



BUZZ POINTS

US Senate Clears Russia Sanctions Bill, India Faces 100% Tariff Threat



PAGE 8

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey Form New Security Alliance



PAGE 8

India's Injury Concerns Grow as Bumrah, Hardik Face Fitness Setbacks



PAGE 11

Former MP Demands CBI Probe into DSC Irregularities



PAGE 3

TRUE POINT

VIJAYAWADA | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 133 | SUNDAY | AUGUST 9 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA □ HYDERABAD

Polavaram Project Faces Fresh Uncertainty Over Storage Limits



Ravi Podili

Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram multipurpose project, envisioned as a major source of irrigation and water security, is facing fresh uncertainty following Central Government disclosures over its storage capacity and the proposed Polavaram-Banakacharla link project. Conceived decades ago, Polavaram received its first budgetary allocation in 2002-03, while construction gained momentum in 2005 under the Jalayagnam programme. Following bifurcation, the project was accorded national status, with the Centre committing to fund its construction. However, recent developments have raised questions over whether it can deliver its originally envisaged benefits. A recent Lok Sabha reply by the Union Minister for Water Resources, in response to a question from an Andhra Pradesh MP, revealed that although the Polavaram spillway was completed in 2021 and designed to store 194.6 TMC at 45.72 metres, permission has been granted to store water only up to 41.15 metres. This reduces effective storage capacity to

119.4 TMC and cuts the irrigation potential from 7.20 lakh acres to 1.98 lakh acres. The concern has deepened with another Rajya Sabha disclosure that the Centre returned Andhra Pradesh's proposal for the Polavaram-Banakacharla link project, citing water availability concerns and objections from Godavari basin states, particularly Telangana. The link project, proposed after the NDA government came to power in Andhra Pradesh in 2024, aimed to divert surplus Godavari water to drought-prone Rayalaseema. However, the proposal was returned amid calls for a detailed examination of its interstate implications. The Central Water Commission has reportedly recommended an in-depth study. The proposal was placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee on June 17 last year, while the Centre had earlier returned the preliminary inquiry report and Terms of Reference. The Union Cabinet had also decided in August 2024 to restrict Polavaram's storage level to 41.15 metres. The developments have created an unusu-

al political situation, with the NDA in power in both Andhra Pradesh and at the Centre. At the same time, the Congress governs Telangana under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Long-standing differences over river-water sharing have added to the dispute. Telangana has consistently opposed the Banakacharla link, arguing that it could affect its irrigation interests and violate the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal award. It has also insisted that no project involving Godavari waters should proceed without Apex Committee approval. The Centre has reiterated that Central Water Commission clearance and an environmental No Objection Certificate are necessary before the proposed link can move forward. Within Andhra Pradesh, irrigation experts, including AB Venkateswara Rao, have questioned the link project's viability, citing its high cost and limited benefits. With questions over Polavaram's reduced storage capacity, interstate objections and regulatory clearances, both projects face significant technical and political hurdles.

AP Assembly Monsoon Session To Begin On August 17

Amaravati, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer has issued an official notification for the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly's monsoon session. The Assembly proceedings will commence at 9 a.m. on August 17, followed by the Legislative Council at 10 a.m. The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of both Houses will decide the duration of the session. The monsoon session is expected to last four days and is likely to consider several key state issues and approve various bills.

CM Directs Continuous 'Jaladhara-Jalaharati' Initiative Amid Rainfall Deficit



Amaravati, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday directed officials to implement the 'Jaladhara-Jalaharati' programme as a continuous initiative and undertake proactive measures to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply amid the anticipated impact of El Niño. Reviewing the programme through a video conference from his camp office, Chandrababu said the impact of El Niño was exceeding initial estimates and called for focused measures on water conservation, drinking water supply and crop protection. Officials informed him that 79,826 of the 82,865 works identified under the programme had been completed at a sanctioned cost of Rs.3,409.35 crore. The works include desilting tanks and feeder channels and construction of farm ponds and trenches. Officials said rainfall from June to December, normally 867 mm, was projected at only 525 mm, indicating a 39 per cent deficit. They also warned of a possible 56 per cent deficit in August. The impact was already visible in reservoir storage, which stood at 563.05 TMC against 825.67 TMC during the corresponding period last year. Chandrababu directed officials to prepare concrete plans for drinking water storage and supply and suggested reserving water in Veligodu, Gorakallu, Owk, Jeedipalli

and Cherlopalli reservoirs. He also asked officials to prepare district-wise allocations through Nagarjuna Sagar canals. He stressed the need to maximise the use of available water, including inflows from upstream areas, and instructed officials to identify drinking water-deficient locations and keep water tankers ready in advance. Measures should also be taken to protect standing crops by prioritising available water resources and promoting less water-intensive crops in future. The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure water availability for industries despite the deficit and called for wide-spread public awareness on prudent water use, with District Collectors tasked with monitoring ground-level conditions. He also ordered advance measures to prevent fodder shortages, ensure water and fodder for livestock and establish cattle shelters (Gokulams) wherever necessary. District-level action plans were to be prepared for livestock protection. Chandrababu emphasised that water conservation should be an ongoing process and suggested restoring tanks and canals that had remained dry for long periods. He also called for exploring micro-basin linkages to transfer water from surplus areas to water-scarce regions. Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu, senior officials from the Irrigation, Agriculture and Panchayat Raj departments, and District Collectors participated in the meeting.

UPI To Remain Free For Users, Government Clarifies

New Delhi, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

The Government of India on Saturday clarified that users will not face any transaction charges on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments, rejecting reports suggesting that the recent amendment to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSS Act) would impose charges on ordinary users. The Government said all Person-to-Person (P2P) transactions will continue to remain free. It also clarified that if Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges are introduced in future, they would apply only to a limited set of merchant transactions above a specified threshold and at a nominal rate, lower than debit or credit card MDRs. The vast majority of merchant transactions on UPI would continue to remain free. Once Parliament passes the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, proposing an amendment to Section 10A of the PSS Act, 2007, the "UPI and Services Steering Committee" headed by NPCI will decide on MDR, if any. The Government said the amendment is



an enabling provision aimed at ensuring UPI's long-term sustainability, technological advancement and resilience against emerging risks. It said growing transaction volumes require continuous investment in cybersecurity, fraud prevention and digital infrastructure. The Government also stressed the need to encourage greater competition and develop a self-sustaining revenue model rather than relying solely on subsidies. Since its launch in 2016-17, UPI has become the world's largest real-time payment system. In July 2026 alone, it processed 2,366 crore transactions worth Rs.29.9 lakh crore and is now operational in 11 foreign countries. The Government reiterated that UPI will remain free for citizens and said the amendment seeks to ensure a secure, affordable, inclusive and sustainable digital payments ecosystem.

AP Moves to Achieve 100% Mobile Connectivity with Land, Power Support



ARN Mahesh

Amaravati : In a major step towards achieving 100 per cent mobile connectivity across Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has decided to provide targeted support for establishing mobile towers in rural, remote and commercially unviable areas. The initiative, approved by the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, aims to bridge infrastructure gaps and extend reliable telecom services to uncovered villages and habitations. Under the new framework, the Government will provide suitable government land for mobile towers without rental charges and offer subsidised power supply until the towers become commercially viable. The Information Technology, Electronics & Communications Department has issued orders operationalising the Cabinet decision. The Government identified universal mobile connectivity as a key component of inclusive digital development and

improved access to citizen services. Several rural and remote habitations continue to face inadequate connectivity because telecom service providers find expansion in low-density areas commercially unviable. Telecom Service Providers had represented that expansion into such locations would require initial support to offset land and power costs. The new mechanism seeks to address this viability gap and encourage telecom infrastructure development. Based on prevailing rural Average Revenue Per User, the Government has fixed approximately 450 subscribers per tower as the break-even threshold. Once a tower reaches this level, the power subsidy will be withdrawn and the applicable electricity tariff imposed. The support mechanism will be reviewed every three years, with incentives reassessed based on subscriber growth and commercial viability. The initiative also provides for Intra-Circle Roaming (ICR), enabling users to access services across telecom networks. The provision is expected to improve infrastructure utilisation in areas where multiple standalone networks may not be commercially sustainable. District Collectors will facilitate government land

P3

From Konda Reddy Buruju, Teachers' Voice Echoes Across State

4,000 Mega DSC Teachers Hold 'Self-Respect Rally' Against YSRCP Allegations

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Kurnool: Around 4,000 teachers appointed through Mega DSC-2025 participated in a massive "Chalo Kurnool" programme on Saturday, strongly condemning what they described as a deliberate misinformation campaign by the YSRCP against the recruitment process. Teachers from the erstwhile Kurnool, Kadapa and Anantapur districts gathered at the historic Konda Reddy Buruju and took out a "Teachers' Self-Respect Rally" to the District Zilla Parishad office. They submitted a representation at the Mahatma Gandhi statue, asserting that Mega DSC had helped them realise their long-cherished dream of becoming government teachers. The teachers said they had spent years preparing for competitive examinations and overcome financial and personal hardships to secure appointments. They objected to attempts to portray their jobs as the result of irregularities or political favouritism and challenged those making allegations to produce concrete evidence. They said the recruitment involved examination, merit-based selection and certificate verification and urged political parties not to subject successful candidates to unnecessary suspicion or mental harassment. Several teachers thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan and Education Minister Nara Lokesh for conducting the large-scale recruitment drive. Bhargavi from Chittoor district, who secured a teaching post under the sports



quota, said the recruitment had brought immense happiness to her family. "Thousands of candidates worked extremely hard for these jobs. Our jobs should not be turned into political propaganda," she said. Teacher Kiran challenged political leaders making allegations to produce evidence. "Our success is the result of our hard work. If there are allegations of irregularities, those making them should come forward with evidence. We are ready to discuss every aspect of the Mega DSC," he said. SA Social teacher M. Tirumalamma said candidates who had written the examination understood its value. "If anyone claims that the process was compromised, they should clearly explain what went wrong and provide evidence," she said.

Teacher Ravi Naik, who was selected under the sports quota, said, "We did not buy our jobs. We earned them through our qualifications, examination performance and the prescribed selection process." Teacher Ramesh said successful candidates were prepared to face any legitimate inquiry. Teacher Akram Basha urged political leaders to understand sports quota provisions before making allegations. The teachers warned that continued baseless allegations could lead to legal action, including defamation proceedings. They also said, "We teach lessons in classrooms; we can also teach political lessons," and urged political parties not to insult those who earned government jobs through merit and hard work.

AP Equips 108 Ambulances With Anti-Snake Venom

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

In a significant emergency-care initiative aimed at saving snakebite victims before they reach hospitals, the Andhra Pradesh Health and Medical Department has introduced anti-snake venom (ASV) injections in 108 ambulances for the first time. The move comes ahead of the peak rainy season, when snakebite incidents are likely to increase as snakes move into human habitations following waterlogging and flooding. The 108 ambulance network, which provides round-the-clock emergency transportation across the State, is now being equipped to offer an additional layer of life-saving care during the crucial period between a snakebite and hospital admis-



sion. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said the initiative was introduced experimentally in view of the increasing number of snakebite emergencies. "Since June 2025, the State has received 3,104 snakebite emergency calls," the Minister said. Three victims in Kadapa, Nandyal and Kurnool districts have already received ASV treatment through Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)

and survived. The government's decision to stock ASV in ambulances is particularly significant during the rainy season, when the risk of snakebite increases. Officials said the initiative is intended to make better use of the golden hour after a bite and prevent delays in administering treatment when symptoms of systemic envenomation emerge. However, EMTs will not administer ASV on their own. Satya Kumar said they must first consult a doctor at the Emergency Response Centre (ERC), Mangalagiri, when symptoms indicate that venom is spreading through the body. Dome cameras installed in ambulances enable ERC doctors to monitor patients remotely and guide EMTs

P3

'Partners In Nation Building' Initiative To Begin On August 15



Amaravati, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has proposed launching the 'Partners in Nation Building' programme to encourage every citizen to actively participate in the nation-building process and contribute towards achieving the goals of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Swarnandhra' by 2047. The Chief Minister reviewed the formulation of the programme at his camp office on Saturday and directed officials to design a series of public participation programmes as the country completes 79 years of Independence and enters its 80th year. Naidu said the initiative should create greater awareness about nation-building alongside Independence Day celebrations. He directed officials to encourage people to hoist the national flag at every home from August 13 to 15 and ensure that the sentiment of 'My Nation, Nation First' reaches every household. He called for

P3



Sunitha Seeks President's Intervention In Viveka Murder Case

Hyderabad, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Sunitha, daughter of former minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, has written to President Droupadi Murmu seeking justice in her father's murder case, stating that seven years have passed without a satisfactory conclusion. She outlined the CBI investigation and subsequent developments and said she had brought certain unexamined aspects to the President's attention. Copies of the letter were shared with the Prime Minister, Ministries of Home Affairs and Law, Cabinet, CBI Director, Governors and Chief Ministers of the Telugu states. Sunitha clarified that she was not seeking intervention

P3

'Sreevani' Celebrates 500th Edition



Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Odisha Governor Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu described 'Sreevani' monthly magazine as a pioneer in carrying moral values, Indian cultural traditions and the glory of the Telugu language to future generations. He was the chief guest at celebrations held at Thummalapalli Kshetraraya Kalakshetram in Vijayawada to mark the release of the magazine's 500th edition and the launch of the book 'Merunagari Himagiri Komaragiri'.

Haribabu appreciated Editor-in-Chief Komaragiri Shyam Prasad and his brother Komaragiri Chandrasekhar for continuing the ideals of their late father and founder-president Komaragiri Krishnamohan Rao. He said publishing the magazine continuously for 500 months without interruption was a remarkable achievement reflecting dedication and perseverance.

R.J. Ratnakar, Managing Trustee of Sri Satya Sai Central Trust, said 'Sreevani' was making a valuable contribution by spreading the spiritual message and teachings of Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba. He described the magazine as a "lamp of love" that spreads knowledge, peace, spirituality and love.

Former Chief Justice of India Justice N.V. Ramana recalled the contributions of late Krishnamohan Rao towards democracy, education in Telugu and social welfare, saying his ideals would inspire future generations.

Minister Kollu Ravindra and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) congratulated the magazine on reaching the milestone and appreciated its cultural and social service. They stressed the importance of encouraging value-based publications in the digital age.

The dignitaries said 'Sreevani' has maintained its commitment to literature, culture and spiritual values despite changing times. They appreciated the efforts of the Komaragiri family in taking the magazine to readers for 500 consecutive months. The speakers expressed hope that the magazine would continue its journey successfully and reach its 1,000th edition. They also urged society to support publications that promote moral values and cultural traditions.

Financial Independence Key to Women's Empowerment: Kiran Bedi



Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Former Puducherry Lieutenant Governor and retired IPS officer Dr. Kiran Bedi said women can achieve true empowerment only through financial independence and self-reliance. She participated as the chief guest at a women's conference organized by the FICCI FLO Vijayawada Chapter at the Gateway Hotel on Bandar Road.

Bedi appreciated the Vijayawada FICCI FLO Chapter for bringing young women entrepreneurs and experts from various fields together within just two years of its establishment. She said women play a crucial role in strengthening society and the national economy.

She advised women to remain vigilant against cybercrimes and use social media responsibly in view of rapid technological growth. She urged women to personally understand and manage their finances instead of completely depending on others for business and financial decisions.

Bedi emphasized the importance of taking preventive measures and preparing for potential challenges rather than reacting only after problems arise. She said financial awareness and independent decision-making would give women greater confidence and security.

She said her organization, India Vision Foundation, was ready to support improvements in the local prison system and help provide education to children of prisoners. FICCI FLO Vijayawada, DCP KGV Saritha and India Vision Foundation representatives announced plans to soon conduct special training and welfare programmes at Vijayawada or Rajahmundry prisons. FICCI FLO Vijayawada Chairperson Supriya Malineni explained the chapter's various initiatives aimed at women's empowerment. Vice-Chairperson Dr. Sravya, Treasurer Tulaja Devineni, members Preeti and Atluri Prasanthi, women entrepreneurs, doctors and other representatives participated.

Contractor Pamarthi Raja Denies Allegations



Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Contractor Pamarthi Raja denied allegations made by Raju Nayak, terming them false and malicious. Speaking at a press conference in Governorpet, Raja said he had undertaken construction contracts for HPCL and Indian Oil petrol bunkers across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Odisha since 2004 as per regulations.

Raja said Nayak had recently alleged at the TDP central office in Amaravati that he owed Rs.1.54 crore. He said State Minister Kollu Ravindra asked him to present the accounts and assured that genuine dues would be settled. Raja claimed records, including e-invoices and WhatsApp communications, showed the actual outstanding amount was only Rs.2.67 lakh. He alleged Nayak continued making allegations despite the records being presented before village elders and public representatives.

Raja said the Minister and TDP were unnecessarily being dragged into the dispute for political reasons. He urged Nayak to verify the accounts directly and warned of legal action if the allegations continued. Contractors Sivaram, Kishore, Veeraswamy and others attended.

Collector Inaugurates Upgraded GGH Blood Bank

Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Saturday inaugurated a modernised blood bank at Government General Hospital (GGH), Vijayawada appreciating the Siddhartha Medical College Alumni Association (SMCAA) for strengthening public healthcare. The Collector praised SMCAA Coordinator Dr. N. Ammanna for his commitment to social service and urged doctors, alumni and donors to support government hospitals. He recalled SMCAA's contribution during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in establishing oxygen plants at government hospitals.

Medical equipment worth around Rs.75 lakh was donated to the GGH blood bank by SMCAA and its supporters. The upgraded facility will strengthen blood collection, testing, component separation, storage and timely

supply of safe blood and blood components.

The equipment includes a refrigerated centrifuge, platelet agitator and incubator, blood component monitors, sterile connection device, ELISA reader and washer, gel card centrifuge and incubator, reagent refrigerator and coagulation analyser.

Dr. Ammanna said Siddhartha Medical College alumni considered it their responsibility to strengthen government medical facilities and assist people during emergencies. He thanked donors and assured that SMCAA would continue its service activities.

Donors included Dr. Arun Mitra Kandra, SMCA North America, Dr. N. Ammanna, Dr. Samyukta and Dr. N. Rambabu. Siddhartha Medical College Principal Dr. A. Yedukondala Rao, GGH ADME and uperintendent Dr. G. Raghunandan, doctors, alumni, donors and hospital staff participated.



Bids Placed, But Avanigadda Women's Shopping Complex Remains Locked

ARN Mahesh

The Avanigadda ZP Women's Empowerment Shopping Complex has become a case of "bids placed, but shops remain locked", as none of the 12 shops auctioned on June 9 has opened even after two months. Residents have expressed concern over the continued delay in making the newly constructed complex operational.

