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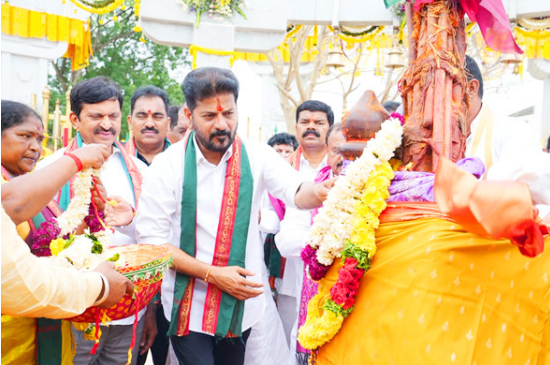
TRUE POINT

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Revanth Reddy Visits Tribal Shrine

Medaram, August 16 | TPN Bureau

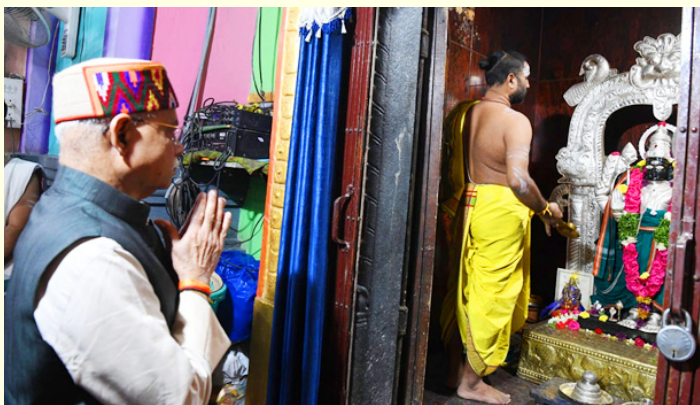
Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy visited Medaram in Mulugu district on Saturday and offered prayers at the sacred platforms of tribal deities Sammakka and Saralamma. Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka and other public representatives received the Chief Minister and participated in the programme. Revanth Reddy travelled by road from the helipad to the Sammakka-Saralamma temple and greeted people gathered along the route. Priests welcomed him at the temple according to traditional Adivasi customs. The Chief Minister later visited the sacred Gaddes, offered prayers and interacted with devotees. As part of the religious rituals, Revanth Reddy presented gold equivalent to his body weight as an offering to Sammakka and Saralamma. He also planted a sapling on the temple premises. Minister Seethakka presented



the Chief Minister with new clothes and temple prasadam. New clothes were also presented to ministers, MPs, MLAs and MLC B. Mahesh Kumar Goud. The Chief Minister subsequently launched the distribution of Cheyutha pensions to widows and single women. He personally handed over pension benefits to several beneficiaries, marking the formal beginning of the programme. During his visit, Revanth Reddy also held a direct interaction with mem-

bers of women's self-help groups and local devotees. He listened to their experiences and enquired about the activities being undertaken by the groups. The Chief Minister sought details about their livelihoods, employment opportunities and efforts to improve household incomes. He discussed the role of women's collectives in strengthening economic independence and encouraged initiatives that could create sustainable sources of income.

Members of the groups explained the benefits they were receiving under the Indra Mahila Shakti policy and shared details of their entrepreneurial activities. SERP CEO Divya Devarajan briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of women who had started their own businesses and were moving towards greater financial independence. The women's groups also presented Ippapuvvu (Mahua flower) laddus to the Chief Minister. The visit combined religious observance, welfare initiatives and community interaction, with a focus on tribal traditions, women's empowerment and livelihood development. PCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Seethakka and Adluri Laxman Kumar, MPs Vem Narendar Reddy, Kadiyam Kavya and Balaram Naik, Whip Ramachandra Naik, and several MLAs, public representatives and officials participated in the programme.



Governor Attends Pavithrotsavams

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla attended the sacred Pavithrotsavams at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple under the Visakha Sri Sarada Peetham at Chandanagar in Hyderabad on Saturday. During his visit, the Governor offered prayers to Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy and had divine darshan at the temple. He sought the blessings of the deity for the peace, prosperity and overall well-being of the people of Telangana. The Pavithrotsavams are conducted as a significant religious observance at the temple, with devotees participating in special rituals and prayers. The Governor's visit added prominence to the spiritual celebrations. Following the temple rituals, Shiv Pratap Shukla met Sri Sri Sri Swaroop

panandendra Saraswathi Mahaswami, Peethadhipathi of the Sri Sarada Peetham. He also met Sri Swatmanandendra Saraswathi Swamiji, the Peetham's uttaradhikari. The Governor received the blessings of the spiritual leaders and discussed matters related to the religious and spiritual significance of the occasion. The meeting reflected the traditional importance attached to seeking the guidance and blessings of spiritual heads during sacred ceremonies. The Governor extended his wishes for the continued peace and prosperity of the people of Telangana. His participation in the Pavithrotsavams was marked by devotional observance and interaction with the spiritual leadership of the Peetham. Temple authorities and devotees were present during the Governor's visit and religious proceedings.

Revanth Reddy Unveils Collectorate



Mulugu, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated the newly constructed Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) in Mulugu district on Saturday and unveiled the statue of 'Telangana Thalli' installed on the Collectorate premises. Addressing the gathering, he assured people that adequate funds would be sanctioned for the comprehensive development of Mulugu. The Chief Minister

said the government was committed to strengthening infrastructure and improving basic facilities across the district. Referring to the Sammakka-Saralamma temple, he said the shrine dedicated to the tribal goddesses had been developed on a grand scale, comparable to the historic Thousand Pillar Temple. Revanth Reddy also assured that Jampanna Vagu would be developed comprehensively to benefit people in the region. He said irrigation projects

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Revanth Reddy Launches Rural Road Works



Mulugu, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday launched a major rural road development initiative aimed at improving connectivity across Telangana. The programme marks the commencement of development works for 2,145 rural roads across the state, with the objective of strengthening transportation links between villages and key administrative and highway networks. As part of the launch, the Chief Minister unveiled a specially constructed pylon in Mulugu district, symbolising the beginning of the statewide rural road development programme. The structure was erected by the Engineering Wing of the Panchayat Raj Department opposite the Gattamma Temple. The initiative is expected to give fresh impetus to rural connectivity by improving roads linking Gram Panchayats with Mandal headquarters and major state highways. Better road infrastructure is intended to

make travel easier for villagers, improve access to government services and strengthen connections between rural communities and nearby towns. The programme positions Mulugu as the starting point for a broader effort to upgrade rural transportation infrastructure. The development of roads across different parts of the state is aimed at addressing connectivity gaps and improving the movement of people and essential goods. The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of reliable road infrastructure in supporting rural development. Improved roads can provide better access to educational institutions, healthcare facilities, markets and administrative centres, while also creating favourable conditions for local economic activity. The statewide programme covers 2,145 rural roads, signalling a significant focus on strengthening basic infrastructure in villages. The works are expected to

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Revanth Reddy Launches Cheyutha Pensions

Mulugu, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday launched the statewide distribution of 'Cheyutha' pensions for widows and single women during his visit to Mulugu district. The programme was held at the sacred abode of tribal deities Sammakka and Saralamma, where the Chief Minister also offered prayers. As part of the visit, Revanth Reddy paid homage at the Sammakka-Saralamma Gaddes, the revered sacred platforms associated with the tribal goddesses. During a special ritual, he offered gold equivalent to his body weight to Sammakka and Saralamma. He also planted a sapling on the temple premises. Tribal priests and members of the local community accorded the Chief Minister a traditional welcome amid Dolu drum beats and tribal customs. Later, he formally inaugurated the pension distribution programme by handing over pension assistance to eligible widows and single women from the local area. The Chief Minister also inaugurated a drinking water plant established within the temple complex for the benefit of devotees visiting the shrine. He directed officials to ensure that safe and clean drinking water is continuously available to pilgrims, particularly during periods of heavy visitor movement. During his visit, Revanth Reddy interacted with members of women's self-help groups on the temple premises. He



enquired about their activities, livelihood opportunities and efforts towards improving household incomes. He discussed measures aimed at strengthening women's employment and economic empowerment through self-help group initiatives. The Chief Minister's visit combined welfare measures with attention to the development and facilities at the important tribal pilgrimage centre. The launch of the Cheyutha pension distribution programme was presented as a step towards extending financial support to vulnerable women across the state. Ministers Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Adluri Laxman Kumar, Whip Ramachandra Naik, and MPs Vem Narendar Reddy, Porika Balaram Naik and Kadiyam Kavya attended the programme. MLAs Kadiyam Srihari, Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, Nayini Rajender Reddy, Koram Kanakaiah, Payam Venkateswarlu, Tellam Venkatrao, Jare Adinarayana and Murali Naik, along with other elected representatives and senior officials, also participated in the event.

