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LPG e-KYC Deadline Nears

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

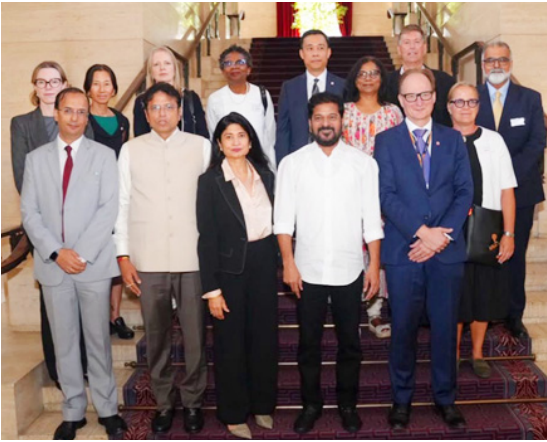
Domestic LPG consumers who have not yet completed Aadhaar-based e-KYC have been advised to finish the verification process by August 23 to avoid possible disruption to subsidy and LPG-related benefits. The deadline was earlier set for August 16 and was subsequently extended by oil marketing companies amid technical difficulties and long queues at dealerships. Consumers using Indane, Bharat Gas and HP Gas can complete the process through the respective official mobile applications. IndianOil customers can use IndianOil ONE, Bharat Gas consumers can use Hello BPCL, while HP Gas customers can use HP PAY. The official Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana website lists these applications and customer-service channels for the three oil marketing companies. The e-KYC process involves Aadhaar-based authentication and can generally be completed using the mobile applications. Consumers facing difficulties with online verification can approach their LPG distributor or agency for assistance. Recent reports have highlighted server failures, application glitches and difficulties with biometric authentication experienced by some customers. Consumers who have already completed LPG e-KYC do not need to repeat the process, according to reports citing clarification from the Oil Ministry. Failure to complete verification may affect access to subsidy benefits and, in some cases, LPG

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University of London Plans New Campus

London, August 22 | TPN Bureau

The University of London is working towards establishing a campus in Hyderabad, according to representatives of the institution who shared the proposal during discussions with Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in London. The development was discussed at a roundtable meeting at Senate House, University of London, led by the Chief Minister as part of the Telangana Rising delegation. Industries and IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Advisor and Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao and Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan participated in the discussions. Representatives from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and other academic institutions were also part of the meeting.



The discussions focused on strengthening higher-education links and creating opportunities for international universities to establish a presence in Hyderabad. University of London representatives said the proposed campus would offer a broad range of academic courses and programmes through different schools and departments within the university's academic federation. The proposed model is intended to bring multiple academic disciplines together under a unified framework. The University of London's interest comes as Telangana seeks to position Hyderabad as a global education and knowledge hub. The Chief Minister's UK visit has included engagements with leading universities and aca-

ademic institutions as part of the state government's Telangana Rising initiative. Earlier reports said the official itinerary included a visit to the Senate House and meetings with representatives of leading London institutions. The proposed campus could expand access to international academic programmes in Hyderabad while creating avenues for research, student exchanges and institutional collaboration. The initiative also aligns with the state government's efforts to attract reputed global universities and strengthen the city's higher-education ecosystem. The University of London delegation included Kavita Reddy, Ruth Kattumuri of LSE, Paul Madden, Professor Funmi Olonifakin, Dr Sky Zheng and Keith Harrison. The proposed Hyderabad campus is expected to add momentum to efforts to establish the city as an international centre for education, research and innovation.

Governor Offers Prayers at Mahayagya



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla participated in the "Shri Vidya Koti Kumkumarchana Mahayagya" held at Sri Venkateswara Temple in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad, and offered prayers to Goddess Lalita Tripura Sundari. The Governor conveyed his wishes for the divine blessings of Jagatmata Lalita Tripura Sundari Devi to be showered upon people across the country and devotees participating in the spiritual event. He prayed for the nation's progress, universal peace, Lok Kalyan and the welfare of all sections of society. Speaking at the programme, Shukla said the deep faith and devotion demonstrated by Indian women through spiritual practices such as Kumkumarchana reflected the richness and continuity of the country's Sanatana traditions. He highlighted the importance of preserving India's spiritual and cultural heritage while promoting harmony and collec-

tive well-being. The two-day Mahayagya is being conducted under the guidance of Swami Abhishek Brahmachari Maharaj of Varanasi. The religious programme features one crore recitations of the Lalita Sahasranama along with Maha Kumkumarchana, drawing devotees and spiritual practitioners to participate in the sacred observances. Organisers said the Mahayagya is the 58th programme of its kind being conducted at different locations across the country. The event is aimed at promoting spiritual devotion, peace and welfare through collective prayers and religious rituals. The Governor's participation added significance to the programme, with the gathering highlighting the enduring role of traditional spiritual practices in India's cultural life. The event concluded with prayers seeking peace, prosperity and the well-being of the nation and its people.

Telangana Rising Explores Cambridge Partnership



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Rising delegation, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, held detailed discussions with academicians from the University of Cambridge on strengthening cooperation in education, research, entrepreneurship and innovation. The meeting focused on exploring opportunities to establish meaningful institutional partnerships that could support Telangana's ambition of developing Hyderabad into a global knowledge hub. The Chief Minister, accompanied by IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, Advisor to the Chief Minister and Ex-officio Special Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, and Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, outlined the state's vision for attracting leading international educational and research institutions to Hyderabad. The delegation highlighted the city's growing ecosystem, infrastructure and opportunities for world-class institutions. It invited Cambridge representatives to participate in Telangana's efforts to expand its education and research capabilities and create an internationally competitive environment for students,

researchers and innovators. Professors Jaideep Prabhu and Venkata Serish Gandikota of Cambridge Judge Business School expressed keen interest in exploring collaboration with Telangana. They responded positively to the opportunities presented by the state and discussed areas where academic and entrepreneurial partnerships could be developed. Both sides agreed to work towards a structured action plan covering educational programmes, joint research initiatives, incubation opportunities for young entrepreneurs and support for startups. The proposed cooperation is expected to encourage knowledge exchange and create new avenues for students, researchers and emerging businesses. The discussions mark an important step towards building stronger links between Telangana and the University of Cambridge. The proposed partnership is also aligned with the Telangana Rising vision of positioning Hyderabad as an international centre for education, research, entrepreneurship and innovation, while creating greater opportunities for collaboration between global institutions and the state's growing knowledge economy.

Diplomatic Row Draws Firm Response



New Delhi, August 22 | TPN Bureau

India has firmly rejected Pakistan's objection to remarks made by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor during his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir, reiterating that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and indivisible parts of India. Pakistan summoned the US Chargé d'Affaires in Islamabad and lodged a formal protest after Gor, during his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir, described the region as an "important part of India." Pakistan termed the statement unacceptable and reiterated its position that the status of Jammu and Kashmir remains disputed. Responding to questions about Islamabad's reaction, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India saw no reason to comment further on what he described as Pakistan's frustration. He firmly stated that both Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and indivisible parts of India and would continue to

remain so. Gor made the remarks during his visit to Srinagar, where he met Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. The US envoy also said that the security situation in the region had improved and indicated that Washington could review its travel advisory for Jammu and Kashmir. The ambassador's comments prompted a diplomatic response from Islamabad, which argued that the statement was inconsistent with what it described as the United States' longstanding position on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan also referred to United Nations resolutions while reiterating its claim regarding the region's disputed status. New Delhi, however, maintained its established position on Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, making clear that there was no ambiguity in India's territorial claim. The exchange comes amid continued diplomatic sensitivity surrounding Kashmir, with Gor's visit and comments attracting considerable attention in both India and Pakistan.



London, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Liverpool is exploring a strategic partnership with Telangana in areas including life sciences, technology, sports and the creative economy, with a delegation from the British city expected to visit Hyderabad in October to take the initiative forward. Susan Finnegan and Nuala Gallagher, Corporate Directors from Liverpool's City Development department, along with representatives of Liverpool Football Club, met Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in London during his UK visit. The discussions focused on identifying areas of mutual cooperation and building stronger institutional and economic links. According to the Telangana Chief Minister's Office, Liverpool has expressed interest in developing a structured partnership with the state across the four identified sectors. A Liverpool delegation is scheduled to travel to Hyderabad in October, when the proposed partnership is expected to be formally finalised. The proposed cooperation could create

opportunities for knowledge exchange, investment, innovation and joint initiatives. Life sciences and technology are among Telangana's priority sectors, while sports and the creative economy could provide additional avenues for collaboration with Liverpool's established ecosystem. Liverpool City Council's economic strategy identifies life sciences, creative industries and inward investment among areas of importance for the city's future growth. Its Liverpool 2040 vision also places emphasis on inclusive economic growth and strengthening the city's cultural and economic profile. The involvement of Liverpool Football Club adds a sporting dimension to the proposed engagement. The club has an established international presence and continues to develop partnerships spanning business, technology and community initiatives. The October visit to Hyderabad is expected to provide an opportunity for officials and institutional representatives from both sides to define specific projects and establish a framework for long-term cooperation.

