



TRUE POINT

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CM Visits Governor at Hospital

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy visited Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Yashoda Hospital in Hitech City on Thursday, where the Governor is undergoing treatment for an illness. The Chief Minister enquired about the Governor's health and spoke with the medical team regarding his condition. He conveyed his wishes for the Governor's speedy recovery and good health. MP Vem Narendar Reddy accompanied Revanth Reddy during the hospital visit. The Chief Minister's visit comes as the Governor continues to receive medical care at the hospital. Hospital authorities and medical professionals are monitoring his condition and providing the necessary treatment. The meeting was brief and focused on the Governor's health and recovery.

Independent System Proposed for Better Traffic Management



Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has proposed the creation of the Telangana Traffic Management and Road Safety (TG-TMARS), an independent and dedicated system aimed at improving traffic management and road safety across the state. During a review meeting at the Secretariat on Thursday, Jaju said traffic management could not be left to a single department and required coordinated action by the Police, Transport, Roads and Buildings, Municipal Administration, Urban Development and other departments. The proposed TG-TMARS would serve as a common platform to collect, consolidate and analyse traffic-related data from different parts of Telangana. Officials discussed road safety, maintenance of traffic signals, identification of accident-prone areas and creation of quicker routes for emergency services. The Chief Secretary directed authorities to strengthen traffic signalling systems in cities, district headquarters, municipalities, urban areas and along the Outer Ring Road. He called for modernization of signalling infrastructure and stronger electronic enforcement to improve compliance with traffic regulations. Jaju also instructed officials to prepare an action plan for introducing artificial intelligence-based technologies in traffic management. He stressed that technology should serve a broader purpose than merely detecting violations and should help provide citizens with safer, faster and more convenient journeys. The meeting also focused on implementing road safety measures in accordance

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Global Sports Tie-Up to Groom Athletes

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The state government has taken another step towards developing Olympic-level sporting talent by establishing an international academic and training partnership between the Young India Physical Education and Sports University and South Korea's Korea National Sport University (KNSU). Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced the collaboration, describing it as an effort to connect promising athletes from villages and towns with advanced coaching, sports science and high-performance training. The partnership is expected to provide opportunities for athletes, coaches, students and researchers to gain exposure to international sporting practices. The state government has been developing the Young India Sports University as a central component of its broader sports ecosystem. In July, the Chief Minister launched the university initiative along with the Gachibowli Sports District and said an advanced sports university with modern infrastructure would be developed. The latest collaboration builds on discussions held during Revanth Reddy's earlier visit to South Korea, when he met representatives of KNSU. The Telangana government had previously identified the Korean institution as an important part-



ner for improving coaching standards and athlete development. Under the proposed cooperation, the institutions will work together in sports education, sports science, research, technological innovation, curriculum development, faculty training, student exchanges, elite athlete preparation and performance enhancement. Conferences, seminars, training programmes and expert exchanges are also expected to facilitate the sharing of international expertise. Sports science will have a major role in

the partnership, particularly in areas such as athlete assessment, coaching methodologies, physical preparation and performance improvement. The collaboration is intended to strengthen the institutional capabilities of the new university while exposing young athletes to high-performance systems. KNSU has a strong record in international sport. The university reported that its students and alumni won 14 medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics-six gold, three silver and five bronze-out of South Korea's overall tally of 32 medals. The Chief Minister said Telangana wants to develop a sporting culture capable of producing athletes who can compete successfully at the highest international level. The state has also expressed its ambition to contribute to preparations for the 2036 Olympics, should India's bid to host the Games succeed. The agreement is expected to complement Telangana's broader sports policy, which focuses on international-standard infrastructure, specialised academies and scientific training. The government has previously said the Young India Sports University will serve as a foundation for nurturing Olympic-level talent. The partnership marks an effort to bring global expertise closer to aspiring athletes while strengthening sports education, research and coaching within the state.

Kishan Reddy Highlights Sports Push

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy highlighted the Centre's efforts to strengthen sports and encourage greater participation among students and young athletes during National Sports Day celebrations on Thursday. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually interacted with students and young sportspersons from 1,500 educational institutions across the country as part of initiatives aimed at promoting sports at the grassroots level. Around 10 lakh students reportedly participated in the interaction. Kishan Reddy said sports had received greater attention under the Modi government and claimed that talented athletes had previously faced difficulties in securing opportunities because of political interference. He said the country's large youth population made it important to create stronger sporting infrastructure and provide opportunities for emerging talent. The Minister highlighted the Prime Minister's engagement with Indian athletes preparing for



international competitions. He said Modi regularly meets athletes before major events and personally encourages them after both victories and defeats, helping sportspersons maintain confidence. According to Kishan Reddy, the government is providing athletes with nutritional support, specialised training and opportunities to work with coaches of their choice, including training programmes abroad. He said the objective was to enable Indian athletes to compete successfully at the highest international level and increase the country's medal tally. He also noted that India is scheduled to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and said efforts were underway to build international support for India's bid to host the 2036 Olympics. Kishan Reddy urged students, parents, teachers and educational institution heads to give sports equal importance alongside academics. He called for greater encouragement of sporting talent in schools and colleges. The Minister expressed confidence that sustained government support and wider participation would help India strengthen its position on the global sporting stage and emerge as a leading sporting nation in the coming years.

CWC Talks on Barrage Set for September 1

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

A crucial meeting to address technical and inter-State issues surrounding the proposed Tummidihatti Barrage on the Pranahita River is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on September 1. The meeting will be chaired by the Central Water Commission (CWC) Chairman at Sewa Bhawan and is expected to bring together senior officials from the Water Resources Departments of Telangana and Maharashtra. The discussions follow sustained efforts by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to revive the long-pending irrigation project. The Telangana government has been seeking Maharashtra's cooperation on the barrage height and related technical concerns. In August, Revanth Reddy met Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil and requested Centre-backed discussions with Maharashtra. The Chief Minister also cited a Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, study concerning barrage heights between 148 metres and 152 metres. The principal issue is the proposed height of the barrage. Telangana has been seeking a higher level, arguing that a height of 150-152 metres would facilitate gravity-based water transfer and reduce dependence on pumping, thereby lowering power requirements. The State has also maintained that the additional submergence associated with a higher level would be limited, based on the CWPRS study. The project has strategic importance for the irrigation needs of the erstwhile Adilabad region. The Chief Minister has reiterated that completing the project would help provide irrigation facilities to backward and water-stressed areas. The government has also been pursuing the



required permissions from Maharashtra to move the project forward. Earlier, the CWC had documented the history of the project and noted that the barrage had originally been envisaged as part of the Pranahita-Chevella project. Previous discussions had centred on a 148-metre full reservoir level because of concerns over submergence in Maharashtra. The September 1 meeting is expected to examine the technical feasibility, water availability, submergence implications and interstate concerns before further discussions between the two governments. The Centre's involvement could provide an important platform for resolving differences over the project's design and height. Telangana hopes that a mutually acceptable solution will accelerate the project and enable the planned irrigation benefits to reach northern districts. The State government has continued to describe Tummidihatti as an important component of its efforts to strengthen irrigation infrastructure and secure water resources for drought-prone areas.

El Nino Raises Monsoon Concerns



Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Concerns are mounting over the possible persistence of El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean and their potential impact on India's rainfall patterns. Meteorologists are closely monitoring the phenomenon, which can influence global weather systems and is historically associated with a greater likelihood of below-normal southwest monsoon rainfall over India. El Niño is the warm phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), develop-

maintains that El Niño has a notable relationship with southwest monsoon rainfall, although the effect varies from one year to another and other climate factors also play important roles. Experts are therefore adopting a cautious approach while assessing the outlook for upcoming rainfall seasons. A subsequent transition from El Niño to La Niña could potentially create more favourable conditions for the Indian monsoon. NOAA describes La Niña as the cooler phase of ENSO and notes that transitions between the two phases can take several months. Scientists monitor ENSO conditions across several designated Pacific regions, including Niño1+2, Niño3, Niño3.4 and Niño4. The Niño3.4 region is particularly important for assessing the ocean-atmosphere interactions associated with ENSO. The IMD continues to monitor Pacific Ocean temperatures along with the Indian Ocean Dipole and other atmospheric indicators as part of its broader monsoon assessment. Meteorologists are expected to closely evaluate the strength and persistence of El Niño before drawing firm conclusions about its longer-term implications for India's southwest monsoon. The evolving Pacific conditions underline the importance of continued monitoring and advance preparedness, particularly for agriculture and water-resource planning.

ing when sea-surface temperatures across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific become unusually warm. According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), El Niño events generally last nine to 12 months, although prolonged episodes can continue for longer periods. The duration and timing of the phenomenon are particularly important for India because changes in Pacific Ocean temperatures can influence atmospheric circulation and monsoon conditions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD)

Census 2027 to Collect 40 Details



Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has initiated steps for the next phase of Census 2027, with the State expected to republish the relevant gazette notification on August 29. The exercise will involve collection of 40 specified categories of information under the household schedule notified by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India. The notified questionnaire covers basic demographic details, including a per-

son's name, relationship with the head of the household, sex, date of birth, age, marital status and nationality. It also includes religion, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and caste details, along with information about parents and disability. Educational and employment information will form another major component. Enumerators will record literacy and digital literacy, educational attendance, highest educational qualification, economic activity, occupation, industry or

service, worker category and employment-related details. Migration and Identity Details The Census schedule also contains several questions relating to migration. Information on place of birth, previous place of residence, reason for migration, duration of stay at the current location and permanent residential address will be recorded. For specified categories of women, details concerning children born and surviving will also be collected. The schedule additionally includes the place of COVID-19 vaccination and financial and identification-related information. These details include the total number of bank accounts, mobile number, Aadhaar number, voter ID number, passport number for Indian passport holders and availability of a driving licence. Census authorities have stated that information collected through official Census applications will be used by the government under the Census Act and applicable rules. The Census 2027 exercise is being conducted digitally, while Telangana's self-enumeration phase began in April 2026. The census data is expected to provide important demographic and socio-economic information for planning and policymaking in areas including education, healthcare, employment, housing and infrastructure.

23 Residents Traced

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has stepped up efforts to assist residents from the State who are stranded or uncontactable in Nepal following recent floods and flash floods. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said on Thursday that 23 Telangana residents had been preliminarily identified based on information received from their families, relatives and acquaintances. Their details have been forwarded to the Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for further coordination. The Minister said the State government was

maintaining continuous contact with the MEA, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu and Nepalese authorities to establish the whereabouts and safety of the identified persons and arrange assistance wherever required. He added that the situation was being closely monitored as information continued to change. Following directions from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, a special help line and coordination centre have been established at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi. A separate control room has also been set up at the Telangana Secretariat under the General Administration Department's NRI division. Officials are collect-

ing information from families and coordinating with relevant authorities. The government said it had received numerous calls from families seeking information about people who travelled to Nepal. Telangana Today reported that preliminary verification identified 23 persons in 20 cases for further coordination, with one person confirmed safe. Ponguleti appealed to families not to panic and requested anyone with information about additional Telangana residents in Nepal to contact the State government immediately. Families have been asked to provide details such as the person's name, passport



information, mobile number, last known location, travel or tour operator details and family contact numbers.

The Minister assured families that the government would continue coordinating with the Centre and diplomatic

authorities and take all possible steps to ensure the safety and assistance of Telangana residents affected by the situation.

Revanth Reddy Extends Rakhi Greetings

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to women across the state on the occasion of Rakhi Purnima, celebrating the festival that symbolises the enduring bond between brothers and sisters. In his message, the Chief Minister wished that people celebrate Rakhi with happiness, enthusiasm and togetherness. He expressed hope that the festival would bring prosperity, good health and happiness to every household across Telangana. Revanth Reddy said the state government was working towards the economic empowerment of women as part of its broader welfare and development agenda. He highlighted the government's goal of enabling one crore women to become financially prosperous and achieve "crorepati" status. The Chief Minister said several welfare schemes and development programmes had already been introduced to support



women's economic advancement. He emphasised that strengthening women financially would contribute to the overall development of families and communities. He conveyed his best wishes to all sisters in Telangana and expressed hope that Rakhi Purnima would strengthen familial relationships and spread happiness across the state. The government has been highlighting women's empowerment as a key component of its policy agenda, with various initiatives aimed at improving livelihoods, income opportunities and social welfare for women.

Modern Grain Silos Planned Across Regions

Kakinada, Aug 21 | TPN Bureau

Efforts by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to establish an advanced cancer treatment centre at Kakinada Government General Hospital (GGH) have yielded results, with a state-of-the-art Dual Energy Linear Accelerator (LINAC) machine worth \$36.6 crore sanctioned through ONGC CSR funds. The facility is expected to

benefit cancer patients from Kakinada, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, East Godavari, Anakapalli, Polavaram and surrounding districts. A mobile cancer screening vehicle worth \$3.5 crore is also expected to be made available soon for early detection. The project also includes proposals for a CT simulator, HDR brachytherapy machine and dosimetry systems. An advanced building, being construct-

ed with \$7 crore in Red Cross funds, is nearing completion. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Pune, has permitted construction of a radiotherapy bunker, where the LINAC machine will be installed. At present, Kakinada GGH functions mainly as a cancer referral centre, forcing patients to travel to Hyderabad, Chennai and Visakhapatnam for specialised treatment. The new facility is expected to provide com-

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



and strengthening public health services.

Seethakka Reviews Development Works



Mulugu, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka conducted a review of development and engineering works in Mulugu district on Thursday and inspected several government offices to assess the functioning of departments at the field level. The Minister held a review meeting with district officials at the conference hall of the newly established District Collectorate. During the meeting, she examined the progress of various engineering works being undertaken across the district and sought updates from the officials concerned. Seethakka directed officials to ensure that development works are implemented efficiently and completed within the prescribed timelines. She stressed the importance of close monitoring of ongoing projects and instructed the district administration to address delays and shortcomings without unnecessary loss of time. The Minister also conducted surprise inspections at the Horticulture Department and Panchayat Raj Department offices located at the district headquarters. She reviewed the attendance and functioning of the

offices and interacted with officials and staff during the inspections. During the review, Seethakka directed the District Collector to closely monitor the performance of government officials and take appropriate action wherever negligence or poor performance was noticed. The Minister said officials should remain accessible to the public and ensure that government services reach beneficiaries without delays. She also underlined the need for effective coordination among departments to ensure that engineering and rural development works progress smoothly. The district administration was instructed to maintain regular supervision of ongoing works and promptly resolve issues affecting their implementation. The Minister's surprise inspections were aimed at improving administrative efficiency and ensuring that officials remain attentive to their responsibilities. The visit comes as the government continues to focus on strengthening rural infrastructure and improving the delivery of public services. Officials were asked to maintain transparency and quality in development works while ensuring that public funds are utilised effectively.

Rs 185 Crore Released for Indiramma Houses

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the state government would continue implementing the rural Indiramma housing programme despite what he described as a lack of financial support from the Centre. He said the state had been awaiting funds for nearly a year but had not received any amount despite repeated representations. The Minister said the government has now released Rs 185 crore to clear final bills for 15,475 Indiramma houses completed in rural areas by March 31. The amount was expected to be credited to beneficiaries' bank accounts on Thursday. He assured that payments to other eligible beneficiaries would be released in phases. Ponguleti said the state had temporarily held back final bill payments while awaiting central assistance. However, considering the financial difficulties faced by poor families, the government decided to release funds from its own resources. He said the demand for housing



had increased substantially because, according to the state government, construction of houses for economically weaker sections in rural areas had not progressed adequately between 2014 and 2023. The Minister said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had personally raised the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on several occasions, seeking additional houses and central assistance for Telangana. Ponguleti added that he had also accompanied Members of Parliament to meet the Union Minister about two weeks ago. According to the

Minister, the state has yet to receive a favourable response from the Centre. Nevertheless, he said the government would not allow delays in central funding to further affect poor beneficiaries. Ponguleti also announced that the beneficiary-selection process for the second phase of Indiramma houses is expected to be completed by September 15. He said the government would continue working to expand housing support and ensure that eligible families receive assistance. The Minister appealed to beneficiaries not to worry about delays and assured them that pending payments would be addressed progressively.

CM Revanth Attends Wedding



Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attended the wedding ceremony of Rani, niece of Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli hankar, at Mallika Gardens in Rajendranagar on Wednesday. The Chief Minister conveyed his best wishes to the newly married couple and blessed them on the occasion. He interacted briefly with the family members and extended his greetings for their future together. Nagarkurnool MP Dr. Mallu Ravi also attended the ceremony and joined the Chief Minister in wishing the newlyweds a happy and prosperous married life. Family members, relatives and well-wishers were present at the wedding ceremony.

