



Assembly Session
Likely From
September 7

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has informed public representatives that the monsoon session of the State Legislative Assembly is likely to begin on September 7.

After returning from his visit to Britain, the Chief Minister held a meeting with available Ministers, MPs, MLCs and MLAs at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Monday. During the meeting, he urged elected representatives to give greater attention to development activities in their respective constituencies. Revanth Reddy particularly instructed the representatives to accelerate pending land acquisition for irrigation projects. He said delays in acquiring land could affect the completion of major projects and stressed the need for coordinated efforts to resolve such issues at the constituency level.

The Chief Minister assured the representatives that the government was prepared to release funds immediately for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R), and obtaining forest clearances wherever required. He emphasised that resolving these issues quickly would help ensure that irrigation projects progress without unnecessary delays. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponguleti

P3

US Envoy Highlights
Defence Role



Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Monday highlighted Hyderabad's growing importance in aerospace and defence manufacturing, describing the Tata-Lockheed Martin partnership as an example of deepening industrial cooperation between India and the United States.

During his visit to the Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Limited (TLMAL) facility in Hyderabad, Gor toured the production line manufacturing empennages, or tail assemblies, for the C-130J Super Hercules military transport aircraft. The C-130J is operated by both the Indian and US armed forces.

Gor said the production of critical C-130J structures in India demonstrated the expanding defence relationship between the two countries. He noted that the partnership was helping strengthen supply chains, create high-skilled employment and increase India's role in the global aerospace manufacturing ecosystem.

The TLMAL joint venture between Tata Advanced Systems and Lockheed Martin was established in Hyderabad in 2010. The facility is the global source for C-130J empennage assemblies fitted on new aircraft produced by Lockheed Martin. The company has previously highlighted the plant as a key example of the US-India "Make in India" industrial partnership.

The visit came shortly after the Indian Air Force issued a request for proposal for 60 medium transport aircraft. Tata Advanced Systems, along with foreign aerospace partners, is among the contenders for the programme. Lockheed Martin is seeking to position the C-130J-30 Super Hercules for the requirement. Earlier, the company had said the IAF was considering a requirement of up to 80 aircraft.

India currently operates 12 C-130J aircraft. Lockheed Martin describes the platform as a versatile tactical airlifter used for cargo transport, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and specialised missions.

Gor also participated in a dinner meeting with Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and US Consul-General Laura Williams. The interaction brought together representatives from defence manufacturing, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals and technology.

Discussions focused on expanding commercial cooperation and achieving the shared India-US ambition of taking bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. Gor has previously emphasised the importance of private-sector partnerships in achieving that target.

The ambassador has also been highlighting the expanding scope of the bilateral relationship beyond traditional strategic cooperation. Areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, energy, aerospace and defence have emerged as important components of the partnership. The US-India TRUST initiative is intended to accelerate cooperation in strategic technologies, including AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, defence and critical minerals.

Gor encouraged regional businesses to explore opportunities through initiatives including Pax Silica and other bilateral frameworks focused on resilient supply chains and advanced technologies. India has been identified as an important partner in Pax Silica, particularly in areas connected with semiconductors and critical minerals.

The Hyderabad visit therefore underscored the increasing role of Telangana and southern India in the broader India-US economic and strategic relationship. For Hyderabad, the expansion of aerospace and defence manufacturing could create opportunities in advanced engineering, skilled employment, technology partnerships and supply-chain development.

The Tata-Lockheed Martin facility has already established Hyderabad as an important node in the global C-130J production network. The latest visit and the emerging medium transport aircraft competition could further strengthen the city's position in India's evolving defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Leaders Back Revanth's
TG Development Push

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Ministers, Members of Parliament, MLCs and MLAs extended their greetings and best wishes to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy following his return after completing his foreign tour. The elected representatives welcomed the Chief Minister and congratulated him on the successful conclusion of his overseas engagements. The interaction took place amid discussions on the State government's development priorities and efforts to strengthen Telangana's economic and institutional partnerships.

Revanth Reddy recently undertook a visit to the United Kingdom as part of the State's efforts to explore opportunities in investment, education and other sectors. During the visit, the Chief Minister and his delegation held discussions with representatives of leading educational institutions and business organisations.

The Chief Minister has been promoting the State's long-term development strategy under the "Telangana Rising 2047" vision, with a focus on attracting investments, expanding employment opportunities and strengthening the State's position as a global destination for business and innovation. The leaders who met



Revanth Reddy expressed their appreciation for his efforts to advance Telangana's interests during the foreign tour. They also discussed the importance of following up on investment proposals and institutional collaborations that emerged during the visit. The Chief Minister is expected to continue reviewing development programmes and pending issues

with ministers and elected representatives following his return. The government is also preparing for upcoming legislative and administrative priorities in the State. The meeting reflected the ruling party's focus on maintaining coordination between the government and elected representatives as Telangana pursues its broader development agenda.

Law Student Wins
Miss Universe India

Jaipur, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Nineteen-year-old law student and model Kaziah Liz Mejo from Kerala has won the Miss Universe India 2026 title after emerging victorious from a field of 53 finalists at the grand finale in Jaipur.

With the national crown, Kaziah is set to represent India at the 75th Miss Universe pageant, scheduled to be held in Puerto Rico in November. Her victory marks another milestone in a pageant journey that began at a young age. Although she is from Kerala, Kaziah spent much of her childhood in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. She studied at Emirates National School, St. Joseph School and Abu Dhabi Indian School. Alongside academics and modelling, she has developed interests in several artistic disciplines.

Kaziah trained in classical dance for 12 years and has also pursued music, including singing and playing the drums and violin. She has experience in public speaking and acting as well. She made her Malayalam film debut in "Shylock," adding acting to her growing list of accomplishments.

Her success in beauty pageants began when she won the Miss Teen Diva 2024 title at the age of 17. She subsequently represented India at Miss Teen International 2025, where she finished as the first runner-up.



Earlier this year, Kaziah won the Miss Universe Kerala 2026 crown and reportedly became the youngest winner of the state title. Her latest victory in the national competition has now placed her on the international pageant stage. The Miss Universe India 2026 finale in Jaipur witnessed intense competition among contestants from across the country. Tamil Nadu's Vaishnavi Ganesh was named the first runner-up, while Gujarat's Anushree Satavlekar secured the second runner-up position. Anushree also won the Miss International India 2026 title. The finale featured a prominent judging panel, including former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen and former Miss Universe India titleholder

Urvashi Rautela and Celina Jaitley. Kaziah's achievement has drawn attention not only to her success in pageantry but also to her diverse interests in law, performing arts, modelling and public speaking. Her journey from Kerala and Abu Dhabi to the national crown reflects her progression through several levels of pageant competition. She will now shift her focus to preparations for the international Miss Universe contest in Puerto Rico, where she will represent India among contestants from around the world. Her selection is expected to generate considerable interest among Indian pageant followers as she takes the country's representation to the global stage.

Revanth Reddy Mourns
Mallareddy's Death

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has expressed deep sorrow over the death of Sarampalli Mallareddy, a veteran farmer leader and Communist leader known for his long-standing efforts on behalf of the farming community.

In a condolence message, the Chief Minister recalled Mallareddy's active role in several movements focused on farmers' rights and agricultural concerns. He said Mallareddy had made a significant contribution as a leader of the farmers' union and as Vice-President of the



All India Kisan Sabha. Revanth Reddy described Mallareddy as a dedicated public figure who devoted his life to addressing problems faced by farmers. He said the late leader consistently raised issues relating to land rights,

irrigation facilities, agricultural credit and availability of quality seeds.

The Chief Minister said Mallareddy's commitment to farmers and his sustained efforts to secure their interests would be remembered for years to come. He noted that the veteran leader had worked across various agricultural issues and remained closely associated with movements seeking better conditions and support for farmers.

Revanth Reddy conveyed his heartfelt condolences to Mallareddy's family members, relatives, supporters and admirers. He prayed for the departed leader's soul to rest in peace.

P3



Ministers Review Singareni
Workers' Demands

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy held discussions with representatives of Singareni's recognised trade unions and officers' association at the Secretariat on Monday, focusing on workforce concerns and the future development of the coal mining company.

Representatives of AITUC, INTUC and the CMOAI officers' association attended the meeting. Dr. B. Janak Prasad, Chairman of the Telangana State Minimum Wage Advisory Board and General Secretary of INTUC, briefed the Ministers on the challenges confronting Singareni and placed several demands before the government. Janak Prasad urged the government to facilitate the opening of new coal mines to meet Singareni's future production requirements. He also sought immediate clearance of outstanding payments due to the company from the State government and power utilities, stating that timely payments were important for maintaining the company's financial strength.

Another major demand was the pursuit of Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) status for Singareni. Janak Prasad also sought relief on income tax relating to employee perks and requested the government to resolve issues concerning employee aliases.

The union leader urged the government to implement the "Own Home" scheme

for employees and announce the profit-sharing amount for the 2025-26 financial year. Issues concerning officers, including Performance Related Pay (PRP), were also brought to the Ministers' attention.

The representatives appealed for government intervention to address the pending demands through discussions with Singareni management and ensure that the interests of workers and officers are protected.

Responding to the issues raised, Bhatti Vikramarka and Uttam Kumar Reddy assured the representatives that the government would examine the demands and work towards resolving genuine grievances. They said the government would hold discussions with Singareni management while keeping the company's long-term development and the welfare of its workforce in view.

The meeting was attended by several INTUC leaders, including Narasimha Reddy, Dharmapuri, Sammayya, Tyagarajan, Shankar Rao, Vikas Kumar Yadav, Narendar, Sesha Ratnam, Rajender, Buchayya, Das, Devi Bhumayya, Kotha Satyanarayana Reddy, Ravinder Reddy, Madhukar Reddy, Razak, Pitambaram, Krishnam Raju, Venkateswarlu, Kotesha, Peram Srinivas, Lalitha Sri, Naveen and Ramarao.

Leaders representing AITUC and CMOAI also participated. The discussions are expected to pave the way for further consultations on Singareni's operational requirements, employee welfare and future expansion.

Revanth Defers
Surekha Issue to Panel

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday said the Congress disciplinary committee would take a decision on the controversy involving Minister Konda Surekha and that all party members would have to respect its findings.

Speaking to the media in Hyderabad, Revanth Reddy declined to comment in detail on the internal party dispute and said he would not respond to speculation or discuss matters being handled within the party. He stressed that decisions taken by the party high command and disciplinary committee would be binding on everyone.

The controversy followed remarks made by Surekha's daughter, Konda Sushmitha, during birthday celebrations held in Geesukonda. The comments concerning Chief Minister Revanth



Reddy and Congress MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy triggered criticism from several party leaders. The TPCC disciplinary committee subsequently sought an explanation from Surekha.

Surekha submitted her explanation, stating that her daughter's remarks represented her personal views. The disciplinary committee reviewed her response but deferred a final decision, indicating that further deliberations were required.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also reacted

strongly to the Centre's refusal to permit his proposed visit to the United States. He alleged that the decision was taken with malicious intent. Revanth had travelled to the United Kingdom earlier in the week and had planned to proceed to the US, but returned to Hyderabad after permission for the onward trip was not granted.

The disciplinary committee's decision on the Surekha matter is now awaited, with the issue continuing to generate discussion within the Telangana Congress.

Sugar Prices Likely
to Ease Soon: ISMA



New Delhi, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Amid a sharp rise in sugar prices, the Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has said there is no shortage of sugar in the country and that prices are likely to moderate as fresh supplies enter the market. Sugar retail prices have increased substantially in recent weeks, rising from around Rs 48.18 per kg on July 20 to Rs 63.12 per kg by August 23. The increase has been attributed to tighter domestic availability, higher demand ahead of the festive season and speculative buying.

Addressing the media on Monday,

ISMA president Niraj Shirgaokar rejected concerns about an artificial shortage. He said several factors had contributed to the price increase, including stockpiling by traders and bulk consumers and lower-than-expected sugar production caused by adverse weather conditions. Shirgaokar also dismissed allegations that sugar mills were deliberately restricting supplies or increasing ex-mill prices to push up retail rates. He maintained that the country had adequate stocks to meet domestic requirements. According to ISMA, the Centre's decision to permit duty-free imports of one

P3

Revanth Condemns Denial of Foreign Visit

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday strongly criticised the Centre's decision to deny permission for his proposed visit to the United States, alleging that political considerations were behind the move and that it amounted to discrimination against Telangana.

Addressing a media conference at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, the Chief Minister said complete details of the proposed visit had been submitted to the Union Ministry of External Affairs. He rejected allegations that information about the tour had been withheld and said there was no secrecy surrounding the proposed official visit. Revanth Reddy said the visit was planned as part of the State's long-term development strategy under the "Telangana Rising 2047" vision. He said the delegation intended to promote investment, education and sports and invite international institutions and investors to participate in the "Invest Telangana" summit scheduled to be held in Hyderabad in December.

The Chief Minister questioned why

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel had been permitted to undertake overseas investment-promotion visits under the Vibrant Gujarat initiative while Telangana's proposed US tour was denied. He said such differential treatment was inconsistent with the spirit of India's federal structure.

Revanth Reddy said the proposed US programme included meetings with universities, educational institutions and potential investors. He explained that the State wanted leading global universities to establish a presence in Hyderabad, particularly in education and sports, to expand access to quality higher education within Telangana.

Referring to his recent UK visit, he said discussions had been held with Oxford University, the University of London and London Business School. According to the Chief Minister, the institutions expressed interest in exploring short-term courses and possible collaborations with Telangana.

He said overseas education was expensive, with students and families often spending substantial amounts, and argued that bringing reputed institutions to Telangana could reduce the burden



while strengthening the State's education ecosystem.

Revanth Reddy maintained that official foreign visits were conducted transparently with the involvement of Indian diplomatic missions. He said embassy officials participated in meetings and reported developments to the Centre, making allegations of secrecy untenable. The Chief Minister announced that the Telangana government would formally protest the denial and said the matter would also be raised during the forthcoming Parliament session.

He asserted that Telangana's develop-

ment agenda would continue despite the setback and said officials had already begun delivering invitations to prospective participants for the December investment summit. He stressed that advance invitations were necessary to secure participation from major institutions and investors.

Revanth Reddy said the State remained committed to its goal of building a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, describing efforts to attract global investment and educational partnerships as central to that objective.

Sugar Prices Likely to Ease Soon: ISMA

Continue

million tonnes of raw sugar is expected to improve availability and ease price pressures. The association expects sugar stocks at the end of September to be around 35 lakh tonnes. Sugar mills are expected to begin operations from around October 15, with production estimated at 10-12 lakh tonnes during October. Monthly domestic consumption, meanwhile, is projected at approximately 24-25 lakh tonnes.

The government has also introduced tighter stockholding restrictions for bulk consumers from September 1. Under the revised norms, such consumers will be permitted to hold stocks equivalent to only 15 days of consumption. The measure is intended to prevent excessive accumulation of stocks and curb speculative activity during the festival season. Industry estimates put current domestic sugar stocks at around 35-39 lakh tonnes, below the government's normative buffer of 60 lakh tonnes. The reduced availability has added pressure to the market as the country approaches the next crushing season. The Centre has permitted duty-free imports of one million tonnes of raw sugar until October 31. The move is significant as it marks the first such large-scale intervention in nearly a decade. The government has linked the recent price increase to lower production, weather-related damage to sugarcane crops, international supply concerns and possible hoarding. It has, however, rejected the view that diversion of sugar towards ethanol production is the main reason for the price rise.

With imports being facilitated and the new crushing season approaching, both the government and industry expect domestic availability to improve. ISMA said the combination of imported supplies, fresh production and measures against speculative stocking should help stabilize prices in the coming weeks.

Assembly Session Likely From September 7

Continue

Srinivasa Reddy and Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) attended the meeting. Government Whips Adi Srinivas, Ramachandra Naik, Beerla Ilaiah and Vemula Veeresham were also present. MPs Anil Kumar Yadav, Vem Narendar Reddy, Kadiyam Kavya and Raghuvver Reddy, along with MLC Baswaraju Saraiah, participated in the discussions. Several MLAs, including Medipally Satyam, Veerlapalli Shankar, Prem Sagar Rao, Naveen Yadav, Matta Ragamayi, Mandula Samuel, Vedma Bojju, Koram Kanakaiah, Lakshmikantha Rao, Ramdas Naik, Kadiyam Srihari, Dr. Sanjay, Bathula Lakshma Reddy, Manohar Reddy, Tellam Venkat Rao, Nagaraju, Revuri Prakash Reddy, Murali Naik and Yashaswini Reddy, were also present. The Chief Minister's directions come ahead of the proposed Assembly session, with the government expected to review development programmes and pending issues across the State.

Revanth Reddy Mourns Mallareddy's Death

Continue

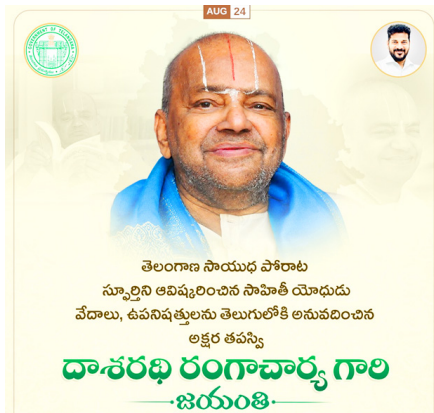
The Chief Minister's tribute recognised Mallareddy's decades-long involvement in farmers' movements and his contribution to highlighting agricultural issues at various levels. His passing marks the loss of a prominent voice associated with the farmers' community and left-wing public movements. Leaders, farmers' organisations and supporters are expected to pay their respects to Mallareddy and recall his contributions to the cause of farmers and agricultural workers.

Revanth Pays Tribute to Rangacharya

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid rich tributes to renowned Telugu writer Dasharathi Rangacharya on his birth anniversary, recalling his significant contribution to literature and his efforts to document the social and political realities of Telangana.