The shopping complex, built by Krishna District Zilla Parishad on the road towards the DSP office, was completed before the 2024 elections but remained unused due to the absence of an electricity connection. Officials subsequently took nearly two years to conduct the auction, reportedly resulting in an estimated Rs.35-Rs.40 lakh loss in potential rental revenue. The ZP later invited bids to

lease the 12 shops exclusively to women for three years, fixing the monthly rent at Rs.8,500. The auction witnessed strong competition, with several bids rising to two to four times the base rent. The 12 shops together fetched a monthly rent of Rs.2,29,325.

M. Naga Rani won Shops 6 and 9 for a combined monthly rent of Rs.46,626, while K. Rangamma secured Shops 8

and 10 for Rs.37,000. Y. Baby Sarojini won Shops 11 and 12 for Rs.34,500 per month. However, the successful bidders later faced difficulties after learning that they were required to personally operate the businesses and could not sub-lease the shops. They were also required to pay 12 months' rent in advance within 10 days of finalisation. Naga Rani reportedly has to pay Rs.5.59 lakh, Rangamma Rs.4.44 lakh and Baby Sarojini Rs.4.14 lakh as advance rent. With bidders reportedly unable to meet the financial requirements, the shops have remained unopened.



"Public money was spent to construct the complex, but the shops are still locked. The ZP should resolve the issue quickly and ensure that the facility benefits women and the local community," residents said. Locals questioned

why the ZP had not forfeited the EMDs of defaulters or conducted a fresh auction. They urged officials to reconsider the advance payment conditions or immediately render the shops and make the complex operational.

21,342 Devotees Visit Indrakeeladri with Ashada Sare Offerings



Indrakeeladri, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

A large number of devotees visited Indrakeeladri on Saturday to offer turmeric, vermilion, bangles and sarees to Goddess Kanaka Durga, whom they worship as their family deity and beloved daughter.

On the 25th day of the Ashada Sare season, 59 Sare groups comprising 21,342 devotees had arrived at the temple by 5 PM. Women from across Andhra Pradesh participated in large numbers. The temple authorities made arrangements for free Darshan and Ashirvachanam for the Sare groups. Temple

Executive Officer Sheena Naik distributed free Prasadam to the devotees. The temple engineering department also presented its Sare offering on Saturday. Temple Executive Engineer Ramadevi, Deputy Executive Engineer Ashok Kumar, Ravindra and others arrived in a procession from Jammi Doddi.

They were welcomed by EO Sheena Naik and Deputy Chief Priest Shankara Sandilya. After having Darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga, the engineering department members presented their Sare offering on the sixth floor of the temple. The temple authorities said

special arrangements were made to ensure that the large number of women devotees could have a smooth and peaceful Darshan. The officials coordinated the movement of the Sare groups and facilitated the distribution of Prasadam and priestly blessings. The atmosphere at Indrakeeladri remained devotional throughout the day, with devotees expressing their reverence towards Goddess Kanaka Durga. Temple officials said necessary arrangements would continue to be made to accommodate devotees visiting the temple during the remaining days of the Ashada Sare season.

NSS Volunteers Promote Tree Plantation At Prathuru



Guntur, August 8 | TPN Bureau

KL University NSS Programme Coordinator Dr. P. Srikanth Reddy urged people to plant at least one sapling in their mother's name and take responsibility for nurturing it as a gesture of gratitude. He was speaking during the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative at Prathuru on Saturday, where NSS volunteers and villagers planted saplings. Dr. Srikanth Reddy said every family should contribute to environmental protection by planting and caring for trees. NSS Programme Officer R. Vijay highlighted increasing land, air and water pollution and stressed the need for tree plantation, water conservation and reduced plastic use. Professor In-

charge of Liberal Clubs Dr. R. Subhakara Raju said plastic pollution had emerged as a major global challenge, contributing to environmental imbalance, declining rainfall and groundwater depletion. Students formed a human chain and took a pledge to plant and protect saplings. They also conducted a door-to-door awareness campaign on tree protection, water conservation and reducing plastic consumption. NSS Field Coordinator P. Suresh coordinated the programme. University Vice-Chancellor Dr. G. Parthasaradhi Varma, Pro-Vice-Chancellors Dr. N. Venkatram and Dr. K. Rajasekhara Rao, Dean of Student Affairs Dr. K.R.S. Prasad, Advisor Dr. Habibulla Khan and others appreciated the volunteers.

Strengthen TDP at Grassroots, Serve People: Devineni Uma

Mangalagiri, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and senior TDP leader Devineni Umamaheswara Rao said strengthening the party at the grassroots level while serving people should be the primary responsibility of every party worker. He was speaking at a training programme for unit in-charges at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri.

Devineni Uma urged unit in-charges to effectively communicate the TDP's ideology and ensure that welfare schemes and development programmes of the Alliance government reach every household. He

asked workers to understand local issues, work towards resolving them and act as a bridge between the party and the public. He stressed the importance of discipline, coordination and continuous interaction with people in strengthening the party organisation. He said training programmes would help develop leadership qualities and transform every unit into a strong organisational base.

Devineni Uma said party workers were the backbone of the TDP and reiterated that public service remained its primary objective. He urged unit in-charges to regularly interact with people, understand their



concerns and communicate them to leaders and officials. He called for coordinated efforts and greater commitment at the grassroots level to

strengthen the organisation and ensure government welfare and development initiatives reach intended beneficiaries.

CPM PROTESTS VIJAYA MILK PRICE HIKE



Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

The CPM City Committee staged a protest and dharna at the Vijaya Dairy premises near Lenin Centre in Vijayawada on Saturday, opposing the proposed Rs.2 per litre increase in Vijaya milk prices from August 10.

CPM State Secretariat Member Ch. Babu Rao termed the hike unjust, alleging that milk prices were being increased again within four months. He accused the Alliance government of interfering in the Krishna Milk Cooperative Union and attempting to benefit Heritage and private dairies at the expense of farmers and consumers.

Babu Rao said the hike would impose an additional annual burden of around Rs.36 crore on consumers in Vijayawada and surrounding areas. He said Vijaya Dairy was a farmers' cooperative involving around 1.5 lakh farmers.

CPM State Committee member D. Kashinath said rising prices were already burdening people and warned that the hike would particularly affect children and low-income families.

Protesters demanded withdrawal of the hike and protection of Vijaya Dairy. CPM leaders Boyi Satyababu, B. Ramana Rao, P. Krishna, E.V. Narayana, T. Praveen, Kaja Saroja, Gade Adilakshmi and Jhansi participated.

Former Kabaddi Association Secretary Seeks Action Against PET

Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Kabaddi Association Secretary K.P. Rao has urged the Commissioner of School Education, Andhra Pradesh, to take action against Ravindra Babu, Physical Education Teacher (PET) at ZP High School, Lankapalli, Krishna District, alleging violation of departmental orders. In a representation, Rao alleged that Ravindra Babu served as Secretary of the Krishna District Kabaddi Association without required permission and previously headed the NTR District Kabaddi

Association until May 6, 2026.

Rao further alleged that though Ravindra Babu was deputed by the Krishna District Educational Officer for the Amaravati Cup from August 6 to 14, he did not attend and instead continued participating in Andhra Kabaddi Association activities. He claimed that the association led by Srikanth was not recognised by SAAP or the Andhra Pradesh Government. Rao sought an inquiry and action against employees allegedly involved and said photographs and documents had been submitted as evidence.

Chintada Ravikumar Held In SI Assault Case



Srikakulam, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Police arrested Amada lavalasa YSRCP in-charge Chintada Ravi kumar, the prime accused in the case involving alleged verbal abuse, physical assault and inappropriate behav- iour towards SI Pravalika during YSR CP President Y.S. Jagan

Mohan Reddy's visit to Srikakulam. Ravikumar was apprehended near Chilakapalem in Etcherla Mandal after reportedly remaining absconding for nine days. Meanwhile, police produced nine arrested YSRCP leaders before the Principal Civil Judge. The judge remanded all nine to judicial custody for 14 days. Police have registered cases against 28 individuals, including Ravikumar, in connection with the alleged misconduct towards the SI while she was on duty.

Pulla Rao Slams Jagan Over DSC Allegations



Amaravati, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and MLA Prathipati Pulla Rao criticised YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he was deliberately trying to discourage the State's youth from pursuing better opportunities. Pulla Rao said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and

Education Minister Nara Lokesh were working to create a brighter future for young people by providing access to emerging technologies. "Chandrababu is providing the youth with access to AI and quantum technology, whereas Jagan hands them axes and knives, inciting violence," Pulla Rao alleged. Reacting to the YSRCP's protests over the Mega DSC recruitment, he said there was no evidence to substantiate the allegations of irregularities. He alleged that the opposition party was staging protest fasts because it lacked evidence for a legal challenge. "Lacking the evidence required for a legal battle, they have resorted to street protests. Does Jagan have the courage to discuss the DSC issue in the Assembly?" Pulla Rao questioned. He alleged that Jagan was sacrificing the interests of unemployed youth for political purposes and urged the opposition to substantiate its allegations instead of creating controversy over the recruitment process.

YSRCP Relay Hunger Strike Enters Third Day



Chirala, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

The YSRCP relay hunger strike in Chirala, protesting what the party described as the failures of the Alliance government, entered its third day on Saturday. The protest was held at a camp near Mukkona Park under the leadership of YSRCP constituency in-charge Karanam Venkatesh. Venkatesh alleged that the Alliance government had failed to sincerely implement the promises made during the elections, despite nearly three years in office. He claimed that people themselves were highlighting the difference between the previous administration and the present government. He particularly criticized the government over its promise of a Rs.3,000 monthly allowance for unemployed youth, alleging that the promised amount had not been paid. He said the government had failed to provide adequate support to unemployed young people. Venkatesh also alleged irregularities in the sports quota under the recently issued DSC notification for 16,347 posts. He demanded an inquiry into the alleged irregularities and called for the resignation of those responsible. He further criticized the government over its announcements regarding Rs.25,000 financial assistance for handloom weavers. Venkatesh said the public would judge the performance of the government based on the implementation of its promises and demanded that the Alliance government address the issues raised by the people.

Perni Nani Alleges Vijaya Dairy Under Threat

Machilipatnam, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Perni Nani alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh were attempting to weaken the profit-making Vijaya Dairy to facilitate the expansion of Heritage Dairy across coastal Andhra. Addressing the media in Machilipatnam on Saturday, Nani questioned the government's alleged interference in the affairs of Vijaya Dairy and claimed that ministers had pressured its chairman, Chalasani Anjaneyulu, to resign. Nani said Vijaya Dairy functions under the MACS Act as a cooperative institution in which farmers elect their representatives. He argued that the government and ministers should not interfere in its administration. He alleged that shortly after Anjaneyulu was elected chairman, Ministers Parthasarathy and Kollu Ravindra, allegedly acting on Lokesh's directions, threatened him with legal action and allegedly warned that his family members could also face consequences. Nani claimed that the pressure caused Anjaneyulu to suffer a heart attack and be admitted to an ICU. He further alleged that the ministers visited the hospital and pressured Anjaneyulu to submit his resignation. Nani said such interference was unacceptable in a farmers' cooperative institution. He claimed that the previous YSRCP government had not interfered in dairy cooperatives during its five-year tenure. Nani warned that any attempt to push Vijaya Dairy into financial difficulties for the benefit of private interests would hurt thousands of farmers. He also alleged that those responsible for weakening the cooperative would face legal consequences if the YSRCP returned to power.



APCC Chief Y.S. Sharmila Demands Urgent Relief for Drought-Hit Farmers

Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) chief Y.S. Sharmila Reddy has urged the state government to take immediate measures to address what she described as a severe agricultural crisis caused by deficient rainfall and the impact of El Niño. In a statement addressed to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Minister Nara Lokesh and the Agriculture Minister, Sharmila alleged that the government had failed to prepare contingency plans despite warnings about the El Niño effect. She claimed that Andhra Pradesh recorded nearly a 69 per cent rainfall deficit by the end of July. Against the expected 166.76 mm of rainfall between June 1 and mid-July, only 86.51 mm was recorded, she said. She further warned that rainfall could remain around 40 per cent below normal over

the next three months, affecting nearly 50 lakh acres. Sharmila alleged that farmers were facing severe difficulties across Rayalaseema, North Andhra and coastal regions, with inadequate access to seeds, fertilisers, irrigation and drinking water. She demanded compensation for crops damaged due to the deficient rainfall and free or subsidised seeds for alternative, low-water crops such as millets and pulses. She also sought alternative irrigation arrangements for tail-end areas, rescheduling of agricultural loans and fresh interest-free loans. Other demands included comprehensive crop insurance, free of cost, based on an assessment of El Niño-related losses, along with special subsidies for dairy farmers facing fodder shortages. Sharmila warned that failure to act immediately could lead to growing public anger among farmers and other sections of society.

Former MP Demands CBI Probe into DSC Irregularities

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party national spokesperson and former MP Margani Bharat Ram, along with Rajahmundry Parliamentary constituency in-charge Dr. Guduri Srinivas, demanded a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the DSC recruitment process and called for the resignation of Minister Nara Lokesh.

A relay hunger strike was organised near the Morampudi flyover in Rajahmundry Urban constituency following directions from YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Dr. Guduri Srinivas attended the programme and ended the relay fast by offering lemon juice to Bharat Ram and other party leaders. Later, YSRCP workers formed a human chain at Morampudi Junction demanding immediate construction of service roads near the flyover. Bharat Ram and Dr.



Srinivas also staged a sit-in on the road, urging the government to address the difficulties faced by commuters. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Srinivas demanded a CBI investigation into the alleged DSC paper leakage and irregularities, stating that Lokesh should resign by taking responsibility for the issue. He also demanded immediate release of fee reimbursement and payment of Rs.3,000 unemployment allowance. The YSRCP leaders

also sought immediate completion of service roads at the Morampudi flyover and criticised the ruling coalition government and local MLA for allegedly failing to address public grievances. Dr. Srinivas further demanded justice in the case involving Dr. Priyanka and urged the government to take action in accordance with law. He said Rajahmundry should be developed on the lines of the development undertaken during Bharat Ram's tenure as MP.

Bonda Uma Accuses YSRCP of Misleading Youth Over DSC

Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao on Saturday accused YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders of spreading misinformation over the Mega DSC recruitment process and misleading unemployed youth for political gains. Addressing a media conference at his office in Singh Nagar, Bonda Uma said Education Minister Nara Lokesh had already offered to participate in an open debate on the DSC issue, but alleged that YSRCP leaders were unwilling to come forward for a discussion. He said the state government had

already provided official and written clarification on the recruitment process. Describing the criticism of the bridge course, introduced as part of a Central government policy, as evidence of a lack of understanding, he said it was unfair to target candidates who had already secured jobs and had been working for several months. Bonda Uma alleged that the previous YSRCP government had failed to conduct a Mega DSC and had allowed legal disputes to affect the prospects of unemployed youth. He accused the opposition of once again creating confusion over the recruitment process for political benefit. Referring to incidents in Mutyalampadu, he warned against

attempts to disturb peace in Vijayawada Central. He said the TDP believed in democratic protests and would not tolerate violence or disruptions. Responding to remarks by YSRCP leaders Perni Nani, Avinash, Vellampalli Srinivas and Malladi Vishnu, Bonda Uma urged them to avoid personal attacks and provocative statements. He also appealed to them not to use caste-based politics. He said he was regularly discussing constituency development with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and claimed that several development and welfare programmes had been implemented in Vijayawada Central over the past two years.

Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy Calls for Statewide DSC Protest Rallies

Tadepalli, Aug. 8 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy has called upon party leaders and cadre to intensify the agitation demanding a CBI inquiry into alleged irregularities in the DSC recruitment process and the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. Sajjala held a teleconference with regional coordinators, district presidents, MPs, MLAs, constituency coordinators, observers and other senior leaders on Saturday to review the party's ongoing agitation and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. He directed the party to organise massive rallies at all Assembly constituency headquarters across Andhra Pradesh on August 10. Sajjala said unemployed youth and DSC candidates had raised serious concerns and were seeking an impartial investigation into the alleged irregularities.

He urged the party's student and youth wings to take the lead in mobilising participants. Political parties, student organisations, youth groups, unemployed associations and other public organisations willing to support the agitation should also be involved, he said. Sajjala asked party leaders to mobilise large numbers of students and unemployed youth and ensure extensive publicity for the rallies through print, electronic and social media. He said YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was closely monitoring the issue and had accorded priority to the concerns of DSC candidates. Reviewing the SIR process, Sajjala instructed party leaders to carefully examine deleted voters, booth changes, newly added names and draft electoral rolls. He stressed that no eligible voter should be removed unfairly. He directed Booth Level Agents to coordinate with BLOs and assist voters receiving notices from election authorities.

AP Equips 108 Ambulances With Anti-Snake Venom

Continue

on administering ASV when required. NTR Vaidya Seva Trust CEO Chakradhar Babu said EMTs have been trained to identify critical warning signs, including drooping eyelids, breathing difficulty, low oxygen levels, difficulty swallowing, bleeding and rapid swelling. They are also trained to conduct a 20-minute blood-clotting test, with failure of blood to clot indicating possible systemic envenomation. ASV has been stocked in all 108 ambulances, with each vial costing Rs.584.64. The government has procured ASV worth around Rs.5.28 lakh. More than 95 per cent of emergency patients are already being transported to hospitals within the golden hour, officials said. With ASV now available in ambulances, the government hopes to further strengthen emergency response and ensure that snakebite victims receive timely treatment even before reaching a hospital.

'Partners In Nation Building' Initiative To Begin On August 15

Continue

programmes that would encourage citizens to contribute their best towards the national and State goals set for 2047. He particularly stressed the need to involve youth and students in shaping the future of the State and the nation. The Chief Minister also called for creating platforms to promote leadership across various sectors, beginning at the village level. He said the spirit of voluntary service that once existed in villages should be revived and made an integral part of the initiative. He said the ideas, enthusiasm and energy of youth should be effectively harnessed for nation-building. Citizens, he added, should not remain merely beneficiaries of government schemes but should become active stakeholders in shaping the State's future. Naidu directed officials to transform the 'Partners in Nation Building' initiative into a mass movement involving people across the State. He also called for progress reports on the programme to be presented every August 15 to assess achievements and future targets. Ministers Atchannaidu, Payayavula Keshav and Anitha, Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, senior officials from various departments and District Collectors participated in the review meeting.?

AP Moves to Achieve 100% Mobile

Connectivity with Land, Power Support

Continue

allocation, while the Energy Department will arrange subsidised or free power supply for eligible towers. BSNL, Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea are among the telecom service providers covered under the implementation framework. The Government expects the initiative to improve access to digital governance, education, healthcare, financial services and other online facilities in remote areas. G.O. Rt. No. 55 was issued on August 7, 2026, with the concurrence of the Finance Department.