5,000 Special Buses for Rakhi Rush

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has made elaborate arrangements to handle the expected passenger rush during Raksha Bandhan, with Transport Minister Ponnampallabharathi announcing that 5,000 special buses will be operated from August 27 to 31. The special services are intended to facilitate passengers travelling to their hometowns for the festival and manage the anticipated return rush. Raksha Bandhan will be observed on August 28 this year. Minister Ponnampallabharathi said the additional services were planned considering the series of holidays around the festival. Passenger movement was expected to increase ahead of Rakhi, while the return rush was likely to intensify from Sunday afternoon and continue through Monday. According to the Minister, TGSRTC operated 4,760 special buses during last year's Rakhi season. An additional 240 buses have been added this year, taking the total to 5,000. He said around 3.68 crore passengers travelled on the special services during the previous Rakhi period, including approximately 2.51 crore women. Based on that experience, officials have been instructed to deploy additional buses at locations witnessing heavy demand. The Minister directed TGSRTC officials to continuously monitor passenger traffic and arrange extra services wherever necessary. Depot and field-level staff have also



been asked to coordinate closely to prevent inconvenience to passengers during the festival period. The free bus travel facility available to women under the State government's Mahalakshmi scheme will continue during the festive period, the Minister said. He appealed to RTC employees to work patiently and collectively to ensure safe and efficient services. Passengers were also encouraged to use public transport for their festival journeys and avoid unnecessary travel difficulties. TGSRTC provides online reservation facilities and operates services across Telangana and neighbouring States. Passengers can check available services and make bookings through the corporation's official platform. The corporation's official website also provides information on special bus services and schedules, allowing travellers to plan their journeys in advance.

BJP Chief Attacks Government Over Student Issues

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Thursday accused the Congress government of adopting an "Emergency-era" approach by restricting opposition leaders and students who raise concerns over education-related issues. He made the remarks after police placed him under house arrest at his Tamaka residence. Rao said he was stopped while preparing to visit students of Ramanthapur Government Polytechnic College, who had earlier approached his hunger-strike camp to highlight their grievances. He criticised the heavy police deployment outside his residence, calling it an attempt to prevent him from extending support to the protesting students. The BJP

leader alleged that the government's policies were adversely affecting the education system and the future of lakhs of students. He cited pending fee reimbursements and scholarships and raised concerns over delays in stipends for AYUSH students and junior doctors. Rao claimed that PG students in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh receive higher monthly stipends than their counterparts in Telangana. He alleged that Telangana pays around Rs 13,000-Rs 15,000, while Andhra Pradesh provides about Rs 26,000 to PG students and up to Rs 30,000 to super-speciality students. He criticised the government for not increasing stipends despite court directions. Rao also opposed Government Order 97, alleging that it could weaken Polytechnic education and



affect students seeking admission to engineering courses through the Engineering Common Entrance Test

(ECET). He criticised the proposed changes under the "Shakti Scheme" and demanded immediate withdrawal of GO

97. He further condemned the alleged lathi-charge and cases against students during protests, describing the government-appointed committee as inadequate and calling for direct action to resolve their concerns. Rao also criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who holds the Education portfolio, over alleged shortages of teachers, professors and lecturers and delays in financial support to students. He urged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to address education-related problems in Telangana instead of focusing on student issues in other States. Rao said the BJP would continue supporting Polytechnic students and intensify its campaign until their concerns were addressed, asserting that police restrictions would not stop the party's movement.

Independent System Proposed for Better Traffic Management

Continue

with Supreme Court guidelines and improving coordination among departments. The government has undertaken similar institutional initiatives in other areas, including food safety and narcotics control. Officials said a dedicated and integrated approach to traffic management could help address recurring congestion and accident-related concerns more effectively. The proposed TG-TMARS is expected to bring various agencies onto a common platform and enable data-driven planning, quicker emergency response and improved road safety across Telangana.

Kavitha Alleges BRS-BJP Understanding



Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Rakshana Sena president K. Kavitha has alleged that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is facing an internal crisis and claimed that former minister and Siddipet MLA T. Harish Rao is exploring an understanding with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The allegations have not been independently verified. Kavitha, who has been publicly critical of the BRS leadership following her separation from the party, claimed that Harish Rao had held discussions with some legislators and was considering a political realignment. She alleged that he had also been meeting a senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionary. Referring to an alleged meeting in Medak, Kavitha claimed Harish Rao had compared the political legacies of N.T. Rama Rao and K. Chandrasekhar Rao. She further alleged that the BRS leader had discussed the possibility of winning seats in Medak and subsequently joining the BJP. Kavitha also levelled allegations concerning Harish Rao's business interests during his tenure as Health Minister in the previous BRS government. She claimed that a milk-related

business associated with him supplied products to educational institutions and alleged that the business generated substantial revenues over several years. These claims were made by Kavitha and require verification from relevant records. She challenged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to initiate an investigation if there was no political understanding between the Congress and Harish Rao. Neither Harish Rao nor the concerned organisations were cited as responding to these allegations in the material provided. Kavitha also spoke about her relationship with her brother and BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao. She said she would not tie a Rakhi to KTR this year, attributing the decision to what she described as deep hurt to her self-respect amid recent political developments. In earlier remarks, Kavitha had maintained that her criticism of her father, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, was political rather than personal. She said she had no personal disagreement with him but differed ideologically with the BRS, which he leads. Kavitha's latest comments come amid continuing political speculation surrounding Telangana's opposition landscape and her efforts to establish an independent political identity.

EHS Uncertainty Raises Employee Concerns



Hanumakonda, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Former Telangana minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao has criticised the state government over the alleged delay in implementing the revised Employees' Health Scheme (EHS), saying employees continue to face difficulties despite regular salary deductions. Harish Rao made the remarks while participating in a protest organised by employees at the Hanumakonda Collectorate on Thursday. He alleged that 1.5% of employees' salaries has been deducted for four months, even though the earlier EHS arrangement was discontinued and the proposed replacement has not become fully operational. He cited the case of retired headmaster Khaja Moinuddin, whose family allegedly struggled to obtain cashless treatment when his father suffered a heart attack.

According to Rao, the patient was eventually admitted to a hospital, where the medical expenses reportedly reached Rs 11 lakh. He said he intervened with the hospital management and helped secure a reduction of around Rs 2-3 lakh. Rao said the dispute largely stems from unresolved issues between the government and hospitals participating in the health network. He claimed that representatives of corporate and private hospitals had told him that agreements with the government were yet to be finalised and that previous Aarogyasri dues remained pending. He further stated that hospitals had expressed concerns over the financial viability of the proposed treatment packages, making them reluctant to extend services under the new EHS framework. The former minister questioned why employees were being charged contributions when the promised healthcare arrangement remained uncertain. He demanded that the government resolve outstanding payments and finalise agreements with network hospitals at the earliest. Rao urged authorities to ensure that employees, pensioners and their families are not forced to bear substantial medical expenses because of administrative delays. He also called for greater clarity on the implementation timeline and the services that beneficiaries can currently access. The issue has emerged as a significant concern among government employees, who are seeking continuity of cashless healthcare benefits alongside transparent communication about the revised scheme.

ARajender Opposes 22-A Listings

Malkajgiri, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender has criticised the inclusion of residential properties in the 22-A prohibited list, describing the move as arbitrary and potentially harmful to long-time homeowners. He raised the issue during a meeting with residents affected by the classification in RK Puram division of Neredmet. Rajender said Malkajgiri had evolved into a "Mini India", with residents from different parts of the country settling in the constituency. He pointed out that RK Puram Colony was established more than six decades ago and questioned the rationale behind placing properties of families who had lived there for generations under restrictions. He said the government could not simultaneously promise homes to homeless families while creating uncertainty for people who had already constructed and occupied their own houses. Rajender demanded a comprehensive review of the properties included in the prohibited list and immediate measures to protect genuine homeowners. The MP also reiterated his opposition to HYDRA-related demolition drives, particularly those affecting economically weaker sections. Referring to action in Gajularamaram, he alleged that homes, borewells and electricity infrastructure belonging to long-time residents had been removed. Rajender questioned why enforcement appeared to disproportionately affect poorer communities while those responsible for developing unauthorised layouts faced comparatively less scrutiny. He demanded action against illegal layout developers, intermediaries who sold such properties and officials who



allegedly approved unauthorised developments. Recalling his earlier involvement in protests concerning the Musi River catchment, Rajender said major policy decisions should be preceded by a detailed assessment of their social and economic consequences. He maintained that his criticism was directed at policies rather than individuals. Rajender urged the government to resolve the 22-A issue at the earliest and ensure that legitimate residential properties and the rights of poor and middle-class families are protected.

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BRS Announces Week-Long Protest



Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has announced a week-long series of protests from September 1 to 8, targeting what it described as the Congress government's failures during its first 1,000 days in office. Former minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy unveiled the programme at a press conference at Telangana Bhavan. The BRS will begin the campaign on September 1 with the unveiling of a protest logo and the release of a charge sheet listing alleged failures of the Congress government. On September 2, dharnas will be organised

at constituency headquarters over the alleged non-implementation of the Six Guarantees. Party workers will distribute "due cards" highlighting promises they claim remain unfulfilled and display a 420-foot-long flex banner. On September 3, protests will focus on farmers and the agriculture sector. Issues to be highlighted include lands placed under the 22-A prohibited category, irrigation, power supply, urea availability and Rythu Bima. Programmes will be held in rural areas as well as Hyderabad and other urban locations. September 4 has been earmarked for "Vanta-Varpu" programmes, with the party raising concerns

over the alleged non-payment of Rs 2,500 to women and the discontinuation or weakening of schemes including KCR Kit, Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak. Students and youth will organise rallies on September 5 demanding fee reimbursement, implementation of the job calendar and fulfilment of the Youth Declaration. On September 6, BRS will hold meetings in Adilabad covering CCI and Singareni-related issues across 12 constituencies. Auto-rickshaw rallies will raise demands concerning drinking water, streetlights, law and order, traffic management and Basti Dawakhana. Village-level programmes will focus on sanitation and rural infrastructure. On September 7, party representatives will submit memoranda at district and mandal-level grievance centres regarding the implementation of the Congress's alleged "420 promises." The campaign will conclude on September 8 with a press conference reviewing the week-long agitation. Representations will also be submitted at Ambedkar statues, while the party will extend solidarity to protest programmes organised by teachers' and employees' unions.

Ethics Panel Notice to Kaushik Reddy



Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Legislative Assembly's Ethics Committee has issued a notice to Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy over remarks allegedly made against Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari. The committee is scheduled to meet on August 29 at 11 a.m. in Assembly Committee Hall-1 to examine the complaint and discuss the matter. Reacting to the development, former minister and Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy accused the Congress government of using the legislative committee mechanism for political purposes. He alleged that Kaushik Reddy was being targeted as part of what he described as a campaign against opposition leaders. Prashanth Reddy questioned why similar scrutiny had not been initiated over alleged threatening or objectionable remarks made by ruling-party legislators and ministers during Assembly proceed-

ings. He referred to statements attributed to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Danam Nagender and Mandula Samuel, as well as alleged gestures by other members. The BRS leader displayed video clips while making his allegations and demanded that the same standards be applied to members across political parties. He also questioned the timing of the Ethics Committee proceedings. According to Prashanth Reddy, the complaint concerning Kaushik Reddy had been referred to at a time when the committee had not yet been constituted. He argued that this raised questions about the procedure followed in initiating the proceedings. The dispute reportedly stems from Kaushik Reddy's comments concerning Kadiyam Srihari, who moved from the BRS to the Congress and subsequently joined the ruling party. Prashanth Reddy said Kaushik had objected to Srihari making critical remarks about the previous government, in which Srihari had served as a minister. The BRS leader alleged that the proceedings reflected political vendetta rather than an impartial effort to uphold legislative standards. He demanded that the Ethics Committee examine all complaints involving members without political discrimination. The scheduled August 29 meeting is expected to consider the complaint against Kaushik Reddy and determine the next course of action. The controversy has added another layer to the continuing political confrontation between the ruling Congress and opposition BRS in the Telangana Assembly.

Fee Dues Protest Intensifies

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Hundreds of college students and BC community leaders staged a protest at the Hyderabad Collectorate on Thursday, demanding the immediate release of more than Rs 8,000 crore in pending fee reimbursement dues. They also sought the withdrawal of Government Order (GO) No. 9, which shifts the fee payment mechanism to students through direct benefit transfer (DBT). The protest was organised by the State BC Student Association and led by its convenor Nikhil Patel. Participants alleged that the prolonged delay in releasing reimbursements was placing severe financial pressure on students and educational institutions. Rajya Sabha MP and National BC Welfare Association president R. Krishnaiah criticised the Congress government over the pending dues. He questioned the government's claim that funds were unavailable for scholarships and fee reimbursements, arguing that financial resources were being allocated for other expenditures while students were awaiting their legitimate support. Krishnaiah said the pending amount affected nearly 14 lakh students and alleged that colleges were struggling to pay staff salaries and meet operational expenses. He further claimed that around 200 institutions had already closed because of financial difficulties. The protesters strongly objected to provisions under GO No. 9 concerning the Revenue Recovery Act. They alleged that students could face recovery proceedings if they failed to transfer fees to colleges within the stipulated period after receiving funds in their bank accounts. Krishnaiah termed the provision harsh and inappropriate for students, arguing that the Revenue Recovery Act should not be applied to educational fee payments. He demanded that the government restore the earlier system under which reimbursement amounts were transferred directly to eligible educational institutions. The protesters urged the government to clear all outstanding dues without further delay and ensure that financial constraints do not disrupt higher education. They warned that the agitation would continue until their demands were addressed.

Surekha Issue Before High Command

Nizamabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud said the controversy surrounding Minister Konda Surekha is now before the Congress high command, with the party's Disciplinary Committee report already forwarded to the All India Congress Committee (AICC). The issue gained prominence after Surekha's daughter, Konda Sushmitha, made critical remarks against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Following the controversy, the Disciplinary Committee issued a notice to Surekha seeking an explanation. She subsequently maintained that she should not be held responsible for statements made by her daughter. Speaking on the matter, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the episode falls within the purview of the AICC and that the state leadership would abide by whatever decision is taken by the party's central leadership. He denied the existence of personal differences or hostility within the party and said there were no grievances against any individual. Mahesh also stated that former minister Konda Murali had not held any consultations with him regarding the matter. He reiterated that the state unit would respect the decision of the party high command. On other issues, the TPCC chief highlighted the Congress party's focus on the welfare and representation of Backward Classes (BCs), claiming that the party had given greater importance to the community than other political organisations. He also stressed that Telangana's interests over its rightful share of river waters would be protected and said the government had a responsibility to ensure that the state does not suffer any injustice in water-sharing matters. Mahesh further disclosed that he had received a notice related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and would submit the required information.

Follow Traffic Rules, CI Urges Riders



Tarnaka, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Osmania University Traffic Police organised an "Arrive Alive" road safety awareness programme for Blinkit delivery riders in Tarnaka, Maruthi Nagar and Nagarjuna Nagar, urging them to follow traffic regulations and prioritise safety while on the road. Traffic CI Satyanarayana led the awareness programme, which was attended by around 70 delivery riders. Addressing the participants, police stressed the importance of wearing helmets at all times and carrying valid vehicle documents while riding. The police also cautioned delivery personnel against dangerous driving practices that could lead to serious accidents. Riders were advised to avoid speeding, reckless driving, wrong-way driving and driving under the influence of alcohol. They were also warned

against using mobile phones while riding, as distractions can significantly increase the risk of accidents. CI Satyanarayana said responsible road behaviour could help prevent accidents and save lives. He urged every delivery rider to understand that road safety was not only about protecting oneself but also about safeguarding other motorists, pedestrians and road users. Police officials called upon the riders to strictly observe traffic rules and exercise patience, particularly while making deliveries under time pressure. They said safety should never be compromised for faster deliveries. Police personnel and members of the public also participated in the programme. The initiative aimed to strengthen awareness among delivery riders and encourage safer driving habits in the busy areas of Tarnaka and surrounding localities.

Illegal G+5 Building Demolished

Quthbullapur, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Town Planning officials of the Dundigal Circle launched a crackdown on unauthorised constructions, demolishing an illegal G+5 building at Bowrampet on Thursday. The structure was being constructed without the required permissions at Survey No. 576, near Indiramma Colony. Officials said the building had come up on a plot measuring approximately 120 square yards and was being constructed in violation of building regulations. The demolition formed part of intensified enforcement against unauthorised structures within the Dundigal Circle. Dundigal Circle Deputy Commissioner Dr. S. Venkata Manikaran said authorities were paying particular attention to buildings where owners construct additional floors beyond the limits permitted under approved plans. He said special surveillance teams had been constituted to identify such violations, including unauthorised constructions on small plots. The Deputy Commissioner warned that strict action



would be taken against anyone violating construction norms. He made it clear that obtaining permission for a particular structure would not allow owners to subsequently add floors or make unauthorised modifications. Officials said monitoring of construction activity across the circle would continue and that structures found to have violated regulations would face immediate action, including demolition, as per applicable rules. Assistant City Planner Srinivas, town planning personnel and other officials took part in the demolition operation. Authorities urged property owners and builders to obtain the necessary approvals and strictly adhere to sanctioned building plans to avoid enforcement action.