In his message, the Chief Minister described Rangacharya as a distinguished literary figure who remained closely connected with ordinary people. Through his writings, he portrayed rural life in Telangana, the hardships faced by common people and the social conditions prevailing during a crucial period in the region's history. Revanth Reddy said Rangacharya played an important role in recording the background of the Telangana Armed Struggle through his literary works. By presenting the struggles and experiences of the people of that period, he helped preserve the spirit and historical significance of the movement for future generations. The Chief Minister also highlighted Rangacharya's contribution to making India's vast intellectual and spiritual heritage accessible to Telugu readers. His efforts to translate important works, including the Vedas and Upanishads, into Telugu were described as an enduring



contribution to the language and its literary tradition.

Revanth Reddy said the writer's commitment to using literature as a means of social awareness and public awakening made his life and works particularly relevant even today. He observed that Rangacharya's writings not only enriched Telugu literature but also reflected the concerns, aspirations and struggles of society.

The Chief Minister said the literary stalwart's contribution would continue to inspire writers, readers and younger generations. He remembered Rangacharya with respect and appreciation on his birth anniversary, noting that his works remain an important part of Telangana's cultural and literary legacy.

Ponguleti Defends Action on 22A Lands

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday accused opposition parties of spreading misinformation about the 22A land classification issue and creating unnecessary anxiety among landowners. He said the government was working to resolve genuine registration problems while taking action against fraudulent claims.

Speaking in Hyderabad, the Minister said clearances had been provided in cases where relaxations were previously granted and claimed that around 98 per cent of genuine cases had already been registered. He said the remaining cases could not be processed because of unresolved legal or procedural issues.

Ponguleti also rejected allegations that the government's toll-free helpline was not functioning. He said the number had received 1,162 calls, which came down to 980 after excluding repeated calls. Of these, 547 complaints concerned agricultural land while 433 related to non-agricultural properties.

The Minister urged citizens not to panic over registration issues and warned against attempts to obtain registrations using forged government orders, official memos or other fabricated documents. He said the government would initiate legal action against anyone attempting to pressure officials through fraudulent documentation.

Ponguleti said disputes involving CS-7 and CS-14 land classifications had existed for several decades. He alleged that some individuals were using ordinary landowners as a front while pursuing their own interests.

The Minister further alleged that attempts were being made to register dis-



puted properties and questioned the manner in which certain CS-7 and CS-14 lands had been registered during the previous government's tenure. He claimed that expensive vehicles had allegedly been accepted as consideration in some transactions and challenged opposition leaders to support an inquiry into 811 acres associated with the controversy.

Referring to Survey Number 403, Ponguleti said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy resides within the survey area. He explained that the survey covers approximately 1,288 acres, but only two plots had been placed on the prohibited list. According to the Minister, officials had mistakenly included the entire survey area in the prohibited category, but the error was subsequently identified and corrected.

Ponguleti reiterated that the government would protect genuine landowners while preventing fraudulent registrations. He said authorities would continue examining disputed properties and take action wherever violations of land and registration rules were established.

Kitchen to Boost School Breakfast Scheme



Manthani, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Monday inaugurated a centralised community kitchen in Manthani aimed at providing nutritious breakfast to government school students from poor and middle-class families.

The kitchen, established at a cost of Rs 7.50 crore through Singareni Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, was inaugurated in the presence of Collector Koya Sriharsha. The Minister also inaugurated a 33/11 KV electrical substation and joined students for breakfast.

Addressing a gathering later, Sridhar Babu said the facility was established in collaboration with the Hare Krishna Charitable Trust Foundation to extend the breakfast programme to government school students across three constituencies. He said the initiative was intended to improve students' health and physical development while helping them concentrate better on their studies.

The Minister said the State government was implementing measures to strengthen food security in coordination with charitable organisations. He recalled that, under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's guidance, the breakfast programme was first introduced in Kodangal constituency. According to the Minister, the initiative resulted in a 21 per cent rise in student attendance there. He said a varied menu had been prepared to provide students with different breakfast options on different days. Authorities were also considering a proposal to provide milk to students three times a week.

Sridhar Babu also criticised the Centre over its decision not to permit Revanth Reddy's proposed visit to the United States. He said the Chief Minister intended to use the visit to attract internationally reputed educational institutions to Hyderabad and reduce the need for students to travel abroad for higher studies. He questioned why permission had reportedly been granted for the Gujarat Chief Minister's overseas investment-related visit while Telangana's proposed tour was not cleared.

Referring to recent developments within the Congress, Sridhar Babu said the party's disciplinary committee would examine the allegations and political developments involving its members and take appropriate action.

Collector Koya Sriharsha said several education-focused programmes were being implemented in the district on the Minister's instructions. He said recent Central government studies had placed the district third in Telangana in the education sector.

The Collector expressed confidence that the breakfast initiative would improve students' health, attendance and academic performance. He urged parents to enrol their children in government schools, highlighting the availability of free education and nutritious food.

RDO Suresh, Municipal Chairman Vodnala Srinivas, Vice Chairman Vodnala Sahender Reddy, AMC Chairman Venkanna, Municipal Commissioner Manohar, Tahsildar Arifoddin, officials and representatives of the trust attended the programme.

Health Services Set for Major Boost

Medak, August 24 | TPN Bureau

State Medical and Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha reviewed arrangements for the inauguration of the newly constructed Critical Care Block at the Government General Hospital in Medak and directed officials to ensure that the facility is fully equipped before it becomes operational. Accompanied by local MLA Dr. Mainampally Rohit, the Minister conducted a surprise inspection of the Critical Care Block on Monday. He subsequently held a review meeting with senior officials to assess preparations and identify requirements. GGH Superintendent Dr. Sunitha Devi, Medical College Principal Dr. Nitin Kabra, DMHO Dr. Gnaneshwar, DCHS Dr. Shiva Dayal and other Medical and Health Department officials attended the meeting. PCC president Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud and former MLA Mainampally Hanumantha Rao were also present. Damodar Raja Narasimha instructed officials to attend a high-level meet-



ing at the Hyderabad Secretariat on August 25 to finalise arrangements for providing adequate manpower, medical equipment, infrastructure and IHFMS services for the new block. He stressed that all essential resources must be made available to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the facility. The Minister also reviewed existing medical services at the GGH and discussed proposals for constructing a new hospital building. The need for a hostel for medical college students was also examined during the meeting. Officials briefed the Minister on healthcare requirements in different parts of Medak district. He directed them to prepare detailed proposals aimed at improving medical services and infrastructure according to

local needs.

The government also plans to establish a trauma care centre at Tupran to strengthen emergency healthcare services in the region.

The availability and functioning of dialysis facilities for kidney patients at Narsapur, Ramayampet, Kaudipally and Tupran were reviewed. The Minister instructed officials to assess gaps in these services and submit comprehensive proposals. Damodar Raja Narasimha emphasised that infrastructure expansion, recruitment of adequate medical personnel and availability of essential equipment must progress simultaneously. He said coordinated planning was necessary to provide accessible and quality healthcare services to people across Medak district.

Nagarkurnool, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said road projects being developed under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) would significantly improve connectivity and accelerate development across the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district.

The Minister made the remarks after laying foundation stones for three HAM road projects at Balmoor in Nagarkurnool district. The projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 146.71 crore and are expected to improve connectivity between several important locations in the region.

Jupally said the proposed Mannanur-Srisailem elevated corridor, being developed under the Hyderabad-Srisailem-Nandyal National Highway project, would pass through the Achampet Assembly constituency. He said the larger highway project, estimated to cost around

Rs 7,600 crore, would provide a major boost to transportation infrastructure and improve movement across the region. The Minister also referred to the proposed bullet train connectivity between Shamshabad and Bengaluru through Achampet. He said such major transportation projects could further strengthen regional connectivity and create new opportunities for economic growth.

Jupally said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was paying special attention to the development of Achampet constituency. He added that the government was also working to complete pending irrigation projects in the area. Improved irrigation facilities combined with better road infrastructure, he said, would support agriculture, trade and other economic activities.

The Minister announced that Rs 2,963 crore had been sanctioned for road construction and improvement works across the erstwhile Palamuru district. The funds would be used to upgrade



existing roads and construct new stretches connecting towns and villages.

Jupally thanked Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy for sanctioning

substantial funds for the region's road infrastructure.

He said the government was committed to completing infrastructure projects within the stipulated timelines. Better

roads, he added, would improve access to markets, educational institutions, healthcare facilities and employment opportunities while contributing to the overall development of the region.

Harish Rao Targets Govt Over Liquor Brands



Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

BRS leader and former Telangana Minister T. Harish Rao has criticised the State government over its notification concerning 121 new liquor brands, questioning its priorities at a time when unemployed youth are awaiting recruitment notifications. Reacting to the development on social media platform X, Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government was showing greater interest in expanding the liquor business than in creating employment opportunities. Taking a dig at the administration, he remarked that there were "zero job notifications" but a large number of liquor-related notifications. Harish Rao said thousands of unemployed young people across Telangana were waiting for government recruitment opportunities and accused the government of failing to address their concerns. He argued that providing employment and ensuring a stable future for the youth should be among the government's key responsibilities. The former minister questioned why the administra-

tion was focusing on introducing new liquor brands while recruitment processes for government vacancies remained pending. He alleged that the contrast reflected the government's priorities and expressed concern over the impact of such policies on young people seeking jobs. The remarks come amid continued political exchanges between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS over employment, recruitment and government policies. Harish Rao's comments are expected to intensify the political debate surrounding the State's excise policy and employment situation. The BRS has repeatedly raised the issue of government recruitment and unemployment, while the Congress government has maintained that it is working on fulfilling its election commitments and implementing various welfare and development programmes. The latest criticism highlights the opposition party's attempt to portray the liquor notification as evidence of misplaced priorities, while keeping unemployment and recruitment at the centre of its political campaign.

BJP Intensifies Fee Dues Campaign

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana BJP has intensified its campaign demanding the immediate clearance of pending fee reimbursement dues, with party leaders, MPs, MLAs, students, parents and representatives of educational institutions rallying behind State president N. Ramchander Rao's 48-hour hunger strike in Hyderabad. The agitation, launched under the banner "Fee Arrears - BJP's Fight," has emerged as a major BJP campaign centred on the educational and employment concerns of students. Party leaders said delayed reimbursement payments were affecting students as well as colleges, teaching staff and families. Several BJP public representatives visited the protest venue and expressed solidarity with Rao. Those supporting the agitation included Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna, Medak MP Raghunandan Rao, Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind, Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Rajya Sabha members R. Krishnaiah and Rekha Sharma, BJP Legislative Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy and several other MPs, MLAs and MLCs. BJP leaders claimed that the pending dues had risen substantially and cited figures ranging from Rs 12,000 crore to Rs 15,000 crore. They demanded that the government release the funds immediately and ensure that eligible students receive their reimbursements. BJP Yuva Morcha activists said they had collected signatures from around five lakh students across Telangana as part of the campaign. Students from engineering, degree, polytechnic, medical, Unani, Ayurvedic and homeopathy courses, besides universities including Osmania, Kakatiya, Palamuru, Telangana and Satavahana, participated in the protest. SC, ST and BC students also voiced their concerns. Representatives of colleges and educational institutions told BJP leaders that

delayed payments were creating financial difficulties and affecting the functioning of institutions. Rekha Sharma accused the Congress government of failing to address mounting arrears and questioned its commitments to students and unemployed youth. D.K. Aruna similarly alleged that several election promises relating to jobs, education and financial assistance remained unfulfilled. Aleti Maheshwar Reddy criticised the government over education spending and alleged deficiencies in school infrastructure. He also accused the administration of failing to adequately fund fee reimbursement and other educational programmes. Raghunandan Rao said students needed immediate relief rather than assurances of future allocations. He alleged that delayed reimbursements had resulted in some colleges withholding original certificates, potentially affecting higher education and employment opportunities. K. Laxman said the issue was particularly significant for students from economically weaker sections and alleged that the accumulated dues were undermining higher education opportunities. BJP vice-president Shanthi Kumar alleged that fee reimbursement payments had been irregular since the 2019-20 academic year. He attributed part of the accumulated dues to the previous government and said arrears had continued to grow under the Congress administration. The BJP leaders maintained that the agitation would continue until the pending fee reimbursement amounts were released. They urged the State government to respond immediately to the concerns of students, parents and educational institutions and fulfil its commitments. The party said its campaign would be expanded through democratic protests and public mobilisation if the government failed to resolve the issue.

BJP Launches Hunger Strike Over Fee Dues

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State president N. Ramchander Rao began a 48-hour hunger strike at the party's state office in Hyderabad on Monday, demanding the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues and highlighting what the party described as a crisis in the education sector. The protest, organised under the slogan "Fee Arrears - BJP's Battle," seeks the release of Rs 15,000 crore in fee reimbursement arrears. The BJP alleged that delays in clearing the dues were affecting students, colleges and teaching staff across

Telangana. The party said police had denied permission for holding the protest at Dharna Chowk. Rao subsequently began the hunger strike at the BJP state office, stating that the agitation would continue until the students' concerns were addressed. Addressing supporters, Rao said the BJP Yuva Morcha had conducted a statewide campaign and collected signatures from around five lakh students demanding clearance of their fee dues. He alleged that students protesting over the issue had faced police action. Rao claimed that fee reimbursement arrears had accumulated substantially and alleged that colleges were fac-



ing financial difficulties because of delayed payments. He said some institutions were unable to pay staff salaries and were withholding students' original certificates, affecting their higher educa-

tion and employment prospects. He also criticised the Congress government over its alleged failure to fulfil education-related promises and questioned the implementa-

tion of announced financial assistance to universities. Rao raised concerns over protests by polytechnic, Ayush and homeopathy students seeking resolution of their respective demands. He

said the BJP would continue supporting students and educational institutions. BJP leaders, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, party office-bearers, student organisations and activists attended the protest and expressed solidarity with Rao. Among those present were MP Rekha Sharma, BJP leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, Council party leader AVN Reddy, MPs Raghunandan Rao and Palvai Harish Babu, MLA Venkataramana Reddy, MLCs Malka Komuriah and Anji Reddy, and several state leaders. The BJP president said the party's campaign would continue until the fee reimbursement issue was resolved.

Ramchander Rao Hits Back at Revanth

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP State president N. Ramchander Rao criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over the rejection of his proposed foreign visit, saying the Centre should not be blamed if complete details and a clear itinerary were not provided. Rao alleged that the decision was based on information regarding proposed meetings with individuals or organisations considered contrary to the country's interests. He questioned why Revanth Reddy had previously travelled to the US, London and Singapore without facing similar

restrictions and asked the Chief Minister to explain why the latest proposal was different. The BJP leader said foreign travel proposals had been halted in the past under different governments, including during the UPA period, when documentation was incomplete or details regarding proposed meetings lacked clarity. He said such decisions were governed by Ministry of External Affairs procedures. Rao rejected allegations that Telangana was being treated differently from Gujarat, asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi considered all States equally under the



principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas." He cited central projects in

Telangana, including national highways, AIIMS Bibinagar, railway infrastructure, Vande Bharat services and the Warangal airport, as examples of the Centre's contribution to the State's development. He also criticised the Telangana government over petrol prices and industrial development, accusing it of focusing excessively on real estate. Rao demanded that Revanth Reddy disclose the purpose of his proposed meetings and explain the circumstances surrounding the rejected visit. He accused the Chief Minister of misleading the public and demanded an apology to the people of Telangana and the nation.

Krishnaiah Warns Government Over Fee Dues

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha MP R. Krishnaiah said the BJP would intensify its campaign over pending fee reimbursement and scholarship dues, warning the Telangana government that continued inaction could turn the students' agitation into a major political challenge. Speaking in sup-

port of BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao's 48-hour hunger strike, Krishnaiah recalled Rao's long association with student movements, particularly those concerning SC, ST and BC students. He urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to respond immediately to the concerns of students and educational institutions.

Krishnaiah alleged that fee reimbursement dues had remained pending for several years, forcing students, parents, college managements and various organisations to stage protests. He questioned the government's claim of inadequate funds, asking why thousands of crores had been released for other expenditures while students continued to wait

for fee payments. He said delayed reimbursements were affecting students from economically weaker sections, for whom education is an important pathway to professional careers. He urged the government not only to clear existing arrears but also to continue the fee reimbursement scheme without interruption. Krishnaiah re-

called earlier struggles for the scheme and said BJP leaders, including N. Ramchander Rao and G. Kishan Reddy, had previously fought to protect student benefits. He also demanded a scholarship of Rs 20,000 for college students in Telangana, along with full reimbursement of eligible fees for engineering, MBA, MCA, postgradu-

ate and degree courses. Warning the government not to take the agitation lightly, Krishnaiah said the BJP's movement would continue until the pending dues were fully released and students' concerns were addressed. He appealed to the government to stop diverting the issue and focus on providing immediate relief to students.



Congress Panel Recommends Action Against Surekha

Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

The Congress Disciplinary Committee has reportedly finalised its report on the controversy involving Telangana Minister Konda Surekha and is expected to submit it to AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and TPCC president

Mahesh Kumar Goud. According to party sources, the committee has recommended action against Surekha and two others after reportedly finding her explanation unsatisfactory. The panel is understood to have examined the remarks made by Surekha's daughter, Sushmitha, against Chief Minister A. Revanth

Reddy and the party leadership. The committee reportedly observed that, as a minister and senior party member, Surekha should have publicly distanced herself from or condemned the remarks. It is said to have maintained that the party cannot overlook statements considered derogatory or damaging to the Chief Minister, the govern-

ment or the Congress organisation. The development has increased speculation that disciplinary action against Surekha could follow once the report is considered by the party leadership. TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud had earlier indicated that he had supported Surekha in the past but would not be able to protect her indefinitely if party discipline was breached. Amid the developments, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to discuss the latest political situation in the State.

The Surekha issue is also understood to have figured in their discussions. Earlier, Disciplinary Committee chairman Mallu Ravi had met Bhatti Vikramarka amid the controversy. The committee's recommendations are now expected to be examined by the senior Congress leadership before a final decision is taken. The matter has attracted considerable attention within the Telangana Congress, with the party leadership seeking to reinforce discipline and collective responsibility among its members.