Sunitha Seeks President's Intervention In Viveka Murder Case

Continue

in matters pending before courts but wanted crucial facts that had not emerged during the investigation to be brought to light. She said the Andhra Pradesh government had constituted three Special Investigation Teams and the CBI had filed four charge sheets. Despite seven years of CBI investigation, she alleged that an in-depth probe had not been conducted. Sunitha highlighted the murder weapon, money trail and alleged conspiracy as key aspects requiring examination. She also referred to the CBI's additional affidavit filed in the High Court on May 25, 2023, regarding information received by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy about Vivekananda Reddy's murder. She urged that the investigation be entrusted to an official from the DoPT or the Ministry of Home Affairs with a fixed timeframe, saying she had been waiting for justice for seven years.

Government To Restore Glory Of Telugu Theatre: Durgesh



Vijayawada, August 8 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh said the Alliance Government was committed to restoring the past glory of Telugu theatre, traditional verse-based plays and folk art forms while upholding the self-respect of artists. Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of 22 newly appointed Drama Academy members at Ghantasala Government College of Music and Dance in Vijayawada, Durgesh said the members should actively participate in cultural activities and promote Telugu art and culture. The new members were felicitated with shawls in the presence of Drama Academy Chairman Gummadi

Gopalakrishna. The minister said the committee's strength was increased from 13 to 22 through a Government Order amendment, resulting in the delay in the swearing-in ceremony. He assured that necessary financial resources would be provided soon. Durgesh said the government was taking steps to restore the Special Artists' Pension, which was merged with general old-age pensions by the previous government. He said the matter would be discussed with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. He also announced a special action plan to support accomplished artists from the village level and assured support to cultural committees.

Buggana Rajendranath Rejects Chandrababu's State Finances White Paper

Hyderabad, Aug. 8 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath on Saturday criticised the state government's white paper on finances, describing it as misleading and lacking substantive details on revenue. Speaking to the media, Buggana alleged that the document presented by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu focused on criticism of the previous government while failing to provide a clear account of the state's revenue position. He questioned the claim of high economic growth amid what he described as declining revenue collections. Buggana also rejected Naidu's statement that the state's fiscal deficit was a "myth", calling the remark irresponsible. He claimed that the financial situation was stronger during the YSRCP government and cited welfare schemes and development programmes as indicators of governance. Questioning the government's claim of an 11

per cent GSDP growth rate, Buggana asked how such growth could be achieved alongside negative revenue growth. He also alleged that the government had exaggerated figures relating to borrowings and the state's financial position. The former minister claimed that several promises made under the coalition government's "Super Six" programme remained unfulfilled. He contrasted this with the previous YSRCP government's initiatives, including village and ward secretariats, village clinics and Nadu-Nedu school development. Buggana further criticised the government's policies on Amaravati, ports and medical colleges, alleging that public assets were being transferred or developed primarily to benefit private interests. He maintained that the performance of any government should ultimately be judged by employment, welfare delivery, development and people's economic conditions rather than publicity surrounding official documents.

Minister Pushes Cultural Revival, Support for Artists



Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Saturday highlighted the coalition government's efforts to promote artists and revive the state's rich cultural traditions at two events held in Guntur and Vijayawada. In Guntur, Durgesh attended the Amaravati Chitrakala Veedhi festival organised by the Andhra Pradesh State Creativity and Culture Commission. Union Minister of State Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, Rajya Sabha member Bhashyam Ramakrishna and Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju also attended the event. Durgesh said the festival provided artists with a platform to showcase their talent beyond the confines of traditional galleries. He announced that Amaravati Chitrakala Veedhi would be organised every year at different locations across Andhra Pradesh. He said the government was working to restore the state's cultural

heritage and had honoured artists through Ugadi Kalaratna and Kandukuri awards. Students and the public were encouraged to visit the exhibition, which featured Kalamkari, Srikalahasti paintings, Kondapalli art, leather puppetry, Lepakshi traditions and other art forms. Later in Vijayawada, Durgesh attended the swearing-in ceremony of 22 newly appointed members of the Drama Academy. He said the government would work to restore the glory of Telugu theatre, traditional verse dramas and folk art forms. The Minister said steps would be taken to revive the special pension scheme for artists, which he alleged was discontinued by the previous government. He said the issue would be discussed with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Drama Academy chairman Gummadi Gopalakrishna and Culture Department Director Regulla Mallikarjuna Rao were among those present.

Minister Calls for Alternative Cropping Amid El Niño

Guntur, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Guntur district in-charge Minister Kandula Durgesh on Saturday urged farmers to adopt alternative cropping strategies to overcome rainfall shortages attributed to the El Niño effect. Addressing a media conference at the Jana Sena Party office on Amaravati Road, he advised farmers to focus on commercial and intercrops requiring less water instead of paddy. Durgesh said the State had received only about 42 per cent of normal rainfall so far, while inflows into Nagarjuna Sagar, Guntur Canal and Pattiseema remained low. Following Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's directions, the government launched the "Rythanna Mee Kosam" programme through Rythu Seva Kendras to guide farmers. Drinking water would be given first priority, followed by irrigation, he said. The Minister said farmers were receiving Rs.20,000 annually under Annadata Sukhibhava-PM Kisan Yojana and claimed that payments for procured paddy were being credited within 24 hours. He said the government was supporting weavers through the "Nethanna Sevalo" programme, providing Rs.25,000 annually to eligible families and free electricity up to 200 units for handlooms and 500 units for power looms. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan was working as a brand ambassador for the handloom sector, he said. Durgesh said tobacco farmers were receiving prices above Rs.300, besides interest-free loans and price-difference compensation. He criticised former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent tours as politically motivated. He added that the government was preparing another DSC recruitment examination in October after filling over 16,000 posts through the Mega DSC.

Lanka Dinakar Explains Key Provisions of FCRA Amendment Bill

Amaravati, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

BJP National Council Member Lanka Dinakar said the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, seeks to strengthen oversight of foreign contributions and establish a clear legal framework for managing funds and assets held by organisations that lose their FCRA certification. Citing Union Home Ministry data, Dinakar said 13,520 organisations received Rs.55,741 crore in foreign contributions between 2019 and 2022. As of July 15, 2026, the FCRA portal showed 14,449 active certificates, while 22,498 certificates had been cancelled and 15,212 had expired. If an organisation subsequently receives a fresh FCRA certificate or its registration is renewed, provisional control would cease and eligible funds and assets could be returned. If certification is not restored, the authority's control could become permanent, with assets potentially transferred to government departments or agencies or disposed of as prescribed. It also proposes provisions concerning key functionaries. He said the Bill seeks to reduce maximum imprisonment for FCRA offences from five years to one year and require prior Central Government approval for investigation into certain offences.

APSCHE Launches Five-Day Faculty Programme On Generative AI

Guntur, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) on Saturday launched a five-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Integration of Generative AI, Interactive E-Content and Emerging Educational Technologies in Higher Education" at Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU), Guntur. The programme, being conducted from August 8 to 12 under RUSA 2.0 in collaboration with ANU, aims to strengthen

faculty skills in using Generative AI and emerging digital technologies for teaching, learning, assessment, research and academic administration. Nearly 100 faculty members from universities across Andhra Pradesh are participating. APSCHE Chairman Prof. K. Madhu Murthy, addressing the inaugural session, stressed the need for continuous capacity building to prepare universities for the rapidly evolving AI-driven education environment. Former Andhra Pradesh government secretary Ghanta Subba Rao, the chief

guest, delivered a demonstration lecture on using Generative AI to create video content. Prof. K. Srinivas of NIEPA, New Delhi, participated as a resource person. APSCHE Academic Officer Dr. M. Pradeep introduced the programme's theme, structure and objectives. The FDP comprises 20 interactive sessions of 90 minutes each and follows a hands-on approach. Faculty will receive training in AI-assisted lesson planning, interactive e-content development, AI-supported assessments, Learning Management Systems, learning analytics, AI teaching assistants and technology-enabled course redesign. The

AP Tourism Launches Vijayawada-Vadapalli One-Day Tour

Uday Gopi Naik Banavath

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) on Saturday launched a new one-day pilgrimage and tourism package connecting Vijayawada-Vadapalli-Vijayawada, aimed at providing devotees and tourists with convenient transportation and planned travel facilities. APTDC General Manager T.S.V. Narayana formally flagged off the tour bus at the Central Reservation Office near the NTR District Collectorate in Vijayawada. He said the package had been designed to provide tourists

with comfortable transportation, food and a hassle-free pilgrimage experience. The tour will operate every Saturday, departing from Vijayawada at 4 a.m. and returning by around 7 p.m. The package is priced at Rs.1,160 for adults and Rs.1,000 for children. The package cost includes comfortable bus transportation, breakfast and lunch. However, temple darshan ticket charges will have to be paid separately by the tourists and devotees, Narayana said. He encouraged devotees and tourists interested in undertaking the special one-day tour to make use of the package and book their seats in



advance. Bookings can be made online

through the official APTDC website or directly at the

Central Reservation Office (CRO) located on Bandar

Road in Vijayawada, near Lemon Tree Hotel. Narayana said the initiative was part of APTDC's efforts to strengthen organised tourism and pilgrimage services in the state while making important religious and tourist destinations more accessible to visitors. The new package is expected to benefit devotees seeking a convenient one-day trip from Vijayawada to Vadapalli and back, while also providing basic travel and meal facilities as part of the organised tour. APTDC officials urged interested travellers to reserve their seats in advance to avoid last-minute inconvenience.

Satya Kumar Calls For Prompt Care Of Samalkota Jaundice Patients

Amaravati, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Saturday reviewed the jaundice cases reported in Samalkota Municipality limits and directed officials to ensure uninterrupted medical care for those affected. The Minister spoke to Kakinada District DMHO Dr. K. Anitha over the phone and

sought details about the situation. The DMHO informed him that 11 jaundice cases had been reported in Samalkota Municipality so far. Eight children are currently undergoing treatment as inpatients at the Samalkota Community Health Centre, while three patients have been discharged after recovery. One fresh case was reported on Saturday, she said.

Dr. Anitha informed the Minister that water samples had been collected from the affected areas and sent to the microbiology department for testing to identify possible causes of the outbreak. Until the water-testing reports are received, municipal authorities have been instructed to supply drinking water through tankers, she said. Residents were being advised

through public announcements to consume only boiled and cooled water and take precautions while using drinking water. A 24x7 medical camp has also been established in the affected area to provide healthcare services. A district epidemic team, along with a Rapid Response Team (RRT) from Kakinada Government General Hospital, visited the affected areas to investigate the possible reasons behind the spread of jaundice. The District Collector is also continuously monitoring the situation, the DMHO told the



Minister. Minister Satya Kumar directed officials to ensure that patients receive timely and adequate medical treatment without any shortcomings. He

also instructed health authorities to submit regular reports on the situation and take all necessary preventive measures to contain the spread.

APJAC Amaravati Demands Action on Employees' Pending Dues



Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (APJAC) Amaravati has urged the State Government to stop delaying decisions in the name of discussions and fulfil assurances made to government employees by the coalition government. Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada on Saturday, APJAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and Secretary General Paliseti Damodara Rao said employees were seeking implementation of existing promises rather than new demands. They expressed disappointment that no concrete decisions were announced despite discussions with the Cabinet Sub-Committee on July 22. The leaders criticised the government's

recent white paper on finances, alleging that it gave a misleading picture of expenditure on employees and pensioners. Citing CAG figures, they said such expenditure accounted for 37.41 per cent of total revenue expenditure, 59.36 per cent of State tax revenue and 47.64 per cent of total revenue income. They said around Rs.30,000 crore paid since 2024 largely represented employees' accumulated GPF, APGLI and other dues. APJAC demanded immediate appointment of a PRC commissioner, interim relief, release of five pending DAs, settlement of arrears, reconsideration of CPS/GPS and restoration of additional pension benefits. They warned of joint action with other employee organisations after August 15 if the government failed to provide clarity.

Seed Access Road Inauguration Preparations Gain Pace

Amaravati, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Preparations for the inauguration of the Capital City Amaravati Seed Access Road are progressing rapidly, with Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC) Chairperson and Managing Director D. Lakshmi Parthasarathi inspecting the ongoing works between the Undavalli Steel Bridge and Dondapadu on Saturday. Lakshmi Parthasarathi reviewed the construction of the Seed Access Road, being executed in three phases, and discussed arrangements for its inauguration by the Chief Minister with officials at the site. She inspected the bridge being constructed over the Kondaveeti Vagu near Undavalli and directed ADC Chief Engineer T. Moses Kumar to complete the approach road immediately. She also inspected the DBM (bituminous surfacing) works on the steel bridge over the Buckingham Canal



near Undavalli.

The ADC CMD reviewed the cycling and walking tracks being constructed near Rayapudi village in the buffer zone alongside the Seed Access Road and instructed officials to complete the works without delay. She also inspected saplings relocated from Amaravati and being planted along the project

area, stressing the need for timely completion of all works ahead of the inauguration. Chief Engineer B. Narasimha Murthy, Superintendent Engineer T. Vaikuntha Rao, Executive Engineer Sridhar Reddy, DEE Y. Appaji, and representatives of the NCC construction firm participated in the inspection.

Village Revenue Assistants Elect New Office-Bearers



Vijayawada, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Garikapati Brahmayya and K. Manohar Ranjan were unanimously elected president and general secretary respectively of the Andhra Pradesh Village Revenue Assistants' Association for the 2026-2029 term at elections held at Revenue Bhavan in Vijayawada on Saturday. The election was conducted by AP Revenue Services Association State General Secretary Ramisetty Venkata Rajesh, with NTR district association president Battina Ramakrishna serving as assistant election officer. The newly elected office-bearers took oath and pledged to work for the welfare and rights of village revenue assistants. APJAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu urged the State Government to address the long-pending demands of village revenue assistants and increase their monthly salary to Rs.21,500,

noting that the last wage revision was made nearly a decade ago. He said village revenue assistants provide essential grassroots services and remain available to the public round the clock. He called for better financial security, service conditions and workplace facilities. The association demanded that the promotion quota for village revenue assistants to posts such as office subordinates, night watchmen and village revenue officers be increased from 20 per cent to 70 per cent. The new committee sought comprehensive measures on salaries, promotions, job security and service conditions. APJAC Amaravati Secretary General Paliseti Damodara Rao, Co-Chairman T.V. Phani Perraju, AP Revenue Services Association General Secretary Ramisetty Venkata Rajesh and other employee leaders congratulated the new office-bearers.

Woman Murdered By Lover, Accused Arrested

Chilakaluripet, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

A 23-year-old woman, Shaik Haseena alias Yasmin of Chilakaluripet, was allegedly murdered by her lover, who stabbed her and later set her body on fire with petrol to destroy evidence. Police arrested the accused, Jinugu Bala Saidulu, 25, on August 8. Narasaraopet DSP M. Hanumanth Rao said Haseena, a B.Tech graduate working in a private company in Sullurupeta, had been in a relationship with Saidulu for four years. Police said he suspected she was close to another person and allegedly took her to an isolated location near the NSP canal on August 4. He allegedly stabbed her three times in the abdomen before setting her body



ablaze. Her father lodged a missing complaint after she failed to return home. Two special teams investigated using technical evidence and arrested Saidulu at Karamapudi. The case was altered to murder under relevant BNS sections.

AP TET Telugu Paper Sees High Attendance

Amaravati: The AP TET June 2026 Telugu (SGT) Paper IA examinations were conducted smoothly in two sessions on Saturday. AP TET Convener M. Krishna Reddy said 14,330 of 15,277 candidates attended the morning session across 74 centres, recording 93.80% attendance. In the afternoon, 13,554 of 14,669 candidates appeared at 72 centres, with 92.40% attendance. Vizianagaram recorded the highest morning attendance at 96.67%, while Krishna district registered 97.14% in the afternoon.

Low-Pressure Area to Bring Scattered Rains

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority said a low-pressure area has formed under the influence of a surface circulation over southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Odisha. Its impact on Andhra Pradesh is expected to remain limited. On Sunday, August 9, light to moderate rain is likely at isolated places in Manyam and Alluri Sitarama Raju districts, while scattered light showers may occur in other North Andhra districts, the authority said.

Rs.12.60 Crore Sanctioned for Eluru Degree College Building

Nellore, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Dr. Ponguru Narayana toured Divisions 15, 8 and 10 of Nellore city on Saturday along with officials and interacted with residents to understand their long-pending grievances. He received representations from locals and directed officials to take necessary steps to resolve them. Residents welcomed Narayana with Mangala Harathi and expressed happiness over his visit. The Minister interacted with women, elderly people and children and personally inspected civic conditions in the affected areas. He paid special attention to residents living along the Sarvepalli canal bund and assured eligible families who had been living there for decades that they would



not face hardship. He said efforts would be made to provide permanent housing titles on the lines of Bhagat Singh Colony. Narayana said a survey would be conducted in accordance with NGT regulations to identify eligible beneficiaries and work towards a permanent solution. He said people were responding positively to welfare and development initiatives of the Alliance government under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He criticised the YSRCP, alleging that it was creating controversies over issues including Bhogapuram Airport and Mega DSC recruitment. Mayor Devarakonda Sujatha, Commissioner Nandan, MRO Venkatalakshmi, Deputy Mayor Rupkumar Yadav and TDP leaders and local representatives participated in the tour.

VS Krishna Asserts Struggle Essential To Ensure Adivasi Rights



ST Makivalasa, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Human Rights Forum (HRF) Coordinator for the two Telugu states

V.S. Krishna said sustained struggle was essential to ensure Adivasi rights guaranteed under the Constitution. He was speaking at a meeting at ST Makivalasa

in Jalumuru Mandal, Srikakulam district, on Saturday to celebrate the victory of the Adivasi land struggle. The meeting was organised under the leadership of Vaba Yogi, State Vice-President of the Adivasi Welfare Parishad. Krishna expressed concern over attempts by non-tribals to challenge the 1/70 Act in the Supreme Court and described the move as unjust. He called for strict implementation of the 5th Schedule, PESA Act and GO No. 3 in Adivasi areas. He described the Makivalasa land struggle as a significant achievement reflecting Adivasi unity and leadership. Adivasi Welfare Parishad State General Secretary Kunja Srinu unveiled the Adivasi flag. Vaba Yogi said the struggle achieved victory after two years of challenges, with support from the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and local district officials. He praised the

unity of villagers and Adivasi communities across the district. The celebrations featured traditional Dhimsa dance performances. Held ahead of World Tribal Day on August 9, the programme called for united struggles to protect Adivasi rights. Participants included Vankala Madhavarao, District General Secretary, All India Agricultural Workers Union; Udayabhaskar, State President, Bahujan Kala Mandal; Bommalu Bhagyalakshmi, Adivasi JAC leader; Kotha Dharmarao, Former President, DTF; K.V. Jagannadham, State President, HRF; Suryanarayana, Manyam District leader, Adivasi Welfare Parishad; local leaders Surapunaidu, Paparao, Harish and Gedela Seshagiri; Yadla Gopi, State General Secretary, Adivasi Employees Union; VIDHASAM United Forum leaders; and Pathapatnam Mandal leaders Ajari Ramarao, Mallipuram Srinu, Beji Prasad and Ganesh.

