



DSC-2025 Teachers Stage Massive Self-Respect Rally

ARN Mahesh

Vijayawada: Nearly 7,000 teachers selected through the Mega DSC-2025 recruitment staged a massive "Atma Gaurava" (self-respect) rally in Vijayawada on Sunday, protesting what they described as malicious propaganda by YSRCP leaders against their appointments. The rally began at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium and proceeded towards the Ambedkar Smruti Vanam, with teachers from the erstwhile West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam districts participating. Carrying placards and raising slogans, the teachers said they had secured their government jobs through merit, hard work and years of preparation. They alleged that political criticism of the recruitment was causing distress to successful candidates and their families and demanded that their dignity not be compromised

P3



India Hold China to 2-2 Draw in Women's Hockey World Cup Opener

Amstelveen, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

India began their Women's FIH Hockey World Cup campaign with a hard-fought 2-2 draw against Olympic silver medallists China in Pool D at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen, Netherlands, on Sunday. The result gave captain Salima Tete and her side a valuable point in their opening match. India made an impressive start, taking the lead in the eighth minute through Navneet Kaur. China responded late in the opening quarter, with Zhang Ying converting a penalty stroke in the 15th minute to level the scores. India regained the advantage in the second quarter when Deepika converted a penalty corner in the 25th minute. However, China fought back again in the third quarter, with Ma Ning scoring from a penalty corner in the 39th minute to make it 2-2. Neither side could find a decisive goal in the final

P3



Vizag Airport Closes Scheduled Operations as Flights Shift to Bhogapuram

Visakhapatnam, August 17 :

Scheduled commercial flight operations at Visakhapatnam International Airport came to an end late Sunday night, marking the closure of an important chapter in the city's aviation history. IndiGo flight 6E2018, bound for Delhi, departed at 10.45 pm on August 16, becoming the final scheduled commercial service from the airport. From 12.01 am on Monday, the VTZ airport code and scheduled airline operations shifted to the new Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, around 50 km away in Vizianagaram district. The change follows a Ministry of Civil Aviation notification issued on July 28. The Civil Enclave at INS Dega will continue to support non-scheduled operations, including charter and private flights, through a General Aviation Terminal. The Visakhapatnam airport, which traces its origins to a World War II-era Royal Air Force airfield, later became part of the Indian Navy's INS Dega. It played a major role in

P3



AP Assembly Sessions Begin Today

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly will commence its sessions from today, according to the Information and Public Relations Department. The Assembly proceedings will begin at 9 am, while the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council will convene at 10 am. The sessions are expected to take up key legislative and public-interest matters. The announcement was issued by the Director of the Information and Public Relations Department, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat.



VIJAYAWADA | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 140 | MONDAY | AUGUST 17 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA □ HYDERABAD

Stipend Revision Deadlock Puts AP Healthcare Services Under Pressure

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (APJUDA) has entered Phase III of its agitation over the pending revision of stipends, withdrawing emergency services from 8 a.m. today (August 17). The decision followed the government's failure to provide a satisfactory written response by the August 15 deadline at 5 p.m. APJUDA said that despite nearly 20 days of representations before the strike and four rounds of talks with the government-two before the commencement of the strike and two after the agitation began-no satisfactory resolution had been reached.

The escalation is expected to put additional pressure on government hospitals across the State, particularly emergency departments, ICUs and labour rooms, where Junior Doctors form a significant part of the frontline medical workforce. Patients and attendants may face longer waiting times, delays in consultations and procedures and possible diversion of emergency cases to alternative government hospitals. The government has meanwhile initiated alternative arrangements by deploying available medical personnel, Senior Residents and District Residency Programme



Tirupati, Aug 14 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment Pawan Kalyan directed Forest Department officials to alert and reassure residents following reports of elephant herds moving near Erravaripalem close to Chandragiri in Tirupati district.

Pawan Kalyan held a teleconference with Forest Department officials and reviewed reports of elephants from the Seshachalam forest region moving in two separate herds and damaging crops in fields along the forest fringes during the night. He directed the Forest, Revenue and Police departments to coordinate closely to minimise the risk to life and property. The Deputy Chief Minister instructed officials to continuously monitor elephant movements and identify their routes using drones. He also called for regular updates to residents of vulnerable villages and directed authorities to issue warnings through loudspeakers, mobile



(DRP) doctors and coordinating with private practitioners and Indian Medical Association (IMA) members to minimise disruption to essential services.

Under Phase III, participating Junior Doctors will withdraw services in ICUs, casualty departments and labour rooms, besides continuing the withdrawal of non-emergency services. Interns, Junior Residents, Super-Specialty Postgraduates, Postgraduates posted under DRP and peripheral postings, and Senior Residents will participate as applicable under the agitation programme. Speaking to True Point, APJUDA State President Dr U Eswar Shankar said the agitation had been conducted in phases to minimise the impact on patients. During earlier phases, emergency and ICU services were maintained while the association repeatedly represented its demand for a fair and timely stipend revision. He said the association was seeking a clear, written and time-bound commitment from the government regard-

ing implementation of the proposed revision.

Dr U Eswar Shankar said multiple representations had been submitted from December till date to DME Dr Vishnu Vardhan, Health Secretary G Veerapandian and Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav. He said the association had provided sufficient opportunities for the government to address the issue before escalating the agitation. APJUDA General Secretary Dr Balagam Dinakar Sai Srinivas told True Point that the escalation had not been taken lightly and expressed regret over the inconvenience that could be caused to patients and the public. He appealed to the government to intervene urgently and provide a satisfactory written resolution so that normal medical services could resume at the earliest.

Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association, Andhra Pradesh State (IMA AP State), and the IMA Junior Doctors Network, Andhra Pradesh State (IMA JDN AP State),

extended solidarity with APJUDA and urged the State government to resolve the issue through immediate discussions.

IMA AP State President Dr Sanga raju Balaraju pointed out that, under G.O.Ms.No.287 dated December 17, 2009, Junior Doctors' stipends are subject to a 15 per cent revision every two years. He said the latest 15 per cent revision was due from January 1, 2026, but had not yet been implemented.

Honorary General Secretary Dr Subhas Chandra Bose Moturi said APJUDA was seeking a 30 per cent enhancement, citing rising living costs, inflation, heavy clinical workload and differences in stipends between Andhra Pradesh and other States. He said APJUDA representatives had informed IMA that proposals for a 3 per cent increase for Postgraduate Junior Doctors and 5 per cent for House Surgeons and Interns had been discussed, but the association felt these proposals would not adequately address their concerns. IMA President Elect Dr PS Sarma described Junior Doctors as an essential part of government teaching hospitals, providing services in outpatient departments, wards, emergency units, ICUs and operation theatres. He appreciated their efforts to maintain emergency and essential services during the earlier stages of the agitation. IMA AP State and IMA JDN AP State appealed to the Minister for Health, Medical & Family Welfare Satya Kumar Yadav, to personally intervene and hold immediate talks with APJUDA, stressing that a prolonged dispute would affect patients, doctors and the healthcare system.

Govt Makes Alternative Medical Arrangements Amid APJUDA Strike

Vijayawada, Aug 17 | TPN Bureau

The State government has initiated alternative arrangements to ensure uninterrupted medical services amid the ongoing strike by the Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (APJUDA), with particular focus on emergency and critical care. K.V.N. Chakradhara Babu, Director of Secondary Health, issued orders on Sunday to all District Coordinators of Hospital Services (DCHSs) to utilise available medical personnel across hospitals according to requirements. Officials were directed to minimise unnecessary referrals to Government General Hospitals and teaching hospitals and manage patients within Directorate of Secondary Health (DSH) facilities wherever possible.

Senior Residents and District Residency Programme (DRP) doctors working under DSH hospitals have been instructed to report to principals of their respective government medical colleges. Doctors currently on leave or absent without authorisation are also to be recalled and deployed in government medical colleges based on local requirements.

The orders also call for identifying CASGE and DCSGE doctors who can be temporarily deputed without affecting emergency services. Departments with more than two doctors in a specialty may also temporarily share personnel, provided routine, emergency and critical services remain unaffected. DCHSs were directed to follow triage protocols, treating Category-A cases within DSH hospitals and shifting Category-B cases directly to the nearest teaching hospital. Routine leave for medical officers has been restricted during the strike, except in unavoidable or emergency situations.

The government also directed officials to maintain PPP medical services and ensure staff attend assigned shifts. Clinical specialists on non-clinical deputation may be reassigned to Government General Hospitals.

District Medical and Health Officers (DMHOs) were asked to coordinate deployment of Second Medical Officers from Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to hospitals facing shortages. DCHSs were further instructed to coordinate with local Indian Medical Association (IMA) chapters and utilise private practitioners where necessary to maintain emergency services. Elective surgeries will also be reviewed based on patient needs, staffing and prevailing conditions.

Bhogapuram Airport Set to Begin Commercial Operations, 31 Flights on Day One



Ravi Podili

Visakhapatnam : The long-awaited Bhogapuram airport is set to begin commercial flight operations from August 17, marking a major shift in the aviation landscape of North Andhra. The newly developed Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport will handle 31 scheduled flight services on the opening day, connecting the region with several major cities across the country. Commercial services currently operating from Visakhapatnam Airport will shift to Bhogapuram from 12.01 a.m. on August 17, with the existing airport ceasing scheduled commercial operations from midnight on August 16. The airport will retain the VTZ IATA code, which has been transferred from the existing Visakhapatnam facility. The initial services will provide direct connectivity to Hyderabad, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata and

Tirupati. The transition is expected to improve connectivity for passengers travelling for business, education, employment, healthcare and tourism.

Developed under the public-private partnership model at a cost of more than Rs.5,640 crore, the airport has been designed with an initial capacity of six million passengers annually. Its 3,800-metre runway and modern passenger infrastructure are intended to support both domestic and international operations. The airport also includes dedicated cargo infrastructure, with the project expected to support the movement of agricultural, aquaculture and industrial products. Officials and airport authorities have projected wider economic benefits for the Visakhapatnam-Vizianagaram-Srikakulam region through growth in tourism, hospitality, logistics, transportation and allied sectors. The airport is designed for phased expansion as passenger traffic increases.

P3

BJYM Holds Candlelight Rally Against Alleged Disrespect to Vande Mataram



Visakhapatnam, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

The State unit of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) organised a candlelight rally in Gajuwaka on Saturday, protesting what it described as disrespectful conduct by senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi during the rendition of 'Vande Mataram' at Independence Day celebrations. Addressing the gathering, Andhra Pradesh BJP State President PVN Madhav strongly criticised the Congress leaders' alleged conduct and said 'Vande Mataram' was not merely a song but a



symbol of the patriotic sentiments of crores of Indians. Madhav said every citizen had a responsibility to respect national anthems and patriotic songs and recalled the sacrifices of freedom fighters who laid down their lives for India's independence. He said any action perceived as disrespecting 'Vande Mataram' amounted to hurting patriotic sentiments and insulting the sacrifices associated with the freedom movement. He alleged that such an incident would not have occurred had the Congress respected the country's history, freedom struggle and national

P3

Police Car Rams into Auto-Rickshaw; Locals Confront Occupants After Finding Ganja in Car



Addanki, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

A speeding police vehicle carrying Ballikurava SI Nagaraju and Santamaguluru SI Nagamalleswara Rao met with an accident near Shankavarappadu in Addanki mandal on Sunday while

P3

Sridhar Varma Meets TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu After SVBC Appointment

Tirupati, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Newly appointed Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel (SVBC) Chairman Sridhar Varma met TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu at his camp office and received his blessings and best wishes. He also met TTD Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra and Tirupati JEO Sharrath, formally receiving his appointment letter. Sridhar Varma later called on TTD Additional EO Venkaiah Chowdary and TTD Board Member Santharao as part of his courtesy visits. SAAP Chairman Ravi Naidu, Yadava Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, Kapu Corporation Director Thota Vasu and others were present. TTD EO Muddada Ravichandra said Sridhar Varma's appointment followed a resolution approved at the SVBC Board meeting. He congratulated the newly appointed chairman and expressed confidence that



SVBC would achieve greater growth and expand its reach under his leadership. Sridhar Varma is scheduled to formally assume charge



as SVBC Chairman on August 22. He is expected to focus on strengthening devotional programming and expanding SVBC's reach among devotees and viewers.

SRM University-AP VC Calls on Youth to Contribute to India's Development



Amaravati, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

SRM University-AP Vice Chancellor Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar called upon youth to actively contribute to India's development, stressing the importance of education, economic growth and emerging technologies in shaping the country's future. Addressing students, faculty and staff at the university's Independence Day celebrations, Prof. Satish Kumar paid tribute to the freedom fighters whose sacrifices secured India's independence. He said India was progressing

towards the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and high-lighted artificial intelligence and quantum technology as key drivers of future development. The celebrations began at the university's main courtyard, where Prof. Satish Kumar unfurled

the national flag after being received by Major General Gurdeep Singh Narang, Director of Student Discipline and Hostels. A parade by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and university security personnel followed. Dr. Vinayak Kalluri, Registrar, along with Deans, Directors, university leadership, faculty and students, attended the event. A cultural programme featuring instrumental and vocal performances, classical dance, a social-themed skit, yoga-dance fusion and group dance added colour to the celebrations.

APSPDCL to Strengthen Power Infrastructure



Tirupati, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) Chairman and Managing Director Siva Sankar Lotheti said the company was taking measures to improve power supply quality and reliability across its jurisdiction. Reviewing development works with Directors P. Ayyub Khan and K. Guravaiah on Sunday, Lotheti said

infrastructure strengthening was being prioritised to address low-voltage issues and ensure 24x7 power supply. He said 104 substations were being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.520 crore across the districts since October last year. Of these, 29 had been completed, charged and made operational, while another 13 were nearing completion. Tenders had been completed for 50 substations, while tenders for the remaining 12 were yet to be finalised, he said. Lotheti directed contractors to maintain prescribed quality standards and officials to coordinate closely to expedite construction. He reiterated that APSPDCL's priority was to strengthen infrastructure and ensure reliable electricity supply to consumers.

VIT-AP Honours Nine Unsung Heroes

Amaravati, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

VIT-AP University Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Arulmozhivarman said the university's initiative to honour unsung heroes was aimed at inspiring students to uphold the values of service and courage and reaffirming its commitment to social responsibility. The university celebrated India's 80th Independence Day by felicitating nine personnel from the Andhra Pradesh Police, Fire Services and APSRTC for exceptional service and courage. Matli Venu Gopal Reddy, IAS, Director, Department of Women Development and Child Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh, unfurled the national flag and felicitated the awardees. Each recipient received a memento and Rs.25,000 cash reward. Fire service personnel J. Ramanujula Reddy, R. Uma Maheswara Rao and P. Mohan Babu were recognised



for saving lives during emergencies. APSRTC drivers S. Jahangir, D. Timothy and K. Srinivasa Rao were honoured for ensuring passenger safety despite serious health emergencies. Police personnel Y. Baburao, M. Ramamohan and B. Chandrasekhar were recognised for rescue efforts, including during Cyclone Montha. The university also presented certificates of appreciation to 30 housekeeping staff and 17 security personnel. Registrar Dr. Jagadish Chandra Mudiganti, faculty members and students attended.

DSET Acts Against AITT Practical Exam Irregularities

Visakhapatnam, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Department of Skill Development, Employment and Training (DSET) has initiated disciplinary action over alleged irregularities in the All India Trade Test (AITT) practical examinations conducted in July 2025. A Directorate General of Training (DGT) investigation reportedly found that practical examinations for electrician, welder and electronics mechanic trades were conducted at certain institutions despite inadequate machinery, laboratories and workshop facilities. The department issued charge memos to seven officials,

including training officers and principals of the Kancharapalem and Gajuwaka government ITIs, seeking explanations for alleged negligence. Show-cause notices were also served on private ITIs, including Pragati, Bhavani, Nandu, Technoworld, Kakatiya, Bharat and SPP. The institutions were asked to explain by August 20 why their recognition should not be cancelled for allegedly violating prescribed norms. Officials said strict action would be taken against those found responsible and stressed the need for adequate infrastructure and equipment to ensure examination standards and vocational training quality.

AP Judicial Officers Meet Chief Justice Lisa Gill



Amaravati, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Representatives of the Andhra Pradesh State Judicial Officers Association met Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Justice Lisa Gill on Saturday as part of a courtesy visit at the High Court premises in Amaravati. The delegation discussed the functioning, performance and working conditions of judicial officers across the State. Justice Lisa Gill interacted with the association representatives and discussed matters concerning their working environment and prevailing conditions. The meeting was held in a positive atmosphere, according to the association. The representatives con-

veyed their views and concerns on issues related to the judiciary and judicial administration and expressed hope that the interaction would contribute to strengthening the judicial system. The delegation was led by Andhra Pradesh State Judicial Officers Association President Chakra pani and included Ramesh Naidu, Shailaja Kampalli, Srinivasa Rao, Beza wada Radharani, Vennela and Venkata Seshadri, among others. The representatives thanked Justice Lisa Gill for the interaction and expressed hope that the discussions would help improve the working environment for judicial officers across Andhra Pradesh.

APJAC Amaravati to Intensify Agitation Over Pending Dues



Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

The APJAC Amaravati has announced plans to intensify its agitation over pending demands and financial benefits of government employees, urging workers and pensioners to unite for a democratic struggle. Addressing a meeting of the APJAC Amaravati State Secretariat and Agitation Action Committee at Revenue Bhavan in Vijayawada on Sunday, State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and State Secretary General Palishetti Damodara Rao said the government had failed to resolve long-pending issues despite repeated representations.

Bopparaju said employees were awaiting more than Rs 40,000 crore in dues and financial benefits, including DA, PRC-related benefits and other entitlements. He said employees were only seeking benefits legally due to them and questioned attempts to blame them for financial difficulties. Palishetti Damodara Rao said continued delays were pushing employees towards agitation and urged the government to resolve the issues immediately. The APJAC Amaravati will organise a state-level conference in Vijayawada on August 28, where its future agitation programme and schedule will be announced.

NTR Police Launch Week-Long Drive Against Task-Based Cyber Frauds

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, IPS has launched a week-long campaign against task-based cyber frauds, aiming to prevent online scams and create awareness among the public. Police said fraudsters lure victims through Telegram, Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp, promising easy money for completing online tasks. Victims are later asked to pay money for additional tasks, taxes or withdrawal fees, resulting in financial losses. Common scams include fake review and rating jobs, like-and-subscribe tasks, Telegram and WhatsApp investment tasks, and fraudulent data-entry employment offers. Police warned people not to click suspicious links, share financial details or transfer money to unknown persons. According to the NTR Police Commissionerate, 160 task-based fraud complaints have been registered through 1930 acknowledgements during 2025-26, with victims reportedly losing around Rs.2.5 crore. As part of the campaign, police will conduct extensive public



awareness programmes and circulate informational videos through social media to explain different types of cyber frauds and preventive measures. Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu said the campaign was aimed at strengthening the fight against cybercrime and promoting a zero-tolerance approach toward digital fraud. Police urged citizens to remain alert and remember that messages promising thousands of rupees for completing simple online tasks are likely to be scams. Victims can immediately contact the 1930 cybercrime helpline or file a complaint through the national cyber-crime portal.

