garden, but after her husband's sudden death, she rebuilt her



life as a single woman farmer. "I had already lost our family land. After losing my husband, I knew I had to stand on my own. Natural Farming gave me that opportunity," she told True Point. In 2021, she leased 0.5 acre and adopted Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing, biodiversity, bio-inputs, crop rotation, intercropping and mulching. She expanded to one acre the following year. The results followed. PMDS with 30 varieties generated ₹10,000 from a ₹2,400 cost.



Kharif paddy with biodiversity crops generated ₹65,000, leaving ₹47,000 net income, while Rabi brought ₹59,000, with ₹44,000 net. During RDS, she incorporated crop biomass into the soil, improving fertility and organic matter rather than selling it. Her standout achievement remains the backyard ATM Model. With 75 varieties, the 30-cent unit provides year-round food and income. Own-generated seeds and bio-inputs help keep costs minimal. "Earlier, I thought a farmer needed a large piece

of land to earn well. Now I know that good planning, diversity and healthy soil can make even 30 cents valuable," she says. In 2022, Suseela became an Internal Community Resource Person, helping nearly 40 farming families, particularly women, adopt Natural Farming. Suseela's journey is not simply about replacing 10 acres with 30 cents. It is about replacing despair with possibility. She lost land. She lost her husband. But she refused to lose her determination. Today, every crop in her backyard carries a powerful message: resilience does not need acres to take root. *—ARN Mahesh, Vijayawada*



Jayasuriya Backs Suthar For World-Class Future Vaibhav Faces Red-Ball Test In Duleep Trophy

India's young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar has received high praise from Sri Lankan spin star Prabath Jayasuriya, who believes the youngster has the potential to become one of the best spinners in world cricket. Suthar made a remarkable impact on his Test debut against Sri Lanka in Galle, claiming 10 wickets in the match. His performance played a major role in India's 165-run victory and helped the visitors take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. The 23-year-old spinner picked up four wickets in Sri Lanka's first innings before producing an even more impressive performance in the second innings. He added six more wickets to complete a memorable 10-wicket haul on debut. His ability to extract turn and maintain pressure on the batters stood out throughout the match. Jayasuriya, who has established himself as one of Sri Lanka's leading left-arm spinners, was particularly impressed by Suthar's control and variations. The Sri Lankan star believes the Indian youngster possesses the qualities required to reach the highest level of the game.



Suthar's success is also significant because he entered the Test side at a time when India were dealing with several changes in their bowling attack. With Jasprit Bumrah unavailable and Washington Sundar also ruled out for the opening Test, India opted for a spin-heavy combination featuring Suthar, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja. The Rajasthan-based spinner has been steadily building his reputation through domestic cricket. His performances in first-class cricket had already earned him recognition before his international debut. He has also spent time around the Indian team, gaining experience by training alongside established stars. What makes Suthar's debut even more impressive is the manner in

which he adapted to the conditions. Galle traditionally offers assistance to spinners, but succeeding in Test cricket still requires patience, accuracy and the ability to build pressure over long spells. His 10-wicket performance has now put him firmly in the spotlight. While one outstanding Test does not guarantee a long international career, the early signs are extremely encouraging. With Jayasuriya backing him to become a world-class bowler, expectations around Suthar are likely to grow. The youngster now has an opportunity to establish himself as an important part of India's Test bowling attack and potentially become one of the country's leading spin options in the years ahead.

Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is set to face a new challenge as he prepares to play red-ball cricket in the 2026 Duleep Trophy. At just 15, the young Bihar batter has already made a huge impact in limited-overs cricket, but his coach Manish Ojha believes the longer format will demand a different approach from the youngster. Sooryavanshi has rapidly emerged as one of Indian cricket's most exciting young talents. His explosive batting and ability to score quickly have earned him attention at the highest level. However, success in red-ball cricket requires patience, shot selection and the ability to adapt to changing conditions over long periods. Coach Manish Ojha has stressed that Vaibhav needs to learn how to bat in different situations in first-class cricket. Unlike T20 cricket, where aggressive strokeplay can change a match within a few overs, red-ball cricket tests a batter's concentration and technique for extended periods. The Duleep Trophy will therefore provide an important opportunity for the youngster to develop these skills. The tournament will expose him to quality domestic bowlers and challenging conditions, giving him valuable experience ahead of the longer-format demands of professional cricket. Sooryavanshi has already played first-class cricket, making his



