



VIJAYAWADA | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 153 | THURSDAY | AUGUST 27 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA • HYDERABAD



Six killed in Kodad bus accident; CM Chandrababu Naidu expresses grief

Amaravati, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Six people were killed and several others injured in a road accident near Kodad in Telangana on Wednesday when a private travel bus travelling from Hyderabad to Eluru collided with a container truck. Several of the victims were reportedly from NTR and Krishna districts. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep grief over the accident and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. He wished the injured a speedy recovery and directed officials to coordinate with the Telangana government and continuously monitor relief and medical assistance operations. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also expressed condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the accident. He urged officials to ensure that all necessary assistance was extended to the victims and their families. Other leaders and officials expressed shock over the tragic incident and conveyed their sympathies to the affected families. They prayed for peace to the departed souls and for the injured to recover quickly.



Nepal Flash Floods Kill 157; 133 Indian Pilgrims Missing

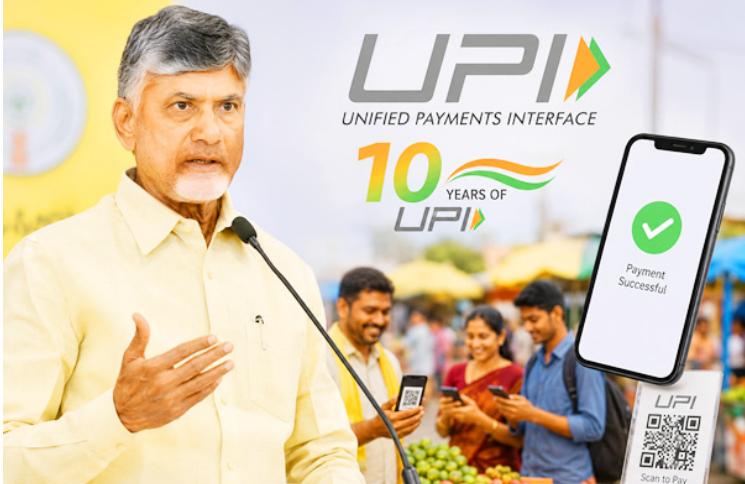
Kathmandu, August 27 | TPN Bureau

At least 157 people have been killed and hundreds remain missing after devastating flash floods struck Nepal's Tibet-border region, with at least 133 Indian pilgrims travelling to Kailash Mansarovar reported missing. The flood surged through the Bhote Koshi River around 9 am on Wednesday after water crossed over from the Tibet side. Rasuwa and

Dhading, bordering Tibet, along with Nuwakot, were among the worst-affected districts. id workers said entire settlements were wiped out, while rescuers continued searching for survivors and bodies buried under slush. According to Nepal's tourism ministry, around 403 tourists, including 341 foreigners, were unaccounted for several hours after the disaster. The missing foreign nationals included Indians and tourists from Australia, Britain, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Portugal,

South Africa, South Korea and the United States. Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah assured affected families that the government would deploy all available resources for rescue and relief operations. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for expressing solidarity and offering humanitarian assistance. India responded by deploying an Air Force transport aircraft carrying 10 tonnes of relief materials and medical supplies to support Nepal's emergency operations.

Chandrababu Naidu hails 10 years of UPI, calls it a landmark digital initiative



Amaravati, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks marking 10 years of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), describing the digital payment system as a transformative initiative for India. Responding to Modi's post on social media, Naidu said UPI had completely transformed the way Andhra Pradesh and the country conduct everyday financial transactions. He said the system had become seamlessly integrated into the lives of ordinary people, making payments simple and convenient.

Naidu highlighted the benefits of UPI for street vendors, women entrepreneurs, small businesses and students, saying the technology had made digital transactions accessible to people across different sections of society. Congratulating Indians on completing a decade of UPI, Naidu described it as a landmark initiative that demonstrates India's technological capabilities to the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier said the rollout of UPI a decade ago marked a major turning point in India's digital payments journey and noted its scale and reach as a matter of pride for every Indian.

Jagan attacks coalition government over farmers, BC quota and law and order



Tadepalli, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy criticised the coalition government over its handling of drought conditions, BC reservations, agriculture and law and order. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, he alleged that the government had failed to announce an effective contingency plan despite a 52% rainfall deficit over the past two months. Jagan said farmers were worried about Kharif crops and alleged that alternative crop seeds had not been distributed. He accused the government of dismantling the Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs), weakening free crop insurance and failing to protect farmers. On BC reservations, Jagan alleged that the coalition was attempting to revive the issue ahead of local body elections.

He claimed the YSRCP government had provided RS.1.82 lakh crore to BCs through various welfare schemes and ensured significant political representation. Jagan also criticised the government over irrigation, alleging that neighbouring states were drawing water from Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar while Rayalaseema projects were being stalled. Referring to the Addanki incident, he alleged a nexus involving drugs, liquor and sections of the police and demanded accountability. He said the differing versions given by officials raised serious questions about law and order. Jagan further alleged that BC students were suffering due to fee reimbursement dues and claimed that surveys ahead of local body elections reflected public dissatisfaction with the coalition government.

Seven Konaseema fishermen traced safe off West Bengal coast

Amaravati, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu expressed relief after seven fishermen from Odalarevu in Allavaram mandal of Konaseema district, who had gone missing at sea, were traced safe along with their boat off the West Bengal coast. The fishermen had left the Odalarevu fish landing centre on August 3 but drifted away from their route following a technical failure and strong winds. After they failed to return, Chandrababu directed officials to treat the matter as a top priority and personally reviewed the search operations three times. The State government coordinated continuously with the Navy, Coast Guard and central marine agencies. West Bengal Coast Guard units and fishermen at Shankarpur fishing harbour were also alerted after authorities suspected that the boat had drifted towards the West Bengal coast. The Chief Minister appreciated the officials and search teams for their sustained efforts. He directed senior officials to take all necessary measures to ensure the fishermen's safe return to their hometowns. Their families were informed immediately after they were traced.

Lokesh unveils '3S' investment mantra, invites young leaders to transform Andhra Pradesh



Mumbai, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh said the state's strategy to attract investments rests on three key principles-Speed, Service and Stability. Addressing the Fortune India 40 Under 40 Awards in Mumbai, Lokesh said these "3 S's", along with the track record of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, are helping Andhra Pradesh stand out as an investment destination. Explaining the approach, Lokesh said "Speed" refers to

faster business processes, while "Service" involves staying connected with investors and providing updates on their projects. He said he personally communicates with several investors to understand their concerns and monitor investment progress. The third pillar, "Stability", refers to policy continuity, which he said gives investors confidence irrespective of changes in governments. Lokesh said Chandrababu Naidu's reputation and experience in attracting investments make it easier to open doors,

while his responsibility is to convert opportunities into concrete projects. He described the partnership between the Chief Minister's leadership and the government's investment efforts as a major strength for Andhra Pradesh. Lokesh also invited young achievers attending the event to participate in the state's transformation. Describing Andhra Pradesh as a platform for innovation and growth, he acknowledged that the state was not perfect but was willing to learn from its mistakes. He urged young leaders to provide feedback and work with the government to create a model of development that could inspire the country. "I want to work with you to transform AP," Lokesh said, expressing confidence that collective efforts could make Andhra Pradesh a model India could be proud of.



Lokesh congratulates Mangalagiri cricketer Vasavi Akhila Pavani

Mangalagiri, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh congratulated Mangalagiri cricketer Vasavi Akhila Pavani on being selected to represent Rayalaseema Xen Stars in the upcoming Women Andhra Premier League (WAPL). In a social media post, Lokesh expressed delight over Pavani's selection and extended his best wishes to her and all players participating in the league. He said he hoped the talented cricketers would perform at their best, shine on the field and make a name for themselves. Pavani's selection has brought recognition to Mangalagiri's sporting talent, with her participation in the WAPL providing an opportunity to showcase her cricketing abilities on a larger platform. Lokesh also wished all the participating teams success in the tournament.



Pithapuram spiritual heritage gets RS.30.66 crore development boost

Pithapuram, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Pithapuram is set to receive a major development boost with RS.30.66 crore sanctioned for the renovation of temples, construction of bhajan mandirs and a TTD Kalyana Mandapam, following the special initiative of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The works aim to preserve the constituency's historic and spiritual heritage while providing better facilities to devotees. Of the total allocation, RS.17.06 crore has been earmarked for the development and renovation of 24 temples. Construction and restoration works are progressing at several shrines. The Kukuteswara Swamy Temple will receive RS.5 crore, while RS.2 crore has been sanctioned for Sri Pada Srivallabha Devasthanam. Works are also underway at the Sri Kunti Madhavaswamy Temple, Gollaprolu Sitaramaswamy Temple and other historic shrines.

The 10th-century Kunti Madhava Swamy Temple, one of the Panch Madhava Kshetras, and several temples dating back to the Pithapuram royal era are among those being developed. Another RS.2 crore has been allocated for constructing a modern TTD Kalyana Mandapam in U. Kothapalli mandal, catering to weddings, religious functions and social events. A further RS.11.60 crore has been sanctioned for constructing 48 bhajan mandirs in the constituency. These facilities will support bhajans, spiritual gatherings and village-level cultural programmes. The constituency attracts around 13.76 lakh to 18.07 lakh devotees annually, with festival-day footfall reaching 20,000 to 50,000 a day. The development works are intended to improve infrastructure and visitor facilities while strengthening the region's spiritual and cultural identity.

'Sanjeevani' healthcare project to be rolled out statewide from Jan 1



Amaravati, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to roll out the 'Sanjeevani Project' across Andhra Pradesh from Jan 1, following encouraging results from Kuppam and Chittoor. He reviewed the project and health services with officials at his camp office on Wednesday. Officials said a 90-day action plan has been prepared, covering baseline studies, digital infrastructure, staff training, certification and integration with national and state portals. Medical personnel across all 28 districts will undergo training. The Chief Minister said integrating Sanjeevani with digital health records and artificial intelligence could transform healthcare delivery and reduce the financial burden on families. He stressed predictive, preventive, curative and affordable healthcare, while encouraging the use of Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Yoga and Pranayama alongside modern medicine. Naidu also directed officials to ensure medical data privacy and security, develop dashboards and introduce systems to send health updates directly to citizens' mobile phones. Officials reported that 56% of hypertension cases in Chittoor were brought under control, while the severity of 16% of diabetes cases was reduced. Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, Health Secretary Veerapandian, Joint Secretary Ronanki Gopalakrishna and Tata MD representatives attended.

form healthcare delivery and reduce the financial burden on families. He stressed predictive, preventive, curative and affordable healthcare, while encouraging the use of Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Yoga and Pranayama alongside modern medicine. Naidu also directed officials to ensure medical data privacy and security, develop dashboards and introduce systems to send health updates directly to citizens' mobile phones. Officials reported that 56% of hypertension cases in Chittoor were brought under control, while the severity of 16% of diabetes cases was reduced. Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, Health Secretary Veerapandian, Joint Secretary Ronanki Gopalakrishna and Tata MD representatives attended.

Nara Brahmani Receives Fortune India 40 Under 40 Award



Mumbai, Aug 27 | TPN Bureau

Nara Brahmani, Executive Director of Heritage Foods, has been honoured with the prestigious Fortune India 40 Under 40 award in recognition of her contribution and achievements in the dairy and value-added products sector. The award was presented by Union Minister for Food Processing Chirag Paswan at an event organised by Fortune India in Mumbai. The awards recognise young leaders, entrepreneurs, business professionals and change-makers who have made a notable impact in their respective fields. Brahmani was recognised for her role in the growth and development of Heritage Foods and its presence in the dairy value-added products segment. Her recognition places her among a select group of young professionals and business leaders acknowledged by Fortune India for their achievements and leadership. The award ceremony brought together prominent business leaders, young entrepreneurs and public figures.

Union Minister Chirag Paswan and Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh attended the event as chief guests and presented awards to the selected achievers. Brahmani's recognition comes at a time when India's dairy industry is witnessing growing emphasis on value-added products, innovation and changing consumer preferences. The sector has increasingly moved beyond traditional milk products, creating opportunities for companies to develop new categories and strengthen their market presence. Heritage Foods, one of India's prominent dairy companies, has a significant presence in the dairy products market. Brahmani's recognition by Fortune India highlights the role of young leadership in driving innovation and business growth in the sector. The 40 Under 40 honour is regarded as a significant recognition for emerging leaders who demonstrate professional excellence, leadership and the ability to create an impact in their fields.

AITUC, CITU extend support to APIAC Amaravati employees' movement

Vijayawada, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of AITUC and CITU assured full support to the employees' movement led by APIAC Amaravati and agreed to stand by state government employees in their future protest programmes.

APIAC Amaravati State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswara Rao, Secretary General Palisetti Damodara Rao and Movement Struggle Committee Chairman T.V. Phani Peraraju met AITUC State President Ravu Iapalli Ravindr anath, State General Secretary S.

Venkatasubbayya, CITU State President Ch. Narsinga Rao and State Vice-Presidents Muzaffar Ahmed and K. Subbaravamma on Wednesday. They invited the union leaders to the state-level conference scheduled in Vijayawada on Aug 28 to highlight the legitimate demands of government employees. Speaking on the occasion, AITUC and CITU leaders assured their complete support to APIAC Amaravati's agitation and said they would participate in future protest activities concerning employees' issues.