Congress Allows Freedom, Not Indiscipline : Goud

Nizamabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud said the Congress provides greater democratic space to its leaders and workers than other political parties, but warned that public statements crossing the party's limits would not be tolerated. Addressing a press conference in Nizamabad on Sunday, Goud said party members were free to express their views and raise grievances internally. However, he stressed that any issue should be brought to the notice of the TPCC leadership. AICC Telangana in-charge or the Congress high command instead of being discussed publicly in a manner that damages the party. Goud questioned the democratic credentials of the BRS and BJP, recalling the removal of former Telangana Deputy Chief Minister T. Rajaiah and former minister Etela Rajender from the BRS government. He also asked whether leaders within the BJP could freely criticise Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He reiterated that the Congress would continue to provide space for internal discussion while



maintaining discipline and collective responsibility. According to Goud, party rules would apply equally to everyone, irrespective of their position. On nominated posts, the TPCC chief said priority would be given to leaders who had worked consistently for the Congress. He indicated that around 80 per cent of positions would be allocated to experienced party workers, while 20 per cent would be offered to newer leaders. Goud also spoke about the disciplinary proceedings concerning Minister Konda Surekha and other leaders. He said the party's disciplinary committee and the AICC would examine the matter and

take the final decision. He maintained that the Congress leadership would not interfere with the committee's process and that all concerned would have to respect the decision taken by the party's competent authorities. Government Advisor Sudarshan Reddy, MLA Bhupathi Reddy and DCC president Nagesh Reddy were among those present at the meeting. Goud's remarks came amid continuing discussions within the Telangana Congress over internal differences, public statements by party leaders and the need to maintain organisational discipline while allowing room for democratic debate.

Payal Shankar Demands Crop Relief



Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

BJP Adilabad MLA and Deputy Floor Leader Payal Shankar urged the Telangana government to immediately release the promised Rs 10,000-per-acre compensation to farmers whose crops were damaged by heavy rains and floods. Accompanied by affected farmers, Shankar visited the Telangana Secretariat on Monday and met Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao. He submitted a representation seeking urgent action on the pending compensation and highlighted the financial difficulties faced by cultivators in Adilabad district. Shankar said the government had earlier announced compensation of Rs 10,000 per acre for farmers who suffered crop losses during heavy rains and flooding in August and September last year. However, he alleged that the promised assistance had not yet reached the beneficiaries despite considerable time having passed. He said farmers who had already suffered losses were again facing crop damage this year, worsening their financial

burden. Many were struggling to repay loans and arrange investments for the next agricultural season, he said. The MLA alleged that tokens indicating the compensation amount had been issued, but the necessary funds had not been deposited into the Adilabad Collector's account, preventing farmers from receiving the assistance. Shankar questioned the delay in releasing the promised amount and said government announcements should be followed by timely action. He urged authorities to deposit the compensation directly into the bank accounts of eligible farmers. He also demanded immediate implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Telangana, saying crop insurance would provide farmers greater protection against losses caused by floods, excessive rainfall and other natural calamities. The MLA joined farmers in raising their concerns outside the Secretariat and appealed to the government to honour its commitment. He assured the affected farmers that he would continue pursuing their demands until appropriate relief was provided.

Workshop Parking Raises Safety Concerns



Secunderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

The alleged parking of vehicles on the main road outside the 'Three Star Workshop' in Patigadda has raised concerns among local residents over traffic congestion, regulatory compliance and worker safety. Residents allege that vehicles brought to the workshop for repairs are frequently parked along the roadside and on the main thoroughfare, reducing the available carriageway and causing inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians. They said the problem becomes particularly severe during peak hours and could increase the risk of accidents. Locals are questioning whether the workshop has obtained all permissions required for its operations and are urging authorities to conduct a comprehensive inspection. They want officials to verify the validity of the applicable GHMC trade licence, building and land-use permissions, fire safety arrangements and waste-management compliance. Concerns have also been raised about workplace safety. As vehicle repair facilities may involve welding, painting, machinery and other potentially hazardous activities, residents have sought verification of whether workers are provided appropriate protective equipment, emergency pro-

cedures and adequate fire-safety measures. The Labour Department has also been urged to check whether eligible employees are receiving statutory social security benefits, including ESI and EPF, and whether employment, wage and worker records are properly maintained. Environmental compliance is another issue highlighted by residents. They have sought scrutiny of the handling and disposal of used oil, grease, batteries, paint materials and other potentially hazardous waste generated during workshop activities. Residents allege that despite repeatedly drawing attention to roadside parking, effective action has not been taken by the concerned civic and traffic authorities. They are seeking clarity on whether previous inspections were conducted and, if so, what findings were recorded. Locals have called for a coordinated inspection by the GHMC, Traffic Police, Labour Department, Fire Department and Environment Department. They said any violations should be dealt with according to law and roadside parking should be prevented to protect public movement. Residents stressed that public roads cannot be treated as private parking spaces and urged officials to establish the facts and take appropriate action.

Eagle Cops Under Probe in Drug Case



Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

A controversy has emerged in Hyderabad after two constables of the Eagle unit, which is responsible for combating drug trafficking, were allegedly found attempting to divert seized narcotics into the illegal market. Constables Narahari and Swami reportedly seized Ecstasy tablets worth about Rs 50 lakh but allegedly did not inform their senior officers about the recovery. Preliminary findings suggest that the two attempted to dispose of nearly one kilogram of Ecstasy by approaching drug peddlers and negotiating a possible sale. The alleged misconduct surfaced during an operation conducted by officials of the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) while tracking a suspected drug supplier. The development has raised concerns within the police department, particularly because both constables had previously received recognition for their involvement in successful anti-drug operations. Following the allegations, the Eagle unit reportedly suspended the two personnel and ordered an internal inquiry. Investigators are

examining how the seized narcotics came into their possession, whether the constables maintained contacts with drug traffickers and if any other members of the unit were aware of or involved in the alleged attempt to divert the drugs. Meanwhile, in a separate anti-narcotics operation, Warangal district police seized approximately 120 kg of ganja at Vardhannapet. Two people were detained after they were allegedly found transporting the contraband in a car. According to police, the consignment was being transported from Odisha to Kerala. The seized ganja is estimated to be worth nearly Rs 60 lakh. Officials said the vehicle used for the alleged smuggling operation was registered in Tripura. Police have launched a detailed investigation to establish the full network behind the interstate transportation of the contraband. Investigators are also working to identify possible suppliers, financiers and other individuals who may have assisted the accused. Both cases highlight the continuing challenges faced by enforcement agencies in preventing the trafficking and illegal distribution of narcotic substances across Telangana.

Public Grievances Highlighted at Prajavani

Quthbullapur, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Residents of several localities in the 292 Saibaba Nagar Division brought a range of civic issues to the attention of officials during the Prajavani public grievance programme on Monday. Poor road conditions, inadequate storm-water drainage and recurring electricity problems were among the major concerns raised by the residents. A representation was submitted at the Zonal Commissioner's office under the leadership of senior BRS leader Varala Vinod Kumar, following the guidance of



Quthbullapur MLA and BRS party whip K.P. Vivekananda Goud. The delegation urged officials to address the long-standing problems and ensure that basic infrastructure facilities are improved across the division. Speaking on the occasion, Varala Vinod stressed that the objective of the Prajavani programme should be to resolve public grievances rather than merely receive representations. He said residents had been facing difficulties due to damaged roads, drainage-related problems and power issues for a prolonged period. The leaders also sought the speedy completion of pending

development works and requested authorities to take permanent measures instead of temporary solutions. Officials reportedly responded positively to the representation and assured the delegation that appropriate steps would be taken to address the issues at the earliest. Residents expressed hope that the assurances would translate into concrete action and that the pending works would be completed without further delay. Rajkumar Mudiraj, Kru shi Colony president Satyan arayana Goud, general secretary Kishore Mudiraj, Badri, Rahman and others participated in the programme.

Malla Reddy's Death a Loss to Farmers' Movement

Quthbullapur, August 24 | TPN Bureau

The death of senior CPM leader and All-India farmers' union leader Comrade Sarampalli Malla Reddy has been described as an irreparable loss to the party and the farmers' movement. Malla Reddy passed away at around 3 a.m. on Monday while undergoing treatment at NIMS in Hyderabad. Following his demise, CPM leaders paid tribute by garlanding his portrait at the party office in Shapur Nagar. Speaking on the occasion, CPM Quthbullapur Mandal Secretary Keelukani

Lakshman recalled Malla Reddy's decades-long contribution to the party and various public movements. Lakshman said Malla Reddy, who hailed from a farming family in the Narsampet region, dedicated his life to addressing issues affecting farmers and the general public. He actively fought for irrigation facilities, resolution of land-related disputes and redressal of people's grievances. He recalled that Malla Reddy had prepared and submitted a strategic document on irrigation resources to the government during the period of the erstwhile united state, high-



lighting his commitment to the development of the agricultural sector.

Lakshman also pointed out

Malla Reddy's close association with the Quthbullapur

GHMC Chief Reviews SIR Notice Distribution



Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan inspected the ongoing distribution of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) notices at Polling Station No. 1, located at CIB Quarters in AC Guards, under the Nampally Assembly constituency on Monday. During his field visit, the Commissioner reviewed the progress of the notice distribution and interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), the BLO Supervisor, Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO). He issued instructions to ensure that notices are distributed systematically and that voters receive proper guidance throughout the process. Karnan directed election

officials to clearly explain the purpose and importance of the SIR notices to voters. He stressed the need to assist citizens in understanding the procedures involved and completing the required formalities within the prescribed timeframe. The Commissioner also interacted with residents in the locality and explained the significance of the revision exercise. He advised voters to carefully examine the information provided in their notices and submit the required documents and details within the stipulated period. He further urged voters who have doubts about the forms, documents or submission process to approach their respective BLOs for clarification and assistance. Officials were instructed to remain accessible to the public and address queries promptly.

Karnan emphasised the importance of close coordination among all election personnel involved in the SIR exercise. He directed field-level staff to maintain accurate records, ensure effective communication with voters and avoid delays in the distribution and collection of relevant documents. The Commissioner said every effort should be made to facilitate eligible citizens and ensure that the revision process is completed smoothly and systematically. The inspection was aimed at assessing the ground-level implementation of the SIR exercise and identifying any difficulties faced by election staff or voters. Officials were instructed to remain vigilant and ensure that the process is carried out efficiently in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

HC Permits Extra Aid for Disabled Brides



Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana High Court has provided partial relief to the State government by permitting the continuation of enhanced financial assistance for differently-abled brides under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak welfare schemes. The court on Monday lifted the stay on the additional benefit specifically for differently-abled beneficiaries. However, it made it clear that the existing stay covering other categories under the schemes would remain in force. The State government has been given two weeks to submit further arguments in the case. The government had earlier issued an order providing 25 per cent additional financial assistance to differently-abled brides over and above the amount available to other eligible beneficiaries. The measure was intended to provide greater support to women facing additional challenges. The matter came before the High Court during hearings on petitions questioning

aspects of the implementation of Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak. Representing the State, government counsel submitted that the enhanced assistance for differently-abled brides was being provided in accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. After examining the submissions, the High Court accepted the government's position regarding the additional assistance and allowed the benefit to continue for differently-abled brides. The order offers temporary relief to both the State government and eligible beneficiaries while the wider legal dispute remains pending before the court. The State will present additional arguments within the two-week period granted by the High Court. The decision is expected to provide immediate relief to eligible differently-abled brides who depend on financial assistance under the two welfare programmes. Further developments will follow after the court considers the government's additional submissions.

Fake DSP Held in Rs 1.20 Crore Fraud



Hyderabad, August 24 | TPN Bureau

The Central Crime Station (CCS) Economic Offences

Wing (EOW) has arrested KVP Raju, popularly known as "DSP Raju," for allegedly impersonating a senior police officer and cheating several

people by promising high returns on investments. According to investigators, Raju falsely introduced himself as a Deputy

Superintendent of Police from Tirupati and claimed to have close links with influential officials. Police said he used the fabricated identity to gain the confidence of potential victims and persuade them to invest money in companies that allegedly did not have genuine business operations. Investigators found that Raju collected substantial amounts from several individuals. In one case, he allegedly obtained as much as Rs 1.20 crore from a single victim. Police suspect that he used a similar method in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, exploiting the credibility associated with police ranks and government officials to convince people to

hand over money. The CCS EOW said Raju had been avoiding arrest since 2021. Following sustained efforts to trace him, investigators eventually located and apprehended him. Police said three criminal cases had already been registered against him in connection with alleged cheating and financial fraud. After the arrest, the EOW began examining Raju's financial transactions, contacts and dealings with victims. Investigators are also trying to determine whether additional people were deceived through his alleged investment schemes and whether he received assistance from associates.

Officials are gathering further evidence about the money collected by Raju while allegedly posing as a DSP. They are also verifying the identities of individuals who may have been approached by him and examining the flow of funds linked to the suspected fraud. Police said the investigation would continue to establish the full extent of the alleged financial irregularities and identify any additional victims. After completing the required legal formalities, investigators produced Raju before a court. He was subsequently remanded to judicial custody. Further investigation is underway.

CITU Seeks Welfare Measures for Hamali Workers

Karimnagar, August 24 | TPN Bureau

A large protest was held at the Karimnagar Collectorate on Sunday under the leadership of the Hamali Workers' Association, with CITU leaders demanding that the Congress government implement its election assurances made to manual loading workers.CITU District Presidents Uppunuti Srinivas and Geetla Mukunda Reddy attended the programme as chief guests. Addressing the gathering, they urged the government to fulfil commitments made in the "Abhaya Hastham" manifesto concerning Hamali workers employed in rice mills, seed mills, agricultural markets, IKP operations and various commercial sectors.The leaders demanded the creation of a dedicated welfare board to implement social security and welfare programmes for Hamali workers. They also sought health cards for all workers, enabling them to access



free medical treatment, along with identity cards and registration under the unorganised workers' category.Among their major demands was a monthly pension of

at least Rs 6,000 for Hamali workers aged 55 years and above. They also called for government acquisition of land and allocation of 120-square-yard plots to home-

less workers, along with Indiramma houses.The protesters demanded basic facilities at workplaces, including drinking water, rest areas and toilets. They sought accident insurance compensation of Rs 25 lakh for workers who die while performing their duties and insurance coverage for all Hamalis.Referring to an International Labour Organization resolution, the leaders demanded a ban on manually handling sacks weighing more than 50 kg. They also sought compensation for natural deaths and comprehensive health insurance.The protesters further demanded the establishment of a dedicated "Hamali Nagar" and construction of Indiramma houses for workers.Hamali Union leaders and around 200 workers participated in the protest. The leaders said the government should address the long-pending demands and ensure better living and working conditions for the labour community.

Woman Dies in Apartment Fall

Kukatpally, August 24 | TPN Bureau

A 30-year-old woman died by suicide after reportedly jumping from the fifth floor of an apartment building in Phase 6 of Kukatpally, under the jurisdiction of KPHB police station, on Sunday.The deceased was identified as Sheethala Purushothaman, a resident of Pancha mathi Apartments. She was living at the apartment with her husband and daughter.According to family members, Shee thala had reportedly been experiencing depression and was undergoing treatment with medication. Police said they are examining all available information to determine the circumstances that preceded the incident.The incident was reportedly captured by the apartment's CCTV cameras.

After receiving information about the incident, personnel from the KPHB police station reached the location and conducted a preliminary inspection. Police recovered the body and shifted it to Gandhi Hospital for a post-mortem examination. A case has been registered, and investigators are collecting details from family members and others who may have information about the incident. Officials are also examining the CCTV footage and other evidence as part of the investigation. Further details are expected after the post-mortem and completion of the preliminary inquiry.Police urged people facing emotional distress or mental health difficulties to seek support from family members, trusted persons or qualified professionals rather than facing such problems alone.

ACB Catches Two Officials in Bribery Case



Nirmal, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials caught two Commercial Taxes Department employees while allegedly accepting a bribe at the district headquarters in Nirmal on Sunday.The operation was conducted at the Commercial Taxes Department office following a complaint from a businessman who runs a jewellery shop in Mancherial. According to the complaint, DCTO Godavari allegedly demanded Rs 1 lakh from the businessman in exchange for reducing his tax liability for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24.Acting on the information, ACB officials conducted a raid at the department office. During the operation, DCTO Godavari and Senior Assistant Mantri Sai Krishna were allegedly caught while accepting the bribe from the complainant. Officials reportedly recovered Rs 50,000 in cash during the operation and arrested both employees. The ACB is examining

the circumstances surrounding the alleged demand and acceptance of the bribe and is collecting evidence as part of the investigation.ACB DSP Madhu said the accused officials would be produced before the Special ACB Court in Karimnagar after completion of the required procedures.The latest action has once again highlighted the vigilance being maintained by anti-corruption authorities against alleged bribery in government departments. Officials said complaints from citizens play an important role in identifying and acting against public servants who allegedly demand illegal payments.The ACB appealed to members of the public to report any government official demanding a bribe for providing services or performing official duties. Citizens can contact the agency through its toll-free helpline number, 1064, to report such demands.Further investigation is underway into the alleged bribery case.

Youth Dies of Electrocution

Nalgonda, August 24 | TPN Bureau

A 25-year-old youth died of electrocution while reportedly installing a flexi banner for the birthday celebrations of former MLA Kancherla Bhupal Reddy at Mushampally Road Junction in Nalgonda on Monday.The deceased was identified as N. Raju. According to preliminary information, Raju was fixing the banner to an electricity pole when he accidentally came into contact with a live power wire. He suffered a severe electric shock and died at the spot.The incident caused shock among people present at the location. After receiving information, personnel from Nalgonda Town-I police station reached the scene and conducted a preliminary inspection.Police shifted the deceased's body to the mortuary at the Government General Hospital in

Nalgonda for a post-mortem examination. Officials are gathering details about the circumstances that led to the accident and are expected to conduct further inquiries. The incident has raised concerns over safety precautions while installing banners and flex boards near electrical infrastructure. The use of poles and structures carrying live wires can pose serious risks if adequate safety measures are not followed. Meanwhile, BJP leader Pilli Rama Raju demanded that former MLA Kancherla Bhupal Reddy provide Rs 20 lakh as ex gratia to the bereaved family. He urged authorities and political organisations to ensure proper support for the family following the tragic death.Police have begun an investigation into the incident, and further details are awaited.