Revanth Reddy Launches Major Projects

Parkal, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated several completed development projects and laid foundation stones for a series of new works in Parkal constituency of Hanumakonda district on Saturday. The projects cover edu-

cation, healthcare, roads, power infrastructure, women's empowerment and civic development. Among the major projects launched was the foundation stone for a 'Young India' Integrated Residential School, estimated to cost Rs 200 crore. The initiative is aimed at

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Parkal, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy urged unemployed youth to remain alert against attempts to provoke them in the name of joblessness, stressing that the government was committed to addressing their concerns. He said the people's government was implementing its agen-

da by giving priority to farmers, women and young people and resolving their problems systematically. Speaking at a public meeting in Parkal constituency, the Chief Minister said all vacant government posts would be filled in phases. He assured unemployed youth that the government was taking sustained measures to fulfil their aspirations and provide better employment opportunities. As part of the 'Praja Palana-Pragathi Bata' programme, Revanth Reddy laid foundation stones for several development works and inaugurated completed projects with a combined value of around Rs 424 crore in the constituency. Addressing the gathering, he said the government had filled nearly 70,000 government posts during its first year in office. He noted that recruitment remained a priority and cited the recent police recruitment notification as another step in that direction. The government had also relaxed the age limit for eligible candidates, he said.

P5

Bandi Sanjay Reviews NSG Readiness

Ranga Reddy, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar visited the National Security Guard's (NSG) 28th Special Composite Group at Ibrahimpatnam in Ranga Reddy district and reviewed the force's operational preparedness and specialised capabilities. During his visit, the Union Minister interacted with NSG officers and personnel and enquired about their training, operational readiness and ability to respond to complex security situations. He witnessed a series of demonstrations simulating responses to terrorist attacks, bomb blasts and other emer-

gency scenarios. NSG commandos demonstrated room-intervention techniques designed for operations in confined and challenging environments. Specially trained K9 assault dogs also displayed their capabilities as part of the exercises. The personnel further showcased specialised weapons, equipment and operational systems used during counter-terrorism missions. Bandi Sanjay praised the commandos for their professional conduct, precision, alertness and high level of preparedness. He said their performance reflected the extensive training and expertise required to deal with rapidly changing security threats. The Union Minister appreciated the

NSG personnel for their dedication to protecting the country and said their readiness to respond during critical situations was a matter of national pride. He noted that evolving threats required security agencies to continuously upgrade their skills, equipment and operational strategies. The Ibrahimpatnam facility forms part of the NSG's regional deployment network established to strengthen the country's response to major security emergencies. The expansion of regional hubs gained particular importance following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, with the objective of ensuring that specialised counter-terrorism teams can reach affected areas quickly. The Ibrahimpatnam centre provides specialised training in areas including counter-terrorism, bomb disposal and counter-improvised explosive device (IED) operations. It has been developed with dedicated operational and training infrastructure to support the force's specialised requirements.

The complex includes accommodation facilities for commandos, officers' facilities, parking infrastructure, maintenance areas and specialised training and firing facilities. These installations are designed to support continuous training and maintain high operational standards. The Ibrahimpatnam-based NSG unit is strategically positioned to provide emergency response support to Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh when required. Bandi Sanjay expressed satisfaction with the level of preparedness demonstrated during the visit and commended the officers and commandos for maintaining operational excellence. He said the commitment and discipline displayed by the force were crucial to safeguarding the nation against emerging security challenges. He also encouraged the personnel to continue upgrading their capabilities and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism while carrying out their responsibilities.



Bandi Sanjay Pays Tribute to Vajpayee



Injapur, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary at Injapur, recalling the veteran leader's exceptional contribution to India and describing him as a symbol of patriotism, integrity and courage.

Bandi Sanjay said Vajpayee occupied a special place among India's most distinguished statesmen and remained respected across political boundaries. He described Vajpayee as a leader who, during his long political career spanning nearly six decades, earned admiration even from those who opposed him politically. Recalling Vajpayee's public life, the Union Minister said the former Prime Minister stood out for his commitment to democratic values and personal integrity. He compared Vajpayee to a lotus that flourished despite the difficult political environment surrounding him.

Bandi Sanjay highlighted Vajpayee's approach to diplomacy and national security, describing him as a statesman capable of extending a message of peace while simultaneously demonstrating India's military strength when required. He pointed to the Pokhran nuclear tests conducted during Vajpayee's tenure as an example of his determination to strengthen India's strategic position.

The Union Minister also recalled Vajpayee's historic address at the United Nations in Hindi, saying it projected India's cultural confidence and national identity on the international stage.

He described Vajpayee as an exceptionally gifted orator whose personality

and parliamentary contributions earned appreciation from leaders across political parties. Bandi Sanjay noted that even political opponents respected his ability to articulate national issues with clarity and dignity. The Union Minister also referred to the fall of Vajpayee's government by a single vote in Parliament. He said Vajpayee chose to accept the outcome rather than resort to unethical political inducements to retain power, demonstrating his commitment to democratic principles.

According to Bandi Sanjay, Vajpayee considered public office a responsibility rather than a personal possession. His willingness to give up power when he could not command the required majority reflected the values that defined his political career, he said.

He further described Vajpayee as a leader who devoted his entire life to the service of the nation. His contributions to governance, national security, diplomacy and public life, he said, continue to influence India.

Bandi Sanjay said Vajpayee's legacy extends beyond his political achievements and lies equally in his character, patriotism and commitment to national interests. He said the former Prime Minister demonstrated that political leadership could combine conviction with compassion and firmness with dialogue.

Paying his final respects, the Union Minister said Vajpayee's patriotism, integrity, courage and dedication would continue to inspire Indians, particularly younger generations. He urged people to draw lessons from the former Prime Minister's life and uphold the values of service, democracy and national commitment.

Ashada Bonalu Festivities Conclude

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau



Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla paid heartfelt tributes to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary, remembering the veteran statesman for his exceptional contribution to the nation. In his tribute, the Governor described Vajpayee as a towering political leader, visionary statesman and distinguished parliamentarian who devoted his life to public service. He said Vajpayee's commitment to the country, democratic principles and good governance had left a lasting impression on India's political and public life.

Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla recalled the former Prime Minister's role in nation-building and his vision of a strong, prosperous and united India. He said Vajpayee's ideas and principles continued to inspire people across generations and remained relevant in the country's journey towards development.

The Governor highlighted Vajpayee's reputation for political integrity, leadership and dedication to public service. He noted that the former Prime Minister had earned widespread respect through his parliamentary contributions, statesmanship and ability to place national interests above political considerations. Vajpayee, one of India's most prominent political figures, served as Prime Minister on three occasions and played a significant role in shaping the country's political landscape. His tenure is remembered for initiatives in infrastructure, economic development, diplomacy and national security. The Governor said Vajpayee's contribution extended beyond his years in office, with his speeches, writings and political philosophy continuing to influence public discourse. His commitment to democratic institutions and parliamentary traditions was particularly remembered.

Shiv Pratap Shukla said the former Prime Minister's vision of India as a confident and self-reliant nation continues to guide the country. He stressed that Vajpayee's values of public service, integrity and democratic governance would remain a source of inspiration for future generations.

The Governor also paid respect to Vajpayee's enduring legacy, describing his life as an example of dedicated service to the nation. He said the former Prime Minister would continue to be remembered with admiration and gratitude for his contributions to India.

The tribute marked an occasion to recall the life and public service of a leader whose influence transcended political boundaries. Vajpayee's vision, ideals and commitment to the nation, the Governor said, would remain deeply rooted in the collective memory of the people. Shiv Pratap Shukla concluded his tribute by expressing profound respect for Atal Bihari Vajpayee and remembering his invaluable service to the country. He said the legacy of Atal Ji would continue to illuminate India's path for generations to come.

Seethakka Hails Development

Mulugu, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, along with Minister Dhanasari Anasuya (Seethakka), inaugurated the newly constructed Integrated District Offices Complex in Mulugu by formally opening the building. The leaders also unveiled a statue of 'Telangana Thalli' installed on the Collectorate premises. Speaking at the event, Minister Seethakka thanked the Chief Minister on behalf of the people of Mulugu for visiting the district and launching several development programmes and projects. She described Revanth Reddy as a supportive leader who had extended significant assistance for the development of the constituency. Seethakka said Mulugu had historically faced challenges such as poor literacy levels and inadequate infrastructure. She claimed that the present government was working to extend development and welfare programmes to every section of society and every part of the constituency.