Bopparaju Venkateswara

Rao appealed to employees, labour unions, various associations and teachers' union leaders to attend the conference in large numbers and express solidarity with the movement. He said the conference would provide a platform to discuss employees' concerns and formulate the course of future agitations. Palisetti Damodara Rao appealed to employee, teacher, pensioner and labour unions supporting the workforce to participate in the conference and extend their cooperation.

AP JAC Amaravati Women's Wing State Secretary



General Ponnuru Vijayalakshmi, VRO Association State General Secretary G. Anupama and NTR District JAC Chairman Bathina Rama Krishna were among those who participated in the meeting.

Kakinada GGH To Get \$36.6 Crore Advanced Cancer Treatment Facility

East Godavari, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

BJP MP Dr. D. Purandeswari has urged Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari to expedite the expansion of NH-365BB, sanctioned at an estimated cost of \$840.41 crore, ahead of the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram. The 45.09-km stretch

connecting Butta yagudem, LND Peta, Pattiseema and Kovvur will be developed into a two-lane highway with paved shoulders. The project is expected to improve connectivity between tribal and plain areas and facilitate the transportation of agricultural produce to major centres, including Rajamahendravaram and

Kovvur. The expansion also includes a bypass at Pattiseema and improvements to drainage systems along the Godavari embankment, aimed at ensuring an all-weather road and reducing disruptions during monsoon flooding. Purandeswari said the existing narrow roads could create difficulties for emergency

services and traffic management during the Pushkaram, when an estimated eight crore devotees are expected to visit the Godavari ghats around Rajamahendravaram and Kovvur. She requested Gadkari to provide the required technical and financial clearances with out delay and ensure speedy completion of the works.

She said the project would strengthen the economy of tribal areas while providing safer and smoother travel for devotees and local commuters.



Nara Lokesh to visit Ongole on Aug 28, says MLA Janardhan

Ongole, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Ongole MLA Damacharla Janardhan announced that Minister Nara Lokesh will visit the Ongole constituency on Aug 28 and participate in several development programmes. He said Lokesh would receive a grand welcome at the Growth Centre at 9 a.m. and later attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Radisson Ravi Priya Mall at

Chadalavada. Janardhan said Lokesh would enter the constituency through Throvaugunta and inaugurate various development works. At PVR Grounds, he will launch drinking water pipeline works aimed at improving water supply across Ongole town. The project includes construction of 18 overhead tanks and filter beds, with the government targeting daily drinking water supply to all areas within two

years. Around 1,500 students will also receive bicycles at PVR Grounds. Lokesh will inaugurate the PDC Bank, modernised at a cost of \$1.5 crore, and lay the foundation stone for GGH buildings estimated at \$15 crore. Janardhan said Lokesh would also meet party workers and key leaders at the mini-stadium. He added that the final schedule would be announced after discussions with the organisers.

Mother Teresa's 116th birth anniversary celebrated at B.R. & D. Nursing College



Eluru, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Mother Teresa's 116th birth anniversary was celebrated with enthusiasm at the B.R. & D. School of Nursing in Denduluru, Eluru district, on Wednesday. Nursing students paid floral tributes to her portrait and

recalled her services to humanity. Speaking at the programme, student P. Kavya said Mother Teresa's original name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu and that she was born on Aug 26, 1910, in Skopje, the capital of Macedonia. She said Teresa joined the Sisters of Loreto at the age of 18 and arrived in India in 1929. Kavya recalled that Mother Teresa later established the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata and devoted her life to serving leprosy patients, people suffering from AIDS and orphans. The students also recalled that she

received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and the Bharat Ratna in 1980 in recognition of her humanitarian services. As part of the celebrations, several students dressed as Mother Teresa, adding a special attraction to the programme, and paid their respects to her portrait.

JDRF announces new East Godavari district committee

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

The Journalists Defence Rights Forum (JDRF) announced its new East Godavari district committee on Wednesday following directives from JDRF National President P. Krishna and National General Secretary Meda Srinivas. Meda Srinivas said the committee would work primarily for the safety, welfare and professional rights of journalists. He assured that JDRF would stand by journalists facing hardships, harassment or injustice.

Marampudi Somaraju was appointed Honorary President, Gade Girish Kumar Gupta as President, S.K. Madina Basha and Gorrela Raju as Vice-Presidents, Singampalli Surya Raghavendra as Secretary, Chirra Chittibabu and Kalepalli Nagaraju as Assistant Secretaries, and Pichuka Mahesh as Treasurer. Kathi Srinu, Kodi Tata Rao, Challa Vijay Balachand (Balu), Gunuputi Somashekar, Yandamuri Srinivas and Varupula Raghava were

appointed executive members. Meda Srinivas congratulated the newly appointed President and Secretary and expressed confidence in their leadership. The committee members said JDRF committees would be formed across all mandals in East Godavari district to strengthen journalist welfare and protection. They said the organisation would work to create a model system for addressing professional harassment faced by journalists.

Rajahmundry cricketer Likhitha Garapati selected for Rayalaseema Zen Stars

Rajamahendravaram, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Nineteen-year-old cricketer Likhitha Garapati of Rajamahendravaram is making her mark in women's cricket with impressive performances as a top-order batter and right-arm off-break bowler. She has been selected by Rayalaseema Zen Stars to represent the team in the Andhra Pradesh Premier League. Speaking at a press conference at Centurions Cricket Academy near ILTD Junction on Wednesday, academy coach A. Sumanth highlighted Likhitha's achievements and credited her progress to consistent training. He said she became the first female cricketer from East Godavari to score a century in the Women's Andhra Premier League (WAPL), making 114 not out against Srikakulam. Likhitha has also scored an unbeaten 124 in T20 matches at Mysuru while representing JNTU University and recorded a personal best of 169 not out in One-Day cricket. Representing the Under-23 state team,



she impressed with her bowling, taking five wickets for 25 runs. Sumanth said she had seven centuries, more than 20 half-centuries and over 120 wickets to her credit. She also attended the state cricket camp in Vizianagaram. Likhitha will participate in the district-level tournament beginning Sep 18 in Mangalagiri.

Government adopts proactive plan for Kharif amid rain deficit : Atchannaidu



Amaravati, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said the state government had taken comprehensive measures to protect farmers and ensure uninterrupted Kharif cultivation despite a severe rainfall deficit. He questioned what similar proactive planning was undertaken during the five-year tenure of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Atchannaidu said Andhra Pradesh received only 192.8 mm rainfall from the first week of June to Aug 25, against the normal 393.7 mm, resulting in a 51% deficit. Despite this, Kharif cultivation had reached 20.35 lakh hectares, while pulse cultivation increased 23.6% from 2.16 lakh hectares last year to 2.66 lakh hectares this year. He said the government had anticipated the impact of El Niño from February and prepared district-wise drought mitigation and crisis management plans. The

"Raitanna Meekosam - El Niño Impact Mitigation Plan - Kharif 2026" was implemented from Aug 7, promoting less water-intensive crops in vulnerable regions. The Minister said crop insurance applications increased from 19.5 lakh in Kharif 2025 to 35.1 lakh in 2026, while coverage rose to 15.1 lakh hectares. Insurance protection worth approximately \$13,983 crore had been provided so far. Criticising the previous YSRCP government, Atchannaidu alleged that farmers received no Rabi crop insurance compensation during its tenure and that the government failed to pay its share of premiums in several seasons. He said around \$2,000 crore in pending insurance-related arrears had been left behind. He said the Alliance government had secured a phased repayment plan with the Centre and allocated \$250 crore in the 2026-27 budget. The government's policy, he asserted, was to provide farmers insurance security rather than impose financial burdens on them.

'Chai Raasta' scheme launched to support women in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has launched the 'Chai Raasta' scheme to provide financial assistance and livelihood opportunities to women across the state. The initiative is being implemented through DRDA-SERP, under which selected women will be supported in establishing modern tea stalls. Officials said each eligible unit can receive a loan of up to \$4 lakh, along with a subsidy of up to \$1.40 lakh under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). As part of the first phase, officials have identified 30 suitable locations in Anantapur district for setting up the tea stalls. The initiative aims to encourage women to become self-reliant by supporting small businesses and creating sustainable income opportunities. Authorities are expected to identify additional locations and beneficiaries as the scheme progresses. The government hopes the programme will strengthen women's economic participation while promoting entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.



High-level committee to review junior doctors' stipend hike

Mangalagiri, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

A high-level committee will meet on Thursday to discuss an increase in stipends for junior doctors following directions issued by the High Court. The meeting will review the proposed stipend enhancement, the existing policy and other related matters concerning junior doctors. Medical and Health Department Secretary G. Veera Pandian will chair the meeting, which is scheduled to be held on Thursday evening at the department headquarters in Mangalagiri. Director of Medical Education Dr. Vishnuvardhan, who will serve as the Member-Convener, will attend the meeting along with Director of Secondary Health Chakradhar Babu. The Registrar of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences and representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors' Association (AP JUDA), including its president and secretary, will also

participate. The committee's meeting assumes significance as the government is required to examine the stipend issue in accordance with the High Court's directions. The discussions are expected to focus on the existing stipend structure, the scope for revision and the implementation of any changes in line with the court's orders. Junior doctors have been seeking appropriate revision of their stipends, citing their workload and responsibilities in government medical institutions. The committee will consider the relevant aspects before making further recommendations to the government. The participation of senior officials from the Medical and Health Department, medical education authorities, Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences and AP JUDA is expected to facilitate detailed discussions on the issue and help determine the next course of action.

Special medical camp held for children with blood disorders in Eluru



Eluru, Aug 25 | TPN Bureau

A special medical camp for children suffering from Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anemia was organised by the Indian Red Cross Society, Eluru District Branch, at

the Red Cross Thalassemia Building on the premises of Eluru Government General Hospital. District Red Cross Chairman Dr. M.B.S.V. Prasad said the camp was conducted to provide medical support and guidance to affected children. Pediatrician Dr. V. Sridevi stressed the importance of

regular blood transfusions, medication, medical check-ups and following doc-

tors' advice. She said voluntary blood donation was essential to ensure adequate blood supplies for children requiring regular transfusions. During the camp, children underwent medical examinations and received medicines and medical advice. Free blood transfusion treatment was provided to eight children with Thalassemia, while five children received Pneumococcal and Meningococcal vaccines. The organisers said the Red Cross District Branch was committed to providing continuous medical services to children affected by the disorders. Parents were advised to ensure regular check-ups and follow medical recommendations. Dr. G. Mary Niharika, Dr. Sravana Lakshmi and others participated.

BCs are the backbone of Andhra Pradesh, says Chintakayala Vijay

Mangalagiri, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha MP and TDP State General Secretary Chintakayala Vijay said BCs were not merely "Backward Classes" but the backbone of Andhra Pradesh, asserting that the Telugu Desam Party had consistently worked for the welfare and political empowerment of weaker sections. Speaking at a press conference at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Vijay recalled that TDP founder Dr. Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao accorded significant recognition to BCs from the party's inception in 1983. He said TDP introduced reservations in local bodies in 1987, enabling BCs to occupy positions such as ZPTC members, MPTC members and Sarpanches. He credited Nara Chandrababu Naidu with providing 34% reservation to BCs and highlighting their leadership by appointing Kinjarapu Yerran Naidu as Union Minister and G.M.C. Balayogi and Pratibha Bharati as



Speakers. Vijay accused the previous YSRCP government led by Jagan Mohan Reddy of reducing BC reservations from 34% to 23.14%, allegedly depriving BCs of around 16,800 political posts. He also alleged that BC loans were halted, sub-plan funds diverted and 50 corporations announced without providing offices or positions. He said the NDA coalition government led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had decided to restore 34% BC reservation through a Government Order. Vijay said about 54,000 BC leaders, including around 8,300 women, would benefit in the upcoming local body elections. He asserted that law and order would be strictly enforced and alleged that Jagan was using the "BC card" to divert attention from the ED investigation into the liquor scam. He called upon BCs and weaker sections to move forward under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh.

TDP leader Barla Baburao alleges assassination bid by Jakkampudi family



Rajamahendravaram, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Political tensions have intensified in the Rajanagaram constituency following serious allegations by TDP leader Barla Baburao against the family of former MLA and YSRCP leader Jakkampudi. Speaking at a press conference in Rajahmundry on Wednesday, Baburao alleged that a recent attack on him was a planned attempt to eliminate him. Baburao claimed that CCTV footage indicated the involvement of followers of the Jakkampudi family. He alleged that Rajesh, a follower of Jakkampudi

Ganesh, attacked him and his vehicles with petrol bombs as part of a premeditated plan. He demanded that the police and senior district officials identify and arrest those involved in the attack and take strict action against the alleged masterminds. Baburao said he would not be intimidated by threats or attacks and would continue raising issues concerning the Jakkampudi family. He also criticised the Jakkampudi brothers and raised questions over the recent inauguration of a pub in Rajahmundry by local MLA's father, alleging links to Jakkampudi Raja. TDP leaders and cadres expressed support for Baburao.