Governor Mourns Twin Tragedies

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in two separate accidents reported in Hyderabad's Gachibowli and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. The Governor mourned the deaths of two workers following the collapse of an unauthorised seven-storey under-construction building at Anjaiah Nagar in Gachibowli. Expressing his condolences to the families of the deceased, he prayed for peace for the departed souls and strength for their relatives to cope with the tragic loss. Shukla also expressed grief over the deaths of two workers in a reactor blast and the subsequent fire at Hazelo Pharma in Pochampally mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. He conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved families and expressed concern over the workers who suffered injuries in the incident. The Governor wished the injured work-

ers, including those who sustained serious burn injuries, a speedy and complete recovery. He urged the concerned authorities to ensure that all injured persons receive the best possible medical treatment and timely assistance. Shukla stressed that safety regulations must be strictly followed at both construction sites and industrial establishments. He called upon authorities and management to strengthen safety systems, conduct regular inspections and implement preventive measures to minimise risks to workers. The Governor emphasised that such incidents highlight the importance of maintaining safety standards and ensuring compliance with established regulations. He urged all stakeholders to take necessary precautions and remain vigilant to prevent similar tragedies in the future. The Governor's statements came amid concern over worker safety and the need for stronger preventive mechanisms at construction and industrial sites across the state.

Rains Set to Return Across Telangana

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Rainfall activity is expected to increase across Telangana in the coming days after a brief lull, with the Meteorological Department forecasting showers in several districts, particularly during the evening and night hours. Weather conditions indicate the possibility of moderate to heavy rainfall at isolated locations in Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Nirmal and Mancherial districts. Residents in these areas have been advised to remain alert to changing weather conditions. Light to moderate rain is also likely during the night in Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Siddipet, Rajanna Sircilla, Jagtial, Karimnagar, Nizamabad and Mahabubnagar districts. Hyderabad may continue to experience hot conditions during the daytime, but some parts of the city could receive showers during

the night or late-night hours. The anticipated rainfall is expected to provide relief to farmers, particularly in areas that have experienced inadequate precipitation during August. Weather experts believe increased rainfall over the next week could help reduce the existing rainfall deficit in the state. Officials have indicated that changing weather conditions over the Bay of Bengal may contribute to an increase in rainfall activity across Telangana. The intensity and distribution of showers, however, may vary from one district to another. Residents are advised to monitor official weather updates and take necessary precautions while travelling, particularly during periods of heavy rain. Farmers and people living in low-lying areas have also been urged to remain cautious as rainfall intensity could increase in the coming days.

Revanth Visits Ambedkar House



London, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accompanied by IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, visited the historic Ambedkar House at 10 King Henry's Road in London on Saturday, paying tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his enduring vision of social justice. Dr. Ambedkar lived at the Primrose Hill residence during 1921-22 while pursuing his studies in London. The house has since been transformed into a museum showcasing his life, writings and personal memorabilia, along with the principles he cham-

pioned, including constitutionalism, equality and the creation of a society free from caste-based discrimination and oppression. During his visit, which lasted nearly an hour, Revanth Reddy explored the museum and learned about Ambedkar's years in the United Kingdom. Santosh Dass MBE, Chair of the Anti-Caste Discrimination Alliance and one of the key figures involved in establishing the museum, briefed the Chief Minister on various aspects of Ambedkar's life and activities in Britain. The Chief Minister recorded his thoughts in the visitors' book, describing the visit as

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Venkat Reddy Pushes Road Projects

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has directed senior officials to speed up the execution of CRIF roads, Setu Bandhan projects and Railway Over Bridges across Telangana. The Minister held a review meeting with Roads and Buildings Department officials at the Secretariat on Saturday and assessed the progress of various infrastructure projects. He observed that the pace of development needed to improve further across constituencies in the erstwhile districts and instructed officials to closely monitor works at the field level. According to the Minister, 316 projects covering approximately 3,918 km of roads have so far been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 5,159 crore. During 2025-26, road works covering 422.36 km have been taken up



with an investment of around Rs 868 crore. Venkat Reddy directed officials to ensure that high-level bridges and ROB projects are completed within the prescribed timelines. He specifically instructed them to commence bridge

works at Miryalaguda and Nandi Pahad without further delay. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the progress of the Narkatpally bridge project and asked officials and field-level staff to maintain momentum and address any hur-

dles affecting construction. During the review, he also examined the progress of the solar car parking facility being developed at the Telangana Secretariat. He directed officials to complete the project by December 2026. The solar parking facility is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 26.81 crore. Once operational, it is expected to generate around 90,000 units of electricity for the Secretariat and help reduce its monthly power expenditure by approximately 16 percent.

Venkat Reddy stressed the importance of regular monitoring, coordination among departments and timely execution to ensure that major infrastructure projects deliver tangible benefits to the public. He called upon officials to resolve construction-related issues promptly and maintain quality standards while adhering to deadlines.

Jupally Pushes Faster Public Services



Kollapur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Excise, Tourism and Culture Jupally Krishna Rao has directed officials to speed up the resolution of pending revenue issues and ensure that citizens do not have to make repeated visits to government offices for basic services. During his visit to the constituency on Saturday, the Minister inspected sites identified for the construction of sports facilities at several mandal headquarters. He said the government was giving priority to strengthening sports infrastructure in rural areas to encourage students and young people to take up sports and provide better opportunities for local athletes. Jupally inspected proposed stadium sites in Kollapur town, Veepanagandla, Kethapalli village in Pangal mandal, Koderu and Peddakothapalli. He reviewed the progress of preliminary arrangements and instructed officials to accelerate the required procedures so that construction activities could begin without unnecessary delays. Later, the Minister held a review meeting with farmers and officials at Pentlavelli man-

dal headquarters.

He listened to grievances concerning land and other revenue-related matters and questioned officials over delays in resolving public complaints. Jupally expressed displeasure with the functioning of RDO Bansilal and warned officials against negligence. He stressed that government officers must remain accessible to the public and respond promptly when citizens approach them with genuine problems. The Minister said keeping people waiting for years over revenue matters was unacceptable. He directed officials to prepare a specific action plan for clearing pending cases within defined timelines and instructed them to monitor progress regularly. He made it clear that administrative negligence would not be tolerated and that officials were responsible for ensuring efficient delivery of services. Congress Mandal President Gopi Naik, Konduru Sarpanch Kethuri Dharmateja and local leaders Raman Goud, Narasimha Yadav, Kabir, Asif, Kumar, Ravi, Nagaraju and Naresh were among those present.

Public Healthcare Gets Major Boost



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha has directed officials to strengthen government hospitals across Telangana and improve the quality of medical services available to patients. He held a detailed review meeting with District Coordinators of Hospital Services from all districts at the IIHFV in Vengal Rao Nagar. The meeting focused on the functioning of Community Health Centres, Area Hospitals and District Hospitals, along with staffing, infrastructure, medical equipment and difficulties faced by patients. The Minister instructed officials to assess hospital requirements district-wise and take up development works according to priority. Rajanarsimha said community, area and district hospitals should gradually be developed into comprehensive medical centres capable of providing advanced treatment closer to patients. He noted that facilities for major surgeries had already been introduced at several district and area hospitals. The Minister announced that 607 Assistant Professor posts in teaching hospitals would be filled and 1,616 specialist doctors would be recruited for district hospitals, area hospitals and CHCs.

The recruitment is aimed at improving the availability of specialist services and reducing the pressure on major referral hospitals. He directed medical personnel to avoid unnecessary referrals for minor ailments. Patients should be shifted to higher-level hospitals only when their medical condition requires specialised treatment. In emergency cases, the receiving hospital should be informed before the patient is referred, he instructed. The Minister also reviewed the availability of diagnostic equipment and said new CT scanners and other essential medical equipment would be provided wherever required. However, he stressed that proposals for new equipment must be supported by data on patient numbers and actual clinical requirements. Rajanarsimha instructed DCHSs to conduct surprise inspections at least once a week and warned of strict action against officials who remain absent from duty or leave their workplaces before scheduled hours. He said hospital problems should be identified and resolved proactively rather than waiting for complaints from patients. Cleanliness, drinking-water facilities and biomedical-waste management were also highlighted as key priorities. The Minister directed officials to maintain proper standards in these areas to create a safer and more patient-friendly environment. He further ordered all DCHSs to submit monthly reports on hospital functioning and improvements to the government. Health Department Principal Secretary Christina Z. Chongthu, senior officials and DCHSs from across Telangana participated in the review. The Minister said coordinated efforts by doctors, hospital administrators and officials were essential to restore public confidence in government healthcare and ensure that patients receive timely and quality treatment.