Balijas Seek 10% Representation in Local Body Elections



Tirupati, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of the Greater Rayalaseema Balija JAC demanded at least 10 per cent representation for

the Balija community in upcoming local body, panchayat and municipal elections, besides adequate representation in nominated posts. A round-table meeting of

Balija community representatives, elders and leaders from various political parties was held at a private hotel in Tirupati under the leadership of Chennai

Shivakumar. The leaders claimed that Balijas constitute around 18-20 per cent of the population across the 11 Rayalaseema districts, with an estimated popula-

tion of nearly 30 lakh. Despite their numbers, they expressed concern over inadequate political and social representation. They demanded population-based representation in posts including MLCs, ZP chairpersons, mayors, municipal chairpersons, ZPTCs, MPTCs and sarpanchs. They also sought at least one Rajya Sabha seat for a Rayalaseema Balija representative. The leaders called for establishment of a Rayalaseema Balija Corporation with adequate funds to support education, foreign studies and small businesses. They said Balija candidates contesting local elections from any political party would receive collective support across the 11 districts. They announced plans to meet Chief Minister Nara

Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, BJP State President Madhav and Minister Nara Lokesh and submit a memorandum outlining their demands. The leaders said the community had gradually lost political representation across parties and called for greater unity among Balijas. They urged political parties to recognise the community's contribution to elections and ensure representation based on population at every level. They said organisational activities and consultations would continue across all 11 districts and the movement would be intensified if the demands were not addressed. Balija representatives from across Rayalaseema participated in the meeting.

Rice Stores Provide Subsidised Rice to Poor Families

Eluru, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

APSRCT Vijayawada Zone-2 Chairman and Janasena Eluru in-charge Reddy Appalanaidu said the Alliance government is committed to reducing the financial burden on poor and middle-class families. He inspected Rice Store outlets at Patthebada along with Janasena leaders and party workers. He said quality rice is being supplied at subsidised prices through stores established across the state. BPT Raw Rice, priced at

Rs.60 per kg in the open market, is available for Rs.50, while BPT Steam Rice priced at Rs.62 is sold for Rs.52 per kg, providing a subsidy of Rs.8-Rs.10 per kg. Appalanaidu urged people to utilise the facility with their ration and Aadhaar cards. He thanked Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar for the initiative and distributed 10-kg rice packets to beneficiaries. Party leaders, rice millers, officials and local residents attended the programme. He said the initiative was aimed at ensuring that

fine-quality rice is available to every eligible family at affordable rates, particularly at a time when market prices have increased. He stated that the government is taking steps to control the impact of rising prices and ensure that welfare measures reach the people transparently. Appalanaidu also said the cooperation of rice millers has helped make the subsidised rice available to the public. He urged beneficiaries to make full use of the Rice Stores and said such measures would provide meaningful financial



relief to families struggling with increasing household expenses.

Chenna Narayana Donates Rs.1.01 Lakh To Goshala



Chirala, August 8 | TPN Bureau

Chakka Chenna Narayana, a member of the Chirala NR & PM High School Walkers Association, donated Rs.1,01,116 to Sri Krishna Goshala on the occasion of his wedding anniversary to support the welfare and protection of cows. The cheque was handed over to Sri Krishna Goshala President Devaki Subbarao at the high school grounds on Saturday in the presence of fellow walkers. Association members appreciated Chenna Narayana for marking a personal occasion through a meaningful social service initiative.

The association felicitated him with a shawl and garlands and conveyed anniversary wishes. Members said the donation would help provide food, care and other essential support to cows at the goshala. The programme was attended by Association President Poludasu Ramakrishna, Secretary Charagulla Guruprasad, and leaders Godavarthi Sudhakar Rao, Narayana Murthy, Sriram Ramesh, Madhava Rao and Poorna. Association members urged more people to support goshala activities and said caring for voiceless animals promotes compassion and social responsibility.

MLA Balaramakrishna Offers Prayers at Ainavilli Temple

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna, along with Janasena leaders, visited the famous Ainavilli Sri Vigneshwara Swamy Temple and offered special prayers on behalf of Deputy Chief Minister and Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan. The MLA received a traditional Poornakumbham welcome from the temple trustees, Executive Officer and Vedic scholars. He later performed special rituals in the name of Pawan Kalyan and prayed for the prosperity and well-being of the people. Balaramakrishna prayed that the blessings of Sri Vigneshwara Swamy remain with Pawan Kalyan, the Alliance government and the people of Rajanagaram constituency. He wished for everyone to enjoy good health, long life and happiness. Following the darshan, the chief priest



offered Vedic blessings and honored the MLA with a Shesha Vastram. Temple committee members also presented him with a portrait of the deity and Teertha-Prasadam. Janasena leaders from Rajanagaram constituency and others participated in the programme.

Pensions for All Eligible Beneficiaries, Says MLA Badeti Chanti



Eluru, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MLA and TDP District President Badeti Chanti said the coalition government is committed to providing social security pensions to every eligible beneficiary. He participated in the 'Two Years of Trust - Development and Welfare' door-to-door campaign in the 18th Division and interacted with residents about the implementation of welfare schemes. Chanti said several residents had raised concerns regarding pensions and assured them that the government would soon take a final decision to ensure justice for all eligible beneficiaries. He stated that steps are being taken to resolve road and drainage problems across the constituency by August. He also urged people to use water carefully

in view of the 'Super El Niño' conditions. The MLA criticized the YSRCP for allegedly spreading misinformation about the DSC recruitment process and said the government was committed to implementing welfare and development programmes transparently. During the campaign, Chanti interacted with residents, listened to their concerns and assured them that necessary measures would be taken to address public issues. He further said that the government is giving priority to basic infrastructure and public welfare and assured residents that their concerns would be addressed promptly. He urged people to cooperate with officials and local representatives in implementing development works and welfare schemes effectively.

Free Spectacles Distributed To 141 Lace Artisans

Narsapuram, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

Free spectacles were distributed to 141 crochet lace artisans in the Narsapuram constituency as part of a special initiative of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Local MLA Bommidu Nayakar distributed the spectacles to the artisans on Saturday evening. The initiative followed Pawan Kalyan's directions during a handicrafts festival held in Vijayawada, where he instructed officials to conduct free medical check-ups for artisans to identify health issues and provide necessary assistance. Acting on his instructions, an eye camp was organised for crochet lace artisans in Narsapuram last month. Doctors examined the artisans and identified 141 who required spectacles. The matter was brought to the attention of Pawan Kalyan, who immediately responded and arranged free spectacles for all 141 artisans. The initiative was aimed at supporting artisans whose



livelihood depends on intricate handwork requiring clear vision. Pawan Kalyan also personally focused on the quality of the spectacles. He inspected them at his Mangalagiri camp office before they were sent to the artisans. The distribution programme provided direct assistance to the artisans and reflected the government's focus on addressing health-related needs of handicraft workers. The beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the initiative and the prompt response to their requirements.

25th Ward Residents Are Like Our Own Family Says Padmavati

Narsipatnam, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

The Intintiki Telugu Desam door-to-door campaign was held in the 25th Ward of Narsipatnam town on Saturday, with women residents welcoming the leaders with Harathi. Chintakayala Padmavati, wife of Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, attended as chief guest under the leadership of TDP Town President Chintakayala Rajesh. Leaders visited households, distributed leaflets highlighting development works undertaken over the past two years and enquired about local issues. Rajesh said Rs.242 crore had been secured for Narsipatnam Municipality through Ayyanna Patrudu's efforts, with Rs.32 crore spent on CC roads and drains and Rs.3.5 crore allocated for waste management. Rs.10.16 Lakh CM Relief Fund Assistance Distributed At the Speaker's camp office, Rajesh also distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund cheques worth Rs.10.16 lakh to 18



beneficiaries from four mandals and Narsipatnam Municipality. He said around Rs.2.47 crore had been provided to more than 288 affected people in the constituency over the past year. Beneficiaries thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Ayyanna Patrudu for the assistance. ZPTC member Ramanamma, Tandava Committee Chairman Karaka Satyanarayana, Market Committee Chairman Gavreddy Venkataramana, TDP Town Secretary Lalam Muralikrishna and others participated.

QIS College Holds Orientation for Lateral Entry Students



Ongole, Aug 8 | TPN Bureau

A grand orientation programme for lateral entry students was organized at QIS Engineering College, Ongole. The programme was attended by students joining the second year of engineering through ECET counselling after completing their polytechnic education, along with their parents. College Principal Dr. Hanumantha Rao welcomed the students and parents and explained the college's academic programmes and facilities. He said choosing QIS College was the right decision and encouraged students to study with dedication to achieve success. He also highlighted the institution's strong placement record and noted that many alumni

had secured prestigious positions. Deans from various departments briefed students about the courses, academic system and other facilities. The students were subsequently taken on a tour of the laboratories and library to familiarize themselves with the campus. Dr. Satya Mehar, Dean (Academics), served as the programme convener. Heads of Departments and directors from various departments participated and guided the newly admitted students. The programme was organized under the guidance of Dr. Nidamanuri Surya Kalyan Chakravarthy, Head of the Educational Institutions, and Dr. Nidamanuri Sri Gayatri Devi, Executive Vice-Chairman.



Prakash Raj: The Conscience That Refuses Silence

Actor, Artist, Citizen, Public Intellectual

Varala Anand



Poet, Film Critic & Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award

Raj has rarely chosen to remain silent. His critics see him as outspoken. His supporters see him as courageous. Either way, he has succeeded in ensuring that public discourse cannot entirely evade difficult questions.

Defending Diversity

India has never been a civilization of uniformity. Its strength lies precisely in its astonishing diversity-of languages, religions, cuisines, philosophies, customs, literature, music, and ways of life. The Indian imagination has always grown through dialogue rather than domination. Prakash Raj consistently reminds audiences that diversity is not a weakness to be corrected but the very foundation of India's civilizational resilience. His speeches often invoke the need for empathy over hatred, conversation over polarization, and constitutional morality over ideological rigidity. He argues that patriotism need not demand unquestioning obedience. Genuine love for one's country includes the courage to criticize injustice and demand accountability from those who govern. This understanding reflects a mature democratic tradition rather than hostility toward the nation.

Asking for Justice

One of the recurring themes in Prakash Raj's public life is the insistence that the State remains accountable to every citizen. To ask questions is not to weaken democracy. To seek justice is not to undermine the nation. To defend constitutional rights is not to oppose the State. Rather, these are the very practices through which democratic institutions remain alive. Whenever incidents raise concerns regarding violence, discrimination, freedom of expression, or

institutional functioning, Prakash Raj has often urged transparent investigation, legal accountability, and equal justice. Such interventions are consistent with the democratic principle that governments derive legitimacy through public trust and constitutional responsibility.

The Artist as Public Citizen

History remembers artists not merely for their performances but also for the moral choices they made during difficult times. Across the world, writers, painters, filmmakers, musicians, and actors have often stood beside ordinary citizens in defending civil liberties and human dignity. Prakash Raj belongs to that tradition. His willingness to participate in public conversations-even at personal or professional cost-illustrates a belief that citizenship does not end where artistic success begins. His example reminds us that democracy depends not only upon politicians and judges but also upon teachers, journalists, scientists, workers, students, and artists who continue to ask uncomfortable questions.

Agreement Is Not the Measure

Democracy does not require unanimous agreement. It requires the freedom to disagree without fear. Prakash Raj's public life demonstrates that dissent and patriotism need not stand in opposition. A healthy republic accommodates criticism because criticism strengthens institutions by demanding transparency and accountability. Whether one applauds or contests his views, his presence enriches democratic conversation by expanding the space for debate.



The Continuing Conversation

Cinema gave Prakash Raj fame. Public engagement gave him another identity-that of a citizen unwilling to surrender his voice. In times increasingly shaped by polarization, his insistence on dialogue, constitutional values, and India's plural character continues to resonate with many people across linguistic and regional boundaries. The true measure of democracy is not the absence of disagreement but the presence of fearless conversation. In that ongoing conversation, Prakash Raj continues to play one of contemporary India's most recognizable public voices-not because he claims to possess all the answers, but because he insists that asking questions remains the first responsibility of a free citizen.

HERE are actors who become stars. There are stars who become celebrities. And then there are a rare few who transcend both, becoming the moral memory of their times. Prakash Raj belongs to that uncommon fraternity. For more than four decades, he has inhabited hundreds of characters across Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi cinema with astonishing versatility. Villain, father, revolutionary, politician, teacher, comedian-every role has found a new life in his hands. He has never merely performed a character; he has excavated its inner contradictions, making audiences confront uncomfortable truths about power, prejudice, love, and humanity. Yet, Prakash Raj's significance extends beyond cinema. He has chosen to remain an engaged citizen in a time when silence is often rewarded and conformity celebrated. In an age where many public figures carefully avoid contentious questions, he has repeatedly exercised his democratic right to speak on issues he believes concern the Constitution, social justice, freedom of expression, and India's pluralistic ethos. Whether one agrees with his

opinions or not, one cannot ignore the consistency with which he argues that democracy flourishes only when citizens question authority, defend institutional integrity, and protect the dignity of every individual.

Beyond the Screen

Indian cinema has produced many extraordinary performers. Few, however, have carried their artistic sensibility into public life with equal conviction. Prakash Raj understands that an artist does not merely entertain. Art enlarges human imagination; it compels society to look into its own mirror. The responsibility of an artist, therefore, is not confined to applause inside theatres but extends to the ethical conversations taking place outside them. His public interventions frequently revolve around values enshrined in the Constitution-justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. These are not partisan ideals; they are the foundational promises upon which modern India was built. Whenever debates emerge concerning social harmony, minority rights, freedom of speech, federal principles, or institutional accountability, Prakash

• Wow! What a Shot! •

K. Viswanath's 'Swathi Muthyam' and the Poetry of a Single Frame

SOME filmmakers tell stories. Some filmmakers create memorable characters. And then there are those rare masters who can tell an entire story through a single frame. K. Viswanath belonged unmistakably to that last and extraordinary category. For generations of Telugu cinema lovers, Viswanath was not merely a director. He was an artist who understood that cinema could speak without shouting, move without melodrama and reveal an entire human emotion without depending on a long dialogue. In his films, every frame carried meaning. Every movement of a character had purpose. Every pause had an emotion. And every song seemed to extend the story rather than interrupt it. That is why the celebrated filmmaker's work continues to invite discussion, interpretation and admiration long after the screen goes dark. Among his many remarkable films, Swathi Muthyam occupies a special place. It is a film in which innocence, compassion, loneliness, marriage, motherhood and human relationships are woven together with extraordinary sensitivity. More importantly, it demonstrates Viswanath's rare ability to transform an apparently simple moment into a profound statement about life.

A Scene That Says Everything

Consider one magnificent sequence. Kamal, an exceptionally innocent and kind-hearted man, marries Radhika, a widow struggling to raise her young child. Kamal does not approach life with the conventional understanding of the world around him. His innocence is almost childlike. He sees people and situations without the layers of calculation that adulthood often imposes. Following an altercation with a neighbour, Kamal's grandmother, played by

Vijaya Nirmala, passes away. The household is suddenly filled with grief. Kamal's cousin Chitti is crying beside her grandmother. Radhika stands there, witnessing the tragedy and trying to comprehend what she should do. Then comes the moment. Kamal, who does not fully understand the distinction between life and death, looks at Chitti and innocently asks whether food has been served. On paper, it is a simple line. On screen, however, it becomes something much larger. Viswanath does not turn the moment into loud melodrama. Instead, he allows Radhika's expression to speak. Her eyes reveal a sudden and painful realization: the man she has married is profoundly innocent. She understands, perhaps more clearly than ever before, that Kamal is not merely a husband in the conventional sense. He is someone who needs care, protection and guidance. That realization is captured not through explanation, but through a look. And that is where Viswanath's greatness lies.

The Poetry of the Frame

As Radhika moves towards Kamal, her frightened young son comes and stands beside her, disturbed by the atmosphere of mourning and the crying around him. Radhika places one hand protectively on her son's head. At the same time, with her other arm, she draws Kamal close. Just look at the emotional geometry of that frame. On one side is her son-the child who naturally depends on her. On the other is her husband-a grown man who, despite being her spouse, possesses the innocence and emotional vulnerability of a child. Radhika stands between them. In that single composition, Viswanath reveals the entire emotional architecture of the story. Radhika has entered a marriage,

Gaddam Muralikrishna



Member, Telugu Cone Writers' Association, Khammam

riage, but her relationship with Kamal demands something beyond conventional marital expectations. She must understand him, protect him and gradually become his emotional anchor. The frame therefore becomes more than a picture. It becomes a summary of their future. There are no lengthy explanations. There is no need for one character to narrate another character's emotions. The camera itself tells us everything. This is cinema at its purest.

When Music Becomes Emotion

The background score strengthens the moment further. In Viswanath's cinema, music was rarely ornamental. It was part of the emotional vocabulary of the film. The music in this sequence does not simply

accompany the visuals; it deepens them. It allows the audience to feel what Radhika is feeling even before the character herself completely understands it. That combination of performance, composition, silence and music demonstrates why Viswanath's films continue to be studied and remembered. A lesser filmmaker might have explained Radhika's predicament through several dialogues. Viswanath trusted the audience enough to let a single glance, a gesture and a carefully constructed frame do the work. That trust is one of the hallmarks of great cinema.

The Soul of Swathi Muthyam

At its heart, Swathi Muthyam is not simply a story about an innocent man marrying a widow. It is a meditation on acceptance.

Society is accustomed to defining people according to categories-normal and abnormal, strong and weak, experienced and innocent, husband and wife, parent and child. Viswanath quietly challenges these rigid boundaries. Kamal may be an adult, but his innocence makes him vulnerable. Radhika may be his wife, but circumstances gradually make her his protector as well. Her son may be a child, yet the family structure around him becomes unconventional in ways that society may not easily understand. Viswanath never treats these differences with ridicule. Instead, he approaches them with compassion. That is perhaps the greatest strength of Swathi Muthyam: it asks the audience to see humanity before social labels.