She said the government was pursuing development in Mulugu on a large scale, with a focus on infrastructure, education and irrigation. She also highlighted the development of the Sammakka-Saralamma temple at Medaram, stating that substantial funds had been invested in improving facilities at the important tribal pilgrimage centre. The Minister recalled that the formation of Mulugu district was made possible through sustained efforts by Revanth Reddy and former leader

Nallella Kumaraswamy. She said Mulugu was created as a new district before the elections and was now witnessing a major expansion of development works. According to Seethakka, the previous administration announced projects and laid foundation stones but failed to complete several works. She said the present government was moving beyond announcements by taking up integrated educational institutions, irrigation projects and other infrastructure initiatives.

As a representative from the region, Seethakka said she was working continuously for the development of Mulugu but alleged that political opponents were making baseless accusations against her. She rejected the allegations and said her commitment to the constituency would remain unchanged. She also highlighted the need to make effective use of the Godavari's water resources. Despite the river flowing through the region, she said, adequate irrigation facilities



had not reached farmers in the past. The government was now planning and implementing irrigation projects with the aim of providing water to agricultural lands across the constituency. Seethakka said efforts were underway to develop irrigation infrastructure so that more farmland could receive reliable water, similar to irrigation facilities available in other Godavari-region districts. She further stated that 5,000 houses had been sanctioned for the Mulugu constituency,

describing the housing initiative as another step towards improving living conditions for local families. The Minister expressed confidence that ongoing development projects would transform Mulugu and improve opportunities for its people. She also strongly criticised those spreading what she termed false information about the government's initiatives and warned that the people would judge such claims against the actual progress taking place in the district.

Bandi Sanjay Inaugurates SSB Quarters

Ranga Reddy, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar inaugurated 48 newly constructed residential quarters for personnel of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) at Ibrahimpatnam in Ranga Reddy district on Saturday. The housing units, built on a 50-acre campus, are intended to improve living conditions for SSB personnel and their families. After inaugurating the quarters, Bandi Sanjay inspected the facilities and interacted with officials before addressing SSB personnel at a programme held on the campus. SSB Director General Sanjay Singhal and senior officials were present. The Union Minister praised the SSB for its contribution to national security, particularly in tackling drug and arms trafficking, human trafficking, illegal migration, counterfeit currency networks, wildlife-related offences and other organised crimes along difficult border stretches.

He said the force was increasingly adopting modern technology to strengthen surveillance and border management. Technologies such as drones, CCTV systems, thermal imaging equipment, night-vision devices, GPS-enabled



patrolling, secure digital communication and GIS-based planning were being used to improve operational capabilities. Bandi Sanjay also appreciated the SSB's humanitarian role during emergencies and disasters. He highlighted the force's 18 support and rescue teams, which remain prepared to respond to emergencies and assist civilians. He commended the personnel for maintaining a



strong sense of duty and service while operating in challenging conditions. Speaking about the newly inaugurated housing units, the Union Minister said the quarters represented more than physical infrastructure and reflected the Centre's emphasis on the welfare of personnel serving in the Central Armed Police Forces. He stressed that providing secure and comfortable accommodation to jawans and

their families would enable them to perform their duties without concerns about their families' wellbeing. He said the government was working to improve housing availability for security personnel and their families as part of a broader effort to modernise the Central Armed Police Forces. Bandi Sanjay said particular attention was being given to the welfare of personnel's families, including access to quality medical services and education for children. He also highlighted initiatives involving modern schools and sports activities aimed at supporting the overall development of children from security-force families. The Union Minister said the Centre, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of the Union Home Ministry, remained committed to improving the working and living conditions of security personnel. Modernisation, he said, was essential not only for strengthening operational effectiveness but also for ensuring the physical and mental wellbeing of those serving the nation. He congratulated the officials, engineers, construction agencies and staff involved in completing the residential project and expressed hope that the facilities would significantly benefit SSB personnel and their families.

Electric Auto Conversion Plan Announced

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has proposed a major initiative to convert petrol and diesel-powered auto-rickshaws into electric vehicles, with the objective of reducing pollution and lowering operating costs for drivers. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the State Cabinet had approved the formulation of the "Telangana Auto-Rickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme-2026" in line with the Telangana Rising Vision-2047. The scheme will initially cover eligible auto-rickshaws operating within the Telangana Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) area. According to Transport Department records, 18,766 eligible internal combustion engine autos are currently registered and active in the region. Of these, 11,254 are diesel vehicles and 7,512 run on petrol. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said auto-rickshaws are an important part of urban last-mile connectivity but contribute to air and noise pollution. Rising petrol and diesel prices also increase the financial burden on drivers. The proposed scheme seeks to address both concerns by encouraging a shift towards electric mobility.



Eligible beneficiaries will have two options. Under the first option, existing auto-rickshaws can be converted into electric vehicles using AIS-123-approved retrofit kits. The government will provide financial assistance of up to Rs 1.50 lakh, covering the kit, installation and standard accessories, subject to the actual cost. Beneficiaries may select either fixed or swappable battery systems through empanelled vendors.

The second option allows owners to surrender their existing petrol or diesel autos and purchase new factory-manufactured, type-approved electric passenger three-wheelers. A fixed subsidy of Rs 1.50 lakh will be provided for the purchase. Empanelled dealers will deduct the subsidy directly from the vehicle's on-road price before delivery. The government has proposed an overall budget of Rs 200 crore for the scheme. Since the

benefit will be available to eligible vehicle owners irrespective of their social category, the funds are proposed to be pooled equally from the SC, ST, BC and Minority Welfare Departments, with Rs 50 crore allocated by each department. A three-tier monitoring structure has also been proposed to ensure transparent implementation. A State-Level Steering Committee will function under the Principal Secretary of the Roads, Buildings and Transport Department. A Scheme Implementation Committee headed by the Transport Commissioner will oversee execution, while District Sanction Committees chaired by District Collectors will handle district-level approvals. The Minister said large-scale electrification of autos would help Hyderabad move towards cleaner public transport while reducing fuel expenses for drivers. He said the initiative seeks to balance environmental protection, sustainable urban development and the economic interests of auto-rickshaw operators. The government expects the scheme to support cleaner mobility, reduce dependence on conventional fuels and contribute to the long-term goal of making Hyderabad a more sustainable urban transport hub.

Preserve Heritage for Future Generations: Jupally

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao called for preserving and promoting India's cultural heritage while drawing inspiration from the sacrifices of freedom fighters to strengthen national unity and development. He made the remarks while addressing the 'Cultural Celebrations-2026 (Hyderabad Zindabad)' programme organized by the Hyderabad Citizens Forum with the support of the Telangana Department of Language and Culture ahead of the 80th Independence Day celebrations. Speaking at the event, the Minister said India's identity is rooted in its diversity of languages, traditions, customs and artistic expressions. He described the country as a living example of "Unity in

Diversity," where different cultures coexist while contributing to a shared national identity. Jupally Krishna Rao said Telangana possesses a rich historical legacy and vibrant cultural traditions. He pointed out that festivals such as Bathukamma, Bonalu and the Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara are deeply connected to the lives and traditions of the people. He also highlighted renowned folk art forms including Perini Shiva Tandavam, Oggu Dolu, Gussadi and Chindu Yakshaganam, which continue to showcase the state's cultural richness on national and international platforms. The Minister stressed that these traditions should not be viewed merely as symbols of the past but should be actively preserved and passed on to future generations. He urged society to encourage young



people to develop an interest in cultural activities while extending greater support to artists and cultural practitioners. Referring to Hyderabad's unique identity, he said the city has long been a symbol of inclusiveness where people from different linguistic, religious and regional back-

grounds have lived together harmoniously. Historical landmarks such as Charminar, Golconda Fort and the Qutb Shahi Tombs stand as reminders of the city's glorious past, he said. The Minister noted that Hyderabad's literature, music, arts, cuisine, festivals and heritage have contributed to

its distinctive cultural character and international recognition. Addressing social concerns, Jupally Krishna Rao said there is a growing need to create awareness about issues affecting society. He pointed to challenges such as the influence of commercialized education and healthcare,

increasing social imitation and ostentation, and problems affecting youth, including addiction, substance abuse and crime. He said cultural programmes should serve a larger purpose beyond entertainment by promoting awareness, responsibility and social values. Arts, literature, media and cultural organizations, he added, should actively contribute to educating the public about social issues. Congratulating the Hyderabad Zindabad Citizens Forum for organizing the event, the Minister extended his best wishes to participating artists, cultural organizations and organizers. Former MLA Julakanti Ranga Reddy, officials of the Department of Language and Culture, artists, writers, environmentalists and cultural personalities were among those who attended the programme.