Imperial College Tie-Up Explored



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is exploring new academic and research collaborations with Imperial College London, with the state government seeking to expand opportunities in higher education, executive learning and international research partnerships. K. Ramakrishna Rao, Advisor and Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister's Office, visited Imperial College London and held discussions with Amanda Wolthuisen, Vice President for Strategic Engagement and Chief of Staff to the President, and Rosanna Gillespie, Senior International Relations Manager for South Asia and Australasia. During the meeting, Rao outlined Telangana's strengths and highlighted opportunities for Imperial College to engage with institutions and organisations in the state. Discussions focused on possible academic programmes and areas where the two sides could develop long-term cooperation. Wolthuisen expressed interest in exploring opportunities to offer short-term and executive education

programmes in Hyderabad. The discussions also covered the possibility of establishing collaborative research and academic exchange initiatives. Rao invited representatives of Imperial College London to participate in the Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad from December 7 to 9. The invitation is aimed at encouraging greater engagement between the globally recognised institution and Telangana's emerging education, research and innovation ecosystem. Imperial College London is internationally recognised for its work in science, technology, engineering and medicine, along with business and related disciplines. The proposed collaboration could provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, advanced training and research partnerships between institutions in Telangana and Imperial. The engagement forms part of Telangana's broader efforts to attract global academic institutions and strengthen Hyderabad's position as an international centre for education, research, technology and innovation.

Indiramma Housing Push

Nizamabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Saturday inspected Indiramma houses under construction and completed houses during his visit to Nizamabad district. He interacted with beneficiaries and reviewed the progress of the housing programme at the ground level. The Minister said the happiness expressed by beneficiaries after receiving homes reflected the impact of government welfare initiatives on economically weaker families. He presented gifts to beneficiaries and conveyed his wishes to families who had realised their long-awaited dream of owning a house. Reddy said the government intends to expand the Indiramma housing model across Telangana. He announced that Indiramma house towers, similar to those being developed in Hyderabad, would be taken up in other towns. Government land under the Housing Department within Nizamabad Municipal Corporation limits was inspected as part of the exercise. The Minister said the government's objective was to provide permanent homes and greater dignity to homeless and needy families. According to the

state government's housing programme, approvals have been issued for around eight lakh houses across two phases in rural areas and the first phase in Hyderabad, with approximately two lakh houses already completed. During his visit, Reddy also inspected a partially completed double-bedroom housing project in Nizamabad that had been initiated by earlier governments but remained unfinished. He directed the District Collector and officials to immediately complete the remaining construction and provide essential infrastructure. Officials were also instructed to identify eligible beneficiaries, complete the approval process and allot the houses so that families could occupy the buildings without further delay. The Minister emphasised that housing projects should not remain incomplete after public funds have been invested. He called for coordinated action by officials to ensure that completed structures are equipped with basic amenities and handed over to eligible families at the earliest. The visit is part of the government's continuing review of housing schemes aimed at expanding affordable housing and improving living conditions for low-income households.

Ponnam Seeks Centre's Support



Siddipet, August 22 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has urged the BJP leadership in Telangana to explain what he described as the Centre's alleged hurdles to the state's development. He criticised the reported denial of permission for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's proposed foreign visit, saying the decision reflected an unwarranted approach towards Telangana's development efforts. Speaking during his visit to Akkannapet mandal in Siddipet district under the "Palle Palleku Ponnam Anna - Palle Pallelo Praja Palana" programme, Ponnam said the development of every state was essential to achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The Minister appealed to the Union government to adopt a constructive approach towards Telangana and release funds and support that he said were due to the state. He questioned why BJP leaders in Telangana were not pressing the Centre for projects

and financial assistance for the state. Ponnam also sought clarity on what he termed disparities in the allocation of central funds between Telangana and neighbouring states.

He maintained that political differences should not come in the way of development and said he was prepared to cooperate with the Union government whenever it served Telangana's interests. The Minister said the village-level outreach programme had been launched with the objective of strengthening public administration and addressing local problems. As part of the initiative, he has been visiting villages and interacting directly with residents to understand their concerns.

He said officials and public representatives were being encouraged to identify issues at the grassroots level and work towards timely solutions. Ponnam reiterated his appeal for greater Centre-state cooperation, stating that Telangana's progress would contribute to the broader goal of national development.

Surekha Faces Calls for Accountability



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister Adhuri Laxman has called on Minister Konda Surekha to accept moral responsibility for controversial remarks attributed to her daughter, Konda Susmitha Patel, concerning Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Laxman also demanded that Surekha consider resigning from the Cabinet over the issue. Laxman rejected Surekha's reported contention that she was not responsible for statements made by her daughter, describing the explanation as unacceptable. He alleged that attempts were being made to create political instability within the Congress government and said the party should take the matter seriously. The Minister expressed confidence that the Congress would retain power in the 2029 Assembly elections, citing the government's welfare and development programmes. He also backed Revanth Reddy's continuation as Chief Minister, saying the government's performance would strengthen its posi-

tion among the people. Meanwhile, the controversy has reached the TPCC Disciplinary Committee, with several Congress MLAs submitting a formal complaint against Surekha. The legislators met committee chairman Mallu Ravi on Saturday and conveyed their objections to the explanation submitted by the Minister in connection with her daughter's remarks. The

MLAs reportedly sought strict disciplinary action, arguing that statements perceived as damaging to the party's leadership and unity should not be overlooked. They also demanded that Surekha be removed from the Cabinet. The developments come amid an ongoing internal debate within the Congress over public comments concerning the Chief Minister and party leadership. The disciplinary committee is examining the matter before deciding on further action. Mallu Ravi said the committee would consider Surekha's explanation before reaching a decision. He indicated that the disciplinary process would be followed in accordance with the party's procedures. The issue has triggered renewed discussion within Congress circles over party discipline, accountability and the responsibilities of ministers and senior leaders. Further action is expected after the disciplinary committee completes its examination of the complaints and Surekha's response.

Surekha Seeks Action Over Attacks



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Konda Surekha has written another letter to the TPCC Disciplinary Committee, expressing concern over what she described as derogatory remarks directed at her and her family members. She urged the committee to identify those allegedly responsible for orchestrating the comments and take appropriate disciplinary action. Surekha said she had already submitted her explanation to the committee in response to the notice issued to her following remarks made by her daughter, Konda Susmitha, about Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and senior Congress leader Revuri Prakash Reddy. The disciplinary panel had sought Surekha's response earlier this week. In her latest communication, the minister questioned the criticism being directed at her while the disciplinary process was still underway. She also sought scrutiny of the motives behind demands for punitive action and state-

ments concerning her political future. Surekha further asked the committee to examine whether any attempt had been made to influence its decision-making process and stressed the need for an impartial consideration of the matter. The minister also expressed concern over what she described as a coordinated campaign against her as a senior woman leader from the Backward Classes community. She urged the party leadership to respond to such conduct in accordance with Congress principles of internal democracy, social justice and women's empowerment. The controversy follows growing differences within the Telangana Congress over Susmitha's remarks. A group of Congress legislators and leaders has publicly sought disciplinary action, intensifying pressure on the party leadership. The TPCC leadership has maintained that party discipline applies to all members and that the committee will consider the explanations before deciding its next course of action.

BJP Seeks Clarity on CM's US Trip

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao has demanded that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy explain why he had planned to meet New York politician Zohran Mamdani during his proposed visit to the United States. In a statement issued on August 22, Rao supported the Ministry of External Affairs' reported decision to deny permission for the Chief Minister's US visit. He alleged that the proposed trip included engagements with individuals whom the BJP considers hostile to India and questioned why details of the proposed meeting with Mamdani were not included in the publicly announced itinerary. Rao also referred to Mamdani's participation in Pakistan Day celebrations in New York and his reported involvement in a 2020 Times Square protest concerning the Bhoomi Pujan ceremony for the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. He further alleged that Mamdani had criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian government during earlier political engagements. The BJP leader cited comments attributed to senior Congress leader and MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who had



reportedly criticised Mamdani's position, and asked whether Revanth Reddy would take those remarks into consideration. Rao questioned the purpose of a meeting with Mamdani if the primary objective of the Chief Minister's proposed US visit was to attract investments to Telangana. He asked what concrete benefits such an engagement would bring to the state. The BJP state president urged the Chief Minister to clarify the proposed itinerary and explain the purpose of the meeting, saying the issue had generated public interest in Telangana. He also demanded transparency regarding the engagements planned during the proposed overseas visit.

Harish Rao Demands Clarity on 22A Lands



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Former BRS Minister T. Harish Rao has demanded that the Telangana government explain the authority under which residential properties have allegedly been placed on the 22A prohibited list. He made the remarks during a meeting with residents affected by the issue in Boduppal on Saturday. Harish Rao met hundreds of residents from Tirumala Meadows, Lakshmi Ganapathi Colony and Hema Nagar Colony and heard their concerns over restrictions placed on their properties. He alleged that families who had lived on the disputed land for several decades were facing difficulties after their properties were included in the prohibited list. According to Harish Rao, around 1,500 families residing in Survey Nos. 215 and 215-Part had been living without disputes for nearly 30 years. He questioned how properties that had remained in the possession of residents for such a long period could suddenly be brought under restrictions. He said residents were particularly distressed when they approached registration offices to sell or transact in their

properties and were informed that the lands had been listed under 22A. Harish Rao alleged that such restrictions were creating uncertainty and financial hardship for families. He accused the Congress government of allowing what he described as a "30% commission" racket and alleged that artificial disputes were being created to pressure property owners into settlements through intermediaries and benami arrangements. These allegations could not be independently verified. Harish Rao demanded that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy clarify the reasons behind the inclusion of the colonies in the prohibited list and take immediate steps to address the grievances of affected residents. He assured the victims that the BRS would support them in protecting their property rights. He also called upon the government to review the disputed entries and remove eligible residential properties from the 22A list. Harish Rao warned that if the government failed to resolve the issue promptly, the BRS would launch a large-scale agitation in support of the affected families.