Jagan's politics is rooted in betrayal, says Minister Satyakumar

Amaravati, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav launched a sharp attack on Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of hypocrisy over his recent comments on political betrayal and BC reservations. He said Jagan had no moral standing to lecture others on "backstabbing" while ignoring controversies surrounding his own political history and family. Satyakumar said the public was aware of the differences involving Jagan's mother and sister and developments surrounding his uncle's murder case. He alleged that repeatedly using the term "backstabbing" would not erase Jagan's past or change public perception. He also criticised Jagan's stance on stipends for junior doctors and accused him of attempting to mislead people through political statements. On BC reservations, Satyakumar termed Jagan's campaign "political deception" and said merely announcing reservations was insufficient unless they could withstand legal scrutiny. He alleged that the reservation decision taken during the Jagan government had faced legal complications, while the Alliance government was working to ensure that BC reservations were legally sustainable. "The Alliance government considers BCs partners in governance, not merely a vote bank," Satyakumar said. He maintained that the government was committed to protecting BC rights, increasing their political representation and ensur-



ing social justice through lawful measures. He also highlighted the Alliance's priority to provide BC candidates greater opportunities in electoral contests. Satyakumar further alleged that Jagan was already anxious about the likely outcome of the upcoming local body elections and was attempting to identify reasons for a possible defeat in advance. He claimed that elections under the Alliance government were being conducted impartially, unlike during the previous YSRCP regime. He asserted that people were firmly supporting the Alliance government and warned that attempts to create confusion over BC reservations or other public issues would not succeed. Satyakumar said the government would continue pursuing social justice within the constitutional and legal framework.

Janasena to hold 'Athmeeya Samavesham' in Mangalagiri on Aug 28

Mangalagiri, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Janasena Party will organise an 'Athmeeya Samavesham' in Mangalagiri on the evening of Aug 28, bringing together party leaders, elected representatives and candidates who contested various elections. State ministers, MPs, MLCs, MLAs, corporation chairpersons and party candidates from the 2019 general elections have been invited to the meeting. Those who contested as corporators, councillors, ZPTC and MPTC members in the 2021 local body elections will also participate. The party said hundreds of candidates had contested the local body elections during the previous govern-

ment's tenure despite facing several obstacles and political pressures. The meeting will focus on preparations for the upcoming local body elections and implementation of guidelines issued by Janasena Party President and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Party Political Affairs Committee Chairman and State Minister for Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar will explain the guidelines and suggestions given by Pawan Kalyan. On the same day, a 14-member committee constituted to formulate modalities for the local body elections will also meet. The party central office said the meeting would also discuss organisational coordination and election preparedness.

YSRCP's Repeated Court Setbacks Raise Questions Over Legal Strategy

Ravi Podili

Amaravati : The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) is facing renewed scrutiny over its legal strategy following a series of setbacks in courts ranging from the High Court to the Supreme Court. Political observers say repeated adverse outcomes have triggered a debate over whether the party's legal team is adequately preparing its cases and presenting effective arguments. The latest controversy followed the Supreme Court's dismissal of a writ petition filed by YSRCP General Secretary Lella Appi Reddy, who alleged that the Alliance government was responsible for suspending the party's social media accounts. A bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Sheel Nagu declined to entertain the petition and directed the party to approach the High Court if it had any grievance. Observers said the decision to approach the Supreme Court directly, without first pursuing the matter before the High Court, may have weakened the party's case. They argued that the YSRCP could

have approached the apex court after exhausting the appropriate legal remedies at the lower level. The verdict has once again brought attention to the party's recent legal battles. Analysts pointed to another setback in the DSP-related case and said several petitions filed by the YSRCP in the High Court and Supreme Court over the past two years had failed to produce the desired results. The party has also faced judicial challenges over major policy decisions during its tenure in government. Its proposal for three capitals suffered an early setback in court. On several occasions, the High Court issued notices to senior officials, including the DGP and Chief Secretary, and expressed strong displeasure over matters involving alleged non-compliance with court directions. YSRCP leaders have attributed many of these setbacks to shortcomings in the party's legal team. Observers now suggest that the leadership should reassess its legal strategy, thoroughly examine cases before filing petitions and ensure that appropriate judicial remedies are pursued at each stage.

Jagan betrayed Rayalaseema by neglecting irrigation projects: Nimmala Ramanaidu

Amaravati, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu accused former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy of neglecting Rayalaseema's irrigation sector during the five-year YSRCP regime and alleged that no previous Chief Minister had betrayed the region to such an extent. He questioned what Jagan had done for irrigation despite the people of Rayalaseema giving YSRCP 49 of 52 Assembly seats in 2019. Ramanaidu said the Alliance government was addressing critical issues at major irrigation projects. He said RS.203 crore was being spent on repairs at the Srisailem project after concerns were raised about the safety of its plunge pool. He also highlighted the replacement of 33 gates at the Tungbhadra project after the 19th gate was washed away in 2024, enabling the reservoir to store 105 TMC. He said RS.59 crore had been allocated for repairs at Gorkalku reservoir, which he alleged had remained neglected despite warnings from irrigation officials. On the Handri-Neeva project, Ramanaidu claimed the Alliance govern-

ment spent RS.3,860 crore and drew a record 55 TMC of Krishna water last year. He added that works worth Rs.1,300 crore had been initiated on the Neeva Branch Canal to take water towards Tirumala. Referring to the current rainfall deficit caused by Super El Niño, the Minister said drinking water requirements would be given priority and farmers would be encouraged to cultivate low-water-intensive crops wherever feasible. He said water reserves outside the Godavari Delta's 10.4 lakh acres should be conserved until July 2027. Ramanaidu said the government was coordinating with the Krishna River Management Board and the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to protect Andhra Pradesh's water share. He claimed the Alliance government was spending RS.27,000 crore on irrigation across the state during 2024-26, with 50% allocated to Rayalaseema. He warned YSRCP leaders against spreading what he termed false propaganda and said the party's political strength could decline further if it continued its campaign against the government's irrigation initiatives.

Financial Aid Scheme to Benefit Every Weaver, Says Minister Savitha

Mangalagiri, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister Savitha has announced that the state government will extend the "Nethannala Sevalo" welfare scheme to every eligible handloom weaver working on a loom. The scheme is aimed at providing financial support and greater economic security to the state's weaving community. Speaking to the media in Sri Sathya Sai district on Wednesday, Minister Savitha said that financial assistance of RS.25,000 each had already been provided to 71,536 weavers in the first phase of the programme. The government is now preparing to implement the second phase and provide assistance to all eligible beneficiaries. The minister said that 36,617 new applications have been received under the scheme. Officials will conduct a door-to-door verification process until the end of August to identify eligible beneficiaries. Following the verification, the financial assistance will be directly credited to the beneficiaries' bank accounts, she said. Savitha assured eligible weavers that there was no need for concern and



said the coalition government would continue to stand by the handloom community. She stated that the government had introduced the scheme even though it was not part of its election promises, with the objective of providing financial security to weavers throughout the year. According to the minister, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's objective is to ensure that weavers receive continuous economic support and are able to sustain their livelihoods. She said the government was committed to strengthening the handloom sector and extending welfare benefits to deserving families. The minister also criticised the YSR Congress Party, alleging that it was creating confusion and spreading misconceptions about the "Nethannala Sevalo" scheme. She urged weavers not to be misled by what she described as political propaganda and assured them that the government would identify genuine beneficiaries and ensure that eligible people receive the promised assistance. The second phase of financial support is expected to provide further relief to thousands of weavers across Andhra Pradesh.

Amaravati Assembly Building to Get World-Class Design



Amaravati, August 26 | TPN Bureau

The permanent Assembly building planned in Amaravati is set to be developed with advanced technology, modern infrastructure and international standards, according to representatives of the global architecture firm Foster + Partners. The proposed building is expected to become a prominent landmark of the capital city and reflect Amaravati's vision as a world-class capital. A detailed meeting was held at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat between Assembly Speaker K. Ayyanna Patrudu, Ministers P. Narayana and Nadendla Manohar, Assembly Secretary General Prasanna Kumar and representatives of Foster + Partners. The discussions focused on the architectural and interior design of the Assembly complex, including the proposed high-rise tower above the building. The architects presented plans covering the Assembly chamber, committee halls, offices for legislators and facilities for the media. Discussions also covered security arrangements, advanced technological systems, parking

facilities and traffic movement around the complex. Speaker Ayyanna Patrudu stressed the need to speed up the construction process and ensure that the building is completed within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining international standards. Particular attention is being given to the interior design, seating arrangements for legislators and the integration of modern digital technologies. The proposed tower is also expected to offer a panoramic view of Amaravati, adding a distinctive feature to the Assembly complex. Minister Nadendla Manohar said the design is being prepared with Amaravati's long-term requirements in mind. Future changes arising from the delimitation of constituencies have also been considered. According to him, the Assembly building is being designed to accommodate 265 MLAs and 110 MLCs, ensuring sufficient capacity for future expansion. The proposed Assembly complex is therefore intended not only to serve as the legislative centre of Andhra Pradesh but also as a symbol of Amaravati's modern identity and long-term development vision.

Jagan Reddy puts politics above public issues, says Minister Kollu Ravindra

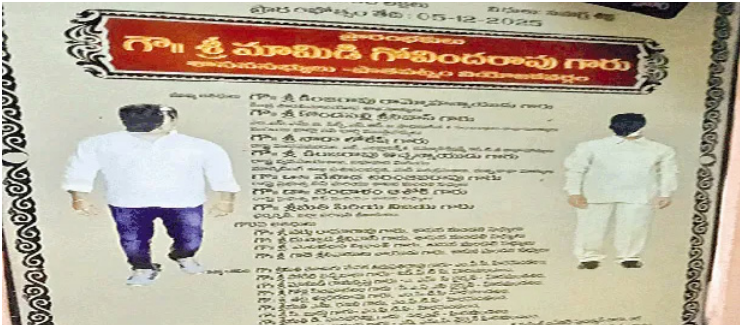


Amaravati, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Mines, Geology, and Excise Kollu Ravindra alleged that former Chief Minister and YSRCP president Jagan Mohan Reddy was giving greater importance to politics than public issues. Speaking to the media at the Telugu Desam Party central office in Mangalagiri, he said the previous YSRCP government had damaged administrative systems and neglected agriculture, irrigation and the welfare of BCs. Ravindra said the Alliance government had prioritised irrigation and agriculture since assuming office and was taking measures to address deficient rainfall and protect drinking water sup-

plies. He alleged that farmers suffered losses of nearly RS.20,000 crore during the previous five years, while only RS.1,600 crore was provided as assistance. He said the Alliance government cleared RS.1,900 crore in pending crop insurance dues and was providing RS.20,000 annually to farmers under Annadatha Sukhibhava. On irrigation, Ravindra challenged Jagan Reddy to a debate, claiming the previous government spent only RS.2,000 crore on Rayalaseema projects in five years, while the Alliance government had spent RS.13,500 crore in two years. He cited progress on Handri-Neeva, Veligonda and Purushothapatnam projects and said 36 priority projects were being targeted for completion by 2029. Ravindra also accused Jagan Reddy of betraying BCs by reducing political reservations and alleged that 16,800 positions were lost following the reduction from 34% to 24%. He defended government action against alleged crimes and drug and liquor networks, stating that wrongdoing would not be tolerated. He said the Alliance government was targeting 20 lakh jobs and had attracted investments worth about RS.25 lakh crore in two years. Ravindra also highlighted the Mega DSC recruitment, through which 16,300 jobs were provided, and urged Jagan Reddy to attend the Assembly and debate public issues instead of relying on press conferences.

CM and MLA Images Defaced on Stone Plaque at Srikakulam School



Srikakulam, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

An incident of vandalism has been reported at the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Hiran an-dam in Srikakulam district, where unidentified miscreants allegedly damaged the images of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and local MLA Mamidi Govinda Rao displayed on a stone plaque. According to the report, the faces of the Chief Minister and the MLA engraved or displayed on the plaque were deliberately scratched and damaged. The incident reportedly took place several days ago, but the school authorities allegedly failed to take immediate action or address the damage. The defacement came to light after attention was drawn to the condition of the plaque at the educational institution. Images from the location reportedly show that the areas corresponding to the faces of the Chief Minister and MLA had been deliberately scraped away, indicating that the damage was not accidental. The incident came to the attention of

MLA Mamidi Govinda Rao, who expressed his displeasure over the vandalism and the alleged lack of response from the school management. He reportedly took up the matter with senior officials at the state level and sought their attention to the incident. The incident has raised questions over the security and maintenance of public property within educational institutions. The failure to respond promptly despite the damage remaining for several days has also attracted attention. Authorities are expected to examine the incident and take appropriate action against those responsible. The vandalism of images of elected representatives on a public stone plaque has also highlighted the need for institutions to ensure proper monitoring and protection of public infrastructure. The incident has drawn attention in the local area, particularly because it occurred at a government educational institution. Further action by the concerned authorities will determine how the matter is handled and whether those responsible for the damage are identified.