BRS Leader Questions Ration Card Spending

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

BRS MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan criticised the Telangana government over the newly distributed laminated ration cards, alleging that public money was being used for political publicity. He claimed that around Rs 100 crore was being spent on the production and distribution of 1.05 crore cards carrying the photographs of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy. Sravan said ration cards were intended to ensure food security for poor families and should not be converted into instruments of political promotion. He alleged that the government was spending large amounts on printing, lamination, technology infrastructure and transportation while pending obligations such as student fee reimbursement and employee retirement benefits remained unresolved.

He questioned the need to replace existing electronic ration cards with laminated versions and alleged that the expenditure amounted to an unnecessary financial burden on the public. According to him, the cost involved in printing and distributing the cards was close to Rs 100 per card. The BRS leader also accused the Congress government of adopting a double standard on political photographs. He recalled criticism raised by Congress leaders when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph appeared on COVID-19 vaccination certificates and questioned why similar objections were not being applied to the current ration cards. Sravan argued that ration benefits are provided under the National Food Security Act and should not be presented as personal contributions by political leaders. He also referred to the Supreme Court's 2016 judgment concerning photographs in government publicity and questioned the inclusion of a Cabinet minister's photograph on the cards. He warned that the cards could face changes once the Model Code of Conduct comes into force for local elections, potentially leading to additional expenditure if they have to be reprinted or modified. The BRS MLC demanded immediate removal of the Chief Minister's and Civil Supplies Minister's photographs and called for official cards carrying the state emblem instead.

He also sought a comprehensive audit of the alleged Rs 100-crore expenditure by the Comptroller and Auditor General and demanded recovery of any funds found to have been improperly spent. Sravan further called for appropriate legal and constitutional action if established guidelines had been violated. He urged the government to clarify the future of the 1.05 crore cards once election restrictions come into effect.

He concluded that welfare resources should be directed towards beneficiaries rather than political branding and demanded that the government stop what he described as unnecessary publicity at public expense.

BRS Criticises Revanth Reddy's District Visit

Sangareddy, August 16 | TPN Bureau

BRS leaders criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's recent visit to Sangareddy, alleging that the official programme failed to meet the expectations of residents and was instead used as a platform for political criticism. They raised the issue at a press conference held at the Sangareddy MLA's camp office.

The BRS leaders alleged that the government programme was conducted without adequately informing the local MLA and claimed that an official event had effectively been turned into a Congress party meeting. They said residents had expected concrete announcements on development projects and financial assistance for the municipality during the Chief Minister's visit.

According to the BRS leaders, people were particularly expecting an announcement of Rs 8 crore for each ward in Sangareddy Municipality. They expressed disappointment that no such allocation was announced and demanded immediate release of funds required for the town's development.

They also sought the release of pending funds under the Special Development Fund (SDF), Telangana Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TUFIDC) and

market yard-related works. The leaders said these funds were essential for addressing several long-standing infrastructure requirements in the district.

The BRS representatives said Sangareddy needed clear decisions on irrigation, roads, drainage, drinking water, healthcare, education and other basic infrastructure. They urged the state government to focus on completing pending projects and providing permanent solutions rather than limiting official visits to speeches and political statements.

They questioned what tangible benefits had been delivered to residents during the Chief Minister's visit. According to them, people had expected new development projects, financial allocations and major announcements, but felt that their expectations had not been fulfilled.

The BRS leaders demanded that future visits by the Chief Minister should prioritise district development and public welfare. They said the people of Sangareddy wanted visible implementation of projects, adequate funding and measurable progress rather than assurances without financial backing. SK Rasheed, Mandal party presidents Madhusudan Reddy, Vithal and Chakrapani, Councilor Jafar, Kasini Srikanth, party leaders, councillors and others attended the media conference.

SIR-2 Training Programme Conducted

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

A training programme on the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR-2) of electoral rolls was conducted at Gandhi Bhavan and Indira Bhavan in Hyderabad. Coordinators representing Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies participated in the programme and received detailed guidance on the revision process. The training focused on procedures to be followed during SIR-2 and the responsibilities of constituency-level coordinators in ensuring effective implementation. Participants were briefed on coordination mechanisms, field-level activities and the steps required to carry out the exercise systematically.

Officials and coordinators were provided guidance on how to coordinate with various teams involved in the electoral roll revision process. Emphasis was placed on maintaining proper communication between constituency-level teams and ensuring that field activities are carried out according to the prescribed procedures.

The programme also addressed practical aspects of implementing SIR-2 at the grassroots level. Coordinators were informed about the actions to be taken during field visits, verification-related activities and coordination with local functionaries. The training aimed to ensure that those responsible for implementing the exercise had a clear understanding of their duties.

The participants were encouraged to work in close coordination with field-level teams and maintain accuracy throughout the revision process. Proper documentation, timely reporting and adherence to established procedures were among the key aspects highlighted during the training.

The SIR exercise is aimed at ensuring that electoral rolls remain accurate and updated. The role of constituency coordinators is considered important in facilitating communication between organisational teams and those engaged in field-level activities.

The training programme at Gandhi Bhavan and Indira Bhavan provided an opportunity for coordinators from different Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies to understand the operational requirements of SIR-2 and clarify issues related to implementation.

The programme concluded with an emphasis on coordinated efforts and effective implementation. The training is expected to help constituency coordinators carry out their responsibilities more efficiently during the next stages of the SIR-2 exercise across Hyderabad and other areas covered by the programme.

Bandi Sanjay Hits Out at BRS

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar criticised the BRS over its recent comments on the quality of educational institutions in India, comparing the party's approach to the "sour grapes" mentality. He questioned why the former ruling party had not addressed shortcomings in Telangana's education sector during its decade in power.

Bandi Sanjay asked why the previous government had failed to establish more quality schools and colleges, recruit adequate teaching staff and fill vacancies in universities. He also questioned the handling of examination paper leaks, college funding and pending fee reimbursement payments.

He further raised concerns over student welfare and asked whether sufficient attention had been given to

university students who had participated in the Telangana movement. According to him, the BRS should first examine its own record before criticising the present situation. Referring to remarks attributed to members of former Chief Minister K. Chandra shekar Rao's family about schools and colleges, Bandi Sanjay said the comments should prompt the BRS to reflect on problems that remained unresolved during its tenure.

The Union Minister also strongly objected to comparisons that, in his view, portrayed foreign countries as superior to India. He invoked the Ramayana to criticise what he described as disparaging remarks about the country and questioned the commitment of those seeking political power and public resources in India.

Bandi Sanjay also criticised the Congress over its alleged positions on national symbols and comments concerning Indian engineers. He said it was contradictory for political opponents to question his patriotism while objecting to his use of the tricolour scarf.

Declaring his commitment to the nation, Bandi Sanjay said he would continue to proudly associate himself with both the saffron flag and the national flag.

He maintained that patriotism was not a political slogan but a deeply held conviction. He said his public life was guided by the principle that the nation must always come first.

Bandi Sanjay asserted that criticism would not weaken his commitment to India and concluded by reaffirming his dedication to the country and the ideals represented by "Bharat Mata Ki Jai."



Spiritual Gurus Guide Youth : Ramchander Rao

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao said spiritual leaders and gurus have an important role to play in guiding today's youth and helping them build a responsible and purposeful future. He made the remarks while highlighting the importance of spiritual guidance, social responsibility and service to society.

Ramchander Rao said young people increasingly need proper direction and positive guidance to navigate the challenges of modern life. He expressed the view that the younger generation can choose the right path when it receives the blessings, wisdom and guidance of respected spiritual personalities. Speaking about his interaction with Gurudev, Rao said he felt privileged and spiritually enriched by being in his presence. He observed that Gurudev's thoughts and messages concerning the future generation carried significant relevance and offered valuable direction to society.

The BJP state president said Gurudev's discourses had made a deep impression on him. He expressed his intention to follow the teachings in his own life and continue working for social and humanitarian causes. He said service to society should remain a central responsibility for those who have the opportunity and resources to contribute. Rao also appealed to people who have achieved positions of respect in society to recognise their wider responsibilities. He said professionals such as lawyers,

educators and other highly qualified individuals should not limit their role to their respective professions but should also contribute towards creating a better society.

He stressed that social progress requires responsible citizens who are willing to use their knowledge, experience and influence for the welfare of others. Such individuals, he said, can help guide communities and encourage younger generations to adopt constructive values.