Maheshwar Reddy Targets Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

BJP Legislature Party leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy has alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has become politically weakened, citing what he described as growing differences and lack of cohesion within the Telangana Congress. Speaking during an informal interaction with the media at the BJP state office, Maheshwar Reddy claimed that recent developments within the ruling party showed that the Chief Minister was unable to command the support of his ministers and legislators. He referred to the controversy surrounding Minister Konda Surekha and said several ministers had not publicly condemned remarks attributed to her daughter concerning the Chief Minister. He also questioned the issuance of notices to Surekha over comments which, accord-

ing to her, she had no connection with. Maheshwar Reddy claimed that when Ven Narendra Reddy sought the support of 48 Congress MLAs for Surekha's removal from the Cabinet, only 21 legislators participated in a subsequent press conference. He alleged that the legislators themselves stated they had spoken against Surekha on their own initiative and not at the Chief Minister's direction. The BJP leader claimed that the Congress has 66 MLAs but alleged that the Chief Minister does not enjoy the support of even one-third of them. He attributed this to complaints among legislators regarding inadequate funds and lack of importance. Maheshwar Reddy also alleged that the Cabinet lacked coordination and claimed that a proposed reshuffle was being reconsidered because of uncertainty over majority support. He questioned reports regarding possible changes involving ministers Konda Surekha, Bhatti Vikramarka and Jupally Krishna Rao. He further raised allegations concerning alleged dealings involving Revanth Reddy and Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, and questioned why action had not been taken against the latter. Maheshwar Reddy also sought explanations over an alleged London meeting involving Revanth Reddy, KTR and Harish Rao, and questioned the absence of further investigations into alleged irregularities related to phone tapping, the E-Car Race, Kaleshwaram, ORR and power tenders. He demanded that the government clarify these issues and take appropriate action wherever wrongdoing is established.

Kishan Reddy Targets Congress Government

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched a strong attack on the Telangana Congress government, alleging irregularities in land administration, fee reimbursement, ration distribution and voter-list revision. Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office in Hyderabad, he demanded greater transparency and accountability from the state government. Kishan Reddy alleged that several lakh acres of private land had been placed on the 22A prohibited list under the Bhubharathi system. He claimed that landowners, residents and builders were facing harassment and demanded a comprehensive judicial inquiry by a sitting High Court judge into additions and deletions made to the list during the past two to three years. He announced that BJP Legal Cells across Telangana would provide free assistance to affected citizens and farmers, including support from the mandal level to the High Court. The Union Minister also questioned the



presentation of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana ration cards in Telangana, asking why the Centre's identity was allegedly absent despite its sub-

stantial contribution towards free food-grain distribution. On education, Kishan Reddy demanded immediate clearance of approximately

Rs 15,000 crore in pending fee reimbursement dues. He alleged that colleges were withholding certificates and that students were facing difficulties pursuing higher education and employment. He also defended the Election Commission's voter-roll revision process, describing it as a statutory exercise aimed at removing duplicate and deceased voters. He accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of creating unnecessary fear among voters over the exercise. Kishan Reddy announced that Hyderabad Liberation Day would be officially observed on September 17 at Secunderabad Parade Grounds with a paramilitary parade and cultural programmes. Earlier, he paid tribute to journalist Shoaibullah Khan, who was killed in 1948 for opposing the Nizam's autocratic rule and Razakar atrocities. He also criticised Congress over its response to foreign-visit permissions and alleged that political leaders should avoid politicising established diplomatic procedures.

Congress Reviews Disciplinary Issues



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Congress Disciplinary Committee Chairman Mallu Ravi said the Congress government follows an equal approach towards all communities and does not discriminate between Backward Classes and Reddy leaders. He made the remarks while responding to recent statements and internal disagreements involving party leaders. Ravi said the Congress high command had taken note of the controversy surrounding Konda Susmitha and subsequently issued a show-cause notice to Endowments Minister Konda Surekha. He stated that Surekha had submitted her explanation through WhatsApp and that party leaders were currently examining the contents before deciding on the next course of action. Ravi questioned a portion of Surekha's response in which she reportedly

described her daughter Susmitha's remarks as personal. He argued that, as a minister and senior Congress leader, Surekha should have responded when comments were made against the party and its leadership. According to Ravi, the party's principles of natural justice require leaders to address statements that could affect the organisation or its leadership. He questioned why Surekha had not condemned remarks made against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Congress government. Susmitha had earlier made controversial comments concerning the Chief Minister and the Congress party, leading to demands for disciplinary action and further internal discussion within the party. Ravi also commented on remarks attributed to Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy. He said that no formal complaint had so far been submitted to the disciplinary committee regarding the MLA's statements. However, he made it clear that the committee could take up the matter on its own initiative when it considered the appropriate time. He indicated that the party would continue to monitor statements and developments involving its leaders. Ravi's remarks come amid heightened discussion within the Telangana Congress over internal discipline, public statements by elected representatives and the party leadership's response to disagreements among senior leaders. The disciplinary committee is expected to consider the explanations and available information before determining further action.

Mahesh Goud Warns Against Indiscipline

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has warned that the party would not remain silent if individuals engaged in activities that could damage the Congress organisation. His remarks came amid controversy surrounding statements made by Konda Susmitha, daughter of Minister Konda Surekha, against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Mahesh Kumar Goud said the party leadership had taken Susmitha's comments seriously and maintained that she had crossed the limits expected of those associated with the organisation. He indicated that the Congress disciplinary mechanism was examining the matter and that appropriate action would be considered if party rules had been violated. The TPCC chief said the Congress would not permit personal allegations or public statements that could undermine party unity. He stressed that discipline

was essential for maintaining organisational strength, particularly when the party was handling sensitive political and administrative issues. Referring to other leaders, Mahesh Kumar Goud said Anirudh and Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy had not crossed the limits in the same manner. However, he made it clear that the party would respond firmly whenever any leader or individual went beyond the boundaries set by the organisation. The TPCC president's comments come against the backdrop of an internal controversy involving remarks concerning the Chief Minister and the Congress government. The party's disciplinary leadership has been examining the developments as it seeks to maintain cohesion among its leaders and workers. Mahesh Kumar Goud reiterated that the Congress would protect its organisational interests and would not allow statements or actions that could weaken the party. He said everyone associated with the organisation must respect party discipline and collective decisions.

Revanth Visits Ambedkar House

Continue

deeply inspiring. He said that being at Ambedkar's historic residence felt like visiting a place of pilgrimage and strengthened his commitment to working for social justice. Speaking after the tour, Reddy described the experience as one of the great moments of his life. He said witnessing the personal side of one of India's most influential leaders and seeing objects associated with Ambedkar had been a profound experience. The visit highlighted Ambedkar's lasting global legacy and the relevance of his ideas on equality, constitutional governance and social justice. It also underscored the Telangana government's stated commitment to promoting social equality and inclusive development. The historic residence continues to serve as an important place of remembrance for Ambedkar's contributions to India and his intellectual journey abroad.

LPG e-KYC Deadline Nears

Continue

services could be temporarily restricted until the KYC requirement is fulfilled. Reports indicate that the LPG connection is not necessarily cancelled permanently for failing to meet the deadline. Officials and oil companies have urged eligible consumers to complete the verification at the earliest rather than waiting until the final day.

Kavitha Backs Drivers' Strike



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Rakshana Sena chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha has extended her support to the proposed strike by auto-rickshaw, cab and van drivers from August 24, urging the state government to address their long-standing demands. Kavitha unveiled the strike poster at the party office in Banjara Hills on Saturday in the presence of Telangana Rakshana Trade Union representatives and leaders of various auto-rickshaw unions. She opposed the proposal to hand over electric autos to the RTC for operating last-mile connectivity services and demanded that existing auto-rickshaw drivers be given the responsibility of providing such services. She also called for the creation of a dedicated welfare board for auto and transport workers. Among other demands, Kavitha sought revision of fares in view of rising petrol,

diesel and cooking gas prices. She also proposed a government-owned transport booking application as an alternative to private platforms such as Ola, Uber and Rapido. Kavitha further demanded implementation of the Congress party's reported promise to provide Rs 12,000 annually to auto-rickshaw drivers. In a separate statement, she expressed grief over the death of an infant at Kamareddy Government General Hospital. She alleged that the child's death occurred after a pregnant woman from Ekkapalli Thanda, who had been admitted for delivery, did not receive timely medical attention. Kavitha urged the government to conduct a thorough inquiry and take strict action against those responsible. She also called for stronger measures to prevent similar incidents and demanded appropriate assistance for the bereaved family.