BJP Condemns Rao's House Arrest

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Chief Official Spokesperson and Media In-charge N.V. Subhash on Thursday strongly condemned the house arrest of BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao at his residence in Tarnaka. Subhash alleged that police imposed restrictions on Rao to prevent him from visiting Government Polytechnic students protesting at Ramanthapur over their grievances. He said heavy police deployment was made outside Rao's residence as he prepared to extend support to the students and understand their concerns. Questioning the police action, Subhash asked whether leaders were being prevented from meeting students simply for expressing solidarity with their protest. He accused the Congress government of using police restrictions to suppress opposition voices and public movements. Subhash also alleged that preventive house arrests were imposed on several BJP leaders and activists across Greater Hyderabad, including areas around Ramanthapur and Malkajgiri. He claimed the action was linked to the BJP's "Fee Arrears - BJP Fight" campaign over pending fee reimbursement dues. According to Subhash, the government had failed to adequately address the problems faced by Polytechnic students and was attempting to contain their protests through police intervention. He warned that restrictions and house arrests would not stop public movements or the BJP's campaign. The BJP demanded that police restrictions on Ramchander Rao be lifted immediately and called for the students' grievances to be addressed. Subhash said the party would continue its campaign until the government responded to the students' demands and their rights were protected.

BJP Chief Placed Under House Arrest

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Police placed BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao under house arrest at his residence in Tarnaka on Thursday, reportedly as he was preparing to visit students of Ramanthapur Polytechnic College. Rao was scheduled to meet the students to understand the issues and concerns they were facing and express his solidarity and support. However, police prevented him from leaving his residence as part of the security and law-and-order measures. The development comes amid concerns raised by students at the polytechnic college over

issues affecting them. Rao had planned to personally interact with the students and gather information about their grievances before deciding on further action. BJP leaders and supporters criticised the police action, questioning the decision to restrict the movement of an elected political leader who intended to meet students and hear their concerns. They said public representatives should be allowed to engage with students and understand issues affecting educational institutions. Police officials, however, maintained the restrictions as part of preventive measures. The house arrest prevented Rao from reaching



Ramanthapur and meeting the students as planned. The incident has drawn politi-

cal attention in Hyderabad, with the BJP expected to raise the issue and seek clarity over

the reasons behind the police action. Further developments are likely to depend on the

response of the police authorities and the concerns raised by the students.

SIR Process Gains Ground

Quthbullapur, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The Special Summary Revision (SIR-2026) of the electoral rolls gained momentum at the field level with officials stepping up verification and voter assistance measures across Dundigal Circle. Dundigal Circle Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) Dr. S. Venkata Mani Karan conducted a field visit on Thursday to inspect arrangements at three venue centres.



He visited the ward offices at Dommara Pochampally and Bowrampet, besides Ambedkar Bhavan in Mallampet, and reviewed the progress of the revision process. During the inspection, Dr. Mani Karan interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Booth Level Agents (BLAs), supervisors and local voters. He enquired about difficulties faced by voters and directed officials to initiate remedial measures in cases where 2002 electoral data was unavailable or discrepancies were found in voter details. Officials have scheduled 40 individuals per day at each venue centre to ensure orderly verification and avoid incon-

venience. Voters attending according to the schedule are having their documents checked and details entered online at the venue itself. Arrangements have also been made for voters who are unable to attend on their allotted date. Such individuals can reschedule their visit for the following day, officials said. Authorities urged voters to utilise the opportunity and attend the venue centres with the required documents to correct or update their electoral details. BLOs, BLAs, supervisors and voters participated in the field-level programme.

Bhavana Protest Draws Police Intervention

Quthbullapur, August 27 | TPN Bureau

A protest by former Tech Mahindra employee Bhavana outside the company's office in Bahadurpally on Thursday witnessed police intervention, as supporters gathered in solidarity with her demand for action over alleged workplace grievances. Bhavana has been protesting for the past 33 days, seeking a resolution to the issues she has raised. Bhavana alleged that women employees at the company were not receiving adequate respect and protection. She claimed that her photographs and statements had been used without her consent and that she had not received satisfactory relief despite approaching the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC). She further alleged that she had faced delays in the registration of an FIR after approaching the police and claimed that the company's legal department had declined to meet her. Bhavana also said she had six hours of audio recordings relating to a meeting held on August 12 and indicated that the material could support her allegations. The allegations and the status of the ICC inquiry have not been independently established. Questions remain over the company's response to the claims



and the steps taken to address Bhavana's grievances. Several political figures and supporters, including TRS IT Wing Convener Shashidhar, D. Kavitha, Siddhartha Reddy and Rambabu, expressed solidarity with Bhavana and called for a resolution. Dundigal police reached the spot as the gathering intensified and reportedly took some supporters to the police station to prevent any disturbance and maintain law and order. The developments have renewed attention on the prolonged protest and the need for a resolution to the dispute.

Illegal Slabs Removed

Quthbullapur, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Town Planning officials intensified their crackdown on unauthorised constructions in Gajularamaram Circle, taking action against structures that violated approved building permissions in Malla Reddy Nagar Phase-1 on Thursday. Acting on the directions of Gajularamaram Circle Deputy Commissioner U. Venkat Ramulu, Town Planning personnel launched an enforcement drive against illegal structures. As part of the operation, slabs constructed in violation of sanctioned plans were removed using gas cutters. Speaking during the operation, Deputy Commissioner Venkat Ramulu warned property owners and builders against undertaking construction without proper permissions or deviating from approved building plans. He said the authorities would not tolerate violations of construction regulations and stressed that all structures must strictly conform to the permissions granted by



the competent authorities. The Deputy Commissioner stated that officials were identifying unauthorised constructions across the circle and would initiate enforcement action in a phased manner. The latest operation is part of ongoing efforts by civic authorities to regulate construction activity and ensure compliance with planning norms within Gajularamaram Circle. ACP Sumitra, Town Planning Supervisor (TPS) Saritha Sen and other Town Planning staff participated in the enforcement operation. Officials said similar inspections and action against unauthorised constructions would continue in the coming days.

SP Inspects Jail Security



Nalgonda, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Nalgonda District Superintendent of

Police Sharath Chandra Pawar, IPS, inspected security arrangements at the Nalgonda District Jail on

Thursday and directed officials to strengthen vigilance and ensure strict compliance with established security

protocols. Accompanied by the Jail Superintendent, the SP conducted a detailed inspection of the prison premises, security checkpoints and entry and exit points. He reviewed existing security procedures and assessed the precautionary measures in place to prevent any untoward incidents. During the visit, Pawar issued specific instructions and suggestions to the Jail Superintendent on strengthening security arrangements. He stressed that constant vigilance was essential within the jail premises and warned officials against any negligence in the discharge of security duties. The SP directed authorities to regularly monitor security arrangements and immediately address any shortcomings identified during inspections. He instructed personnel deployed at security checkpoints to remain alert and perform their duties responsibly, particularly while monitoring the movement of people and

materials through entry and exit points. Pawar also directed officials to maintain a contingency plan to ensure a prompt response to any unforeseen situation. He emphasised that all aspects of prison security should be continuously reviewed and that deficiencies, if detected, should be rectified without delay. The SP called for close coordination between the Police and Prison departments in matters relating to jail security. He said regular information sharing and joint efforts would help strengthen the overall security system. Pawar further emphasised discipline, vigilance and continuous supervision among prison staff. He instructed officials to conduct periodic reviews of security conditions and take necessary corrective measures. The Jail Superintendent, prison officials, staff and police personnel participated in the inspection.

Police Recover 34 Phones

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Mailardevpally Police recovered 34 mobile phones valued at approximately 75.1 lakh that had been reported missing or stolen through complaints lodged at the police station and the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal. According to police, the recovery was achieved through sustained investigative efforts and the use of available technical resources. Officers traced the missing devices to different locations while following up on complaints received from members of the pub-

lic. During the investigation, police verified the recovered mobile phones against the details and identification information provided by the respective complainants. After completing the required legal procedures, the devices were handed over to their rightful owners. Police officials said the recovery was made possible through the coordinated efforts of officers and staff attached to Mailardevpally Police Station. The successful tracing of the devices provided relief to the complainants who had reported their phones missing.

Authorities advised members of the public to report the loss or theft of mobile phones without delay. Complaints can be submitted at the nearest police station, enabling law enforcement personnel to initiate the necessary investigation. Police also stressed the importance of using the CEIR portal to block a lost or stolen mobile device. Blocking the device can prevent unauthorised use and assist authorities in tracing it if the handset is detected on a mobile network. Officials urged citizens to preserve relevant details such as the mobile number,

device identification information and purchase records, where available, while reporting a missing phone. Such information can assist investigators in verifying ownership and tracing the device. The police said continued cooperation between citizens and law enforcement agencies is essential for improving the chances of recovering lost or stolen mobile phones. The latest recovery drive demonstrates the role of technical investigation and coordinated police efforts in tracking missing devices and returning them to their owners.

BJP Leader Slams Preventive Arrests

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

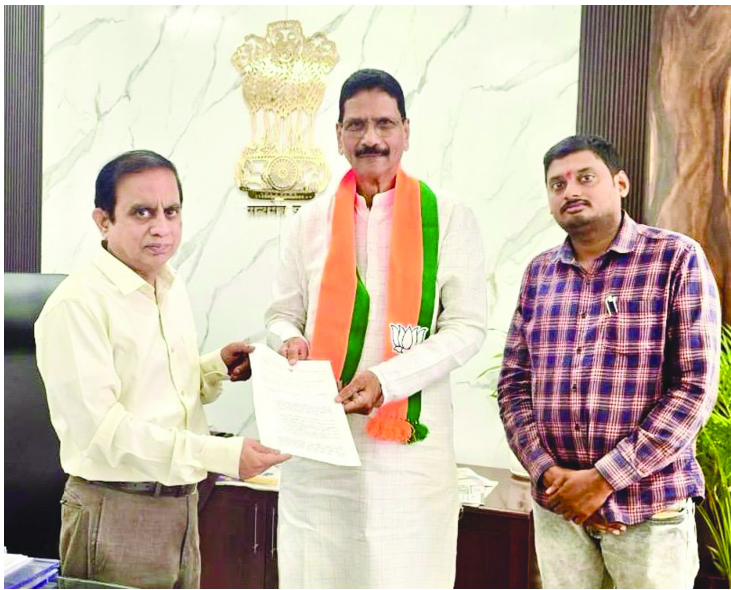
BJP State General Secretary Thulla Veerender Goud on Thursday strongly criticised the Congress government in Telangana over what he termed undemocratic policies and preventive arrests of BJP leaders and activists. Questioning whether Telangana was witnessing democratic governance or "anarchic rule," Goud alleged that the government was using police restrictions to suppress opposition voices and peaceful public movements. He recalled that the previous BRS government had also faced criticism for allegedly restricting opposition activities during its tenure. Goud said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had previously criticised house arrests and police restrictions while in opposition, but was now allegedly following similar practices after assuming office. He said such actions represented a setback to democratic values. According to Goud, BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao and other party leaders had planned to visit Polytechnic students protesting against Government Order 97 and other issues.

He condemned the alleged preventive house arrests of BJP leaders, including N. Gautam Rao, and several party activists. Goud said permission for a peaceful protest had earlier been denied, following which students gathered in large numbers at the BJP office to express their grievances. He questioned why students raising concerns about their education and pending fee reimbursements were being subjected to restrictions instead of having their problems addressed through dialogue. He urged the police department to function impartially and in accordance with constitutional principles rather than acting under political pressure. Goud also appealed to the Director General of Police to uphold democratic values and protect the right to peaceful expression. He warned that public movements could not be permanently suppressed through preventive arrests or house restrictions. Goud said the BJP would intensify its campaign on Polytechnic students' issues and pending fee reimbursements until their concerns were addressed.

CEO Orders Poll Roll Inquiry

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana BJP on Thursday welcomed the prompt response of the State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to its complaint regarding the alleged selective deletion of a party Booth Level Agent's name from draft electoral rolls in Khammam.BJP Election Commission Affairs Committee Chairman Marri Shashidhar Reddy met Telangana CEO Sudarshan Reddy and followed up on a formal representation submitted by the party. Acting on the complaint, the CEO directed Additional CEO Dr. A. Venkateshwara Reddy to visit Khammam on Saturday, August 29, for an on-ground inquiry into the allegations.The BJP had complained about the alleged targeting of its BLA-1 for Khammam Assembly Constituency, V. Rajesh. The party alleged that his name was selectively omitted from the draft voter rolls in retaliation for raising concerns



over polling station arrangements. According to the BJP, Rajesh had sought relocation of polling stations 221, 222, 223 and 224 from Urdu School at Khammam Fort, citing difficulties including a narrow approach road and limited space that could create problems for voters. The party further alleged that the local administration had earlier submitted a report denying the logistical difficulties and claimed that the report was prepared under pressure from ruling party leaders. The BJP said it welcomed the decision to send a senior election official for a direct investigation and expressed confidence that the facts would be established through the inquiry.The party reiterated its commitment to protecting electoral integrity and ensuring transparency and fairness in the preparation of voter rolls. It also said officials found violating administrative neutrality should face appropriate action.

Teen Dies After Train Fall

Yadadri-Bhongir, August 27 | TPN Bureau

An 18-year-old Intermediate student died after accidentally falling from a moving train near Pagidipally on the outskirts of Bhongir in Yadadri-Bhongir district on Thursday.According to railway police, the teenager was a resident of Sarvapuri village in Narsampet mandal of Warangal district and was pursuing his Intermediate education. He was travelling by train towards Hyderabad when he reportedly lost his balance and fell from the moving train at Pagidipally.The impact proved fatal, and the youth died at the spot. The incident left his family and relatives shocked, particularly as he had been travelling to Hyderabad for a family-related purpose ahead of the Rakhi festival.A relative told police that the teenager was on his way to Hyderabad to bring his sister back to their native village

of Sarvapuri for the festival scheduled to be observed on Friday. However, the journey ended tragically before he could reach his destination.Following the incident, railway police reached the spot and initiated the required procedures. The body was shifted for postmortem examination at the area hospital in Bhongir. After completion of the postmortem, railway police handed over the body to the family for the final rites. Police registered a case in connection with the incident and began an investigation to establish the circumstances leading to the teenager's fall. Officials are also examining available details regarding the train journey and the events preceding the accident. The incident highlights the risks associated with travelling near the open areas of moving trains and the need for passengers to exercise caution and follow railway safety guidelines.

Martyrs Remembered at Memorial Event



Veerabhairanpally, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Liberation Celebration Committee paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Veerabhairanpally struggle on Thursday, recalling the sacrifices made during the Razakar attack on August 27, 1947.The programme was organised under the leadership of committee District President Ramesh and attended by Convener Nelli Sri Vardhan Reddy, former MLA Dharmarao, committee members Kappara Prasad, BJP spokesperson KVLN Reddy and others. Addressing the gathering, Sri Vardhan Reddy said 118 people lost their lives in the attack and described their resistance against the Nizam's rule and Razakars as an enduring symbol of courage. He said the Hyderabad State remained under the Nizam after India gained independence on August 15, 1947, and highlighted the subsequent integration of Hyderabad with the Indian Union following the 1948

Police Action. He called for the history of the Telangana Liberation Struggle to be taught to younger generations and criticised successive Congress and BRS governments for allegedly failing to give adequate recognition to the sacrifices of freedom fighters.Sri Vardhan Reddy demanded that September 17 be officially observed as Telangana Liberation Day by the State government. He said the occasion should be marked on a grand scale to preserve historical memory.Former MLA Dharmarao said the BJP had consistently worked to highlight the history of the liberation struggle. Kappara Prasad stressed the importance of presenting historical events through documented facts and records.The leaders later met families of the martyrs, felicitated them and interacted with elders who had witnessed the events. They called for greater recognition and support for the families of those who sacrificed their lives during the struggle.

Fisherman Drowns in River

Koutala, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Kosari Ramdas, a resident of Tatipalli village in Koutala mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, died after accidentally drowning in the Tatipalli River while fishing on Thursday.According to police, Ramdas had gone to the river for fishing when he reportedly slipped into the water and drowned. After receiving information about the incident, police immediately launched a search operation to locate him.The search operation was conducted under the supervision of Koutala Circle Inspector Santosh Kumar and Sub-Inspector Satish, with assistance from village Sarpanch Badige Santosh and others.After an extensive search, Ramdas's body was recovered from the river.

Police completed the necessary procedures and began an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident. CI Santosh Kumar said a case had been registered based on a complaint submitted by Ramdas's wife. He added that the investigation was underway to establish the exact circumstances that led to the drowning.The incident caused grief among residents of Tatipalli village, who expressed condolences to the bereaved family.Police advised people engaged in fishing and other activities near rivers and water bodies to exercise caution and avoid entering deep or risky areas. Officials stressed that people should remain alert around water bodies, particularly when conditions are unsafe.Further details are expected as the investigation progresses.

Highway Safety Measures Intensified

Suryapet, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Authorities in Suryapet district have decided to strengthen surveillance and road safety measures along NH-65 following a review of recent accidents on the busy highway. The initiative aims to reduce crashes, improve emergency response and encourage safer driving practices. The decision was taken during a meeting of the district-level National Highway Safety Task Force chaired by Additional District Collector Nandyala Prem Karan Reddy at the Integrated District Offices Complex in Suryapet on Thursday. Officials examined the circumstances behind recent accidents and discussed steps to prevent similar incidents. One of the key proposals was to station an ambulance and a crane at intervals of every 30 kilometres along NH-65. Officials said such arrangements could help provide prompt medical assistance to accident victims and facilitate the quick removal of damaged or stranded vehicles. Deputy Commissioner of Transport N. Vani stressed the need for sustained road-

safety awareness among motorists and commercial vehicle drivers. She pointed out that fatigue and drowsiness while driving were significant risks and advised motorists to remain alert, particularly during long-distance journeys. The committee also reviewed the problem of vehicles being left along the highway without proper warning or safety indicators. Officials said unattended or improperly parked vehicles could pose a serious hazard to approaching motorists, particularly during night hours and periods of reduced visibility. The meeting called for better coordination among government departments to improve enforcement, emergency services and highway safety. Representatives of the Roads and Buildings Department, National Highways Authority of India, Health Department and Police Department attended the meeting. Officials said regular inspections, effective patrolling and coordinated intervention would be continued to make NH-65 safer and reduce accident-related casualties.