129 Kg Ganja Seized



Warangal, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Warangal Narcotics Police Station officials of the EAGLE Force seized 129.334 kg of ganja worth an estimated Rs 64.66 lakh and arrested two persons during a vehicle inspection at Wardhannapet on Sunday.Police intercepted a car travelling from Khammam towards Warangal at around 5.50 pm. During a search, officers allegedly found 61 packets of ganja concealed in the rear section of the vehicle. The arrested persons were identified as Sayuj C.S., 33, and Besalel C. Mathew, 38, both natives of Kerala and reportedly working as drivers. Police also seized the vehicle, two mobile phones and Rs 2,900 in cash from their possession.Preliminary investigation reportedly revealed that the accused had allegedly sourced the ganja from the Chitrakonda and Darakonda regions of Odisha. They were allegedly transporting the contraband through Rajamahendravaram

and Warangal towards Bengaluru, from where it was reportedly intended to be taken to Kerala for distribution.Police said two other suspects, identified as Ajith and Vicky, are currently absconding. Special teams have been formed to locate and apprehend them. Investigators are also examining the suspected interstate network involved in procuring and transporting the narcotics. A case has been registered against the accused under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Police are continuing the investigation to establish the full network and identify other individuals who may have been involved in the alleged trafficking operation.The arrested persons were being produced before a court for judicial remand. Officials said further investigation would focus on tracing the absconding suspects and determining the wider supply chain behind the seized consignment.

NIA Questions Engineering Student



Ramagundam, August 24 | TPN Bureau

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) search in Ramagundam of Peddapalli district has created concern in the area following allegations of suspected links to terrorist organisations. The development came to light during searches conducted by NIA officials in Ayodhya Nagar.As part of the investigation, officials reportedly took an engineering student, identified as Muzammil Khan, into custody for questioning. Sources said the agency initiated the inquiry after receiving information that raised suspicions about the student's possible connections with individuals or organisations linked to terrorism. Following the searches, NIA officials reportedly brought Muzammil to the NTPC police station in Ramagundam, where he is being questioned as part of the ongoing investigation. Officials are understood to be examining his background, contacts and communications to determine whether there is any evidence supporting the suspected links.Investigators are particularly focusing on the

nature of the student's alleged associations, including the people he was in contact with and whether any of them have links to banned or extremist organisations. The agency is also reportedly examining whether the student had any direct or indirect involvement in activities connected with such groups.Officials have not yet disclosed detailed information about the evidence gathered during the searches or the precise allegations against the student. His detention for questioning does not by itself establish involvement in terrorism or any criminal activity.The NIA's inquiry is continuing, with officials expected to verify the information collected during the searches and question individuals connected to the case. Further details are likely to emerge after the agency completes its preliminary examination.The development has drawn attention in Ramagundam, where local authorities are closely monitoring the situation. Police and investigating agencies are maintaining caution as the inquiry proceeds and are expected to release further information once the facts are established.

Woman Dies by Suicide After Parents' Murder Case

Sangareddy, August 24 | TPN Bureau

A young woman accused of killing her parents earlier this year died by suicide at a private hostel in Shanthinagar on Sunday, shortly after being released from jail. Police said she allegedly used the same sedative injection involved in the deaths of her parents. The deceased, Surekha, was a native of Yacharam village in Bantwaram mandal of Vikarabad district. She had reportedly been working as a nurse at a private hospital in Sangareddy, where she fell in love with a young man.According to police, Surekha had informed her parents about the relationship, but they strongly opposed the proposed marriage. Upset over their refusal, she allegedly administered a sedative injection to both her parents in January. She then reportedly attempted to make their deaths appear to have resulted

from illness.However, investigators reportedly became suspicious of the circumstances surrounding the deaths. During the subsequent investigation, police allegedly uncovered evidence linking Surekha to the deaths, following which she was arrested and sent to jail.Surekha was released from custody only a few days ago and returned to Sangareddy. On Sunday, she reportedly took her own life at a private hostel in Shanthinagar, allegedly using the same type of sedative injection involved in the earlier case.After receiving information about the incident, police reached the hostel and began an investigation. Officers are examining the circumstances surrounding her death and are gathering further details as part of the inquiry. The incident has caused shock in the locality, particularly in view of the serious criminal case pending against her.

Jana Sena Names Gadala for Graduates' MLC Poll

Khammam, August 24 | TPN Bureau

The Jana Sena Party has announced former State Health Department Director Dr. Gadala Srinivasa Rao as its candidate for the Graduates' MLC constituency covering the combined Khammam, Nalgonda and Warangal districts. The announcement was made officially on Sunday.Dr. Gadala, currently serving as a Jana Sena spokesperson and party coordinator for the combined Khammam district, previously held the post of Director of Public Health. Party General Secretary Talluri Ramu and Telangana State In-charge Shankar Goud reportedly proposed his candidature to party chief Pawan Kalyan, who approved the nomination. The term of the sitting MLC, Teenmar Mallanna, is nearing completion, with elections to the Graduates' MLC seat scheduled for March 2027.An extended meeting of Jana Sena activists was held in Khammam on Sunday under

the leadership of Talluri Ramu. Discussions focused on preparations for the Graduates' MLC elections and forthcoming Zilla Parishad, Mandal Parishad and Khammam Municipal Corporation elections.Addressing the media, Talluri Ramu said Gadala Srinivasa Rao had been finalized as the party's candidate for the Khammam-Nalgonda-Warangal Graduates' constituency. He added that the candidate for the other Graduates' constituency would be announced within a week.The party also announced plans to contest the upcoming ZPTC and MPCT elections across Telangana and the Khammam Corporation polls. A "Jana Sena Shankharavam" programme will be held on September 13.Dr. Gadala thanked Pawan Kalyan and the party leadership for selecting him. He said Jana Sena was expanding its organisational presence across Telangana and that meetings would soon be conducted in various Lok Sabha constituencies.

Alumni Reunite After 48 Years



Quthbullapur, August 24 | TPN Bureau:

A group of former students of Dundigal Zilla Parishad High School's 1977-78 batch came together for an emotional reunion at Suraram North City High School, nearly five decades after completing their school education. The gathering, organised under the leadership of Kola Ravinder Mudiraj, brought together 11 alumni who had studied in the same batch. The former classmates warmly welcomed one another and spent time recalling their school days, childhood experiences and memorable moments shared during their early years. The alumni also paid tribute to their former classmates Kishan Rao, Chakradhar, Maimuth, Krishna and Balaram, who are no more. They observed that their memories would continue to remain an integral part of their lives.During the reunion, the

former students expressed happiness over how their lives had progressed since leaving school. They recalled that some of them had not performed exceptionally well academically during their school years, but later established themselves successfully in different fields, including employment, business and agriculture. They also expressed pride in the achievements of their children, many of whom pursued higher education and secured good positions in their respective careers. The alumni were felicitated with shawls during the programme. The participants decided to continue the bond by organising reunions once every six months. It was agreed that the next gathering would be held at Dundigal Zilla Parishad High School, bringing the group back to the institution where their journey began. Dr. Mohan, Srinivas, Kondal Reddy, Satti Reddy, Rajeshwara Rao and others participated in the reunion.

Four Held in Leopard Skin Case

Kothagudem, August 24 | TPN Bureau

Four persons were arrested on Monday for allegedly attempting to sell a leopard skin and 17 claws in Burgampahad mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district, police said. The accused were identified as Challa Anil Kumar of Thallagommuru village in Burgampahad mandal and Kunja Bhadraiah, Kunja Gangaraju and Madavi Kannaiah of Gammalakota in Chinturu mandal of Andhra Pradesh. Police recovered the leopard skin and claws from their possession. Kothagudem Superintendent of Police B. Rohith Raju said Burgampahad police, along with the Task Force, acted on information about the alleged sale and intercepted the four near Anil Kumar's residence at Thallagommuru. During questioning, the accused allegedly told investigators that they had killed a leopard in a forest area near Gammalakota during the summer of last



year. Police said the animal had reportedly fallen into a pit allegedly dug by the

accused, following which they removed and preserved its skin and claws.

Editorial

When 'Love Jihad' Allegations

Meet the Test of Law

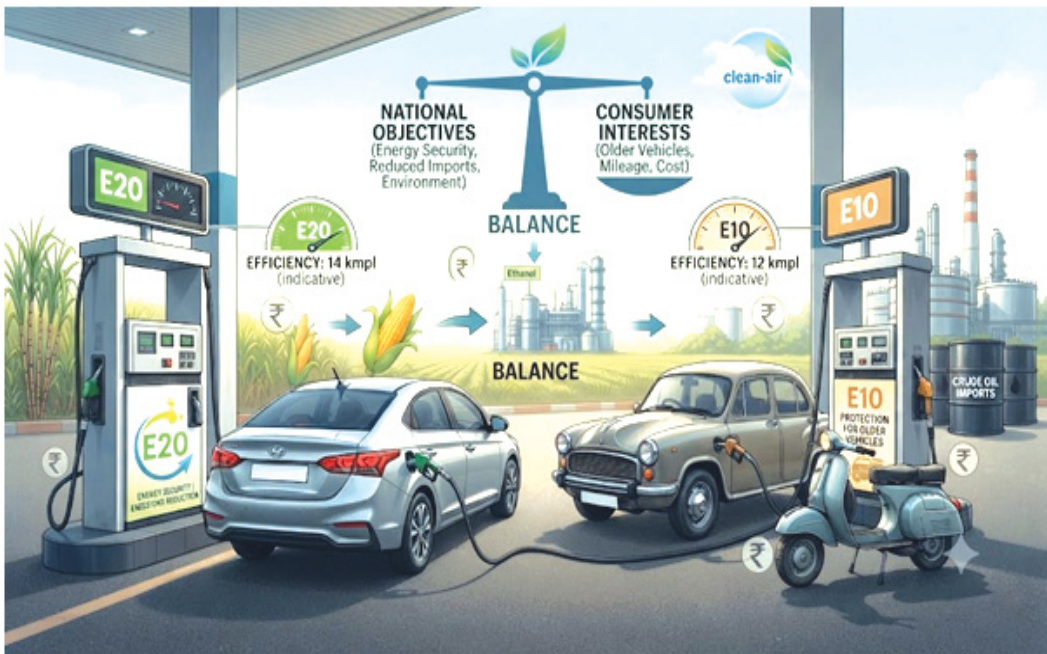
The Kakinada family suicide has brought the politically charged term "love jihad" back into public debate in Andhra Pradesh. A Panchayat Raj Assistant Engineer, his wife and daughter died after jumping into the Godavari, while their grandson survived. Police later arrested rifle-shooting coach Sheikh Sadhik Khan in connection with the case. Suicide notes allegedly named Khan and accused him of harassment; separate allegations also concern the death of the daughter's husband. These are serious allegations, but the investigation and courts must establish what actually happened.

The religious-conversion allegation has understandably intensified public concern. Yet journalism and governance require a crucial distinction: an allegation of "love jihad" is not itself proof of an organised conspiracy. The appropriate questions are whether there was coercion, deception, blackmail, forced conversion, abetment or other criminal conduct- and whether evidence supports each charge. The neighbouring Telangana experience offers a cautionary parallel. In June, a teenage girl in Narayanpet died by suicide after alleged harassment by an 18-year-old youth, who was arrested under abetment-to-suicide and POCSO provisions. BJP and VHP groups described the case as "love jihad", while police said the allegations were still under investigation. There have also been cases where social-media claims of "love jihad" proved false, including a Hyderabad murder video that investigators found had no communal angle. The lesson for Andhra Pradesh is clear: protect victims, investigate coercion without fear, punish proven offenders severely-but do not allow a tragedy to become a verdict before evidence speaks.

- Editor

E10 Petrol May Enter the Market?

Concerns Over Older Vehicles Revive Debate on Ethanol Policy



Chennu Peddiraju



Senior Journalist

ence performance. A comprehensive independent technical study would be necessary to establish the precise impact of E20.

At the same time, the government and automobile manufacturers have said there is no evidence of widespread engine damage caused by E20 in older vehicles. At a government meeting in July, Maruti Suzuki reportedly said that among more than 1.5 crore vehicles older than three years serviced during 2025-26, it had not identified widespread corrosion, excessive wear or reduced component life attributable to E20. The company, however, acknowledged that E20's lower calorific value compared with E10 could result in roughly a 3-3.5% impact on fuel efficiency. In other words, some reduction in mileage is technically possible even without any engine damage. This shifts the central question from "Is E20 dangerous?" to a more practical policy question: "Should older vehicle owners have access to an alternative fuel?"

Who Benefits If E10 Returns? Millions of older petrol vehicles remain on Indian roads, and many were not designed specifically for E20. Making E10 available could reduce concerns among their owners about fuel compatibility and efficiency. Replacing an old vehicle simply because of a change in fuel policy is not financially realistic for every family. For the middle class and lower-income households in particular, purchasing a new vehicle can represent a significant financial burden. Therefore, continuing E20 while making E10 available for

vehicles that are not compatible with higher ethanol blends could be viewed as a consumer-protection measure, rather than a reversal of India's ethanol policy.

What About the Government's Larger Objective? E20 is not merely a question of petrol composition. It is linked to energy security, reduction in crude-oil imports, foreign-exchange savings, agricultural markets and environmental objectives. The 2021 NITI Aayog roadmap highlighted the potential of ethanol blending to reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil and save foreign exchange. For this reason, a complete rollback of the E20 programme appears unlikely. A more practical approach would be to continue the E20 policy while creating a specific solution for older vehicles.

From E10 vs E20 to Finding a Balance

At present, there is no final government decision to reintroduce E10 nationwide. But the fact that the issue has been raised at the level of the Chief Economic Adviser is significant. Ultimately, the debate should not be reduced to E10 versus E20. The larger policy challenge is to find the right balance between India's energy security, environmental goals and the financial interests of vehicle owners. The objective of ethanol blending need not be abandoned. But neither should the concerns of millions of owners of older vehicles be ignored. A policy that protects both the nation's energy interests and the consumer's economic interests may be the most sustainable way forward.

When Generations Stop Talking



A nation does not become truly strong merely through economic development, technological advancement, or political stability. The real strength of a society lies in the ability of different generations to exchange ideas, values, experiences, and wisdom with one another. However, today a silent transformation is taking place around us. Generations living in the same homes, studying in the same institutions, and sharing the same society are slowly moving away from each other. This distance is not physical but emotional, intellectual, and communicative. As the speed of modern life increases, meaningful conversations are gradually disappearing. What was once considered a personal concern has now become an issue that can influence the future character of society.

History reveals that every generation has its own way of thinking, lifestyle, and aspirations. Differences between generations have always existed, but communication remained a strong bridge between them. Even during disagreements, there was patience to listen and a willingness to understand. Today, the real challenge is not the existence of differences but the decline of dialogue itself. Experiences are not being transferred with the same depth, and every generation is increasingly living within its own separate world. As a result, mutual understanding between generations is becoming weaker.

In India, this transformation is becoming clearly visible. The

shift from joint families to nuclear families, migration for employment, rapid urbanisation, and the widespread use of smartphones have changed the nature of family relationships. Even while living under the same roof, family members often spend most of their time in their own digital spaces. Dining tables, which once became places for family discussions and emotional bonding, are now often occupied by screens and distractions. Because of this, parents find it difficult to understand the emotional world of their children, while young people struggle to recognise the concerns, sacrifices, and experiences of elders.

A similar change is visible in the field of education. There was a time when teachers were not only educators but also mentors who guided students in building character and making life decisions. Today, education is increasingly focused on examinations, rankings, and measurable results. Learning is often judged through marks and achievements rather than personal development and values. This transformation has affected the relationship between teachers and students. The connection based on trust, guidance, and personal care is slowly being replaced by a more result-oriented relationship.

The widening gap between generations is not limited to India alone. Countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, and Germany are also facing similar challenges. In Japan, the

Chittikena Kiran Kumar



Eminent Poet, Writer & Noted Editorial Columnist

increasing isolation of elderly people and declining social interaction among youth have become serious concerns. In South Korea, intense academic pressure has affected family communication. In Europe and North America, governments and institutions are giving greater importance to mental health, family relationships, and social connections. These societies are recognising that when communication weakens, the unity and stability of society are also affected.

Several countries are adopting innovative approaches to address this challenge. Finland gives importance not only to academic learning but also to emotional development, cooperation, and communication skills. In the Netherlands, programmes connecting students and elderly people through shared living arrangements are encouraging meaningful interaction between generations. In Canada, schools involve families in activities that strengthen understanding and communication. These examples remind us that development is not measured only by buildings, roads, or economic statistics. The quality of human relationships is also an important indicator of progress.

India too needs a wider discussion on this issue. Criticising the younger generation is easy, but understanding their dreams, pressures, and uncertainties is more important. Every generation is shaped by the conditions of its own time. Rejecting experience in the name of modernity is as harmful as rejecting new ideas in the name of tradition. A balanced society is created when the wisdom of the past and the opportunities of the future move together.

Communication is not only about speaking; it is also about listening with patience and empathy. One of the most con-

cerning changes of the present time is the decline of the habit of listening. Many people are ready to express their opinions, but fewer are willing to understand the feelings and viewpoints of others. Digital platforms may increase the number of voices, but they do not always create deeper understanding. When listening decreases, misunderstandings increase, trust weakens, and relationships become fragile.

When silence grows between generations, its impact goes beyond individual families and affects society as a whole. Every generation receives values, culture, history, and life experiences from those who came before it. At the same time, it contributes new ideas, energy, and vision to the generations that follow. If this exchange becomes weaker, society may lose its continuity and direction. Visible progress may continue, but the foundations required for long-term social stability may slowly weaken.

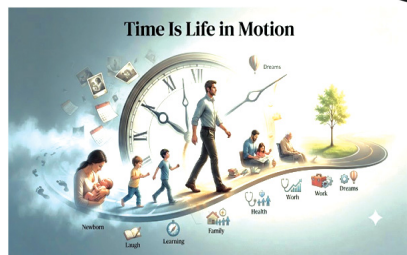
The future of a nation depends not only on government policies, institutions, or economic achievements. It also depends on the strength of relationships that connect people across generations. The wisdom of elders and the fresh perspectives of youth must complement each other for society to move forward with confidence. What we urgently need today is not only more technology, more infrastructure, or more information, but more meaningful conversations, deeper understanding, and stronger human relationships. If we rebuild the bridges between generations, we can create a future that is more balanced, compassionate, and resilient. Ultimately, societies are sustained not merely by wealth or power, but by the willingness of one generation to understand, respect, and learn from another.