Atchannaidu Pays Tribute to Gouthu Latchanna

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu paid rich tributes to freedom fighter and social reformer Sardar Gouthu Latchanna, describing him as a son of North Andhra who dedicated his life to weaker sections. Speaking at Latchanna's state-level birth anniversary celebrations at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram, Atchannaidu said his struggle for BCs, farmers, workers and disadvantaged communities remained an inspiration. He said the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was working to fulfil Latchanna's vision by providing BCs greater social, economic and political opportunities. The minister stressed education as a tool for empowering backward communities and appreciated the Anagani Satya



Prasad Charitable Trust for supporting meritorious students. Atchannaidu presented Rs.25 lakh in cash awards to 125 meritorious students from the Gouda community who excelled in Class 10 and Intermediate examinations. He urged them to pursue higher goals and said carrying forward Latchanna's spirit of service and social justice would be the true tribute to the veteran leader.

Rural Development Accelerated Under Coalition Government: Durgesh

Peravali, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said rural areas were witnessing accelerated development under the coalition government, with infrastructure works being taken up through various schemes. Durgesh, along with BJP MP Daggubati Purandeswari and AP Skill Development Corporation Chairman Burugupalli Sesharao, inaugurated an SC Community Hall at Kanuru Agraharam and a compound wall at the ZP High School in Kanuru village. The community hall was built with Rs.20 lakh from MPLADS funds, while the compound wall was constructed with Rs.17 lakh under MGNREGS. He said development works worth Rs.4.40 crore had been undertaken in Kanuru Agraharam and Rs.8.18 crore in Kanuru village over the past two years,



covering roads, drainage, drinking water, health infrastructure and community amenities. Durgesh said the Chief Minister had responded positively to a Rs.27-crore road proposal from D. Muppavaram to Kapavaram and that proposals were submitted to strengthen the Godavari bund road from Vijjeswaram to Siddhantam. He said plans were being prepared to beautify Godavari ghats ahead of the upcoming Pushkarams and thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for supporting rural development.

Rs.3,095 Crore Spent Annually on Stree Shakti Scheme Says Appala Naidu

Eluru, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government is spending around Rs.3,095 crore annually on the Stree Shakti scheme, which provides free bus travel to women, APSRTC Vijayawada Zone Chairman Reddy Appala Naidu said on Sunday. Addressing a media conference at the Eluru District Public Transport Officer (DPTO) office, Appala Naidu said the scheme had completed one year, with an average of 23.99 lakh women using the facility daily. The total number of free journeys had reached 87.09 crore, he said. He said the scheme had reduced the financial burden on families and enabled women to travel more freely for medical treatment, essential work and other needs. He thanked APSRTC offi-



cials and employees for their efforts in implementing the scheme. DPTO Shaik Shabnam said drivers, conductors, depot managers, mechanics, supervisors and security personnel had worked together to ensure safe and convenient travel for women passengers. Later, Appala Naidu and Shabnam interacted with women passengers at Eluru New Bus Stand and sought feedback on the scheme and its benefits. Eluru Depot Manager Bonthu Vani and other officials attended.

BIEAP Announces Attendance Exemption Schedule for IPE 2027

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

The Board of Intermediate Education, Andhra Pradesh (BIEAP) has announced the schedule for private candidates seeking attendance exemption to appear for the Intermediate Public Examinations (IPE), March 2027. According to BIEAP Secretary P. Ranjit Basha, IAS, eligible candidates can apply from August 17 to September 30, 2026, by paying a Rs.1,500 fee. Applications with a Rs.500 penalty will be accepted until October 18. Candidates must apply through the Principal of the nearest Government Junior College. Those with a one-year gap after SSC can appear only for first-year Intermediate, while candidates with a gap of two years or more can appear for both years under the new syllabus. Eligible failed candidates may apply for specified subject changes, while Bi.P.C pass candidates can take Mathematics as an additional subject under the old syllabus up to IPASE 2027. Applicants must submit original SSC and Transfer Certificates and other required documents. Direct or postal applications to the Board will not be accepted.



AP TET June 2026 Exams Conclude Peacefully

Amaravati: The AP TET June-2026 examinations concluded peacefully after being conducted from August 5 to 16 across Andhra Pradesh. On the final day, Paper-IIA Mathematics & Science examinations were held in 61 centres during the first session, while English Language examinations were conducted at 65 centres in the second session. Over 11 days, 2,18,254 of 2,38,252 registered candidates (91.61%) attended the exams held across 103 centres. AP TET June-2026 Convener M.V. Krishna Reddy said the examinations were conducted smoothly statewide.

M. Shiva Prasad, IFS Takes Charge as APSRTC JMD

Vijayawada: M. Shiva Prasad, IFS, assumed charge as Joint Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) at RTC House. He later met APSRTC VC & MD Bala Subramanyam, IPS. Shiva Prasad said employee welfare, passenger safety, punctuality and improved services would be his priorities. He stressed the need to strengthen public transport and urged officials and employees to work with discipline and dedication for APSRTC's development.

TG Bharat Promotes Free Medical Camp

Kurnool: Industries, Commerce and Food Processing Minister T.G. Bharat urged people to utilise the free mega medical camp held at Gouri Gopal Hospital in Kurnool. Organised on the 16th of every month to mark his father and former Rajya Sabha member T.G. Venkatesh's birthday, the camp provides free health-care services to residents. Around 127 people underwent medical examinations during Sunday's camp, receiving tests and consultations worth nearly Rs.6,000 per person. Screening detected heart-related problems in six people and eye ailments in nine, enabling timely treatment. Bharat urged residents to undergo regular health check-ups and make use of the free medical services.

Political Clash Erupts at Engagement Function in Tadipatri

ARN Mahesh

A marriage engagement function in Tadipatri turned tense on Sunday after supporters of the Telugu Desam (TD) and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) reportedly clashed in the presence of Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy and Telangana Congress leader Sriram Reddy. Sajeeva Reddy of Tadipatri had invited leaders and supporters from both political parties, along with leaders from Telangana, to his daughter's engagement at a function hall in the town. Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy, former MLA and municipal chairman J.C. Prabhakar Reddy, Telangana Congress leader Sriram Reddy and local YSRCP leader K. Murali were among those who attended the event along with their supporters. According to reports, tension began when J.C. Prabhakar Reddy and K. Murali came face to face at the function. A heat-



ed exchange reportedly followed, with supporters of both sides objecting to the presence of their political rivals at the private gathering.

The situation subsequently escalated, with supporters of the two groups allegedly engaging in a physical confrontation. A car was reportedly damaged during the clash, creating further tension among those attending the engagement. Police personnel rushed to the venue after receiving information about the incident and intervened to disperse the groups and prevent the situation from escalating further. The incident comes against the backdrop of continuing political friction in Tadipatri between rival groups. Previous reports have documented tensions between J.C. Prabhakar Reddy and YSRCP leaders in the constituency. The latest incident at a family function has once again drawn attention to the politically sensitive atmosphere in Tadipatri. No further details regarding injuries or arrests were available in the reports reviewed.

Police Car Rams into Auto-Rickshaw; Locals Confront Occupants After Finding Ganja in Car

Continue



allegedly pursuing a suspect carrying ganja. Meanwhile, local residents who noticed the suspected ganja in the police vehicle informed higher officials about the matter. During the accident, heated arguments reportedly broke out between the police personnel inside the vehicle and the local residents, as well as the passengers travelling in the auto-rickshaw. Tension prevailed at the spot before senior police officials intervened and took stock of the situation. Following the incident, Addanki CI reached the spot. The incident reportedly led to arguments and tension between the locals and police after marijuana was found in the vehicle's trunk. As the issue escalated, Darsi DSP Bala Murali told the media that the police personnel were returning after visiting the Irla Gangamma Thalli temple in Ballikurava mandal when they noticed a man behaving suspiciously on the outskirts of Dharmavaram village. When the police attempted to stop their private vehicle, the man allegedly dropped a packet of ganja and beer bottles before fleeing towards Addanki. The officers seized the discarded items and followed the suspect. During the pursuit, the police vehicle reportedly lost control and collided with an auto-rickshaw near Shankavarappadu. The Sub-Inspectors immediately alerted the 108 ambulance service and arranged medical treatment for those injured in the accident. Bala Murali also stated that the accident occurred while the officers were attempting to apprehend the fleeing suspect. He also said several theft cases recently reported under the Ballikurava and Santamaguluru police station limits had been solved within a short period. Meanwhile, local residents alleged that higher officials had tactfully shielded the police personnel involved in the incident from the major issue.

DSC-2025 Teachers Stage Massive Self-Respect Rally

Continue

for political purposes. "We secured these jobs through merit after years of hard work and preparation. Our achievement should not be belittled for political reasons," a teacher, A Venkateswramma told True Point. Rejecting the description of the recruitment as "Mega DSC-Daga DSC", Speaking to True Point, another participant K Sundra Rao said, "We appeared for the examination, competed on merit and earned our appointments. Questioning our talent without evidence is an insult to thousands of successful candidates." In a sharp political retort, a participant M Sesharatnam said, "If sympathy following his father's death helped him become Chief Minister, was that not a form of compassionate appointment?" They also warned that continued allegations would lead to an intensification of their agitation. The teachers further warned YSRCP leaders to stop what they termed malicious propaganda, with some participants saying they would "dump the YSRCP into the Prakasam Barrage" if the campaign continued. They later submitted a memorandum at the Ambedkar statue, seeking an end to the allegations. The rally comes amid a wider political dispute over Mega DSC-2025. YSRCP has alleged irregularities in the recruitment and demanded a CBI probe, while the selected teachers maintain that their appointments were made through the prescribed recruitment process. Earlier YSRCP protests had also raised allegations concerning the recruitment process. The teachers informed that similar self-respect rallies had already been organised in Kurnool, Tirupati and other districts and vowed to continue defending the credibility of their selections.

Vizag Airport Closes Scheduled Operations as Flights Shift to Bhogapuram

Continue

expanding domestic and international connectivity and supporting cargo movement, including seafood exports. The transition has created uncertainty among around 800 outsourced workers. A job fair for affected employees resulted in 100 offers and 150 candidates being shortlisted. The old airport site may be considered for an aviation training centre, while stakeholders have sought better connectivity and dedicated cargo facilities at Bhogapuram.

India Hold China to 2-2 Draw in Women's Hockey World Cup Opener

Continue

quarter despite sustained pressure. India defended resolutely to secure a draw against a strong Chinese team, which had won silver at the 2024 Paris Olympics. The result also marked a positive start for India after previous defeats against China. India will next face South Africa on Tuesday. South Africa began their campaign with a 0-4 defeat against England, giving India an opportunity to strengthen their position in Pool D with a positive result in their second match.

BJYM Holds Candlelight Rally Against Alleged Disrespect to Vande Mataram

Continue

sentiments. Madhav urged Congress leaders to reconsider their approach and respect the sentiments of the people. He said the BJYM was working continuously to promote national unity, integrity and patriotism among the youth. BJYM State President Sunil Reddy, along with Nagothu Harikrishna and Aditya, led the rally. A large number of BJP Yuva Morcha leaders and activists participated, raising slogans of "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai". The participants carried candles during the rally and expressed their support for preserving the dignity of national symbols and patriotic traditions. The programme concluded with a call to the youth to uphold national unity, patriotism and respect for the country's history.

Bhogapuram Airport Set to Begin Commercial Operations, 31 Flights on Day One

Continue

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport to the nation on August 1. With commercial operations now shifting to Bhogapuram, the new facility is expected to become a major aviation and economic gateway for North Andhra.

BHOGAPURAM AIRPORT – SCHEDULED DEPARTURES	
Scheduled Departure Timings on August 17	
DESTINATION ✈	SCHEDULED DEPARTURE TIMES
HYDERABAD	8:55 AM, 10:40 AM, 1:00 PM, 4:25 PM, 7:20 PM, 8:40 PM, 9:20 PM
NEW DELHI	8:20 AM, 10:45 PM
BENGALURU	2:55 PM, 9:10 PM
CHENNAI	12:15 PM, 6:35 PM
KOLKATA	7:50 PM
MUMBAI	3:05 PM
TIRUPATI	1:50 PM

*Timings are subject to change as per airline schedules.

Atchannaidu Rebuts Crop Insurance Criticism, Cites Rise in Enrolment

Amaravati, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau?

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Sunday criticised Sakshi for allegedly spreading misleading information about the government's crop insurance enrolment drive and said the initiative was aimed at protecting farmers against losses amid the threat of El Niño and erratic rainfall. Atchannaidu said the government, following Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's directions, conducted a special enrolment drive from July 29 to 31 to identify eligible farmers who had not been covered. He said participation was voluntary and no farmer was forced to enrol. The minister said farmers contribute only 0 to 2 per cent of the insured amount, with the Central and State governments bearing the remaining premium. He said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu intervened with the Central Government and insurance companies to extend enrolment deadlines in farmers' interests. According to Atchannaidu, Kharif 2026 applications

increased from 19.50 lakh in 2025 to 35.17 lakh, an increase of about 80 per cent. Enrolment among non-loanee farmers rose from 2 lakh to 20.35 lakh, while the insured area increased from 7.83 lakh hectares to 15.17 lakh hectares. The total insured value stood at Rs.13,983 crore, placing Andhra Pradesh fifth nationally in terms of insured area. He said the government's share of the premium for Kharif 2025 had been paid and the process of crediting insurance compensation to farmers' accounts had begun. Atchannaidu questioned critics over the previous government's alleged Rs.1,990 crore premium arrears, saying the outstanding dues had delayed compensation to farmers. He said the present government was taking steps to clear the dues in phases. The minister said the government had sought a further extension of PMFBY enrolment until August 31, with banks given an additional 15 days to finalise enrolment details. He said the government's objective was to maximise crop insurance coverage at minimal cost to farmers and urged stakeholders to rely on verified data while discussing insurance measures.



Jagan Mourns Educationist Konda Reddy



Tadepalli, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed deep grief over the demise of noted educationist Y. Konda Reddy, head of Rayalaseema Educational Institutions in Tirupati. In a condolence message, Jagan described Konda Reddy as a dedicated educationist who considered education not merely a profession but a social responsibility. He said Konda Reddy devoted his life to expanding educational opportunities for students, particularly those belonging to poor and middle-class families. Jagan highlighted Konda Reddy's contribution to the development of the education sector in the Rayalaseema region. He said the educationist had consistently encouraged students from economically weaker backgrounds to pursue higher education and helped them build better futures. "Konda Reddy's services created opportunities for thousands of students and left a lasting impact on the educational landscape of Rayalaseema," Jagan said. He described the educationist's death as an irreparable loss to the education sector, students and the wider community. His commitment to education, ideals and dedicated service would continue to inspire future generations, Jagan added. Jagan also extended his condolences to Konda Reddy's family members, relatives, friends, colleagues, staff and students of Rayalaseema Educational Institutions. He prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family during their time of grief.

Chandrasekhar Reddy Demands Probe into DSC, APPSC

Tadepalli, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Employees' Wing State President and MLC P. Chandrasekhar Reddy demanded immediate revocation of the suspension of four teachers who approached the Union Government seeking exemption from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for in-service teachers. He also demanded that the State government pass an Assembly resolution seeking TET exemption and forward it to the Centre. Speaking to the media, Chandrasekhar Reddy questioned the government's decision to suspend teachers for meeting Union representatives and raising concerns affecting serving teachers. He said linking their Delhi visit to complaints over DSC recruitent was unjustified and described their action as a democratic right. In Nellore, he demanded a CBI probe into Mega DSC-2025 and APPSC Group-I recruitment, alleging serious questions over the DSC process, including question-paper leakage, sale of teacher posts, Sports Quota certificates and changes in recruitment documents. He said Education Minister Nara Lokesh should resign, taking moral responsibility for the DSC process. Chandrasekhar Reddy said APPSC Group-I examinations under the previous YSRCP government had safeguards including CCTV surveillance, biometric and facial-recognition systems and manual evaluation in accordance with court directions. He challenged the government to subject both DSC and APPSC to an impartial CBI or judicial inquiry. He also said five DAs remained pending and employee dues had risen from about Rs.23,000 crore to Rs.30,000 crore. He said YSRCP would raise teacher suspensions, DSC irregularities and employee grievances in the Legislature.

Suresh Says Group-I Issue Being Raked Up to Cover DSC Irregularities

Tadepalli, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP former minister Adimulapu Suresh alleged that the coalition government was raking up the Group-I issue to divert attention from alleged irregularities in Mega DSC recruitment and protect Education Minister Nara Lokesh. Addressing a press conference in Tadepalli on Sunday, Suresh said the Group-I issue was being politicised despite authentic records being available, while questions raised over DSC irregularities remained unanswered. He said Group-I evaluation was conducted properly and alleged that the future of 163 selected officers currently serving was being put at risk due to the coalition government's actions. Suresh claimed that the questions raised by the coalition government had been addressed in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) report. However, he questioned why the government was reluctant to order a CBI inquiry into the DSC recruitment process if it had nothing to hide. He alleged that the Group-I controversy was being used as a diversion and demanded that the government address the DSC concerns transparently.

R.K. Roja Demand Apology from Naidu

Nagari/Visakhapatnam/Nellore, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP women leaders have demanded a public apology from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over his reported remarks on women accepting money during elections and subsequently questioning the government. Former Minister R.K. Roja, YSRCP Women's Wing State President Varudu Kalyani and Working President Kakani Poojitha, speaking separately, criticised the Chief Minister and alleged that his comments were an insult to women. Roja said Chandrababu had no moral authority to lecture women on electoral practices and alleged that several promises made to women before the elections remained unfulfilled. She demanded action on commitments including Aadabidda Nidhi, zero-interest loans, pensions from the age of 50 for eligible sections and unemployment assistance. Varudu Kalyani questioned the status of the government's "Super Six" promises, including Aadabidda Nidhi, zero-interest loans and free LPG cylinders. She challenged Chandrababu to publicly clarify allegations regarding

the distribution of money during elections and accused the government of focusing more on publicity than welfare delivery. Kakani Poojitha alleged that the Chief Minister's remarks were intended to discourage women from questioning the government. She raised concerns over women's safety measures, including the status of the Disha initiative, and criticised alleged restrictions affecting free bus travel and LPG-related benefits. The YSRCP leaders also referred to issues concerning welfare schemes and alleged irregularities in DSC recruitment, stating that women had the right to question the government on matters affecting their families and livelihoods. They warned that women would remember both the alleged failure to fulfil electoral promises and what they described as an insult to their dignity. They demanded that Chandrababu withdraw his remarks, apologise publicly and fulfil the commitments made to women.