Ranji Trophy debut for Bihar at the age of 12. His early exposure to senior-level cricket has helped him gain experience against players considerably older than him. His development has been closely guided by Ojha, who identified the youngster's exceptional ability at an early age. The coach has previously described Vaibhav as a quick learner who can immediately implement technical advice in his batting. The youngster has also undergone specialised red-ball preparation ahead of the Duleep Trophy. He spent time at the Rajasthan Royals' high-performance facility, working under experienced coaches and training specifically for conditions associated with first-class

cricket. The preparation included technical work, fitness, workload management and practice against spin and bounce. The Duleep Trophy could prove to be a significant milestone in Vaibhav's development. While his explosive white-ball performances have already made him a household name among cricket fans, success with the red ball could strengthen his credentials as an all-format batter. For now, the focus is on adapting rather than rushing. If Sooryavanshi can combine his natural aggression with patience and disciplined shot selection, the Duleep Trophy could mark an important step towards his long-term ambitions in Indian cricket.



India's Midfield Holds Key Against Netherlands

India's biggest challenge against the Netherlands at the 2026 Hockey World Cup could be decided well outside the shooting circle. With the two sides set for a crucial encounter, control of the midfield is expected to play a decisive role in determining which team dictates the pace and flow of the game. The Netherlands are known for their ability to maintain possession, move the ball quickly and create pressure through sustained attacks. For India, disrupting that rhythm will be one of the biggest priorities. The midfielders will have to close down spaces, win second balls and ensure that the Dutch do not get enough time to build their attacks comfortably. India's defensive unit has already shown considerable resilience during the tournament. The defenders have repeatedly put their bodies on the line to block shots and passing lanes. However, relying too heavily on the defence against a team of the Netherlands' quality could prove dangerous. India will need its midfield to provide greater protection and prevent the opposition from repeatedly entering the attacking third. Players such as Hardik Singh and Vivek Sagar Prasad could therefore have a major role to play. Their ability to carry the ball forward, break opposition structures and quickly switch between defence and attack could determine how effectively India handles the Dutch pressure. The midfield battle will also be important because India cannot afford to surrender possession cheaply. Against a technically strong side, every misplaced pass can quickly turn into an attacking opportunity. India will have to maintain composure while also looking for opportunities to launch fast counter-attacks. Captain Harmanpreet Singh remains another important figure for India, particularly through penalty corners. His set-piece ability gives India a reliable scoring option, but earning those opportunities will depend largely on how well the midfield and forwards can penetrate the Dutch defence. The Netherlands, meanwhile, will enter the contest with confidence and home support behind them. Their structured approach and ability to control possession make them one of the toughest opponents in the tournament. India will therefore need discipline as well as aggression to stay competitive. The match carries significant importance for India's World Cup campaign. With the knockout-stage race intensifying, every possession and scoring opportunity could prove crucial. Ultimately, India's success may depend less on individual brilliance and more on winning the battle in the middle of the pitch. If the Indian midfield can disrupt Dutch possession, control the tempo and supply quality balls to the attacking line, the team will have a genuine chance of putting pressure on the Netherlands and producing a major result at the World Cup.

Neeraj Chopra Misses Lausanne Gold By 9cm



Neeraj Chopra came agonisingly close to winning the Lausanne Diamond League, but Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage edged the Indian javelin star by just nine centimetres in a thrilling contest. Chopra produced a season-best throw of 88.05 metres, his strongest effort of the season, but it was not enough for the gold medal. Pathirage registered 88.14 metres to finish on top, while Chopra settled for silver. Anderson Peters completed the podium with an 86.69m throw. The result marked another closely fought battle between Chopra and Pathirage, who has emerged as a major rival for the Indian superstar this season. The Sri Lankan thrower has now defeated Chopra three times, underlining the growing competition between the two athletes. For Chopra, however, the performance offered plenty of positives. His 88.05m effort was a significant improvement and showed that he is finding his rhythm at an important stage of the Diamond League season. The narrow margin also demonstrated how closely matched the two throwers have become. Pathirage has enjoyed a remarkable run in 2026. He has consistently produced big throws and established himself as one of the leading names in the global javelin circuit. His latest victory further strengthens his position in what is quickly developing into one of the sport's most interesting rivalries. The Lausanne result was also important for Chopra in terms of the Diamond League standings. With qualification for the season-ending Diamond League Final at stake, every point becomes valuable at this stage of the campaign. Chopra's second-place finish therefore gives him a crucial points boost despite missing out on the top spot. Chopra has enjoyed considerable success in Lausanne in the past, making the venue particularly significant in his career. His latest performance once again showed his ability to compete at the highest level, even though the gold medal slipped away by the smallest of margins. The nine-centimetre difference ultimately decided the contest, but Chopra's season-best throw will provide confidence going forward. With the Diamond League season entering its decisive phase, the Indian star will now look to build on this performance and return to winning ways. Meanwhile, Pathirage's continued rise adds another fascinating dimension to the men's javelin event. With both athletes capable of crossing the 88-metre mark, their next meeting is likely to attract even greater attention from athletics fans around the world.