Ashok Named BJP Kisan Morcha Secretary



Suryapet, August 27 | TPN Bureau

Ramineni Ashok of Garidepally mandal has been appointed Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kisan Morcha for Suryapet district. The appointment was made under the direction of BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao and in the presence of District President Challa Srilatha Reddy. After receiving his appointment letter, Ashok expressed gratitude to Ramchander Rao, District Kisan Morcha President Kancharla Narasimha Reddy and Challa Srilatha Reddy for reposing confidence in him and assigning him the responsibility. He also thanked former MLA Shanampudi Saidi Reddy, Bobba Bhagya Reddy and other party leaders for

their support. Ashok said he would work at the grassroots level to highlight and address problems faced by farmers across Suryapet district. He said he would take information about farmer welfare schemes implemented by the Central Government to villages and work to ensure that eligible beneficiaries were aware of and able to access them. He further pledged to fight for the protection of farmers' rights and strengthen the BJP Kisan Morcha in the district. BJP leaders, workers and youth from Garidepally mandal welcomed his appointment and congratulated him, expressing confidence that he would work effectively for the farming community and the party.

Man Dies After Suicide Attempt

Nalgonda, August 27 | TPN Bureau

A 56-year-old man died while undergoing treatment at the Government General Hospital in Nalgonda on Thursday, days after reportedly attempting suicide at Mosangi village in Gurrampode mandal. The deceased was identified as Kashimalla Venkataiah. According to his family members, he had allegedly been under severe financial stress after borrowing around ₹50 lakh over the past three years to meet the marriage expenses of his three daughters. Family members said Venkataiah was unable to repay the loans and had become increasingly distressed over his financial situation. He reportedly attempted suicide at Mosangi on August 24. Following the incident, he was shifted to the Government General Hospital in Nalgonda for treatment. Despite medical efforts, his condition reportedly deteriorated and he died while receiving treatment on Thursday.

The incident has left the family in shock, with relatives attributing his distress to the financial burden associated with the loans. The circumstances surrounding the incident are being examined by police as part of their investigation. Based on a complaint lodged by Venkataiah's wife, Jayamma, Gurrampode police registered a case and initiated an inquiry. Police are collecting information from family members and examining the circumstances that preceded the incident. Officials said further details would emerge as the investigation progresses. The incident highlights the severe pressure that financial difficulties and debt can place on families, particularly when large expenses become difficult to manage. Authorities have urged people facing overwhelming financial or emotional distress to seek support from family members, trusted individuals or professional services rather than facing such difficulties alone.

ACB Raids Mines Official Over Assets



Boduppal, August 27 | TPN Bureau

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a case against Bojja Jayaraju, Assistant Director in the Mines and Geology Department, over allegations of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. ACB officials conducted simultaneous searches at eight locations associated with Jayaraju on Thursday. He is currently holding full additional charge as Deputy Director of the Mines and Geology Department in Warangal. According to the ACB, searches conducted so far have led to the identification of assets valued at approximately ₹3.06 crore. The agency is continuing its verification of the properties and other assets uncovered during the operation. The assets identified during the searches reportedly include a G+2 residential building in Boduppal valued at around

₹40 lakh and a flat in KPHB Colony estimated at ₹32.81 lakh. Investigators also identified five plots and approximately 3.21 acres of agricultural land in different locations, including Keesara, Tungaturthi, Toopran and Suryapet. The ACB is examining the sources of funds used to acquire the properties and comparing the official income of the accused official with the value of the assets identified during the searches. Officials said the investigation is ongoing and further details could emerge after completion of the searches and valuation process. The case forms part of the ACB's efforts to identify and investigate alleged corruption and accumulation of unexplained wealth among public servants. The agency is expected to examine financial records and property documents as part of the probe.

BJP Hits Back at Congress MLA

Hyderabad, August 27 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Official Spokesperson Taduri Srinivas on Thursday criticised Congress MLA Birla Ilaiah over his remarks and alleged that the ruling party was avoiding questions raised by BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy regarding alleged irregularities linked to properties listed under Section 22A. Speaking at a press conference at the BJP state office, Srinivas accused Congress leaders of resorting to personal criticism instead of responding to allegations backed by documents. He mocked Ilaiah, saying that having a microphone was not enough and that public representatives should also think carefully before speaking.Srinivas alleged that Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy had failed to adequately address concerns surrounding the 22A prohibited lands list.

He questioned why the government had not disclosed the number of private properties allegedly included in the list and demanded a district-wise white paper. He said thousands of property owners were facing difficulties in registering their lands and were being forced to visit revenue offices repeatedly. Srinivas demanded accountability for any wrongful inclusion of private properties under the prohibited category. He also called for the release of a forensic audit report concerning alleged irregularities under the previous government, arguing that transparency was essential for establishing responsibility. Srinivas urged the government to clarify the allegations and provide relief to affected property owners. He said the BJP would continue raising the issue until the government provided answers and corrective measures.

Editorial

Social Media

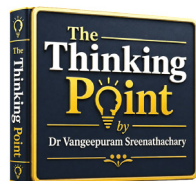
*A Voice for the Voiceless,
But Not Always the Truth*

Social media is undoubtedly a powerful platform to elevate people's problems that are sometimes undermined or ignored by the mainstream media. People who cannot express their opinions openly are finding the courage to speak through social media. Similarly, those who may not notice or respond to news in the mainstream media are quickly reacting to issues that emerge on social media. In this way, social media has become an important tool for public expression and democratic participation. However, social media can also mislead people when information is circulated without verification. A recent episode involving a six-year-old girl in Bihar is a clear example. The girl was brought by someone to a protest venue, where protesters reportedly prompted her to ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resign. Police later took the child away from the protest site. Social media posts soon claimed that the police had arrested the six-year-old girl merely because she had demanded the Prime Minister's resignation. The claim immediately triggered a massive reaction. Lakhs of posts criticised the BJP and Prime Minister Modi, portraying the incident as an example of the government allegedly arresting a child for expressing a political opinion. But the subsequent clarification from the police presented a different picture. According to the police, the girl was moved away from the protest area because they were clearing protesters from the place and feared that the child could be hurt in the process. The police said she was subsequently handed over to her parents. This explanation is understandable and entirely different from the claim that the girl was arrested for demanding the Prime Minister's resignation. The incident exposes the dangerous speed at which misinformation can travel. By the time the clarification emerged, the unverified version had already spread across the country. Social media must remain a platform for public voices, but users must also remain responsible. Before believing, sharing or reacting to any unusual claim, people should verify the facts. Freedom of expression is important, but responsible information sharing is equally important.

- Editor

WHEN EVERY CHILD BELONGS

Rethinking Inclusive Education Beyond Admission and Access



A child with a disability enters a regular classroom. The school has opened its gates, admission has been granted, and a seat has been provided. But can the child follow the lesson? Participate in activities? Communicate comfortably? Access the learning materials? Make friends? And, most importantly, does the child feel that this classroom belongs to them too? These questions reveal the difference between admission and inclusion. Inclusive education is not accomplished simply by placing children with disabilities alongside their peers. It begins when the educational environment itself is prepared to recognise diversity, remove barriers and enable every learner to participate, learn, progress and belong. That distinction is where the real conversation on inclusive education must begin.

From Segregation to Inclusion

The education of children with disabilities has travelled through three distinct approaches: segregation, integration and inclusion. Segregation educated children with disabilities separately. Integration brought them into mainstream schools, but largely expected them to adjust to an already existing system. Inclusion reverses that expectation: the system must also adapt to the learner. UNESCO describes inclusion as strengthening the education system so that all learners can participate and achieve together, with their individual needs recognised. This is more than a change of terminology. It represents a change of philosophy.



from asking whether a child is fit for the classroom to asking whether the classroom is ready for every child.

From Opportunity to a Human Right

The global movement towards inclusion gained decisive momentum with the Salamanca Statement of 1994, which called for schools that accommodate all children and respond to their diverse needs. A stronger rights-based foundation followed through the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Article 24 recognises the right to education without discrimination and requires inclusive education, reasonable accommodation and appropriate individual support. The Sustainable Development Goals carried this commitment forward: SDG 4 seeks inclusive and equitable quality education, specifically calling for equal educational access for persons with disabilities and disability-sensitive learning environments. The message is unmistakable: inclusive education is not an act of charity or convenience; it is a matter of rights, dignity and equal opportunity.

India Has the Framework

India's policy framework strongly supports this rights-based vision. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 requires educational institutions to provide inclusive education, reasonable accommodation, accessible facilities and individualised support. NEP 2020 gives high priority to the inclusion and equal participation of children with disabilities through schooling, while Samagra Shiksha translates these principles into practical support from identification and assessment to assistive devices, accessible learning materials, therapeutic interventions and barrier-free infrastructure. The direction, therefore, is clear: India does not lack intent or policy architecture. The real challenge is ensuring that these commitments become everyday realities in every classroom.

The Barriers Beyond the School Gate

The greatest barriers to inclusion are not always visible. An inaccessible building can exclude a child, but so can an inflexible curriculum, unsuitable learning materials, inadequate teacher preparation, bullying, stigma and low expectations. A child may therefore cross the school

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gate every morning and still remain outside meaningful learning. UNICEF identifies discrimination, lack of trained teachers, inadequate materials and inaccessible facilities among the persistent barriers confronting children with disabilities. More importantly, barriers differ from child to child; a single solution cannot serve every learner. A ramp can provide entry into a classroom, but only an inclusive attitude, adaptable teaching and appropriate support can provide entry into learning.

One Classroom, Many Ways to Learn

An inclusive classroom recognises a simple truth: children differ, and so must opportunities for learning. Some learners benefit from visual cues, others from demonstration, repetition, simplified instructions, additional time or hands-on experiences. The answer is not to label children by fixed "learning styles," but to provide multiple ways to understand, participate and demonstrate learning. Adapted materials, flexible assessment, assistive technology and appropriate accommodations can turn exclusion into participation. Occupational therapists and other rehabilitation professionals can further help by adapting tasks, seating, classroom environments and functional activities to individual needs. Inclusion does not lower expectations; it creates different pathways through which every child can reach meaningful goals.

Beyond Enrolment: Measure What Matters
India's latest UDISE+ 2024-25

data records 21,49,258 Children With Special Needs (CWSN) enrolled in school education—a number that shows the scale of the responsibility before us. But enrolment alone cannot become the measure of inclusion. Significantly, the RPwD Act, 2016 requires monitoring not merely admission, but each student's participation, attainment and completion of education. That should guide policy evaluation too. We must ask: Are children attending, participating, learning and progressing? Counting children inside classrooms is important; ensuring that every child counts is the real goal.

From Inclusion to Belonging

Making inclusion work requires more than legislation. Teachers need preparation and support; parents must be treated as partners; rehabilitation professionals must contribute their expertise; and policymakers must ensure that resources reach the classroom. The RPwD Act itself envisages trained teachers and professionals, resource centres, appropriate learning materials and assistive devices to support inclusive education. Ultimately, the question is not whether a child with disability can adjust to our classroom, but whether our classroom can respond to the diversity of its children.

Admission opens the school gate. Inclusion opens learning. Belonging opens the future.
(The Author is a Consultant Psychologist, Rehabilitation Professional – RCI, Academic & Research Mentor, and Guinness, Asia, Limca & India Book Records Holder)

Rakhi and Onam linked by a mysterious thread

Across the vast expanse of India, where landscapes shift from the snow-capped peaks of the North to the lush, rain-washed coastlines of the South, festivals often seem like distinct colours on a diverse canvas. In the North, the full moon of Shravana brings Raksha Bandhan—a celebration of the protective bond between siblings, marked by the tying of a sacred thread. Down South, the harvest season heralds Onam—a grand, floral-decked homecoming of a beloved, exiled king. To the naked eye, they are worlds apart. But beneath the surface of popular folklore lies a hidden, beautiful thread that binds these two celebrations together into one continuous story of devotion and honour.

Many of us grew up captivated by the dramatic tale of Rani Karnavati sending a Rakhi to the Mughal Emperor Humayun, forging a bond across empires. Yet, historical records do not support this medieval legend. To find the true origin of this sacred bond, we must travel back to an era of cosmic promises, descending into the subterranean realm of Sutala. Here lies the extraordinary connection between the North's sacred thread and the South's greatest festival. The story begins with King Mahabali, the grandson of King Prahlada, the grand devotee of Mahavishnu. He was a ruler of unparalleled generosity and righteousness whose legend forms the very heartbeat of Onam in Kerala. When the Vamana avatar of Lord Vishnu sent Mahabali to the netherworld of Sutala, it was not the end of their profound connection. Deeply moved by Bali's absolute adherence to his word, Lord Vishnu granted him a boon and chose to stand as the eternal guardian at the doorway of his underground kingdom, the Suthala. The Supreme Lord of Vaikuntha became a humble sentry for his devoted king. But this divine arrangement created a void in the celestial realm. Devi Lakshmi, the goddess of fortune, found herself separated from her beloved husband. Guided by the wisdom of Sage Narada, she descended to Sutala, casting aside her divine radiance to appear as a destitute woman seeking shelter. True to his nature, King Mahabali welcomed her with open arms. He



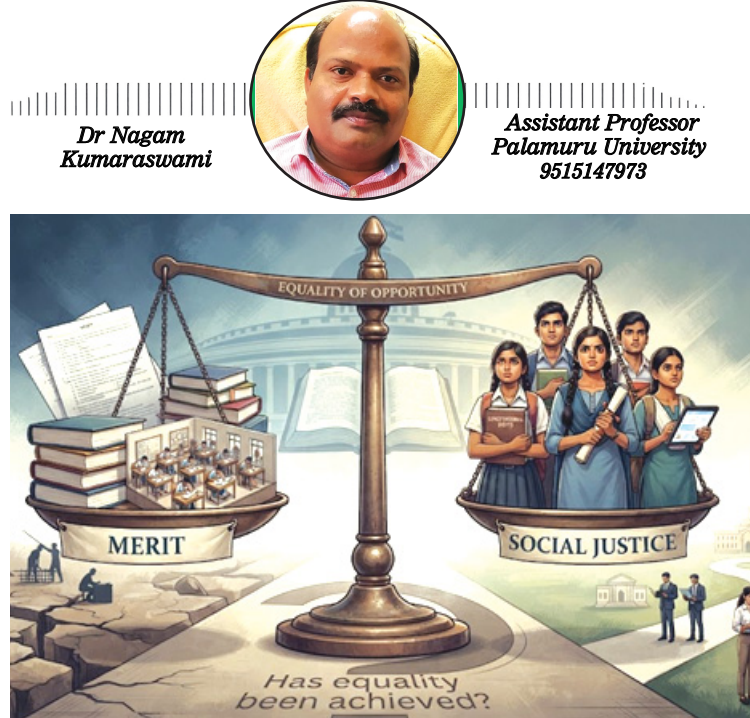
offered her a home, treating her with the utmost respect and tender affection. Over time, a beautiful, unspoken bond blossomed between the benevolent king and the mysterious woman. On the full moon day of Shravana Purnima—the very day we now celebrate Raksha Bandhan—she took a simple, sacred thread and tied it around Mahabali's wrist, sealing their bond as brother and sister. Deeply moved by this pure gesture, Mahabali asked his new sister what she desired as a gift. In a breathtaking moment of truth, the poor woman revealed her dazzling cosmic form as Devi Lakshmi. She did not ask for wealth or kingdom; she simply asked for her husband, Lord Vishnu, to be released from his duty as a guard so he could return to Vaikuntha. Mahabali was faced with a monumental paradox. Lord Vishnu was bound by a promise to guard him, and Bali was now bound by a vow to his new sister. Without hesitation, the righteous king honoured the bond of the thread. He released the Lord of the Universe to fulfil his duty as a brother. This act of supreme sacrifice and unwavering Dharma immortalized the Rakhi. Even today, when a sacred thread is tied in the North, priests chant an ancient mantra: "Yena baddho Bali raja..." "With that by which the mighty King Bali was bound, I bind you, O protective thread." The thread of Rakhi is not just a plea for protection; it is a vow of absolute honour, invoking the very king the South celebrates during

Onam. The realization is nothing short of magical. The mighty King Bali invoked during Raksha Bandhan in the North is the exact same beloved sovereign who returns to visit his people in Kerala during Onam. The two festivals are two sides of one ancient, sacred promise. One celebrates the bond he shared with Devi Lakshmi, proving that true kinship requires no bloodline—just like the vow Krishna made to Draupadi when she bound his bleeding finger. The other celebrates the eternal bond Mahabali shares with his subjects, a love so strong it transcends worlds and yugas. When a sister ties a Rakhi this year, she doesn't just tie a decorative thread; she binds her brother with the unyielding honour of Mahabali. Also, please note that it is not only siblings who tie Rakhi, but anyone who vows to protect respect of womanhood, tie Rakhi. And when the vibrant Pookkalam flowers are laid for Onam, they welcome the very king who gave Raksha Bandhan its deepest meaning. Together, these festivals whisper an ancient truth: from and beyond the Himalayan foothills to the tropical backwaters, India is bound by the same enduring threads of love, devotion, and Dharma. This interesting story was narrated after research by scriptwriter K Hari Kumar in his Vlog, Chaturya.