Ramchander Rao further stated that genuine service should be carried out without expectations of personal benefit. Those who dedicate themselves to the welfare of society with sincerity and selflessness, he said, would always receive the blessings and support of spiritual gurus.

He emphasised that spiritual teachings can complement education and professional success by instilling discipline, compassion, responsibility and a sense of service. Such values, he said, are essential for building a balanced and socially conscious generation.

The BJP leader called upon citizens from different professional and social backgrounds to participate actively in humanitarian and community-oriented activities. He said collective efforts, guided by ethical values and a



commitment to public welfare, could help create a more responsible society. Ramchander Rao concluded by reiterating the importance of spiritual guidance and social service in shaping the future of the youth and strengthening society.

KTR Calls for Statewide Kalyana Lakshmi Protests



Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) accused the Congress government of attempting to discontinue the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes and called upon party workers to organise protests across Telangana. He directed BRS leaders and cadres to hold demonstrations at constituency and mandal headquarters on Sunday against what he described as an attempt to withdraw financial support for daughters from economically weaker families. KTR issued the call during a teleconference with BRS MLAs, MLCs, former public representatives, constituency leaders and state general body members. He alleged that the government was using a recent High Court

verdict as a pretext to stop the schemes. He recalled that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao introduced Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak in October 2014 to reduce the financial burden of marriage on poor families. According to KTR, assistance that began at Rs 51,000 was subsequently increased to Rs 75,116 and then Rs 1,00,116. He claimed that around Rs 13,000 crore was distributed to nearly 13 lakh beneficiaries during the previous government's tenure.

KTR said the schemes had continued even during difficult periods such as the COVID-19 pandemic. He accused Congress of promising an additional 10 grams of gold during the election campaign but now seeking to discontinue the basic assistance

instead of fulfilling that commitment. He alleged that many beneficiaries were facing delays in receiving approved assistance and were being forced to repeatedly visit government offices. KTR demanded that all pending eligible applications be processed immediately and the sanctioned financial assistance released without further delay.

Questioning the government's handling of the matter before the High Court, KTR asked why officials had not filed a counter-affidavit despite receiving multiple extensions. He questioned how the government could spend substantial amounts on private legal representation in other cases while, according to him, failing to adequately defend a welfare scheme affecting poor families.

KTR alleged that the Congress government was attempting to use the court ruling to justify ending both Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak. He warned that BRS would hold the government accountable on behalf of beneficiaries. He asked BRS leaders to campaign across villages and wards and question Congress representatives about the status of the schemes and the election promise concerning gold. KTR urged party cadres to mobilise people peacefully, coordinate with local leaders and public representatives, and ensure strong participation in the proposed statewide protests. He said BRS would continue its campaign demanding protection of the schemes and fulfilment of commitments made to women from poor families.

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He encouraged the younger generation to study Vajpayee's life and carry forward his principles of patriotism, democracy and public service.

BJP Leaders Pay Tribute to Vajpayee

Hyderabad, Aug u st 16 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the party's state office in Hyderabad on his death anniversary.

He recalled Vajpayee's distinguished contribution to the nation and his commitment to public service. Speaking on the occasion, Ramchander Rao said Vajpayee served as Prime Minister for more than six years and played a significant role in strengthening India's development.

He highlighted major initiatives undertaken during Vajpayee's tenure, including the expansion of national highways, transformation of the telecommunications sector and measures that improved access to LPG connections for ordinary households. Describing Vajpayee's tenure as an important period in Indian political history, Rao said his administration demonstrated strong leadership and a clear focus on national development. He also recalled Vajpayee's commitment to democratic and ethical values. Referring to the fall of his government by a single vote in Parliament, Rao said the former Prime Minister chose

to uphold democratic principles rather than compromise his values for political power. Rao urged present-day politicians and young people to draw inspiration from Vajpayee's integrity, statesmanship and dedication to public service. He said the former Prime Minister's lifelong commitment to the nation was recognised with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, awarded by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rao said Vajpayee may no longer be physically present, but his ideals, vision and values continue to inspire Indians. He encouraged the younger generation to study Vajpayee's life and carry forward his principles of patriotism, democracy and public service.



Women's Power Celebrated



Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said women occupy a highly respected position in Sanatana Dharma and urged society to uphold their dignity and recognise their contributions. He was speaking at the "Stree Shakti-Sanatana Shakti" programme held at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Chanda nagar under the auspices of Visakha Sri Sarada Peetham. The programme highlighted the potential of women and the transformative impact of empowering their abilities. The Governor attended the event as chief guest and participated in the Sri Raja Shyamala Devi Darbar Seva. Temple representatives also presented him with prasadam. Several speakers, including Professor Vijayalakshmi, Rama Viswanathan, Vani Sakkubai, Varanasi Radhika, Palla Radhika and Mou

nika Sunkara, addressed the gathering on women's empowerment and social advancement. Sri Swarup Panandendra Swamy, Peethadhipathi of Visakha Sarada Peetham, said Indian traditions have historically accorded women a place of honour. He pointed to the reverence shown to rivers, mountains and the nation itself through feminine representations as examples of this cultural outlook. Successor pontiff Swatmanarendra Swamy spoke about the importance given to women's progress in Indian culture and highlighted the Peetham's efforts to encourage women in different fields. The programme was organised with the support of priests and members of the Chandanagar temple committee. Children from Natya Veda Kalakshetram presented a dance performance, while Varanasi Sri Krishna Raghava entertained the audience with a musical presentation.

Questions Over Construction Supervision in Kompalli

Quthbullapur, August 16 | TPN Bureau:

Allegations of construction activity without the required permissions have raised questions over the functioning and field supervision of Town Planning officials in Kompalli Circle.



Locals claim that a shed is being constructed near Bhavani Metals Company, Flat No. 467, in Ram Reddy Nagar without obtaining the necessary approvals from the concerned authorities. As per the residents, permissions are mandatory before undertaking construction of buildings or sheds. However, they allege that work has continued at the location despite the absence of visible information regarding approvals. The situation has led to questions about whether Town Planning officials have inspected the site and verified the legality of the construction. Residents have also questioned whether any notices have been issued to the persons undertaking the work and whether officials have directed them to stop construction pending verification. They expressed concern that delayed action could allow an allegedly unauthorised structure to reach completion, making enforcement more difficult. Locals have urged the Kompalli Circle Town Planning authorities to conduct an immediate field inspection and establish whether valid permissions have been obtained. If violations are found, they have called for action in accordance with municipal regulations. The allegations have also prompted demands for greater monitoring of construction activity within the circle. Residents said regular field inspections and timely enforcement could help prevent unauthorised constructions and ensure compliance with planning rules. The authorities have yet to clarify whether the construction has the required permissions or whether any enforcement proceedings have been initiated. Residents are now awaiting an official inspection and response from the concerned department.

Photojournalist Wins State-Level Award



Kukatpally, August 16 | TPN Bureau:

Macharla Nageswara Rao, a photojournalist with Andhra Jyothi in Kukatpally, has received a state-level award in the News Photo Competition-2026 organised by the Telangana State Photojournalists Association. Nageswara Rao was recognised for a photograph portraying the lives of street vendors who depend on roadside businesses for their livelihood, while also capturing the emotional bond between a mother and her children. The image highlighted the contrast between everyday hardships and the unconditional affection of a mother.

Speaking after receiving the honour, Nageswara Rao said his work focuses on bringing public issues and the struggles of ordinary people to wider attention through photography. He expressed happiness that an image portraying a mother's love and her efforts to care for her children despite difficult circumstances had earned recognition. He said he would continue to focus on photographs that reflect social issues, human stories and subjects that can benefit society. Nageswara Rao thanked the Telangana State Photojournalists Association and the organisers of the competition for selecting his work for the state-level honour.

Governor Blesses Newlyweds

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla attended two wedding ceremonies in Hyderabad on Saturday and conveyed his blessings and best wishes to the newly married couples. The Governor first attended the wedding of Chi. Surya Teja and Chi. La. Sow. Janani, daughter of Telugu film producer Bandla Ganesh, at JRC

Convention in Jubilee Hills. He blessed the couple and wished them a happy, harmonious and prosperous married life. Later, the Governor attended the wedding ceremony of Chi. Abhay Chakravarthy and Chi. La. Sow. Surakshita at the Auspicious Convention Centre in Kompally. Surakshita is the daughter of Dr. B. Kalyan Chakravarthy, IAS. Shiv Pratap Shukla conveyed his heartfelt greetings to the

newlyweds and their families on the occasion. He wished both couples a fulfilling journey ahead, marked by happiness, mutual understanding and prosperity. The wedding functions were attended by family members, relatives, friends and well-wishers. The Governor's participation added a special significance to the celebrations as he personally blessed the couples and extended his greetings to their



Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau: The ceremonies concluded on a festive note, with

guests joining the families in celebrating the beginning of

the couples' new lives together.