Viswanath's Larger Legacy

It would be impossible to discuss Telugu cinema without acknowledging K. Viswanath's enormous contribution to it. His films brought together art, music, literature, culture, tradition and human emotion. He could address social questions without turning cinema into a lecture. He could celebrate Indian traditions without making them feel outdated. He could explore complex relationships without losing simplicity. Every film seemed to carry a moral or emotional question beneath its narrative. His songs remain memorable. His characters remain alive in public memory. His stories continue to invite interpretation. One could go on endlessly about his work. Indeed, many of his films are rich enough to become subjects of serious academic and doctoral study. Each story contains layers; each song carries poetic meaning; each important scene offers something new to discover with repeated viewing.

A Guiding Light for Telugu Cinema

Viswanath was not merely a milestone in Telugu cinema. He was a guiding light for an entire generation of filmmakers, writers, actors, musicians and audiences. His cinema reminds us that greatness does not always require spectacle. Sometimes it exists in a glance. Sometimes in a pause. Sometimes in the way a character places a hand on a child's head. Sometimes in the way another arm reaches out to embrace a seemingly helpless husband. That is why the image from Swathi Muthyam remains so powerful. It is a family portrait, a statement about marriage, a meditation on innocence and a glimpse into an uncertain future-all contained within one exquisitely crafted frame. Like a genuine sapphire that effortlessly outshines a heap of glittering stones, such gems are scattered throughout Viswanath's films. And perhaps that is why, even years later, watching Swathi Muthyam does not feel like revisiting an old film. It feels like reopening a book of poetry whose meaning becomes richer with every reading. With its evocative background score, humane storytelling and exquisite visual language, Swathi Muthyam continues to delight discerning audiences-and will continue to do so. For those who love cinema, Viswanath's films are not merely films to watch. They are films to feel. They are films to revisit. They are films to study. And above all, they are films to cherish. That is the enduring magic of K. Viswanath. And that is the glimpse into the world of Swathi Muthyam for today. There will always be another scene, another song, another frame waiting to remind us why Viswanath remains one of the towering masters of Telugu cinema.

SAD Backs Delimitation as BJP Alliance Talks Gain Momentum



The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has extended its support to the Centre's proposal for delimitation and the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill, fuelling speculation that the party could revive its alliance with the BJP ahead of the Punjab elections. SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal made the announcement a day after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament. At a meeting of senior SAD leaders in Chandigarh, the party demanded immediate implementation of women's reservation and called for a fair and equitable delimitation ensuring equal representation for all states. Badal said the SAD supported the Government of India's proposal for a uniform 50% increase in the number of seats in all states. He also said delimitation and women's reservation should be implemented immediately. "The Shiromani Akali Dal supported the proposal which was put up by the Govt of India at the floor of the house of uniform increase of 50% of seats of all states," Badal said. The SAD's position marks a significant shift from its earlier stand. When the Centre first introduced the Delimitation Bill in Parliament in April, the party had opposed it and voted against it alongside Opposition parties. The SAD had argued that the proposal was discriminatory

towards Punjab, claiming the state would receive only a marginal increase in seats while neighbouring states would benefit more. The latest announcement comes amid growing indications that the SAD and BJP could revive their long-standing political alliance. The two parties' nearly 25-year-old partnership collapsed in 2020 over differences surrounding the three farm laws, after which the SAD withdrew from the National Democratic Alliance. Both parties subsequently contested the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections separately. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP failed to win any seat in Punjab, while the SAD secured only one seat. Badal's meeting with Modi on Friday intensified speculation about a possible reunion. Sources said the SAD, Punjab BJP unit and RSS favour restoring the alliance, while Congress leaders who have joined the BJP also support the move. Sources said the BJP now wants the alliance on equal terms, unlike the earlier arrangement in which the BJP was the junior partner. Akali leaders, however, said seat-sharing details could be discussed later, with their immediate focus on improving Punjab's political situation.

Rahul Gandhi Reaches Prayagraj for 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' Event



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrived in Prayagraj on Saturday to participate in the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' programme, an interaction with students focusing on issues including education, unemployment and recruitment irregularities. Gandhi landed at Prayagraj airport in the afternoon and was welcomed by Congress leaders and workers, including Ujjwal Raman Singh, MP from the Allahabad parliamentary constituency. Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai said Gandhi later met party office-bearers and workers at Anand Bhawan-Swaraj Bhawan, his ancestral home. The main interaction was scheduled at KP Ground, where a large number of students were expected. Overnight rainfall left parts of the venue waterlogged, prompting workers to remove accumulated water and prepare the ground. JCB machines were used to spread limestone and sand, while a road roller was deployed to level the affected areas. Posters around the venue highlighted employment and education concerns. Some messages supporting Gandhi called for jobs and questioned unemployment, while another poster criticised him over student protests in Jharkhand. The Congress said the event would highlight students' concerns and called for collective action. The Indian Youth

Congress said students from more than 250 cities would join Gandhi's live interaction from Prayagraj. Gandhi had said on Friday that he would visit Prayagraj to discuss unemployment, paper leaks, stalled recruitments and the difficulties faced by students. He argued that students work hard but are not receiving fair opportunities because of shortcomings in the system. He cited protests in Kota, Dehradun and Delhi while calling for students to raise their voices collectively. Students attending the programme said unemployment and question paper leaks were among their major concerns. One youth said highlighting these issues through the Leader of Opposition could encourage the government to take action. Ajay Rai earlier said police permission had been secured for the programme, subject to conditions. These included compliance with noise regulations, maintenance of law and order, deployment of volunteers for crowd management and restrictions on provocative or derogatory remarks against political or non-political organisations, religions, castes or communities. The event is part of the Congress' broader effort to highlight youth-related concerns and mobilise students around education and employment issues.

22 Ventures Receive National Awards on National Handloom Day

Twenty-two handloom ventures and individuals were honoured with national awards by President Droupadi Murmu on National Handloom Day for their contributions to India's handloom sector. The awards included three Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and 19 National Handloom Awards, recognising excellence in weaving, innovation, design development, marketing, start-up ventures and producer companies. Officials said the awards, instituted under the Handloom Marketing Assistance component of the National Handloom Development Programme, represent the highest level of national recognition for creativity, quality and innovation in the handloom sector. The National Handloom Awards honour individuals and organisations that preserve India's traditional weaving skills while adopting modern techniques and approaches. The awardees are selected through a multi-level evaluation process designed to ensure transparency, objectivity and recognition of excellence across different areas of the handloom industry. Among the awardees was Marvella Associates, an Assam-based start-up recognised in the start-up ven-



ture category for its 'Soil-to-Silk' model. The initiative presents an integrated experience of Assam's silk tradition, covering multiple stages of silk production. According to the start-up, its model begins with cultivating castor and 'som' plants, followed by the rearing of eri and muga silkworms. The process then includes cocoon production, yarn reeling, dyeing, weaving and finishing of handloom products. The venture represents Sualkuchi, an Assam town widely known for its rich silk-

weaving heritage. Through its model, Marvella Associates seeks to connect traditional silk production with an immersive experience covering the entire value chain, from cultivation and silkworm rearing to finished handloom products. The recognition comes as India's handloom sector continues to combine traditional craftsmanship with innovation, design development and modern marketing approaches. The awards highlight the contribution of artisans, entrepreneurs and producer organisations in sustaining

traditional skills while adapting them to contemporary requirements. The National Handloom Day event thus served as a platform to recognise achievements across different segments of the sector, including traditional weaving, innovative production models, design and marketing. The 22 awards underscored the importance of preserving India's handloom heritage while encouraging new ideas and ventures that can strengthen the industry.

'Don't Behave Like Delhi Police': Dipke Seeks Removal of 'Rude' Cop



Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) convener Abhijeet Dipke confronted a police sub-inspector (PSI) deployed as part of his security detail in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, alleging that the officer was rude to visitors and was trying to restrict people from meeting him at his residence. Dipke, who was provided security following threats and to manage crowds at his home, sought the removal of the PSI from duty at his residence in the Waluj MIDC area. He alleged that the officer was preventing visitors from entering the house even when Dipke had asked them to meet him. Videos showing Dipke speaking to the PSI and a senior police official over the phone went viral on social media platforms on Friday. In one video, Dipke is seen confronting the PSI, whom he identified as Suresh, over his conduct towards people visiting the residence.

"What is the problem in allowing people to come into my home when I am asking them to come in? Why are you behaving like the Delhi police?" Dipke is heard asking the officer. He further questioned the authority of the police personnel to decide whom he should meet, saying that no incident had occurred at his residence so far. Dipke also told the PSI to leave the house, saying he did not want him there. In another video, Dipke is heard speaking to a senior police official and complaining about the officer's behaviour. He said the PSI was being rude to people who came to meet him and was asking visitors to leave. "A PSI named Suresh has come here, and he is very rude to people coming to meet me," Dipke said during the phone conversation. He questioned whether the restrictions were being imposed deliberately and requested that the officer be removed from his security duty. Dipke also alleged that personnel from the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID), dressed in plainclothes, were moving around near his residence and reporting their observations in a social media group named 'Hit Spray'. The allegations come amid heightened attention around Dipke and his activities. His security arrangement was put in place following threats and concerns over crowds gathering at his residence. The videos have drawn attention on social media, with Dipke's confrontation highlighting tensions between security arrangements and his demand to allow visitors unrestricted access to his home. The available report did not specify whether the police department had taken any action against the PSI or responded officially to Dipke's allegations.

Centre Assures Consumers of E20 Petrol Quality

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Saturday urged consumers to use E20 petrol with confidence, stating that fuel supplied through the oil marketing companies (OMCs) network meets prescribed quality standards and is subject to rigorous quality checks. The assurance comes amid recent media reports raising concerns about moisture and chloride contamination in EBMS, or E20 petrol. The ministry said OMCs had conducted nationwide additional intensive testing across the entire E20 petrol supply chain to assess fuel quality. According to the ministry, the findings showed that fuel quality remained consistently within prescribed limits. It said extensive random testing using scientifically designed methods found no reason for concern over fuel contamination. The ministry said OMCs have further strengthened surveillance mechanisms to ensure fuel quality and protect consumer interests. Water-ingress and density tests are now being conducted 8-12 times daily at every retail outlet as part of enhanced monitoring. Mobile fuel quality testing laboratories have also been deployed at various locations to conduct additional checks. The results are being independently validated through fuel laboratories to ensure compliance with quality standards. "These multipronged stepped-up testing protocols across the supply chain has validated our highest fuel quality standards," the ministry said. The statement added that more than 100 additional petrol samples were randomly selected and tested at various refineries. The tests showed that chloride content remained consistently low, with all samples recording



levels at or below 1 ppm. The ministry said the results demonstrate the effectiveness of quality-control systems integrated into India's refining and fuel-dispatch processes. OMCs also reiterated that fuel quality remains a top priority and said any issue that could potentially affect vehicle performance or consumer confidence would be addressed promptly through scientific investigation and corrective measures. The government said the additional testing and intensified surveillance were intended to provide consumers with greater assurance about the quality of E20 petrol supplied across the country. The Centre's clarification comes as the adoption of ethanol-blended petrol has expanded across India's fuel network. With concerns about fuel quality emerging in public discussions, the ministry's latest statement seeks to reassure motorists that the E20 petrol being supplied through OMC outlets conforms to established specifications and is backed by multiple layers of quality assurance.

Delhi-NCR Rains to Continue Through August 14, Waterlogging Disrupts Traffic



Heavy monsoon rains continued to affect Delhi and the National Capital Region, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting generally cloudy skies and intermittent rain across the capital and neighbouring areas through August 14. The IMD issued a yellow alert for Delhi on August 8 as widespread rainfall brought temperatures down sharply. Maximum temperatures remained 3 to 7 degrees Celsius below normal, while persistent easterly winds of 20 to 25 km/h created cool and breezy conditions. Relative humidity touched 100 per cent at several monitoring stations. All 11 districts of Delhi recorded significant rainfall during the 24-hour period ending at 8:30 am on August 8. The Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University station in South Delhi recorded the highest rainfall at 165 mm, followed by IGNOU with 138 mm and Aya Nagar with 115 mm. Palam recorded 104.6 mm, Najafgarh 103.5 mm and Janakpuri 102.5 mm. Safdarjung, the capital's main weather station, recorded 98.7 mm. Delhi Ridge received 89.8 mm, Lodi Road 86.8 mm, Pusa 81.5 mm, Mayur Vihar 69.5 mm and Rajghat 62.6 mm. Neighbouring NCR cities also witnessed heavy rainfall. Gurgaon recorded 96.5 mm, while Ghaziabad and Noida received 33 mm and 28.5 mm respectively. The heavy rain caused widespread waterlogging, traffic congestion and difficult commuting conditions. Daytime temperatures fell to between 26.5 and 28.4 degrees Celsius, significantly below the normal early-August level of 34.2 degrees Celsius. The IMD attributed the rainfall to the interaction of several weather systems, including the monsoon trough extending across North India, a cyclonic circulation over northeast Rajasthan and adjoining areas, and a mid-tropospheric western disturbance interacting with the monsoon flow. The weather department expects cloudy conditions with intermittent rain to continue across Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad. On August 9, very light rain is possible during the morning and evening, with temperatures expected to reach 33-35 degrees Celsius. Light rain may occur on August 10 and 11, while cloudy conditions and short spells of rain are forecast from August 12 to 14. The IMD warned of localised waterlogging, traffic congestion, reduced visibility and an increased risk of road accidents. Commuters have been advised to check traffic updates, follow authorities' directions and avoid waterlogged roads and underpasses.

Amarnath Yatra Suspended From August 9 Amid Track Damage, Bad Weather

The Amarnath Yatra will be suspended from both the traditional Pahalgam route and the shorter Baltal route from August 9 due to extensive damage to trekking tracks caused by persistent rainfall and forecasts of worsening weather conditions. The annual pilgrimage, which began on July 3, has already drawn more than 4.8 lakh devotees to the holy cave. Officials said the suspension is a precautionary measure aimed at protecting pilgrims and allowing restoration work to be carried out safely. An official spokesman said continuous rains had created hazardous conditions along vulnerable stretches of both routes. Landslides and erosion have damaged portions of the tracks, prompting the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to undertake stabilisation and repair work. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir

Anshul Garg said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had forecast further deterioration in weather over the coming days. In view of the advisory, authorities decided to halt the pilgrimage from both access routes beginning August 9. However, the Chaddi Mubarak, the sacred Mace of Lord Shiva, will proceed through the traditional Pahalgam route as per religious customs. The Yatra will culminate on August 28, coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan. The Baltal route had only recently reopened on August 1 after being temporarily closed due to heavy rainfall and damage to the trekking path. Pilgrims staying at Baltal were allowed to proceed towards the cave shrine, located at an altitude of around 3,880 metres, after emergency repairs and an improvement in weather conditions.



The Pahalgam route remains closed because of ongoing restoration work and continued instability. Heavy rainfall across the Himalayan region has also triggered landslides, flash floods and damage to roads and communication networks. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), a key route for the Valley, has repeatedly been disrupted by mudslides and shooting stones along the Ramban-Banihal stretch. These disruptions have also affected scheduled pilgrim convoys from Jammu. Authorities have urged pilgrims to follow safety advisories and cooperate with the administration. Officials stressed that the suspension is temporary and has been ordered solely to safeguard lives and ensure the smooth completion of the remaining religious rituals.

Typhoon Dolphin Hits Okinawa, China Shuts Ports Ahead of Landfall



Typhoon Dolphin battered Japan's southern Okinawa prefecture on Saturday, injuring five people and disrupting power supplies to around 14,000 buildings, while China closed ports and ferry routes as the storm moved towards its eastern coast. The typhoon was located about 160 km northwest of Kume Island in Okinawa at 0300 GMT and was moving northwest at 15 kph, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 162 kph, with gusts reaching up to 216 kph.

The Okinawa prefectural government said five elderly people suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Three of them reportedly fell because of the strong winds. The storm also disrupted air travel, with All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Japan Airlines cancelling flights to the affected region. Okinawa and Amami Island in Kagoshima prefecture were identified as the main areas likely to experience the storm's impact in Japan. Authorities continued to monitor the situation as strong winds and heavy rain affected the region.

China is also preparing for the typhoon's arrival. The China National Meteorological Centre said Dolphin was expected to make landfall along China's eastern and southern coast between late Sunday and early Monday. The likely landfall area is between Zhoushan city in Zhejiang province and Fuding city in Fujian province. The storm is expected to produce winds of 38-45 metres per second near its centre. Heavy rainfall and strong winds are forecast to affect eastern China through August 12, including Shanghai and

neighbouring provinces. Some areas of eastern Zhejiang could receive more than 600 mm of rain, forecasters said. Zhejiang raised its coastal typhoon alert to the highest level, suspended port operations and halted 162 passenger ferry routes. Ningbo Lishe International Airport said it would stop operations from 11:30 p.m. Saturday and suspend all flights on Sunday. Shanghai's Yangshan port had been cleared of vessels by late Friday. Some rail services across the Yangtze River Delta are also scheduled to be suspended from Sunday as authorities take precautionary measures. Taiwan also reported disruptions linked to the typhoon, with 63 international flights cancelled. Heavy rain was expected in northern parts of the island over the weekend, although authorities had not ordered evacuations as of Saturday. China also instructed ships travelling through the Taiwan Strait to follow its traffic control measures. Taipei criticised the move as "ridiculous", arguing that Beijing has no right to restrict access to international waters. China considers democratically governed Taiwan part of its territory and also claims the strategic Taiwan Strait. 'Taiwan and the United States reject Beijing's territorial claim over the island and the strait.