Appala Naidu Question Jagan's Absence from Independence Day Flag Hoisting

Amaravati, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

TDP MP Kaliseti Appala Naidu and MLC Panchumarthi Anuradha questioned YSRCP president Jagan Mohan Reddy over his alleged absence from the national flag-hoisting ceremony on Independence Day. Kaliseti Appala Naidu criticised Jagan for not participating in the flag-hoisting ceremony and contrasted his absence with the patriotism of 84-year-old Sitaravamma, who, despite being in hospital, reportedly held the national flag. "Jagan was too lazy to hoist the national flag. Sitaravamma, despite being in the hospital, held the flag and demonstrated her patriotism. Jagan should feel ashamed looking at her. Yesterday, we realised just how much respect he has for the national flag," Appala Naidu said. He added that people would teach Jagan a lesson for what he described as disrespect towards the national flag. Panchumarthi Anuradha also launched a sharp attack on the YSRCP leader, questioning his priorities. "Does Jagan have time to visit rowdies and ganja gangs? He possesses no patriotism, only a mindset focused on ill-gotten wealth. A person like Jagan is unfit for politics," she said. The TDP leaders' remarks come amid continuing political exchanges between the ruling alliance and the YSRCP.

Palla Srinivasa Rao Hands Rs.5 Lakh Aid to Danayya's Family

Palasa, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao visited the family of Danayya, a shepherd who died in a road accident at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district last month, and handed over Rs.5 lakh financial assistance on behalf of the TDP. Srinivasa Rao, accompanied by Palasa constituency coordinator Venkanna Chowdary, visited Danayya's residence in Palasa on Saturday night and consoled his family members. He assured them of the party's support during the difficult period. Speaking on the occasion, Srinivasa Rao criticised YSRCP leaders over their alleged response to the accident and said political leaders should stand by victims and their families. "Any leader ought to stand by the victims. However, YSRCP leaders are siding with those who caused the accident; leaders of that party have made a mockery of the law," he said. Danayya reportedly died after being hit by a motorcycle allegedly belonging to the son of former minister Seediri Appalaraju. Earlier, Minister Kolu Parthasarathy had provided Rs.5 lakh to the bereaved family, while Palasa MLA Gouthu Sireesha had extended Rs.50,000 assistance. Srinivasa Rao said the TDP would continue to support the family and ensure that the concerns of the victims were not ignored.

Durga Temple Witnesses Heavy Rush



Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

A large number of devotees thronged the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada as consecutive holidays on Independence Day and Sunday led to a significant increase in pilgrim footfall. Devotees from across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana arrived in large numbers, resulting in heavy crowds along the ghat road and temple queue lines. Anticipating the rush, temple authorities made special arrangements to ensure smooth and peaceful darshan.

For the convenience of devotees, VIP and Antar alaya darshan were suspended between 10 am and 3 pm. Battery-operated vehicles and wheelchairs were made available for elderly and differently abled devotees visiting the hilltop. Drinking water, milk and buttermilk were continuously supplied to devotees waiting in the queues. Temple authorities also

extended darshan timings and took additional measures to reduce waiting time and prevent inconvenience. Temple Trust Board Chairman Radhakrishna Gandhi and Executive Officer Seena Nayak personally inspected the queue lines and interacted with devotees to assess the facilities being provided. They enquired about waiting times and the availability of drinking water, milk and other amenities, and instructed officials to ensure devotees received darshan as quickly and comfortably as possible.

In view of the heavy rush, Vijayawada police deployed additional personnel around the ghat road and temple premises to regulate traffic and maintain security.

The coordinated efforts of temple authorities, staff and police ensured that devotees had a peaceful darshan without any untoward incidents. Officials said crowd management measures would continue as long as the heavy pilgrim rush persists.

ASMITA Khelo India Soft Tennis Women's League Concludes



Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

The ASMITA Khelo India Soft Tennis Women's League concluded successfully in Vijayawada on Sunday, August 16, 2026, with participation from women athletes and sports officials. The opening ceremony was attended by V. Sreenubabu, President of the Andhra Pradesh Soft Tennis Association, as chief guest. Dr P. Murali, Secretary, Scouts and Guides, along with

K.D. Prasanna Babu, Secretary, and N. Nagababu, Treasurer of the NTR District Soft Tennis Association, were also present.

The closing ceremony was graced by P. Surendra Babu, Sports Officer (Khelo India), Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh, as chief guest. K. Stalin, Advocate, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, and M. Veeranjani, Treasurer, Andhra Pradesh Netball Association, attended the concluding programme.

Civic Body to Hold Public Grievance Forum on Monday

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

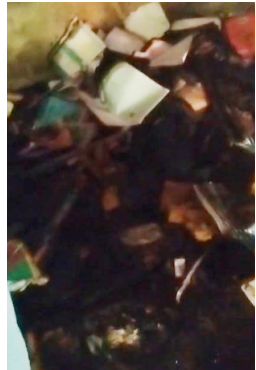
The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) will conduct its weekly public grievance redressal programme on Monday at both its head office and zonal offices, Commissioner Dhyana Chandra said. The programme is aimed at receiving civic complaints from residents and taking steps for their speedy resolution. Citizens can approach the VMC office or the nearest zonal office to submit complaints related to municipal services. According to the Commissioner, complaints will be received from 10 am to 1 pm. Officials concerned will be available at the zonal offices as well as the VMC headquarters to receive grievances and initiate necessary action. The Commissioner urged citizens to make use of the public grievance platform and bring their civic issues to the notice of officials. The initiative is intended to provide residents with easier access to municipal authorities and ensure that their complaints are addressed promptly.



SFI Seeks Probe into Fire at Vijayawada Municipal School

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

The Students' Federation of India (SFI) NTR district and Vijayawada Central City committees have expressed concern over the major fire that broke out at Subba Reddy Municipal High School in the Kandkra area on Sunday. SFI leaders demanded an immediate and comprehensive inquiry to determine the exact cause of the fire and identify any lapses in safety measures. They called for a thorough inspection of the school's electrical wiring, electrical equipment, fire safety systems, emergency exits and fire-fighting equipment by qualified experts. The organisation urged the government and officials to conduct special safety inspections at all government schools in Vijayawada and rectify deficiencies immediately. SFI also said that if the fire



damaged the school building, educational materials or affected students' studies, authorities should assess the losses, undertake repairs and make alternative arrangements to ensure that education continues without disruption. SFI NTR district president *V. Shanmukh* and secretary *C.H. Venkateswara Rao* said students' safety must remain the top priority and demanded permanent measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta Offers Prayers to Goddess Durga



Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau
Andhra Pradesh Director

General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta, along with his wife, offered special prayers at

the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in

Vijayawada on Sunday. Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi)

and Executive Officer V.K. Seena Nayak accorded a traditional welcome to the DGP couple on their arrival. They had darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga and participated in special rituals.

At the Ashirvada Mandapam, Vedic scholars performed traditional Veda Ashirvachanam for the DGP. Temple authorities presented him with the Goddess's sacred Sesha Vasthram, Laddu Prasadam and a framed portrait of the deity as a memento.

Speaking on the occasion, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta appreciated the arrangements being made at the temple for devotees. He particularly praised the queue management system and the ongoing development works aimed at facilitating smooth movement

of pilgrims. The DGP said the measures taken by the temple chairman and EO were helping provide ordinary devotees with a peaceful and spiritually uplifting darshan experience. He appreciated their efforts to ensure that devotees could visit the shrine comfortably without unnecessary inconvenience. Temple priests, board members, ADCP Gunnam Rama Krishna, One Town CI Guna Ram and other senior police officials were present during the visit.

The DGP's visit took place amidst the temple's ongoing efforts to strengthen pilgrim facilities and improve arrangements at the prominent shrine, which attracts large numbers of devotees from across Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states.

Kesineni Sivanath Visits Jain Temple

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) visited a Jain temple in the Vijayawada West constituency and sought the blessings of Jain monk Jinagam during the sacred Chaturmas period. Jain community elders and leaders accorded a warm welcome to the MP and felicitated him during his visit. Kesineni Chinni met the monk and discussed various spiritual matters, Jain traditions and the significance of Chaturmas. Speaking on the occasion, the MP



said meeting Jinagam was a special and spiritually enriching experience. He said Chaturmas holds great significance for the Jain community and is observed over a period of four months. The monk is staying in Vijayawada during this period, which, he said, was a matter of pride for the city.

Kesineni Chinni noted that Vijayawada is home to people belonging to different religions and traditions who live together harmoniously like members of one family. He appreciated the Jain community's devotion and service activities

undertaken during Chaturmas.

The MP said he was happy to visit the temple at the invitation of the Jain community and expressed his willingness to visit the shrine again in the future. He praised the community members for observing Chaturmas with devotion and participating in various welfare and service activities.

Jain community representatives Solanki Rajendra Kumar Jain, Mafatlal, Dalpat, Praveen, Sushil, Dinesh Murali, Bose and Kaku Mallikarjuna Yadav, among others, participated in the programme.

Krishnalanka Residents Demand Underpass

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

CPM leaders and residents of Krishnalanka's 22nd Division staged a protest on Sunday demanding immediate construction of an underpass on the national highway to facilitate safe movement of pedestrians and prevent accidents.

CPM State Committee member Donepudi Kasinath and Vijayawada East secretary P. Krishna said Krishnalanka was among the oldest localities in Vijayawada but continued to lag behind in development due to the alleged negligence of successive governments and public representatives. They said residents had been demanding a subway since the national highway was developed in 2017. However, only one subway was constructed near Ranigari Thota, leaving the 21st and 22nd Divisions and surrounding areas dependent on a single facility. The leaders said the existing underpass was inadequate for the growing population and had resulted in traffic congestion and inconvenience, particularly for residents living farther away from the facility. They demanded that an



additional underpass be constructed in the 22nd Division without further delay. The CPM leaders also raised concerns over pending housing and land-related issues involving around 1,150 houses in Krishnalanka, alleging that the matter had remained unresolved for nearly two years. They urged the government to intervene immediately, address the housing issue and sanction the proposed underpass. They warned that continued neglect of local concerns could lead to stronger public protests. CPM city committee members Bathula Chinnarao and Korada Ramana, along with local leaders and residents, participated in the protest.

Ministers Highlight Gouthu Latchanna's Legacy

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Ministers Savitha, Anagani Satyaprasad, Kollu Ravindra, Kollu Parthasarathy and Atchannaidu said the Andhra Pradesh coalition government was drawing inspiration from the ideals and struggles of veteran leader Sardar Gouthu Latchanna and working towards the social, economic and political empowerment of Backward Classes (BCs). The State-level 117th birth anniversary celebrations of Latchanna were organised by the BC Corporation at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on Sunday. Ministers and leaders paid floral tributes to his statue before addressing the gathering. Minister Savitha recalled Latchanna's participation in the freedom movement and his lifelong struggle for the rights of BCs, farmers and workers. She said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was implementing welfare and educational initiatives aimed at advancing BC communities and had declared Latchanna's birth anniversary a State festival.

Minister Anagani Satyaprasad highlighted Latchanna's long marches and campaigns for farmers and said his contribution to backward



communities remained an inspiration. He alleged that several BCs faced violence during the previous government and said the present coalition government was prioritising their education and welfare. Minister Kollu Ravindra said the government was working to strengthen BC representation and would soon bring a BC protection law. He also accused the previous government of targeting BC leaders through false cases. Minister Kollu Parthasarathy called for unity among BC communities and urged youth to remain vigilant against attempts to create divisions.

As part of the celebrations, Rs.25 lakh in cash awards was distributed to 125 students from the Goud community who excelled in Class 10 and Intermediate examinations.

Kuchipudi Performance Captivates Devotees at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

A captivating Kuchipudi dance performance enthralled devotees at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Sunday evening. The performance was organised as part of 'Dharmapatham', the temple's cultural platform aimed at promoting classical arts, traditional culture and Sanatana Dharma. The programme began at 6.30 pm and featured

performances by a young team led by Vijayawada-based artist Kumari Shriya. The dancers presented a series of devotional and classical compositions, receiving appreciation from devotees and visitors who had gathered at the temple for darshan. The programme commenced with a prayerful presentation of 'Vinayaka Kauthvam' and the 'Mooshika Vahana' keerthana, invoking Lord Ganesha through rhythmic footwork and traditional choreography. One of the highlights was the

performance of 'Aigiri Nandini', based on the Mahishasura Mardini Stotram. Through expressive movements and energetic choreography, the dancers portrayed the divine power and fierce beauty of Goddess Durga, leaving the audience spell-bound. The artistes also presented compositions of saint-poet Tallapaka Annamacharya, including 'Vinaro Bhagyanu Vishnu Katha' and 'Chakkani Talliki Changubhala'. Their expressive abhinaya, hand gestures and intricate move-



ments drew applause from the audience. Temple officials, members of the temple trust board and devotees appreciated the performers for showcasing classical dance in a

devotional setting. At the conclusion, the temple authorities felicitated the artistes by presenting them with the Goddess's sacred Sesha Vasthram and prasadam.



The organisers said the 'Dharmapatham' platform would continue to provide opportunities for artists while promoting India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

Collector G. Lakshmisha Pays Tribute to Gouthu Latchanna

Vijayawada, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha called upon people to work towards fulfilling the ideals of freedom fighter and social reformer Sardar Gouthu Latchanna, whose 117th birth anniversary was observed at the District Collectorate on Sunday. The Collector paid floral tributes to Latchanna's portrait and recalled his con-

tributions to the freedom movement, social justice and the welfare of farmers and workers. Dr. Lakshmisha said Latchanna actively participated in the freedom struggle, including the Salt Satyagraha and Quit India Movement. He also organised farmers in the Srikakulam region and fought against the zamindari system and social discrimination. The Collector said Latchanna dedicated his life to safeguarding the rights of farmers, labour-

ers, toddy tappers, poor people and Backward Classes. He also used his position in the legislature to strongly raise public issues. Describing Latchanna's life and public service as an inspiration for future generations, Dr. Lakshmisha urged everyone to follow his ideals. DRO M. Lakshmi Narasimham, officials and employees of the Collectorate participated in the programme.



'Quantum Euphoria' Science Expo Showcases Students' Innovation

CH Raju

A two-day science exhibition titled 'Quantum Euphoria' at Future Kids Global School in Kavalagoyyi, Rajamahendravaram Rural, showcased the innovative talent and scientific curiosity of students. Organised as part of the school's celebrations marking India's 80th Independence Day, the exhibition was inaugurated on August 15 following the Independence Day flag hoisting ceremony. The event continued on August 15 and 16 and attracted students, parents, educators and professors from Rajamahendravaram and surrounding areas. School Director Aleti Ravibabu said the exhibition was designed to encourage practical knowledge and general awareness among students in line with rapid advancements in modern technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI). He said the initiative aimed to create an environment where students could understand emerging technologies through hands-on learning. Senior students presented working models and demonstrations covering advanced subjects such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, robotics,



mechanics, the cosmic calendar and start-up companies. A quantum computing model independently developed by Class XII students emerged as one of the major attractions, reflecting their understanding of emerging technologies. The exhibition also featured science models, short plays and cultural performances by students,

adding to the festive atmosphere. Visitors appreciated the students' ability to explain complex scientific concepts in an accessible manner. Dr. Mannam Ramanjaneyulu, Assistant Professor of Physics at Vignan University, and Dr. V. Ramanathan, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Banaras Hindu University, attended as chief guests. The event interacted with the students, examined their projects and appreciated their efforts and creativity. The event was organised with the participation of Managing Director Aleti Ravibabu, Chairperson Aleti Vijaya, CEO Mahesh, Principal Seshagiri, Dean Harshini, teachers and students. The school management said the exhibition reflected its focus on combining scientific learning with creativity and preparing students to understand the technologies shaping the future.

work of party leaders and workers would always receive due recognition. He said Yesupadam had worked consistently for strengthening the Jana Sena Party and promoting its ideology, and his services had now received recognition under the coalition government. He expressed confidence that Yesupadam would contribute significantly to the promotion of arts and support artists in his new role, bringing greater recognition to Rajanagaram constituency. Yesupadam thanked Jana Sena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, coalition leaders and MLA Bathula Balamakrishna for entrusting him with the responsibility and extending their support. Jana Sena, TDP and BJP coalition leaders, activists and local representatives participated in the programme.

Maddala Yesupadam Appointed State Dance Academy Director



East Godavari, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Senior Jana Sena Party leader Maddala Yesupadam, who was recently appointed Director of the Andhra Pradesh State Dance Academy, was felicitated at a programme organised in Rajanagaram constituency. The felicitation programme was held at GVKK Function Hall in Seethanagaram mandal, with a large number of coalition leaders, public representatives, party workers and supporters attending. Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balamakrishna and his wife Bathula Venkatalakshmi were the chief guests. The couple honoured Yesupadam by presenting him with a shawl and bouquet and congratulated him on his new responsibility. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Balamakrishna said the hard

work of party leaders and workers would always receive due recognition. He said Yesupadam had worked consistently for strengthening the Jana Sena Party and promoting its ideology, and his services had now received recognition under the coalition government. He expressed confidence that Yesupadam would contribute significantly to the promotion of arts and support artists in his new role, bringing greater recognition to Rajanagaram constituency. Yesupadam thanked Jana Sena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, coalition leaders and MLA Bathula Balamakrishna for entrusting him with the responsibility and extending their support. Jana Sena, TDP and BJP coalition leaders, activists and local representatives participated in the programme.

AITUC to Hold Protest on August 18

Eluru, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) will organise protests across Eluru district on August 18 against what it termed anti-worker policies of the Central and State governments. AITUC Eluru district president Thorla pati Babu and general secretary Reddy Srinivas Dange said demonstrations would be held at tahsildar offices as part of the statewide call issued by the AITUC State Committee. The union demanded regularisation of outsourcing, contract

and NMR employees, protection of public sector enterprises and industries, and stronger safeguards for labour rights. It also sought payment of pending 11th PRC dues, surrender leave benefits and constitution of the 12th Pay Revision Commission with 30 per cent Interim Relief. Other demands include equal pay for equal work and a minimum monthly wage of Rs.26,000 for outsourcing and contract employees. AITUC appealed to employees, workers and union members to participate in the protests in large numbers.

BCs Must Strive for Political Power



Rajamahendravaram, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Retired DGP and All India Bahujan Samaj Party National Coordinator J. Poornachandra Rao said the development of backward and marginalised communities was possible only through political empowerment. He demanded that 44 per cent reservation be implemented for BCs in local body elections. He was speaking at the 117th birth anniversary celebrations of freedom fighter and social reformer Sardar Gouthu Latchanna, organised by the BC Chaitanya Vedika at Anam Kala Kendra in Rajamahendravaram on Sunday. Veeravalli Srinivas presided over the programme. Poornachandra Rao alleged that BCs, despite constituting a significant share of the population, were not receiving adequate political representation. He said Bahujan communities should unite

and work towards securing greater representation in legislative bodies and local institutions. He also criticised successive political parties for what he described as inadequate opportunities for BC, SC, ST and minority communities. He called upon people from these sections to work collectively for political empowerment and social justice. BC leader Margani Nageswara Rao recalled Latchanna's contribution to the BC movement and said he had played an important role in the struggle for a separate Andhra State. He said Latchanna's life remained an inspiration for social justice movements. Several BC and Bahujan community leaders, including Anushree Satyanarayana, Palika Sreenu, Guttula Satyanarayana, K. Sanjeeva Rao, Pithani Kutumba Rao, Boodida Sharath Kumar, Potluri Devi and Khandavalli Lakshmi, attended the programme.