ECI Senior Deputy Commissioner visits Indrakeeladri



Vijayawada, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner of India (ECI), visited Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada and offered prayers to Goddess Durga and Lord Durga Malleswara Swamy on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyana chandra. Temple officials and priests accorded Sharma a traditional welcome upon his arrival at the temple. He later entered the sanctum sanctorum and performed special prayers to the presiding deities. Vedic scholars blessed him after the prayers and presented him with Shesha Vastram and Teertha Prasadam. During the visit, VMC Commissioner Dhyana chandra explained the religious and historical significance of the Kanaka Durga temple situated on Indrakeeladri. He also briefed Sharma about the facilities being provided to devotees visiting the hill shrine and the arrangements made for their convenience. The visit provided an opportunity for the senior ECI official to learn about the temple's importance and the infrastructure available for pilgrims. Temple authorities and civic officials coordinated the visit and arrangements. Temple Deputy Executive Officer Kishore Kumar, revenue officials and staff of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation were present during Sharma's visit. The temple, located on the banks of the Krishna River, is one of the prominent pilgrimage centres in Vijayawada and attracts devotees throughout the year. The visit of the senior Election Commission official was marked by traditional temple rituals and blessings from the Vedic scholars.

Pavitrotsavams to begin at Indrakeeladri on Aug 27

Vijayawada, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

The annual Pavitrotsavams of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri will commence on Thursday, Aug 27, during the Sri Parabhava year. The Devasthanam Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Naik said the purification festival would be conducted in accordance with Agama traditions to rectify any ritual lapses and restore the sanctity of the temple. On the first day of the Pavitrotsavams, Suprabhata Seva will be performed at 3 am at the main sanctum of Goddess Sri Kanaka Durga. This will be followed by Snapana Abhishekam and Pavitra Maladharana amid Vedic chants and traditional rituals. As the special rituals will be performed in the main sanctum during the early morning hours, darshan at the main temple will remain suspended during the proceedings. Devotees will be permitted to have darshan only after 8 am. Sheena Naik appealed to devotees to plan their visits accordingly and enter the temple only after 8 am to avoid inconvenience during the ritual proceedings. He said the Devasthanam had made elaborate arrangements to conduct the annual Pavitrotsavams in a traditional and systematic manner. As part of the festival, Homas, Japas and Mula Mantra Havanams will also be conducted at the temple. Priests and Vedic scholars will perform the prescribed rituals according to Agama traditions. The Pavitrotsavams are conducted annually as a purification ceremony aimed at seeking divine blessings and ensuring the proper observance of temple rituals. The Devasthanam has appealed to devotees to cooperate with officials and temple staff during the festival and follow the prescribed timings for darshan.

VMC officials stress hygiene standards at hotels, restaurants



Vijayawada, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) officials conducted inspections at hotels and restaurants in Sitarampuram, Red Circle, Governorpet, One Town and Bandar Road on Wednesday, following directions from VMC Commissioner Dhyana chandra. During the inspections, officials instructed hotel and restaurant managements to ensure that food containers kept in storerooms were properly covered with lids. They said food should be protected from contamination caused by dust, flies and insects to safeguard public health. The officials stressed the need to maintain cleanliness in kitchens and ensure that food was stored, prepared and served in hygienic conditions. They also advised managements to follow prescribed food safety and sanitation standards while handling food items. Salim Ahmed, Sanitary Supervisor, Public Health Department, VMC, said regular inspections were being conducted at establishments across the city as part of efforts to protect public health. He said VMC teams were also creating awareness among hotel and restaurant operators about proper waste management, kitchen hygiene, food storage and safe food-serving practices. Ahmed said officials were also inspecting RO plants to verify the functioning of water purification systems and ensure the quality of drinking water. Regular testing of water was also being checked during the inspections. Hotel and restaurant operators, along with RO plant managements, were advised to comply with the prescribed hygiene standards and take necessary precautions to ensure the public receives safe food and drinking water. VMC officials warned that maintaining clean kitchens, hygienic surroundings and safe food and water practices were essential to prevent contamination and protect public health.

Model Rythu Bazar to come up in Mangalagiri at Rs. 18 crore



Mangalagiri, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

A modern Model Rythu Bazar will be established near the Nidamaru railway gate in Mangalagiri town, with Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh scheduled to lay the foundation stone on Thursday. The retail and wholesale vegetable market will be developed over 5.90 acres at an estimated cost of

\$18 crore using Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from the Aurobindo Pharma Trust. The proposed facility is aimed at providing hygienic, user-friendly and eco-friendly infrastructure for farmers, traders and consumers. The market will have a total built-up area of 71,925 square feet and will include separate retail and wholesale sections to facilitate organised trading

of vegetables, fruits, flowers and other essential commodities. The retail section will comprise 102 vegetable stalls, 54 stalls for fruits and flowers and 60 shops for other goods. The wholesale section will have 18 unloading platforms and 23 vegetable shops, enabling traders to handle produce more efficiently. The Model Rythu Bazar will also be equipped with several supporting facilities, including



cold storage and a dedicated vegetable washing area. Administrative and maintenance blocks will be constructed along with a canteen and public restrooms for the convenience of farmers, traders and visitors. Parking facilities will be provided for goods vehicles, two-wheelers and four-wheelers, helping regulate traffic and improve accessibility around the market. The project will incorporate modern infrastructure and sustainable features, including a water sump, overhead water tank, septic tank, transformer and generator. A dedicated garbage collection system and organic waste converter will be installed to ensure better waste management and maintain cleanliness within the premises. Rooftop solar panels will also form part of the project, supporting energy efficiency and reducing dependence on

conventional power sources. The proposed Model Rythu Bazar is expected to strengthen agricultural market infrastructure in Mangalagiri and provide improved facilities for farmers and consumers. The organised retail and wholesale sections are also expected to facilitate smoother transactions, better handling of produce and a cleaner trading environment in the constituency.

Vijayawada family donates Rs. 1 lakh for Goddess Annadanam

Vijayawada, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

P. Yashwanth and his family members from Bhavanipuram in Vijayawada donated ₹1,00,116 towards the Annadanam programme of the temple. The family handed over the contribution as a devotional offering in the presence of Temple Deputy Executive Officer Kishore Kumar and temple priests. The donation was made in support of the temple's free food distribution initiative, which provides meals to devotees visiting the shrine. The family members expressed

their devotion and contributed towards the temple's charitable and service-oriented activities. Temple authorities appreciated Yashwanth and his family for their generous contribution and said such support would help strengthen the Annadanam programme and enable the temple to continue providing free meals to devotees. Temple priests blessed the donors on the occasion and conveyed their best wishes to the family. The temple authorities said contributions from devotees and philanthropists play an important role in supporting various welfare and service activities undertaken

by the Devasthanam. Officials expressed hope that the contribution would inspire more devotees, individuals and philanthropists to extend financial support to the temple's charitable initiatives. They said collective participation in service programmes would help expand facilities and ensure that devotees receive better support during their visits. The temple's Annadanam programme is aimed at serving free food to devotees as part of its welfare activities. Donations towards the initiative are accepted from devotees who wish to contribute to the service.



Vijayawada, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

The temple authorities thanked P. Yashwanth and his family for their faith and generosity and appreciated their efforts to support the continuing Annadanam service.

RV Digital Solutions donates printer-cum-Xerox machine to Durga Devasthanam

Vijayawada, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

RV Digital Solutions Private Limited donated a state-of-the-art printer-cum-Xerox machine worth approximately \$1.01 lakh to Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam at Indrakeeladri to support the temple's administrative requirements. The multifunction Konica Minolta machine is

equipped with Xerox, printing and colour-scanning facilities and is expected to assist the Devasthanam in its day-to-day administrative and documentation activities. The donation was made to mark the inauguration of the company's new Vijayawada branch. RV Digital Solutions Private Limited Managing Director Ramadugu Venkat rao presented the company's first

product from the new branch to the Devasthanam in the presence of Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radha Krishna (Gandhi). Speaking on the occasion, Radha Krishna said it was a gesture of devotion that the company had chosen to dedicate its first product to the Goddess and to the service of the Devasthanam and devotees. He appreciated the company's contribution and conveyed his blessings for the success and growth of its new business venture in Vijayawada. He said contributions from organisations and devotees towards the temple's administrative and service activities would help improve facilities and support the smooth functioning of the Devasthanam. Temple authorities expressed their appreciation to RV Digital Solutions Private

Limited and Ramadugu Venkat rao for the donation. As a mark of honour, the temple authorities presented Seshavastri to the donors. Vedic scholars also offered benedictions to the donors and blessed them on the occasion. The event concluded with the temple authorities thanking the company for its devotional contribution and support for the Devasthanam's activities.



Anna Canteen food delicious, hygiene excellent : Pawan Kumar Sharma



Vijayawada, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner of India, praised the food quality, hygiene and management at the Anna Canteen in Patamata during his visit to Vijayawada on Wednesday. Sharma had lunch at the canteen along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav and Deputy District Election Officer and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyana chandra. He interacted with the staff and observed the arrangements made for serving meals to the public. After having lunch, Sharma appreciated the taste and quality of the food and expressed satisfaction over the services being provided at the canteen. In his feedback, he described the food as delicious and particularly appreciated the rice, sambar and curry served to

customers. Sharma also commended the hygiene standards maintained at the Anna Canteen and appreciated the management for ensuring a clean environment while serving meals. He wished the canteen management continued success in its efforts to provide affordable food to the public. He observed that Anna Canteens were serving quality meals at affordable prices, making them accessible to people from different sections of society. He said such facilities could play an important role in providing reasonably priced food while maintaining acceptable standards of quality and cleanliness. The visit also provided an opportunity for the officials to review the functioning and arrangements at the canteen. RDO Vennela Srinu and other staff members participated in the visit. The canteen personnel explained the food preparation and serving arrangements to the visiting officials. The officials appreciated the staff for maintaining cleanliness and ensuring the smooth delivery of services to visitors at the Patamata Anna Canteen.

Durga Temple officials inspect Yadagirigutta Laddu kitchen

Vijayawada, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

A team of senior officials from Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Indrakeeladri, visited the Laddu kitchen at Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam in Telangana on Wednesday to study modern technology for Prasadam production. Led by Temple Executive Officer V.K. Seena Naik, the team included Executive Engineer L. Ramadevi, Assistant Executive Officer P. Chandrasekhar, Deputy Executive Engineer Ashok Kumar and technical staff. The officials inspected automated machinery used for boondi preparation, mixing, Laddu shaping and packaging, and interacted with temple kitchen experts on mechanised production with minimal human intervention. The study followed an earlier inspection of the



Annapprasadam distribution at Indrakeeladri not being privatised: Devasthanam

Indrakeeladri, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

The Executive Officer of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam has clarified that reports claiming that Annapprasadam distribution at Indrakeeladri is being privatised are false and baseless. The Devasthanam said it continues to retain complete control over the management and supervision of Annadanam, including menu planning, food quality standards and serving arrangements. The temple administration has established a modern steam-based mechanised kitchen to provide hygienic, healthy and tasty food to devotees while reducing food wastage and manual intervention. The facility has been designed to prepare meals for up to 10,000 people daily and operate in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) standards. According to the Devasthanam, Technologic Engineers India Pvt. Ltd. quoted \$2,31,82,668 for the required equipment. However, Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation /Akshaya Patra Foundation offered to install the same equipment for \$1.95 crore, resulting in a saving of \$36.82 lakh for the Devasthanam. The temple administration clarified that the foundation's role is strictly limited to installing and commissioning the machinery and providing technical training to personnel. No contract has been awarded to the foundation for operating or distributing Annapprasadam. The Executive Officer urged devotees not to believe false propaganda or unverified reports regarding the Annadanam programme. He reiterated that the Devasthanam would continue to oversee the entire Annapprasadam distribution process and ensure that devotees receive safe and hygienic food. The administration said the mechanised kitchen would further improve food preparation standards and efficiency while strengthening the temple's service to devotees.

Milad-un-Nabi celebrated with devotion

Chirala, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Milad-un-Nabi was celebrated with religious fervour and devotion in Chirala town on Tuesday night and Wednesday. Members of the Muslim community observed special prayers and various religious programmes to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad. Special night-long vigils were held at mosques after Isha prayers on Tuesday. Devotees participated in prayers and

Quran recitations, while religious scholars delivered sermons highlighting the Prophet's teachings and his message of peace and righteousness. The Markaz Mosque in Chirala was illuminated with decorative lights for the occasion. As part of the celebrations, large-scale food distribution programmes were organised for poor and needy people, irrespective of caste and religion. Religious elders urged people to follow the values of love, compassion, brotherhood, peace and



humanity taught by Prophet Muhammad. They called upon community members to uphold these values in their daily lives and work towards strengthening communal harmony.

Monolithic idols emerge on coast amid sea erosion

Malla Chandra Sekhar

Vetapalem, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

A Shiva Lingam and other monolithic idols have emerged on the Pottisubbayyapalem beach in Vetapalem mandal following intensified wave activity and severe coastal erosion over the past two days. The sudden appearance of the idols

has generated considerable curiosity among local residents. High-intensity waves have washed away large quantities of sand along the shoreline, exposing the structures that were not previously visible. Locals are debating whether the idols were washed ashore by the powerful waves or had remained buried beneath the coastal sand for

decades. Due to the rough sea conditions and strong waves, officials have restricted tourists from entering the water as a precautionary measure. Residents have sought a detailed examination to establish the origin and historical significance of the idols. Officials from the Revenue and Archaeology departments are expected to visit Pottisubbayyapalem and inspect the structures.