The Clock Within: Why Time Is the Most Precious Thing We Carry

P Subba Rao



Veteran Journalist



Time is not merely something measured by clocks, calendars and deadlines. It is built into the human body and woven into every stage of life. From the first heartbeat to the final breath, our existence unfolds through time. We grow with time, heal with time, learn through time and eventually surrender to time. In this sense, time is not outside us; it lives within us.

Many of the most important events in life are associated with time. Birth marks the beginning of our journey. Childhood gives way to youth, youth to adulthood, and adulthood to old age. Education takes years. Careers demand patience. Relationships grow gradually. Success rarely arrives overnight. Even grief requires time before the heart can accept what the mind already knows.

The Body's Invisible Clock

The human body has its own natural rhythm. We sleep at night, wake in the morning, grow hungry at certain hours and become tired after sustained effort. Our biological clock regulates sleep, digestion, energy and even mood. Though modern life often encourages us to ignore these rhythms, the body continues to remind us that time is part of our design.

A person who constantly sacrifices sleep for work may gain hours in the short term but lose health in the long term. Someone who postpones rest, recreation and family time may eventually discover that money cannot buy back the moments that were wasted. Maxim: "When we ignore the clock within, the body sends us a bill."

Every Achievement Has a Season

In a world obsessed with instant results, we often forget that meaningful things take time. A seed does not become a tree in a day. A child does not become wise through a single lesson. A professional does not become excellent without years of practice. Character is built through repeated choices, not sudden declarations. Patience is not laziness, nor is it a refusal to act. Patience is the discipline to continue working while waiting for results. It allows us to respect the natural process of growth. The greatest achievements in science, art,

business and public service are usually the outcome of persistence over long periods. Maxim: "Do not curse the time of preparation; it is shaping the person who can carry success."

The Past Teaches, the Present Demands, the Future Waits

Human beings often live in the wrong time. We replay past mistakes, regret lost opportunities and remain trapped in old disappointments. At other times, we become anxious about a future that has not yet arrived. In doing so, we overlook the only moment over which we have genuine influence: the present.

The past should be used as a teacher, not as a prison. The future should inspire planning, not produce constant fear. The present is where decisions are made, relationships are repaired and dreams are transformed into action.

A sincere apology cannot be offered yesterday. A new habit cannot be started tomorrow. Change begins today.

Maxim: "Yesterday is a lesson, tomorrow is a promise, but today is an opportunity."

Time Reveals What Truly Matters

Time has a remarkable way of exposing priorities. When life becomes difficult, we discover who stands beside us. When years pass, we understand which ambitions were meaningful and which were merely fashionable. Time strips away appearances and reveals the value of love, health, family, friendship and inner peace.

People often say they have no time for those they love, yet time is regularly spent on distractions. The issue is not always a lack of time; it is often a lack of attention. We make time for what we consider important.

Maxim: "Your calendar is a mirror of your priorities."

Spend Time Like a Treasure

Money lost can sometimes be earned again. Opportunities lost may occasionally return. But time, once spent, is gone forever. This does not mean that every minute must be filled with work. Rest, laughter, silence and reflection are also valuable uses of time.

The wise person does not simply count the hours but makes the hours count. To respect time is to respect life itself. Ultimately, time is the most democratic possession. Everyone receives twenty-four hours in a day, but not everyone uses them with equal purpose. The quality of our lives depends largely on how we invest this limited gift.

Final maxim: "Time is life in motion-waste it carelessly, and you waste yourself; use it wisely, and you leave a meaningful mark."

The Myth of Mahabali: How a Utopian Narrative Engineered Social Reform in Kerala

Malayalees (Keralites) can be found across the globe, consistently earning profound respect from the local communities they inhabit. This high regard stems primarily from their emphasis on education and their inherent ability to integrate seamlessly with others, transcending barriers of caste, creed, color, religion, or economic status. The ethos of mutual respect is, quite simply, encoded into the Malayali DNA. Having lived as a Non-Resident Keralite (NRK) for over thirty years, a status I proudly maintain today, I can personally vouch for the widespread appreciation we receive, whether within India or abroad. Let me take you on a journey through the systemic social engineering that made this cultural DNA possible, a transformation woven through the narrative of the Asura emperor Mahabali and the annual state festival of Onam. Historical texts and Puranic scriptures, such as the Bhagavata Purana, traditionally situate the kingdom of the Asura king Mahabali along the banks of the Narmada River in Central or Northern India. Geographically and historically, Mahabali was not a king of the Malabar coast. Yet, every year, the state of Kerala celebrates Onam with unparalleled fervour, welcoming back a sovereign who, strictly according to the

texts, never ruled there. But we Malayalees, believe, he ruled Keralam or this part of the Bharatham. This geographical paradox reveals a profound truth about Kerala's history: Onam is not merely a harvest festival or a literal historical commemoration. It is a masterpiece of sociological storytelling. The narrative of Mahabali was adopted, adapted, and amplified to serve as a cultural blueprint for equality, justice, and systemic social engineering. It is an architecture of an egalitarian myth. To understand the power of Onam, one must look at the folk song that forms its heartbeat: "Maveli nadu vaneedum kalam, manushyarellarum onnupole" (When Maveli ruled the land, all humans were equal). The narrative built around Mahabali describes a utopian society devoid of theft, corruption, deceit, and most importantly away from caste and economic hierarchies. In a region that was historically entrenched in one of the most rigid and oppressive caste systems in India (prompting Swami Vivekananda to famously dub 19th-century Kerala a "lunatic asylum"), this myth offered a powerful counter-narrative. It established the idea that inequality was not a divine mandate, but a deviation from a "Golden Age" of absolute parity. It is interesting to see the



story of Onam become acatalyst for radical social reform in the modern Kerala. This shared cultural memory of a just and equal society became the psychological bedrock for Kerala's reform movements. When social reformers like Sree Narayana Guru, Chatambi Swami and Ayyankali began dismantling learning barriers and advocating for the rights of the oppressed, the Onam narrative provided a universally accepted moral framework. The narrative's crowning triumph in social engineering culminated in the Temple Entry Proclamation of 1936 in the princely state of Travancore. By abolishing the ban on lower-caste

Hindus entering temples, Kerala opened its doors to the "untouchables," setting a historic precedent for the rest of India. The cultural shock of this monumental shift was cushioned by the underlying Onam ethos. Reformers were not presenting a foreign concept; they were simply advocating for a return to the justice and truth of Mahabali (colloquial saying is Maveli) era, making the transition toward human cordiality far more acceptable across different strata of society. In the mid-20th century, as the Communist movement sought to establish a foothold in Kerala, they encountered a deeply religious and agrarian society. Introducing Karl Marx's complex socio-eco-

omic theories of class struggle and a stateless, classless society could have alienated the masses. Instead, the Communist Party engaged in a brilliant exercise in mass communication by mapping their political ideology directly onto the Onam narrative. The Communists recognized that the utopian society promised by Marxist theory—where wealth is shared and class divides are abolished, was nearly identical to the kingdom of Mahabali. They leveraged this narrative to amplify the Divide. By contrasting the utopian ideal of Mahabali with the stark realities of feudal oppression, landlordism (Janmi system), and caste discrimination,



Ram Kamal

Social Engineer

they heightened public awareness of systemic injustices. You must also understand, by then Kerala was a land of Hindus (80% then), Muslims, Christians, Buddhist and a handful of Jains. The promise of a Communist government was not framed as an imported Soviet ideal, but as the political mechanism required to bring back the egalitarian days of Mahabali with a local powerful narrative about our past. This synthesis of ancient myth and modern political theory allowed the Communist movement to penetrate deeply into the grassroots of the state. It bridged religious and economic divides, ultimately leading to Kerala electing the world's first democratically chosen Communist government in 1957. No where else in the world communist came to power through votes till then. Today, the historical accuracy of Mahabali's geographical domain is largely irrelevant to the Malayali consciousness. The narrative was never about where he ruled, but how he ruled. By collectively choosing to believe in and celebrate a story of absolute equality, truth, and justice, Kerala utilized the Onam narrative to engineer a society that consistently ranks highest in India for human development, literacy, and communal harmony. Recently, a new narrative has emerged in Kerala seeking to trace the roots of the Onam festival back to the Chera Dynasty. This theory points to a newly discovered scripture at the ancient Thrikkariyoor Temple in Kothamangalam, within the present-day Ernakulam district. The inscription reportedly states that "the ruler Mahabali of the Kayamkulam Dynasty directs all who travel through Thrikkariyoor to pay a tax to Vaidyanathan (Lord Shiva) and the Bhagavathi (deity) of the temple." While I leave the validation of these claims to historians for further investigation, the undeniable reality is that Kayamkulam in central Kerala is still known today as Onattukara (the land of Onam). Regardless of its historical origins, the festival's core values of equity and brotherhood are deeply woven into Kerala's social fabric, uniting Hindus, Christians, and Muslims alike.

CJP Announces September 5 Delhi Protest March

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has announced a fresh protest march in New Delhi on September 5, accusing the Centre of failing to fulfil commitments made to the youth during negotiations that led to the suspension of its earlier agitation. According to the organisation, the peaceful march will begin at India Gate and proceed towards the Delhi Police Headquarters. Families of students who died in connection with the NEET controversy, along with people who were allegedly subjected to police action during earlier protests, are expected to lead the march. Students, youth groups and young citizens from across the country have also been urged to participate. The announcement followed a meeting of the CJP's National Working



Committee, where members reviewed the government's alleged failure to implement assurances given on July 25. The organisation had earlier agreed to suspend its protest campaign following those assurances. One of the major issues raised by the CJP concerns FIRs registered against students and protesters during the demonstrations. The organisation has

alleged that authorities have failed to take the promised steps and has questioned the government's commitment to resolving the issue. The September 5 march is being presented as a renewed youth mobilisation focused on accountability, justice and implementation of earlier commitments. The families of deceased NEET aspirants and those who allegedly faced police action are expected to play a prominent role in the demonstration. The CJP has appealed to young people across the country to join the Delhi protest while maintaining that the march will remain peaceful. The latest announcement signals a fresh escalation after the organisation suspended its earlier nationwide agitation following discussions with the govern-

ment. The renewed protest also indicates that several issues remain unresolved between the youth organisation and authorities. The September 5 demonstration could therefore become an important test of the CJP's ability to once again mobilise students and young citizens. With India Gate as the starting point and Delhi Police Headquarters as the proposed destination, the march is expected to bring renewed attention to the NEET controversy, allegations of police action against protesters and the government's commitments to the youth. The developments surrounding the march could also determine whether the CJP's campaign gains further momentum in the coming weeks.

Bihar Forms Panel To Reform Examination System

The Bihar government has decided to constitute a five-member expert committee to recommend reforms aimed at preventing paper leaks and improving the state's examination system. The panel will function under the leadership of a serving or retired judge and is expected to examine weaknesses in the existing examination process and suggest measures to make it more secure and transparent. The decision comes amid growing concerns over question-paper leaks and irregularities in competitive examinations. The government wants to strengthen safeguards at every stage, from question-paper preparation and printing to transportation, storage and distribution at examination centres. The proposed committee is expected to study the current procedures followed by examination authorities and identify loopholes that could be exploited by organised groups. It will also recommend technological and administrative measures to prevent unauthorised access to examination material. The move assumes significance as examination-related controversies have increasingly raised concerns among students and job aspirants. Paper leaks not only disrupt examinations but also undermine confidence in the recruitment system and create uncertainty for thousands of candidates who spend months or years preparing for competitive tests. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and other senior government representatives have indicated that the state wants to introduce a more robust examination framework. The committee is expected to examine ways to improve security, accountability, transparency and efficiency. Possible areas of reform include strengthening the handling of confidential examination material, improving security at printing and storage locations, monitoring transportation and introducing stricter verification procedures for personnel involved in the examination process. The government is also expected to consider greater use of technology to track examination material and reduce the possibility of human intervention at vulnerable stages. The formation of the committee comes against the backdrop of broader examination reforms being discussed across India. The Centre has also been taking steps to strengthen national examination systems following controversies surrounding major competitive and entrance examinations. For Bihar, the immediate challenge is to restore the confidence of students and candidates who depend on government examinations for education and employment opportunities. The proposed expert panel could therefore play an important role in redesigning the examination process and identifying practical solutions to prevent future leaks. The government's objective is to create an examination system where question papers remain secure, examinations are conducted fairly and deserving candidates receive a level playing field. The committee's recommendations will be closely watched, as their implementation could determine how effectively Bihar addresses the recurring problem of examination irregularities and builds greater trust in its recruitment and education systems.



Yogi Slams Rahul Over Manusmriti Remarks

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday launched a sharp attack on Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over his recent remarks on the Manusmriti, accusing him of repeatedly disparaging India's traditions and cultural heritage. Speaking at an event in Raebareilly, Yogi Adityanath said the country may not have high expectations from Rahul Gandhi as an individual, but his position as Leader of Opposition carries significant responsibility towards Indian democracy. The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister referred to Gandhi's recent interaction with students in Pune, where the Congress leader criticised what he described as a "Manusmriti mindset" and called

on young women to challenge patriarchal restrictions. Gandhi had also spoken about women's independence and the need to break away from traditional structures that, in his view, limit their freedom. Reacting to those comments, Yogi accused Gandhi of showing disrespect towards India's traditions and heritage. He argued that as a senior constitutional functionary, the Congress leader should demonstrate greater responsibility in his public statements. Yogi also questioned Gandhi's approach to Indian history and cultural traditions, saying that political differences should not become an excuse to undermine the country's heritage. The remarks have added another layer to the continuing political con-



frontation between the BJP and Congress, with cultural issues increasingly becoming a major point of debate between the two parties. Rahul Gandhi's comments were primarily centred on women's empowerment, patriarchy and social equality. His criticism of the Manusmriti was presented as part of a broader argument that women should have complete control over their own

choices and lives. The BJP, however, has interpreted such remarks as an attack on Indian traditions and has strongly pushed back against them. Yogi also highlighted Gandhi's constitutional responsibility as Leader of Opposition, arguing that the position requires accountability towards the country's democratic institutions. The exchange is likely to fuel further political debate, particularly over the interpretation of Manusmriti, Indian cultural traditions, women's rights and the role of historical texts in contemporary society. With both sides taking sharply contrasting positions, the controversy has once again brought cultural and ideological issues to the centre of India's political discourse.

J&K Reopens Probe Into 1998 Wandhama Massacre

Nearly three decades after the Wandhama massacre, the Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) has reopened the investigation into the killing of 23 Kashmiri Pandits in 1998. The move is part of a wider effort to revisit long-pending cases linked to targeted killings during the peak years of militancy in the Valley. The massacre took place on January 25, 1998, in Wandhama village of Ganderbal district. According to investigators, armed militants entered the homes of Kashmiri Pandit families and carried out the killings. The victims included nine women, nine men and four children. The SIA is now examining the old case afresh, looking for new leads and evidence that could help estab-



lish the identities and roles of those involved. Investigators are also focusing on alleged associates and over-ground workers who may have supported militant networks. As part of the renewed investigation, the agency has conducted searches at several locations across the Kashmir Valley. Officials are examining available records and other material that could help fill gaps in the decades-old investigation. The Wandhama

case is being reopened alongside investigations into several other prominent killings of Kashmiri Pandits from the militancy era. The SIA has intensified its probe into the killing of Tika Lal Taploo, a prominent lawyer and Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader who was shot dead near his residence in Srinagar in September 1989. His assassination was among the early targeted killings of prominent Kashmiri Pandits during the rise of militancy. The agency is also investigating the assassination of Justice Neelkanth Ganjoo, who was killed in Srinagar in November 1989. Ganjoo had sentenced JKLF terrorist Maqbool Bhat to death. Recent investigations into other historic cases, including the killings of nurse Sarla Bhat and writer Sarwanand

Koul Premi and his son Virender Koul, have also brought renewed attention to unresolved cases from the period. The SIA's latest action reflects a broader attempt to revisit investigations that remained unresolved for decades. Officials are now pursuing fresh leads and examining whether surviving suspects, militants and their associates can be identified and brought to justice. For the families of the Wandhama victims, the reopening of the case could provide a renewed opportunity to establish responsibility for one of the Valley's most devastating episodes of the militancy era. The investigation will now determine whether new evidence and modern investigative techniques can finally help solve the 1998 massacre, nearly 29 years after the killings.

Vijay Scraps Parandur Airport, Keeps Key Promise

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has announced that the proposed greenfield airport at Parandur in Kancheepuram district will be scrapped, fulfilling a major political promise he had made during his early political campaign. The announcement was made in the state Assembly on August 24, with the government saying it will now identify an alternative location for Chennai's second airport. The Parandur airport project was proposed by the previous government as a major infrastructure project to meet Chennai's growing aviation requirements. However, the plan faced strong opposition from farmers and residents of villages that would have been affected by land acquisition. Residents had raised concerns over the loss of agricultural land, displacement, water bodies and the possible impact on their livelihoods. Protests continued for several years, making the airport project a major political issue in the region. Vijay had personally met residents and protesters during his early political activities and opposed the proposed location. While supporting the need for a second airport for Chennai, he had promised to explore an alternative site that would have a lower impact on farmers and local communities. With the latest announcement, Vijay has now followed through on that commitment. The government has indicated that alternative locations are being considered. These sites will undergo scientific studies and technical assessments before a final decision is taken. The administration has also indicated that Chennai's existing airport will be expanded to address the city's immediate aviation requirements. The decision has triggered a political controversy in Tamil Nadu. Opposition leaders have criticised the cancellation, arguing that abandoning the project could affect the state's long-term infrastructure and economic development plans. The issue also led to a walkout by DMK legislators from the Assembly after they were not allowed to debate the announcement. For the farmers and residents who opposed the Parandur project, however, the decision has brought considerable relief. Protesters have described it as a victory for their long-running campaign to protect their land and livelihoods. The bigger challenge for the Vijay government now is to ensure that Chennai gets the additional airport capacity it needs without creating another major conflict over land acquisition and environmental concerns.