Chiranjeevi Inspires Millions Through Social Service: Durgesh



Rajamahendravaram, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said Megastar and Padma Vibhushan awardee Chiranjeevi has inspired millions not only as a film star but also through his commitment to social service. The minister participated in a large voluntary blood donation camp organised at the Jana Sena Party city office in Rajamahendravaram to mark Chiranjeevi's birthday. He cut a cake and felicitated blood donors with mementoes and certificates. Durgesh appreciated Chiranjeevi's long-standing appeal for voluntary blood donation and said such camps

could help save lives during emergencies. He lauded fans and Jana Sena workers who have continued the initiative over the years, noting that several donors had donated blood multiple times. The minister also praised Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for attending public programmes despite health concerns and fulfilling his commitments to handicraft workers. Durgesh said Jana Sena workers were following Pawan Kalyan's guidance to maintain discipline in political discourse and focus on constructive criticism rather than personal attacks or abusive language. Jana Sena leaders, Tourism Director Ghanta Swaroopa and others attended the programme.

CH Vivek Wins Eluru Open Chess Tournament

Eluru, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

CH Vivek emerged as the winner of the Eluru Open Chess Tournament organised by the PSFI and PMS public organisations as part of the celebrations marking India's 80th Independence Day. The tournament concluded on Saturday, with the organisers presenting cash prizes, mementoes and certificates to the winners. P. Suchitra secured the second position, while S. Shailesh finished third. J. Akshith and K. Navadeep secured the fourth and fifth positions respectively. Speaking on the occasion, PSFI district convener P. Shivashankar and PMS district secretary G. Sharada said the tournament was organised with the objective of developing analytical thinking, concentration and intellectual abilities among students. They said students from various schools participated enthusiastically in the competition and demonstrated considerable interest in chess. The organisers stressed that students should focus not only on academics



but also develop skills through sports and other extracurricular activities. The organisers said chess helps students improve logical thinking, decision-making and problem-solving abilities and expressed satisfaction over the response to the tournament. Internationally rated chess player D. Lakshmana Rao and Chief Arbiter K. Krishnakumari were among those who participated in the programme. The organisers congratulated all the winners and participants and encouraged students to continue taking part in sporting activities.

Police Intensify Anti-Ganja Operations Under 'Vajra Prahar'



Bapatla, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

The Bapatla district police have intensified efforts to make the district free from ganja and other narcotic substances under the 'Vajra Prahar' programme, conducting cordon-and-search operations in Chirala and Amruthalur police station limits on Sunday. Acting on the directions of Bapatla District SP Umamaheswar, around 125 police officers and personnel participated in the operations. A total of 58 vehicles without valid documents were seized during the searches. In Panchalavaram under Amruthalur limits, searches were conducted under the supervision of Repalle DSP Shaik Abdul Aziz and Chunduru CI Anand. Police teams comprising CIs, 10 SIs and 81 personnel seized 29 vehicles lacking proper documents. In Bandapalem under Chirala One Town limits, teams

led by Chirala One Town CI G. Somashekar and Two Town CI S. Shashikumar, along with four SIs and 30 personnel, conducted house-to-house searches. They seized 21 two-wheelers and eight autos for lack of valid documents. SP Umamaheswar said narcotic substances such as ganja were damaging the future of young people and that the operations were aimed at preventing their sale and transportation. Police also collected information about previous offenders and created awareness among residents about the harmful effects of drugs. Residents were encouraged to take a pledge to stay away from narcotic substances. The SP appealed to people to report ganja sales or illegal transportation by calling 112 or the Bapatla District Command Control number 8333813228. He assured that the identity of informants would be kept confidential.

Eluru MLA Badeti Chanti Warns Against Fraud



Eluru, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MLA and district Telugu Desam Party president Badeti Chanti warned that while genuine mistakes could be forgiven, fraud and deliberate cheating would not be tolerated. He made the remarks while participating in the 'Intintiki Desam' programme at Chepala Thoomu Centre in the 36th Division on Sunday as part of the TDP's 'Two Years of Trust - Development and Welfare' campaign. Accompanied by party workers, the MLA went door-to-door and distributed pamphlets highlighting the development and welfare initiatives of the coalition government. Badeti Chanti said ensuring welfare benefits and economic support to people remained a key

priority of the government. He warned that strict action would be taken against those found involved in irregularities in DWCRAs groups. He also cautioned party members against activities that could weaken the organisation, stating that such conduct would not be tolerated. The MLA announced that three roads would be sanctioned in the 36th Division as part of local development works and assured residents that efforts would be made to complete the projects at the earliest. Constituency party observer Meera vali, EDA chairman Peddiboyina Siva prasad, city TDP president Chode Venkataram, former chairman Uppala Jagadish Babu, former deputy mayor Pappu Uma Maheswara Rao and coalition leaders participated in the programme.

Senior Journalist Brahmaiah Selected for PIB Rajasthan Media Tour

Eluru, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Senior journalist Bezawada Brahmaiah, Eluru district bureau representative of Visalandhra, has been selected by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) to participate in a Rajasthan Media Tour aimed at studying Central government institutions and development projects. Brahmaiah, who has extensive experience in journalism, will visit various Central government projects, institutions and welfare initiatives in Rajasthan as part of the programme. The tour will provide participating journalists an opportunity to directly observe project implementation and interact with officials. The selection was welcomed by Visalandhra staff, government officials and political leaders in Eluru district, who congratulated Brahmaiah and appreciated the recognition. They said the tour would provide him with first-hand information on the implementation of Central government schemes and help bring useful information



to the people. PIB media tours facilitate interaction between journalists and officials through field visits and direct observation of development initiatives. Colleagues and well-wishers wished Brahmaiah a successful tour and expressed confidence that his experience would help him effectively communicate the information gathered during the Rajasthan visit.

Minister Durgesh Pays Tribute to Gouthu Latchanna

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh paid rich tributes to freedom fighter and social reformer Sardar Gouthu Latchanna on his 117th birth anniversary in Rajamahendravaram on Sunday. The minister garlanded Latchanna's statue at Y-Junction and recalled his lifelong contribution to the uplift of weaker and backward sections. Describing Latchanna's life as an inspiration for everyone, Durgesh called upon people to follow his ideals and principles. The minister said Latchanna was one of the few leaders who received the popular title "Sardar" after Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He recalled Latchanna's participation in the Salt Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience Movement in 1932, for which he underwent imprisonment during the freedom struggle. Durgesh said Latchanna played a significant role in shaping political developments in the Telugu-speaking regions both before and after Independence. Irrespective of political



affiliations, he worked throughout his life for the welfare and empowerment of Backward Classes, he said. The minister also noted that Latchanna had advocated decentralisation and the creation of smaller states much ahead of his time. Durgesh thanked the coalition government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, for officially observing Latchanna's birth anniversary as a state event. Representatives of Gouda, Settibailija, Ediga, Srisaina and Yata welfare associations, along with members of the statue installation committee, participated in the programme.

Collector Urges Public Feedback on PGRS Services

Eluru, Aug 16 | TPN Bureau

Eluru District Collector K. Vetrivelu urged citizens to provide feedback on the services received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) using the QR code facility introduced by the government. The Collector said the initiative was aimed at making grievance redressal more transparent, responsive and accountable. QR codes have been prominently displayed at the entry and exit points of district and mandal-level PGRS centres so that citizens can easily access them. She explained that people can scan the QR code using their mobile phones immediately after receiving PGRS services and record their feedback and satisfaction level. The responses submitted through the QR code will be directly received through the official PGRS portal, helping authorities assess the quality of services and identify areas requiring improvement. Vetrivelu also advised citizens to make use of the PGRS programme conducted every Monday at the District Collectorate and mandal offices to submit petitions concerning their grievances. She said citizens could track the status of their petitions by calling the toll-free number 1100 and obtain



information about the progress of their complaints. The Collector appealed to the public to actively participate in the grievance redressal mechanism by submitting petitions and sharing their feedback through the QR code. She said public suggestions and satisfaction levels would help the administration improve the delivery of services. "Submit your grievances and share your feedback," Vetrivelu urged citizens, stressing that public participation was essential for making PGRS services more effective and people-friendly.

The Flow of Patriotic Songs - Poet Pradeep



"Aaj Himalay ki choti se
Phir humne lalkaara hai,
Door hato ae duniya waalon,
Yeh Hindustan hamara hai..."
"From the summit of the
Himalayas
We challenge the world once
again;
Step aside, people of the world-
This Hindustan belongs to us."
These stirring lines were written
by Poet Pradeep for the 1943
film Kismet. Written four years
before India attained independ-
ence, the song was a bold chal-
lenge to the British rulers and
soon became an anthem of the
national spirit.
At first, the British authorities
failed to grasp the song's deeper
meaning and paid little atten-
tion to it. Once they understood
its unmistakably anti-colonial
message, however, they issued a
warrant for Pradeep's arrest,
forcing him to go underground.
The song became so immensely
popular that at every screening,
in almost every theatre, audi-
ences demanded that the reel be
rewound and the song played
again. The extraordinary popu-
larity of Kismet, with the song
at its heart, turned the film into
a phenomenon. In Calcutta
alone, it reportedly ran in the
same theatre for three years and
eight months. A distributor who
had acquired its rights for mere-
ly eight thousand rupees is said
to have made profits of more
than a crore. Such was the spell
cast by the song and the film
upon the public imagination.
But "Door Hato Ae Duniya



Waalo" was only one stream in
the vast river of Pradeep's patri-
otic poetry. He wrote numerous
songs of national awakening
during the freedom struggle,
and sometimes sang them him-
self. Through them, he became
almost synonymous with patri-
otic songs in Indian cinema.
To remember Poet Pradeep dur-
ing the celebrations of India's
independence is, in a sense, to
remember a generation whose
love for the country was not
merely an emotion but a form of
courage.
Another memorable song, "Chal
Chal Re Naujawan, Chalo Sangh
Chale Hum...", from the 1940
film Bandhan, captured the
imagination of people across
the country. It also became the
cherished song of the Vanar
Sena, the children's group asso-
ciated with Indira Gandhi dur-
ing the freedom movement. In
Punjab and Sindh, the song was
sung with such fervour that it
almost acquired the status of a
national song.
Thus, even under British rule,
Pradeep used the popular med-
ium of cinema to awaken patriot-
ism and inspire people.
Then came the trauma of the
1962 Indo-China War. Deeply
moved by the sacrifice of Indian
soldiers, Pradeep wrote:
"Ae mere watan ke logon,
Tum khoob lagao naara...
Yeh shubh din hai hum sab ka,
Lehra lo tiranga pyaara.
Par mat bhoolo seema par
Veeron ne hain praan gan-
vaaye...
Kuchh yaad unhein bhi kar lo,
Jo laut ke ghar na aaye..."
The song moved an entire
nation to tears. When Lata
Mangeshkar sang it with
extraordinary emotion at
Delhi's National Stadium in
1963, Prime Minister Jawaharlal
Nehru was visibly over-
whelmed. He embraced Lata and

reportedly told her, "You made
me cry today, child."
Pradeep, who was introduced to
Nehru on that occasion, was
invited the same day to Teen
Murti Bhavan to sing the song.
He was subsequently honoured
by the Government of India
with the distinction of
Rashtrakavi, the National Poet.
Pradeep's patriotic repertoire
also includes the unforgettable
songs from Jagriti. His tribute
to Mahatma Gandhi-
"De di humein azaadi bina
khadag bina dhaal,
Sabarmati ke sant, tune kar
diya kamaal..." celebrated
Gandhi's unique power of non-
violence. Another song, "Hum
laaye hain toofan se kashti
nikaal ke..."
Continued to inspire genera-
tions of children. These songs
still return every year on
Children's Day, carrying with
them the fragrance of an older
India and the idealism of its
freedom struggle.
From Ramu to Poet Pradeep
Poet Pradeep was born on 2
February 1915 in Badnagar in
the Malwa region of Madhya
Pradesh. His parents named
him Ramchandra Dwivedi, and
he was affectionately called
Ramu.
His mother sang devotional bha-
jans, and their music left a deep
impression on the young boy.
From his father, he inherited a
strong sense of self-respect and
a stubborn independence of
spirit. Whether at school with a
teacher or at his maternal
grandmother's home with an
uncle, Ramu was never one to
quietly accept a word that
offended his dignity.
After completing his
intermediate education in
Allahabad, he went on to study
at Lucknow University. Those
around him advised him to
undergo teacher training and

take up teaching as a profession.
But the routine of classrooms
and textbooks did not appeal to
him. He chose poetry instead.
While living in Lucknow, Ramu
gradually emerged as Poet
Pradeep. His poetry began
attracting attention, and his
poem Panipat became particu-
larly popular at kavi sammel-
ans, the celebrated gatherings
of Hindi poets.
A turning point came when
Pradeep travelled to Bombay to
participate in one such literary
gathering. The eminent film-
maker and producer Himanshu
Rai heard him recite his poetry
and invited him to his office.
Pradeep, who had a handsome
face, apparently imagined that
Rai might offer him an opportu-
nity to act in films. Instead,
Himanshu Rai offered him a job

they introduced him to a young
woman named Bhadra, Pradeep
apparently said that he wanted
to "interview" her.
Nervous about what questions
he might ask, she faced him an-
xiously. He asked her only one
question:
"I am a burning flame. If you
can be like water, will you
marry me?"
The answer was yes-and the
marriage took place. They had
two daughters.
Pradeep wrote not only patriotic
songs but also devotional songs
and bhajans. His life, however,
was not made entirely of suc-
cess and happiness. It also car-
ried profound grief. One night,
unidentified assailants attacked
and killed both his parents. It
took him a long time to recover
from that devastating loss.



Varala Anand

Poet, Film Critic &
Recipient of Kendra Sahitya
Akademi Award for Translation

as a lyricist, with a monthly
salary of two hundred rupees,
a substantial amount in those
days.
For the 1939 film Kangan,
Pradeep wrote four songs. For
Bandhan, he wrote twelve songs
and also sang two of them,
revealing that his talents
extended beyond writing to
singing as well.
His songs for Nastik and Jagriti
became great successes. After
independence, when communal
hatred and the violence of
Partition had left the country
wounded, Pradeep wrote and
sang the deeply reflective song
for Nastik:
"Dekh tere sansaar ki haalat,
kya ho gayi Bhagwan..."
an anguished question to God
about what had become of the
world.
For Jagriti, he wrote another
enduring favourite:
"Aao bachchon tumhein
dikhayein...
Vande Mataram, Vande
Mataram..." The song continues
to resonate with children and
adults alike.
The Man Behind the Songs
Pradeep's personal life, too, had
its moments of warmth and sor-
row. While he was living in
Bombay, his parents began look-
ing for a bride for him. When

Yet he continued to write.
His songs became a bridge
between poetry and the collec-
tive consciousness of a nation.
They carried the voice of free-
dom into cinema, brought the
memory of sacrifice into the
hearts of ordinary people, and
transformed patriotism from an
abstract idea into something
that could be sung, felt and
remembered.
Poet Pradeep stands today as
one of the great peaks of India's
patriotic songwriting tradition.
His contribution was recognised
with the Sangeet Natak
Akademi Award and the
Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
His songs have outlived the cir-
cumstances that gave birth to
them. They continue to return
whenever India remembers its
freedom, its soldiers, its chil-
dren, Gandhi, the Tricolour-and
the countless lives that made
independence possible.
To pay tribute to Poet Pradeep
on the occasion of India's free-
dom celebrations is to remem-
ber a poet who turned patriot-
ism into song, song into emo-
tion, and emotion into the
enduring memory of a nation.
- In remembrance of Poet
Pradeep, whose words continue
to inspire generations and echo
the spirit of our nation.

POND

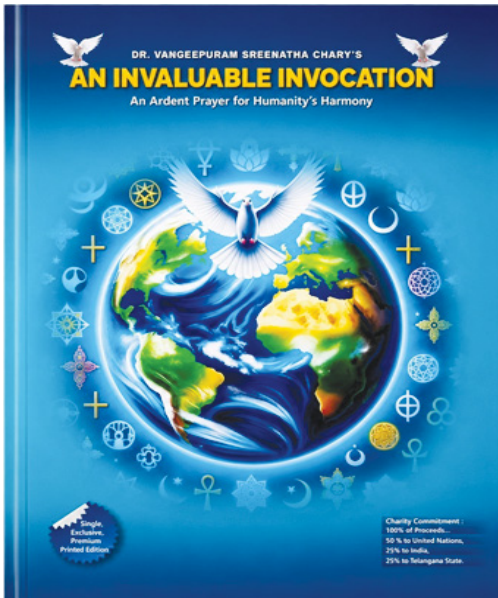


Buds and blossoms, ripples wide,
Dark-winged birds in waters glide.
Frogs that leap and crabs that crawl
The pond, our playground, home to all.
Some splash and flail, unsure yet bold,
While fearless ones dive deep and cold.
From the bund, they leap so high,
In waters cool, their laughter flies.
We chase the fish, swift and bright,
Casting nets in golden light.
We race the winds, we sail with leaves,
Feeling the pulse the water breathes.
We float like boats, we ride the tide,
In joy's embrace, we slip and slide.
We splash, we swirl, we dance around,
Till sunset hums its farewell sound.
Batukamma drifts on waters blue,
Ganapati's clay dissolves there too.
Monkeys swing from temple trees,
Gold bugs dance in autumn's breeze.
With lotus blooms,
we weave our dreams, In baskets tight, in
streams that gleam.
Drums resound, the echoes call,
As cattle march through
festival halls.
New rice grains a farmer's pride,
Blessed by fire in pots they rise.
Toddy drips, the jaggery flows,
As farmers rest where palm trees grow.
The weaver hums as threads entwine,
The potter shapes with hands divine.
The shepherd's flute, the washer's tune,
The tanner's hands beneath the moon.
Fishers wade with woven nets,
Sun-kissed waves their faces wet.
Herders bring their goats to drink,
As golden clouds in waters sink.
Drenched saris dry in colors bright,
Like rainbows stitched in morning light.
The pond a canvas, vast and free,
Reflects our life, our joy, our glee.
Now the pond stands cracked and dry,
No fish to leap, no kites to fly.
The paddy fields in dust remain,
The earth thirsts for drops of rain.
Gone are farmers, proud and strong,
Their fields now lost to city throngs.
Hands once drenched in mud so deep,
Now toil where strangers speak.
Canals fade, the land lies bare,
The air is thick with silent despair:
The debts arise, the harvest fails,
A farmer's cry in stormy gales.
Once a kingdom rich with green,
Now a tale of what has been.
Yet if the rains return in tune,
The pond will bloom beneath the moon.
If waters hum their song once more,
The land will thrive as days of yore.
The lost will come, their whistles bright,
Their hands will carve the fields with
light.
The pond will call, the village wake,
With golden crops and fields to rake.
The youth will dance, the elders cheer,
A dawn of hope, a dream so near.
For Telangana will rise again,
Like rushing streams, like monsoon rain.
With village ponds so full, so wide,
The past will bloom, the tears will hide.
The village reborn, The land set free,
The pond returns
So let it be!