Annadanam Held at Goddess Temples



Quthbullapur, Aug ust 16 | TPN Bur eau:

Annadanam programmes were conducted with devotion at several Goddess temples in Maitri Nagar and Rajiv Kalpa areas of the Saibaba Nagar division on Sunday. Senior BRS leader Varala Vinod Kumar participated as chief guest in the programmes held at Sri Ujjaini Mankalamma Temple, Sri Renuka Yellamma Temple in Maitri Nagar and Sri Nallapochamma Temple in Rajiv Kalpa. In Maitri Nagar, Vinod

Kumar offered prayers to the presiding deities and performed special rituals before distributing Anna Prasadam to devotees. He later visited the Sri Nallapochamma Temple in Rajiv Kalpa, where he performed special prayers and participated in food distribution. Speaking on the occasion, Vinod Kumar prayed for the blessings of the Goddesses upon all people and wished that every family would enjoy happiness, prosperity and good health. He said spiritual activities combined with community service help strengthen social harmony

and compassion. Raj Kumar Mu diraj, Gattu As hok, Krishna Mudiraj, Raju Yadav, Rajas hekhar, Rama krishna, Kumar, Jagan, Gurumurthy, Nages wara Rao, Abbas, Sridhar and Jai Bhim Nagar President Bha skar attended the Maitri Nagar program me. At Rajiv Kalpa, Temple Committee President Jai Simha Reddy, Kotveer Seenu, Badri, Raviku mar, Prasad, Soman ath, Raju Goud and Ramachandra participated. A large number of women and devotees also attended and received Anna Prasadam.

Fake Idol Scam Gang Held



Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

A six-member gang allegedly involved in attempting to cheat people by selling a counterfeit Panchaloha idol of Goddess Lakshmi and a stone falsely promoted as having supernatural powers has been apprehended by the Jubilee Hills Zone Task Force and Mailardevpally police. According to DCP (Task Force) Gayakwad Vaibhav Raghunath, police acted on

credible information that the suspects were waiting for prospective buyers near Lakshmiguda in Katedan on August 15. Police said the gang planned to sell the idol and a pink-coloured stone at inflated prices by making false claims about their divine and miraculous properties. The investigation revealed that P. Narasimha had allegedly purchased the counterfeit idol for Rs 10 lakh in 2024 from astrologer Challa Ravi and another individual from Vemulawada. The idol was later handed over to Vadathya Kumar, after which the group allegedly conspired to resell it. The arrested per-

sons were identified as Kethavath Raju alias Kattappa, Vadathya Kumar, Praveen Singh, Mangali Basava Narash, P. Narasimha and Challa Ravi. Police seized a counterfeit Lakshmi idol, a pink stone, an Ertiga vehicle, five mobile phones, three bottles containing unidentified chemical liquids and two red towels. The operation was conducted by a Task Force team led by Inspector Chhetri Yadender and SI G. Sandeep Reddy in coordination with Mailardevpally police. The accused and seized material were handed over to the local police for further investigation.

Three Held in Injection Sale Case

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad City Police Task Force personnel from the Rajendranagar Zone apprehended three people for allegedly possessing and illegally selling Mephentermine Sulphate injections. The arrests followed a raid conducted in the Nawab Saheb Kunta area of Falaknuma on Saturday, August 15, based on credible information. Police identified the accused as Mohammed Aijaz, 23, Mohammed Zubair alias Zubair, 30, and Mohammed Saif Khan, 20. Aijaz, who works at a clothing store in the Charminar KPB Complex, was allegedly involved in selling the injections. Zubair, a model by profession, was identified as the alleged prime accused, while Saif Khan, a car driver, allegedly supplied the injections.

According to the investigation, Zubair allegedly procured the injections at comparatively low prices through the IndiaMART online platform and arranged delivery through third-party courier services. Police said a pack of 30 injections was purchased for about Rs 5,000, with individual vials allegedly resold for Rs 1,000. The operation resulted in the seizure of 110 Mephentermine Sulphate injection vials, 25 syringes and three mobile phones. Police estimated the total value of the seized property at approximately Rs 6 lakh. A fourth suspect, identified as Shubham Rajput from Rajasthan, was reportedly the key supplier and remains absconding. A case was registered at Falaknuma Police Station under Crime No. 425/2026 under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.



Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau: Police said Aijaz had previously been named in cases registered at Santoshnagar, Mailardevpally, Bahadurpura and Falaknuma police stations, while Zubair had an earlier case at Chatrinaka Police Station. Hyderabad Commissioner of Police

appreciated the Task Force team for its work. The operation was conducted by Inspector Ravi, Sub-Inspector Dharmesh, PC Krishna Goud and others under the supervision of Additional DCP K.S. Rao.

Police urged citizens to report information regarding the sale or consumption of narcotics or prohibited substances through emergency number 112 or Hyderabad City Police helplines, assuring that informants' identities would be kept confidential.

BJP Demands Modi Photo on Ration Cards

Karimnagar, August 16 | TPN Bureau

BJP Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency Convener Boyinapalli Praveen Rao criticised the Telangana government over the distribution of new smart ration cards, alleging that the exercise was being used for political publicity. He warned that the Congress government would face public backlash if it continued what he termed unnecessary politics over welfare schemes. Addressing the media alongside BJP workers at a press conference organized by Shanka rapatnam BJP Mandal President Enugula Anil,

Praveen Rao demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph be prominently included on the smart ration cards being distributed by the state government. He argued that the Central Government provides the major share of the free ration rice supplied to poor beneficiaries, including five kilograms of rice per person. Therefore, he said, it was unfair to portray the welfare programme as solely a state government initiative by displaying only photographs of the Chief Minister and state ministers. Praveen Rao alleged that the Congress government was attempting to



gain political mileage by creating an impression among beneficiaries that the state alone was responsible for supplying the free rice. He said welfare schemes should not become platforms for political branding and urged the government to acknowledge the contribution of the Centre. He warned that continued politicisation

of ration cards and welfare measures could have serious political consequences for the ruling party. BJP State Council member Dandu Komurayya and senior leaders Dongala Ramulu, Dasarapu Narendar, Koyyada Ashok, Nimmachetti Sampath, Rasamalla Srinivas and others attended the press conference.

Fitness Rally Promotes Healthy Living

Mancherla, August 16 | TPN Bureau

A five-kilometre running and cycling rally titled "Ride and Run for Vikasith Bharat-2047" was organised in Mancherla to promote physical fitness and healthy lifestyles among citizens. The event was jointly conducted by AJ Pedals Cycle Store, JMJ Sports, MV Boxing Academy and Thunderflex Gym. The rally was flagged off at Court Square by retired principal and

District Cycling Association president Lion Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy. More than 100 young participants and over 50 cyclists took part enthusiastically in the programme. The rally passed through Mancherla Square, Court, R&B Square, Telangana Chowk and the Bus Stand before concluding at Court Square. Addressing participants at the concluding ceremony, Dr. Madhusudhan Reddy said a healthy population was an important asset for the nation's development. He observed that the vision of

a prosperous India could be achieved only when the younger generation remained physically fit and actively contributed to society. Dr. Madhusudhan Reddy presented medals to participants who completed the run and cycling event. The active participation of women was a notable feature of the rally. Organisers AJ Pedals Cycle Store's Akhil, MV Boxing Academy's Vikas, Thunderbolt Gym's Jamal, JMJ Sports' Kiran Reddy, cyclist athlete Mahesh, Lion Aravind and others participated in the programme. Participants expressed happiness over the successful conduct of the event.

Independence Day Celebrations Held at SR Digi School



Boduppal, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit at SR Digi School in Boduppal, Hyderabad. The programme was organised under the leadership of School Principal Srila kshmi, with the active participation of students and teachers. The celebrations

began with the unfurling of the national flag, followed by the national anthem. Students and teachers paid their respects to the Tricolour and remembered the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who contributed to India's independence. Various cultural programmes were presented by the students, highlighting patriotism, national unity and love for the country.

Their performances received appreciation from the audience and added colour to the celebrations. The school management appreciated the efforts of the students and teachers in making the event meaningful and memorable. The celebrations concluded with a message encouraging students to uphold the values of unity, responsibility and patriotism.