Congress Rift Deepens Over Ticket Row



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

A fresh internal dispute has emerged within the Congress in Telangana following allegations by senior leader and State Planning Board Vice-Chairman G. Chinna Reddy concerning the allocation of the Vanaparathi Assembly ticket to MLA Tudi Megha Reddy. Chinna Reddy's remarks, alleging that the party ticket was given to Megha Reddy in the previous Assembly elections in return for money, have triggered a political controversy within the party. The allegations have been strongly disputed, and the issue has now reached the Congress high command. Megha Reddy travelled to New Delhi and met AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge to submit a complaint seeking action against Chinna Reddy. He subsequently met AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal and Telangana Congress affairs-in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan to raise the matter. Megha Reddy also reportedly sought an appointment with senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Meanwhile, Chinna Reddy appeared before the TPCC Disciplinary Committee in Hyderabad on Saturday to respond to a notice issued over his comments. He personally visited Gandhi

Bhavan and submitted his explanation to disciplinary committee vice-chairman Shyam Mohan. The committee had sought clarification from Chinna Reddy following his remarks about Megha Reddy and the party's decision regarding the Vanaparathi ticket. His response is expected to be examined before the committee decides on any further action. The controversy had already sparked protests among Chinna Reddy's supporters. On Friday, a group of Congress leaders and workers from Vanaparathi gathered outside Gandhi Bhavan and demanded that the show-cause notices issued to the senior leader be withdrawn. The protesters raised slogans supporting Chinna Reddy and called for greater attention to the party's organisational affairs in the constituency. They also raised slogans against Megha Reddy. The developments have highlighted growing differences between rival groups within the Congress in Vanaparathi. With complaints now before both the state disciplinary committee and the party's central leadership, attention is focused on how the Congress leadership will address the dispute and maintain unity in the constituency.

Ramchander Rao Attends BJP Meeting

New Delhi, August 22 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao participated in the Seva Sankalp Abhiyaan meeting held at the BJP national headquarters on Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg in New Delhi on Saturday. The meeting brought together newly appointed national office-bearers of the Bharatiya Janata Party and senior leaders, including BJP National President Nitin Nabin, National General Secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh, Shiv Prakash, Saudan Singh and Vinod Tawde. The discussions focused on programmes and organisational activities to be conducted across the country as part of the Seva Sankalp Abhiyaan. The campaign is being organised to mark 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continuous leadership in public office as head of government. During the meeting, leaders



discussed plans for public outreach programmes, organisational initiatives and

celebrations to be held in different parts of the country. The programmes are

intended to highlight key milestones in Modi's political journey and his long tenure in public service. The discussions also covered strategies for strengthening grassroots engagement and ensuring wider public participation in the nationwide campaign. Party leaders reviewed the proposed activities and emphasised coordinated implementation by organisational units across the country. The BJP plans to use the campaign to showcase Modi's journey spanning his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat and his subsequent service as Prime Minister of India. Ramchander Rao's participation in the meeting comes as the Telangana BJP prepares to coordinate with the national organisation on programmes associated with the Seva Sankalp Abhiyaan. Senior leaders are expected to finalise further outreach activities and celebrations as part of the nationwide initiative.

Interstate Arms Dealer Held



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Malkajgiri Special Operations Team (SOT) and Bollaram police have jointly arrested a 27-year-old man who allegedly attempted to sell illegal firearms in Hyderabad. The operation led to the seizure of two 9mm pistols, three magazines, 17 live rounds, a double-barrel pistol, two additional rounds and a mobile phone. The accused was identified as Parbhans Kumar, a native of Uttar Pradesh who was residing in Cherlapally and working as a labourer. Police said he allegedly entered the illegal arms trade with the intention of making quick money by purchasing weapons cheaply and selling them at higher prices. According to investigators, Kumar travelled to Bihar on August 10 and allegedly bought the firearms from a person identified as Sonu. He then brought the weapons to Hyderabad, reportedly planning to sell them to people involved in criminal activities. Acting on credible information, a joint police team intercepted Kumar near Sadhana Mandir in

Bollaram at around 5:50 a.m. on August 22. A search of his belongings reportedly resulted in the recovery of the firearms, ammunition and mobile phone. Police said the accused has a previous criminal record. Cherlapally police had allegedly arrested him in 2024 in connection with a case involving the illegal transportation of ganja and cannabis-laced chocolates. A case has been registered at Bollaram Police Station under Sections 25(1A) and 25(1B)(a) of the Arms Act. Further investigation is underway to determine the complete source of the weapons, identify intended buyers and establish whether other persons were involved in the alleged interstate network. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Malkajgiri Police Commissioner B. Sumathi, IPS. Police warned that possession, purchase and sale of illegal firearms are serious offences. They appealed to citizens to immediately inform law enforcement authorities about any information concerning unlawful weapons activities and cooperate with efforts to maintain public safety.

Second Foundation Stone Draws Criticism



Quthbullapur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

A controversy has emerged over the Krushi Colony community hall in Saibaba Nagar Division 292 of the Quthbullapur constituency, with BRS leaders questioning why a second foundation-stone ceremony was conducted for a project they claim had already been sanctioned and initiated earlier. According to BRS leaders, the community hall was sanctioned in 2023 through Constituency Development Programme (CDP) funds during the previous BRS government and its foundation stone was laid by then MLA K.P. Vivekananda. They have objected to Congress leaders conducting another foundation ceremony for what they contend is the same project. The BRS leaders alleged that repeating foundation ceremonies could create the impression that political parties are competing for credit instead of concentrating on completing public infrastructure. They stressed that once a project is sanctioned with government funds, it becomes a public asset and its completion should remain the priority irrespec-

tive of which political party is in power. They questioned the present status of the community hall and sought clarity on whether construction work that reportedly began in 2023 was completed, delayed or abandoned. They also asked whether the current works are part of the original project or whether fresh funds have been sanctioned. The leaders argued that conducting ceremonies alone does not constitute development and that residents benefit only when projects are completed and made available for public use. They urged the authorities to disclose the financial and construction status of the community hall and expedite any pending works. They further recalled that Vivekananda had secured CDP funds for several community halls and other infrastructure projects in the constituency and said previously sanctioned works should not be presented as new initiatives. Krushi Colony President Satyanarayana Goud, General Secretary Kishore Mudiraj, Working President Purnachander Reddy, Cashier Ganesh, Ch. Ram Reddy, T. Pavan Kumar and others attended the meeting.

Ganja Chocolate Racket Busted

Quthbullapur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Police from the Quthbullapur Special Operations Team (SOT) and Jagadgirigutta police have busted an alleged racket involving the illegal transportation of ganja in chocolate form and seized around 22 kg of the contraband in Mahadevapuram. Acting on credible information, the joint team conducted a special check in the area, which falls under the jurisdiction of Jagadgirigutta police station. During the operation, officials reportedly recovered a large quantity of chocolates allegedly containing cannabis and detained four persons in connection with the case. The arrested individuals were identified as Burani Kamal Singh of Yellammabanda, Kukatpally; Bhadda Nepal Singh and Bhadda Deepak Singh, both from Road Mistry Nagar; and Jyothi Kaur, also known as Kali, from Nanded in Maharashtra. Police have launched a detailed investigation to determine the source of the ganja chocolates, their intended destination and the persons who were supposed to receive the consignment.

Investigators are also examining whether other individuals were involved in the alleged supply network. Officials said information gathered during the investigation could help uncover the wider network behind the transportation and distribution of the narcotic substance. Jagadgirigutta Circle Inspector Suresh warned that stringent action would be taken against those involved in the transporta-



tion, sale or consumption of narcotics. Police said surveillance and enforcement operations would continue across the area to curb illegal drug-related activities. The seizure has drawn attention in the locality and highlighted concerns over attempts to distribute narcotic substances through unconventional forms.

'Zero Fire' Push for Industrial Safety



Quthbullapur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

The Fire and Security Association of India (FSAI) has launched the 'Fire 2026' initiative in the Jeedimetla industrial area with a focus on preventing fire accidents before they occur. The programme promoted a shift from responding to emergencies after an incident to identifying hazards in advance and taking timely preventive action. Officials and industry representatives stressed that fire safety cannot depend solely on inspections or emergency response. G.V. Narayana Rao, Director of Telangana Fire Services, said consistent compliance with prescribed safety standards, particularly in pharmaceutical and industrial units, was essential to reduce the risk of accidents. He emphasised the need for regular monitoring and maintenance of fire alarms, sprinkler systems, electrical safety arrangements and emergency response mechanisms. Such systems, he said, must remain fully operational and ready to respond whenever required. The organisers noted that fire safety is a collective responsibility extending beyond industrial establishments.