Dr Peruka Raju
Multilingual Poet
7810032847

Beyond Poetry: When Literature Walks Towards Humanity



Chennu Peddiraju



Senior Journalist

distinct yet inseparable, forming a sus-
tained meditation on humanity's shared
future. For poet Dr Vangeepuram
Sreenatha Chary, poetry becomes a vehi-
cle for carrying ethical thought into pub-
lic consciousness. His voice throughout
the work is less concerned with literary
display than with awakening compas-
sion, responsibility and a sense of
shared humanity.
**When Literature Walks Towards
Humanity**
If structure provides the framework of
An Invaluable Invocation, moral imagi-
nation gives it life. Moving beyond the
familiar concerns of contemporary lyric
poetry-memory, identity and private
experience-the epic ode deliberately
enlarges its canvas, inviting readers to
engage not merely with the self, but with
civilisation itself. Its world embraces
teachers and students, farmers and sci-
entists, policymakers and ordinary citi-
zens, reminding us that peace is every-
one's responsibility. More than diploma-
cy or political agree ment, peace becomes
a habit of civilisation-cultivated in
homes before parliaments, in classrooms
before conference halls, and in individ-
ual conscience before international
negotiations. Education, justice, environ-
mental stewardship and mutual respect
emerge as its foundations. This vision
finds memorable expression in the affir-
mation: "ALONE one can make SOME
difference; But TOGETHER, we can
CHANGE THE WORLD." It captures the
work's conviction that individual effort
matters, but collective responsibility
transforms. Perhaps the work's most dis-
tinctive contribution is the Humanity
Experiment, where literature moves
beyond aesthetic appreciation towards

humanitarian action. It embodies the
conviction that ideals attain their fullest
meaning when translated into action.
Reaffirming the ideal of one human fam-
ily, An Invaluable Invocation reminds us
that literature can help humanity imag-
ine-and perhaps build-a more compas-
sionate world.
The Quiet Power of Literature
In an age of instant communication,
shrinking attention spans and growing
polarisation, literature offers something
technology cannot replace: the opportu-
nity to pause, reflect and rediscover our
common humanity. Books may not end
wars or eradicate poverty, but they
enlarge imagination, deepen empathy
and influence the moral choices upon
which civilisation depends. In this spirit,
An Invaluable Invocation affirms that lit-
erature need not choose between beauty
and purpose; at its finest, it may embrace
both. Perhaps that is why the book
resists a single literary category. It may
be read as an epic poem, a meditation on
peace or a philosophical reflection on
civilisation. Yet beyond these classifica-
tions, it remains an invitation to recon-
sider our relationship with one another
and the world we inhabit. Every genera-
tion produces works that mirror its anx-
ieties; only a few attempts to illuminate a
path beyond them. Ultimately, An Inv-
aluable Invocation asks a timeless ques-
tion: Can words still inspire us to beco-
me better human beings? That, perhaps,
is the enduring purpose of literature-not
merely to be admired, but to awaken; not
merely to inform, but to transform; not
merely to speak to hu manity, but to walk
with it. Reflect. Introspect. Act. For every
enduring journey towards humanity
begins with a change within ourselves.

Can literature do more than mirror soci-
ety? Can poetry become an instrument of
conscience? Amid conflict, environmen-
tal crises, inequality and eroding trust,
these questions acquire urgency. While
politics negotiates, science innovates
and diplomacy seeks common ground,
literature performs its enduring task:
reminding us that beneath differences of
nationality, language, faith and culture,
we remain one human family.
Great literature has always deepened
human understanding. Homer explored
heroism, Dante redemption,
Shakespeare human nature, Tagore the
unity of the human spirit, and Neruda
peace and justice. They endure because
they do more than describe the world-
they invite us to imagine a better
one. Within this tradition stands An
Invaluable Invocation, subtitled "An
Ardent Prayer for Humanity's Harmony."
Devoted to global peace and harmony,
the epic ode moves beyond noble ideals
to explore how they may become lived
realities through reflection, compassion
and shared responsibility. One of the poems
captures this vision: "One earth, one life,

where none can simply fly; The tears of
one can flood another's heart..." It por-
trays humanity as an interconnected
whole, where suffering knows no borders
and compassion cannot remain confined
within them. The poetry thus reaches
beyond the page-inviting us not merely
to admire humanity, but to participate in
it.
The Architecture of Hope
Conceived in ten interconnected cantos,
An Invaluable Invocation unfolds as a
unified journey-from reflection to
responsibility, and from a fractured
world towards a more humane one.
Prelude to Peace and Invocation estab-
lish its ethical foundations, while
Humanity and Unity and The Broken
World confront violence, division and
ecological neglect without surrendering
hope. The vision expands through inter-
national cooperation and environmental
responsibility before return ing to indi-
vidual awakening as the foundation of
collective action. Its lucid language
allows the ethical vision to speak across
cultures and generations. Like move-
ments in a symphony, the cantos remain

Politricks and Nationalism



Ram Kamal

Social Engineer

Part 5/5

Welcome to the grand theater of Indian "Politricks," where the opposition's primary strategy appears to be enthusiastically swallowing every nationalist bait laid out by the BJP's "Chanakya," Amit Shah. The recent "India@80" reflection paints a beautiful, cynical picture of a democracy where the ruling establishment plays a strategic masterclass, while the opposition is busy demoralizing itself into oblivion.

The Bankrupt, Clueless Opposition

It seems corporate India and foreign funders alike have realized that directly funding the opposition is a terrible return on investment. Why back a seemingly suicidal political bloc when you can just fund RTI activists to create false propaganda instead? Here is a look at how corporate affection (via Electoral Bonds) was distributed between April 2019 and January 2024, leaving the opposition to scramble for scraps:

Data source: Election Commission of India, reflecting encashments between April 2019 and January 2024. If you look at the functional fund raising of Indian Political parties as mentioned above, we could very well see that, the foreign fun-

Political Party	Amount (Crores)	Encashed (in Crores)
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	₹6,060.51	
All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	₹1,609.53	
Indian National Congress (INC)	₹1,421.86	
Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS)	₹1,214.70	
Biju Janata Dal (BJD)	₹775.50	
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)	₹639.00	

ders also stopped funding Congress and their allies. Now there are famous social media independent toolkit operators are handling the traitor show for foreign likings than these political parties.

The "Non - Organic" GenZ Uprisings that again trigger Nationalism

Forget grassroots activism, it is not a preference now. Today's youth protests are portrayed as premium, imported "toolkits" designed to confuse the ignorant through non responsible social media.

The so-called "peaceful" GenZ protests are essentially orchestrated chaos, where imported hooligans intentionally sandwich naive youths against the Delhi police to provoke violence. Leading this "revolution" is Saurav Das, a 26-year-old "independent investigative

India @ 80

journalist" who miraculously affords a luxurious, high-rent apartment and lifestyle in Delhi without a recognizable media job.

Das is allegedly a "Trojan horse" funded by the US-based Thakur Family Foundation (TFF)-founded by Dinesh Thakur, the very whistleblower who helped destroy Ranbaxy to the benefit of Pfizer. His grand mission was to smear indigenous COVID-19 vaccines (Covaxin and Covishield). But it failed, but he could make confusion in the country. Now getting the opportunity under the preface of outrage over NEET exams, he planned all to magically topple the Modi government's self-reliant empire on behalf of foreign billionaires and avoid the proposed and now bills to be paused during the Monsoon session.

Das has also, reportedly, referred to his association with TFF in one of his earlier Instagram posts. Questions have subsequently been raised about his sources of income, professional activities and lifestyle. Such questions, however, should be evaluated on the basis of verifiable evidence rather than assumptions. But he is now succeeded in creating a small ripple in the ocean. Students are particularly susceptible to political narratives pre-

sented through attractive labels and social-media campaigns. The increasing use of terms such as "Gen Z" can sometimes provide a convenient framework for presenting political mobilization as a spontaneous generational movement.

One of the prominent hashtags associated with August 15 this year was #KyaHumSachmuchAzadHain? ("Are we really independent?"). Questions about the meaning of independence are legitimate and necessary in a democracy. However, such questions can also be used politically to create dissatisfaction with government and confuse already ignorant youth to push them to streets unknowingly its pitfalls and slow India's growth.

Let me conclude this discussion of nationalism in India with a thought-provoking idea associated with the philosopher late Jiddu Krishnamurti. Before India's independence, one of the BBC journalists asked Krishnamurti, why he is not fighting for freedom and independence? His answer was swift and crisp. He said I did not give my freedom and independence to anyone. I am free and enjoying it. Krishnamurti consistently emphasized the distinction between political freedom and inner freedom. His phi-



losophy held that changing political authorities does not necessarily liberate the human mind. A person may live in a politically independent country while remaining psychologically conditioned by fear, ambition, authority, ideology and social expectations. This perspective helps explain why Krishnamurti was deeply skeptical of political movements based on collective ideological identification. In his view, political revolutions can replace one authority with another without fundamentally transforming human consciousness. Political independence may change who governs externally, but it does not

automatically free individuals from greed, fear, hatred, prejudice or psychological dependence.

For Krishnamurti, genuine transformation begins with the individual. Society changes when individuals fundamentally examine and transform their own consciousness, rather than simply adopting another collective ideology.

India has a long intellectual tradition of seeking freedom not merely as political sovereignty, but also as freedom of the mind and consciousness. Political parties, governments and opposition movements may differ in their approaches, but none should

seek to manipulate or psychologically condition the Indian people through imported ideologies or externally driven narratives.

Indian nationalism, therefore, should not be reduced merely to political slogans. It should be rooted in India's deeper civilizational understanding of freedom, responsibility, pluralism and self-awareness.

Political independence gave India sovereignty over its institutions. The greater challenge is to preserve the freedom of the Indian mind from foreign ideologies.

Tomorrow: The near history and future forecast on South Indian Politics

Amit Shah Slams Congress Over Vande Mataram Row, Demands Apology



Union Home Minister Amit Shah has criticised Congress leader Sonia Gandhi over an alleged incident involving the national song Vande Mataram during an Independence Day event at the Congress headquarters. Addressing a public gathering, Shah alleged that Sonia Gandhi asked the Congress president to stop the singing of Vande Mataram midway. He said the incident showed disrespect towards the national song and demanded that the Congress leadership apologise to Bankim Babu and the people of the country. Shah said thousands of freedom fighters had sacrificed their lives, faced bullets, lathi charges and imprisonment during the freedom struggle. He alleged that Congress' vote-bank politics had made the party forget the sacrifices associated with Vande Mataram. The Congress rejected Shah's allegations. Congress spokesperson Udit Raj said Sonia Gandhi was gesturing for a chair for party president Mallikarjun Kharge, who is not in good health and cannot stand for long periods. Raj said her gesture was related to managing the proceedings and was not an instruction to stop the national song. Raj accused the BJP of creating a controversy to divert public attention from other issues. He also questioned the historical record of the BJP's ideological mentor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), regarding national symbols. Raj alleged that the RSS did not hoist the national flag for 52 years and questioned when Amit Shah would apologise over the organisation's historical position on the national flag. At the Chittorgarh gathering, Shah also praised former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for taking the decision to conduct the Pokhran nuclear tests despite international pressure. He credited Vajpayee with strengthening rural road connectivity and creating a separate ministry for tribal development. Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken forward Vajpayee's vision in several areas. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma also praised Shah's leadership, saying the country's borders had become highly secure and Maoists had been eliminated. The Vande Mataram dispute has triggered a fresh political confrontation between the BJP and Congress, with both sides defending their positions over the national song and its place in India's public life.

Pune Court Remands Alleged Drug Kingpin Virender Basoya to NCB Custody

A Pune court has remanded alleged drug kingpin Virender Singh Basoya to the custody of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), following his extradition to India from the United Arab Emirates. Basoya, who was allegedly operating an international drug syndicate, was brought back to India under Operation Global Hunt after being apprehended in the UAE through an Interpol Red Notice. He is a key suspect in several major drug cases, including a large cocaine seizure in Delhi. Investigators have alleged that Basoya was linked to a transnational drug network operating through Dubai and other locations. His name had earlier surfaced in connection with a major drug seizure by Pune Police, involving drugs reportedly worth around Rs 3,000 crore. Basoya has also been identified by investigators as an alleged mastermind of a wider syndicate involved in the trafficking of cocaine and other narcotics. The network has been linked to major seizures in Delhi and Gujarat, with authorities recovering more than 1,200 kg of cocaine in related operations. Investigators are expected to question Basoya about the alleged drug network, its financial operations, international connections and the movement of narcotics into India. Earlier investigations indicated that the syndicate allegedly used multiple routes and intermediaries to transport drugs, while some consignments were reportedly moved through pharmaceutical supply chains. Several people have been arrested in cases linked to the network, while other suspects remain under investigation.



Sanjeev Sanyal Says India Must Stop Seeking Foreign Validation

Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council member and historian Sanjeev Sanyal has said India must build greater confidence in its own institutions, knowledge systems and cultural identity instead of constantly seeking foreign validation.

Speaking to NDTV's Gaurie Dwivedi, Sanyal said India's biggest challenge is not choosing one perfect policy but creating enough flexibility to withstand an uncertain global environment. He pointed to rapid advances in artificial intelligence, changing supply chains and India's demographic opportunity as major factors shaping the country's future.

Sanyal said there is no single "grand plan" that can predict how



the world will develop. Instead, India needs flexibility and optionality to absorb unexpected shocks. He said this approach is also reflected in India's engagement

with groups such as the G20, Quad, G7 and BRICS, as well as its expanding network of free-trade agreements.

On the economy, Sanyal noted that India is among the world's largest economies but remains relatively poor in per capita terms. He stressed the need for safety nets while pursuing faster wealth creation.

Sanyal also criticised what he described as India's continuing colonial hangover. He argued that academics often seek foreign recognition through international journals and that Indian industries sometimes depend on foreign certifications. He also called for Indian languages to be treated as living systems capable of produc-

ing new literature and ideas.

Discussing Gen Z, Sanyal acknowledged growing interest among young Indians in history, traditional games, martial arts and cultural practices, while cautioning against treating the generation as a single group.

He also called for a broader understanding of India's freedom struggle and maritime history, arguing that Indian agency and centuries of seafaring have not received adequate attention.

Looking towards 2047, Sanyal expressed confidence that India's growing national self-belief, startups, global companies and willingness to tell its own history could help the country take a stronger position in the world.

Haryana Police Braces for Farmers' March at Khanauri Border

Haryana Police is preparing for a possible confrontation at the Khanauri border as farmers from Punjab plan to march towards Delhi against the proposed India-US trade deal.

The mobilisation is being led by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) under farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal. The organisation has launched its Kisan Bachao Padyatra from Datasinghwa village in Punjab, with the march planned towards Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

The initial leg involves 51 farmers, who are carrying soil from the martyrdom site of farmer Shubhkaran Singh. The participants are scheduled to begin their foot march as part of the campaign. Khanauri, located on the Haryana-Punjab border between Jind and Sangrur, has been a major flashpoint during earlier farmers' protests. Barricades have

been erected and traffic restrictions imposed to prevent farmers from Punjab from entering Haryana.

Shubhkaran Singh, a 21-year-old farmer from Balloah village in Bathinda district, had participated in the 2024 Delhi Chalo march. He died after suffering a head injury during clashes between protesting farmers and security forces at the Khanauri border on February 21, 2024. Farmers alleged that he was killed in police firing, while the circumstances surrounding his death remained disputed.

His death became a major issue during the 2024 farmers' agitation and turned Khanauri into an important symbol of the movement. The latest mobilisation comes after recent police action during protests in Ambala and Hansi. The developments have heightened concerns over how authorities will handle the pro-



posed farmers' march.

Jind Superintendent of Police Kuldeep Singh said there was no blanket closure of roads across the district. He clarified that only vehicles travelling between Punjab and Haryana through the Khanauri border had been diverted to alternative routes.

Other major routes in Jind district

were functioning normally, police said, adding that traffic arrangements were being monitored to minimise inconvenience.

With barricades in place and memories of the 2024 agitation still fresh, the situation at Khanauri is expected to remain under close watch as farmers continue their planned march towards Delhi.

CJP Demands Arrests After Volunteer's Father Dies Following Alleged Assault

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has demanded an impartial investigation and immediate arrests following the death of Janab Mafik, father of CJP volunteer Shaik Abdul Hafeez, who allegedly died after an assault in West Bengal.

According to the CJP, 25-year-old Hafeez was attacked after participating in the organisation's nationwide "School Thik Karo" campaign. The campaign encourages citizens to visit government schools, assess infrastructure and highlight deficiencies. The alleged incident took place in the Karisunda area after Hafeez inspected a local government school on August 13. The CJP alleged that armed individuals identified as local BJP workers entered Hafeez's residence later that evening. The organisation claimed the attackers demanded



that Hafeez record a video apologising for highlighting the school's condition and stating that he had acted under external influence. When he allegedly refused, the individuals assaulted Hafeez and his family.

The CJP said Hafeez suffered a severe neck injury, while his father sustained critical blunt-

force trauma to the head. Hafeez later recorded a video from hospital showing his injuries and reportedly travelled to Kolkata because of continuing safety concerns. His father, Mafik, died from his injuries on August 15, the CJP said. CJP founder and national convener Abhijeet Dipke demanded the immediate arrest of those

responsible and said the organisation would support Hafeez and his family in seeking justice.

CJP chief spokesperson Saurav Das also expressed concern over the incident and alleged that Hafeez was targeted for conducting a social audit of his local government school. The CJP further alleged that no medico-legal case was initiated and no FIR was registered after the initial assault. It demanded action by the Indas police station and sought an impartial probe into the alleged violence. Mafik's death and the circumstances surrounding the reported lack of legal proceedings. A CJP National Working Committee delegation, led by co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka, is expected to visit West Bengal to stand with Hafeez's family and demand justice and accountability.

Massive Wildfire Forces Evacuations in Belgium's High Fens

A massive wildfire has ravaged more than 27 square kilometres of Belgium's High Fens nature reserve, forcing around 600 residents to evacuate as firefighters battle shifting winds, thick smoke and difficult terrain. The blaze in the High Fens, Belgium's largest nature reserve, has prompted authorities to evacuate residents from nearby municipalities in Waimes and Butgenbach in Liege province, close to the German border. The evacuations were ordered as changing winds caused smoke to spread across populated areas. Tourists were also advised to leave the affected region, while a nearby gymnasium was opened to accommodate people displaced by the fire. Liege provincial Governor Herve Jamar said more than 250 emergency personnel had been deployed to tackle the wildfire. The response includes more than 100 Belgian and German firefighters, along with police, military officers and civil protection personnel. Firefighting helicopters



are also supporting operations from the air. Authorities said no homes had been affected as of Sunday morning. However, the fire remained dangerously close to residential areas, while heavy smoke continued to affect the region. Officials urged residents and visitors to stay away from the affected zone, warning that unnecessary traffic could block emergency vehicles and make firefighting operations more difficult. The wildfire has been described by local media as one of the worst in

Belgium's recent history. Efforts to contain it have been complicated by the High Fens' landscape, which includes extensive heathland and peat bogs that can allow fires to spread and make suppression operations more challenging. The fire also prompted concerns across the border in Germany. Authorities in the nearby town of Monschau warned residents that the blaze was approximately three kilometres from the border and said firefighters remained on alert.