Revanth Reddy Highlights Development

Mulugu, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to Mulugu district on Saturday witnessed a series of welfare and development programmes, with Minister Dhanasari Anasuya (Seethakka) playing a key role in coordinating arrangements. The Chief Minister received a warm welcome from Medaram to Mulugu, with public representatives, Congress workers and local residents participating in the programmes. On his arrival at Medaram, Seethakka welcomed the Chief Minister. Revanth Reddy travelled by road from the helipad to the Sammakka-Saralamma temple and interacted with people along the route. Tribal priests welcomed him at the temple according to Adivasi customs. The Chief Minister offered prayers at the Sammakka-Saralamma Gaddelu and presented Niluvu-ettu Bangaram as an offering to the tribal deities. Seethakka applied a sacred mark on his forehead and tied a Rakhi to him in the presence of the goddesses. Revanth Reddy subsequently presented the traditional Bangaram offering to Seethakka. The Minister also presented temple clothes and prasadam to the Chief Minister and other dignitaries. During the Mulugu visit, Revanth Reddy



launched the distribution of 'Cheyutha' pensions to widows and single women. He personally handed over pension assistance to beneficiaries and later interacted with women's self-help groups. Women's groups explained the benefits they were receiving through the 'Indira Mahila Shakti' initiative. SERP CEO Divya Devarajan briefed the Chief Minister about women who had established businesses and improved their financial independence. The groups also

presented Ippa Puvvu laddoos to him. The Chief Minister and Seethakka jointly unveiled a pylon marking Panchayat Raj and Roads & Buildings works before inaugurating the newly constructed Mulugu Integrated Collectorate. They also unveiled a statue of 'Telangana Thalli' on the Collectorate premises. Speaking at the event, Seethakka described Revanth Reddy as a supportive leader who had taken special interest in Mulugu's development. She said the dis-

trict, once associated with inadequate infrastructure and limited development, was now receiving attention in areas including roads, irrigation, education and housing. She recalled the efforts that led to the formation of Mulugu district and said the present government was implementing projects rather than limiting itself to announcements and foundation stones. She highlighted integrated schools, irrigation works, road infrastructure and housing initiatives, including the sanction of 5,000 houses for the constituency.

Seethakka also said the government was giving special priority to Medaram while respecting Adivasi traditions and the significance of the Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara. She noted that substantial development works had been taken up at the temple complex. At the Collectorate meeting, Revanth Reddy praised Seethakka for her efforts in advancing Mulugu's development. He referred to her as a daughter of Telangana and acknowledged her role in coordinating the district's development initiatives. Ministers, MPs, MLAs, senior officials, Congress leaders, public representatives, women's groups and local residents participated in the programmes.

Revanth Reddy Unveils Collectorate

Continue

These included 'Young India' Integrated Residential Schools and ATCs aimed at promoting technical education and improving employment prospects for unemployed youth. Revanth Reddy said the government was implementing focused plans for farmers, women, unemployed youth and students. He urged students to adapt their education and career choices to changing circumstances and emerging opportunities. He advised young people to give importance to education from the foundational years through Class 12 and subsequently develop specialised skills. Formal education combined with technical expertise, he said, would help youth compete effectively in the global employment market while also opening opportunities for self-employment. Calling for unity among the people, the Chief Minister assured them that the government would work to address their concerns. He also stressed the need to increase dairy and agricultural production and expressed the vision of transforming Telangana into a more prosperous state through coordinated development.

Revanth Reddy Launches Major Projects

Continue

strengthening educational infrastructure and providing better learning opportunities for students from the region. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for development works in Parkal Municipality worth Rs 82 crore and a four-lane road connecting Parkal with Erragattu Gutta at an estimated cost of Rs 65 crore. An Advanced Technology Center, involving an investment of Rs 45.15 crore, was also taken up to support technical education and skill development. Another major project is the Parkal Indira Mahila Dairy Plant at Lyadella in Damara mandal, estimated to cost Rs 32.17 crore. The facility is expected to support women's economic empowerment and create opportunities linked to dairy production. Development works worth Rs 10 crore were sanctioned for Akkampet village, while Rs 5 crore was earmarked for improvement works at the Sri Kumkumeshwara Swamy Temple. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a township to be developed under the land pooling scheme in Atmakur. In Parkal town, a 33/11 KV electrical substation will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore. The

foundation stone was also laid for an Electrical Divisional Engineer's office, with a projected cost of Rs 1.10 crore. Several completed projects were inaugurated during the programme. These included a 100-bed Area Hospital in Parkal, constructed at a cost of Rs 35 crore. The new facility is expected to strengthen healthcare services and provide improved medical access to people in the constituency. A modern SPM Center at Atmakur, developed at a cost of Rs 1 crore, was also inaugurated. In addition, the newly constructed Government Degree College building in Parkal, completed with an expenditure of Rs 5 crore, was formally opened. The projects launched during the Chief Minister's visit represent a broad infrastructure push across the constituency. The government is focusing on improving public services, educational facilities, healthcare, connectivity, electricity infrastructure and livelihood opportunities. Officials and public representatives associated with the constituency participated in the programme and reviewed the various development initiatives. The works are expected to contribute to improved infrastructure and enhance access to essential services for residents of Parkal and surrounding rural areas.

Bandi Sanjay Blesses Newlyweds



Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar attended the wedding ceremony of film actor and producer Bandla Ganesh's daughter at JRC

Convention in Hyderabad. He extended his greetings and blessings to the newly married couple and conveyed his best wishes for their future together. Bandi Sanjay interacted with the family members and other guests present at the ceremony. The wedding was attended by relatives, friends and several personalities from the film and public spheres. The Union Minister's presence added a special touch to the occasion as he wished the newlyweds happiness and prosperity.

CM Attends Two Wedding Events



Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attended two wedding functions and extended his blessings and best wishes to the newly married couples. The Chief Minister attended the wedding ceremony of the daughter of film actor and producer Bandla Ganesh at JRC Convention in Hyderabad. He congratulated the couple and blessed them on the occasion, wishing them a happy and prosperous married life.

Later, Revanth Reddy attended the wedding reception of Jukkal MLA Lakshmikantha Rao's daughter in Bichkunda of Kamareddy district. He met the newlyweds and conveyed his heartfelt greetings and blessings to the couple. The Chief Minister also interacted with the family members and guests at both functions and wished the newly married couples a joyful and fulfilling life ahead. The wedding celebrations were attended by relatives, friends, well-wishers and other guests.

18 KGBV Students Fall Ill

Siddipet, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Eighteen students of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Maddur mandal headquarters reportedly fell seriously ill on Saturday, with suspected food poisoning being cited as a possible cause. The students were immediately shifted to the Government Hospital in Cheryal for medical treatment. Hospital authorities said the students were undergoing treatment and their condition was being monitored. Medical tests will determine whether the illness was caused by contaminated food or another factor. The sudden illness of several students at the same time caused concern among their parents and relatives. Family members urged the authorities to conduct a detailed investigation into the incident and identify the exact cause of the students' health problems. They also called for immediate preventive measures to ensure that students residing at the KGBV are provided with safe food, clean drinking water and proper medical care. After receiving information about the incident, Maddur MPDO Rammohan, Cheryal Circle Inspector Ramesh Naik and KGBV Special Officer Narmada visited the hospital. They spoke with medical personnel and reviewed the condition of the affected students. Hospital Superintendent Dr. Devender and the medical team are supervising the treatment and monitoring the students' health. Authorities are expected to examine the circumstances surrounding the incident and take appropriate measures based on the medical findings.

Ministerial Visit Rescheduled

Sultanabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

The scheduled visit of several Telangana ministers to Sultanabad town has been postponed and is now expected to take place on August 19. The programme was originally planned for Monday, with preparations already completed at the Government Junior College grounds under the supervision of Government Whip and MLA Chintakunta Vijaya Ramana Rao. According to party leaders, the change in schedule was necessitated by unavoidable circumstances. Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Tummala Nageswara Rao and Duddilla Sridhar Babu are among those expected to participate in the programme. During their visit, the ministers are scheduled to inaugurate road development works and lay foundation stones for central lighting projects at Poolsala Crossroads. Plaques marking various development works in Odela and Kalva Srirampur mandals are also expected to be unveiled. A public meeting will be held at the Sultanabad Government Junior College grounds. Preparations for the event have been progressing for the past several days, with arrangements being made for the stage, public participation and movement of dignitaries. Police and officials are also reviewing security measures. CI Ranjith Rao, SI Chandra Kumar and other personnel inspected the venue on Sunday. They examined the stage arrangements, VIP movement routes, vehicle parking facilities and security provisions. Officials are expected to continue monitoring the arrangements ahead of the ministers' visit to ensure the programme proceeds smoothly.