Schools, hospitals, shopping malls,

high-rise buildings, government offices and residential complexes must also strictly follow safety regulations and maintain effective emergency preparedness. Special attention was recommended for vulnerable groups, including students, women, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Participants stressed the importance of providing them with appropriate awareness and training on safe evacuation procedures during emergencies. FSAI representatives also highlighted the role of technology in early detection of potential fire hazards. Smart fire safety systems and modern monitoring solutions were recommended to identify risks at an early stage and enable preventive intervention. The association said it was conducting awareness programmes as part of its effort to promote a "Zero Fire" culture, based on the principle that preventing an accident is more effective than relying on rescue measures after a fire breaks out. State Director of Factories Y. Mohan Babu, Life Sciences CEO Sarvesh Singh, CEP President Tapas Saha, ADFO Srinivas, Kukatpally SFO Jagan and representatives of several companies attended the programme.

Drainage Relief



Quthbullapur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Dayanand Nagar and Rajula Swami Nagar colonies in the Suraram area may soon receive relief from drainage problems that have affected the localities for several years, following coordinated efforts by public representatives and officials. MLA K.P. Vivekananda and senior BRS leader Varala Vinod Kumar recently inspected the affected areas in Saibaba Nagar Division (Division 292) and interacted with residents to understand the difficulties caused by stagnant drainage water and obstructed flow. During the field visit, the representatives examined the locations where drainage movement was being disrupted and discussed the issue with residents. The prob-

lem was subsequently brought to the attention of the concerned departments, leading to efforts to identify a lasting solution. As the drainage-related issue involved responsibilities spanning more than one department, coordination was initiated between the Forest Department and the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB). Officials examined the existing obstructions and discussed measures to improve the flow of drainage water and prevent recurring inconvenience to residents. According to local representatives, the focus is on addressing the underlying causes rather than providing

temporary relief. The inter-departmental coordination is expected to facilitate remedial works aimed at improving drainage conditions in the affected colonies. Residents welcomed the steps taken following the field inspection and expressed satisfaction that the long-standing issue had received attention at the ground level.

They thanked MLA K.P. Vivekananda and Varala Vinod Kumar for personally visiting the colonies, listening to their concerns and coordinating with officials. The initiative has raised hopes among residents that the drainage problem will finally be resolved through sustained coordination and effective implementation of the proposed measures.

Steel Bridge Work Faces Delay



Quthbullapur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Concern has been raised over the slow progress of the Subhashnagar steel bridge project, with residents facing increasing traffic congestion as construction continues after nearly eight months. A team led by Akula Satish inspected the ongoing works and urged officials to accelerate construction and complete the bridge at the earliest. The team highlighted the difficulties faced by commuters travelling between Quthbullapur village, Ayodhya Nagar crossroads and Suchitra. Traffic congestion has reportedly become a daily problem along the route, particularly during peak morning and evening hours. Motorists and local residents are facing prolonged delays, with the incomplete bridge adding to the pressure on existing roads. The team observed that timely completion of the steel bridge could sig-

nificantly ease traffic movement in the area. However, the slow pace of construction has raised concerns among residents who depend on the route for their daily travel. According to the team, some local residents have attributed the delay to repeated changes in the project's planning. They stressed that prolonged delays in public infrastructure projects directly affect commuters and residents. Akula Satish and his team urged the Zonal Commissioner to personally monitor the project, coordinate with the concerned departments and contractors, and take steps to ensure that construction proceeds on a war footing. They said authorities should treat the project as a priority and prevent further delays so that the bridge can be opened for public use at the earliest. Nalla Jaishankar Goud, Puli Balaram, Kandi Srimamulu, Hanumanji and others participated in the inspection.

BJP Announces Fee Arrears Protest

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

The BJP Telangana unit has announced a 48-hour Maha Nirahara Deeksha on August 24 and 25 to demand the release of pending fee reimbursement dues for students. BJP Legislature Party (BJLP) leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy unveiled the "Fee Arrears - BJP's Fight" poster at the party's state office on Saturday. The protest will be held under the leadership of BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao at the party's state office in Nampally. According to the BJP, party MPs, MLAs, MLCs, senior leaders and office-bearers will participate in the hunger strike, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. on August 24 and conclude at 4 p.m. on August 25. Maheshwar Reddy accused the Congress government of neglecting students and demanded the immediate release of ₹15,000 crore in pending fee reimbursement dues. He claimed that around 50 lakh students and families were facing difficulties because of the outstanding payments. He alleged that colleges were withholding certificates from students because of unpaid dues, affecting their higher education and employment prospects. He also claimed that several families were being forced to borrow money or sell assets to meet educational expenses.



The BJP leader criticised the state's education spending and raised concerns about infrastructure deficiencies in government schools, including inadequate sanitation facilities. He also alleged recurring food-safety incidents in residential educational institutions and hostels. The BJP, along with its affiliated organisations, has been conducting campaigns and signature drives at educational institutions over the issue. Maheshwar Reddy said the party would intensify its agitation until the government addressed the pending reimbursements. Former MLA Prem Singh Rathod and several BJP state and district leaders attended the poster unveiling programme.

Shishu Mandirs Promote Values and Science

Adilabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Saraswati Shishu Mandir schools play an important role in nurturing moral values, discipline, patriotism and scientific thinking among students, Saraswati Vidya Peetham Telangana Region Seva Pramukh Gaurigiri Gangadhar Reddy said. He was speaking as the chief guest at a cluster-level science fair organised at Sri Saraswati Shishu Mandir school in Ichoda mandal headquarters. Gangadhar Reddy said the schools focus not only on academic learning but also on developing good conduct, respect for elders and teachers, national spirit and interest in science. Referring to incidents of attacks on teachers and other social concerns, he said value-based education was increasingly important in shaping



responsible citizens. He maintained that Shishu Mandir institutions could contribute to building a disciplined and culturally aware younger generation. Students from

schools in Ichoda, Bazarhatnoor, Gudihatnoor, Neredigonda and Narnoor participated in the science fair. They displayed models, experiments and other scientific projects, attracting the attention of visitors and participants. Quiz competitions were also conducted to encourage students to demonstrate their knowledge and analytical abilities. Organisers said such activities provide children with opportunities to explore scientific concepts beyond regular classroom learning. The programme was attended by Oraganti Istari, K. Narayana Reddy, Kolluri Sekhar Rajender, Anga Rajeshwar, Suda rshan, Headmaster Orni Venkata Ramana, Marathi Santosh, Suresh and Meena. Principals Nalla Dharmanna, Praveen and Santosh, along with science teachers, students and others, participated in the event.

Civic Issues Raise Concern

Suryapet, August 22 | TPN Bureau

The CPI(ML) Mass Line has urged the Telangana government to address long-standing civic problems in Suryapet municipality and allocate Rs 500 crore for the town's overall development. Party leaders submitted a representation to the Municipal Commissioner outlining public grievances identified during a padayatra conducted across municipal areas between June 2 and August 20. District secretary Kothapalli Shivakumar said poor drainage management was causing serious inconvenience to residents. He alleged that inadequate desilting had resulted in sewage overflowing onto roads, creating unhygienic conditions and foul odours. He also sought regular fogging operations, stating that stagnant



water could increase the risk of mosquito-borne diseases. The party highlighted inadequate municipal drinking-water sup-

ply in several wards and sought designated spaces for small vendors. It also demanded restoration of tanks around

Suryapet to support drinking-water and irrigation requirements and called for speedy completion of underground drainage works. Shivakumar further raised concerns over coordination between the municipality, government hospitals, public offices and the bus depot. He demanded greater transparency in streetlight installations and the construction of cement-concrete roads. The party warned that large-scale protests would be organised if the civic issues were not addressed promptly. District committee member Karingula Venkanna, Pragathisheela Mahila Sangham district secretary Kothapalli Renuka, PDSU state vice-president Erra Akhil Kumar, POW district president Marasani Chandrakala and other leaders participated.

HYDRA Reviews Lake Restoration



Nizampet, August 22 | TPN Bureau

HYDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath on Saturday inspected the second phase of lake restoration works at Errakunta in Bachupally and Turka Cheruvu in Nizampet, reviewing the progress of ongoing development activities. Ranganath expressed satisfaction with the restoration work and instructed officials to undertake comprehensive desilting of the water bodies. Residents raised concerns over stagnant sewage in GPR Layout, attributing the problem to the absence of connecting sewage and stormwater drains between Errakunta and Kathvakunta. The Commissioner directed officials to initiate measures for constructing a drain in the GPR Layout and asked them to coordinate with the CMC Commissioner for an early solution. He noted that the proposed drainage system would also help divert sewage after the development of Errakunta. Regarding Turka Cheruvu,

Ranganath said he would soon meet representatives of temple committees in the area. A meeting with temple committee members and local residents will be organised to discuss measures concerning the temples located around the lake. Officials were instructed to make arrangements to divert floodwater from Turka Cheruvu towards Papayya Kunta. Measures will also be taken to prevent sewage from entering the lake, including installation of a pipeline measuring about 1,200 metres. Temporary sheds located within the lake's Full Tank Level (FTL) area will be removed. Residents welcomed the desilting of Turka Cheruvu, where nearly three metres of silt was reportedly removed. They said sewage diversion had reduced mosquito nuisance and eliminated the foul smell around the lake. Local residents honoured Ranganath with a shawl and performed Mangala Harathi, expressing their support for efforts to restore lakes and protect public spaces.