Archaeology experts will determine whether the idols are ancient artefacts buried beneath the sand or were displaced by recent sea activity.

CPI, BKMU demand immediate payment of eight weeks' wage arrears

Eluru, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

CPI District Secretary Mannava Krishna Chaitanya and Agri Cultural Workers' Union (BKMU) District General Secretary Bandi Venkateswara Rao demanded the immediate release of eight weeks' wage arrears to workers engaged in Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) works in Thimmapuram village of Dwarakathi

umala mandal in Eluru district. The leaders, along with BKMU mandal committee members, inspected the work sites on Wednesday and interacted with workers to understand their grievances. They urged DWAMA officials to take immediate steps to clear the pending wages. Krishna Chaitanya and Venkateswara Rao criticised the government over the alleged delay in wage

payments. They said the Employment Guarantee Act, introduced by the UPA government in 2005, had helped curb migration by providing livelihood opportunities in rural areas. They alleged that the NDA government weakened the scheme after 2014 by reducing funds and replaced it with the Viksit Bharat G-Ram-G scheme in late 2025. They announced a protest in Delhi on Sep 1, demand-



ing withdrawal of the G-Ram-G scheme and continuation of the Employment Guarantee Act. BKMU District Assistant Secretary Golime Bala Yesu warned of an agitation if arrears were not cleared.

Forged documents allegedly used for illegal land registration

East Godavari, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

An alleged land registration fraud involving forged documents has surfaced under the jurisdiction of the Kadiyam Sub-Registrar office. Victim Dodda Tataji approached District SP Narasimha Kishore, following which an FIR was registered at Kadiyam Police Station. According to the complaint, Tataji's father purchased Plot No. 23, measuring 364.11 square yards in Survey No. 238/1C at Jakkampudi Nagar, Vemagiri village, in 2015.

The property was registered under Document No. 3387/2015 on Sep 18, 2015. Tataji alleged that the accused, including Bobbili Satish, Dangeti Venkataramana, Godavari Venkata Rajesh, Lakshmineni Venugopala Rao, document writer Adabala Prasad, Yelubandi Rajesh and Sasubilli Ganesh, conspired to create forged documents and illegally register the property under Document



No. 1310/2025. He alleged that a fake death certificate was used in the transaction. An RTI response from the concerned Panchayat Secretary reportedly stated that no such certificate had been issued. The victim alleged collusion involving document writers and registration officials and sought strict action. Police have begun investigating the case.

MLA Chanti calls for peace and brotherhood at Milad-un-Nabi celebrations

Eluru, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Eluru District TDP President and MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti) called upon people to follow the righteous path shown by Prophet Muhammad and work towards strengthening peace, brotherhood and humanity in society. Chanti participated as the chief

guest at Milad-un-Nabi celebrations held in Eluru on Wednesday. Special prayers were conducted at mosques across the city to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad. Later, a large rally began at Karbala Maidan and passed through the Old Bus Stand, Pension Line,

Tange Ilamudi, Kandrikagudem Centre and Ashok Nagar before concluding at Fire Station Centre. A large number of members of the Muslim community participated in the rally. Speaking on the occasion, Chanti urged people to treat everyone equally, irrespective of caste and religion, and maintain unity and mutual

Security arrangements reviewed for Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Markapuram district

Markapuram, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Markapuram District SP, along with Ongole MP, Markapuram MLA and other officials, inspected security and bandobast arrangements at Gantavanipalli in Dornala mandal on Wednesday ahead of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit on Aug 31. The Chief Minister is scheduled to release water from the Veligonda Project during the visit. Officials reviewed arrangements for the public meeting and coordinated advance security measures, traffic management and vehicle routes. The team inspected the helipad where the Chief Minister's helicopter is scheduled to land, the public meeting venue, vehicle parking areas, feeder canal and the location where the Jalaharathi programme will be conducted. Parking arrangements were examined to prevent traffic congestion, while the route proposed for the Chief Minister's convoy was also inspected.



ed. The District SP issued instructions to police officials to ensure comprehensive bandobast and prevent any security lapses. He directed officials of all departments to work in coordination and take necessary precautionary measures. He ordered robust security at the helipad, public meeting venue and feeder canal and instructed authorities to provide separate parking facilities for officials, public representatives and other vehicles.



respect. He said religious harmony was essential for social development and called upon citizens to contribute towards strengthening communal harmony. He stressed that the teachings of Prophet Muhammad promoted compassion, peace and brotherhood and urged people to incorporate these values into their daily lives.

MLA Malakondaiah pays tribute to Mother Teresa in Chirala



Chirala, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Chirala MLA Madduluri Malakondaiah paid tribute to Mother Teresa on her birth anniversary by garlanding her statue at Market Centre in Chirala town on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Malakondaiah said Mother Teresa was remembered across the world for her compassion, love and dedicated service to humanity. He described her as a noble soul who devoted her life to serving the poor, orphans and critically ill people. He said thousands of destitute people across the world received care and sup-

port through the Missionaries of Charity, the organisation founded by Mother Teresa. He recalled that she was widely revered in India as the "Mother of Humanity" for her humanitarian services. Malakondaiah noted that her contributions were recognised with the Nobel Peace Prize and India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna. He said her life and service conveyed the values of love, compassion and humanity and urged people to follow her ideals. Alliance leaders, public representatives and party activists participated in the programme.

\$17.67 crore sanctioned for road development

P. Gannavaram, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

P. Gannavaram MLA Giddi Satyanarayana said the coalition government was giving priority to rural infrastructure development and road connectivity. He performed bhoomi puja on Wednesday for CC and BT road works at several locations in Ambajipeta mandal. He said \$17.67 crore had been sanctioned for road development in the constituency under the Andhra Pradesh Rural Roads Strengthening Project (APRRSP), of which \$6.05 crore was allocated to Ambajipeta mandal. The works include roads in Isakapudi-

Turakala Doddi, Machavaram, Irusumanda-Indira Nagar, K. Pedapudi-China Beeravari, Ummuna Garuvu and Nandampudi. A BT road to Thondavaram Jambavanipeta High School will also be constructed at a cost of \$80 lakh. Satyanarayana said the works would be completed using special funds released by the Panchayat Raj department. He thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and BJP leaders for their support. Tahsildar B. Chinababu, MPDO B. Ma mata, Deputy MPDO Kanchi Srinivas and several TDP, Jana Sena and BJP leaders and activists participated.

Farmers' Association demands repeal of GO 470

Eluru, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association District Secretary K. Srinivas demanded the immediate repeal of GO 470, alleging that it reduced compensation payable to farmers whose lands were acquired by the government. Speaking at Anne Bhavan in Eluru on Wednesday, Srinivas criticised the State government for reducing compensation despite farmers already receiving lower amounts compared with those in several other states under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act. He alleged that the government had issued GO 470 citing a 2019 High Court verdict in the Devarapalli farmers' case. Under the new order, additional compensation is limited to 5 per cent for lands within 2 km of a municipality or corporation, 10 per cent for lands between 2 km and 5 km, and 25 per cent for lands beyond 5 km.



Srinivas said the order effectively deprived farmers of the earlier provision for 25 per cent additional compensation. He termed the move anti-farmer and said those losing agricultural land were unable to purchase equivalent land at prevailing market prices. He warned that the association would mobilise farmers and launch an agitation if GO 470 was not withdrawn immediately.

Yarlagadda directs officials to complete Davajigudem road in three weeks

Gannavaram, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkatrao directed officials to complete the Gannavaram-Puttagunta main road works and open it to the public within three weeks. During a review meeting with Roads & Buildings (R&B) and Panchayat Raj officials at his Gannavaram office, he reviewed the progress of the Davajigudem road works and ordered speedy completion without further delay. He instructed Electricity Department officials to immediately shift electric

poles and power lines obstructing the road. Officials informed him that rising bitumen prices had increased the project estimate and administrative approval for revised estimates had delayed the works. Yarlagadda said these issues should not hamper further progress and insisted that the road be completed within the stipulated period. He said the completed road would improve transportation for several villages in Unguturu mandal. He reiterated his objective of developing Gannavaram constituency as a model constituency.

New pension sanction process to begin in first week of Sep: MLA Chanti

Eluru, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

Eluru District TDP President and MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti) announced that the process of sanctioning new pensions to eligible beneficiaries would begin in the first week of September. He made the announcement at the district TDP executive committee meeting held at the party office in Eluru on Wednesday.



Chanti said a large number of applications for new pensions had been received from people during the door-to-door campaign conducted to mark the completion of two years of the Alliance government. Considering the public demand, the government would initiate the pension sanctioning process next month, he said.

He said the drinking water situation, which had worsened due to the impact of El Niño, had improved and assured that measures would be taken to prevent future shortages. He also promised special attention to housing-related issues. Chanti urged TDP leaders and workers to work together to secure a decisive victory for Alliance candidates in the upcoming local body elections. He asked the cadre to remain accessible to people and address local problems promptly.

Jupudi Prabhakar Rao attends Buchepalli Venkayamma's 70th birthday celebrations

Ongole, Aug 26 | TPN Bureau

The 70th birthday celebrations of Buchepalli Venkayamma, mother of Darsi MLA Buchepalli Siva Prasada Reddy and former Chairperson of the Prakasam Zilla Parishad, were held grandly at A-1 Convention Hall in Ongole on Wednesday. YSR Congress Party State General Secretary, Official Spokesperson and former MLC

Jupudi Prabhakar Rao attended the celebrations and conveyed his birthday greetings to Venkayamma. He wished her good health and a long life and expressed hope that her commitment to public service and social welfare would continue. Prabhakar Rao said Venkayamma had maintained a strong bond with people through her involvement in public and



social activities. He wished that she would continue contributing

to the welfare of society. Chintala Venkateswarlu, Balakoti Reddy, Dumpa Chenchu Reddy, Kondalu Sriramulu, Kishtaiah, Narayana, Venkanna and others attended the programme and extended their birthday wishes to Venkayamma. Family members, supporters and well-wishers also participated in the celebrations and conveyed their greetings on the occasion.

Editorial

When Nature Loses Patience, There Is No Way Out

If we do not give way to nature, nature will eventually close our way. We may believe that human intelligence, technology and development can control everything, but nature has repeatedly proved that it cannot be taken for granted. The tragic incident in Nepal is yet another shocking reminder to the world of the consequences of disturbing the natural balance.Nepal is one of the world's well-known tourist destinations, attracting people with its mountains, rivers and natural beauty. However, the recent tragedy has once again demonstrated the destructive power of nature. An earthquake in Tibet triggered landslides, which fell into the Khotekosi River and caused a sudden and massive flood. The unprecedented flow of water devastated parts of northern Nepal and reportedly claimed hundreds of lives. The scale of the tragedy is a warning that cannot be ignored. Unfortunately, humanity continues to violate nature in the name of development. Mountains are being cut down for mining, forests are being destroyed for real estate projects, and riverbanks are being occupied for commercial activities. Every such action may bring economic benefits for a few, but the consequences are ultimately faced by society as a whole.Governments and authorities often respond to natural disasters only after lives and property are lost. Announcements are made, compensation is provided and committees are formed. But the real question is whether sufficient preventive measures are being taken before disasters occur.Nature has its own rules, and human beings cannot rewrite them according to their convenience. Development is necessary, but it cannot come at the cost of destroying the environment. If we continue to disturb mountains, rivers and forests, nature will respond in ways that may leave us with no escape.The Nepal tragedy should therefore be treated not merely as a disaster, but as a warning to the entire world: **respect nature before nature leaves us with nowhere to go.**

- Editor

Netaji and His Purposive Global Connections

Few figures in modern Indian history embodied the spirit of internationalism as powerfully as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Although he is remembered primarily as a revolutionary leader who fought for India's independence, his political vision extended far beyond the geographical boundaries of the Indian subcontinent. Netaji understood that India's freedom struggle was part of a larger global movement against imperialism. His journeys across Europe and Asia, his contacts with world leaders, his engagement with Indian communities abroad, and his organization of the Indian National Army transformed the Indian freedom struggle into an international enterprise. His global connection was not merely diplomatic; it was ideological, strategic, cultural and deeply connected with the aspirations of Indians scattered across the world.