Early Sunday, the Monschau town website advised people in three outlying districts near the border to temporarily leave the area. Officials said they could not rule out potential health risks from smoke. The wildfire follows weeks of unusually hot and dry weather across the region. Belgium experienced another period of intense heat during the week, with temperatures reaching around 37 degrees Celsius in parts of the country on Friday. The combination of dry vegetation, high temperatures and changing winds has created challenging conditions for emergency crews. Authorities continue to monitor the fire and its movement while coordinating Belgian and German resources to protect nearby communities. With the flames still active and smoke affecting surrounding areas, officials have maintained evacuation and safety measures as firefighters work to prevent the wildfire from reaching residential zones.

Hurricane Lala Skirts Hawaii's Big Island, Leaving Flooding and Damage

Hurricane Lala passed south of Hawaii's Big Island without making landfall, but brought strong winds, heavy rainfall, flooding and power outages, while officials warned that dangerous conditions could continue. The Category 1 hurricane moved past the island's southern tip on Saturday, reducing concerns that the Big Island could experience its first direct hurricane hit in 155 years. National Weather Service meteorologist Joseph Clark said landfall was not expected. However, the National Hurricane Center warned that hurricane-force winds could continue overnight, particularly across higher elevations. Heavy rain was forecast to persist into Sunday, raising the risk of flooding and mudslides, while powerful waves continued to batter coastal areas. Tropical storm warnings remained in effect for Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe, Oahu, Kauai and Niihau as the storm moved west. Hawaii Governor Josh Green said at least one person died in a car



accident in the South Point area of the Big Island. He also said 19 roofs had been lost and 190 flights were postponed. Tens of thousands of homes were without electricity. "You definitely want to be home, do not be out on the roads," Green said, urging residents to remain indoors. Higher elevations around Mauna Kea could receive up to 25 inches of rain, according to forecasters. Such rainfall could trigger life-threatening mudslides, particularly in mountainous areas where some residents live in off-grid or improvised housing.

Residents prepared for the storm by stocking fuel, food and emergency supplies. Bobby Camara, a 75-year-old lifelong resident, said he planned to remain at a care home outside Hilo and hoped the power would remain on. Mike Caputo, a 50-year-old local fire captain from Keaau, said his generator was ready and his 10,000-gallon home water tank was full. He identified flash flooding and fallen trees as major concerns, particularly albizia trees, which can become large but are vulnerable to strong winds. Lala strengthened from a tropical

storm into a hurricane early Saturday, with maximum sustained winds reaching 75 mph (120 kph), according to the hurricane centre. Hawaii's last hurricane landfall occurred in 1992, when Category 4 Hurricane Iniki struck Kauai, causing about \$3 billion in damage and killing six people, Green said. The Big Island's last direct hurricane strike occurred in 1871, when a Category 3 hurricane hit its northeastern area, according to University of Hawaii research. Shelters were opened, events were cancelled and ranchers were advised to keep cattle in open pastures rather than potentially vulnerable structures. Christine Matsuda, a resident of Waimea, said strong gusts were rattling her house and unexpected leaks had appeared. The hurricane centre forecast 8 to 12 inches of rainfall across Maui and lower elevations of the Big Island, with 4 to 6 inches across the island chain. Many residents are still recovering from severe flooding in March.

Spanish F-18 Shoots Down Drone in Romanian Airspace Near Ukraine

A Spanish F-18 fighter jet shot down a drone after it breached Romanian airspace near the borders with Ukraine and Moldova, Romania's Defence Ministry said, highlighting the continuing security risks faced by NATO countries bordering the war zone. The drone entered Romanian airspace from Moldova and was intercepted by the Spanish fighter at 5:01 am local time (0201 GMT), according to the ministry. The F-18 was deployed in Romania as part of NATO duties. The drone debris fell in an unpopulated area of the Galati region, close to the Ukrainian border. Authorities said there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the incident. Romania's eastern region along the Black Sea is particularly exposed to the spillover effects of Russia's war in Ukraine. The area lies close to Ukrainian ports along the Danube River, which have frequently been targeted by Russian strikes. Romanian authorities have repeat-



edly reported finding drone fragments on their territory since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The latest incident adds to concerns among NATO members that military activity in the conflict could increasingly affect alliance territory. Last month, Romania shot down a drone for the first time since Russia's invasion began. That drone had entered Romanian airspace approximately 100 kilometres (60 miles) from Bucharest, according to authorities.

Similar airspace incidents have occurred elsewhere along NATO's eastern flank. Poland and the Baltic states have also reported breaches and suspected incursions linked to the wider conflict. On Friday, NATO said Italian fighter jets operating as part of the alliance's air-policing mission shot down a drone that had entered Latvian airspace. The latest Romanian incident comes as NATO members continue to strengthen surveillance and air-defence measures along their

eastern borders. Countries close to Ukraine remain on heightened alert because of the risk that drones or other military equipment could cross international borders during attacks. Romania, a NATO member, has increased its air-policing and monitoring activities in response to the repeated incidents. The deployment of allied aircraft, including the Spanish F-18 involved in Sunday's interception, forms part of broader NATO efforts to protect member states and respond quickly to potential threats. The incident also underscores the increasingly complex security environment around the Black Sea and eastern Europe, where Russia's ongoing military operations in Ukraine continue to create risks beyond the battlefield. While the drone was brought down over an unpopulated area, the repeated airspace violations have raised concerns about the possibility of future incidents occurring closer to civilian centres or causing greater damage.

Trump Says He and Kim Jong Un "Get Along Great" Amid Rising Tensions



US President Donald Trump has shared a throwback photograph with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, joking about their "unfriendly look" while reaffirming that the two leaders have maintained a good relationship. Trump said in a post on Truth Social that despite the serious expression in the particular photograph, he and Kim Jong Un have shared many moments in which they were smiling and getting along well. His remarks come amid renewed tensions surrounding planned US-South Korea military exercises. North Korea has repeatedly criticised joint military drills between Washington and Seoul, describing them as provocative and warning that they could increase tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The joint exercises, named Ulchi Freedom Shield, are scheduled to run from August 17 to August 27. The drills will include training related to emerging security threats such as drone operations, GPS disruption and cyberattacks, as the US and its allies seek to respond to changes in North Korea's military capabilities. North Korea has strongly opposed such exercises for years, viewing them as preparations for military action against Pyongyang. A spokesperson for North Korea's Foreign Ministry recently accused the United States, Japan and South Korea of developing military cooperation into what was described as a "nuclear alliance". The spokesperson warned that North Korea would respond to what it considers a growing threat by strengthening its deterrence capabilities. Pyongyang also claimed that the upcoming drills differ from exercises conducted over the previous five years and are designed to improve the ability to conduct warfare based on new aspects of modern warfare. The latest developments come after North Korea conducted a suspected ballistic missile launch on August 12. South Korea's military said Pyongyang fired a ballistic missile towards the East Sea, while the United States described the incident as a missile launch. Despite the renewed military tensions, Trump's latest comments about Kim Jong Un reflect his continued willingness to highlight the personal relationship established during his previous engagements with the North Korean leader. Their diplomatic exchanges have previously focused on efforts to reduce tensions surrounding North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes.

Anthropic CEO's Wife Sought Epstein Investment for Adult Entertainment Venture



Cami Clark, wife and strategic adviser of Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, sought investment from convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein for a company she described as a "revolutionary porn company" catering to women, according to The Wall Street Journal and emails contained in the Epstein files. Clark was introduced to Epstein in March 2011 by literary agent John Brockman, who suggested that they meet for dinner. Clark and her business partner Michell Capocefalo subsequently met Epstein, after which Clark shared details of their proposed venture. In emails, Clark sent Epstein the script and treatment for the first four films of the company, including American Girl in Paris. She described the material as containing adult content and suggested that Epstein and "the ladies" might enjoy it. About a year later, Clark asked Epstein whether he would be interested in investing in her and a colleague's businesses. However, the available emails provide no indication that Epstein provided funding. In a separate exchange, Epstein reportedly responded, "Can't do TV sex." Clark also invited Epstein to a housewarming party in July 2012, although the emails do not indicate that they met again. Clark, born in Nevada in 1979, has been described as a "sounding board and strategic adviser" to Amodei and Anthropic, despite not officially working for the company. She has accompanied Amodei to major events, including the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, and has been seen interacting with investors at gatherings such as the Allen & Co. conference in Sun Valley. Before marrying Amodei in 2022, Clark dated former Google chief Eric Schmidt for three years from 2014. She served as Amodei's strategic adviser when he joined OpenAI in 2016 and introduced him to Schmidt. After Amodei, his sister Daniela and other colleagues left OpenAI to establish Anthropic in late 2020, Schmidt became an early backer. He participated in Anthropic's \$124 million Series A funding round announced in May 2021.

Colombia Asks Trump to Suspend Tariffs After Deadly Earthquake

Colombia's new President Abelardo de la Espriella has urged US President Donald Trump to temporarily suspend tariffs imposed on Colombian products, saying the measure could provide relief to businesses struggling after a deadly earthquake. De la Espriella said he raised the issue with Trump and asked him to consider suspending the tariffs because Colombian businesses were facing difficult conditions following the disaster. "I asked him to consider to

temporarily suspend the high tariffs that are affecting Colombian products, in order to give some relief to our business owners, who are facing very difficult times due to the effects of the earthquake," De la Espriella said in a post on X. US tariffs on Colombian goods increased from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent in late July. However, some products, including coffee and oil, were exempted from the higher rate. The appeal comes as Colombia continues to deal



with the impact of the earthquake, with the government seeking measures that could ease pressure on businesses and support economic recovery. The request also comes amid ongoing trade discussions between

Washington and Bogotá. Any temporary suspension of the tariffs would provide Colombian exporters with some relief while authorities respond to the economic consequences of the disaster. De la Espriella's appeal places the issue of trade barriers alongside the immediate economic challenges created by the earthquake. The Colombian government is expected to continue seeking support for affected businesses as recovery efforts progress.

Aditya Birla Sun Life MF Resumes Fresh Subscriptions in Gold Fund

Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund has resumed fresh subscriptions in its Gold Fund after previously restricting large investments amid strong demand for gold-oriented schemes and elevated gold prices. The fund house had earlier capped lump-sum subscriptions and switch-in applications in the Aditya Birla Sun Life Gold Fund at Rs 10 lakh per PAN per calendar month. The restriction was introduced in June 2026 as mutual fund houses responded to increased investor interest in gold-related schemes. Gold-focused investment products witnessed heightened demand as investors

turned towards the precious metal amid market uncertainty, global economic concerns and strong price performance. The rise in gold prices during June also prompted several fund houses to introduce restrictions on large inflows into their gold schemes. Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund was among several fund houses that implemented such measures. The restrictions were intended to manage fresh investments and allow fund managers to handle inflows efficiently while gold prices remained elevated. With the latest decision, investors can make fresh sub-

scriptions to the Aditya Birla Sun Life Gold Fund without the earlier monthly cap, subject to the fund house's applicable terms and conditions. Gold funds generally invest in units of gold exchange-traded funds or other instruments linked to gold prices. They provide investors with exposure to the precious metal through a mutual fund structure without requiring them to purchase and store physical gold. The removal of the investment restriction comes as gold continues to attract attention from both retail and institutional investors. The precious metal is often viewed as a diversification

asset, particularly during periods of financial-market uncertainty and heightened volatility. Strong demand for gold-based investment products has also reflected changing investor preferences. Instead of purchasing physical gold, investors can use financial products linked to the metal to gain exposure while avoiding concerns related to storage, security and making charges associated with physical jewellery. The decision by Aditya Birla Sun Life MF is likely to be closely monitored by investors and the wider mutual fund industry. Fund houses will continue to



assess whether demand for gold schemes remains strong and whether inflows can be sustained following the significant price movement seen earlier in 2026. The resumption of fresh sub-

scriptions also gives investors greater flexibility to allocate money to the fund, although investors will need to consider their risk profile, investment horizon and the volatility associated with

gold prices before making investment decisions. The move comes at a time when gold remains an important asset in investor portfolios. Expectations around global economic conditions, interest rates, geopolitical developments and currency movements could continue to influence gold prices and demand for gold-linked investment products. Aditya Birla Sun Life MF's decision therefore marks a return to normal subscription conditions for its Gold Fund after the temporary restriction introduced during the period of strong demand and elevated prices.

FPIs Return to Buying Mode as Rs 16,621 Crore Flows into Indian Stocks in August

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have returned to buying Indian equities in August, investing Rs 16,621 crore so far this month, as improving valuations, resilient corporate earnings and expectations of potential US interest-rate cuts strengthen sentiment towards Indian markets. The latest inflows come after foreign investors turned buyers in July, when they invested around Rs 20,200 crore in Indian equities. The consecutive months of inflows indicate a gradual improvement in overseas investor sentiment after a period of sustained selling pressure. Market participants are closely watching global monetary policy, particularly expectations surrounding the US Federal Reserve. Hopes that the US central bank could reduce interest rates have supported investor appetite for emerging markets, including India. Lower US interest rates can make emerging-market assets relatively more attractive by reducing the appeal of dollar-denominated investments. Improving valuations have also contributed to the renewed interest. After periods of market volatility and selling by overseas investors, some Indian stocks and sectors are being viewed as more reasonably valued, creating opportunities for foreign funds. The resilience of corporate earnings is another factor supporting sentiment. Despite challenges



from global economic uncertainty and changing financial conditions, several Indian companies have continued to report earnings that have helped sustain confidence in the country's growth outlook. However, the latest buying trend has not completely reversed the broader picture for 2026. Foreign investors remain net sellers in Indian equities for the year so far, indicating that the August inflows represent a recent improvement rather than a full turnaround in annual flows. The movement of foreign capital remains an important factor for Indian equity markets because large FPI transactions can influence market liquidity, stock prices and overall investor sentiment. Sustained buying could provide additional support to benchmark indices if the trend continues. Investors will therefore monitor whether the August inflows per-

sist in the coming weeks. Global interest-rate expectations, the movement of the US dollar, crude oil prices, geopolitical developments and domestic economic data are likely to influence foreign investment decisions. The return of FPIs to buying mode also comes as Indian markets continue to attract global attention because of the country's relatively strong economic growth prospects. If valuations remain attractive and earnings continue to hold up, overseas investors could maintain their interest. For now, the Rs 16,621 crore inflow during August marks a notable shift from the earlier selling trend, although the overall 2026 position shows that foreign investors remain cautious. The sustainability of the buying momentum will depend largely on global monetary policy and the strength of India's economic and corporate outlook.

Broader Indices End Mixed as Midcaps Extend Rally for Third Week

Indian equity markets ended the week on a mixed note, with benchmark indices witnessing declines while midcap stocks continued their upward momentum for the third consecutive week. The performance reflected selective buying across the broader market even as large-cap indices remained under pressure. The Nifty Midcap index touched an all-time high during the week and gained 0.5 per cent, extending its winning streak for a third consecutive week. The continued strength in midcap stocks highlights sustained investor interest in companies beyond the large-cap segment and indicates that market participation remains broad despite volatility in benchmark indices. In contrast, the Sensex declined 0.62 per cent during the week, while the Nifty also remained under pressure. The mixed market performance reflected a combination of profit-taking in select large-cap stocks, changing global cues and continued buying interest in midcap counters. Market participants are expected to closely monitor technical levels in the coming sessions as the Nifty approaches an important resistance zone. Sudeep Shah, Head - Technical and Derivatives Research at SBI Securities, said



the immediate resistance for the Nifty is placed in the 24,500-24,550 zone. According to Shah, a sustainable move above this resistance range could strengthen the index's ongoing recovery and lead to further gains. He expects the Nifty to potentially extend its pullback towards 24,700, followed by 24,850 in the short term if the index manages to decisively cross the resistance zone. The 24,500-24,550 range could therefore play an important role in determining the near-term direction of the benchmark index. A decisive breakout above this level may encourage additional buying and improve market sentiment. On the other hand, failure to cross the resistance could result in consolidation or profit-booking. The strength in midcap stocks remains a notable feature of the current market trend. The Nifty Midcap index's fresh record high indicates that investors continue to identify opportunities among

companies outside the largest constituents of the market. However, the divergence between large-cap benchmarks and broader market indices suggests that market performance is becoming increasingly selective. Investors are likely to monitor individual stocks, sectoral trends, corporate developments and global market cues while assessing the sustainability of the ongoing rally. The coming week could be important for the Nifty as it approaches the key resistance levels identified by Shah. A sustained move above 24,550 could open the way towards 24,700 and subsequently 24,850. Conversely, continued resistance around the 24,500-24,550 region could keep the index within a consolidation range. With midcaps extending their gains for a third week and broader indices showing mixed signals, investors are likely to remain focused on technical levels and stock-specific opportunities. Market direction will also depend on broader risk sentiment and developments in domestic and global markets. The continued performance of midcaps will remain a key area of interest, particularly as investors assess valuations and the sustainability of gains following the latest record high.

Sensex, Nifty in Focus as Hormuz Tensions, Crude Oil and Fed Minutes Drive Markets

Indian equity markets are likely to remain focused on global developments in the coming sessions, with tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, crude oil prices and signals from the US Federal Reserve emerging as key triggers for investors. With the quarterly earnings season now largely behind them, market participants are expected to shift their attention towards global monetary policy, foreign fund flows and economic indicators for fresh direction. The minutes of the US Federal Reserve's latest policy meeting will be closely watched for indications about the central bank's approach to interest rates. Investors will assess policymakers' views on inflation, economic growth and the possibility of future rate adjustments. Any change in expectations around US interest rates could influence global equity markets and foreign investment flows into emerging markets such as India. Developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz are another major factor. The strategically important waterway plays a crucial role in global energy supplies, and any escalation in tensions could affect crude oil prices. A sustained increase in oil prices could raise concerns for oil-importing economies, including India, by increasing import costs and poten-



tially putting pressure on inflation and the current account. Domestic investors are also expected to track foreign portfolio investor activity. Foreign fund flows have remained an important driver of movements in Indian equities, with global risk sentiment, currency movements and interest-rate expectations influencing overseas investment decisions. Economic data from China will also be on the market radar. Investors are likely to assess indicators from the world's second-largest economy for clues about the strength of its recovery and the potential impact on global demand and commodity markets. The Sensex and Nifty may there-

fore respond to a combination of international developments and domestic sentiment rather than company-specific earnings, as the reporting season has largely concluded. Market participants are expected to monitor movements in crude oil, developments around the Hormuz region, the Federal Reserve minutes, Chinese economic data and foreign investment flows for clues about the near-term direction of Indian equities. With several global factors capable of influencing risk appetite, investors are likely to remain cautious and watch for volatility as markets assess the implications of monetary policy and geopolitical developments.