Zonal Sports Meet on August 24



Quthbullapur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Preparations are underway for zonal-level sports competitions aimed at identifying and encouraging sporting talent among school students in Quthbullapur and Bachupally mandals. A coordination meeting to discuss arrangements for the competitions will be held on August 24 under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India. Zonal Secretary P. Nagaraju Goud said the meeting would begin at 10:30 a.m. at Surya Global School in Bachupally. Physical education teachers, officials and organisers have

been urged to attend and provide their suggestions for the successful conduct of the competitions. The meeting will focus on key arrangements, including selection of suitable sports grounds, infrastructure, facilities for participating students and distribution of responsibilities among organisers and officials. The participants will also discuss measures required to ensure that the competitions are conducted smoothly and safely. Nagaraju Goud said the main objective of the zonal events was to identify promising young athletes and provide them opportunities to progress to higher-level competitions. He also stressed the importance of developing discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship among students through participation in sporting activities. He appealed to all stakeholders to coordinate closely and extend their cooperation to make the competitions successful. The initiative is expected to provide students with a platform to showcase their abilities and motivate them to pursue sports at higher levels.

Seven-Storey Building Collapses

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

A seven-storey under-construction building collapsed in Anjaiah Nagar under the Madhapur police station limits on Saturday afternoon, killing two workers and injuring others. The incident triggered a major rescue operation and raised serious questions over construction safety and regulatory enforcement. The structure was reportedly built on a plot measuring around 50 square yards and stood alongside a nala. When the building collapsed, debris fell onto the neighbouring Whitefield Apartment, causing damage to parts of the residential structure. A nearby hostel was also affected, leaving students frightened and prompting them to move out of the premises as a precaution. Rescue teams from HYDRAA, fire services, police and the National Disaster Response Force reached the location and began clearing the debris. Search operations involved specialised equipment, including cameras and canine teams, to determine whether anyone remained trapped beneath the rubble. Authorities recovered the bodies of two workers from the debris. Reports also said a person from a neighbouring building sustained injuries



and was shifted for medical treatment. The collapse has prompted concerns over the legality and safety of the construction. Locals alleged that the building was unauthorised and claimed they had previously complained about the construction. HYDRAA officials said the structure had reportedly been stopped earlier and that construction had subsequently resumed, while the precise circumstances and responsibility are subject to investigation. Congress MLA Arekapudi Gandhi said strict action should be taken against those responsible and highlighted concerns regarding clearances for the structure. Officials are expected to examine building permissions, construction practices and possible violations of safety regulations. The incident has renewed calls for stricter monitoring of construction activity, particularly in densely populated areas, to prevent similar tragedies.

Temple Festival Invitation



Quthbullapur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Preparations are underway for a grand festival to mark the construction and re-consecration of the new Sri Durga Bhavani Temple at Shivalaya Nagar in Suraram 293rd Division. As part of the preparations, residents of Shivalaya Nagar colony met senior BRS leader Kondakalla Srinivas Reddy and formally invited him to participate in the temple celebrations. The residents and temple committee members briefed Srinivas Reddy on the arrangements for the temple's construction and the upcoming re-consecration ceremonies. They requested him to attend the religious programme and seek the blessings of Goddess Durga Bhavani.

The festival is expected to bring together residents and devotees for the special religious ceremonies associated with the newly constructed temple. Local residents said the re-consecration programme would be an important occasion for the colony and surrounding areas. Temple committee members, colony residents and local leaders were present during the meeting with Srinivas Reddy. The gathering also provided an opportunity for the organisers to discuss the preparations and extend invitations to prominent local representatives. The temple committee is making arrangements to conduct the celebrations in a grand manner, with devotees expected to participate in the rituals and seek the blessings of the presiding deity.

122 Encroachments Cleared



Quthbullapur, August 22 | TPN Bureau

The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) continued its weekly "Walk Free" initiative with an encroachment removal drive across designated locations in the Quthbullapur zone. The campaign focused on restoring roads, footpaths and other public spaces for unrestricted public use. CMC teams removed a total of 122 encroachments along a seven-kilometre stretch in the zone. The highest number of clearances was recorded in Medchal with 23, followed by Gajularamam with 20, Jeedimetla and Dundigal with 18 each, Nizampet with 16, Chintal with 15 and Kompally with 12. Officials said the drive was aimed at improving pedestrian movement, reducing obstructions on

roads and ensuring that public spaces remain accessible to residents. The civic body also stated that regular monitoring would be carried out in the cleared areas to prevent encroachments from returning. Field teams will continue to keep watch and take necessary action wherever fresh obstructions are identified. The "Walk Free" programme is being implemented across Cyberabad as part of ongoing efforts to keep roads and footpaths clear, safe and convenient for pedestrians. Officials urged residents and businesses to avoid occupying public spaces illegally and cooperate with civic authorities. The CMC said enforcement activities would continue regularly to protect public infrastructure and improve mobility across the city.

Two Held for Hospital Ruckus

Bodhan, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Two men were arrested after allegedly creating a disturbance at a government hospital in Bodhan town of Nizamabad district and assaulting police personnel while under the influence of marijuana. According to Bodhan Town SHO Venkatanarayana, the accused, identified as Ramanna Sailu and Bandari Vinay, both residents of Koparga village, allegedly caused a commotion at the government hospital on Friday night. Police personnel, including Constable Kranthi, reached the hospital after receiving information about the disturbance and took the two men to the police station. However, the SHO said the accused allegedly continued behaving violently even after reaching the station. During the incident, one of the accused allegedly attacked SHO Venkatanarayana, causing an injury to his thigh. Constable Kranthi reportedly sustained a fractured finger while attempting to control the situation. Police registered a case against the two men for allegedly obstructing government doctors and police personnel from performing their official duties. The case



covers the alleged assault and disruption caused at the hospital and police station. The accused were produced before the court and remanded in custody on Saturday evening, police said. Authorities stated that the incident was being investigated and that appropriate legal action would be taken based on the evidence gathered. The episode has raised concerns over the safety of medical staff and police personnel while carrying out their duties. Police officials stressed that disrupting hospital services or obstructing public servants in the discharge of their responsibilities would invite legal action.

Food Safety Checks Hit Dark Stores

Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

TG SAFE officials intensified enforcement of food safety regulations in Hyderabad by conducting inspections at dark stores operated by major online grocery delivery platforms. Ten special teams comprising food safety personnel and police officers inspected 20 dark stores associated with BigBasket, Blinkit and Zepto. The teams examined the facilities for compliance with prescribed standards covering food storage, handling practices, hygiene and product quality. During the inspections, officials reportedly identified several shortcomings. These included inadequate cleanliness in storage areas, improper food-handling practices and deficiencies in maintaining prescribed storage temperatures. Officials stressed that maintaining appropriate conditions is essential for preventing contamination and protecting consumers. Expired food products were also reportedly found at some outlets. Authorities initiated action against stores where violations were detected and issued notices to establishments found to be non-compliant with food safety requirements. Food samples from various products were collected during the inspections and sent to laboratories for analysis. Officials said further action would be considered



based on the laboratory findings and the nature of any violations confirmed through testing. The inspections are part of efforts by TG SAFE to strengthen monitoring of dark stores, which serve as fulfillment centres for online grocery and food orders and enable rapid delivery to consumers. Officials emphasised that speed of delivery cannot come at the expense of food safety. Dark-store operators have been advised to ensure proper storage conditions, maintain hygiene and comply with food safety regulations at every stage of handling. The latest inspections highlight the growing regulatory focus on online food and grocery delivery systems as their use expands among urban consumers. Authorities indicated that similar enforcement measures could continue to ensure that products reaching households meet required safety and quality standards.

SI, Constable Held in Bribery Case



Hyderabad, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Anti-Corruption Bureau officials arrested a Sub-Inspector and a constable attached to Chandanagar Police Station for allegedly demanding and accepting bribes in connection with a criminal case. According to the ACB, Sub-Inspector Bandela Balaraju and Constable Botta Raghavendra allegedly sought money from a complainant in exchange for handling the investigation favourably and filing the charge sheet in the case. Rangareddy Range ACB officials reportedly caught SI Balaraju red-handed while he was accepting Rs 75,000 from the complainant. The alleged bribe amount was recovered from the drawer of his

office desk during the operation. The preliminary inquiry further revealed that the accused had allegedly received additional payments earlier. Investigators found that Balaraju had received Rs 20,000 and Constable Raghavendra Rs 10,000 through digital payments, including UPI transactions, in connection with the same case. The ACB took both police personnel into custody, alleging that they had misused their official positions for personal financial gain. The investigation is expected to examine the complete sequence of transactions and establish whether any other individuals were involved. Officials said the arrested personnel would be produced before the Special ACB Court in Hyderabad for further proceedings. The identity of the complainant has been withheld by authorities for security reasons. The ACB has reiterated that government employees who misuse their positions to demand or accept illegal gratification will face strict action under the law. The case also underscores the importance of reporting demands for bribes so that appropriate legal action can be initiated.