Watch in detail:
https://youtu.be/wt4_ZC1tr-0?si=xUovD-dmbdfloH7o

The Reservation Debate Needs a Debate on Social Justice

Recent controversies over alleged irregularities and paper leaks in competitive examinations such as NEET have exposed a deeper crisis facing India's young people. Students and unemployed youth are questioning corruption, lack of opportunities and failures in the education and employment systems. Yet, amid this growing frustration, another campaign has gained visibility on social media: the demand to abolish reservations under slogans such as "Aarakshan Hatao". The author argues that this shift in public discourse deserves closer examination, particularly from the perspective of communities that have historically faced social exclusion. India's socio-political history, the author contends, shows a recurring pattern. Whenever Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and other marginalised communities have asserted their rights, counter-narratives have emerged to weaken or divert those struggles. The political contest surrounding the Mandal Commission recommendations in the 1990s, often framed as "Mandal versus Kamandal", is cited as an example. In the author's view, the present debate similarly risks shifting attention away from examination-system failures, unemployment and inequality towards reservations. The author invokes B.R. Ambedkar's observation that forces defending the existing social order can mobilise against movements seeking fundamental change. From this perspective, reservations should not be viewed merely as a concession but as an instrument intended to address historical inequalities created by caste-based exclusion. The argument also challenges the frequent invocation of "merit" in debates over reservations. The author points to management and NRI quotas, particularly in private educational institutions, where access can depend substantially on financial capacity. Against this background, the author questions why merit becomes the principal concern when reservation enables disadvantaged students to enter educational institutions and public employment. The author further argues that, despite decades of constitutional democracy, representation of SCs, STs and BCs remains inadequate in several influential institutions,



including the judiciary, media, corporate sector and other centres of power. Equality before law, the article maintains, cannot by itself eliminate entrenched social and economic inequalities. In the traditions associated with Mahatma Phule, B.R. Ambedkar and social reform movements, substantive equality requires the redistribution of opportunities and representation. The debate, therefore, should move beyond the question of how long reservations should continue and address why the underlying inequalities persist. Even RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has stated that reservations should continue as long as social discrimination, educational backwardness and unequal wealth distribution remain. The author argues that such positions should also be examined against the actions and statements of organisations and groups operating at the grassroots. The way forward, according to the author, begins with a comprehensive caste census. Reliable data on the population and socioeconomic conditions of different communities, the article argues, is essential for determining representation and designing evidence-based affirmative-action policies. The author also calls for extending reservation policies to the private sector as public-sector employ-

ment declines through privatisation. If major employment opportunities increasingly lie outside government institutions, the article argues, social justice cannot remain confined to the public sector. At the same time, examination systems require urgent reform. Paper leaks and other irregularities can destroy the aspirations of lakhs of students, particularly those from poor and middle-class families. The author believes that authorities must ensure transparency, strengthen examination systems and take strict action against those responsible instead of allowing reservation to become a convenient scapegoat. Finally, the author calls for greater unity among SC, ST, BC and minority communities while acknowledging their internal differences. The youth of these communities, the article argues, have a particular responsibility to defend constitutional values and pursue social equality through democratic means. The central question, therefore, is not simply whether reservations should remain. It is whether India has succeeded in creating a society in which the historical conditions that made reservations necessary have genuinely disappeared. Until that question is answered with evidence rather than rhetoric, the reservation debate will remain incomplete.

Kharge Seeks Clarity On Special Parliament Session



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking clarity on reports that the Centre may convene a special session of Parliament to introduce legislation related to delimitation. Kharge has described delimitation as an issue of major national importance and urged the government to clearly state its intentions before taking any legislative step. The Congress has also reiterated its demand that the existing strength of the Lok Sabha should remain unchanged for the next 25 years. Delimitation involves redrawing parliamentary constituencies based on population figures. The issue has become politically sensitive because several states, particularly in southern India, fear that population-based delimitation could alter the current balance of representation in Parliament. The Congress argues that states which successfully implemented population-control measures should not be penalised through a reduction in their political representation. Party leaders have repeatedly raised concerns that states with larger populations could gain a greater share of Lok Sabha seats under a new delimitation exercise. Kharge has therefore called for broad consultations involving political parties and state governments before any decision is taken. The Congress wants the Centre to clarify whether a special session is actually being planned and whether new delimitation Bills could be introduced. The issue is also linked to the Census and the constitutional requirement for a fresh delimitation exercise after the first Census conducted following 2026. Any change in the distribution of parliamentary constituencies could have long-term political consequences. The debate has gained further significance because delimitation is closely connected with women's reservation in Parliament. The implementation of the reservation law is expected to be linked to the completion of the delimitation process. Opposition parties have been demanding greater transparency over the government's plans, arguing that such a major constitutional and political exercise should not be undertaken without consensus. With political parties already preparing for future elections, the delimitation issue is likely to become increasingly contentious. Kharge's letter has once again brought the subject into the national spotlight, with the Congress insisting that federal balance and the interests of all states must be protected before any new delimitation exercise is undertaken.

Tharoor Urges Media To Avoid Boasting

Congress MP and former diplomat Shashi Tharoor has welcomed India's swift response to the devastating flash floods in Nepal, while urging Indian media outlets to avoid excessive publicity or "boasting" about the assistance being provided. Speaking at the NDTV World Anviksha Summit in Kathmandu, Tharoor said India had done the right thing by responding quickly to Nepal's crisis. He described the immediate relief assistance as the natural responsibility of a close neighbour and said more help should be provided if required. At the same time, Tharoor recalled India's experience during Nepal's earthquake and warned that the way humanitarian assistance is presented can affect bilateral relations. He said India had provided substantial help at the time, but sections of the Indian media had highlighted the assistance in a manner that created resentment among Nepalis. According to Tharoor, people facing a disaster do not need to be repeatedly reminded that another country is helping them. He argued that the media should show the same sensitivity towards India-Nepal relations as the government does. His remarks come as India has begun sending emergency relief material to flood-hit Nepal. The assistance is aimed at supporting rescue and recovery efforts after devastating floods swept through parts of the Himalayan nation, destroying homes, bridges, roads and other infrastructure. The disaster has also affected a large number of Indian nationals, including pilgrims travelling towards the Kailash Mansarovar region. Families across India are seeking information about relatives who remain missing or stranded. Tharoor stressed that Nepal needs all the assistance it can receive at this critical moment. He also called for a broader change in India's approach towards its Himalayan neighbour, arguing that New Delhi should engage with Nepal as a sovereign and equal country. The former diplomat said strong bilateral relations require sensitivity and mutual respect, particularly during moments of crisis. Humanitarian assistance, he suggested, should strengthen the relationship rather than create a perception of superiority. With rescue operations still underway, India's support is expected to continue. Tharoor's message is that while helping a neighbour during a catastrophe is important, how that help is communicated can be equally significant for long-term India-Nepal ties.

Top Law School Cancels Convocation Amid Row

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bengaluru has cancelled its 34th annual convocation for the graduating batch of 2026, citing "unavoidable circumstances". The ceremony was earlier scheduled to take place on September 12. The cancellation comes amid growing opposition from students and alumni over the proposed participation of Bar Council of India Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra and Chief Justice of India Surya Kant at the convocation. According to the university, the degrees of graduating students will instead be conferred in absentia, subject to approval from the appropriate governing bodies. Students will be given the option of receiving their certificates by courier or collecting them directly from the campus. The controversy has its roots in a wider dispute involving the BCI and another premier law institution, NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad. Earlier this month, the BCI had temporarily halted the enrolment of NALSAR's 2026 graduating batch after students objected to the proposed presence of CJI Surya Kant at their convocation. The decision was withdrawn within hours. The episode triggered strong reactions from students and alumni, who accused the BCI of attempting to suppress dissent. At NLSIU too, students and alumni opposed the proposed attendance of the BCI chairman and the CJI. More than 700 students and alumni reportedly signed a statement objecting to the developments and demanding an unconditional apology from the BCI to the student and faculty community of NALSAR. Students at NLSIU described the BCI's earlier actions as an attack on free speech. They also criticised a directive seeking information about students and faculty members involved in the campaign against the proposed participation of the legal officials. Amid the growing tensions, CJI Surya Kant reportedly held an interaction with NLSIU students to understand their concerns. The cancellation of the convocation has now added another dimension to the controversy. Instead of celebrating their graduation together, the 2026 batch will receive their degrees through an alternative process. The development has sparked a wider debate over student dissent, institutional autonomy and the relationship between law students and regulatory bodies.



PM Modi Set For Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to undertake a four-day visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan from August 29 to September 1, with the trip expected to strengthen India's engagement with Central Asia and deepen cooperation on regional and global issues. Modi will first visit Uzbekistan on August 29 and 30 for bilateral talks with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The visit comes as India seeks to expand its strategic partnership with Uzbekistan in areas including trade, connectivity, defence, technology, energy and regional security. From Uzbekistan, the Prime Minister will travel to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan to participate in the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on August 31 and September 1. The summit will bring together leaders of major Eurasian countries to discuss regional security, economic cooperation and development. The SCO meeting is expected to focus on terrorism, connectivity,



trade, energy and broader regional stability. Discussions on strengthening economic cooperation within the grouping are also likely to receive attention, including the proposed SCO Development Bank. Modi's visit is also significant against the backdrop of evolving India-China relations. Recent diplomatic contacts between New

Delhi and Beijing have indicated efforts to stabilise bilateral ties and maintain dialogue on important issues. The SCO summit could provide an opportunity for Modi to engage with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other regional leaders. Russian President Vladimir Putin is also expected to meet Modi on the sidelines of the sum-

mit, adding importance to the gathering for India's engagement with Moscow. India has traditionally viewed Central Asia as strategically important because of its geographical location, natural resources and connectivity potential. However, geographical barriers and the lack of direct land access have complicated New Delhi's efforts to expand economic links with the region. The upcoming visit therefore carries significance beyond routine diplomacy. It reflects India's effort to strengthen its presence in Central Asia, maintain strategic partnerships with Russia and other regional powers, and pursue its broader multi-alignment policy. Modi's engagements in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are expected to give fresh momentum to India's Central Asia strategy while providing an important platform to discuss regional security, connectivity, trade and economic cooperation.

Nearly 300 Indians Missing In Nepal Floods

Nepal is facing a devastating humanitarian crisis after massive flash floods struck the Rasuwa region near the Nepal-Tibet border, leaving at least 160 people dead and thousands unaccounted for. Nepal Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal said nearly 300 Indian nationals, many of them pilgrims travelling for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, have been reported missing. Around 500 foreign nationals in total are currently out of contact. The disaster struck suddenly, sending huge volumes of muddy water, rocks and debris through settlements along the river system. Entire towns and villages were severely damaged within hours, with homes, roads, bridges and other infrastructure either washed away or buried under mud. Speaking about the situation, Khanal described the scale of the destruction as unprecedented. He said thousands of families had lost their homes and that authorities were still trying to determine the full extent of the disaster.



The large number of missing Indians has raised serious concerns in India, particularly because many were believed to be pilgrims travelling through the region. Families are anxiously waiting for information about their relatives as rescue teams struggle to reach affected areas. Nepal's security forces and emergency agencies have launched extensive search-and-rescue oper-

ations. However, the destruction of roads and bridges has made access to several locations extremely difficult. Communication networks have also been disrupted in some areas, complicating efforts to establish contact with people stranded in remote locations. Nepal's army has rescued more than 100 people from Timure in Rasuwa, while rescue teams continue operations in the worst-hit

areas. Authorities are also assessing the damage and providing emergency assistance to survivors. India is coordinating with Nepal to locate its citizens and assist those affected by the disaster. Indian authorities are closely monitoring the situation and working with Nepalese agencies on rescue and relief operations. The disaster has also affected areas on the Tibetan side of the border, with significant casualties and infrastructure damage reported there. For Nepal, the immediate priorities are rescuing survivors, locating missing people and providing shelter and medical assistance. For India, the focus remains on tracing missing nationals and ensuring the safe return of those stranded. With thousands of people still unaccounted for, the full scale of the tragedy remains unclear. Rescue teams are continuing their efforts amid extremely challenging conditions, while families on both sides of the border wait anxiously for news of their loved ones.

New Myanmar Drug Route Alarms Assam

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has raised serious concerns over the emergence of a new drug trafficking route from Myanmar through Arunachal Pradesh into Assam. Sarma said drug traffickers who previously relied on the Moreh-Manipur corridor are now attempting to use a different route through Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh before reaching Tinsukia in Assam. The new corridor came to light during investigations into recent drug trafficking cases. Describing the development as a "very worrying signal" for Upper Assam, the Chief Minister said the changing routes showed that drug networks were attempting to evade intensified enforcement measures. He warned that authorities would continue to target traffickers regardless of which route they chose. Assam has significantly intensified its crackdown on narcotics in recent weeks. According to Sarma, authorities



recently seized drugs worth around ₹80 crore that were allegedly being transported towards Punjab. He said the scale of the seizure highlighted the growing challenge posed by organised drug networks operating across state and international borders. The emergence of the new route has also increased concerns because Arunachal Pradesh

shares a long and difficult-to-monitor border with Myanmar. The mountainous terrain and remote locations can make surveillance and enforcement particularly challenging. Officials said drug-producing networks in Myanmar have historically used India's Northeast as a transit corridor. The latest shift indicates that trafficking groups may be constantly chang-

ing their routes to avoid security agencies. Arunachal Pradesh has also stepped up its own anti-drug operations, with authorities arresting several people allegedly involved in narcotics trafficking. Sarma has made the fight against drugs a major priority for his government and has repeatedly called for stronger coordination between law-enforcement agencies across the Northeast. The latest development has therefore triggered concerns not only for Assam but for the wider region. Authorities fear that the new corridor could expand if traffickers are not stopped at an early stage. Sarma has made it clear that changing routes will not weaken the government's crackdown. With increased surveillance, seizures and arrests expected along the Myanmar-Arunachal-Assam corridor, security agencies are now focusing on preventing the emerging route from becoming an established drug-trafficking network.

MP School Education Department Tops Payment Probe

Madhya Pradesh's School Education Department has emerged as the department with the highest number of offices flagged in a statewide investigation into suspected irregularities in government payments. The probe is examining transactions worth around ₹648 crore made through the state's financial management system. The investigation is being conducted by the State Financial Intelligence Cell, which was established to identify suspicious payment patterns through the government treasury system. Officials said the investigation covers transactions suspected to be irregular, fraudulent, duplicated or excessive. Of the 187 Drawing and Disbursing Offices flagged across various government departments, 45 belong to the School Education Department. This is the highest number among all departments. The Revenue Department follows with 43 flagged offices, while the Tribal Affairs Department has 26. The investigation has identified around ₹349 crore in irregular



transfers and another ₹299 crore in payments categorised as suspicious, fraudulent, duplicate or excessive. However, officials have cautioned that these figures represent transactions that triggered alerts and do not automatically mean that the entire amount was misappropriated. Investigators have also identified nearly ₹305 crore across 199 suspicious transactions involving trans-

fers to private bank accounts linked to government officials, employees and their relatives. Another ₹293 crore meant to remain in Treasury Personal Deposit accounts was reportedly transferred to other bank accounts. The probe has uncovered several weaknesses in the government payment system. These include duplicate employee codes, changes

to registered mobile numbers, shared login credentials and mismatches between employee records and bank-account details. Such vulnerabilities could potentially facilitate unauthorised or duplicate payments. Authorities have already recovered around ₹56 crore and reversed irregular transfers worth nearly ₹164 crore, bringing the amount addressed so far to approximately ₹220 crore. Where investigations indicate criminal wrongdoing, cases have been referred for further action, with FIRs reportedly registered against more than 50 officials over the past three years. Following the findings, the Madhya Pradesh government has introduced additional safeguards, including stronger system validation, restrictions on changing registered mobile numbers, payment limits and mandatory two-factor authentication. The investigation is continuing, with officials examining the flagged transactions to determine which cases involve genuine errors and which may point to financial misconduct.