Ramiz Raja Laments Pakistan's Lost Fast-Bowling Edge

Former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja has expressed concern over the decline of Pakistan's traditional fast-bowling strength in Test cricket. According to Raja, the country once had a distinctive identity built around producing high-quality pace bowlers, but that edge appears to have weakened in recent years. Pakistan has historically been known for producing some of the world's finest fast bowlers, including Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Imran Khan, Shoaib Akhtar and more recently Shaheen Shah Afridi. Their ability to generate pace, swing and reverse swing made Pakistan a formidable Test side, particularly on challenging pitches. Raja believes the current generation has not been able to consistently reproduce that impact in the longest format. He feels Pakistan's fast-bowling resources need greater attention if the team wants to regain its competitiveness in Test cricket.

The former opener's comments come at a time when Pakistan's Test fortunes have been under scrutiny. While the country continues to produce talented bowlers, injuries, workload management and the increasing focus on franchise-based T20 cricket have created challenges for the development of long-format specialists. Test cricket places unique demands on fast bowlers. Maintaining pace and accuracy over long spells requires exceptional fitness, discipline and the ability to adapt to different conditions. Raja's concern is that Pakistan needs to develop bowlers who can sustain that intensity across five days rather than merely produce short bursts of pace. Pakistan's fast-bowling legacy remains one of the strongest in international cricket. The country has traditionally relied on aggressive pace attacks to put opposition batting line-ups under pressure, particularly in



home and overseas Test series. However, the emergence of several strong pace attacks around the world has increased the challenge for Pakistan. Teams such as Australia, South Africa and India have built formidable fast-bowling units capable of consistently taking 20 wickets in Test matches. Raja's remarks therefore highlight a larger issue for Pakistan cricket: maintaining a strong domestic pathway for red-ball players. Young fast bowlers need regular

first-class cricket, specialist coaching and carefully managed workloads to make the transition to international Test cricket. Pakistan still possesses promising pace talent, but converting potential into a sustained Test-bowling force will require long-term planning. For a cricketing nation whose identity has been closely linked with fast bowling, restoring that traditional strength could be crucial to rebuilding its Test fortunes.

Alia Bhatt Joins Much-Awaited Tumbbad 2

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt has officially joined the sets of Tumbbad 2, one of the most eagerly awaited horror sequels in Indian cinema. The actress was recently spotted in Mumbai alongside lead actor and producer Sohum Shah and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, instantly creating excitement among moviegoers. The upcoming film is the sequel to the critically acclaimed 2018 horror-fantasy film Tumbbad, which went on to develop a strong cult following for its distinctive storytelling, atmospheric visuals and folklore-inspired narrative. The sequel is expected to continue the dark and mysterious world established by the original film. Alia Bhatt's entry into the project has added another major attraction to the film. Although details about her character are being kept under wraps, her presence has sparked considerable curiosity. Given the intense and unconventional nature of the Tumbbad universe, audiences are particularly interested in seeing what kind of role the actress will portray. Sohum Shah is returning as the central character and is also producing the sequel. Director Adesh Prasad is at the helm of the project, taking forward the distinctive folklore-driven world that made the first film stand out. The original Tumbbad was widely appreciated for blending horror, mythology and fantasy with a visually rich narrative. Rather than relying purely on conventional jump scares, the film created a haunting atmosphere through its setting, characters and folklore elements. This unique approach helped it gain a dedicated audience even after its theatrical run. With Alia Bhatt now joining the cast, expectations surrounding the sequel have increased significantly. Her combination of strong performances and star appeal could give the project an additional pan-India boost. For now, the makers are keeping the story and Alia's character details tightly under wraps. However, her presence alongside Sohum Shah and Nawazuddin Siddiqui has already made Tumbbad 2 one of the most closely watched upcoming horror projects. As shooting progresses, more details about the film's storyline, characters and release plans are expected to emerge.