Farm Worker Injured in Field Blast



Jayashankar Bhupalpally, August 22 | TPN Bureau

A blast in an agricultural field at Gudepalli village in Regonda mandal of Jayashankar Bhupalpally district triggered panic among local residents on Saturday after a farm worker sustained serious injuries while clearing the land. The incident occurred when Gunde Swarnalatha, 34, reportedly struck a buried object with a sickle while removing debris from the field. The object exploded suddenly, causing severe injuries to her face and hands. Swarna latha was immediately shifted to a private hospital in Parkal, where she is undergoing treatment. Her condition and further medical details were not immediately available. The field belongs to Gudepalli

resident More Raju, who had engaged two women agricultural workers to clear his 20-gunta plot in preparation for cultivating chilli. The discovery of what is suspected to be an explosive device has raised questions about how it came to be buried on the agricultural land. Police have begun an investigation to determine the origin of the device and establish whether the incident was accidental or involved deliberate planting. Investigators are reportedly examining the possibility that the explosive could be a remnant from the period when Left-wing extremism was active in parts of the region. Another angle being examined is whether the device was deliberately planted with an intention to target the landowner. Police are expected to inspect the site and gather evidence to determine the nature of the explosive and circumstances surrounding its presence in the field. The incident has caused considerable fear among villagers, with residents expressing concern over the possibility of other unexploded devices being buried in nearby agricultural areas. Authorities are likely to conduct further checks as part of the investigation.

Two Killed in Khammam Road Crash

Khammam, August 22 | TPN Bureau

Two people were killed in a road accident in Khammam district on Saturday when a car travelling from Yellandu towards Khammam collided with a two-wheeler heading towards Green Colony. The deceased were identified as Gundeti Srinu and Garlapati Rishika. According to preliminary information, both were travelling on the motorcycle when the collision occurred. The impact was severe, and the two-wheeler riders died at the scene. Srinu was reportedly an Intermediate student. The accident caused concern among local residents, while details regarding the circumstances leading to the collision are yet to be established. Police reached the spot soon after receiving information and initiated an

investigation. The bodies were shifted to the Khammam Government Hospital for post-mortem examination. A case has been registered, and police are collecting information to determine the exact cause of the accident. Investigators are expected to examine the vehicles involved and gather statements from witnesses as part of the inquiry. Authorities have not yet released further details regarding the identities of the occupants of the car or whether anyone else was injured in the incident. The accident has once again highlighted the need for motorists and two-wheeler riders to exercise caution, particularly on busy roads connecting residential areas and major towns. Further details are awaited as the investigation continues.

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

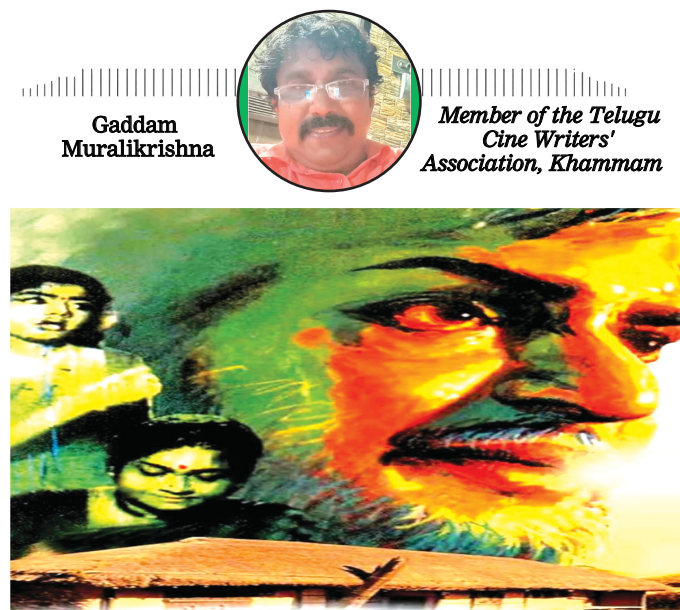
A song from Badi Pantulu offers timeless wisdom on love and togetherness



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.



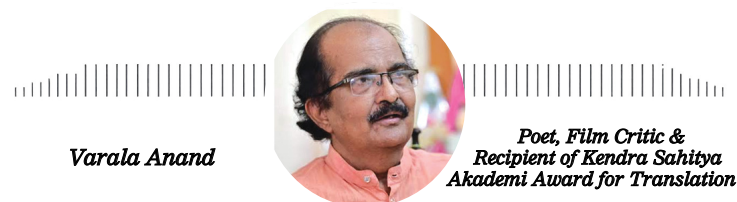
In an age when children spend increasing amounts of time before screens, the question is no longer whether children will watch films. They certainly will. The question is: what kind of films will they watch? A carefully curated international children's film festival can provide an answer. Commercial 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



twelve-year-old from Karimnagar making a three-minute film about her grandmother. Imagine a boy from Adilabad making an animation about a disappearing forest. Imagine school-children from Hyderabad collaborating with young filmmakers from Japan, Iran, France or Brazil. That is the kind of cultural 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 the 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 know 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.

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.



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.



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

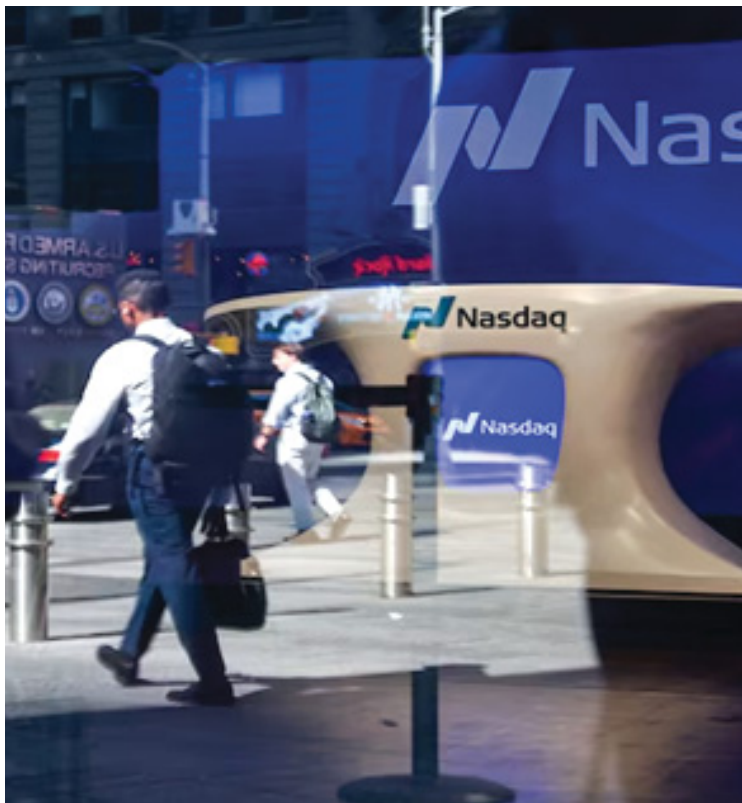
during prayers. Community representatives have called for increased vigilance and better security measures at gurdwaras. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney condemned the incident, describing the attack as appalling and expressing sympathy for the injured and the wider community. He also praised Edmonton 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.

Mumbai Indians Appoint Zubin Bharucha For Key Role



Five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians have appointed Zubin Bharucha as their new Director of Performance, strengthening their leadership and player-development structure ahead of the 2027 season. Bharucha joins the franchise after a long and successful association with Rajasthan Royals. Bharucha, a former first-class cricketer who represented both Mumbai and Surrey, brings extensive experience in domestic and IPL cricket. He was associated with Rajasthan Royals from the inaugural IPL season in 2008 and served as the franchise's team director until 2015. After a brief period away, he returned to the Royals in a senior cricket operations role and continued with the franchise until 2026. During his long stint with Rajasthan Royals, Bharucha played an important role in identifying and developing young Indian talent. Several players, including Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson, Dhruv Jurel and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, benefited from the franchise's player-development system during his tenure. His experience in nurturing emerging cricketers is expected to be particularly valuable for Mumbai Indians. Mumbai Indians said Bharucha will work closely with the franchise's existing multi-disciplinary leadership group across different performance areas. He will become part of the current support staff and focus on strengthening the franchise's established approach towards player development and sustained performance. The appointment comes as Mumbai Indians look to rebuild after a difficult recent phase in the IPL. Although the franchise has won the tournament five times, its most recent title came in 2020. Since then, MI have made the playoffs only twice, while also experiencing finishes at the bottom of the table. Bharucha's arrival is therefore seen as an important move as the franchise prepares for the next IPL cycle. His expertise in talent identification, performance management and long-term player development could help Mumbai Indians strengthen their squad beyond just the immediate season. He will work alongside head coach Mahela Jayawardene and the existing coaching and support staff. The focus will be on creating a stronger performance ecosystem while helping young players develop into established performers. With IPL 2027 on the horizon, Mumbai Indians will hope Bharucha's experience can help bring consistency to their player-development programme and eventually guide the franchise back towards the top of the competition.

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.