US Senate Clears Russia Sanctions Bill, India Faces 100% Tariff Threat



The US Senate has overwhelmingly approved legislation targeting Russia and countries that continue to purchase its oil and gas, potentially exposing India and four other major buyers of Russian energy to tariffs of up to 100 per cent on their goods entering the United States. The Senate passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 by an 86-11 vote. The legislation gives US President Donald Trump the authority to impose 100 per cent tariffs on imports from countries identified as the top five buyers of Russian oil and gas. At present, China, India, Azerbaijan, Hungary and Slovakia are listed among the five largest importers of Russian oil and gas. The proposed measure seeks to pressure these countries to reduce their purchases and increase economic pressure on Moscow over the Ukraine war. The bill also extends the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 until 2031. The law penalises companies that invest in Iran's energy sector. The bipartisan legislation was championed by Republican senator Lindsey Graham and Democrat Richard Blumenthal. Graham died on July 11 following a trip to Kyiv. After his death, lawmakers from both parties renewed efforts to pass the legislation as a tribute to his support for Ukraine. Darline Graham, Graham's sister who was appointed to his Senate seat following his death, said the bill would force countries supporting Russia's economy to choose between doing

business with the United States and purchasing cheaper Russian energy. The legislation also proposes sanctions against Russian leaders and officials, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, oligarchs and financial institutions. Following the vote, Blumenthal said Graham would be proud of the Senate's action. He described the proposed measures as strong sanctions and tariffs aimed at countries that continue to support Russia during its war against Ukraine. However, some Democrats have raised concerns over the broad tariff powers the bill would give Trump. They warned that the legislation could expand the president's ability to impose tariffs at a time when trade restrictions are already a central part of his economic policy. Democrat Congressmen Gregory Meeks and Don Beyer criticised the measure, arguing that it could create sweeping tariff authorities that the president might use extensively. They said the legislation could ultimately increase costs for American consumers while failing to hold Russia sufficiently accountable. The bill will now move to the House of Representatives for consideration when lawmakers reconvene on August 31. If approved by the House and signed into law, the measure could significantly affect trade relations between the United States and major purchasers of Russian energy, including India.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey Form New Security Alliance



Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have signed a new defence pact aimed at strengthening regional security and deterring potential threats from Iran and Israel, analysts said. The agreement includes a NATO-style provision under which an attack on one member would be considered an attack on all three. The alliance comes as the Middle East conflict continues to reshape the region's

security landscape. Nearly six months into the war, the United States has struggled to prevent Iranian attacks and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, while Houthi forces have continued to affect shipping in the Red Sea. The developments have raised questions about the effectiveness of the long-standing US-led security structure in the region. Political analyst Ali Shihabi, who

is close to the Saudi government, said the situation showed that American deterrence had weakened and that regional powers would increasingly need to manage the Iranian threat themselves. Saudi Arabia has strengthened relations with Turkey and Pakistan since the conflict began. The three countries, along with Egypt, have supported mediation efforts to help resolve the war. The new alliance brings together countries with different but complementary strengths. Andreas Krieg, a lecturer in security at King's College London, said Saudi Arabia has substantial financial resources but limited domestic military-industrial capacity. Turkey has advanced technology and manufacturing capabilities but requires markets and investment, while Pakistan has military manpower, institutional experience and nuclear deterrence but needs financing and industrial opportunities. Despite the agreement, analysts believe the alliance is unlikely to replace the United States as the region's primary security partner. Saudi Arabia is instead seeking multiple layers of security rather than relying solely on Washington.

A key question is whether Turkey and Pakistan would actually go to war with Iran if Saudi Arabia were attacked. Analysts largely doubt it. Pakistan did not attack Iran after a similar security agreement with Saudi Arabia last year. Asli Aydintasbas, a fellow at Brookings Institution, said Turkey and Pakistan see themselves as stabilising forces and are more likely to pursue diplomatic efforts. H.A. Hellyer of the Royal United Services Institute said the pact nevertheless sends a strong political message to both Iran and Israel. The agreement could also affect wider Gulf politics. Saudi Arabia has had tensions with the UAE, which analysts believe may view the new arrangement cautiously. The pact also contrasts with US efforts to promote a regional security structure linked to the Abraham Accords and Israel. Pakistan and Turkey have strongly criticised Israel, while Saudi Arabia has said it will not normalise relations without a path towards Palestinian statehood. Hellyer said the alliance reflects an effort to counter both Iranian influence and Israeli dominance in the region.

UAE Says Iran Attacked ADNOC Tanker in Strait of Hormuz

The United Arab Emirates on Saturday accused Iran of targeting a tanker belonging to the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) with a missile while the vessel was transiting the Strait of Hormuz. The UAE Foreign Ministry condemned what it described as a "hostile Iranian attack" on the tanker, saying the incident did not result in any casualties. The accusation comes amid heightened tensions in the region and growing concerns over the safety of commercial shipping through the strategically important waterway. In a statement, the ministry said the tanker was targeted while travelling through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for global energy supplies. The UAE condemned the incident and described the attack as a serious hostile action against one of its national energy assets. ADNOC, the UAE's state-owned oil company, said on Friday that 15 of its vessels had come under attack in the Strait of Hormuz since the beginning of the war. The company said three of those vessels were targeted during the current

week alone, highlighting the increasing risks faced by energy and commercial shipping in the region. The latest incident adds to concerns over the security of the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of the world's oil and gas shipments pass. Any sustained disruption in the waterway could have wider implications for global energy markets and international trade. The UAE has not reported casualties from the latest tanker incident, and details about the extent of damage to the vessel were not immediately provided. It was also not immediately clear what type of missile was used or whether the tanker was carrying oil or other petroleum products. The accusation against Iran comes as regional tensions remain high and several Gulf countries face security threats linked to the ongoing conflict. The Strait of Hormuz has become a particularly sensitive area because of its importance to international energy supplies and its location between Iran and the Gulf states. ADNOC operates a large fleet involved



in transporting crude oil and petroleum products. Repeated attacks on its vessels could increase pressure on Gulf countries to strengthen maritime security and protect critical energy infrastructure. The UAE government's statement is likely to add to diplomatic tensions with Iran, while the absence of reported casualties may help prevent the incident from escalating further immediately. Authorities are expected to continue monitoring shipping activity in the Strait of Hormuz as concerns grow over further attacks on commercial vessels. The latest incident has once again highlighted the vulnerability of one of the world's most important energy corridors during a period of heightened regional instability.

and society. Organisers described the decision to move the event online as a worrying development. IATS acting president Francoise Robin, a Tibetan-studies professor at France's National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations, said the development was "very regrettable and worrying". She confirmed that the conference would proceed, but online. Kathmandu University professor and conference convener Sagar Raj Sharma said the institution had been preparing for the event for a long time but was asked by the government to withdraw from hosting it. "We had been planning this conference for a long time, but we received a request from the government not to hold it, so we are not doing it," Sharma said. He added that authorities told the university that the timing was not appropriate for the conference. Nepal's government, however, denied issuing any such order. Hem Raj Aryal, spokesperson at the prime minister's office, said the government had neither sent a letter nor issued verbal instructions to stop the event. "Nepal's government has not given any instructions to cancel it," Aryal said, adding that the organisers had postponed

Nepal University Moves Tibet Conference Online Amid Government Order Dispute

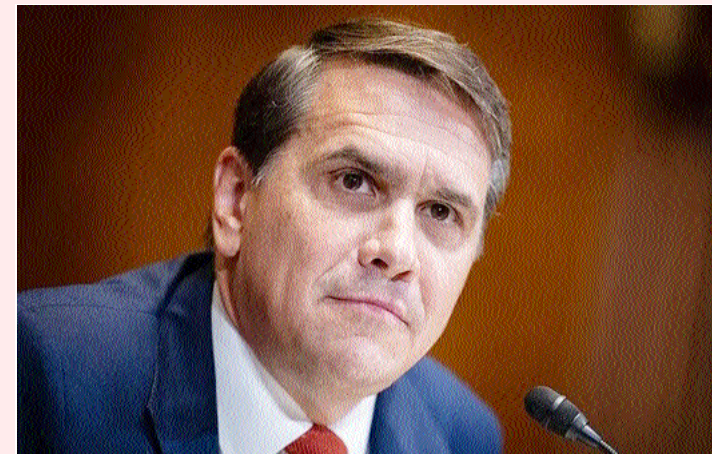


An international academic conference on Tibet scheduled to be held in Nepal this month has been shifted online after Kathmandu University said it was asked not to host the event, triggering concerns among organisers and raising questions about Nepal's approach to the politically

sensitive Tibet issue. The conference of the International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS), scheduled for August 23-29, was expected to bring scholars from across the world to Kathmandu University to discuss Tibetan history, culture, religion

the conference on their own. The dispute comes against the backdrop of Nepal's sensitive relationship with China over Tibet. Beijing has long opposed international activities it considers challenges to its sovereignty over Tibet. China sent troops into the region in 1950 and describes Tibet as an integral part of its territory. Nepal hosts thousands of Tibetan refugees, while communities in the country's high Himalayan areas bordering Tibet share cultural, Buddhist and linguistic links with the region. The IATS, established at Britain's University of Oxford in 1979, maintains that it has no political interest or affiliation and focuses on academic research concerning Tibet. The controversy also highlights Nepal's delicate position between its two major neighbours. China is Nepal's second-largest trading partner after India, according to World Bank figures, making bilateral relations with Beijing economically significant. The decision to shift the conference online is therefore likely to attract further attention as Nepal seeks to balance academic activities, domestic considerations and its sensitive diplomatic relationship with China.

Todd Blanche Confirmed as US Attorney General in Narrow Senate Vote



The US Senate has confirmed Todd Blanche as Attorney General, placing former President Donald Trump's personal lawyer at the helm of the Justice Department after a contentious confirmation battle. Blanche was approved 50-49 in the Republican-led Senate, with Republican senators Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski joining Democrats in opposition. Blanche is the second confirmed attorney general since Trump returned to the White House last year. He had already been leading the department in an acting capacity after Trump fired Pam Bondi in April. His confirmation faced strong opposition over concerns about his close relationship with Trump and questions about the Justice Department's independence. Republican lawmakers were particularly concerned about a controversial settlement that included a proposed \$1.8 billion "Anti-Weaponization Fund" intended to compensate people who believed they had been mistreated by the criminal justice system. The settlement also included provisions that would have shielded Trump and members of his family from IRS tax audits. Under pressure from Republican senators John Cornyn of Texas and Thom Tillis of North Carolina, Blanche formally agreed to abandon the compensation fund and scale back the controversial provisions. The move helped secure the support of Republican Senator Bill Cassidy, whose vote proved decisive. Cassidy said Blanche was likely to be better equipped than other candidates to manage the Justice Department under Trump, arguing that his experience as Trump's former criminal

defence lawyer could help him push back against presidential demands when necessary. "This is not a referendum on President Trump. It is a decision regarding Mr. Blanche in very specific circumstances," Cassidy said. However, Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, described Blanche's confirmation as a serious mistake. Murkowski said she opposed the nomination because the country needed an attorney general willing to check what she called the worst impulses of the administration. Blanche previously worked as a federal prosecutor in New York before becoming a prominent member of Trump's legal team. He represented Trump during his New York hush money trial and defended him in two federal criminal cases brought by the Biden administration's Justice Department. Blanche joined the Justice Department last year as deputy attorney general under Bondi, overseeing daily operations and high-profile matters, including the release of investigative files related to Jeffrey Epstein. Democrats have accused Blanche of prioritising loyalty to Trump while pursuing investigations involving his political opponents, including former FBI Director James Comey. Blanche's supporters, however, point to his prosecutorial experience and record on violent crime, illegal immigration, cartels and drug trafficking. It remains uncertain whether Blanche will succeed where Bondi struggled in advancing Trump's agenda while maintaining the department's independence.

Ardee Industries IPO
Subscribed Nearly 139 Times



The initial public offering (IPO) of Ardee Industries received an overwhelming response from investors, with the issue subscribed 138.83 times, making it the fourth-highest IPO of calendar year 2026 (CY26) in terms of the number of applications. The lead recycling company raised ₹2425.87 crore through the IPO, attracting strong demand across investor categories. The subscription figures reflect significant investor interest in the company and the broader recycling sector. Ardee Industries' IPO emerged as one of the most heavily subscribed public issues of the year. With the issue receiving nearly 139 times the number of bids against the shares offered, the response places it among the top-performing IPOs in CY26 based on applications received. The strong subscription comes amid continued investor interest in companies operating in specialised industrial and recycling segments. Lead recycling has gained importance as industries increasingly focus on resource recovery, sustainability and the efficient reuse of materials. The ₹2425.87-crore IPO provided investors with an opportunity to participate in Ardee Industries' growth plans. The substantial demand indicates strong market interest in the company and its business model. The IPO's ranking as the fourth-highest in CY26 by

number of applications also highlights the intensity of investor participation in the primary market. Investors have continued to closely track new listings, particularly companies with established business operations and exposure to sectors with long-term growth potential. The subscription level of 138.83 times means that the total demand received was nearly 139 times the shares available under the public issue. Such high subscription levels can also increase expectations around the company's listing performance, although listing gains ultimately depend on prevailing market conditions and investor sentiment. Ardee Industries' strong IPO response adds to the growing activity in India's primary market during 2026. The company's successful fundraising demonstrates that investors remain willing to commit capital to businesses with sector-specific opportunities despite broader market volatility. With the issue now attracting one of the highest numbers of applications among IPOs launched during CY26, market participants will be watching Ardee Industries' listing and subsequent trading performance. The company's ability to utilise the funds raised and deliver sustained business growth will be key factors in determining whether the strong IPO interest translates into long-term investor confidence.

S&P 500 Closes at Record High as Soft Jobs Report Eases Rate-Hike Concerns



US stocks advanced on Friday, with the S&P 500 closing at a record high and major indexes posting strong weekly gains after weaker-than-expected jobs data eased concerns over further interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 151.83 points, or 0.28 percent, to finish at 54,036.93. The S&P 500 gained 47.68 points, or 0.62 percent, to close at a record 7,757.64, while the Nasdaq Composite advanced 342.26 points, or 1.30 percent, to end at 26,690.62. The gains came after economic data pointed to a softer US labour market. The report raised expectations that the Federal Reserve may have less pressure to tighten monetary policy, supporting investor sentiment and driving demand for equities. The prospect of a more accommodative interest-rate environment helped lift technology and growth stocks, contributing to the Nasdaq Composite's stronger performance. Investors have been closely watching labour-market data for clues about the Federal Reserve's next policy moves, particularly as inflation and economic growth remain key considerations. The S&P 500's record close capped a strong week for the major US stock indexes. The advance reflected renewed confidence among investors following the latest economic indicators and expectations that monetary policy could become less restrictive if labour-market weakness persists. Lower interest-rate expectations generally support stock valuations because they can reduce borrowing costs for companies and improve the relative attractiveness of equities compared with fixed-income investments. Technology and other growth-oriented companies are particularly sensitive to changes in interest-rate expectations. The latest market move also demonstrated the continued importance of economic data in shaping Wall Street sentiment. Investors are assessing whether signs of moderation in employment could encourage the Federal Reserve to adopt a less aggressive approach to monetary policy. The strong performance across the three major indexes provided a positive end to the trading week. The Nasdaq's 1.30 percent rise outpaced the S&P 500 and Dow, reflecting strong buying interest in technology and other growth stocks. The record closing level for the S&P 500 marks another milestone for Wall Street as investors continue to balance economic concerns with expectations for monetary policy. Further employment and inflation data are expected to remain closely watched for indications about the Federal Reserve's future rate decisions. With the Dow at 54,036.93, the S&P 500 at 7,757.64 and the Nasdaq Composite at 26,690.62, US markets ended the week on a strong note, supported by expectations that softer economic conditions could reduce the likelihood of further rate hikes.

Market Extends Gains for
Second Straight Week on RBI Policy

Indian benchmark indices ended a volatile week on a positive note, extending their gains for the second consecutive week despite the rollout of the new F&O Closing Auction Session (CAS). Investor sentiment remained positive, supported by better-than-expected June-quarter earnings, sustained foreign institutional investor (FII) buying through most of the week, the Reserve Bank of India's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 percent while retaining its "neutral" stance, and continued progress of the southwest monsoon. For the week, the BSE Sensex gained 404.53 points, or 0.51 percent, to close at 78,499.17. The Nifty 50 rose 187.05 points, or 0.76 percent, to end at 24,570.65. The broader market also performed strongly. The Nifty Midcap 100 index gained nearly 1 percent, led by KEI Industries, Jubilant Foodworks, Exide Industries, National Aluminium Company, APL Apollo Tubes, One 97 Communications and Godfrey Phillips India. Blue Star, BSE, UPL, Container Corporation of India, LIC Housing Finance, Oil India and Voltas were among the major losers. The Nifty Smallcap 100 index advanced nearly 3 percent. Neuland Laboratories, Devyani



International, Ather Energy, Tata Technologies, Welspun Corp, Pine Labs, Urban Company and Redington recorded gains ranging between 10 percent and 20 percent. Nuvama Wealth Management, Firstsource Solutions, Narayana Hrudayalaya, Inventurus Knowledge Solutions, Star Health & Allied Insurance Company and CreditAccess Grameen were among the major

decliners. Foreign institutional investors extended their buying streak for the second consecutive week, purchasing equities worth \$2,887.69 crore. Domestic institutional investors also remained supportive, investing \$7,767.37 crore in equities during the week. The total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies increased by more than \$7 lakh crore, reflecting broad-based buying and improving investor sentiment. State Bank of India emerged as the biggest wealth creator, followed by Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys, which also recorded significant increases in market value. Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank and Power Grid Corporation of India were among the biggest drags on market capitalisation. Sectoral performance was mixed. Nifty Auto emerged as the top-performing sector, rising 3.14 percent on robust July sales. Nifty IT gained 2.7 percent following positive earnings. Nifty FMCG advanced 0.6 percent, while Nifty Oil & Gas rose 0.5 percent. Nifty Media was the worst performer, declining 4 percent, followed by Nifty Capital Markets, which fell 2 percent, and Nifty Realty, which slipped 1.7 percent amid profit booking. The Indian rupee also extended its gains for the second consecutive week, appreciating 18 paise to settle at ₹95.21 against the US dollar on August 7, compared with ₹95.39 in the previous week. The currency traded between 94.92 and 95.40 during the week, supported by foreign fund inflows and positive domestic sentiment following the RBI's policy decision.



Gold recycling in India declined to a three-year low in the second quarter of 2026, with only 19 tonnes of gold sold for cash, despite domestic gold prices remaining nearly 60 percent higher than they were a year earlier. The trend highlights a shift in consumer behaviour, with Indians

increasingly choosing to hold, exchange or borrow against their gold rather than sell it outright. Gold recycling specifically refers to gold already owned by individuals or institutions being sold for cash. It differs from other forms of gold supply because the metal is

already in circulation and is brought back into the market when owners decide to monetise their holdings. The sharp rise in gold prices might normally be expected to encourage households to sell jewellery and other gold assets and realise gains. However, the latest data indi-

Gold Recycling Falls to Three-Year Low Despite Record Prices

cates that high prices have not translated into a corresponding increase in recycling. Instead, many gold owners appear reluctant to part permanently with their assets. One reason is the perception that gold prices could remain elevated or rise further. For households holding gold as a long-term store of wealth, selling at current prices may mean losing exposure to future price appreciation. This has encouraged owners to retain their holdings even as valuations have climbed significantly. Another important factor is the growing preference for gold-backed loans. Instead of selling their jewellery, individuals can pledge it with lenders to raise funds while retaining ownership of the

underlying gold. Gold-backed lending has surged, providing households with access to liquidity without requiring them to permanently dispose of their assets. The increase in gold-backed borrowing has also contributed to a change in the way Indian households use their gold holdings. Jewellery that was traditionally sold during periods of financial pressure can now be pledged as collateral. This allows owners to meet immediate financial requirements while preserving their exposure to gold prices. Unofficial gold flows have also increased, adding another dimension to the market. Such transactions can reduce the amount of gold captured in formal recycling estimates,

making recorded recycling volumes lower than the overall amount of gold changing hands. The decline in recycling comes despite domestic gold prices being nearly 60 percent higher than a year earlier. The combination of elevated prices, expectations of further gains, increased gold-backed lending and continued preference for holding physical gold has therefore limited the supply of recycled gold. The three-year low in second-quarter recycling suggests that high gold prices alone are no longer sufficient to trigger widespread selling among Indian households. Instead, gold continues to be viewed not only as jewellery but also as a financial asset that can be held, exchanged or pledged for credit when required.