IPO Rush Continues as Six Companies Target Nearly Rs 5,600 Crore Next Week



India's primary market is set for another busy week, with six companies preparing to launch initial public offerings (IPOs) and collectively raise nearly Rs 5,600 crore from investors. The upcoming issues will keep the IPO pipeline active after a strong period of primary-market activity. Horizon Industrial Parks and Lalithaa Jewellery Mart are expected to be among the major offerings, while four other companies are also scheduled to open their issues through August 20. The continued flow of IPOs highlights sustained activity in India's primary market, as companies look to tap investor demand for capital and provide opportunities for investors to participate in new

listings. Horizon Industrial Parks and Lalithaa Jewellery Mart will lead the upcoming lineup, with their offerings expected to attract significant attention from investors. The remaining four issues will add to the overall fundraising activity during the week. The combined fundraising target of nearly Rs 5,600 crore makes the upcoming week an important one for India's IPO market. Investors are likely to assess the individual companies' business models, financial performance, valuations and growth prospects before deciding whether to subscribe. The IPO activity also comes against the backdrop of continued investor interest in equity mar-

kets. Strong participation in primary offerings can provide companies with access to fresh capital for expansion and other corporate requirements, while successful listings can enhance market visibility. For investors, the busy IPO calendar offers several opportunities but also requires careful evaluation. Market participants typically consider the issue price, valuation, industry outlook, financial track record and intended use of the funds before committing capital. The launch of six IPOs within a short period could also lead investors to allocate funds selectively among the various offerings. Subscription trends during the issue period may provide an indication of demand across different sectors and investor categories. With Horizon Industrial Parks and Lalithaa Jewellery Mart among the prominent names in the upcoming primary-market lineup, attention will remain focused on subscription levels and investor response. The latest IPO pipeline underlines the continued momentum in India's primary market, with companies seeking to raise funds while investors look for new opportunities amid evolving equity-market conditions.

Tempsens Instruments to Launch Rs 95 Crore IPO on August 20

Rajasthan-based temperature sensors manufacturer Tempsens Instruments is set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on August 20, offering investors an opportunity to participate in the company's planned fundraising and share sale. The IPO will include a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 95 crore, along with an offer for sale (OFS) of 1.85 crore shares. The company is expected to announce the price band for the issue next week. The upcoming public offering will combine fresh capital raising

with an OFS component. While proceeds from the fresh issue will go to the company for its stated corporate requirements, proceeds from the OFS will accrue to the existing selling shareholders. Tempsens Instruments operates in the temperature measurement and sensing segment, manufacturing products used for monitoring and controlling temperature across industrial applications. Its products are relevant to industries where accurate temperature measurement is important for operational efficiency, safety and

process control. The IPO launch comes at a time when activity in India's primary market remains strong, with several companies preparing to raise funds from public investors. The issue will add to the growing pipeline of new listings and fundraising opportunities available to investors. The price band will be an important factor for investors when evaluating the offering. Once announced, investors are expected to assess the issue valuation alongside the company's finan-

cial performance, business prospects, industry position and growth opportunities. The IPO's structure, comprising a Rs 95 crore fresh issue and an OFS of 1.85 crore shares, will also be closely watched by market participants. Investors typically examine the proportion of fresh capital and shares being offered by existing shareholders to understand the purpose and structure of a public issue. Tempsens Instruments' decision to enter the public market



reflects the continued interest among Indian companies in accessing equity capital. A successful IPO can provide companies with funds to support expansion and strengthen their balance sheets, while also increasing visibility among institutional and retail investors. As the August 20 opening date approaches, attention will shift towards the company's forthcoming price band announcement and other details of the issue. Investors will then be able to

determine the valuation at which the shares are being offered and assess whether the IPO fits their investment objectives. With the primary market remaining active, the Tempsens Instruments IPO is expected to attract attention from investors looking for opportunities in India's industrial manufacturing sector. Subscription levels and the eventual market debut will provide an indication of investor appetite for the company and the broader IPO market.

Rs 16 Clothing Sale Draws Thousands in Kanpur, Police Intervene Amid Chaos

A promotional clothing sale offering items for just Rs 16 attracted thousands of people in Kanpur, turning a late-night shopping event into a chaotic situation that required police intervention. The offer was announced by Alam Mart owner Rais Alam as part of a special birthday promotion. According to the promotion, customers could purchase any clothing item for Rs 16 during the first 16 minutes after midnight on August 16. The unusual offer quickly spread across Instagram, Facebook and other local social media platforms. By

around 11 pm, a large crowd had gathered outside the store at Alam Market in the Anwarganj area. As more people arrived, the crowd spilled onto the surrounding roads, creating heavy traffic and making the situation increasingly difficult to manage. The store was reportedly closed as the crowd grew, apparently to prevent more people from entering. However, customers demanded that the advertised Rs 16 offer be honoured. A dispute subsequently developed between people in the crowd, shop operators and employ-



ees. The situation soon became tense, with reports of pushing, people running and several individuals falling. Videos from the area circulated on social media, showing a large gathering and police personnel attempting to bring the situation under control. Police from Anwarganj and nearby stations were called to the scene. Officers used mild force to disperse the crowd and eventually restored order. Anwarganj ACP Manjay Singh said the large gathering had been triggered by the Rs 16 clothing offer promoted

through social media. The incident has also resulted in legal action against the store operators. A case was registered against Mohammad Alam, Rais Alam and Salman Alam, along with others, based on a complaint filed by a police sub-inspector who was on duty during the incident. The accused have been booked over allegations related to disturbing public order and putting people's safety at risk. Police have arrested Salman Alam, while efforts are continuing to locate Rais Alam and Mohammad Alam.

The incident highlights how heavily promoted ultra-low-price offers can quickly attract crowds, particularly when the promotion is spread through social media. What was advertised as a short promotional sale ultimately created a major crowd-management challenge for authorities. The Rs 16 offer had been designed around the first 16 minutes after midnight, but the large turnout began well before the sale period. The scale of the gathering eventually forced authorities to intervene to prevent the situation from escalating further.

Man Fined Rs 4 Lakh For Waking Sleeping Polar Bear With Ship Horn

A boat operator was fined 50,000 Norwegian kroner, around Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, for waking a sleeping polar bear by sounding a vessel's foghorn, the BBC reported.

The incident took place earlier this month near Svalbard, a remote Norwegian archipelago located about 620 miles from the North Pole.

While sailing through a local fjord, people aboard the vessel spotted a polar bear sleeping on the shore. One person reportedly wanted to see the animal move and deliberately sounded the ship's loud foghorn.

The sudden blast startled the polar bear. The animal woke up and fled the area, prompting local authorities to take action.

Lars Fause, the Governor of Svalbard, initiated legal proceedings following the incident. According to a statement, people aboard the vessel spotted the sleeping polar bear before someone used the foghorn, causing the animal to wake up and move elsewhere. Authorities said the incident violated the region's strict wildlife protection rules. Under the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act, it is illegal to needlessly disturb, pursue or attract polar bears.



The rules are designed to protect wildlife and prevent visitors from causing unnecessary stress or changing the natural behaviour of animals living in the harsh Arctic environment. The boat operator accepted the violation and agreed to pay the fine. Officials did not disclose the person's name or nationality. Authorities also reminded tourists, boat operators and expedition crews that polar bears are protected species in Svalbard and have been under protection since 1972. Disturbing the animals can result in significant financial penalties. The incident has also highlighted the importance of maintaining a safe distance from

wildlife in the Arctic. Polar bears are powerful wild animals, and approaching or deliberately disturbing them can pose risks to both the animals and people. The Svalbard authorities have previously taken action against visitors for disturbing wildlife. In 2024, a tourist was fined 11,500 Norwegian kroner, or around £900, for getting too close to a walrus. The latest case serves as another reminder that seemingly harmless attempts to get a closer look at wildlife can have serious consequences. In protected regions such as Svalbard, visitors are expected to observe animals without interfering with their natural behaviour.

Woman Shares Rs 2.53 Lakh Cost Of Moving Into 3BHK In Bengaluru

Moving into a new home can be expensive, especially when furniture and belongings have to be transported from another city. A Bengaluru couple recently shared a detailed breakdown of their expenses after moving into a three-bedroom apartment in South Bengaluru, with the total cost reaching Rs 2,53,500.

Ana Mishra and her partner, Ishan, rented the 3BHK apartment in South Bengaluru. Mishra was already living in another apartment in Bengaluru, while Ishan moved to the city from Kolkata.

According to Mishra, the biggest expense was the security deposit. The couple paid Rs 1.5 lakh for the apartment.

They also decided to use a broker to help them find the house. Mishra said it was possible to search for a home without a broker, but they preferred not to handle the entire process themselves. The couple paid the broker Rs 37,000, equal to one month's rent.

Another major expense was transporting furniture from Kolkata to Bengaluru. The couple paid Rs 60,000 to packers and movers. The shipment included several household items, including a bed, shoe rack, dining table and king-size sofa.

Mishra said they considered the Rs 60,000 moving cost reasonable because all their belongings



reached Bengaluru safely. She added that none of the furniture arrived damaged or scratched. The couple also spent Rs 3,000 moving Mishra's personal belongings from her previous Bengaluru home to the new apartment. Their expenses did not end there. The couple rented a washing machine, refrigerator and water purifier for the new home. They pay Rs 2,800 every month for the three appliances. Shifting their Wi-Fi connection to the new apartment cost another Rs 700.

After adding the various expenses, Mishra said the couple spent a total of Rs 2,53,500 on the move. However, this amount did not include the money spent on decorating the new house or purchasing additional household items.

Mishra shared the expense breakdown on social media, giving view-

ers an idea of how quickly moving costs can add up when renting a larger apartment in Bengaluru. The post attracted reactions from social media users, with some commenting on the cost of renting a 3BHK in the city and others appreciating the detailed breakdown. One user commented, "That's some crazyyy rent for this gorgeous flat." Another user wrote, "Needed this informative breakdown." The couple's experience highlights the different costs involved in moving into a rented home, from security deposits and brokerage fees to transportation, appliance rentals and internet relocation. For people planning a move to Bengaluru, the breakdown also shows why budgeting for expenses beyond monthly rent can be important.

American Neighbour Cries As Indian Family Leaves US

An emotional farewell between an Indian family and their American neighbour has captured widespread attention on Instagram, with viewers touched by the genuine bond between the neighbours.

The video was shared on Instagram by user Vijay Kokkeragadda and shows an emotional moment as Vijay prepares to leave the United States and return to India. The farewell took place as he was heading to Detroit Airport.

In the video, Vijay is seen standing outside his home when his American neighbour approaches him and hugs him tightly. The woman becomes visibly emotional and begins crying while holding Vijay. He smiles and appears to comfort her as they share the heartfelt goodbye.

The touching interaction highlights how friendships between neighbours can grow into close personal relationships, even when people come from different countries and cultural backgrounds.

According to Vijay's Instagram post, the farewell was not planned or staged. He said he was unaware that the moment was being recorded at the time. One of his friends filmed the interaction and later shared the video with him.

Vijay said he was happy to have the recording because it captured genuine emotions and the affec-



tion shared between the neighbours. The unexpected reaction from the American woman has resonated with social media users, many of whom found the farewell a reminder of how meaningful relationships can become during everyday life.

The video also shows the emotional difficulty of saying goodbye when neighbours have developed a strong connection over time. While moving between countries is common for many families, such moments can be particularly difficult when close friendships are left behind.

The clip has attracted attention because of its simple and unscripted nature. Rather than being a planned farewell, the recording captured a spontaneous emotional reaction from a neighbour who

appeared deeply affected by Vijay's departure.

Vijay's post has given viewers a glimpse into the personal relationships that can develop among people living far from their countries of origin. The farewell has also prompted social media users to appreciate the importance of neighbours and friendships that continue to matter even when circumstances force people to move away.

The emotional scene between Vijay and his American neighbour has therefore become more than just a farewell video. For many viewers, it represents the lasting impact of human connections and the sadness that comes with leaving people who have become an important part of everyday life.

Woman Quits 9-to-5 Job After 4 Years To Find A New Path

A woman has shared her decision to leave her corporate job after more than four years, saying she wants to take time for herself and explore a path that feels more meaningful.

In an Instagram video, Arpita Sahu, a digital creator, explained why she decided to step away from a stable 9-to-5 career. She admitted that the decision was not easy, but said she felt it was time to question whether her existing career was truly the life she wanted.

Arpita said she had spent much of her life following a traditional path. She studied hard, earned a degree, built a career and worked towards financial stability. However, she eventually began wondering whether she wanted something different. She described leaving her job after 4.5 years as a major decision. While she said she was scared about the uncertainty ahead, she was also excited about having the freedom to discover what she really wanted.

Arpita said she was proud of herself for listening to the inner voice that had been telling her to pause and rethink her choices. Instead of immediately moving into another corporate role, she wants to explore opportunities and activities that genuinely interest her. Her decision has received considerable attention on social media. Many users praised her for choosing personal growth and happiness instead of continuing with a



career simply because it offered stability.

Some commenters, however, also pointed out the financial risks associated with leaving a regular income. Career gaps and uncertainty can create challenges, particularly when someone has spent several years building professional experience.

Despite those concerns, the response to Arpita's post was largely supportive. Several users congratulated her for taking what they described as a brave step and wished her success in her next chapter.

One user wrote that choosing oneself and following one's heart requires courage and praised Arpita for taking the step.

Another praised her content and said they were looking forward to seeing what she does next, describ-

ing the decision as a big move that could lead to bigger opportunities. A third user wished her well and expressed happiness about her new chapter, encouraging her to keep moving forward.

Arpita's experience reflects a growing conversation around career choices, personal fulfilment and the pressure to follow conventional definitions of success. For some professionals, a stable corporate career remains the preferred option, while others increasingly want flexibility and the opportunity to explore different interests.

For Arpita, the decision marks the beginning of an uncertain but exciting phase. She has acknowledged the fear that comes with leaving a familiar career while choosing to focus on freedom, self-discovery and finding a direction that feels right for her.

Indian Woman In US Says Confidence Can Be Learned

An Indian woman working in the US has shared how her American colleagues changed the way she thinks about confidence at the workplace. Harini, who said she is the only Indian in her office, explained that her experiences made her realise that confidence is not always something people are born with but can be developed over time.

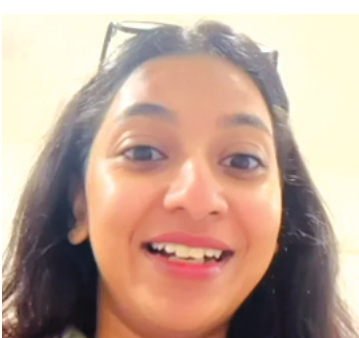
In a video shared on Instagram, Harini said that while growing up in India, she was taught to think carefully before speaking and to avoid sharing an opinion unless she was completely sure about it. She said this approach helped her

during school and education but later felt that it was limiting her in a professional environment.

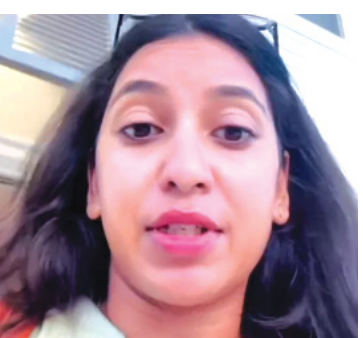
Harini recalled initially believing that her American colleagues knew more than she did because they appeared more comfortable speaking during workplace discussions. However, she gradually realised that the major difference was not necessarily knowledge but their willingness to share ideas even when they did not have all the answers. According to Harini, her colleagues were comfortable expressing their opinions, asking questions and contributing to discussions without waiting until

they were completely certain.

She said an idea cannot get an opportunity to be discussed if it is never shared. However, she also clarified that being confident does not mean pretending to know everything. Instead, she believes people should be willing to express their views without waiting for the perfect moment or perfect words. Harini said that while someone waits to frame an idea perfectly, another person may already move the conversation forward by simply speaking up. Reflecting on her experience, Harini said she once believed that self-confidence was an inborn



quality. Her time working with American colleagues changed that view, and she now considers confidence a skill that can be learned



and strengthened. Her comments struck a chord with many social media users, particularly those who have experienced

similar differences in communication styles at school or work.

One user wrote, "This is so true." Another user said, "They speak their mind out. We were raised to hold on until we're too sure." A third user simply commented, "Confidence is a skill."

Harini's experience has sparked a wider conversation about workplace communication, confidence and the influence of cultural upbringing. Her message suggests that speaking up does not always require having every answer, and that learning to express an opinion can itself be an important professional skill.

Bangladesh Create History With First Test Win Over Australia in Australia

Bangladesh scripted a historic moment in Test cricket by securing their first-ever victory over Australia on Australian soil, defeating the hosts in Darwin by nine wickets. The landmark result came 23 years after the two teams first met in Test cricket at the same venue in 2003.

The foundation for Bangladesh's victory was laid by their bowlers in Australia's first innings. Hasan Mahmud produced a superb six-wicket haul to dismiss Australia for 198. Steve Smith offered resistance with a 71-run knock from 109 balls but received little support from the rest of the batting line-up.

Bangladesh responded strongly with the bat, posting 426 and securing a commanding 228-run first-innings lead. Tanzid Hasan Tamim played a crucial role, scoring 101 in only his second Test match. Mominul Haque, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mehidy Hasan Miraz also made valuable contributions, scoring 49, 84 and 65 respectively.

Australia needed a vastly improved performance in their second innings but again struggled against Bangladesh's bowling attack. Cameron Green was the standout performer for the hosts, scoring 104 from 201 deliveries. His century helped Australia reach 284, but it was not enough to prevent Bangladesh from taking control.

With only 57 runs required for victory, Bangladesh faced little difficulty on the fourth day. The visitors did lose Tanzid Hasan Tamim in the second over for a golden duck, but the early setback did not change the outcome as Bangladesh completed a nine-wicket victory.



The result marks Bangladesh's first Test victory over Australia in Australia and adds another major achievement to their growing Test history. Bangladesh had previously defeated Australia at home in 2017 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, where Shakib Al Hasan produced an outstanding all-round performance, scoring 89 runs and taking 10 wickets. Despite the historic victory, Bangladesh are still searching for their first Test series win over Australia. In the three bilateral Test series

between the teams, Australia have won two and one ended in a draw. The closest Bangladesh previously came to a series victory was in 2017, when the teams finished 1-1.

The latest result takes the overall Test record between the sides to seven meetings, with Australia having won five, drawn one and now lost one. Bangladesh will look to build on the momentum from their breakthrough victory as they pursue a historic series triumph against one of Test cricket's most successful teams.

Australian Greats Slam Pat Cummins' Side After Bangladesh Shock

Australia's stunning nine-wicket defeat to Bangladesh in the opening Test has triggered strong criticism from several Australian cricket greats, with Ricky Ponting, Mark Waugh and Matthew Hayden questioning the team's performance and selection.

Bangladesh produced a historic victory in Darwin, outplaying Australia across all departments. Australia captain Pat Cummins accepted that the visitors deserved their win and said the team's preparations could not be blamed for the defeat.

Mark Waugh described the result as possibly the biggest upset he could remember in Australian cricket. He highlighted the absence of Bangladesh's leading bowlers Nahid Rana and Shoriful Islam, as well as Australia's strong squad, in assessing the magnitude of the defeat.

"This could possibly be the biggest upset I can remember in

Australia," Waugh said, noting that Australia were back at full strength while Bangladesh were without two of their key bowlers. Ricky Ponting also described the defeat as "very embarrassing" and suggested that Australia may need to begin introducing fresh players into the top order. The former Australia captain said there had been enough evidence to consider changes at the opening and No. 3 positions.