AITUC Backs Singareni Workers' Struggle

Singareni, August 16 | TPN Bureau

AITUC RG-2 Branch Secretary Gandham Sambasiva Rao said the union would support workers facing long-pending issues related to alias and vigilance cases in Singareni. He was speaking at a meeting held at the local AITUC office on Sunday. Sambasiva Rao said several affected workers had been fighting for years to secure justice and resolve their service-related grievances. He alleged that Singareni management had failed to take meaningful action despite repeated representations. He said the workers, frustrated by the continued delay, had begun an indefinite hunger strike outside the Singareni head office three days ago. Expressing solidarity with them, he urged the management to immediately address the pending alias-related cases. The AITUC leader said he had previously raised the issues with the management in his capacity as a representative of the recognised union and sought a one-time solution for all eligible cases. Although officials had indicated that the matter would be examined after obtaining legal advice,



he alleged that no concrete action followed. Sambasiva Rao appealed to the state government to intervene and ensure justice for the affected workers. He also held Singareni management responsible for the health and wellbeing of employees continuing their hunger strike. He warned that AITUC would organise protests across Singareni if the grievances were not resolved promptly. Rajaratnam, Burra Tirupati, Anna Rao, Samson, Ravikumar, Mahender, Sampath, Mahender Raju, Shankar, Rajasagar and Narayana were among those present at the meeting.

Sravana Bonalu Celebrated

Quthbullapur, August 16 | TPN Bureau:

Sravana Bonalu was celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm at Pandu Basti under Saibaba Nagar Division No. 292 on Sunday. A special worship ceremony dedicated to the Goddess was organised as part of the traditional festivities, attracting a large number of devotees. Senior BRS leader Varala Vinod Kumar attended the programme as chief guest and offered special prayers to the Goddess. He joined devotees in presenting Bonam, the traditional ritual offering, and later received Prasadam. Speaking on the occasion, he prayed for the Goddess's blessings on all people and wished every family happiness, prosperity, good health and peace. The temple premises witnessed a festive atmosphere as devotees gathered to perform traditional Bonalu rituals and offer prayers. Vinod Kumar participated in the celebrations alongside local residents and interacted with devotees, adding to the spirit of the occasion. BRS leader Raj Kumar Mudiraj, Pandu Basti President Meen Kumar, Temple Committee President Santosh Goud, Srisailam Yadav, Prabhakar Naidu, Ramesh Yadav, Satish, Dinesh Goud, Sudhakar Mudiraj, Balakrishna Goud, Narasapuram Krishna Goud, Katakam Srinivas, Chandra Reddy, Bethal Ravinder and others participated in the celebrations.



Maheshwar Reddy Pays Tribute to Vajpayee

Hyderabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Legislature Party leader and MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary. He garlanded Vajpayee's portrait and recalled the veteran leader's outstanding contribution to the nation. Maheshwar Reddy described Vajpayee as an exceptional statesman, poet and visionary who played a significant role in shaping modern India. He said Vajpayee's leadership was marked by several historic decisions and initiatives that strengthened the country's development and national security. He particularly recalled the Pokhran nuclear tests and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as important milestones associated with Vajpayee's tenure. He said the former Prime Minister demonstrated that effective governance could be combined with democratic values and a strong commitment to national development. Maheshwar Reddy stated that Vajpayee's principles of good governance, integrity and public service continue to inspire political leaders and citizens. He said the former Prime Minister's legacy would remain relevant for generations. Senior BJP leaders Ravula Ramnath, Takkala Ramana Reddy, Mutyam Reddy, district vice-president Satyam Chandrakant, urban leaders Kandula Harish, Podelli Ganesh and D. Srinivas, besides other party leaders and activists, attended the programme and paid their respects to Vajpayee.

Revanth Reddy Assures Jobs for Youth

Continue

Revanth Reddy clarified that recruitment would continue in a phased manner and assured that remaining vacancies would be taken up soon. He appealed to unemployed youth to use the waiting period productively rather than losing valuable time. The Chief Minister said the government was simultaneously working on welfare and development programmes for farmers and women while creating opportunities for the younger generation. Recalling Warangal's history of political awareness, social movements and public struggles, Revanth Reddy said the district had produced several prominent leaders who devoted themselves to public service even after Independence. He also referred to the upcoming Assembly session scheduled for September and appealed to Leader of the

programme along with elected representatives and senior officials. Their participation underscored the coordinated involvement of the Panchayat Raj administration and local representatives in implementing the road development programme. The initiative is expected to improve last-mile connectivity and establish stronger road links between villages, mandal centres and major highways, supporting the long-term development of rural areas across Telangana. Opposition K. Chandrashekar Rao to attend the proceedings. Revanth Reddy said Rao's experience could contribute to discussions on development and welfare and help provide constructive suggestions to the government. The Chief Minister acknowledged the financial challenges faced by the state, including its debt burden, but maintained that the administration had succeeded in putting the government machinery back on track. He said the immediate priority was to accelerate development and continue resolving issues one after another. Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) and Adluri Laxman Kumar, MPs Vem Narendar Reddy, Balaram Naik and Kadiyam Kavya, MLC and PCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, along with other elected representatives and officials, participated in the programme.

Fatal Road Accident

Mustabad, August 16 | TPN Bureau

A fatal road accident occurred in Mustabad mandal on Sunday when a two-wheeler collided with a gravel-laden tipper truck near a petrol bunk on the Gudem-Ayunur route. According to preliminary information, two persons were travelling on the motorcycle when it crashed into the tipper. One of the riders suffered severe injuries and died at the spot. The deceased was identified as Yadi Reddy, a resident of Mallareddypet village. The second person travelling on the motorcycle also sustained serious injuries in the accident. Emergency personnel

from the 108 ambulance service reached the location soon after receiving information about the incident. They provided initial medical assistance to the injured person before shifting them to a hospital for further treatment. The accident caused concern among local residents, who gathered at the spot following the incident. The circumstances that led to the collision are not yet clear. Police have begun an investigation to determine the exact cause of the accident and establish the sequence of events. Further details regarding the identities and condition of those involved are expected as the investigation progresses.

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 gener-
ations 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

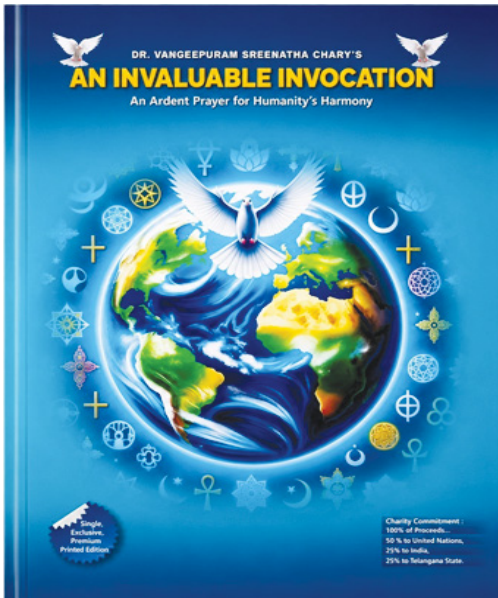


Buds and blossoms, ripples wide,
Dark-winged birds in waters glide.
Frogs that leap and crabs that crawl
The pond, our playground, home to all.
Some splash and flail, unsure yet bold,
While fearless ones dive deep and cold.
From the bund, they leap so high,
In waters cool, their laughter flies.
We chase 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
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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



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 Haryana and 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 Capocéfalo 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

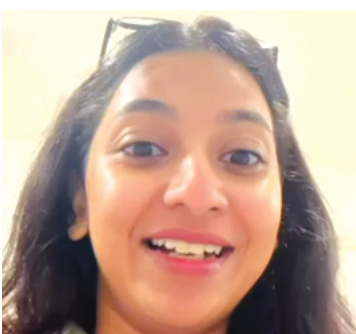
during school and education but later felt that it was limiting her in a professional environment.

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

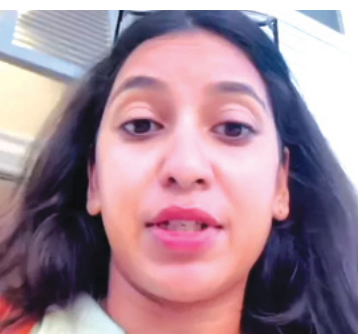
they were completely certain.

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.

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.



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.



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.