Subhas Chandra Bose was born in Cuttack in 1897 and emerged as one of the most charismatic leaders of India's freedom movement. A brilliant student, he passed the Indian Civil Service examination but resigned from the prestigious service because he could not reconcile service to the British Empire with his commitment to India's freedom. His decision marked the beginning of a life dedicated to India's liberation. Unlike leaders who believed that independence could be gradually negotiated within the framework of British rule, Bose believed that complete independence required uncompromising political struggle. His international outlook developed considerably during his years of political activity. Bose travelled to Europe in the 1930s and observed the political transformations taking place there. He met political figures, intellectuals and representatives of different nations and studied the changing balance of power. Europe at that time was witnessing the rise of fascism, Nazism, communism and competing forms of nationalism. Bose was interested particularly in understanding how international politics could influence India's struggle against British colonialism.His European connections became especially important after he escaped from British surveillance in India in January 1941. In one of the most remarkable episodes of India's freedom struggle, Bose travelled secretly from India through Afghanistan and eventually reached Germany. His arrival in Europe transformed his struggle into an international diplomatic campaign. In Germany, he established the Free India Centre in Berlin and began



broadcasting political messages to India through Azad Hind Radio. His speeches were designed to inspire Indians at home and abroad and to demonstrate that the demand for Indian independence had become an international question. Bose's relationship with Germany, however, must be understood within the context of wartime strategy. His fundamental objective was India's independence. He was prepared to seek assistance from Britain's enemies because he believed that the global war created an opportunity to weaken British imperial power. His approach was pragmatic and controversial, particularly because of his association with Nazi Germany and later Imperial Japan. Yet his political calculations were fundamentally directed toward creating an armed force capable of challenging British rule in India.

The Indian diaspora played a crucial role in Netaji's international strategy. Bose recognized that Indians living outside India could become important participants in the freedom movement. In Southeast Asia, particularly, large Indian communities had settled through earlier patterns of migration under British colonial rule. When Bose arrived in Japanese-occupied Southeast Asia in 1943, he found an existing network of Indian nationalists and supporters of the Indian Independence League.

It was here that his global vision reached its most dramatic expression. Bose took leadership of the Indian National Army, or INA, and reorganized it into a powerful symbol of India's armed resistance. The INA consisted largely of Indian prisoners of war and expatriate Indians in Southeast Asia. Bose gave the movement a clear political and military structure and inspired thousands with his famous call, "Give me blood, and I will give you freedom." His appeal crossed regional, linguistic

and religious divisions, emphasizing a united Indian identity. In October 1943, Bose proclaimed the Provisional Government of Free India, popularly known as the Azad Hind Government, in Singapore. Several countries, including Japan, Germany and other Axis-aligned governments, recognized it. The government was more than a symbolic institution. Bose sought to establish diplomatic relations, organize military operations and mobilize financial and human resources among overseas Indians. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands were transferred by Japan to the symbolic authority of Azad Hind, and Bose renamed them Shaheed and Swaraj.Southeast Asia became the principal centre of Netaji's international activities. Singapore, Rangoon and other cities became important bases for mobilizing support for the INA. Women also participated significantly in this movement. The formation of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment under Captain Lakshmi Sahgal was particularly remarkable. It represented Bose's belief that women could participate directly in the struggle for national liberation.Netaji's global connection was also evident in his ability to communicate a vision of India that transcended narrow divisions. His organization brought together Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and people from different linguistic regions. The INA's slogan "Jai Hind" eventually became one of the most enduring patriotic expressions in independent India. Bose also promoted the idea of a secular and socially united nation in which the struggle for freedom would create a new Indian identity.His connection with Japan was central to the final phase of his political career. Bose believed that Japanese military power could provide the strategic opportunity needed to bring the INA closer to India. The INA participated

in the Japanese offensive toward India's northeastern frontier in 1944. The campaign reached places such as Imphal and Kohima but ultimately failed because of military setbacks, difficult terrain, inadequate supplies and changing wartime circumstances.

The military defeat did not completely destroy Netaji's influence. Indeed, the INA trials held after the war generated enormous sympathy in India. The British decision to prosecute INA officers at the Red Fort produced widespread public protests and political mobilization. The trials helped transform Bose and the INA into powerful symbols of resistance. The British Empire increasingly faced the realization that its authority over the Indian armed forces could no longer be taken for granted.

Netaji's internationalism also had an intellectual dimension. He believed that India's freedom should not simply mean the transfer of political authority from British rulers to Indian rulers. He imagined a modern, industrialized and socially transformed India. His vision combined nationalism with economic planning, social justice, scientific development and strong state organization. The establishment of the National Planning Committee under his leadership in the Congress in 1938 reflected his concern for India's economic reconstruction.

Yet Netaji's global connections remain a subject of historical debate. His alliances with Germany, Italy and Japan during the Second World War have attracted serious criticism because of the authoritarian and expansionist nature of those regimes. Bose's supporters argue that his alliances were tactical and driven by the overriding objective of ending British colonial rule. His critics point to the moral and political complexities of cooperating with authoritarian powers. A balanced assessment must acknowledge both dimensions rather than reducing his life to either heroic mythology or political condemnation.What makes Netaji's global connection historically significant is his recognition that colonialism itself was an international system and therefore had to be challenged through international

politics. He did not regard India's freedom as an isolated domestic issue. He sought support from governments, diaspora communities, soldiers and political organizations across continents. He used radio, diplomacy, military organization and international propaganda as instruments of the freedom struggle.His legacy therefore extends beyond the question of whether his military strategy could have succeeded. Netaji demonstrated that Indians abroad could become active agents in India's national movement. He created a transnational network that connected India with Europe and Southeast Asia at a crucial moment in world history. His life also demonstrated the complexity of anti-colonial politics in a world divided by war and competing ideologies.Netaji's mysterious death in 1945 further contributed to the enduring fascination surrounding his personality. Decades after his disappearance, debates about his final days continued to capture the Indian imagination. But beyond the mystery lies a larger historical truth: Bose had already left an extraordinary international legacy. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was, in many respects, a global Indian before the term became fashionable. His political journey moved across continents, his message reached Indians living far from their homeland, and his struggle connected India's freedom movement with the turbulent international politics of the twentieth century. His global connection reminds us that India's independence was not achieved only within India's borders. It was also shaped by Indians across the world who dreamed of freedom, organized themselves and contributed to the cause of national liberation. Netaji's vision of an India confident in the world, yet firmly rooted in its own identity, continues to make his international legacy relevant even today.This international outlook enriched his pluralistic vision of India as a nation.

(Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond USA and a multilingual Writer and Columnist for national dailies)

RS.22,000 TODAY, RS.80,000 TOMORROW

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT WATCHING?

When the faces of India's Finance and External Affairs Ministers are hijacked for a financial scam, silence is no longer an acceptable response

P Subbarao

Veteran Journalist

A shocking question demands an equally shocking answer: If a Facebook account is allegedly using the faces, voices and authority of India's Union ministers to lure citizens into a fraudulent investment scheme, why has the account not been immediately pursued and the offending videos removed?

The issue is not an ordinary social-media post. It concerns an alleged financial fraud in which videos circulating on Facebook reportedly use the names and digitally manipulated appearances of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to promote a so-called "Quantum AI" investment opportunity.

The bait is irresistible to the financially vulnerable: put in about ₹22,000 today and supposedly receive ₹80,000 by tomorrow morning directly into your bank account.

That is precisely the kind of promise that should trigger an immediate red alert.

THIS IS NOT AN INVESTMENT PROMISE. IT IS A TRAP.

No responsible financial system can casually guarantee such extraordinary overnight returns. The very promise should make every citizen suspicious. What makes this case particularly sinister is the alleged misuse of the identities of two senior Union ministers. Their faces and voices are not being used merely for entertainment or political propaganda. They are allegedly being used to manufacture credibility for a money-making scheme. That is a serious attack on the public.

It is also an attack on the credibility of the Government itself. The Government has already acknowledged the growing danger of AI-generated deepfakes. Its recent framework specifically addresses AI-generated impersonation and misleading content and provides for



stronger intermediary obligations and faster removal of unlawful AI-generated material. Then why should a suspected deepfake financial fraud be allowed to remain visible long enough for more innocent citizens to be trapped?

WHY NOT ASK META TO ACT?

This is where the Government must stop issuing general advisories and start taking specific action.

If the account @ReneClasseu is indeed responsible for circulating the alleged fraudulent videos, the authorities should formally identify the account, preserve the evidence, establish who operates it, and immediately approach Meta with a request for appropriate action—including removal of the fraudulent material and, where justified under law and platform rules, suspension of the account.

There is nothing unprecedented about governments working with social-media platforms against impersonation scams. Meta itself says it has removed large numbers of scam advertisements and accounts and has worked with law-enforcement agencies against organised scam networks. It has also specifically acknowledged that deepfakes have been used to promote fraudulent investment schemes in India.

India's own cybercrime machinery has experience in sharing fraudulent Facebook advertisements and pages with Facebook for necessary action.

So the obvious question is: What prevents the Indian authorities from doing the same thing in this case?

WHY WAIT FOR VICTIMS TO COMPLAIN?

This is perhaps the most disturbing aspect.

Must the Government wait until

P Subba Rao



Veteran Journalist

thousands of young Indians lose their savings before it acts? Must an unemployed graduate lose ₹22,000 before the authorities recognise the danger? Must a retired person

transfer his hard-earned money before somebody officially declares the video fraudulent? That would be an indefensible approach to public protection. Cybercrime is not like a conventional crime waiting for a victim to walk into a police station. Digital fraud spreads at the speed of a click. Prevention must therefore precede victimisation.

SILENCE CREATES SUSPICION

Let there be no misunderstanding: silence alone does not prove collusion. But when an alleged scam repeatedly invokes the names of senior Union ministers, and when the Government possesses legal, regulatory and institutional mechanisms to seek removal of unlawful content, prolonged silence inevitably creates suspicion. That suspicion deserves an answer.

If the Government has already taken action, let it say so publicly.

If it has approached Meta, let the public know.

If the account has been reported to the cybercrime authorities, tell the citizens.

If the videos have been found to be deepfakes, issue a nationwide warning.

And if the Government has not yet acted, why not?

The public has every right to ask.

META CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME A DIGITAL MARKETPLACE FOR DECEPTION

Meta has itself acknowledged the scale of online investment fraud and says it has removed thousands of scam pages and accounts targeting India.

Therefore, social-media companies cannot simply hide behind the argument that they are neu-

tral platforms. When an advertisement or video allegedly impersonates constitutional authorities and solicits money from the public, the platform's responsibility becomes far more serious.

The Government must demand answers from the platform—and the platform must provide them. **PROTECT THE YOUTH BEFORE THEIR MONEY DISAPPEARS**

India's youth are increasingly entering the digital economy. They are precisely the audience sophisticated fraudsters want to exploit.

The lure is simple: Invest ₹22,000. Wake up tomorrow. Find ₹80,000 in your account. It sounds like a dream. It can become a nightmare.

One successful victim becomes ten. Ten become a hundred. A viral deepfake can turn into a financial epidemic within hours.

The Government therefore owes citizens something more than a routine cybercrime advisory. It owes them visible action.

THE GOVERNMENT MUST ANSWER—NOW

The question is no longer whether deepfake fraud exists. It does.

The question is whether the State will act with sufficient speed when the fraudsters misuse the very faces of the people entrusted with running the country.

Remove the fraudulent videos. Investigate the account.

Identify the operators. Coordinate with Meta.

Warn the public.

Protect the victims.

And prosecute the fraudsters.

That is not asking for extraordinary governmental intervention. That is asking the Government to do its basic duty.

If a citizen can be cheated within seconds through a fake video, the Government cannot take days to respond.

In the digital age, delayed protection can become another form of failure.

Constitutional Literacy is the Strong Foundation for Humanitarian and Moral Values



Pullemla Ganesh



Social, Political Analyst
9553041549

In modern society, the Gen Z generation is extensively using technology and thinking creatively. Youth are playing a key role in the development of many countries around the world. However, even as technology is developing so rapidly, there is also growing concern that human values, moral responsibilities, and social consciousness are weakening at the same time.Although there are many reasons for this situation, the easy availability of intoxicating substances has become a serious social problem. The availability of drugs, ganja and other narcotic substances to youth irrespective of age is not only destroying their future but also damaging the family system and social values. Although governments are taking measures to control narcotic substances, there is a need for the political and administrative systems to act more strictly in curbing their illegal trade.As the culture of intoxication grows, there is a danger that values like patience, responsibility, and humanity will gradually decline among the youth. If values like having a goal in life, responsibility towards society, and respect for parents and teachers weaken, society cannot achieve true development even if there is technological advancement.

The recent murder of Nagarajuna Grammar High School Principal Rupa Reddy in Kondamallepally, Devarakonda constituency, Nalgonda district, Telangana, has deeply disturbed society. The news that two boys, who should be 15 years old, committed extremely cruel violence against a teacher has led to an intense debate on issues like children's psychological development, family environment, school education, the influence of drugs, and social responsibility. However, it is also not reasonable to blame the entire youth without fully examining the reasons behind such incidents. The family, educational, social, and psychological conditions that influence children's behavior must be understood comprehensively.The age of fifteen is a stage where one should focus on education, set life goals, and grow under the guidance of parents and teachers. If situations leading to violent behavior are arising at such an age, then along with our education system, the family system and the social system also need to introspect.

Responsibility of Parents in Raising Children: The government alone cannot solve every problem. Making laws, implementing them, and preventing the illegal trafficking of drugs is the responsibility of the government. But inculcating values in children is the collective responsibility of the family and educational institutions.Parents should pay attention to their children's education, friendships, online activities, mental state, and changes in behavior. Instead of with fear, they should explain to children what is right and what is wrong through friendly conversation. Just as neglecting children is dangerous, over-controlling them is equally problematic. Love, discipline, communication, and responsibility—these four should be balanced.