Mamitha Baiju Scores Another Hit This Week

Malayalam actress Mamitha Baiju is enjoying a strong run at the box office, with another film opening to a positive response within just a week. After the success of Vishwanath And Sons, the actress has now returned with Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, further strengthening her position among the most promising young performers in Malayalam cinema. Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, starring Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju in the lead roles, opened in theatres with positive reviews and encouraging first-day collections. The film is directed by Girish AD, who previously impressed audiences with the blockbuster romantic comedy Premalu. His involvement has also raised expectations around the latest release. Mamitha Baiju has emerged as one of the most sought-after young actresses in Malayalam cinema, particularly after the success of Premalu. Her lively screen presence, natural acting and ability to connect with younger audiences have helped her build a strong following. The latest response to Bethlehem Kudumba Unit suggests that her popularity continues to grow. The film has also arrived at an advantageous time, with the Onam festive season providing a major boost to Malayalam cinema. The combination of a romantic-comedy genre, the popularity of its lead cast and the holiday period could work strongly in the movie's favour at the box office. At the same time, Prithviraj Sukumaran's Khalifa has reportedly received a below-par response from audiences. This could further benefit Bethlehem Kudumba Unit, as viewers looking for a light-hearted entertainer during the festive season may increasingly turn towards the Nivin Pauly-Mamitha Baiju starrer. With strong word of mouth, favourable reviews and the Onam holiday advantage, the film is expected to maintain its momentum over the coming days. If the positive trend continues, Bethlehem Kudumba Unit could emerge as one of the season's notable box-office successes. For Mamitha Baiju, the film adds another promising chapter to what is already turning into an impressive phase of her career. With two releases generating positive buzz in a short span, the young actress is proving that her popularity is no longer limited to a single successful film.

Chiranjeevi's Kaka Set For Sankranti Release

Megastar Chiranjeevi's upcoming film with director Bobby Kolli has finally got its title and release date. The makers unveiled the title 'Kaka' along with an intriguing glimpse on the occasion of Chiranjeevi's birthday, creating excitement among fans. The film marks the reunion of Chiranjeevi and Bobby after their successful collaboration on Waltair Veerayya. The glimpse introduces Chiranjeevi in a completely different avatar. He plays Satyam, a man who works as a supervisor at an aqua factory and is shown as a respected person in his locality. The initial portions of the glimpse present Satyam as a simple family man who shares a strong bond with his daughter. His affectionate and protective nature forms an important part of his character. However, the makers quickly reveal that there is much more to Satyam than meets the eye. The glimpse ends with a major twist, hinting at Satyam's connection to the underworld. His transformation into a powerful gangster, accompanied by a mass elevation sequence and the iconic Gang Leader musical reference, has become one of the major highlights of the glimpse. The presentation has raised curiosity about the film's storyline and Chiranjeevi's character arc. Bobby Kolli, who successfully presented Chiranjeevi in a mass entertainer with Waltair Veerayya, appears to be taking a similar commercial approach while introducing a fresh backdrop and characterisation. The film is expected to combine action, family emotions and mass entertainment on a large scale. Anaswara Rajan is playing Chiranjeevi's daughter, while Nivetha Thomas is also part of the cast in a key role. Thaman is composing the music, adding further expectations around the film's songs and background score. The project is being produced on a grand scale by KVN Productions. The makers have also locked the theatrical release date. 'Kaka' is scheduled to hit cinemas on January 13, 2027, making it a Sankranti release. With Chiranjeevi returning in a powerful mass role and Bobby Kolli once again at the helm, the film is already generating considerable buzz among Telugu cinema audiences.

Mohanlal To Headline Khalifa 2 Sequel

The makers of Khalifa have officially announced a sequel to the action thriller, just a day after the release of the first instalment. The second part has been titled Khalifa 2 - The Legacy, with Malayalam superstar Mohanlal set to take the lead role. Directed by Vysakh, Khalifa features Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead as Aamir Ali. The film was released in Malayalam as well as Telugu, although its Telugu version reportedly had limited visibility due to relatively low promotional activity. The Malayalam version, meanwhile, has received a mixed-to-negative response from audiences and critics. Despite the initial response, the makers surprised fans by announcing the sequel during the film's success meet. Khalifa 2 - The Legacy will continue the story established in the first part, but the focus will reportedly shift towards Mohanlal's character, Mambarakkal Ahmed Ali. Mohanlal already has a connection to the Khalifa universe. In the first film, he appeared as Aamir Ali's grandfather in a special appearance. His character is now expected to take centre stage in the sequel, making his involvement one of the biggest attractions of the upcoming project. Prithviraj Sukumaran will also return as Aamir Ali, ensuring continuity between the two films. The combination of Prithviraj and Mohanlal is expected to generate considerable interest among Malayalam cinema fans, particularly because the sequel will explore the legacy and background of Ahmed Ali in greater detail. The makers are also planning to introduce several new characters in the sequel alongside the returning cast. This suggests that Khalifa 2 could expand the world established in the first film and take the story in a larger direction. Jinu V. Abraham and Suraj Kumar are producing Khalifa 2 - The Legacy. Jakes Bejoy composed the music for the first instalment. Although the sequel is still in the early stages, Mohanlal taking the lead has already raised expectations. More details about the cast, director, shooting schedule and release date are expected to be announced in the coming days.