Ponting argued that Australia would not lose much by beginning a regeneration of the batting order, particularly if the team failed to recover from the defeat in the second Test. Cummins, meanwhile, indicated that changes to the playing XI could be considered. He said the team would assess its match-ups and composition before deciding on the next combination.

Matthew Hayden also offered his views on Australia's batting order, suggesting that Travis Head should return to the No. 5 position rather than opening the innings. Hayden questioned the decision to have Alex Carey bat at No. 5 and said the current arrangement appeared uncertain. He also raised the broader question of whether Australia should select estab-



lished, match-ready players or give talented younger options such as Sam Konstas an opportunity. The criticism follows a comprehensive Bangladesh performance. Australia were bowled out for 198 in their first innings, while Bangladesh built a substantial lead before dismissing the hosts again in the second innings. Australia were eventually set only 57 runs to win, but Bangladesh completed the chase with nine wickets in hand to record their first Test victory over Australia on Australian soil.

The result has placed additional focus on Australia's batting combination ahead of the next Test. Cummins has refused to make excuses, but the comments from Ponting, Waugh and Hayden suggest that significant selection discussions could follow as Australia attempt to respond to one of the most unexpected defeats in their Test history.

lished, match-ready players or give talented younger options such as Sam Konstas an opportunity. The criticism follows a comprehensive Bangladesh performance. Australia were bowled out for 198 in their first innings, while Bangladesh built a substantial lead before dismissing the hosts again in the second innings. Australia were eventually set only 57 runs to win, but Bangladesh completed the chase with nine wickets in hand to record their first Test victory over Australia on Australian soil.

The result has placed additional focus on Australia's batting combination ahead of the next Test. Cummins has refused to make excuses, but the comments from Ponting, Waugh and Hayden suggest that significant selection discussions could follow as Australia attempt to respond to one of the most unexpected defeats in their Test history.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz Produces Unplayable Delivery As Bangladesh Stun Australia

Bangladesh spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz produced a match-winning performance as Bangladesh defeated Australia by nine wickets in the first Test, securing their first Test victory on Australian soil. Mehidy played a key role with both bat and ball. After scoring a valuable half-century in Bangladesh's first innings, the right-arm off-spinner returned to take five wickets in Australia's second innings. His spell helped restrict Australia to 284, leaving Bangladesh with a modest target of 57 runs. Australia's second innings was led by Cameron Green, who scored his third Test century and his first in Australia. Green made a composed 104 from 201 balls and helped Australia recover after Bangladesh had taken control of the match. However, his century could only reduce the size of Bangladesh's eventual victory. Australia had managed only 198 in the first innings after Pat Cummins won the toss and elected to bat. Steve Smith was the top scorer with 71. Bangladesh then took advantage of improved batting conditions and posted 426, securing a substantial 228-run first-innings lead. Mehidy was central to Bangladesh's dominance. His five-wicket haul in the second innings prevented Australia from setting a challenging target and ensured that Bangladesh remained firmly in control. Bangladesh briefly faced nerves during the chase when Josh Hazlewood dismissed first-innings centurion Tanzid Hasan for a duck. However, Shadman Islam and Mominul Haque remained composed and guided Bangladesh to victory in only 14.2 overs. Shadman finished unbeaten on 25, while Mominul remained not out on 30. Their calm approach completed one of the most significant victories in Bangladesh's Test history. The result was Bangladesh's first Test win in Australia and only their second victory against Australia in the format. Their previous win came in Dhaka in 2017. The performance also highlighted Bangladesh's all-round strength throughout the Test. Their bowlers created early pressure, their batters capitalised when conditions became easier, and Mehidy delivered a decisive spell when Australia attempted to fight back. For Australia, the defeat was particularly damaging after the team entered the match as the top-ranked side. Despite Green's century and contributions from experienced players such as Steve Smith and Pat Cummins, Australia could not recover from the first-innings deficit. Bangladesh's nine-wicket victory therefore stands as a major milestone for the team and a memorable achievement for Mehidy Hasan Miraz, whose contribution with both bat and ball played a crucial role in producing the historic result.



Sunil Gavaskar Raises Concerns Over Recurring Injuries in Indian Cricket

Legendary India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar has raised concerns over the recurring injury problems affecting Indian players, questioning whether current training and preparation methods are contributing to the issue. The former India opener pointed to the number of hamstring injuries among Indian players and contrasted them with the knee injury suffered by Jasprit Bumrah. He argued that the repeated injuries indicate that something may be wrong with the way players are being trained. Gavaskar also defended the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE), saying the facility and its physios should not automatically be blamed when players suffer injuries after returning to action. Instead, he suggested that greater attention should be given to training methods and the process through which players are declared fit. "While Bumrah has a knee injury, it is seen that most Indian players suffer from hamstring injuries," Gavaskar wrote in a column for Mid-day, questioning whether training practices could be behind the recurring problems. He also raised questions about the growing emphasis on biomechanics and restrictions on bowling workloads during practice sessions. Gavaskar questioned whether bowlers can adequately prepare for match conditions if their practice workload is significantly lower than what they are expected to handle during competitive games. According to Gavaskar, limiting bowlers to a small number of deliveries in practice may not adequately prepare them for the demands of a match. He cited examples from the Indian Premier League (IPL), where some overseas physios reportedly restrict bowlers to around 20 deliveries in the nets. The former India opener argued that players need to be prepared for actual match demands rather than focusing exclusively on gym-based fitness. "It is more important to be match fit than gym fit," Gavaskar wrote, calling for a detailed examination of why injuries continue to occur. His comments come amid injury concerns involving several prominent Indian players. Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Sai Sudharsan and Harshit Rana have all faced injury-related concerns in recent weeks, increasing scrutiny over player workload and rehabilitation. The injuries have also created challenges for India as the team works towards the World Test Championship (WTC) 2027 final and prepares for the 2027 ODI World Cup. Gavaskar's remarks are likely to intensify the debate over how Indian players are prepared and managed between matches. With international cricket involving increasingly demanding schedules, balancing workload, recovery and match-specific preparation has become a major challenge for teams. His call for a "good, hard look" at the recurring injuries places the focus not only on medical rehabilitation but also on whether players are being adequately prepared for the physical demands of international cricket.



Devdutt Padikkal's 167 Puts India in Command Against Sri Lanka



India strengthened their position in the first Test against Sri Lanka after a dominant batting display on the second day, reaching 460/9 at stumps in a rain-affected contest. Devdutt Padikkal produced the stand-out performance, converting his overnight century into a magnificent 167. India had resumed at 288/2, with Padikkal unbeaten on 131 and Rishabh Pant at the crease. Persistent rain delayed the start of play by nearly four hours, allowing only 43 overs to be bowled during the day. Despite the interruptions, India added 172 runs and maintained a strong position. Padikkal's innings was the major highlight. The left-hander struck 167 runs, including 15 fours and a six, to register his maiden Test century and establish himself as a key performer in India's batting line-up. His composed approach helped India build a substantial total despite the difficult weather conditions. KL Rahul also played an important role. After retiring hurt on 77 with cramps on the opening day, Rahul returned to the crease and continued his innings, eventually scoring 82 before being dismissed by Sri Lanka debutant Keshara Nuwantha. Rishabh Pant, who had resumed the innings with Padikkal, scored 39 before becoming Nuwantha's first Test wicket. The Sri Lankan bowlers then produced a determined fightback, with Prabath Jayasuriya and Nuwantha troubling India's middle and lower order. Jayasuriya finished the day with four wickets for 109 runs, while Nuwantha claimed three wickets for 175 runs. Their efforts prevented India from running away with an even bigger total and gave Sri Lanka some encouragement after India's strong start. Dhruv Jurel provided valuable support in the lower order, scoring a brisk 51. His contribution helped India recover after a series of wickets and push the total closer to the 500-run mark. Jurel's innings was particularly important as Sri Lanka's spinners began to exert pressure during the later stages of the day. At stumps, Kuldeep Yadav remained unbeaten on 12, while Prasidh Krishna was not out on one. India had lost seven wickets for 172 runs during the day but still finished with a commanding total of 460/9. Indian captain Shubman Gill had been dismissed for 16 on the opening day, while Yashasvi Jaiswal was earlier run out for 32. Their early wickets were followed by the crucial partnership between Rahul and Padikkal, which placed India firmly in control. With India holding a substantial first-innings total, Sri Lanka now face the task of producing a strong batting performance when they begin their reply. The rain interruptions and growing assistance for the spinners could make the remainder of the Test increasingly challenging for both sides.

Pat Cummins Defends Australia's Preparation After Shock Bangladesh Defeat



Australia captain Pat Cummins refused to blame the team's preparation after Bangladesh secured a historic nine-wicket victory in the first Test in Darwin, saying the visitors simply outplayed his side in all departments. Cummins had earlier highlighted the sacrifices made by Australian players ahead of the series, noting that some had turned down lucrative opportunities in The Hundred to prepare for the two-Test contest against Bangladesh. He had said some players were giving up "half a million pounds" for 20 days of Test cricket. However, after Australia's heavy defeat, Cummins rejected suggestions that the decision had affected the team's readiness. He said the preparation had been strong and that there were no excuses for the performance. Cummins identified the opening day as the point where Australia lost control of the match. He acknowledged that the pitch offered some assistance early on but said Australia needed to bat for longer and find ways to build partnerships. He also praised Bangladesh for their disciplined performance, saying the tourists deserved their victory. "I thought our preparation was pretty spot on. I thought it was excellent. So, yeah, no excuses. They played really well," Cummins said. Australia were bowled out for 198 in their first innings, with Bangladesh fast bowler Hasan Mahmud taking six wickets. Steve Smith was the only major resistance for the hosts, scoring 71. Bangladesh then produced a commanding batting performance, reaching 426 and securing a 228-run first-innings advantage. Tanzid Hasan Tamim scored 101, while Mominul Haque, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mehidy Hasan Miraz made important contributions. Australia improved in their second innings through Cameron Green's 104 but were dismissed for 284, leaving Bangladesh with only 57 runs to win. The visitors completed the chase comfortably despite losing Tanzid Hasan Tamim for a golden duck. Cummins said Australia would review the team's composition before the second Test and did not rule out changes to personnel. However, he urged caution, noting that the team had only just finished the match and needed time to assess what went wrong. "Every time there's a game like this, you always look at your match-ups and the make-up of the team for the next one," Cummins said. He added that Australia had traditionally been capable of responding strongly after disappointing results and expected the batting and bowling groups to analyse their performances. The Australia captain was particularly clear about Bangladesh's superiority, conceding that the visitors had been better across the contest. "I think they outplayed us in all facets, really," Cummins said, praising Bangladesh's patience and discipline. The defeat gives Bangladesh their first-ever Test victory over Australia in Australia and places significant pressure on the hosts ahead of the second Test. Australia must now regroup quickly and find answers after a performance that Cummins acknowledged was comprehensively beaten by a disciplined Bangladesh side.

Priya Bhavani Shankar Praises Ravi Teja's Energy in Irumudi

Actress Priya Bhavani Shankar has praised Ravi Teja's energy and revealed that audiences will see a different side of the actor in their upcoming film Irumudi. Directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the action thriller is scheduled to hit screens on August 21. Ravi Teja plays the lead role in Irumudi, with Priya Bhavani Shankar appearing as the female lead. Speaking about her character and the film, Priya said she plays Kaveri, an ordinary middle-class housewife whose life is closely connected to everyday realities. Priya described Kaveri as a middle-class housewife who has a drunken husband and a naughty daughter. She said the character is very close to reality and marks her first attempt at portraying a role of this kind. Although Irumudi is primarily presented as an action thriller, Priya said the film also has strong emotional elements. According to her, the relationship between a father and daughter is one of the major highlights of the story and is expected to connect strongly with audiences. The actress also opened up about her experience of working with Ravi Teja. She described his energy as phenomenal and admitted that it is difficult for anyone to match his pace and enthusiasm on set. However, Priya said that Irumudi will present Ravi Teja in a completely different manner. She suggested that viewers will get to see a side of the actor that they have not witnessed before. Priya also praised director Shiva Nirvana for the way he handled the story and developed the characters. She said the director's approach to storytelling and characterisation helped bring out the emotional depth of the film while maintaining its action-thriller elements. The combination of Ravi Teja's energetic screen presence, Priya Bhavani Shankar's realistic character and Shiva Nirvana's direction has created considerable interest ahead of the release. The film's emotional core, particularly the father-daughter relationship, is expected to be an important factor in connecting with family audiences. Meanwhile, Priya Bhavani Shankar is continuing to work on multiple projects. She revealed that she is currently shooting for Doota 2. She also mentioned that Demonte Colony 3 is ready for release. For Ravi Teja, Irumudi marks another attempt to explore a distinctive character while combining action with emotional storytelling. With the film scheduled for release on August 21, audiences are now waiting to see the new avatar of the actor and how Priya Bhavani Shankar's Kaveri fits into the story.

Yash Responds to Criticism Surrounding Toxic

Rocking star Yash, who rose to nationwide fame with the KGF franchise, has responded to criticism surrounding his upcoming film Toxic. The actor has denied allegations that the film promotes obscenity or masculinity, stressing that intimate scenes should be presented within appropriate limits and handled artistically. In a recent interview, Yash said he has never encouraged obscenity in films. According to the actor, there should be a clear limit while filming intimate sequences, and such scenes should contribute to the overall cinematic experience rather than becoming the focus of attention.

Yash also emphasised that the audience's experience after watching a film is what matters most. Addressing the criticism surrounding Toxic, he suggested that viewers should watch the complete film before forming an opinion about its content and themes.

Elaborating on the story, Yash said Toxic revolves primarily around issues faced by the present generation of youngsters, particularly Gen-Z, and the conflicts that arise between their outlook and old-fashioned ideas. He indicated that emotions play a significant role in the narrative and described the film as a story made with today's youth in mind.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic marks Yash's return to the big screen after the highly successful KGF series. The film has generated considerable anticipation because of its ambitious subject and Yash's association with the project. The story is reportedly set against the backdrop of the drug mafia, offering a different setting from Yash's previous films. Reports also suggest that the actor is playing a dual role in the movie, adding another layer of interest to the project.

The film features Kiara Advani, Nayanthara and Huma Qureshi in pivotal roles. Their presence alongside Yash has further raised expectations surrounding the movie.

With KGF having established Yash as one of the most recognised stars in Indian cinema, Toxic is being closely watched by audiences across multiple languages. The actor's comments indicate that the film aims to explore contemporary youth, generational conflicts and emotional themes while maintaining a strong cinematic appeal.

Toxic is scheduled to hit the screens on August 26. With its drug-mafia backdrop, reported dual role for Yash and direction by Geetu Mohandas, the film is expected to be one of the major releases attracting attention this season.



Sree Vishnu's Comrade Kalyan Set for October 9 Release

Sree Vishnu's upcoming Telugu action entertainer Comrade Kalyan is set to hit screens worldwide on October 9. Directed by Janakiram Marella, the film features Sree Vishnu and Mahima Nambiar in the lead roles and is expected to present an action-packed story with a distinctive backdrop. Sree Vishnu shared the release date announcement poster on his social media timelines, confirming October 9 as the day audiences can watch the film in theatres. The actor called on fans to join the celebrations with the film's hashtag and its "#LOLSalaam" phrase. Known for choosing unconventional stories and delivering entertaining performances, Sree Vishnu is now looking to continue his successful run with Comrade Kalyan. The film is being positioned as an action entertainer that combines a strong setting with elements of romance and emotion. Janakiram Marella has directed the project, while Kona Venkat is presenting it. Venkata Krishna Karnati and Seetha Karnati are producing the film under the banner of Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP. The story is set against the backdrop of the Andhra-Odisha border in 1992. The period setting is expected to play an important role in shaping the narrative, while the film also boasts a sizeable ensemble cast. Alongside Sree Vishnu and Mahima Nambiar, the cast includes Tamil actress Radhika Sarathkumar, Malayalam actor Shine Tom Chacko and Upendra Limaye in pivotal roles. Their involvement adds further interest to the project and expands its cast across multiple film industries. The makers have already offered audiences a glimpse of the film's romantic side through its first single, Oriya Pilla, which was released in June. The title translates to "Oriya girl" in English and hinted at the tender love story woven into the larger action-driven narrative. Composed by Vijay Bulganin, Oriya Pilla is a gentle melody built around simplicity and emotion. The song carries an old-world charm, while Sid Sriram's vocals add to its emotional appeal. Bhaskarabhatla penned the lyrics, capturing the feelings of a young man who becomes deeply fascinated by an Oriya girl.



Actress Faria Abdullah, known for her performances in Telugu films such as Jathi Rathnalu and Mathu Vadalara 2, has responded emotionally to severe trolling and religious abuse she faced on social media after participating in Bonalu celebrations in Hyderabad's Old City. Faria took part in the traditional festivities by offering Bonam to the deity and joining devotees at a temple. She also danced to the beats of drums at the temple premises. Her participation and enthusiasm for Telangana culture attracted considerable attention, with videos from the celebrations later going viral on social media. However, the response to the actress was not entirely positive. Some social media users criticised her participation in a Hindu festival and subjected her to religious abuse. She was even called a "kafir" by some users, prompting Faria to address the criticism in an emotional, teary-eyed video. Speaking about her background, Faria explained that her father had converted to Islam by his own choice and belief. She said she grew up seeing the positive side of Islam because her father had consciously embraced the faith. Despite the abuse directed at her,

Faria Abdullah Gets Emotional Over Religious Abuse After Bonalu Participation

Faria said she did not harbour hatred towards those who criticised her. Instead, she expressed goodwill towards people who believed that her actions were wrong. "Whoever was hating on me, whoever thinks that I am going wrong, that I am a kafir, whatever you want to say, I wish well for you, bro. I wish well for you," she said. Faria also opened up about her personal understanding of spirituality and explained that she believes divinity exists in everything around her. She spoke about seeing life in nature, including trees, rocks and butterflies, and suggested that recognising God in different forms should bring people together rather than create divisions. Her message centred on love, unity and peace. Faria said she prays for these values and described her approach as her own form of rebellion and revolution. The actress further said she wanted to be "aggressive" about spreading love and would continue sending love even to people who currently dislike or hate her. Her response marked a departure from the confrontational reactions often seen in online controversies. Faria also recalled a conversation with her mother about the word "Allah". According to the actress, her mother had explained that the word means light. This led Faria to question how something that represents everything could be used as a reason to exclude others. Her comments reflected her broader belief that spirituality should not be used to create barriers between people. Rather, she argued that faith should encourage acceptance, compassion and togetherness. Faria's emotional response has drawn attention because she chose not to answer the religious abuse with anger or hostility. Instead, she spoke about her upbringing, faith, gratitude and acceptance while extending goodwill towards her critics. Her participation in Bonalu celebrations and the subsequent controversy have also highlighted the actress's personal approach to Telangana culture and spirituality. Through her response, Faria made it clear that she intends to continue embracing her beliefs and celebrating cultural traditions while promoting love, unity and peace.

The song received attention for its melodic presentation and romantic mood, giving listeners an early indication of the film's emotional dimension. The makers appear to be balancing the action elements with a love story that could provide a softer contrast to the intense backdrop.