Why is Constitutional Literacy Necessary? The most important among the long-term solutions to such situations is constitutional literacy. The Constitution of India is not just a book to be read by lawyers, politicians or government employees. It is a guide to democratic life that every Indian citizen should know.The Constitution does not just give us rights; it also reminds us of our duties as citizens. Especially the Fundamental Duties in the Constitution remind every citizen of their responsibility towards the country, society, nature, democracy, scientific temper, public property, and respect for others.If constitutional values are taught to children from a young age, values like equality, liberty, justice, fraternity, secularism, democracy, and human dignity will become part of their personality. Then along with the question "What rights do I have?", the question "What is my responsibility towards society?" will also arise in them.

***Need for Humanitarian and Moral Education in**

Importance of Ideas Like Visharadhan Maharaj for Social Consciousness: In Telangana, the campaign, sadyatras, rathayatras, and socio-political awareness programs being carried out by Dharma Samaj Party, BC, SC, ST JAC Founder Dr. Visharadhan Maharaj on issues like constitutional values, social justice, and public awareness are coming up for discussion. For the past few years, he has been mentioning the need to increase awareness among people about the Constitution.Such issues should be examined from the perspective of social development, strengthening of democracy, and civic responsibility, beyond party politics. Whatever suggestion is made by any leader or intellectual, if it is in accordance with democratic values, the spirit of the Constitution, and human values, society should discuss it constructively.

Building Youth is More Important Than Punishing Them: If youth make mistakes, the problem cannot be permanently solved by merely punishing them. Where legal action is necessary for a mistake, it is mandatory. At the same time, the social, psychological, family, and educational causes that led to the problem should be identified and preventive measures should be taken.Control of drugs, awareness on cyber crimes, mental health support, sports, creative programs, vocational education, and social service are all tools that can lead youth in a positive direction.Stopping technology is not the solution; the solution is to inculcate in youth the values of using technology responsibly.

Social Transformation Only Through Constitutional Values: The future of India does not lie only in economic development. A society does not become developed just because it has good roads, tall buildings, modern technology, and fast internet. True developed society is one where a human respects another human, where the weak get justice, where children grow up safely, where women get respect, and where differences of opinion are respected in a democratic manner.Therefore, the Constitution of India should be made a part of education from the primary level itself. Constitutional values should be taught to students not just as a chapter in a textbook, but in a way that they understand it as a way of life. Every citizen should know not only his rights but also his fundamental duties. Finally, eradication of drugs, inculcation of moral values in youth, family responsibility, quality education, and constitutional literacy are all interconnected issues. The government should perform its responsibility effectively. Parents should take care of their children. Teachers should teach values along with education. Society should encourage youth in the right direction. Youth should build their own future."A citizen who knows his rights is a good citizen; a citizen who practices his duties along with his rights is a responsible citizen; only with citizens who practice constitutional values in life will a great India be built."Therefore, the time has come to provide education to every Indian from childhood on the four pillars of human values, moral responsibility, constitutional literacy, and civic duties. Only if the government, family, educational institutions, and civil society work together in this direction, can we gradually reduce problems like drugs, violence, immorality, and social intolerance and build a humane society with constitutional values.

Massive Nepal Flood Leaves 22 Dead, Hundreds Missing



A massive flash flood struck Nepal's northern Rasuwa district near the Tibet border on Wednesday, killing at least nine people and leaving hundreds of others missing. The sudden surge in the Bhote Koshi River swept away homes, roads, bridges, vehicles and several infrastructure projects, triggering a large-scale rescue operation. The disaster occurred after a sudden rise in water levels in the Bhote Koshi River, which originates in Tibet and flows into Nepal. Initial reports suggested that a landslide or ice-rock avalanche may have blocked an upstream river channel before the accumulated water was suddenly released downstream. Nepal's Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal said an earthquake measuring around 4.4 magnitude was recorded in the region at about the same time. Officials believe the earthquake may have triggered a large landslide that blocked the river and contributed to the devastating flash flood. However, investigations into the exact sequence of events are continuing. Rasuwa was among the worst-hit areas, with the flood affecting settlements and key transport routes close to the Nepal-Tibet border. Several bridges were washed away, while roads were covered with mud and debris, making access to affected areas extremely difficult. The Nepal Tourism Board has reported that 384 travellers are preliminarily listed as missing, including 291 foreign nationals and 93 Nepali citizens. Among the foreign nationals, 105 are Indians, making Indians the largest identified group of foreign nationals on the missing list. Authorities are still verifying the identities and whereabouts of those reported missing. The disaster has also affected security personnel. At least 33 members of Nepal's security forces were reported missing after the flood struck areas where they were stationed. The flood caused extensive damage to Nepal's infrastructure. Multiple hydropower projects were affected, with initial estimates indicating that around 430 MW of power-generation capacity was impacted. Roads and bridges connecting important tourist destinations were also damaged, disrupting transportation across the region. Authorities have warned communities along the Trishuli River and other downstream areas to remain alert as floodwaters continue moving through the river system. Officials have also cautioned that another surge cannot be ruled out because of possible blockages upstream. Rescue teams from the Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police have been deployed to the affected areas. Helicopters are being used where possible, although damaged roads, unstable terrain and continuing flood risks have complicated rescue efforts. The disaster has also raised concerns on the Tibetan side of the border, where a major mudslide affected the Gyirong area and a key border crossing. Authorities in both Nepal and China are monitoring the situation and preparing for possible further casualties. The devastating flood has once again highlighted the vulnerability of Himalayan communities to sudden floods, landslides and other extreme events. With hundreds of people still unaccounted for and rescue operations continuing, authorities are focusing on locating survivors, restoring access routes and preventing further loss of life.

Hillary Clinton Says India, China Could Help Trump



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said India and China could play a crucial role in helping President Donald Trump find a diplomatic way out of the ongoing conflict with Iran. She pointed to the two countries' economic ties with Tehran and their role in Iran's energy trade as potential sources of leverage. Clinton argued that if Trump wants to find a way to end the confrontation, Washington should look toward Beijing and New Delhi. According to her, both countries have significant relationships with Iran and could use their influence to encourage Tehran to reduce tensions and help restore normal shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz has become a major flashpoint in the conflict. The strategically important waterway is a crucial route for global energy supplies and is particularly important for countries such as India, which depends heavily on imported crude oil, LNG and LPG. Clinton said she would consider using the threat of secondary sanctions against China as leverage. Her argument was that Washington could pressure Beijing to persuade Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and return to conditions closer to those that existed before the current escalation. She also urged Trump to rely more on diplomacy rather than what she described as aggressive rhetoric. In her view, economic pressure through countries with strong ties to Iran could provide a better route toward negotiations than continued military escalation. Clinton also criticised the Trump administration's decision-making before launching military action against Iran. She questioned whether sufficient consideration had been given to the possibility that Tehran could disrupt the Strait of Hormuz and the wider consequences that could follow. India's position is particularly significant because of its energy requirements and its historic relationship with Iran. Although Indian refiners stopped importing Iranian crude after US sanctions were imposed in 2019, purchases resumed this year amid disruptions to energy supplies from the region. China, meanwhile, remains Iran's largest oil customer and has deeper energy links with Tehran. This gives Beijing potentially greater influence over Iran's economic interests. The comments come as the Trump administration has expanded economic pressure on Iran, announcing new sanctions targeting dozens of individuals, entities and vessels. At the same time, diplomatic efforts are continuing, with Pakistan also attempting to facilitate discussions between Washington and Tehran. Tensions around the Strait of Hormuz remain high. A tanker was recently struck by an unidentified projectile near Oman, while diplomatic efforts are underway to restore safe navigation through the waterway. Clinton's comments therefore place India and China at the centre of a potential diplomatic strategy. Her argument is that their economic relationships with Iran could give them the leverage needed to encourage Tehran to reopen the crucial waterway and help bring the conflict closer to a negotiated settlement.

Netanyahu Claims Iran Targeted Son Yair

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has alleged that Iran was behind an attempt to target his son, Yair Netanyahu, and influence Israel's political system. The claims have added another layer to the already tense relationship between Israel and Iran. According to Netanyahu, Iranian operatives allegedly sought to harm his son as part of a broader effort to interfere in Israel's internal affairs. The prime minister described the alleged plot as a serious national security matter and linked it to what he said were wider Iranian efforts to destabilise Israel. Netanyahu's remarks came amid heightened tensions between Israel and Iran. The two countries have been engaged in a prolonged confrontation involving military strikes, intelligence operations and accusations of attempts to undermine each other. Yair Netanyahu, the prime minister's elder son, has remained a controversial figure in Israeli politics. Although he does not hold an official government position, he has a significant presence on social media and has frequently commented on Israeli political affairs. Netanyahu alleged that Iran's actions were not limited to mili-



tary or intelligence operations. He claimed Tehran was also attempting to influence Israel's democratic process and elections. According to the prime minister, such efforts represented an attempt to interfere directly in the country's political system. The allegations have emerged as Israel prepares for future political contests, with Netanyahu remaining a central figure in the country's political landscape. His government has faced political divisions and pressure over its handling of security issues, the conflict in Gaza and relations with Iran.

Iran and Israel have repeatedly accused each other of conducting covert operations. Tehran has also been accused by Israel of supporting armed groups across the region, while Iran has consistently rejected allegations of involvement in attacks targeting Israeli interests. The alleged targeting of Yair Netanyahu has attracted attention because of his proximity to the prime minister. Although he is not part of the government, his public statements and political activism have made him a prominent figure among Netanyahu's supporters and critics.

Netanyahu has previously warned that Iran poses a major threat to Israel's security and has repeatedly called for stronger international action against Tehran. His latest claims suggest that Israeli authorities are also concerned about possible Iranian attempts to interfere in domestic politics. The allegations have not only raised questions about the safety of the Netanyahu family but have also highlighted concerns over foreign interference in Israeli elections. Governments around the world have increasingly focused on the possibility of foreign powers using cyber operations, social media campaigns and covert activities to influence democratic processes. Israeli authorities are expected to examine the allegations and determine whether there is evidence linking Iranian operatives to the reported plot. Until such evidence is publicly established, the claims remain allegations. The development comes at a time when relations between Israel and Iran remain highly volatile. Any confirmed attempt to target a member of the Israeli prime minister's family or interfere in the country's elections could further intensify tensions between the two regional rivals.

Iran Blacklists 45 Ships Over Hormuz Rules

Iran has blacklisted 45 vessels for allegedly violating its transit protocols in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, warning that the ships could face fines, detention or even cargo confiscation. Among the vessels named by the Persian Gulf Strait Authority is the India-linked bulk carrier Maha Roos. A Pakistan-flagged crude oil tanker, Mardan, has also been included on the list. The move has raised concerns among shipping companies and energy traders because the Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important routes for oil and gas transportation. Iran has not publicly detailed the specific violations committed by each vessel. However, the Persian Gulf Strait Authority said ships that breached Iranian arrangements for crossing the waterway would face restrictions on future voyages. The measures could include financial penalties, detention of vessels and confiscation of cargo. Iran has also warned that ships cooperating with or conducting ship-to-ship transfers involving blacklisted vessels could themselves be added to the restricted list.



Most of the 45 vessels are linked to companies based in the United Arab Emirates. Other vessels have connections to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Malta and Singapore. Several are involved in transporting crude oil, liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas and other commodities. The development comes amid heightened tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. The waterway is a critical energy corridor through which a significant portion of global oil and gas supplies tradi-

tionally pass. Any disruption to shipping through the strait can therefore have consequences for international energy prices and supply chains. The blacklist could have particular implications for India because several vessels on the list are directly or indirectly connected to Indian trade. Some of the ships have previously transported energy cargoes destined for India. Indian oil companies are already reviewing their exposure to the blacklisted vessels. At least three Indian refiners are reported-

ly planning to avoid using ships on Iran's list because of concerns over potential detention, cargo seizure and increased maritime-security risks. Iran has provided a mechanism for vessels seeking removal from the blacklist. Ship operators can submit formal applications explaining their circumstances and requesting that restrictions be lifted. The latest action adds another layer of uncertainty to international shipping through the Gulf. Shipowners, insurers and energy companies are likely to closely monitor whether Iran follows through on its threats and whether additional vessels are added to the list. For India, the development is particularly significant because the country relies heavily on imported crude oil and other energy products. Any prolonged disruption or increased shipping risk around the Strait of Hormuz could potentially raise transportation and insurance costs and put additional pressure on energy markets. With tensions in the region remaining high, the Iranian blacklist has become another major concern for global maritime trade and energy security.