September Visa Bulletin Brings Mixed News For Indians



The United States has released its September 2026 Visa Bulletin, bringing mixed developments for Indian green-card applicants. While several family-sponsored categories have moved forward significantly, employment-based applicants continue to face major delays. The September bulletin is especially important because it is the final update of fiscal year 2026, which ends on September 30. A fresh annual allocation of immigrant visa numbers will become available when the new fiscal year begins on October 1. For Indian professionals, however, the latest update remains disappointing. EB-2 India has been marked "Unavailable" for September, meaning no additional immigrant visas can be issued in this category during the month. The US State Department said high demand and increased visa usage have put pressure on the annual limit. The situation reflects the long-standing backlog faced by Indian professionals seeking permanent residency in the United States. High demand, combined with annual country limits, has resulted in exceptionally long waiting periods. EB-1 India is also facing pressure, with the State Department warning that the category could become unavailable if the annual limit is reached before the end of the fiscal year. The employment-based situation is in sharp contrast to the movement seen in several family-sponsored categories. For Indian applicants, the F1 category, covering unmarried sons and daughters of US citizens, moved forward to January 22, 2020. The F2A category, covering spouses and minor children of permanent residents, advanced to August 22, 2026. There was also significant movement in F2B, which covers unmarried adult sons and daughters of permanent residents. Its final action date advanced to August 22, 2019. The biggest movement came in the F3 category, covering married sons and daughters of US citizens. Its final action date moved to October 22, 2014, representing a substantial advance. However, applicants must understand the difference between Final Action Dates and Dates for Filing. Final Action Dates determine when a visa or green card can actually be approved, while Dates for Filing indicate when eligible applicants may begin submitting required documentation, subject to applicable USCIS instructions. For Indian professionals already living and working in the US, the continued employment-based backlog can have significant consequences. Many applicants have spent years waiting for their priority dates to become current. The situation could change with the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2026, when a fresh supply of immigrant visa numbers becomes available. However, the pace of movement will depend on demand and the number of visas available in each category. The State Department has also warned that some categories could experience retrogression, meaning priority dates could move backward, if demand increases sharply. For now, the September bulletin presents a clear contrast: family-sponsored applicants from India have received meaningful movement, while employment-based applicants continue to face a severe backlog. For thousands of Indian families and professionals waiting for permanent residency, all eyes will now be on the October Visa Bulletin and whether the beginning of the new fiscal year brings the long-awaited relief.

Japan Searches For A Backup Capital

Japan has begun exploring an unusual but potentially crucial idea - creating a backup capital that could keep the country's government functioning if Tokyo is paralysed by a major disaster. The initiative is gaining attention because Japan faces a constant risk from earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters. Tokyo remains the country's capital, but officials are increasingly concerned about what could happen if a catastrophic earthquake were to severely damage the capital and disrupt government operations. The idea is therefore not to replace Tokyo, but to establish another city that could temporarily take over essential government functions during a major emergency. The proposal has triggered intense competition among Japanese cities. Thirteen local governments have already entered the race, hoping to position themselves as the country's potential backup administrative centre. Among the leading contenders is Osaka, Japan's major commercial and economic hub. Osaka has long sought a greater role in national administration and has the infrastructure, transport links and business ecosystem needed to support large-scale government operations. Other contenders include Nagoya, Hokkaido and cities such as Fukuoka and Sapporo. Each has been highlighting its own advantages, from infrastructure and connectivity to geographical distance from Tokyo. The competition has even been described as a kind of "gold rush", with local governments exploring incentives and strategies to convince the central government that their cities would be suitable alternatives. The reasoning behind the plan is straightforward. If a massive earthquake strikes Tokyo, the damage could extend far beyond buildings and transport systems. Government offices, communication networks, financial institutions and other critical infrastructure could all be affected simultaneously. A functioning backup location could allow ministers, officials and essential government agencies to continue operating without waiting for Tokyo to recover. Japan's vulnerability became particularly clear after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, which demonstrated how quickly a natural disaster can disrupt infrastructure and public administration. The proposed backup capital is therefore part of a broader effort to strengthen national resilience and continuity of government. However, establishing such a system would not be simple. A backup capital would require government offices, secure communication networks, emergency accommodation, transportation facilities and reliable power and water supplies. There is also the question of how much authority the alternative centre should have. It would need sufficient infrastructure and legal arrangements to allow the national government to function immediately during a crisis. Osaka appears to be one of the strongest candidates because of its size, economic importance and transport connectivity. At the same time, cities farther from Tokyo could offer an important advantage by reducing the possibility that the same disaster would affect both the capital and the backup centre. The debate also raises a broader question about how modern countries should prepare for catastrophic disasters. Concentrating too many critical institutions in a single city can create enormous risks if that city becomes inaccessible. For Japan, the proposed backup capital is therefore less about creating a second Tokyo and more about ensuring that the Japanese state can continue functioning even under the worst possible circumstances. Tokyo is expected to remain Japan's capital. But if disaster strikes, the government wants to make sure that the country's administration does not stop with it. That is why Osaka, Nagoya, Hokkaido and other cities are now competing for a role that could become vital to Japan's future national security and disaster preparedness.



Iran-US Tensions Intensify, India Watches Closely

Tensions between the United States and Iran have entered another critical phase, with the Strait of Hormuz once again at the centre of the confrontation. Washington is preparing fresh economic measures against Tehran, while Iran has warned that countries supporting the US campaign could face retaliation. The latest developments have also brought Pakistan into the diplomatic spotlight. Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir travelled to Tehran as Islamabad attempts to revive dialogue between Washington and Tehran and prevent the conflict from escalating further. Munir's visit came after a reported conversation with US President Donald Trump. According to sources, Trump urged Pakistan to use its influence to encourage Iran to return to negotiations. Pakistan has previously played a mediating role between the two sides. Islamabad is now attempting to use its ties with Tehran and Washington to reopen diplomatic channels at a time when mutual distrust remains extremely high. At the same time, Washington is preparing what US officials have described as a major financial offensive against Iran. The proposed measures could include secondary sanctions targeting countries and companies that continue trading with Tehran. Iran has responded with strong warnings. Tehran has threatened retaliation against countries that cooperate with the new US sanctions and has again raised the possibility of restricting oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. The strategic waterway is crucial to global energy markets. Any major disruption to shipping through the strait could send crude oil and gas prices sharply higher and create fresh pressure on economies that depend heavily on energy imports. For India, the situation is particularly important. The country remains heavily dependent on imported crude oil and LNG, much of which traditionally moves through the Gulf region. Disruptions around Hormuz could therefore increase India's energy import bill and put pressure on inflation. Indian energy companies have already been forced to look for alternative sources and routes as uncertainty around Gulf shipping continues. LNG prices have also risen sharply amid concerns over supply disruptions. The geopolitical crisis could have wider consequences for India as

well. Higher crude prices could increase transportation and production costs, while a weaker rupee could make imported energy even more expensive. Meanwhile, the United States continues to increase pressure on Tehran. Washington wants countries around the world to reduce economic engagement with Iran, while Iran is attempting to resist further isolation. China and Russia have so far shown less willingness to follow Washington's pressure campaign, adding another dimension to the geopolitical confrontation. The Strait of Hormuz therefore remains the biggest pressure point. Iran's ability to disrupt ship-



ping gives Tehran considerable leverage, while Washington is determined to prevent the waterway from becoming an effective tool of economic pressure. For India, the priority will be protecting energy supplies, ensuring the safety of Indian vessels and citizens in the region, and maintaining diplomatic flexibility with all sides. With Pakistan attempting mediation, the US preparing tougher sanctions and Iran threatening retaliation, the coming days could prove crucial. Any escalation around Hormuz could quickly move beyond the Middle East and affect global oil markets, inflation and India's economy.

Imran Khan Denied Heart Scan, PTI Raises Questions

Fresh controversy has erupted in Pakistan over the medical treatment of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, after his party alleged that a recommended heart scan was not carried out despite doctors advising the procedure. Khan was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad for medical examinations after growing concerns over his health. Doctors reportedly recommended a CT coronary angiography (CTA) to assess his heart and check for possible blockages. However, the test was not performed. Hospital officials reportedly said the required facility was unavailable, after which Khan underwent other medical examinations and was sent back to Adiala Jail. The development has triggered strong criticism from his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. PTI leaders questioned why Khan was taken to a government hospital where the recommended cardiac test was allegedly not conducted, instead of the private facility identified by the Supreme Court for his medical treatment. The controversy is particularly significant because a functional CT scanner capable of conducting a CTA is reportedly available at PIMS. This has raised questions over the hospital's explanation



that the necessary facility was unavailable. According to PTI, doctors had recommended the cardiac scan because Khan had reportedly experienced fluctuating blood pressure, palpitations, headaches, restlessness and anxiety. The party has argued that these symptoms warranted a detailed cardiac examination, particularly given Khan's age and prolonged incarceration. PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram accused authorities of repeatedly delaying appropriate medical treatment for Khan. He questioned whether the decision to take Khan to PIMS instead of the designated private hospital had been made in advance. The controversy comes days after

Pakistan's Supreme Court directed authorities to move Khan to Shifa International Hospital for medical examination and treatment. The court had also ordered the creation of a medical panel that would include specialists as well as Khan's personal physician. However, Khan was instead taken to PIMS. The government cited security concerns for changing the hospital arrangements, arguing that the planned route had become unsafe because of PTI supporters. After the medical examination, government officials said Khan had been declared medically fit by a team that included an ophthalmologist, cardiologist and physician. He was subsequently returned to jail. PTI, however, has rejected the government's han-

dling of the matter and has demanded that Khan be shifted to Shifa International Hospital, where a comprehensive medical assessment can be carried out. The latest controversy adds to growing concerns surrounding Khan's health during his imprisonment. His family and party have previously raised concerns about problems with his right eye and alleged restrictions on access to doctors and family members. The government has rejected allegations of medical neglect and maintained that Khan has received appropriate medical attention. The dispute has also attracted international attention. Several former cricket captains, including Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, have appealed to Pakistan's government to ensure that Khan receives proper medical treatment. For PTI, the unanswered question remains simple: if doctors recommended a heart scan and the required technology was reportedly available, why was the test not conducted? The Pakistani government's response to that question could determine whether the controversy remains a political dispute or develops into a larger legal and medical issue surrounding the treatment of the jailed former prime minister.

150 Pakistani Brides Overcome Visa Hurdles

At least 150 Pakistani Sindh women engaged to Indian men have finally reached India for their weddings, overcoming months of visa restrictions and travel hurdles that followed Operation Sindoor. For years, families from Pakistan's Sindh province had travelled to India through the Wagah-Attari border for weddings. The process became extremely difficult after India tightened visa restrictions and the Attari route was closed following the 2025 military operation. The restrictions left around 150 Pakistani women who were already engaged to Indian men waiting in Pakistan. Their weddings, planned in cities including Nagpur, Raipur, Jodhpur and Pune, were put on hold. Community leader Rajesh Jhambia said the long wait eventually came to an end after the Indian government granted visas to the brides and their relatives. However, the visitors could not use the traditional land route. Instead, they were permitted to travel to India by air through third countries. Since April this year, the brides and their families have travelled through transit points including Dubai, Muscat, Oman, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other countries before reaching India. The effort to help the stranded families began after community representatives approached Sant Yudhishtir Lal Shadaani, the spiritual head of Shadaani Darbar, a prominent Hindu religious shrine in Pakistan's Sindh province. A list of Pakistani women who were already engaged to men in India was prepared and submitted to India's Ministry of Home Affairs. The community requested special arrangements so that the weddings could proceed despite the restrictions. The government subsequently



allowed the identified brides and their relatives to travel to India, but with the condition that they enter the country only by air. The development has brought considerable relief to the families involved. Weddings that had been delayed for months could finally take place, allowing the brides to join their future husbands in India. According to community representatives, the 150 cases include 15 families from Nagpur alone, while weddings are also scheduled in several other Indian cities. However, the issue is far from over. Community leaders say nearly 300 more Pakistani women are still waiting in Pakistan after becoming engaged to Indian men. They have now appealed to the Indian government to extend similar visa facilities to these women and their families so that their marriages can also take place. The episode highlights how geopolitical tensions can directly affect families and personal relationships across the India-Pakistan border. While diplomatic relations between the two countries remain strained, these families have continued searching for ways to bring their long-awaited weddings to reality. For the 150 brides who have already reached India, the difficult journey through multiple countries has finally ended. What began as a wedding plan disrupted by border restrictions has now become a remarkable story of love, patience and determination overcoming diplomatic barriers.

Khelo India Dialogue To Shape Sports Future

Khelo India Dialogue To Give Youth A Voice The government is set to launch a nationwide youth engagement programme, "Khelo India Dialogue - Khel Ki Baat, Pradhan Mantri Modi Ke Saath," aimed at giving young Indians a direct platform to share their ideas, suggestions and innovative thoughts on the future of sports and youth development. Students and young people from leading educational institutions, including IITs, IIMs, NITs, AIIMS, medical colleges and universities, will participate in the initiative. The programme will begin with a virtual address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, followed by physical programmes at participating institutions and locations across the country. The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between youth aspirations, ground-level experiences and policymaking. Participants will discuss four key areas that could shape India's sports and youth ecosystem. The first focus will be on strengthening sports infrastructure at the grassroots level, including better facilities, coaching, training opportunities and greater access to sports for young people. The second theme will focus on developing sporting talent with the 2036 Olympics in mind. Discussions will cover scientific talent identification, athlete development and creating stronger pathways for young sportspersons to compete at the international level. The third area will focus on youth leadership and participation in governance, encouraging young people to contribute ideas to policymaking and play a larger role in nation-building. The fourth theme will focus on future-ready skills, volunteering and development opportunities, helping young Indians prepare for emerging challenges and contribute to the country's growth. Sporting Champions To Inspire Youth A major attraction will be direct interaction between young sports enthusiasts and some of India's leading sporting personalities. Olympians and champions including Deepa Karmakar, Saina Nehwal, Gagan Narang, Sreejesh, Mary Kom, Baichung Bhutia, Pullela Gopichand, Anju Bobby George, Karnam Malleswari, Mirabai Chanu and P.T. Usha will interact with participants. Prominent cricketers will also join the programme. The sportspersons will share their journeys, challenges, setbacks and achievements, offering young participants valuable lessons from their careers. Policymakers To Engage With Youth Members of Parliament, MLAs, Union Ministers, Ministers of State and State Sports Ministers will also participate and seek suggestions from young people. The programme will include the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue Quiz, while participants will be encouraged to register on the MY Bharat Portal for continued engagement. By bringing together youth, athletes and policymakers, the Khelo India Dialogue aims to turn young people's aspirations into ideas and ideas into meaningful policy. The larger goal is to give India's youth a stronger voice in shaping the country's sports ecosystem, leadership opportunities and future development.



BLS International Shares Plunge 14% On Visa Fraud Reports

Shares of BLS International Services came under heavy selling pressure on Monday after media reports linked the company to an investigation into alleged visa irregularities in Spain. The stock fell as much as 14% during the session, touching an intraday low of ?233.47 on the NSE. It later recovered some ground but still closed at around ?242.17, down 10.73%. The sharp decline followed reports that Spain's National Court had expanded its investigation into an alleged visa fraud network connected to the Spanish Consulate in Algiers. The probe reportedly includes companies involved in visa appointments and document processing, including BLS International, which has a contract with the Spanish Foreign Ministry. The allegations centre on claims that applicants seeking Schengen visas may have paid substantial amounts through unofficial channels to obtain appointments or visas. Spanish media reports cited figures of up to 25,000 per family in some cases. However, BLS International has strongly rejected any involvement in the alleged irregularities. In a regulatory filing, the company said there was no evidence establishing wrongdoing by BLS International or its employees in connection with visa issuance. The company also clarified the nature of its role in the visa process. According to BLS, its responsibilities are strictly administrative and are carried out according to procedures prescribed by the relevant authorities. Decisions regarding whether a visa is processed, approved or rejected, the company said, remain solely with the concerned diplomatic and consular authorities. Despite the clarification, investors reacted sharply to the reports, reflecting concerns over the possible impact of any regulatory or legal investigation on the company's international visa-processing operations. BLS International is a major provider of visa outsourcing, passport and consular services. Its role generally involves administrative and non-judgmental functions such as appointment scheduling, document handling and biometric services, while the final decision on visa applications rests with diplomatic missions. The latest controversy therefore puts the spotlight on the distinction between visa-processing service providers and the authorities that actually make visa decisions. BLS has maintained that it has followed the procedures prescribed by the relevant authorities and has denied any wrongdoing. For investors, the key issue going forward will be developments in the Spanish investigation and whether any evidence emerges directly implicating the company or its employees. Until then, the market's reaction remains driven largely by concerns surrounding the allegations and their potential business impact. The sharp fall in BLS International's stock highlights how quickly regulatory or reputational concerns can affect companies operating in sensitive outsourcing businesses, even when the company itself denies involvement in the alleged misconduct.