China Warns Of Fresh Risk To Nepal Rescue



China has warned of a fresh geological threat that could further complicate rescue operations following the devastating floods and landslides along the Nepal-China border. Authorities in Beijing have identified a barrier lake upstream from the affected Himalayan border area. The lake has already begun overflowing, raising concerns that a sudden release of water could trigger another surge and create additional danger for people in the region. According to Chinese authorities, the barrier lake is located near the meeting point of the Chhochen Khola and Purepu Tsangpo rivers, northeast of the disaster-hit area. China's Ministry of Water Resources has increased monitoring of the lake and is assessing the possibility of further geological hazards. The latest warning comes as rescue teams continue searching for hundreds of people missing after the catastrophic flash floods. The disaster caused extensive destruction in Nepal and Tibet, sweeping away homes, roads, bridges and power infrastructure. The barrier lake was estimated to contain around 2 million cubic metres of water on Thursday, while another 3 million cubic metres could flow into it over the next three days. Authorities are therefore keeping a close watch on water levels and surrounding geological conditions. The potential threat has added another challenge for rescue teams already working in extremely difficult terrain. Several roads and bridges have been damaged, leaving some areas difficult to access. Rescue workers must now balance the urgent search for survivors with the possibility of another flood or landslide. China has deployed additional fire and rescue personnel from Beijing and Chengdu to assist local police and emergency teams. Authorities have also evacuated residents from vulnerable areas on the Tibetan side of the border. The latest danger follows the massive flash flood that struck the region on August 26. A huge wall of mud and rock entered the Lhende River near the border, triggering a powerful surge that travelled downstream through the Bhote Kosi and Trishuli river systems in Nepal. The disaster has already caused a large number of deaths and left hundreds of people missing. Critical infrastructure has been destroyed, while rescue and relief operations remain underway on both sides of the border. The emergence of a new barrier lake highlights the continuing dangers facing the region even after the initial floodwaters have receded. With unstable slopes, blocked waterways and changing water levels posing additional risks, authorities are closely monitoring the situation. For rescuers, the priority remains finding survivors and providing emergency assistance, but the possibility of another sudden surge means operations must proceed with extreme caution.

Trump Team Defends Plan To Revoke 2 Lakh Visas

The Trump administration is preparing a major review of temporary US visas that could eventually lead to the cancellation of up to 2 lakh business and tourist visas. The move targets foreign nationals who entered the United States on temporary visas and later applied for asylum or sought to remain permanently.



US State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott defended the proposed action, saying that a US visa is "a privilege, not a right." He said the administration was targeting what it considers fraud and abuse in the visa system. The review mainly concerns B1 and B2 visas. B1 visas are generally issued for business travel, while B2 visas are meant for tourism, family visits and certain medical purposes. According to US officials, authorities are examining cases in which people entered the country claiming they intended to stay temporarily but later applied for asylum. The key issue is whether applicants misrepresented their intentions when they originally applied for their visas. The administration argues that temporary visas are issued with the expectation that visitors will eventually return to their home countries. If authorities determine that an applicant deliberately concealed an intention to remain permanently, officials could consider that fraud and revoke the visa.

However, applying for asylum after entering the US does not automatically mean that a person committed fraud. Authorities are specifically looking at whether the individual had already decided to remain permanently before obtaining the temporary visa and failed to disclose that intention during the visa process.

The State Department has not officially confirmed that exactly 2 lakh visas will be revoked. Officials have indicated that the figure could change as the review progresses and that the cancellations would take place in phases rather than all at once.

The review could affect nationals from several countries, including potentially Indians. However, US officials have not provided a specific figure for Indian nationals who could be affected and have not singled out India for special treatment.

The proposed action is part of President Donald Trump's broader immigration crackdown. His administration has increased scrutiny of visa applicants and taken several steps aimed at tightening both legal and illegal immigration.

Officials have also stressed that revoking a visa does not automatically mean immediate deportation for someone already in the United States with a pending asylum case. Their immigration status could instead be affected through separate legal procedures. The proposed mass cancellation could become one of the largest visa-revocation exercises in US history. It has already raised concerns among immigration advocates and could face legal challenges. For now, the administration says the focus is on preventing misuse of temporary visas. For foreign nationals holding US visitor visas, the latest policy sends a clear message that authorities are prepared to take action if they believe the original purpose of a visa was misrepresented.

China Denies Dam Link To Nepal Floods

China has rejected allegations that the devastating flash floods in Nepal were caused by the collapse of a "geological disaster dam" on the Chinese side of the border. Beijing has also dismissed claims that it failed to provide an early warning to Nepal before the disaster.

The flash floods struck areas around the Nepal-China border, causing widespread destruction and leaving hundreds of people dead or missing. Roads, bridges, power infrastructure and buildings were swept away by powerful torrents of water, mud and debris. Questions emerged in Nepal over whether a natural geological blockage or dam had formed upstream and later collapsed, sending a sudden surge of water into Nepal. There were also concerns about whether an earlier warning from Chinese authorities could have helped people living downstream move to safer locations.

China has rejected both allegations, calling them false. The Chinese Embassy in Nepal said



the disaster was triggered by an earthquake or earthquake-like event and a massive landslide, rather than the collapse of a geological dam on the Chinese side. However, preliminary geological and satellite assessments have pointed towards an ice-rock avalanche or glacial collapse as the likely trigger. The collapse sent huge quantities of ice, rock and debris into the Lhende Khola river,

generating a powerful downstream surge.

The event caused extensive destruction on both sides of the border. The floodwaters swept through settlements and damaged critical infrastructure, while rescue operations have been complicated by damaged roads, communication networks and difficult Himalayan terrain. Chinese authorities have launched

large-scale rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. Nepal and China are also coordinating their efforts to locate missing people and provide emergency assistance.

The disaster has renewed attention on the growing risks posed by unstable glaciers and mountain slopes in the Himalayas. Scientists have warned that rising temperatures, glacier melt and changing weather patterns could increase the likelihood of such extreme events.

The incident has also highlighted the importance of cross-border early-warning systems. Nepal and China have agreed to exchange meteorological information to improve preparedness for future disasters.

For now, China has firmly denied that a collapsed geological dam on its territory caused the Nepal floods. While investigations into the exact sequence of events continue, authorities on both sides are focusing on rescue, relief and preventing further disasters.

Putin Moves To Escalate Ukraine War As Talks Stall

Russia is preparing to intensify its military campaign in Ukraine after peace negotiations were reportedly pushed to a dead end, raising fresh concerns that the nearly four-year-old war could enter an even more dangerous phase.

People familiar with the Kremlin's thinking said Moscow is considering a new wave of powerful conventional ballistic missile strikes against Kyiv, including possible attacks on targets in the Ukrainian capital. Critical infrastructure in other Ukrainian cities could also come under increased pressure.

The development comes after months of diplomatic efforts aimed at finding a settlement. Negotiations involving the United States, Russia and Ukraine have so far failed to bridge major differences, particularly over territory and security guarantees. Recent discussions have produced little progress, leaving the two sides facing many of the same disagreements that have blocked a peace deal.

Russia's leadership reportedly



believes that economic pressure, Western sanctions and Ukrainian attacks on Russian infrastructure have not forced Moscow to change its position. Instead, the Kremlin appears increasingly prepared to rely on military pressure to achieve its objectives.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has stepped up attacks against Russian military and economic targets. Ukrainian drones have struck oil refineries, logistics facilities and other infrastructure inside Russia, adding to pressure on Moscow. The possibility of intensified Russian missile attacks has raised

concerns in Kyiv, particularly because Ukraine's air-defence systems are already under significant pressure. Western countries have been working to provide additional interceptor missiles and other air-defence equipment as Russian attacks continue. The latest developments also come amid growing concern over the future of US-led diplomatic efforts.

While Washington has continued to push for an end to the conflict, expectations of an immediate breakthrough have weakened considerably.

Russia has previously indicated

that it remains open to negotiations, but Moscow insists that any agreement must reflect what it describes as the "realities on the ground." Ukraine, on the other hand, has rejected demands that would require it to surrender territory.

The possibility of further escalation has also revived fears about how far Russia could go if conventional military pressure fails. However, there is currently no concrete indication that Moscow has decided to use nuclear weapons, and analysts continue to consider such a scenario highly unlikely.

For now, the biggest concern is a renewed intensification of conventional attacks. With diplomatic efforts struggling to produce results and both Russia and Ukraine continuing to target each other's military and strategic infrastructure, hopes for a quick end to the war appear increasingly distant. The latest situation suggests that instead of moving closer to a peace agreement, Moscow and Kyiv could once again be heading toward a more dangerous phase of the conflict.

Meta Agrees \$17 Billion Deal Over Teen Safety

Meta has agreed to pay up to \$17 billion to settle a major legal battle with US states over allegations that Facebook and Instagram were designed in ways that encouraged teenagers to spend excessive amounts of time on social media.

The settlement follows a closely watched legal dispute in which several US states accused Meta of deliberately creating features that could encourage addictive behaviour among young users. Authorities also alleged that the company failed to adequately protect children and teenagers from potential harms associated with its platforms.

Meta has denied wrongdoing. However, as part of the proposed settlement, the company has agreed to introduce several significant changes aimed at improving safety for users under the age of 18.

One of the most notable measures is a daily usage limit for teenage accounts. Under the proposed changes, teenagers would face restrictions on how long they can use Meta's social media platforms each day. Access would also be restricted during overnight hours, while notifications could be limited during school hours.

Meta is also expected to strengthen its age-verification systems. The company plans to improve its ability to identify underage users and prevent children from accessing features or content that may not be appropriate for their age. Parents could also receive greater control over their children's accounts. Enhanced parental controls are expected to give parents more information about their children's activity and allow them to manage certain aspects of their social media use. Some features that have faced criticism for encouraging excessive engagement could also be restricted for teenagers. These may include certain recommendation systems, personalised content and features designed to increase user interaction. The settlement comes amid growing concern in the United States about the impact of social media on children and teenagers. Parents, educators and lawmakers have increasingly questioned whether platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube are doing enough to protect young users.



Chinese Hackers Breach NASA, Senate In Major Attack

The United States has disrupted a major cyber-espionage operation allegedly linked to Chinese state-backed hackers that targeted several sensitive American government agencies and critical infrastructure networks.

US authorities said the hacking campaign involved a group known as QTFY and relied on two platforms, QScan and QTRouter. Law enforcement agencies seized internet domains associated with the platforms as part of an operation aimed at dismantling the hacking infrastructure. According to the US Justice Department, the hackers successfully breached or targeted several high-profile institutions, including NASA, the Federal Reserve, the US Senate, the Department of Justice, the Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health. The campaign also allegedly targeted the Department of Health and Human Services and several organisations in the private sector. Hospitals, universities, telecommunications companies, power providers, financial institutions and defence contractors were among the sectors reportedly targeted. Investigators said QTFY was connected to Nanjing Xinjiuwei Network Technology Company, a China-based technology firm. Court documents allege that the hacking group provided services to customers including China's Ministry of State Security and the People's Liberation Army. The hackers reportedly used QScan to scan internet-connected devices for vulnerabilities and automatically infect them. Those compromised devices were then incorporated into QTRouter, creating a large network that could be used to conduct further cyberattacks. The infrastructure also relied on commercial proxy services and rented virtual private servers. This allowed the attackers to hide the true origin of their activities and make it more difficult for investigators to trace the operations back to China.

US officials said the hacking campaign had been active since at least 2018. Investigators found evidence of successful data theft from defence contractors, financial institutions and universities, while several attempts to penetrate other networks were unsuccessful.



Iran, US Tensions Escalate Over Strait Of Hormuz

Tensions between Iran and the United States remain high as the two countries continue to face off over the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Fresh developments have raised concerns about the security of one of the world's most important oil routes. Iran and Oman have reportedly agreed to share revenues from the Strait of Hormuz, amid continuing uncertainty over the waterway. The development comes as efforts continue to manage tensions surrounding shipping and energy supplies in the region. The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial global trade route through which a

significant share of the world's oil supplies passes. Any prolonged disruption could therefore have consequences far beyond the Middle East, potentially pushing up crude prices and increasing pressure on energy-importing countries. The latest developments follow a series of warnings and threats between Washington and Tehran. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly warned Iran against actions that could threaten shipping through the strait. The United States has also increased pressure on Iran through sanctions and military measures. Iran, mean-

while, has maintained a tough position and warned that it will respond to attempts to restrict its economic activity or challenge its control over the region. The situation became more tense after an unidentified projectile struck a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, triggering a fire that was later brought under control. The incident added to concerns about the safety of commercial shipping in the strategically important waterway. The Strait of Hormuz has become a major centre of the wider US-Iran confrontation. Washington has sought to pressure



Tehran economically while keeping military options

open, whereas Iran has resisted US demands and warned against further escalation. The crisis is also being closely watched by countries that depend heavily on energy imports. Any major disruption to oil shipments could lead to higher crude prices, increased transportation costs and renewed inflationary pressures across global economies. For India, the situation is particularly important because the country is one of the world's largest energy importers and has significant trade and strategic interests in the Gulf region. Higher oil prices

could increase India's import bill and put additional pressure on domestic fuel prices and inflation. Diplomatic efforts remain crucial as both sides consider their next steps. Although there have been attempts at negotiations and mediation, deep disagreements between Washington and Tehran continue to make a lasting settlement difficult. For now, the Strait of Hormuz remains a major geopolitical flashpoint. Any military confrontation or prolonged disruption could have serious consequences for global energy markets, international trade and regional stability.

Adani Enterprises Gains As Motilal Oswal Says Buy



Shares of Adani Enterprises gained more than 1.5 percent on August 27 after domestic brokerage Motilal Oswal Financial Services initiated coverage on the stock with a 'Buy' rating. The brokerage set a target price of Rs 3,880 per share, indicating significant upside from the prevailing market level. At around 1:40 pm, Adani Enterprises shares were trading 1.7 percent higher at Rs 3,164.40 apiece, making the stock one of the stronger performers on the Nifty 50 index. The positive movement came despite broader weakness in the Indian equity market. Motilal Oswal's bullish view is based on Adani Enterprises' diversified business portfolio, strong market position and its ability to develop and scale new businesses. The brokerage believes the company is positioned to emerge as a leading global infrastructure platform as India's investment and infrastructure cycle gathers momentum. According to the brokerage, Adani Enterprises' incubator-led business model is one of its major strengths. The company has historically developed new businesses within the group before scaling them into independent operations. Motilal Oswal expects this model to continue creating value as newer businesses mature and contribute more significantly to earnings. The brokerage estimates that Adani Enterprises' consolidated revenue, EBITDA and profit after tax could grow at approximately 22 percent, 29 percent and 82 percent respectively between FY26 and FY29. The expected growth is likely to be supported by expansion across business verticals, improving margins and a rising contribution from relatively high-margin businesses. Motilal Oswal also expects the company's incubated businesses to become increasingly important growth drivers. Its diversified exposure across infrastructure and emerging sectors provides multiple avenues for expansion, reducing dependence on any single business segment. The brokerage's valuation uses a sum-of-the-parts approach, reflecting the different growth prospects and valuations of Adani Enterprises' various businesses. Based on this methodology, it arrived at the Rs 3,880 target price. However, the brokerage also highlighted several risks. These include delays in project execution, higher-than-expected capital expenditure, regulatory or policy changes, commodity price fluctuations and slower-than-anticipated ramp-up of new businesses. The latest recommendation comes at a time when Adani Enterprises has already witnessed strong market interest. The stock has been among the better-performing large-cap names this year, supported by expectations of earnings growth and expansion across its infrastructure portfolio. With Motilal Oswal initiating coverage with a Buy rating and projecting further upside, investor attention is now likely to remain focused on the company's upcoming projects, earnings trajectory and ability to execute its ambitious expansion plans.

boAt FY26 Profit Jumps 38% To Rs 84.5 Crore

Indian consumer electronics brand boAt has reported a strong improvement in profitability for the financial year 2025-26. The company recorded a 38 percent rise in profit after tax to Rs 84.5 crore, compared with Rs 61.1 crore in the previous financial year. boAt is owned by Imagine Marketing Limited. According to the company, its revenue from operations stood at Rs 2,931 crore in FY26. The improved profitability comes as the company worked to strengthen its core business while expanding into newer product categories. One of the biggest positive developments was the turnaround in boAt's wearables business. The segment, which had reported a loss of around Rs 54 crore in FY25, became profitable in FY26, recording a profit of approximately Rs 7 crore. The turnaround highlights the company's efforts to improve margins and operating efficiency in a highly competitive consumer electronics market. The company's other business segment also delivered significant growth. This segment includes products such as charging solutions, cables and gaming accessories. Profit from these categories increased to Rs 46 crore in FY26 from Rs 14 crore a year earlier. boAt also witnessed strong growth in its international business. Revenue from overseas markets more than doubled during the year, rising to Rs 45 crore from approximately Rs 20 crore in FY25. The company is increasingly looking at international markets as an important avenue for future expansion. Commenting on the financial performance, boAt CEO Gaurav Nayyar said the company had focused on strengthening its foundations while dealing with a challenging external environment. He highlighted the improvement across various parts of the business and said newer categories were beginning to emerge as meaningful sources of growth and profitability. The company also ended FY26 with approximately Rs 397 crore in cash reserves and zero bank debt. A stronger balance sheet is expected to give boAt greater flexibility as it expands its product portfolio and enters new markets. Going forward, boAt plans to move from a turnaround-focused strategy towards growth. The company intends to build on its leadership in audio products while developing new growth engines across international markets and consumer technology categories. These newer categories include projectors, grooming products and charging solutions. The company is also expected to continue strengthening its presence in its traditional audio and wearable segments. The FY26 results indicate that boAt has made progress in improving profitability, controlling costs and diversifying its revenue sources. With its wearables business turning profitable and international revenue increasing sharply, the company is now looking to build on this momentum and accelerate its next phase of growth.