Blackstone-Owned AGS Health Files Updated DRHP for Rs 4,800 Crore IPO

Blackstone-owned AGS Health has filed an updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) for its proposed Rs 4,800 crore initial public offering (IPO) in India, setting the stage for the healthcare services company to enter the public markets. The proposed IPO will comprise a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 1,800 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares valued at Rs 3,000 crore. BCP Asia II Topco VIII Pte, an investment holding company owned by The Blackstone Group, will be the selling shareholder in the offer for sale. Through the fresh issue, AGS Health plans to raise Rs 1,800 crore in new capital. The funds raised through this portion of the issue will accrue to the company, while proceeds from the offer for sale will go to the existing shareholder selling its stake.



The Rs 3,000 crore offer for sale by BCP Asia II Topco VIII Pte forms a significant portion of the proposed IPO. The transaction will provide

an opportunity for the investment holding company, owned by The Blackstone Group, to partially monetise its investment in AGS Health

through the public offering. AGS Health is a healthcare-focused business that provides technology-enabled services to the healthcare

industry. Its operations are centred on supporting healthcare organisations through services and solutions aimed at improving revenue cycle

management and related processes. The updated DRHP marks an important step in AGS Health's IPO process and comes as India's primary market continues to see strong activity. Several companies have been preparing to tap the equity markets amid investor interest in new listings and growing participation in public offerings. The proposed IPO structure combines a sizeable fresh issue with a substantial offer for sale. While the fresh issue is intended to provide capital to AGS Health, the OFS will allow BCP Asia II Topco VIII Pte to sell part of its holding. The company will now proceed through the regulatory and IPO process, with further details on the issue, including the price band, opening and closing dates and allocation details, expected to be announced at a later stage. The Rs 4,800 crore offering could become one of the notable healthcare-related IPOs in India, while the participation of BCP Asia II Topco VIII Pte, owned by The Blackstone Group, is expected to keep the issue in focus among investors.

Anandam Enterprises, Navodya Enterprises Buy 1.4% Stake in Electronics Mart India

Anandam Enterprises and Navodya Enterprises have acquired a combined 1.4 percent stake in Electronics Mart India through bulk transactions, according to exchange data. The transactions come amid strong activity in the company's shares, which witnessed a sharp rise during the trading session. Electronics Mart India shares surged 10.72 percent to \$165.83, marking their highest closing level since December 2024. The sharp rise was accompanied by strong trading volumes, indicating heightened investor activity in the stock. The stake acquisition by Anandam Enterprises and Navodya Enterprises represents a notable transaction in Electronics Mart India. Bulk deals involving substantial share purchases can attract market attention as investors assess changes in institutional or large-investor participation in a company. Electronics Mart India is one of India's prominent electronics retail companies, with operations focused on consumer electronics, electrical products and related categories. The com-

pany has expanded its retail presence over the years, benefiting from consumer demand for smartphones, televisions, home appliances and other electronic products. The transactions were part of the bulk deals reported during the trading session. The movement in Electronics Mart India shares was significantly stronger than the broader market trend, with the stock gaining more than 10 percent and reaching its highest closing level in nearly two years. The strong volumes accompanying the price rise suggest that the stock attracted considerable buying interest. Market participants are likely to monitor whether the recent momentum continues in subsequent sessions and whether further bulk transactions emerge. The same session also saw activity in other companies. Authum Investment acquired an additional 1.14 percent stake in Prataap Snacks, highlighting continued interest among large investors in listed companies. Bulk and block transactions are closely watched by market participants because they can provide indications of changes in share-



holding patterns and investor positioning. However, such transactions do not necessarily indicate the future direction of a stock, and investors typically assess them alongside company fundamentals, earnings prospects, valuations and broader market conditions. For Electronics Mart India, the 1.4 percent

stake acquisition by Anandam Enterprises and Navodya Enterprises, coupled with the sharp movement in the stock, has brought the company into focus among investors. The stock's close at \$165.83 marks a significant recovery in market value and its strongest closing level since December 2024.

From Dusty Classrooms To The Edge Of Space

ARN Mahesh

In a quiet corner of Dowleswaram, where dreams often struggle against the weight of poverty, a 14-year-old girl has dared to look beyond the sky-and is now on a path that could take her closer to the Moon. Kandula Jessie, a Class 10 student of Zilla Parishad Girls' High School (ZPGHS), has been selected for the prestigious Mission ShaktiSat, the world's first all-girls lunar CubeSat initiative. Born into a humble family, Jessie is the daughter of carpenter Kandula Srinu and Aruna. Her journey has been anything but easy. Her father, who works tirelessly to support the family, once worried whether circumstances would limit his daughter's future. Today, his voice carries pride. "I work with my hands every day, but my daughter is reaching for the stars. We may be poor, but her dreams are rich, and we will support her till the end," he said. Jessie is among 20 students selected from India and one among participants from 108 countries, each representing hope from underprivileged backgrounds.

Remarkably, she is the only student from Andhra Pradesh to make it to this global mission. The initiative, led by Srimathi Kesan, CEO of the mission, aims to make space education accessible beyond privileged circles. "Talent exists everywhere. Opportunity does not. ShaktiSat is our effort to bridge that gap and bring space science to every child who dares to dream," Kesan said. Jessie's turning point came through her mentor, Ankam Manimala, School Assistant Physical Sciences, ATL in-charge, ZPGHS Dhavaleswaram, East Godavari, who recognized her curiosity and determination. "Jessie was always eager to learn. Even when she didn't understand complex topics, she never gave up. That persistence made all the difference," Manimala told True Point. The selection process was rigorous. Jessie completed 21 modules and attended nearly 550 online sessions covering satellite systems, propulsion, and thermodynamics, subjects far beyond her regular curriculum. Speaking with True Point, Jessie said, "At first, I didn't understand

anything. But I kept attending every class. Slowly, I started believing that nothing is impossible," Jessie said. Language, too, was a hurdle. Interacting with international scientists in English was intimidating. Yet, with daily practice and encouragement from her teachers, she overcame the fear. "I was nervous speaking in English, but my teachers gave me confidence. Now I feel proud that I could express myself," she added. Her journey now moves to the next stage, with advanced training scheduled at Gautam Buddha University in Noida starting August 23. The mission aims to launch a student-built lunar CubeSat from Sriharikota, marking a historic step in global space education. For Jessie, this is just the beginning. "I want to become an ISRO scientist and prove that even students from government schools can achieve big dreams," she said. Her story is not just about one girl's success-it is a powerful reminder that brilliance can rise from the humblest beginnings when courage meets opportunity.



When Magic Becomes A Mission For Change

Sreeja Rachabathuni

For more than three decades, Kala Ratna Vemulapati Madhavarao has demonstrated that magic can be more than entertainment. Blending performance with social service, he has spent over 35 years using magic to create awareness among tribal and rural communities on financial literacy, water conservation, women's empowerment, health and social welfare. Known as a social and industrial magician, Madhavarao has conducted more than 2,500 performances across India and abroad, including Malaysia and Singapore. His programmes have received support from institutions such as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NABARD, Indian Overseas Bank, Andhra Bank, Indian Bank and Syndicate Bank. His objective has been to use magic as a simple and engaging medium to communicate important messages to disadvantaged communities. "Magic should not end with entertainment; it should leave behind a message that can improve people's lives," Madhavarao told True Point. His journey began with a personal decision in 1984. After working as a Civil Engineer in the Public Works Department, he resigned from government service, choosing to dedicate his life to social service, particularly among tribal and rural communities. His interest in magic dates back to childhood, when he learned its basics from the Vipravindulu tribal community. During his college years, he studied the performances of legendary magicians P.C. Sorcar, O.P. Agarwal and Dr. B.V. Pattabhiram. He later underwent training under Dr. B.V. Patta bhiram and K. Venkateswarlu. His first sponsored social-awareness programme was organised by



Indian Overseas Bank in Chennai in 1989. For eight years, he worked with the bank to take financial awareness programmes to tribal villages across Telangana.

Through simple demonstrations, including a ₹10 note appearing to multiply inside an empty box, Madhavarao explains savings, banking services and financial

schemes while cautioning people against chit funds. "People remember what they see and experience. That is why I use magic to explain difficult subjects simply," he says. Environmental conservation is another major theme of his performances. Using innovative demonstrations with glasses of water, he explains the importance of groundwater conservation, watershed management, check dams and forest protection. His programmes have also addressed drug abuse, farmer suicide prevention, women's empowerment and leprosy welfare. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he distributed food packets to migrant workers and developed the "Kutikuppala Umbrella Theory" for prevention awareness. Madhavarao has received 18 National Awards and more than 20 State Awards. He has been felicitated by former President Pranab Mukherjee, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu. His honours include the Rotary International Award in Malaysia and the Keerthi Purashkar from Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University. On July 16, 2025, he received the NABARD Award during NABARD Foundation Day for his service to rural communities through NABARD since 2014. "Awareness is the first step towards self-reliance. I aim to make people aware, confident and productive," Madhavarao says. Even in his seventies, he continues to travel to remote tribal hamlets. For him, magic is an art that can mesmerise audiences while carrying meaningful messages. "The stage is not merely a place for applause. It is a platform for awareness, empowerment and service," he says.



From Empty Beginnings to a Thriving Digital Dream



Harshitha Vipparla

From a small office with no clients to building a thriving enterprise, Kotakonda Munesh has carved an inspiring journey in the world of digital marketing through determination, learning and vision. Hailing from an agriculture-based middle-class family in Satyanarayanapuram, Vijayawada, Munesh is the son of agriculturist MS Swami Kotakonda and homemaker Parvathi, originally from Tirupati and later settled in Vijayawada. He pursued BBM at MS Ramaiah College, Bangalore, driven by a personal interest in business and management. After graduation, he worked in various companies in the digital marketing field, gaining valuable experience before deciding to build something of his own. In January 2024, Munesh launched MS Digital Marketing in Moghalrajpuram with just two employees and no clients. The initial days were filled with challenges, as convincing businesses about the value of social media marketing was not easy. However, step by step, the company began to grow. Today, the firm provides employment to 20 young professionals and serves over 125 clients across Andhra Pradesh. Speaking with True Point about his journey Munesh said, "I always wanted to be an employer, not an employee. That thought pushed me to take risks and start my own venture." A major turning point came through the encouragement of his friend Y Maruthi Prasad, an NRI based in the United States, who introduced him to the potential of digital marketing. Motivated by this guidance, Munesh trained in Hyderabad and Bangalore before returning to Vijayawada to establish his startup with the support of his family. Now counted among the leading digital marketing firms in the city, the company has achieved a turnover running into crores. Munesh credits his success to his dedicated team, including Chhitem Srilakshmi, Kastala Srikanth, Karumuri Sanjay, Potarlanka Rajani, Surella Rekha and Nagaratnam Saripalli, whom he describes as the pillars of the organisation.



Sharing her experience, Social Media Manager Srilakshmi told True Point, "Munesh taught us every aspect of digital marketing. Initially, clients were hesitant, but now they trust us and even refer others." Clients have also praised the firm's professionalism. Dr Seshishekar, MD of TVS Hospitals, Vijayawada, said the team delivered strong results through well-planned Meta Ads campaigns and effective audience targeting. Looking ahead, Munesh has set an ambitious Vision 2027 to expand to cities like Nellore and Visakhapatnam, serve 500 clients, create jobs for 50 youth and achieve a turnover of ₹50 crore. His story stands as a powerful reminder that with clarity, courage and consistent effort, even the smallest beginnings can lead to extraordinary success.



India's Injury Concerns Grow as Bumrah, Hardik Face Fitness Setbacks

The Indian cricket team is dealing with a growing injury crisis, with 13 players who are part of the current setup or could be considered for future selection undergoing rehabilitation at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru, according to a report by Dainik Jagran. Jasprit Bumrah is among the major concerns. The pacer reportedly reached the CoE with inflammation in his left knee and experienced discomfort while jogging and

performing single-leg exercises during rehabilitation. As a result, no timeline has reportedly been fixed for his return. Hardik Pandya has also suffered a setback while recovering from a left quadriceps injury. After resuming bowling at full intensity, Pandya complained of pain in his right calf. Tests did not show any major damage, but he was advised to stop running and bowling to prevent further complications. He responded well to treatment

and has since resumed running, with an increase in his bowling workload expected. India's injury list also includes Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy, who have already been ruled out of the tour. Fitness concerns remain over Washington Sundar and Sai Sudharsan. Meanwhile, Shubman Gill missed the opening day of India's warm-up match against Sri Lanka XI after suffering an injury to his right ring finger during practice. Gill sustained the

impact injury during a training session and was rested as a precaution. The BCCI Medical Team is monitoring Gill's progress. In his absence, KL Rahul was handed the responsibility of leading the side in the warm-up match. The injury concerns come ahead of India's two-Test tour of Sri Lanka. The series is scheduled to begin at Galle on August 15, making the fitness of key players particularly important for India's preparations.



Australia Players May Miss IPL 2027, Says Andrew McDonald

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has indicated that the team's leading players could participate in IPL 2027, but workload management will be crucial because of the packed international schedule. Australia are set to play 20 Tests and 14 white-ball matches over the next 12 months. The 2027 IPL window is expected to fall between Australia's five-Test tour of India and the World Test Championship final, followed by the Ashes in England. McDonald said the IPL remains part of Australia's management plans because of the benefits of exposing key players to high-level T20 cricket. Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Cameron Green, Travis Head and Josh Inglis are currently on IPL lists. However, Australia's fast bowlers will be

monitored closely. McDonald stressed the importance of allowing them to recover physically and manage their workload through a demanding period of Test cricket. Australia's experience in 2023 could also influence decisions. Cummins, Starc and Head skipped the IPL that year before playing important roles in the World Test Championship final and Ashes. McDonald said decisions will be made based on each player's fitness, workload, form and medical advice rather than adopting a blanket policy. He added that players understand the importance of representing Australia, with the Ashes, a possible World Test Championship final and the World Cup forming part of the demanding schedule. He said the starting point would be to assess whether players can manage both



international and franchise commitments, rather than assuming the IPL cannot fit into the calendar. McDonald also pointed to uncertainties surrounding the players' workloads. The number of overs Australia's fast bowlers may have to deliver during the India

series and Travis Head's mental workload after an extended tour could influence the final decisions. The coach said Australia will gather information throughout the international season before determining who can participate in IPL 2027.

Sai Sudharsan Ruled Out of India's Test Series Against Sri Lanka



Sai Sudharsan has been ruled out of India's upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka after failing to recover from a foot injury, according to reports. The batter had been included in India's squad for the tour, but his participation was subject to fitness clearance. A BCCI source told ANI that Sudharsan trained at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru, where he took part in batting and fielding drills. However, medical staff advised that he needed more time to recover, making him unlikely to be fit for the first Test in Galle, scheduled to begin on August 15. "Sudharsan has been ruled out of India's two-match Test series against Sri Lanka due to an injury," the BCCI source said. The batter did not travel with the Indian squad to Sri Lanka on August 4 and was initially expected to join the team in Colombo on Saturday. However, he will now reportedly miss the entire Test series. The BCCI selectors are expected to name Sudharsan's replacement in the coming days. His absence could open the door for Devdutt Padikkal to occupy the No. 3 position. Padikkal strengthened his case with an impressive century during India's three-day warm-up

match against Sri Lanka XI in Colombo. Sudharsan had emerged as a preferred option for India at No. 3 and will be a significant absence from the batting lineup. He last represented India in the one-off Test against Afghanistan. The left-handed batter has played seven Test matches so far and has scored 383 runs, including three half-centuries. India's preparations for the Sri Lanka series have been affected by several injury concerns. Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar are among the players who have been ruled out or remain unavailable because of injuries. India captain Shubman Gill is also facing a fitness concern after suffering an injury to his right ring finger during practice. Gill did not take the field on the opening day of the warm-up match against Sri Lanka XI and has not batted on Day 2 either. The BCCI Medical Team is monitoring his progress. India will begin the two-Test series against Sri Lanka in Galle on August 15, while the second Test is scheduled to be played in Colombo from August 23. With Sudharsan now ruled out and several other players dealing with injuries, India's final combination for the series could undergo further changes.

Shubman Gill Likely to Skip Warm-Up Match Ahead of Sri Lanka Test



Indian cricket team captain Shubman Gill is unlikely to feature in the ongoing three-day

warm-up match against Sri Lanka XI as the team management does not want to risk his

fitness ahead of the first Test, according to a report by Times of India.

Gill suffered an injury to his right ring finger during a training session ahead of the practice match. The BCCI described his absence from the opening day as a precautionary measure. However, reports suggest that he is highly unlikely to bat in the warm-up game despite his finger reportedly being in good condition. The decision has been taken with the first Test against Sri Lanka scheduled to begin in Galle on August 15. The Indian team management is reportedly keen to ensure that Gill is fully fit for the Test series and does not want to expose him to further injury in a practice game. Gill's absence has already resulted in KL Rahul leading India during the warm-up match. The captain is being monitored by the BCCI Medical Team following the finger injury. India are also dealing with several other fitness concerns ahead of the two-Test series. Sai Sudharsan has been ruled out after failing to recover from a foot injury, while Jasprit

Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar are also dealing with injury-related issues. Meanwhile, former India skipper Ajinkya Rahane has advised the Indian batters to adopt a proactive approach against Sri Lanka's spinners in the upcoming series. 'Rahane played a key role in India's 3-0 Test series sweep in Sri Lanka in 2017, scoring more than 200 runs, including a century and a fifty. Rahane said Indian batters cannot afford to be overly defensive on Sri Lankan pitches and must have their own game plans. He also pointed to the presence of quality spinners in the Sri Lankan team and stressed the importance of taking the home side seriously. The former all-format India player also observed that Test cricket has evolved significantly with the influence of T20 cricket, with strokes such as the scoop, lap, switch hit and reverse sweep increasingly being used in the longest format.