From rs.300 Oven to rs.7,500 Crore Food Empire



Rajni Bector's journey from a homemaker experimenting with baking in her Ludhiana kitchen to building a food business valued at nearly ?7,900 crore is one of India's most inspiring entrepreneurial stories. What began with a modest ?300 oven eventually grew into Mrs Bectors Food Specialities, known for brands such as Cremica and English Oven and for supplying bakery products to major global quick-service restaurant chains. Born in Karachi and raised partly in Lahore before her family moved to Delhi after Partition, Rajni Bector later married into a Ludhiana family. After completing her education and raising her children, she began exploring her passion for cooking and baking. She enrolled in a baking course at Punjab Agricultural University and started making ice creams, cakes and cookies for friends and acquaintances. Encouraged by the response, she decided to turn her passion into a business. Her first major purchase was an oven costing just ?300. She also began making ice cream in her backyard and selling it at local fairs. However, the early venture was not immediately profitable. Her products were sometimes sold for less than their production cost, forcing her to think more seriously about the commercial side of the business. Her husband, Dharamvir Bector, encouraged her to expand and supported her with ?20,000 to establish an ice-cream manufacturing unit in 1978. That investment became an important turning point. The business gradually moved beyond ice cream into bakery products. In 1985, Rajni Bector established a bread manufacturing unit in Punjab. The plant initially produced around 5,000 loaves a day, but its capacity eventually increased to nearly 50,000 loaves. The biggest breakthrough came in the 1990s when McDonald's entered the Indian market. Cremica was selected to supply burger buns and liquid condiments to the global fast-food chain. By 1996, the company had begun supplying buns to McDonald's. Working with an international QSR giant demanded consistent quality, food-safety standards and large-scale production. The partnership helped the company strengthen its manufacturing capabilities and opened doors to the institutional food business. Over the years, Mrs Bectors expanded its portfolio through two major brands-Cremica and English Oven. Cremica developed a strong presence in biscuits, while English Oven focused on breads and premium bakery products. The company also expanded its institutional business, supplying buns and baked products to major chains including McDonald's, KFC and Burger King. Its products eventually reached more than 70 countries, while international customers and retailers included Walmart and Lulu Group. Another landmark moment came in December 2020, when Mrs Bectors Food Specialities went public. Its IPO raised ?541 crore and was reportedly subscribed nearly 198 times. The listing marked a new chapter for the family-built food business. The company's market capitalisation, which was around ?2,500 crore in November 2021, had reached approximately rs 7,890 crore by August 24, 2026. Rajni Bector's story stands out because the business was not built overnight. It evolved through years of experimentation, manufacturing expansion, quality control and strategic partnerships. From a ?300 oven in a home kitchen to a listed food company with a market value approaching ?8,000 crore, her journey demonstrates how a small beginning, when combined with persistence and a willingness to scale, can develop into a major business empire. The woman who once baked cakes and made ice cream at home ultimately built brands that became part of everyday consumption across India and international markets. Her journey is a powerful reminder that some of the biggest businesses can begin with nothing more than a simple idea, a small investment and the courage to take the first step.

Hexaware Shares Rise 5% On AI Growth Plans

Shares of Hexaware Technologies gained nearly 8% during Monday's trading session after the IT services company outlined an ambitious strategy to tap the rapidly expanding artificial intelligence market. The stock touched an intraday high of ?574.85 on the NSE before paring some gains and closing around 5% higher at ?558.75. The rally came after Hexaware highlighted its plans to use artificial intelligence to create new revenue streams while improving profitability. The company believes the addressable market, or total addressable market (TAM), for AI-related services could reach around \$300 billion, creating a significant opportunity for technology companies with strong AI capabilities. Hexaware is positioning itself to

capture a meaningful share of this opportunity by expanding its AI offerings and targeting larger technology deals. The company is reportedly aiming for a 30% win ratio and is aggressively pursuing contracts valued at more than \$100 million. The company's strategy is centred on moving beyond traditional IT services and increasing the role of AI across enterprise technology operations. Hexaware has been strengthening its AI portfolio through platforms and solutions designed to help businesses adopt artificial intelligence at scale. Earlier this year, the company launched Agentverse, an enterprise AI agent platform featuring more than 600 ready-to-deploy AI agents. The platform is designed to integrate AI agents with enter-



prise systems, workflows and communication channels, helping organisations move from experimentation to wider deployment. Hexaware has also been expanding

its partnerships within the global AI ecosystem. In June, the company was named an Anthropic Authorised Reseller for Amazon Bedrock, allowing it to resell

Claude AI models and strengthen its AI-focused strategy. The announcement had also triggered a sharp rise in the company's stock at the time. The latest rally comes despite a challenging year for the stock. Hexaware shares have faced considerable pressure in 2026, making the recent focus on AI growth particularly important for investors looking for signs of a turnaround. The company's financial performance has remained mixed. In the June 2026 quarter, consolidated revenue rose to around ?3,845 crore, up from ?3,613 crore in the previous quarter. However, net profit declined to approximately ?330 crore, compared with ?352 crore in the March quarter. Analysts remain divided but several brokerages see potential in

Hexaware's AI-led growth strategy. Motilal Oswal has maintained a positive view on the company and recently set a target price of ?720, reflecting its expectations for future growth. For investors, the key question will be whether Hexaware can convert the massive AI opportunity into actual contracts, revenue and stronger margins. With the company increasingly focusing on large deals and AI-driven services, its execution over the coming quarters will be closely watched. The latest 5% gain suggests that investors are beginning to respond positively to Hexaware's AI ambitions. However, sustained growth will depend on how effectively the company turns its \$300-billion AI opportunity into measurable business results.

Sensex Falls 172 Points, Nifty Ends Lower

Indian equity markets began the week on a cautious note, with benchmark indices ending lower on Monday, August 24. After opening with gains, the Sensex and Nifty came under selling pressure during the afternoon session as investors remained wary of elevated crude prices and uncertainty surrounding fresh US sanctions on Iran. The Sensex closed at 77,369.11, down 171.72 points or 0.22%, while the Nifty declined 32.95 points or 0.14% to finish at 24,219.05. During the session, the Nifty briefly slipped below the 24,150 mark before recovering some ground toward the close. Market sentiment remained subdued as investors assessed geopolitical developments and their potential impact on crude oil prices and inflation. The Indian rupee also weakened marginally, ending at ?95.74 against the US dollar, compared with the previous close of ?95.70. Sectoral performance was mixed. Metal, realty and IT stocks attract-



ed buying interest and helped limit the broader market decline. The metal index emerged as one of the strongest performers, while the realty sector also gained. In contrast, PSU banks came under pressure, with the Nifty PSU Bank index falling nearly 0.93%. Private banks, media and consumer durable stocks also ended lower. Among individual Nifty stocks, Hindalco, JSW Steel, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Tata Steel and HCL

Technologies were among the notable gainers. On the other hand, SBI Life Insurance, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Bharat Electronics and Adani Ports featured among the major losers. Several individual stocks also witnessed significant movement. Ratnamani Metals and Tubes surged around 15% after its subsidiary secured export orders worth ?2,700 crore. Heranba Industries gained 9% after report-

ing a 17% rise in quarterly profit, while Vishal Mega Mart jumped 9% following the reappointment of its Managing Director and CEO. Meanwhile, new listings delivered mixed performances. Horizon Industrial Parks ended almost flat after a muted debut, while Lalithaa Jewellery surged 24% following a strong market listing, debuting at a premium of around 31% to its issue price. Looking ahead, analysts expect volatility to remain high. According to market experts, 24,250 is an important immediate resistance level for the Nifty. A sustained move above that level could open the way toward 24,350-24,400. On the downside, support is seen around 24,000-23,950. With geopolitical tensions, crude prices and global policy developments continuing to influence investor sentiment, traders are likely to remain cautious in the near term. For now, the market remains range-bound, with sector-specific buying providing some support despite pressure on the major indices.

SEBI Plans Easier RPT Rules, Tighter Promoter Checks

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is considering a major overhaul of the rules governing related-party transactions (RPTs), with the aim of reducing unnecessary compliance for routine deals while strengthening scrutiny of transactions involving promoters, directors and key managerial personnel. The proposals have been prepared by a SEBI working group and seek to make the framework more risk-based. Under the proposed changes, shareholders holding 20% or more of a listed company's equity or voting rights would continue to be treated as related parties. However, investors holding between 10% and below 20% would not automatically fall under the definition. Instead, the Audit Committee could assess whether such investors have significant influence through board representation, veto rights, information rights or other special powers. The proposed approach could significantly reduce compliance requirements for passive institutional investors who hold sizeable stakes but do not exercise strategic control over a company. The working group has also suggested removing several routine transactions from the RPT framework. These could include fixed



deposits and other deposits with banks and NBFCs, certain retail transactions conducted on standard terms available to employees or the public, and payments related to listed non-convertible securities made according to their issue terms. Reimbursements of actual expenses between related parties could also receive exemptions. The underlying idea is that transactions with little or no inherent conflict of interest should not face the same level of regulatory scrutiny as potentially risky promoter-linked transactions. Another proposed change concerns transactions undertaken without prior Audit Committee approval. Companies could be given up to three months to seek ratification instead of having to

wait for the immediate next Audit Committee meeting. The existing ?1 crore ceiling for ratification could also be removed, although the committee would have to record the reasons for both the missed approval and subsequent ratification. For unforeseen related-party transactions, the omnibus approval limit could be increased sharply from ?1 crore to ?10 crore during a financial year. Such transactions would still have to remain outside the category of material RPTs, while quarterly reporting and one-year validity of omnibus approvals would continue. The panel has also proposed easing disclosure requirements. A ?1 crore threshold could be introduced for half-yearly RPT disclo-

sures, although transactions involving promoters or promoter groups would continue to require disclosure irrespective of their value. The filing timeline could also be extended. Instead of requiring disclosures on the same day financial results are published, companies may be allowed to file them within seven days after board approval of the results. The proposed reforms reflect SEBI's attempt to strike a balance between ease of doing business and investor protection. While routine and low-risk transactions could face fewer compliance hurdles, promoter-linked deals would continue to receive greater scrutiny. SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey recently indicated that the regulator was reviewing the RPT framework to make the requirements clearer and more workable while retaining necessary safeguards for investors. If implemented, the proposed changes could reshape the way listed companies handle related-party transactions, reducing compliance burdens for ordinary business activities while keeping the regulatory spotlight firmly on transactions where conflicts of interest or potential transfer of value are greater.

Ratnamani Metals Shares Surge 18% On Rs.2,700 Crore Orders

Shares of Ratnamani Metals & Tubes Ltd witnessed a sharp rally on Monday after the company announced that its subsidiary had secured export orders worth around ?2,700 crore. The stock surged as much as 18% intraday, touching a two-month high of ?2,777 per share on the NSE. The strong movement came after the company informed the stock exchanges about the new orders. The contracts involve the supply of spools and hangers to international customers, giving the company a significant boost in its export business. Before the announcement, Ratnamani Metals shares were already trading more than 6% higher. Following the order announcement, buying interest intensified and the stock climbed to ?2,777 during the session. However, the stock later pared some of its gains. By the end of trading, Ratnamani Metals shares settled at around ?2,698, still registering a strong 14.59% gain for the day. According to the company's

exchange filing, the newly secured orders will be executed over a period of two to three years. The project execution model will involve a combination of in-house manufacturing and subcontracting. Part of the products will be manufactured at the company's own facility, while the remaining requirements will be handled through subcontractors. The company will also undertake some of the business through a mercantile trade transaction model. The size and duration of the orders have attracted considerable attention from investors. A ?2,700-crore export order book provides the company with visibility for future revenues and could support business performance over the next several years. The announcement also comes at a time when investors are closely tracking companies with strong export opportunities and sizeable order inflows. Large international contracts can provide manufacturers with greater revenue visibility while strengthening their presence in global markets.



Ratnamani Metals & Tubes is a major Indian manufacturer of steel tubes and related products, serving sectors such as oil and gas, petrochemicals, power and infrastructure. Its export business forms an important part of its overall operations. The sharp rise in the stock price reflects the market's immediate reaction to the order win. However, the actual financial impact will depend on factors including execution timelines, margins, production costs and the company's ability to suc-

cessfully deliver the contracts. For investors, the key factor to watch will now be the company's execution of these orders over the next two to three years. With the stock closing nearly 15% higher after touching an 18% intraday gain, the order announcement has clearly emerged as a major positive trigger for Ratnamani Metals. The coming quarters will reveal how effectively the company converts this large export opportunity into revenue and profitability.

Dhruv Jurel Century Puts India In Command

India strengthened their grip on the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo after declaring their first innings at 503/9 on Day 2. Dhruv Jurel produced a superb unbeaten 115, while Rishabh Pant returned from an injury scare to play an aggressive knock as India piled on the runs. Resuming from their overnight score of 300/5, India immediately looked to build a commanding total. Pant, who had retired hurt on Day 1 after being struck on the arm by Lahiru Kumara, returned to the crease and showed no signs of discomfort. He played his trademark attacking strokes and helped India maintain

the momentum. Pant's return provided India with valuable momentum. His aggressive batting put Sri Lanka's bowlers under pressure, while Dhruv Jurel provided stability at the other end. The pair added a crucial partnership that helped India move comfortably beyond the 350-run mark. Jurel then took complete control of the innings. Showing excellent composure, the young wicketkeeper-batter completed his second Test century. He remained unbeaten on 115 from 177 balls, becoming one of the biggest stars of India's second-day performance. Jurel's innings was particularly important because

India continued to lose wickets at regular intervals. Instead of allowing the innings to collapse, he took responsibility and guided the lower order effectively. His century ensured India crossed the massive 500-run mark. India eventually declared at 503/9 after 137.6 overs, with Jurel unbeaten on 115 and Prasidh Krishna contributing four not out. Asitha Fernando was Sri Lanka's most successful bowler, finishing with four wickets. Sri Lanka then began their first innings, but rain interrupted proceedings soon after. The hosts were yet to open their account when play was halted, leaving them



facing a massive 503-run deficit. The match has so far been dominated by India's

batting. Devdutt Padikkal had already provided the foundation with a brilliant

117 on Day 1, his second consecutive Test century. His performance helped India recover after early wickets and laid the platform for the huge total. Rishabh Pant's return was another major positive for India. His aggressive approach once again put the Sri Lankan bowlers under pressure, while Jurel's patient century demonstrated the depth in India's batting lineup. For Sri Lanka, the challenge is enormous. They now have to negotiate India's bowling attack after conceding more than 500 runs. The pressure will be on their top order to survive the early spell and prevent India from taking

complete control of the Test. India's massive first-innings total also gives their bowlers plenty of time to attack. With a huge lead already established, the visitors will be looking to strike early and put Sri Lanka under further pressure. After winning the opening Test in Galle, India have now produced another dominant performance in Colombo. With Jurel's century, Pant's aggressive comeback and Padikkal's earlier hundred, India have put themselves in an extremely strong position to take another step towards winning the Test and strengthening their series lead.

Jaiswal, Fernando Fined After Heated Clash

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sri Lankan pacer Asitha Fernando have both been fined 25 percent of their match fees and handed one demerit point each following their heated confrontation during the second Test in Colombo. The incident occurred on the opening day after Fernando dismissed Jaiswal for 45 runs. The Sri Lankan pacer gave the Indian batter an animated send-off, prompting Jaiswal to turn around and confront him. The exchange quickly became heated, with both players moving towards each other. Their heads eventually made contact before players from both sides intervened and separated them. The International Cricket Council (ICC) found both players guilty of breaching Article 2.12 of its Code of Conduct, which deals with inappropriate physical contact during an international match. Both Jaiswal and Fernando admitted the offence and accepted the sanctions proposed by match ref-



eree Andy Pycroft. As a result, there was no requirement for a formal disciplinary hearing. The incident took place during the 17th over of India's first innings. Jaiswal had been looking in good touch before his dismissal and had struck Fernando for three consecutive boundaries earlier in the over. However, Fernando eventually got the better of him, with Jaiswal being dismissed for 45.

The dismissal was followed by the animated exchange that quickly became one of the most talked-about moments of the Test. The ICC classified the incident as a Level 1 offence. Such breaches can attract an official reprimand, a fine of up to 50 percent of the match fee and one or two demerit points. Importantly, neither Jaiswal nor Fernando had committed an offence during the previ-

ous 24 months, meaning this was their first disciplinary violation during that period. Jaiswal had earlier defended his actions, suggesting that viewers should not judge the incident without knowing exactly what was said during the confrontation. He maintained that players need to respond when an opponent crosses the line. The controversy added extra intensity to an already competitive India-Sri Lanka Test. While aggressive exchanges and verbal battles are common in international cricket, physical contact remains strictly against the rules. With the ICC now imposing identical penalties on both players, the matter has effectively been closed. Jaiswal and Fernando can continue participating in the Colombo Test, but the demerit points will remain on their disciplinary records. The incident has once again highlighted the fine line between competitive aggression and unacceptable behaviour on a cricket field.

Rishabh Pant Scripts Three Historic Records



Rishabh Pant produced another memorable performance for India in the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo, rewriting the record books with three major achievements in a single day. Pant returned to the crease on Day 2 after retiring hurt on the opening day following a blow to his wrist. Despite the injury scare, the Indian wicketkeeper-batter showed his trademark aggression and scored 63 runs from 89 balls, including six fours and two sixes. His innings helped India strengthen their position before declaring at 503/9. One of Pant's biggest achievements was overtaking legendary Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist in the Test six-hitting charts. Pant hit two sixes during his innings to take his tally to 102 sixes in just 52 Tests. Gilchrist had finished his Test career with 100 sixes in 96 matches. Pant is now the third-highest six-hitter in Test cricket, behind only Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum. Pant also surpassed MS Dhoni to become India's highest run-scorer as a designated wicketkeeper in away or neutral Test matches. He crossed the 2,500-run mark in such conditions, moving ahead of his former predecessor in the Indian team. The achievement highlights Pant's impressive record outside home conditions. The third milestone involved India's current captain Shubman Gill. Pant overtook Gill to become India's highest run-scorer in the history of the ICC World Test Championship. Pant's WTC tally reached 2,948 runs, moving him ahead of Gill's previous mark. What makes the achievement even more impressive is the manner in which Pant reached these milestones. He had been forced to leave the field on Day 1 after being hit, creating doubts over whether he would be able to bat again. However, he returned the following day and immediately resumed his attacking style. Pant's 63 was eventually ended, but by then he had already made a significant impact on both the match and the record books. His aggressive approach once again demonstrated why he is regarded as one of the most dangerous wicketkeeper-batters in Test cricket. The Colombo Test has therefore become another landmark match in Pant's career. From surpassing Dhoni and Gill to moving ahead of Gilchrist in six-hitting, the Indian star achieved three significant milestones in a matter of hours. At just 28, Pant continues to add new chapters to his Test career. His latest performance further strengthens his reputation as one of India's most influential modern wicketkeeper-batters.