Sensex Plunges 539 Points, Nifty Slips Below 24,100

Indian equity markets extended their losing streak on Thursday, August 27, with benchmark indices ending sharply lower amid expiry-related volatility, profit booking and weakness in key heavyweight stocks. The Nifty 50 slipped below the crucial 24,100 mark, while the Sensex declined by around 539 points during the session. The Nifty closed at 24,090.85, down 117 points or around 0.48 percent. The Sensex ended at 76,933.59, falling 539 points, or about 0.70 percent. The decline came despite broader Asian markets largely trading higher, highlighting the cautious mood among domestic investors. One of the biggest drags on the market was HDFC Bank. The stock declined around 2.2 percent and touched its lowest level in nearly two-and-a-half years. Investor sentiment was affected by reports of a US class-action lawsuit involving the bank and two senior executives, along with uncertainty surrounding the renewal of CEO



Sashidhar Jagdishan's tenure. The market also witnessed significant movement in individual stocks. ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company shares fell around 4 percent following a large block deal. On the other hand, Adani Energy Solutions gained about 2 percent after Morgan Stanley maintained an 'Overweight' rating on the stock.

Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation surged 11 percent following relief from the Supreme Court, while Juniper Green Energy declined 7 percent despite reporting strong quarterly earnings. Skipper also advanced after securing fresh orders worth Rs 1,305 crore. Sector-wise, the performance remained mixed. Selective buying was seen in phar-

maceutical and healthcare stocks, while the capital market index declined more than 1 percent. The Nifty Pharma index was among the stronger performers, gaining around 0.84 percent, while PSU banks, FMCG and financial stocks faced pressure. The rupee also weakened against the US dollar. It ended at Rs 95.54 per dollar, compared with Rs 95.41 in the previous session. Analysts have warned that the market's short-term structure remains weak. According to Kotak Securities, the Nifty could see a technical rebound if it sustains above the 24,100 level. A move above that zone could take the index towards 24,250-24,300. However, a break below 24,000 could intensify selling pressure and push the Nifty towards 23,900-23,850. Overall, Thursday's session reflected continued caution among investors, with expiry-related volatility and concerns over global and domestic factors weighing on sentiment.

Happiest Minds Shares Fall 6% On Stake Sale Buzz

Shares of Happiest Minds Technologies came under pressure on August 27, falling around 6 percent after reports indicated that ITC Infotech could acquire a stake held by the company's promoter. The development revived investor focus on the potential ownership change at the Bengaluru-based IT services firm. The stock has been under the spotlight since reports emerged that ITC Infotech had emerged as the frontrunner to acquire a majority stake in Happiest Minds. Earlier reports said the contours of the transaction, including the size of the stake, valuation and deal structure, were still being finalised. Happiest Minds founder and Executive Chairman Ashok Soota has been exploring the possibility of selling his stake in the company. Soota holds more than 32 percent directly and over 40 percent through other promoter holdings. Ashok Soota Medical Research LLP separately holds around 11.8 percent in the company.



The proposed transaction could have significant implications for Happiest Minds. If ITC Infotech acquires Soota's promoter stake and crosses the relevant regulatory threshold, it would be required to make a mandatory open offer to the company's public shareholders under SEBI takeover regulations. ITC Infotech's potential interest is also significant because the acquisition could strengthen its presence in digital transformation,

artificial intelligence and technology services. For Happiest Minds, a strategic investor with access to greater resources could provide additional opportunities for expansion and scale. The company has been operating in a challenging environment for the IT services sector, although its recent financial performance has shown signs of improvement. Happiest Minds reported consolidated revenue of Rs 628.51 crore

for the June 2026 quarter, representing a 14.3 percent year-on-year increase. The proposed stake sale comes after a period of weakness in the Happiest Minds stock. Earlier in 2026, reports said Soota had appointed JM Financial to evaluate strategic options, including a possible sale of his holding. At that stage, discussions were described as preliminary, with valuation emerging as an important consideration. The potential deal has therefore become a key trigger for the stock. Investors are closely watching whether the reported transaction progresses, what valuation is ultimately agreed upon and whether ITC Infotech proceeds with a mandatory open offer. For now, the reported stake-sale discussions remain the major focus surrounding Happiest Minds. Any official announcement regarding the transaction, valuation or ownership structure could have a significant impact on the stock in the coming sessions.

HDFC Bank Drag Sends Sensex, Nifty Lower

Indian equity markets remained under pressure on Thursday as weakness in HDFC Bank weighed heavily on the benchmark indices. The private-sector lender's shares fell sharply following reports of a securities class-action lawsuit filed in the United States, adding to concerns surrounding the bank and contributing to a weak market breadth. HDFC Bank shares declined more than 2 percent during the session, touching a fresh 52-week low. The stock became one of the biggest drags on the Nifty 50 because of its significant weight in the benchmark index. By the end of trading, HDFC Bank closed around 2.1 percent lower. The US lawsuit was filed by investor Jwalant Natvarlal Soneji in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. The complaint alleges securities-law violations and claims that certain payments made to the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation were improperly disclosed. The allegations relate to the period between July 2023 and May 2026. HDFC Bank has rejected the allegations. A bank spokesperson said shareholder lawsuits of this nature are common in the US after a company's stock price declines and maintained that the claims



are without merit. The bank said it intends to defend itself vigorously. The legal development comes at a sensitive time for HDFC Bank, which is already facing investor concerns over leadership and other regulatory issues. Uncertainty surrounding CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan's tenure, which ends in October, has also contributed to the cautious sentiment surrounding the stock. The broader market also struggled during the session. The Nifty slipped below 24,150 during trading and was down for a second consecutive session, while the

Sensex also remained in negative territory. Market breadth was weak, with declining stocks outnumbering gainers across the exchanges. Most sectors traded in the red, with selling pressure visible in IT, FMCG and metal stocks. Consumer durable and pharmaceutical shares, however, witnessed buying interest and provided some support. Broader markets remained relatively lacklustre, with small- and mid-cap stocks also facing pressure. Global cues offered limited relief. Asian mar-

kets ended mixed, while European markets largely remained lower. Meanwhile, softer crude oil prices and gains in US Nasdaq futures provided some support to investor sentiment. By the close, the Nifty 50 ended at 24,090.85, down 116.90 points or 0.48 percent, while the Sensex settled at 76,933.59, declining 539 points or 0.70 percent. The session highlighted how stock-specific developments, particularly involving heavyweight companies such as HDFC Bank, can have a significant impact on overall market sentiment.

TD Power Shares Rise 5% On Brokerage Outlook

Shares of TD Power Systems bounced back on Thursday, August 27, rising as much as 5 percent and snapping a two-session losing streak. The stock climbed after brokerage Monarch Network Capital maintained its 'Hold' rating while highlighting strong growth opportunities linked to artificial intelligence, data centres and global power demand. TD Power Systems shares touched an intraday high of Rs 765.50 on the NSE, gaining nearly 5 percent. The stock had fallen more than 7 percent during the previous two trading sessions, making Thursday's recovery particularly notable. Monarch Network Capital said TD Power Systems is

well positioned to benefit from the rapidly expanding global AI and data-centre power cycle. According to the brokerage, exports are likely to remain the company's key growth engine over the medium term. The brokerage also pointed to ongoing debottlenecking and planned capacity expansion as important factors that could help TD Power take advantage of its strong order pipeline. A possible entry into large generators could further expand the company's addressable market and provide additional growth opportunities beyond FY28. Demand for the company's gas engines and gas turbines remains strong, supported by

increasing electricity requirements from AI and data centres as well as the broader need for captive power generation. TD Power Systems recorded a strong order inflow in the first quarter of FY27. Order inflows surged 87.4 percent year-on-year to Rs 7.3 billion, with exports and deemed exports accounting for 93.1 percent of the total. The company's order backlog stood at Rs 22.1 billion, providing visibility for future revenue growth. Management expects quarterly order inflows of around Rs 7 billion, according to the brokerage. Monarch Network Capital estimates that revenue, EBITDA and profit after tax could grow at



compound annual growth rates of 32.3 percent, 36.8 percent and 34.9 percent respectively between FY26 and FY28. The company's latest financial performance has also strengthened the brokerage's confidence. EBITDA increased 76.7 percent year-on-year to Rs 1,216 million, while the EBITDA margin expanded to 19 percent. Profit after tax rose 72.3 percent year-on-year to Rs 863 million. Despite the positive outlook, Monarch Network Capital retained its 'Hold' rating and assigned a tar-

get price of Rs 756 per share, implying limited upside from the previous closing price. The brokerage's stance suggests that much of the company's growth potential may already be reflected in its valuation. TD Power Systems has nevertheless attracted strong investor interest over the past year. The stock has gained substantially, supported by strong earnings, rising orders and growing expectations around power demand from AI and data-centre infrastructure. The latest rebound indicates that investors continue to closely track the company's expansion plans and its ability to convert the strong order pipeline into sustained earnings growth.

Sri Lanka Escape Defeat As India Miss Series Sweep

India's hopes of completing a 2-0 Test series sweep over Sri Lanka were dashed as the second and final Test in Colombo ended in a dramatic draw. Sri Lanka produced a remarkable resistance on the fifth day after being forced to follow on, frustrating India's bowlers and securing a hard-fought result. India had dominated large portions of the Test. After scoring 503/9 declared in their first innings, India bowled Sri Lanka out for 290 and secured a massive 213-run first-innings lead. Captain Shubman Gill's side then enforced the follow-on, putting the hosts under enormous pressure. Sri Lanka, however, refused to surrender. After reaching 229/6 at the end of the fourth



day, the hosts continued their determined fight on Day 5. Sonal Dinusha emerged as the star of the resistance, producing an outstanding unbeaten century to keep

India waiting for the final wickets. Dinusha's performance was particularly significant. He scored 103 in Sri Lanka's first innings and followed it with another century in the second innings. His second hundred made him only the eighth Sri Lankan batter to score centuries in both innings of a Test against India. He also became one of the very few batters to register four consecutive fifty-plus scores in a two-match Test series against India. India's bowlers had earlier put Sri Lanka under considerable pressure. Manav Suthar was among the stand-out performers during the series, finishing with 16 wickets. Saransh Jain also played an important role in

the second Test, repeatedly breaking crucial partnerships. On the final day, Sri Lanka's lower order showed tremendous resilience. Dinusha and Lahiru Kumara consumed valuable deliveries and denied India the wickets needed to force a victory. By the tea interval, Sri Lanka had reached 383/8, with a 170-run lead after being asked to follow on. Rain had already disrupted the Test on earlier days and remained an important factor in Colombo. The interruptions reduced India's opportunities to bowl Sri Lanka out and eventually played a significant role in the match ending without a result. Despite the draw, India had

already established their dominance in the series by winning the opening Test by 165 runs. The result in Colombo therefore meant India finished the two-match series with a 1-0 victory. For Sri Lanka, the draw was almost equivalent to a victory considering their difficult position after the follow-on. Their determined batting, led by Dinusha, prevented India from completing what appeared to be a likely series sweep. The Colombo Test will therefore be remembered for Sri Lanka's extraordinary fightback after following on and Dinusha's record-setting batting performance, while India will reflect on a missed opportunity to finish the series with another win.

Dhoni's 25% CSK Stake Claim Sparks Debate



MS Dhoni and Chennai Super Kings have long been considered inseparable in the IPL, but a fresh report has sparked speculation about a possible rift between the former captain and the franchise. According to reports, Dhoni had allegedly sought a 25 percent stake in CSK, later reducing his demand, while the franchise reportedly offered him a much smaller stake. The development has attracted considerable attention because Dhoni has been one of the most influential figures in CSK's history. Under his leadership, the franchise won five IPL titles and established itself as one of the competition's biggest brands. Although Dhoni did not play a single match in IPL 2026, he continued to remain an important figure around the team. However, former India cricketer and ex-Kolkata Knight Riders batter Aakash Chopra has questioned the credibility of the reported stake negotiations. Chopra described the alleged 25 percent demand as unrealistic, pointing to the enormous valuation of the CSK franchise. Chopra noted that if CSK were valued at around \$1.8 billion, a 25 percent stake would be worth roughly \$450 million. He argued that it would be highly unlikely for a franchise owner to simply hand over such a substantial ownership share to an individual. The former cricketer also questioned reports that Dhoni's alleged demand was subsequently reduced and that CSK eventually offered him a stake of around 5.5 percent. According to Chopra, even a stake of that size would represent a significant financial value given CSK's current valuation. Chopra stopped short of calling the report fake news because he said he did not have verified information. However, he expressed his personal belief that the entire story could have been planted. He questioned the sequence of the alleged negotiations, from a 25 percent demand to a lower figure and finally a reported 5.5 percent offer. The speculation comes at an interesting stage in Dhoni's association with CSK. The veteran has seen his playing role diminish in recent seasons, while the franchise has already transitioned its captaincy to Ruturaj Gaikwad. Despite that, Dhoni's influence and popularity remain enormous. His five IPL titles with CSK, long association with the franchise and status as one of the most successful captains in IPL history have made him synonymous with the team. For now, neither Dhoni nor CSK has publicly confirmed the reported stake discussions. Until an official statement emerges, the 25 percent ownership claim remains unverified, with Chopra's comments adding another layer to an already intriguing CSK-Dhoni story.

India Remain Fifth In Updated WTC Table

India remain in fifth position in the World Test Championship 2025-27 points table after the second Test against Sri Lanka ended in a draw in Colombo. The result denied Shubman Gill and his team a series clean sweep and also prevented India from making a significant jump in the WTC standings. India had entered the Colombo Test with an opportunity to move closer to the top four after winning the opening Test in Galle by 165 runs. A victory in the second Test would have given India another valuable 12 WTC points and improved their points percentage considerably. Instead, the drawn match earned both teams four points each under the WTC points system. The draw means India finish the two-Test Sri Lanka tour with one victory and one draw. Their WTC campaign therefore receives a modest boost rather than the major lift that a second successive victory would have provided. India remain fifth in the table, with their points percentage



still below the leading teams. The outcome is particularly frustrating because India appeared to be in complete control of the Colombo Test. After taking a substantial first-innings lead, Gill's side enforced the follow-on and put Sri Lanka under immense pressure. However, the hosts produced a

remarkable fightback and managed to save the Test, becoming the first Sri Lankan side to save a Test against India after being forced to follow on. For Gill, the result means the road to the WTC final has become more demanding. India still have plenty of matches remaining in the championship cycle, but

they will need to convert more opportunities into victories, particularly in the upcoming series. Every drawn Test now becomes significant because teams are ranked according to points percentage rather than simply their total points. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, remain sixth in the standings. Despite avoiding a series defeat, the draw does not dramatically improve their position because they were already behind India on points percentage. The top two teams at the end of the WTC league stage will qualify for the final, making every point crucial. India's immediate objective will therefore be to build consistency and avoid further dropped opportunities. The Colombo result may ultimately prove costly if the competition at the top remains tight. India have shown enough quality to challenge for a place in the final, but Gill's team will now need a strong run of results in their remaining WTC fixtures to keep their qualification hopes firmly alive.

AB de Villiers Clarifies Kohli-Sachin Comparison

South African cricket legend AB de Villiers has clarified his recent comments comparing Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar after facing criticism from fans on social media. De Villiers had sparked controversy by suggesting that Kohli was stronger than Tendulkar in challenging overseas conditions. While praising Tendulkar as a pioneer who showed Indian batters that they could succeed in seaming and bouncy conditions, he said Kohli took that standard forward and raised the bar. The comments quickly triggered a debate among cricket fans, particularly those who regard Tendulkar as one of the greatest batters in the history of the sport. Several social media users questioned de Villiers' assessment and pointed to Tendulkar's extraordinary record across formats and conditions. Following the backlash, de Villiers returned to the subject and clarified that his comments were being misunderstood. He stressed that



the comparison represented his personal opinion and was not intended to diminish Tendulkar's achievements. De Villiers acknowledged that Tendulkar was the first major Indian batter to demonstrate how successfully a player from the subcontinent could perform around the world. According to him, Tendulkar showed younger generations what was required to maintain consistency in different playing conditions. He also explained why he rated Kohli highly. De Villiers highlighted

Kohli's ability to handle the short ball and his overall approach to batting in demanding overseas conditions. He said Kohli brought a different dimension to Indian batting and inspired several younger players to follow his example. Importantly, de Villiers admitted that Kohli's overseas Test statistics do not match Tendulkar's. He specifically acknowledged that Kohli struggled at times in England. However, he argued that statistics alone do not completely

define a player's quality or influence. The South African great said he believed Kohli displayed the confidence and balanced approach needed to succeed outside India. In his view, Kohli learned from the foundation established by Tendulkar and subsequently carried it forward. The clarification has attempted to put the controversy into perspective. Rather than suggesting that Tendulkar's achievements were inferior, de Villiers said his comments were about how he personally viewed the evolution of Indian batting. Both Tendulkar and Kohli remain towering figures in Indian cricket, with each leaving an enormous impact on the game. Their careers belong to different eras, making direct comparisons difficult and often subjective. De Villiers' latest comments therefore appear aimed at ending the debate while making it clear that his admiration for both Indian batting legends remains intact.