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has responded to India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant after the cricketer made a late-night request for help in acquiring land in Uttarakhand. Pant said he wanted to shift his base from Delhi to his native state and contribute to its development. Pant posted his request on X at 12:46 AM on Saturday, saying he had been trying to purchase suitable land in Uttarakhand for nearly three years. He said he wanted to

return to his native place, live closer to his "Pahadi people" and work towards helping and building around Uttarakhand. The post quickly attracted attention on social media, with fans discussing both the nature and timing of the request. Pant said the process of acquiring land had become difficult and sought Dhami's assistance in finding a suitable place to establish his base. Dhami responded by praising Pant for his contribution to

Pushkar Singh Dhami Responds to Rishabh Pant's Land Request

Indian cricket and his role in making Uttarakhand proud. He said the cricketer's desire to return to his motherland and contribute to the state was commendable. "Dear Rishabh, you are the pride of Uttarakhand. With your splendid performance and achievements, you have illuminated the name of Devbhoomi in the country and the world," Dhami wrote on X. He further assured Pant that the matter would be taken up with the concerned officials. Dhami said instructions had been issued to officials to contact the cricketer and provide all possible assistance in accordance with the rules. Pant's request comes as he prepares for another important phase of his cricket career. In June, he was traded from Lucknow Super Giants to his former

franchise, Delhi Capitals, in a pre-auction deal ahead of IPL 2027. Delhi Capitals acquired Pant for Rs 15 crore, while Lucknow Super Giants received spinner Kuldeep Yadav along with Rs 13.5 crore in the exchange. The move marked Pant's return to the franchise where he began his IPL career and established himself as one of India's leading wicketkeeper-batters. The 28-year-old has remained closely connected with Uttarakhand and has previously spoken about his affection for the state. His latest request indicates his desire to make the state his long-term base while continuing his cricket career. Dhami's response has now raised expectations that the relevant authorities will work with Pant to explore the possibilities of land acquisition within the applicable rules.

Korea to Host India on Hard Courts in Davis Cup Qualifiers



South Korea will host India on hard courts at the Olympic Tennis Centre in Seoul in the Davis Cup Qualifiers Round 2 on September 18-19, setting up a closely contested tie between two evenly matched teams. India are currently ranked 19th in the Davis Cup standings, while South Korea are 16th. The Koreans also hold a narrow 6-5 advantage in their head-to-head record. India will select its squad for the crucial tie on August 10. The two teams last met in 2016, when India secured a convincing 4-1 victory in Chandigarh in an Asia/Oceania Group I tie played on grass. Korea's preference for hard courts could make the upcoming contest more challenging, as its players are traditionally more comfortable on the surface. India had deliberately chosen grass when the teams last faced each other. India reached the second round after a dramatic 3-2 victory over the Netherlands in Bengaluru in February. Dhakshinewar Suresh was the stand-out performer, winning both his singles matches and partnering Yuki Bhambhani to victory in the doubles. Suresh sealed India's win by defeating Guy den Ouden 6-4, 7-6(4) in the deciding fifth rubber. The victory was particularly significant as it took India into the second round of the qualifiers

for the first time since the current format was introduced in 2019. South Korea also advanced after producing an impressive upset against 2016 champions Argentina. The Koreans defeated Argentina 3-2 in Busan, with Kwon Soonwoo playing a key role despite still completing his military service. The second-round tie will be a winner-takes-all contest, with the victorious team securing a place in the Davis Cup Final 8 in November. The result will therefore carry significant importance for both nations as they aim to reach the final stage of the prestigious team competition. South Korea have previously qualified for the 16-team Davis Cup Finals in 2022 and 2023. India, meanwhile, will look to build on their recent momentum and overcome the challenge of playing away from home on a surface that traditionally suits the Korean team. With only three places separating the teams in the rankings and Korea holding a slight head-to-head advantage, the Seoul tie promises to be a competitive battle. India's preparation, squad selection and ability to adapt to the hard courts are likely to play a crucial role in determining which team advances to the Final 8.

Ashleigh Gardner's Ex-Wife Questions Cricket Australia Over Alleged Affair

Australia women's cricket team vice-captain Ashleigh Gardner's estranged wife, Monica Wright, has criticised Cricket Australia (CA) over its response to allegations involving Gardner and teammate Georgia Voll. Wright has called for greater accountability, arguing that players in leadership positions should be held to high standards. Wright publicly accused Gardner of having an affair with Voll and questioned why CA had not taken any visible action. She also called for Gardner to be removed from the vice-captaincy role, citing concerns over the responsibilities attached to representing Australia and serving as a role model. "I think if you're privileged enough to represent your country and be seen as a role model, there's a responsibility to hold yourself to a high moral standard," Wright said in an interview with Code Sports. Wright further questioned CA's silence over the allegations. She said there was a need for clarity on whether the governing body supported the actions attributed to Gardner and Voll. "Does their silence mean they support the actions of Ashleigh and Georgia? You can't have an affair with a junior member of staff, especially when there's a clear

power imbalance, and then remain in a position of leadership," Wright said. She added that captains and senior players were expected to set standards for others and argued that the alleged conduct did not meet those expectations. Cricket Australia, however, described the matter as "private and personal" and said workplace relationships involving its players and staff were subject to its internal policies. "Cricket Australia ensures all relationships within our workforce comply with our Respect at Work policy. This includes putting appropriate conflict-of-interest management arrangements in place to support leadership responsibilities and maintain the integrity of team processes," the governing body said. Wright and Gardner married in April 2025, but their relationship later faced difficulties while Gardner was in India for the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup, according to a Daily Mail report. Wright subsequently accused Gardner of having an affair with Voll, and the couple have since separated. The controversy has also drawn attention to Gardner's position with the Sydney Sixers in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL). The franchise has expressed support for the Australia international while declining to comment on her private life.



Sydney Sixers general manager and former Australia player Rachael Haynes said the club had remained in contact with Gardner and offered her support during the difficult period. "I've checked in with her. She knows that we're here to support her," Haynes said. Haynes described Gardner as a respected and important member of the Sixers setup and said the club would continue to support her. The allegations remain a personal matter, while CA's statement indicates that it is addressing any workplace-related concerns through its existing policies and conflict-of-interest procedures.

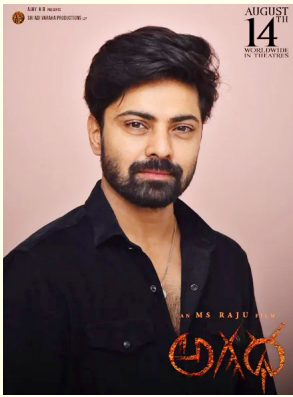
Ravi Teja's Irumudi Trailer to Launch on August 12



The buzz surrounding Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja's upcoming film Irumudi continues to grow, with the promotional material released so far receiving a positive response. The film, which is described as a family drama blended with devotional elements, is scheduled to arrive in theatres on August 21. The makers are now preparing to unveil the film's biggest promotional asset ahead of its theatrical release. According to the latest information, the Irumudi theatrical trailer will be launched on August 12 at a private college in Bhimavaram. The trailer launch is expected to offer audiences a clearer glimpse into the film's storyline, characters and overall treatment. The promotional campaign for Irumudi has already generated considerable interest among Ravi Teja's fans and moviegoers. The material released by the team so far has reportedly created positive vibes around the project. With the theatrical trailer set to arrive soon, expectations are rising further, particularly over how the makers have blended the family-oriented narrative with devotional elements. The response to the trailer could play an important role in taking the film's existing hype to the next level. If the promotional video manages to connect with audiences, the anticipation surrounding Irumudi is expected to increase considerably ahead of its August 21 release. Irumudi is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers, one of the prominent production houses in Telugu cinema. The film is directed by Shiva Nirvana, who is known for presenting stories with strong emotional and family-oriented elements. His collaboration with Ravi Teja has added further interest to the project. Priya Bhavani Shankar has been cast as the female lead opposite Ravi Teja. The film also features Baby Nakshatra, who will be seen playing the role of Ravi Teja's daughter. The presence of a child character is expected to contribute to the family-driven aspects of the narrative. The music for Irumudi has been composed by GV Prakash Kumar. His musical score is expected to complement the film's emotional and devotional portions while supporting the overall family-drama setting. With the theatrical trailer scheduled to be launched on August 12, the makers are entering an important phase of the promotional campaign. The trailer will be closely watched by fans and audiences looking to understand the film's story, characters and tone before its theatrical release. The August 12 event in Bhimavaram will therefore serve as a key promotional milestone for Irumudi. Following the trailer launch, the makers are expected to intensify promotions leading up to the film's release on August 21. For Ravi Teja, Irumudi brings together a family-drama setup with devotional elements, while the collaboration with Shiva Nirvana and Mythri Movie Makers has created curiosity. With the trailer just days away, all eyes are now on whether the promotional asset succeeds in converting the existing positive buzz into stronger expectations for the film.

Shravan Reddy Says Agadha Explores the Battle Between Good and Evil

Veteran producer MS Raju is returning to the director's chair with the upcoming horror thriller Agadha, which is scheduled to hit theatres on August 14, 2026. Starring Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Ulka Gupta and Shravan Reddy in key roles, the film is currently being promoted by its team ahead of its release. Agadha marks another directorial venture from MS Raju, who has been associated with several notable projects during his career. The filmmaker is said to have created a horror thriller with a story built around the conflict between good and evil. The film's central themes are expected to explore the battle between opposing forces, adding a supernatural dimension to the narrative. Speaking about his experience working on Agadha, actor Shravan Reddy praised MS Raju's approach to storytelling and his dedication towards cinema. He said the stories written by the veteran filmmaker for Dirty Hari and Agadha, along with the characters in both films, felt fresh and different to him. Shravan Reddy also recalled seeing MS Raju on the sets of Agadha and said that the director appeared to be a completely different person while working on the film. According to the actor, the filmmaker's passion and commitment towards cinema were clearly visible during the production. Discussing the story of Agadha, Shravan Reddy revealed that the film unfolds along the lines of good versus bad and God versus evil. The actor's comments have offered audiences an indication of the larger thematic conflict at the heart of the horror thriller, while the makers have kept several details about the plot under wraps. Shravan Reddy further explained that he did not have much time to prepare for his role. He said he joined the sets only four days after the story was narrated to him. Instead of spending considerable time on homework or preparation, the actor relied on MS Raju's direction and performed his character according to the filmmaker's instructions. The actor's comments suggest that the performances and direction will play an important role in bringing the film's supernatural and dramatic elements to the screen. With its horror-thriller backdrop and themes involving good, evil and divine forces, Agadha is positioned as a different offering for Telugu audiences. Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Ulka Gupta and Shravan Reddy form the principal cast, while MS Raju is handling the direction. The team has been actively promoting the film as its theatrical release approaches. Agadha is set to release on August 14, 2026. With the film's distinctive premise and Shravan Reddy's comments about its good-versus-evil storyline, attention is now on how MS Raju has translated the concept into a horror thriller for the big screen.



Suriya's Vishwanath and Sons Clears Censor Formalities

Suriya's upcoming family entertainer Vishwanath and Sons, directed by Venky Atluri, has completed its censor formalities ahead of its theatrical release. The film has received a U/A certificate from the censor board, with the makers announcing the development through a new poster. Vishwanath and Sons has generated interest among moviegoers following the release of its trailer. The trailer, unveiled on Friday, has been receiving a positive response from audiences, while the promotional material has indicated that the film will be a family-oriented drama with an entertaining narrative. The completion of the censor formalities marks an important step for the film ahead of its release. However, the makers are yet to reveal the film's runtime. With the censor process now completed, expectations are building around further promotional activities and the eventual release of the movie. Suriya plays the lead role in Vishwanath and Sons, which brings him together with director Venky Atluri. The project is positioned as a family entertainer and is expected to explore relationships and emotions while maintaining a commercial appeal.



Mamitha Baiju is the female lead in the film. Veteran actors Radhika Sarathkumar and Raveena Tandon are also part of the cast and will be seen in pivotal roles. The film has been produced by Naga Vamsi under the banner of Sithara Entertainments. The production house is backing the project on a large scale, with the combination of Suriya and Venky Atluri adding to the curiosity surrounding the movie. GV Prakash Kumar has composed the music for Vishwanath and Sons, contributing the film's musical score and songs. The technical and casting lineup has further strengthened interest in the project. The trailer's response has given the film a positive start to its promotional campaign. The makers are expected to continue promoting the movie in the run-up to its release, although the exact release date and runtime were not mentioned in the source. With the U/A certificate secured, Vishwanath and Sons has cleared a key pre-release requirement. The film's family-oriented theme, Suriya's presence, Venky Atluri's direction and the supporting cast of Mamitha Baiju, Radhika Sarathkumar and Raveena Tandon have made it one of the upcoming films attracting attention among audiences.

Toxic Trailer: Yash Promises an Unconventional and High-Voltage Action Drama

The theatrical trailer of Toxic, the upcoming big-ticket film starring KGF star Yash, was unveiled at a grand event in Bengaluru, generating significant curiosity among movie lovers. After several postponements, the film is finally scheduled to hit the silver screens on August 26. Written by Yash and directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic features an ensemble cast that includes Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth and Huma Qureshi in key roles. The film is positioned as an unconventional entertainer that combines intense drama, action and complex emotional themes. One of the most noticeable aspects of the trailer is its duration. Running for more than four minutes, the trailer avoids many of the conventional promotional patterns followed by mainstream films. Its visual design, tone and presentation suggest that the makers have attempted to create a distinctive cinematic experience. Toxic explores several themes, including the battle for power, love, betrayal, peace amid war and boldness. At the heart of the

story appears to be a father-son rivalry, which provides one of the central emotional conflicts. The trailer presents multiple layers of the narrative without revealing the complete storyline, leaving audiences with several questions ahead of the film's release. The visual aesthetics are among the trailer's major attractions. The action sequences are presented on a large scale, with elaborate choreography and striking visuals. The trailer indicates that the film is designed to offer a combination of intense action and emotionally charged drama. Yash appears in a radically different presentation, with the trailer showcasing the actor in several striking avatars. One particular sequence shows him appearing nude, reinforcing the film's tagline, "A fairy tale for the grownups." The sequence has further highlighted the unconventional approach adopted by the filmmakers. Toxic marks another ambitious project in Yash's career following the success of the KGF franchise. The film's combination of a large-scale action setup, distinctive visual treatment and layered themes has already



created considerable interest. With Geetu Mohandas at the helm and Yash contributing as a writer and lead actor, the movie represents an unusual collaboration aimed at presenting a different kind of commercial cinema. The trailer suggests that the film will not

follow conventional storytelling formulas and instead embrace a bold and unfiltered style. Toxic is set to release on August 26, and its reception will determine how audiences respond to its unconventional narrative, intense action and distinctive presentation.

Mythri Movie Makers May Produce Salman Khan's Superhero Film



Tollywood production house Mythri Movie Makers is reportedly in the running to produce new superhero film starring Bollywood superstar Salman Khan. The project, which is expected to be directed by filmmaker duo Raj & DK, is currently in the pre-production stage and is likely to begin shooting next year. Mythri Movie Makers has been steadily expanding its presence beyond Telugu cinema by backing projects across multiple Indian languages. The production house previously ventured into the Hindi film industry with Jaat, starring Sunny Deol. It is now said to be emerging as a strong contender to produce Salman Khan's upcoming superhero project. The film is expected to mark an interesting collaboration between Salman Khan and Raj & DK, known for their distinctive storytelling and work across films and web series. While details about the superhero character, storyline and scale of the project remain under wraps, the combination of the Bollywood star and the filmmaker duo has already generated interest among moviegoers. According to the report, Mythri Movie Makers is currently considered the top contender to bankroll the project. However, another production house is also reportedly expected to join the project as a financier. An official announcement regarding the production partners is awaited. Salman Khan is currently busy with Vamshi Paidipally's upcoming action entertainer,

which is being produced by Dil Raju. The actor is expected to take up the Raj & DK project after completing his commitments to the Telugu filmmaker's film. The superhero project is expected to enter production sometime next year, although the makers have not yet announced a shooting schedule or release date. Further details about the cast, technical crew and other aspects are likely to be revealed once the project is officially confirmed. For Mythri Movie Makers, producing a Salman Khan-led superhero film would represent another major step in its expansion into the national film market. The production house has increasingly been looking beyond the Telugu industry and exploring collaborations with prominent actors and filmmakers from across India. For Salman Khan, meanwhile, the project could offer an opportunity to appear in a superhero-oriented film under the direction of Raj & DK. The combination of Salman's star power, the filmmakers' unconventional approach and Mythri Movie Makers' production experience has created considerable anticipation. However, all details surrounding the collaboration remain unconfirmed at present. An official announcement from Salman Khan, Raj & DK or Mythri Movie Makers is awaited before the project's production plans can be confirmed.

Allari Naresh's Ramba Urvashi Menaka Teaser to Release on August 10

The makers of Ramba Urvashi Menaka have officially announced the teaser release date of the upcoming film, creating curiosity among movie lovers. The teaser will be unveiled on August 10, offering audiences their first detailed glimpse into the film. Starring Allari Naresh in the lead role, Ramba Urvashi Menaka has already attracted attention with its unusual and intriguing title. The title draws inspiration from the celestial beauties of Indian mythology, adding an element of curiosity around the film's theme and storyline. The makers have so far maintained secrecy regarding the plot and have not revealed many details about the narrative. However, the promotional material released until now suggests that the film will be a fun-filled entertainer with comedy playing an important role. The announcement of the teaser date is expected to increase interest in the project, particularly among fans of Allari Naresh. The actor has established a reputation for his comic performances and has also explored content-driven subjects in recent years. With Ramba Urvashi Menaka, he is expected to appear in a refreshing avatar that could offer audiences a different side of his screen presence. The film's quirky title has already become a talking point, while the teaser is likely to provide more clarity about the characters, setting and overall tone of the movie. Since the makers have deliberately kept the story under wraps, expectations are building around what they will reveal through the upcoming promotional video. The August 10 teaser will serve as a major promotional milestone for Ramba Urvashi Menaka. It is expected to give



viewers an indication of the film's comedic elements and the kind of entertainment the makers are planning to deliver. For Allari Naresh, the project comes at a time when the actor has been balancing different types of films, moving between content-oriented stories and commercial entertainers. His involvement in Ramba Urvashi Menaka has therefore generated interest among audiences looking forward to seeing him in another distinctive role. While the makers have not disclosed further details about the film's storyline in the available information, the combination of Allari Naresh, a quirky title and a comedy-oriented promotional approach has created expectations. The teaser on August 10 is expected to reveal more about the film and provide audiences with a clearer idea of what to expect. With the teaser date now locked, Ramba Urvashi Menaka is set for its next major promotional step. Movie lovers can look forward to getting their first substantial look at the entertainer on August 10.