Home Food Fuels Japan's Badminton Success

Japan's impressive campaign at the 2026 BWF World Championships in New Delhi has highlighted an unusual but carefully planned aspect of the team's preparation - Japanese badminton players travel with their own chefs so they can continue eating familiar home-style food during major international tournaments. The practice has been part of Japan's badminton setup since 2017. The idea is to ensure that players receive the right nutrients at the right time while also giving them the comfort of familiar Japanese cuisine during demanding overseas competitions. The importance of the system was evident during the New Delhi championships, where Akane Yamaguchi and Kodai Naraoka both reached the singles finals. Yamaguchi eventually won the silver medal after losing to South Korea's An Se-young, while Naraoka also finished runner-up after being defeated by France's Alex Lanier. For elite athletes, nutrition is considered an important part of recovery and performance. Japanese officials felt that relying entirely on food available at overseas tournament venues could make it difficult for players to maintain their preferred diet. That is where the travelling chef team comes in. The Japanese contingent is supported by a dedicated group that includes three chefs and two other members. The team travels ahead of the players to prepare the required kitchen facilities, arrange supplies and coordinate with local vendors. The chefs also carry essential Japanese spices, seasonings, food mixes and other ingredients from home. Once the team reaches the tournament city, fresh meals are prepared every day and packed into lunch boxes for the players. Interestingly, the meals are not particularly elaborate. A typical lunch box contains Japanese white rice, a main dish, a side dish and miso soup. Occasionally players request a sweet dish, but the chefs ensure that it does not contain excessive calories. White rice is especially important to the Japanese players and is reportedly among the most frequently requested items. The food is also delivered according to the players' schedules. When matches take place late in the evening, meals can even be delivered directly to the athletes' hotel rooms, ensuring they do not have to compromise on their nutrition after competition. Yamaguchi has explained that receiving the right nutrients at the right time is extremely important during major tournaments. Having familiar food available also provides players with a sense of comfort when they are far away from Japan. The programme is supported by Ajinomoto, which works with the Japanese Olympic Association and several sporting disciplines. Its nutrition programme aims to help athletes improve their performance through carefully planned diets. Japan's results at the 2026 World Championships show the potential benefits of this meticulous preparation. Although the country did not win either singles title, having two players reach the singles finals demonstrated the depth and consistency of Japanese badminton. The approach also highlights how success at the highest level is often built on details beyond training and talent. Recovery, sleep, hydration and nutrition can all influence an athlete's performance during a long tournament. For Japan's badminton stars, therefore, home may be thousands of kilometres away, but a taste of home travels with them. Their travelling kitchens may appear to be a small part of the overall setup, but for athletes competing at the highest level, familiar food, precise nutrition and timely meals can provide both physical support and psychological comfort.



Ibrahim Zadran To Lead Afghanistan Against India

Afghanistan have entered a new phase in their T20 cricket setup with Ibrahim Zadran taking over as the team's T20I captain. The 24-year-old top-order batter has replaced Rashid Khan as skipper, with the Afghanistan Cricket Board backing him as part of its long-term leadership plans. Zadran had previously served as Rashid Khan's deputy in T20Is and was considered one of the leading candidates to take over the captaincy. His promotion came after Afghanistan's disappointing campaign in the 2026 T20 World Cup, where the team failed to progress beyond the group stage. The leadership change marks the beginning of a new era for Afghanistan's T20 side. Rashid Khan had enjoyed considerable success as captain, including leading the team to the semi-finals of the 2024 T20 World Cup. However, the board decided to make a transition following the team's recent World Cup performance. Zadran will now be responsible for guiding a talented Afghanistan squad that includes several experienced players. Interestingly, Rashid

Khan remains an important member of the T20I team and will continue to play under his former deputy. The young captain has already demonstrated his ability to handle pressure with the bat. During the 2026 T20 World Cup, Zadran produced an impressive 95 off 56 balls against Canada, underlining his importance to Afghanistan's batting lineup. His leadership will now face a major test against India. Afghanistan are scheduled to play India in a three-match T20I series in Delhi from September 13 to 17, 2026, with all three matches set to be played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. The series will be particularly important for Zadran because India are among the strongest teams in world cricket. Leading Afghanistan against India will provide the young skipper with an opportunity to establish his credentials as a long-term captain. Zadran's biggest challenge will be balancing his responsibilities as captain with his role as a top-order batter. Afghanistan will expect him to provide stability at the top while also making important tacti-



cal decisions on the field. The team management is also looking to build greater depth ahead of future global tournaments. The appointment of Zadran is part of that broader strategy, with the board hoping that a younger leadership group can take Afghanistan forward. Rashid Khan's presence will nevertheless remain crucial. His experience, world-class leg-spin and knowledge of international cricket could prove extremely valuable to Zadran, particularly during high-pressure matches. The India series could therefore

become an important milestone in Afghanistan cricket. For Zadran, it is an opportunity to prove that he can successfully lead a talented team while continuing to perform with the bat. After Rashid Khan's successful stint as captain, Afghanistan have placed their trust in Ibrahim Zadran. The upcoming India series will offer the first major indication of how effectively the young leader can handle the responsibility and whether he can establish himself as the face of Afghanistan's next T20 generation.

India's Hockey World Cup Medal Hopes End

India's hopes of reaching the semi-finals of the 2026 FIH Women's Hockey World Cup came to a heart-breaking end after the team played out a goalless draw against Australia in Amstelveen. The 0-0 result was not enough for India to progress to the last four. Australia and India finished level on points, but Australia secured the semifinal spot because of their superior number of goals scored. The match was effectively a knock-out contest for both teams. India needed a victory to keep their semifinal dream alive, while Australia knew that a draw could potentially be enough depending on the goal-scoring calculations. India entered the contest under pressure after suffering a 0-2 defeat against the Netherlands in their previous second-round match. That result meant the team had no room for error against Australia. The Indian players fought hard throughout the match but struggled to convert their opportunities into goals. Australia defended with discipline and ensured that India's attacking moves did not result in a breakthrough. The pressure became increasingly intense as the final hooter

approached. India pushed forward in search of the goal that would have taken them into the semi-finals, but Australia's defence remained firm. The final whistle confirmed India's elimination and sparked emotional scenes among the Indian players. Veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia, appearing in her third World Cup, was visibly devastated after India's campaign came to an end. For India, the disappointment is particularly painful because the team had entered the tournament with renewed confidence and high expectations. Their progress to the second round had kept alive hopes of another deep run on the world stage. However, the defeat to the Netherlands and the subsequent draw against Australia proved decisive. India finished their second-round campaign without the result they needed in the crucial final game. Australia, meanwhile, advanced to the semifinals after edging India on the goals-scored criterion. Their disciplined defensive performance ultimately proved enough to secure a place among the tournament's final four. India's exit also means the team



will now turn its attention to the remaining classification matches, with a chance to finish as high as fifth in the tournament. The campaign will nevertheless be remembered as a missed opportunity. India had reached a stage where one victory could have changed the entire tournament narrative, but the failure to find a

goal against Australia ended their medal aspirations. For the Indian women's hockey team, the World Cup journey has ended in heartbreak. The 0-0 draw may look like a narrow result on paper, but it carried enormous consequences, sending Australia into the semifinals and bringing India's medal hopes to an end.

Nani's The Paradise: Promotions Need To Accelerate

Natural Star Nani's much-awaited action drama The Paradise is now just a month away from its theatrical release. Directed by Srikanth Odela, the film is scheduled to hit screens on September 24, 2026, following two changes to its release date. With the countdown underway, expectations are high among Nani's fans and moviegoers. The film has already created considerable curiosity with its intense promotional material. The recently released teaser received a positive response, particularly for Nani's rugged and powerful look as Jadal. His transformation and the dark, raw world created by Srikanth Odela have raised expectations for the film. However, the makers have remained relatively quiet after the teaser release. Despite being only a month away from the theatrical release, there has not been a major promotional campaign so far. This has led fans to expect the team to step up promotions and keep the momentum going in the coming weeks. The Paradise marks Nani's second collaboration with director Srikanth Odela after their successful film Dasara. The new project is being presented as a pan-India action drama with a much larger scale and a darker backdrop. Kayadu Lohar is playing the female lead, while Mohan Babu and Raghav Juyal are also part of the cast. Music is composed by Anirudh Ravichander. The film's first single, "Aaya Sher," had already generated interest among audiences with its energetic composition and mass appeal. The teaser further strengthened the buzz surrounding Nani's character and the film's intense atmosphere. Now, the focus is expected to shift toward the next phase of promotions. Reports suggest that the second single, featuring a special appearance by Keerthy Suresh, could arrive soon. If released as expected, the song could mark the beginning of a more aggressive promotional campaign for the film. Since The Paradise is being positioned as a multilingual release, the promotional strategy will be particularly important. The makers need to introduce the film and its characters to audiences beyond the Telugu states while maintaining the excitement already created by the teaser. With only a month remaining, fans are now looking forward to more songs, posters, interviews, events and other promotional content. The film has already generated strong curiosity, but the makers will need to maintain that momentum until release day. For Nani and Srikanth Odela, The Paradise is one of their most ambitious projects yet. If the upcoming promotional material matches the intensity of the teaser, the film could enter its release month with strong expectations.



Mahakali Glimpse: Akshaye Khanna Stuns As Sukracharya

Prasanth Varma's cinematic universe is expanding with Mahakali, a female-led mythological superhero film that has now unveiled its much-awaited first glimpse. Directed by Puja Aparna Kolluri in her directorial debut, the movie stars Bhoomi Shetty in the lead role and features Bollywood actor Akshaye Khanna in a striking negative role as Sukracharya. The glimpse immediately grabs attention with its grand visual scale and mythological setting. Akshaye Khanna appears as Sukracharya, the powerful guru of the Asuras. His character seeks justice for the Asuras and appears determined to raise them against the gods and humans, setting the stage for a massive conflict. Akshaye Khanna's intense appearance is one of the biggest highlights of the glimpse. His commanding screen presence and powerful portrayal give Sukracharya a menacing edge. The character's war cry suggests that a major battle between opposing forces is about to unfold. On the other side stands Mahakaali, who takes on the forces of evil in an attempt to restore balance and peace. The glimpse presents her as a powerful divine figure, promising a visually spectacular superhero story rooted in Indian mythology. The final shot of the glimpse has emerged as one of its biggest talking points. It features a fierce Mahakaali with multiple arms while holding and feeding a baby, creating an intriguing image that raises several questions about the film's story and mythology. The visual effects and production scale have also received attention. The makers appear to be aiming for a larger-than-life cinematic experience, while Smaran Sai's background score adds intensity to the glimpse and strengthens its dramatic impact. Mahakali is being presented as the first female superhero film from the Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe. The project is part of the same expanding mythology-driven universe that began with Hanu-Man. Alongside Bhoomi Shetty and Akshaye Khanna, the film also features Rohit Saraf and several prominent actors in key roles. The makers have also officially locked the film's theatrical release date, adding to the excitement following the glimpse. With its combination of mythology, superhero elements, high-end visuals and Akshaye Khanna's powerful performance, Mahakali is already generating considerable interest among Telugu cinema audiences. The glimpse makes one thing clear: this is not merely another superhero story. With Sukracharya preparing for war and Mahakaali standing against evil, Mahakali appears to be setting up a massive mythological battle that



NBK 111 Targets Christmas Release Amid Tough Competition



Nandamuri Balakrishna's upcoming action entertainer NBK 111 is reportedly eyeing a December 24, 2026 theatrical release. Directed by Gopichand Malineni, the film was earlier expected to arrive during the festive season, but Balakrishna's recent injury and the resulting delay in shooting have prompted the makers to consider a Christmas release instead. Balakrishna suffered an injury during the shooting of the film, forcing the production to take a temporary break. He is expected to return to the sets in September, with the team keen to complete the remaining portions without further delays. The makers are reportedly working to keep the film on track for the proposed December release. The decision to target December 24 could help NBK 111 avoid the increasingly crowded Sankranti 2027 release window. Several major films are already expected to compete for screens and audience attention during the festival season. A Christmas release would therefore provide the Balakrishna-starrer with a separate festive window. However, December 24 is far from an easy release date. The film could face strong competition from several big-ticket projects arriving around the same period. Avengers: Doomsday is expected to release in Telugu, while Dune: Part Three and Shah Rukh Khan's King are also targeting the Christmas period. The competition could be particularly challenging because the rival films have strong appeal across multiple markets. While NBK 111 will primarily depend on its Telugu audience and Balakrishna's mass following, the Hollywood and Bollywood projects could attract viewers across urban centres and multiplexes. At the same time, Balakrishna has previously benefited from December releases. His recent Akhanda and Akhanda 2 arrived during the December window, making the period familiar territory for the actor and his fans. Directed by Gopichand Malineni, NBK 111 is being presented as a high-energy action entertainer. The project is produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru, while S Thaman is composing the music. Kajal Aggarwal is part of the cast, adding further interest to the film. The film's special glimpse released earlier has already created curiosity around Balakrishna's character and the movie's action-oriented treatment. With the actor expected to resume shooting soon, fans are now waiting for further updates regarding the title, teaser and promotional campaign. If the December 24 date is officially locked, NBK 111 will have to compete aggressively for audience attention during one of the busiest movie seasons of the year. The makers will be hoping that Balakrishna's mass image, Gopichand Malineni's action treatment and strong promotional material can help the film stand out amid the heavyweight competition. For now, the Christmas release remains a reported target, but the final date will depend on the progress of shooting and the release plans of competing films.

Seerat Kapoor Denies Bigg Boss Telugu 10 Entry

Maname. The actress has also maintained a strong presence on social media, where her posts frequently attract attention. Her online popularity appears to have contributed to the speculation surrounding a possible Bigg Boss entry. Meanwhile, preparations for Bigg Boss Telugu 10 are progressing, with Nagarjuna expected to return as the host. The upcoming season has already generated considerable curiosity, with several names being discussed as possible contestants. However, many of these names remain unconfirmed until the makers officially announce the cast. For now, Seerat Kapoor has made her position clear: she is not participating in Bigg Boss Telugu 10 at the moment. If her plans change in the future, fans can expect the actress to make the announcement herself rather than relying on social-media rumours.

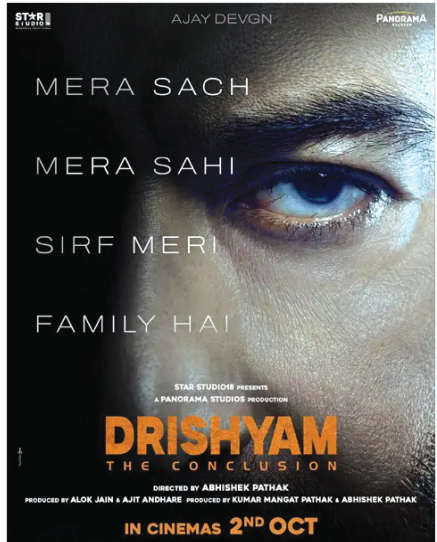
Actress

Seerat Kapoor has put an end to reports claiming that she will participate in Bigg Boss Telugu 10. The actress, whose name has recently been circulating on social media as a possible contestant, has clearly stated that she is not joining the upcoming season at present.

Rumours surrounding the tenth season of Bigg Boss Telugu have been gaining momentum as the launch date approaches. Several celebrity names are being discussed online, with fans eagerly waiting to know who will enter the reality-show house. Seerat Kapoor's name also surfaced in these unconfirmed lists, leading to speculation that she had been approached or finalised by the makers. However, Seerat herself has now responded to the reports. Addressing the speculation on social media, she clarified that she is currently not participating in Bigg Boss Telugu. The actress also urged fans not to believe unverified reports about her involvement in the show. Seerat made it clear that if she has any announcement regarding her career or future projects, she will communicate it directly through her social-media platforms. Her statement has effectively put the ongoing speculation to rest for now. Seerat Kapoor is a familiar face to Telugu audiences. She made her Tollywood debut with Run Raja Run, starring opposite Sharwanand, and gained recognition with her performance in the film. She later appeared in movies including Tiger, Columbus, Raju Gari Gadhi 2, Okka Kshanam, Touch Chesi Chudu, Krishna and His Leela, Maa Vintha Gaadha Vinuma, Bhamakalapam and

could become an important new chapter in Prasanth Varma's cinematic universe.

Drishyam 3: The Conclusion Creates Huge Curiosity



Ajay Devgn's much-awaited Drishyam 3 has finally received an official title, and it has immediately caught the attention of movie lovers. The third installment of the Hindi franchise has been titled Drishyam: The Conclusion, strongly suggesting that Vijay Salgaonkar's gripping story is heading towards its final chapter. The film is scheduled to hit theatres on October 2, 2026. Ajay Devgn returns as Vijay Salgaonkar, the clever family man who has repeatedly managed to stay one step ahead of the law. The first two films established Vijay as a character who can go to extraordinary lengths to protect his family, while keeping audiences guessing about how far his plans can go. The newly revealed title has generated considerable curiosity because of the word "Conclusion." While it appears to indicate that this will be the final chapter of the Hindi franchise, it also raises an important question: will Vijay finally face the consequences of everything he has done? The first poster features an intense close-up of Ajay Devgn, with the line, "Mera Sach, Mera Sahi, Sirf Meri Family Hai". The statement once again underlines Vijay's central motivation - protecting his family at any cost. The film brings back several key members of the franchise. Tabu will reprise her role as IG Meera Deshmukh, while Shriya Saran returns as Nandini Salgaonkar. Rajat Kapoor is also part of the cast. Prakash Raj and Jaideep Ahlawat have joined the film in new roles, adding another layer of intrigue to the final chapter. Directed by Abhishek Pathak, who also helmed Drishyam 2, the movie has already completed its shooting and is currently in the post-production stage. The director has indicated that the Hindi version will have its own treatment and will lean more towards a family thriller rather than simply following the Malayalam storyline. The Drishyam franchise has built its popularity around suspense, family emotions and unexpected twists. The 2015 Hindi film introduced audiences to Vijay's extraordinary efforts to save his family, while Drishyam 2, released in 2022, took the story forward and became a major commercial success. Now, with Drishyam: The Conclusion, expectations are even higher. Audiences are eager to discover whether Vijay will once again outsmart the authorities or whether the truth will finally catch up with him. Interestingly, the Malayalam franchise has also continued with its own third installment, making the Hindi version's decision to use "The Conclusion" particularly intriguing. The title suggests that the makers want to give Vijay Salgaonkar's Hindi journey a definitive ending. With the release date locked for October 2, all eyes are now on the teaser and trailer. If the makers manage to deliver the twists and suspense associated with the franchise, Drishyam: The Conclusion could become one of the most anticipated thrillers of 2026. For now, the title itself has done exactly what it was expected to do - create a huge question mark around Vijay Salgaonkar's final fate.