Anaya Bangar Gets Green Light For WBBL

Anaya Bangar, daughter of former India cricketer Sanjay Bangar, has received a significant boost in her cricketing career after Cricket Australia confirmed that she can pursue elite women's cricket in the country from March 2027. The development could open a pathway for Anaya to compete in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), one of the premier women's T20 competitions. However, the clearance does not guarantee her a place in a WBBL franchise. She will still need to meet the eligibility requirements and earn an opportunity through her performances. Anaya announced the development on social media, describing it as an extremely emotional moment. She said there was a stage when she believed she had lost cricket forever, but Cricket Australia's decision has given her an opportunity to return to the sport she has loved since childhood. Cricket Australia's decision follows an assessment under its policy governing transgender and gender-diverse players in elite cricket. The approval is based on the med-



ical information provided by Anaya and remains subject to her continuing to satisfy the applicable eligibility requirements. Until March 2027, Anaya can participate in Premier Cricket competitions in Australia. These competitions are classified separately from elite cricket under Cricket Australia's policy. The former Mumbai age-group cricketer has already begun preparing for her comeback. Her immediate focus is expected to be on rebuilding her fitness, match practice and overall cricketing skills before attempting to make the jump to the elite level. The WBBL opportunity would represent another major step in that journey. The league uses an overseas-player contracting and draft system, meaning Anaya would

still have to impress franchises sufficiently to earn a place in a squad. Anaya has made it clear that simply receiving eligibility is only the beginning. She now needs to prove herself on the field through her batting, bowling, fielding and fitness. Her journey has attracted considerable attention because she had previously feared that her cricket career might have ended after her transition. She had also sought clarity from the BCCI regarding opportunities to play women's cricket in India but did not receive a response. For now, Australia has provided her with a pathway back into competitive cricket. The next challenge will be turning that opportunity into consistent performances and, eventually, a WBBL contract. If she succeeds, Anaya Bangar could become one of the most closely watched emerging names in women's cricket, with her comeback representing both a personal milestone and a significant moment in the evolving conversation around participation in elite sport.

Mbappe Hat-Trick Powers Real Madrid To Victory

Kylian Mbappe delivered a sensational performance as Real Madrid defeated Real Sociedad 4-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu. The victory gave Jose Mourinho a winning start in his first home game since returning as Real Madrid manager and helped the Spanish giants make it two wins from two in LaLiga. Real Madrid opened the scoring in the 40th minute when Federico Valverde found Mbappe inside the box. The French forward cut inside before firing a precise left-footed shot into the corner. Real Sociedad responded almost immediately. Luka Sucic equalised in the 44th minute after the ball fell to him inside the penalty area following a rebound. The teams went into half-time level at 1-1. Madrid returned for the second half with a completely different intensity. Mbappe restored their lead in the 60th minute after combining with Jude Bellingham. The French striker finished the move with a low shot to make it 2-1. Real Sociedad struggled to cope with Madrid's attacking pressure. In the 68th minute, Bellingham won possession and helped create the opening for Vinicius Junior, who calmly found



the net to extend the home side's advantage. Mbappe then completed his hat-trick in the 80th minute. Vinicius supplied a superb pass into the box, and Mbappe produced a composed chipped finish over the goalkeeper to make it 4-1. The three-goal performance was a major response from Mbappe after he failed to score in Real

Madrid's opening league match. The forward has now made a spectacular start to the new campaign and once again demonstrated why he is regarded as one of the most dangerous attackers in world football. The victory was equally significant for Mourinho. Returning to the Santiago Bernabeu after more than 13 years, the Portuguese manager endured some pressure during the opening half as Madrid struggled to impose themselves. However, his team responded strongly after the break and eventually secured a convincing victory. Jude Bellingham also played an important role in the win, providing two assists and contributing significantly to Madrid's improved second-half performance. Vinicius Junior's goal further underlined the attacking strength available to Mourinho. Real Madrid now have six points from their opening two league matches. The emphatic win will give Mourinho and his players considerable confidence, while Mbappe's hat-trick has ensured that the French superstar is already among the early headlines of the new LaLiga season.

Mamitha Baiju's BKU Beats Toxic In BookMyShow Sales

Box-office trends can often produce unexpected surprises, and the latest numbers from BookMyShow have created one such talking point. Bethlehem Kudumba Unit (BKU), starring Nivin Pauly and Mamitha Baiju, has reportedly overtaken Yash's much-hyped Toxic in hourly ticket sales on the platform.

At the time of the latest update, BKU was recording more than 28,000 hourly ticket sales on BookMyShow, while Toxic was registering around 22,000. The development is particularly notable because Toxic is a much bigger pan-Indian release with enormous pre-release expectations and a significantly larger scale. BKU, meanwhile, is already a week old. Despite facing



hourly bookings indicates that the movie continues to attract viewers even after its initial release period. Both films have reportedly crossed the Rs 100 crore gross milestone, making the comparison even more interesting. Toxic, given its scale, star power and nationwide reach, is still expected to collect substantially bigger numbers overall. However, BKU's ability to lead the hourly BookMyShow sales at a particular point has emerged as a genuine box-office surprise. BKU features Nivin Pauly in the lead, with Mamitha Baiju playing a prominent role. The film is directed by Girish A.D., who previously made the popular Malayalam films Premalu and Thanneer Mathan Dinangal. The combination of the cast and director had generated considerable interest even before release. Mamitha Baiju, in particular, has been enjoying growing popularity among young audiences. Her recent appearances have helped strengthen her position as one of the promising young faces in South Indian cinema. The strong response to BKU adds another positive development to her recent career trajectory. Toxic, on the other hand, marks Yash's return to the big screen after four years and arrived with massive expectations following his blockbuster KGF franchise. Despite mixed audience reactions, the film has opened strongly at the box office. Early estimates suggest that Toxic collected around Rs 120 crore gross in India on its first day, underlining Yash's enormous market value. Therefore, BKU's temporary lead in hourly ticket sales should not be interpreted as Toxic losing its overall box-office advantage. Instead, it highlights the unpredictable nature of audience demand and the strong staying power of a well-received regional film. For the makers of BKU, however, the numbers are certainly encouraging. Maintaining momentum against a high-profile release like Toxic could help the film extend its successful theatrical run in the coming days.

Ranabaali Locks New Date, Clash With Jailer 2

Vijay Deverakonda's upcoming period action drama Ranabaali has got a new release date, setting up an interesting box-office clash with Superstar Rajinikanth's Jailer 2. The makers have announced that the highly anticipated film will arrive in theatres on October 16, 2026. Ranabaali was earlier scheduled for a different release window, but the team has now finalized October 16. The announcement has immediately attracted attention because Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 is scheduled to hit cinemas just a day earlier, on October 15. The simultaneous arrival of two big-ticket films could make the October festive season particularly competitive. Both movies are backed by strong star power and are expected to target audiences across multiple regions. While Jailer 2 carries the enormous popularity of Rajinikanth and the success of its predecessor, Ranabaali is one of Vijay Deverakonda's ambitious upcoming projects. Ranabaali is being presented as a pan-Indian action drama with a historical backdrop. The story is set against the 19th century and draws from historical events that occurred during British rule between 1854 and 1878. The period setting, large-scale action and dramatic narrative are expected to be major attractions for audiences. Vijay Deverakonda plays the titular character, while Rashmika Mandanna is paired with him as the female lead. The film also features Arnold Vosloo as the antagonist. A newly unveiled warrior-themed poster has further increased curiosity around Vijay's look and character. The project is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers, with T-Series presenting the film. With a pan-Indian release planned, the makers are expected to step up promotions as the theatrical date approaches. The clash with Jailer 2 is undoubtedly a major challenge. Rajinikanth's sequel has already generated substantial buzz, and the makers have locked October 15 as its release date. The film brings back Rajinikanth as Muthuvel Pandian and is directed by Nelson Dilipkumar. However, Ranabaali could benefit from its distinct period-action setting and Vijay Deverakonda's popularity among younger audiences. The one-day gap between the two releases could result in intense competition for premium screens and holiday-season audiences. For now, the October 15-16 weekend is shaping up to be a major showdown at the box office. Whether Ranabaali can hold its ground against Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 will become one of the most interesting trade-watching points of the season.



Namit Malhotra May Join Brahmastra 2 Team

Ayan Mukerji's much-awaited Brahmastra 2 is once again making headlines, with fresh reports suggesting that filmmaker and producer Namit Malhotra could come on board as a studio partner for the ambitious sequel.

According to reports, Ayan Mukerji has been exploring options for the production of Brahmastra 2 after discussions with several major studios did not materialise. Jio Studios, Dharma Productions and Yash Raj Films were reportedly approached, but none of the collaborations moved forward. The latest development is that Ayan is said to be in talks with Namit Malhotra, who heads Prime Focus and is producing the upcoming Ramayana.

The potential collaboration makes sense from a technical and creative perspective. Namit Malhotra's Prime Focus and DNEG have extensive experience in large-scale visual effects, while Brahmastra 2 is expected to demand substantial VFX work because of its fantasy setting and expansive Astraverse storyline.

The first installment, Brahm?stra: Part One - Shiva, was released in 2022 and starred Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan, Mouni Roy and Nagarjuna. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the film introduced audiences to the Astraverse, a fantasy universe built around powerful astras. The sequel was announced as Brahmastra Part Two: Dev and is expected to expand the mythology introduced in the first chapter.

Namit Malhotra is already closely associated with Ranbir Kapoor through Ramayana, in which the actor plays Lord Rama. The producer had also previously confirmed that he intended to continue the Astraverse after completing Ramayana. However, the latest reports suggest that his possible involvement in Brahmastra 2 could now go beyond a general association and involve Prime Focus as a studio partner. The sequel has remained in development for several

years, with fans eagerly waiting for clarity on its production timeline. Ranbir Kapoor has previously indicated that the project is moving ahead, while Ayan Mukerji has been developing the story and the broader Astraverse.

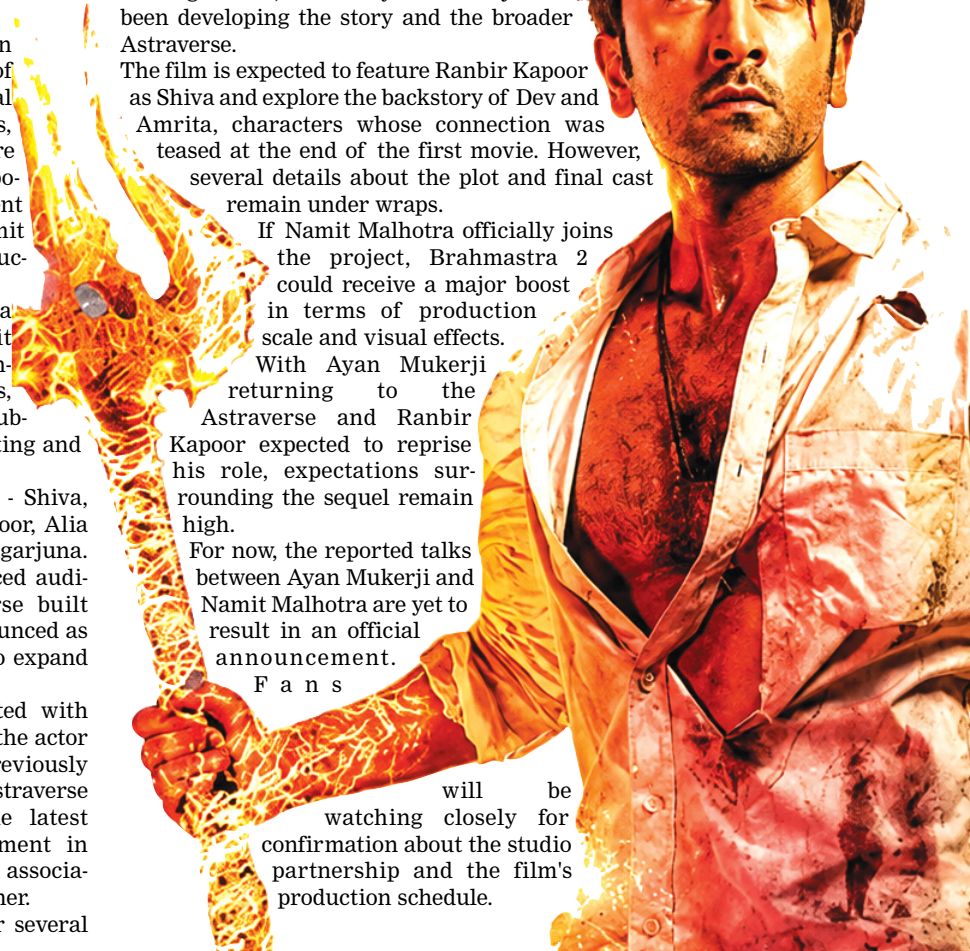
The film is expected to feature Ranbir Kapoor as Shiva and explore the backstory of Dev and Amrita, characters whose connection was teased at the end of the first movie. However, several details about the plot and final cast remain under wraps.

If Namit Malhotra officially joins the project, Brahmastra 2 could receive a major boost in terms of production scale and visual effects.

With Ayan Mukerji returning to the Astraverse and Ranbir Kapoor expected to reprise his role, expectations surrounding the sequel remain high.

For now, the reported talks between Ayan Mukerji and Namit Malhotra are yet to result in an official announcement.

Fans will be watching closely for confirmation about the studio partnership and the film's production schedule.



Gen-Z Will Love Rajinikanth In Dharman

Superstar Rajinikanth's upcoming Tamil film Dharman is generating strong curiosity among fans, and director Ashwath Marimuthu believes the movie will appeal particularly well to the younger generation. The filmmaker has described the project as a special film and expressed confidence that Gen-Z audiences will enjoy watching Rajinikanth in a completely engaging new-age entertainer.

Ashwath Marimuthu, known for films such as Oh My Kadavule and Dragon, is currently directing Dharman with Rajinikanth in the lead. Speaking about the project, the director highlighted the comfortable equation he shares with the superstar. He said working with Rajinikanth has been a memorable experience and that their collaboration has developed a strong level of mutual understanding.

The director's comments have added to the excitement surrounding Dharman, especially because the film brings together a veteran superstar and a filmmaker associated with contemporary storytelling. Ashwath believes this combination can help the movie connect with audiences across different age groups.

According to the filmmaker, Dharman is being designed as a Gen-Z-friendly entertainer while also retaining elements that will appeal to Rajinikanth's longtime followers. His confidence suggests that the film will attempt to combine the superstar's trademark screen presence with a fresh narrative style aimed at modern audiences.

The film has already created considerable buzz because of Rajinikanth's character. Earlier reports and promotional material have sparked speculation about his role, with the superstar seen in a striking appearance involving a surgical knife. Ashwath has also previously indicated that several assumptions about Rajinikanth's character may not be accurate, keeping the actual storyline under wraps.

Dharman is being produced by Kamal Haasan, while Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music. Simran and Raashii Khanna are also associated with the project in important roles. The film has now entered another phase of production, with shooting progressing steadily. Recent reports indicate that the team is aiming to complete the shoot by October.

The project is also significant because it marks an important opportunity for Ashwath Marimuthu to work with one of Indian cinema's biggest stars. For Rajinikanth, the film adds another interesting title to an already busy lineup.

With the director promising a film that can connect with both younger viewers and longtime Rajinikanth fans, expectations around Dharman are steadily increasing. If Ashwath's vision succeeds, the movie could offer audiences a fresh combination of Rajinikanth's legendary charisma and contemporary filmmaking.

For now, fans are eagerly waiting for more updates on the film, particularly details about Rajinikanth's character, the story and the official release plans.

Megastar Chiranjeevi Rejoins Vishwambhara Shoot

Megastar Chiranjeevi has reportedly rejoined the sets of his much-awaited socio-fantasy film Vishwambhara. The movie, which has been in production for a long time, has faced repeated delays, mainly because the team has been spending additional time on its extensive visual effects work. According to reports, Chiranjeevi has now allotted

four days to complete some pending portions of the film. The actor is said to be shooting a few key scenes as part of the remaining work. Once these portions are completed, his involvement in the shoot is expected to be wrapped up. The latest development has once again created curiosity among fans, who have been eagerly waiting for an update on the film's release. Vishwambhara was originally planned for a January 2025 release, but the schedule has changed several times as the makers focused on improving the quality of the CGI and VFX. The film's visual effects have been a major factor behind the delay. Earlier, members of the production team acknowledged that the initial teaser's CGI received a mixed response, prompting them to work extensively on improving the visual presentation. Since Vishwambhara is a fantasy film with large-scale VFX requirements, the makers have reportedly been unwilling to compromise on the final output. Directed by Vassishtha, Vishwambhara features Trisha Krishnan as the female lead, while Ashika Ranganath and Kunal Kapoor are playing important roles. The film is being produced by UV Creations, with Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani providing the music. The release date remains the biggest question surrounding the project. There has been speculation about a Dussehra 2026 release, while more recent reports have suggested that the movie could be pushed to 2027 if the VFX work takes longer than expected. However, the makers have not officially confirmed a final release date.

For now, Chiranjeevi's return to the sets is being viewed as a positive sign that the long-delayed project is moving closer to completion. Fans will have to wait for an official announcement from the makers regarding the theatrical release.

With the Megastar completing his pending portions and the VFX work progressing, attention is now firmly on when Vishwambhara will finally reach theatres.