US Sanctions Four Indian Firms Over Iran Trade

The United States has imposed sanctions on four India-based companies accused of facilitating or importing Iranian petroleum and petrochemical products. The action is part of Washington's newly launched "Operation Economic Outcast", a broader campaign aimed at cutting off Iran's sources of revenue and increasing pressure on countries and businesses that continue commercial dealings with Tehran. The companies named in the US sanctions are Portease Partners LLP, Sadashiva Overseas Limited, PP Softtech Private Limited and Prakrutees Infra Impex Private Limited. Portease Partners, described as an India-based customs broker, has been accused of facilitating multiple shipments of Iranian petrochemical products into India. Two of its partners, Indrismiya Ashrafmiya Sheikh and Harish Ramachandra Rang, have also been designated by the US. The American authorities have also targeted Sadashiva Overseas, alleging that the company imported approximately \$69 million worth of Iranian-origin petroleum products between February 2024 and June 2025. PP Softtech has been accused of importing around \$25 million worth of Iranian petroleum products between January 2024 and June 2025. Its director, Prashant Garg, has also been included in the sanctions list. Prakrutees Infra Impex has similarly been accused of importing Iranian-origin petroleum products worth approximately \$25 million between May 2023 and February 2026. The US says the companies knowingly engaged in significant transactions involving the purchase, acquisition, sale, transportation or marketing of Iranian petroleum and petrochemical products. The sanctions are designed to restrict their access to the US financial system and prevent American entities from conducting business with them. The action comes as the Trump administration intensifies its economic campaign against Iran. Under Operation Economic Outcast, Washington is targeting companies, individuals, vessels and financial networks that it believes help Iran generate revenue through oil, petrochemicals and other commercial activities. The latest sanctions could create additional complications for Indian businesses involved in trade with Iran. Companies dealing with Iranian-origin energy products may face increased scrutiny from international banks, insurers and shipping companies. The move also comes at a sensitive time for India-US relations. India has traditionally maintained economic and strategic ties with Iran, including cooperation involving energy, trade and the Chabahar port. At the same time, New Delhi has to consider the risk of secondary US sanctions affecting Indian businesses. The sanctions highlight the growing pressure on countries and companies that continue to maintain economic links with Tehran. Washington is seeking to reduce Iran's access to international markets and restrict the revenues it earns from petroleum exports. For Indian companies, the latest action could serve as a warning that dealings involving Iranian energy products may carry increasing financial and regulatory risks as the US expands its sanctions campaign.



US Pauses Immigrant Visa Interviews Worldwide



The United States has temporarily paused or rescheduled immigrant visa interviews at its embassies and consulates around the world as consular officers undergo new training on visa screening procedures. The US State Department said the global training initiative is designed to ensure that consular officers evaluate applicants more thoroughly and consistently. A key focus of the training is determining whether applicants could potentially become dependent on US government benefits. Applicants who already had immigrant visa interviews scheduled have reportedly received notifications that their appointments are being postponed or rescheduled. However, the State Department has not announced when regular interview scheduling will resume. The measure specifically affects immigrant visa processing, which is used by people seeking permanent residence in the United States. It does not represent a blanket suspension of every type of US visa service. The development comes as the Trump administration continues to tighten immigration policies and increase scrutiny of people seeking to enter or remain in the United States. The renewed focus on the so-called "public charge" rule could have a significant impact on applicants. Under US immigration law, officials can consider whether an immigrant is likely to become primarily dependent on certain public benefits when deciding eligibility. The latest training initiative is expected to affect applicants whose cases have already reached the interview stage. For many families, employment-based applicants and other prospective immigrants, postponed interviews could mean additional delays in completing their immigration process. Indian applicants could also be affected, as thousands of Indians are involved in family-sponsored and employment-based immigration processes that require consular interviews outside the US. The pause comes amid a broader series of immigration measures introduced by the Trump administration. These include increased scrutiny of visa applications, revocation of visas and green cards, stricter enforcement against immigration violations and efforts to limit pathways to permanent residency. The administration has defended the measures as necessary to strengthen immigration enforcement and protect US taxpayers. Critics have raised concerns that the increasingly restrictive approach could create uncertainty for people pursuing legal immigration. For applicants whose interviews have been postponed, authorities are expected to provide new appointment dates once the training process is completed. Until then, applicants will have to monitor communications from the US embassy or consulate handling their cases. The temporary pause has therefore created fresh uncertainty for thousands of people waiting to move permanently to the United States, with the timeline for a return to normal immigrant visa interview scheduling still unclear.

ESDS Software IPO GMP Nears 77% Ahead Of Issue



ESDS Software Solution is set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on August 28, with the issue attracting strong interest in the grey market ahead of its opening. The Maharashtra-based company, which provides cloud, data centre, managed services and AI-enabled solutions, is looking to raise ₹720 crore through the public issue. The company has fixed the IPO price band at ₹408 to ₹429 per equity share. The issue will open for subscription on August 28 and remain open until September 1. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of around 1.68 crore equity shares, with no offer-for-sale component. The grey market premium, or GMP, for ESDS Software Solution has reportedly reached nearly 77 percent ahead of the IPO. GMP is an unofficial indicator of market sentiment and does not guarantee the actual listing price or returns. At the upper price band of ₹429, a GMP of around 77 percent indicates a potential premium of roughly ₹330 per share over the issue price. However, grey-market trends can change rapidly before listing and should not be treated as a formal prediction of the stock's actual listing performance. The minimum application lot for the ESDS Software IPO is 34 shares. At the upper price band of ₹429, retail investors would need approximately ₹14,586 to apply for one lot. Retail investors can bid for up to 13 lots, or 442 shares, subject to applicable investment limits. The issue is scheduled for allotment finalisation on September 2. Refunds and credit of shares are expected on September 3, while the company is tentatively scheduled to list on both the BSE and NSE on September 4. ESDS plans to use the IPO proceeds primarily for purchasing and installing cloud computing equipment and infrastructure at its data centres. A portion of the funds will also be used for general corporate purposes. The company operates across cloud infrastructure, managed services, software-as-a-service and data centre solutions. Its customers include businesses, government organisations and companies in the banking, financial services and insurance sectors. ESDS reported revenue from operations of about ₹472.21 crore in FY26, compared with ₹361.34 crore in FY25. Its profit after tax increased to approximately ₹120.82 crore in FY26 from ₹55.61 crore a year earlier. With a strong reported GMP, improving profitability and exposure to the expanding cloud and data-centre sectors, the ESDS IPO has attracted considerable attention ahead of its August 28 opening. However, investors should evaluate the company's valuation, financial performance and associated risks rather than relying solely on grey-market premiums.

Government Weighs Cut In Gold, Silver Import Duties



The central government is considering whether to reduce import duties on gold and silver, amid concerns that high taxes may be encouraging smuggling and shifting imports from formal channels to the parallel economy. According to sources cited by Moneycontrol, discussions are underway within the government, although no final decision has been taken yet. Bullion traders and jewellery industry representatives are pushing for the import duty on gold and silver to be reduced to 6 percent from the current 15 percent. Industry representatives argue that lowering the duty could narrow the price gap between legally imported precious metals and gold brought into India through unofficial channels, potentially reducing the incentive for smuggling. The government had increased duties on gold and silver on May 13, 2026, primarily to discourage imports and conserve foreign exchange reserves. Gold imports had surged sharply before the increase, raising concerns about pressure on India's foreign exchange position, the current account deficit and the rupee. However, industry participants claim that the higher duty has contributed to a rise in unofficial gold trade. According to one industry source quoted in the report, the policy may have changed the channel through which gold enters the country rather than significantly reducing overall demand. India remains one of the world's largest gold importers, bringing in roughly 700-800 tonnes of gold annually. Gold is also an important component of India's jewellery export industry, with Indian jewellery being shipped to markets including the UAE, Thailand and Singapore. Data following the duty increase has also drawn attention. Gold imports rose nearly 34 percent in May, when the higher duty applied for only part of the month. During June and July, the first two complete months after the hike, imports increased about 5.5 percent to \$6.13 billion from \$5.81 billion during the corresponding period a year earlier. The discussions are not limited to gold. The government is also understood to be examining the impact of duties on silver and platinum. Silver has significant industrial applications, particularly in solar energy and electronics, while platinum is widely used in automobiles and healthcare. Higher import duties can help conserve foreign exchange, but they can also increase input costs for industries that depend on these metals. The government therefore faces the challenge of balancing foreign exchange conservation with the need to support legitimate trade and manufacturing. For now, the proposal remains under discussion, and the timing, scope and extent of any possible duty reduction are still uncertain.

Nifty Ends Lower, Sensex Drops 183 Points

Indian equity markets ended lower on Wednesday, August 26, as selling pressure emerged in the final hours of trading. The Nifty 50 closed below the crucial 24,250 mark, while the Sensex declined by 183 points. The weakness came despite a positive start to the session and a fall in crude oil prices. The Sensex ended at 77,472.94, down 183 points, or 0.24 percent. The Nifty 50 settled at 24,207.75, declining 0.52 percent. The benchmarks had traded higher during the morning session but gradually surrendered their gains as selling intensified toward the close. The market began the day on a relatively positive note, supported partly by easing crude oil prices and hopes of improving conditions around the Strait of Hormuz. However, investors remained cautious amid global uncertainties and concerns surrounding the technology sector. IT stocks emerged as one of the biggest drags on the market. The Nifty IT index fell around 1.5 per-



cent. Concerns over potentially higher costs for Indian technology companies because of proposed US visa measures weighed on sentiment. Reliance Industries was another major contributor to the decline, with the stock falling around 1.4 percent. Weakness in heavyweight stocks limited the ability of the broader market to sustain its early gains. In contrast, financial stocks pro-

vided some support. Private banks and other financial companies gained during the session, helping prevent a sharper fall in the benchmark indices. The broader market also remained relatively resilient, with small-cap stocks gaining while mid-cap shares were largely flat. The start of the September derivatives series is also being closely watched by investors. Market par-

ticipants are assessing positioning after the increased volatility seen during the previous expiry and the implementation of the new closing auction mechanism. Meanwhile, foreign investor activity remains a concern for Indian equities. Foreign investors have withdrawn significant amounts from Indian markets this year, while domestic institutional flows and systematic investment plans have provided an important cushion. Analysts continue to monitor global developments, crude prices, US policy decisions and foreign fund flows for further direction. With the Nifty remaining below the 24,250 level, investors are likely to remain cautious in the near term. The market's inability to hold its morning gains despite softer oil prices highlights the cautious mood currently prevailing on Dalal Street. The coming sessions will determine whether the Nifty can reclaim the 24,250 zone or faces further selling pressure.

L&T Order Surge Signals Middle East Revival

Engineering major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has secured a series of large orders in recent weeks, with a significant share coming from the Middle East. The strong order flow is being seen as an indication that infrastructure and energy spending in the region is recovering after disruptions caused by the US-Iran conflict. L&T has disclosed 13 orders since early July, including seven from the Middle East. While the company generally reports orders within value ranges rather than revealing exact amounts, estimates suggest that the total value of its order wins during the ongoing September quarter could be around ₹1.11 lakh crore. This is higher than the ₹1.08 lakh crore of orders reported in the previous quarter. Two of the most significant recent projects have come from the Middle East. L&T has secured contracts worth more than ₹15,000 crore each for a gas compression project and offshore facilities. The company has not disclosed the



names of the clients. The latest wins also include major renewable energy and infrastructure projects. L&T's renewables business recently secured an order estimated at ₹5,000-10,000 crore to develop three battery energy storage system projects in the Middle East. Together, the projects will provide 6 gigawatt-hours of storage capacity. The Middle East remains an important market for

L&T. The region contributed roughly one-third of the company's ₹2.86 lakh crore revenue for the financial year ended March 31. The latest order momentum suggests that customers are once again stepping up infrastructure investments after a period of uncertainty. L&T had earlier indicated that tendering and bidding activity in the Middle East remained strong despite a tempo-

rary slowdown in project awards. The company expected order awards to improve from the second quarter, and recent developments appear to support that expectation. Energy prices are also providing support to Gulf economies. Stronger energy revenues can give governments in the region greater capacity to spend on infrastructure, energy, transportation and other large-scale projects. For L&T, the revival in Middle Eastern spending could provide an important boost to its order book and future revenue visibility. The company has established a strong presence across the region and continues to win projects in hydrocarbons, renewable energy, power transmission and infrastructure. The latest order flow therefore points to more than just individual project wins. It signals renewed investment momentum in a key overseas market for one of India's largest engineering companies, potentially strengthening L&T's growth outlook in the coming quarters.

DMart Shares Fall 3% After Block Deal

Shares of Avenue Supermarts, the operator of the DMart retail chain, fell more than 3 percent on August 26 after a sizeable block deal involving over 1 percent of the company's equity. The transaction put pressure on the stock during afternoon trading and attracted significant attention from investors. Around 69.1 lakh shares, equivalent to approximately 1.06 percent of Avenue Supermarts' total equity, changed hands through the block deal. Based on the prevailing market price, the transaction is estimated to be worth around ₹2,600-2,700 crore. The identities of the buyers and sellers involved in the transaction were not immediately disclosed. Block deals of this size often attract investor attention because they can indicate changes in institutional or large-investor holdings, although the immediate impact on the stock price does not necessarily indicate the long-term outlook for the company.



Avenue Supermarts shares were trading around ₹3,781 during afternoon trade, down about 3.3 percent from the previous close. Despite the day's decline, the stock has gained approximately 1.8 percent so far in 2026, outperforming the Nifty 50, which has declined around 6.9 percent during the same period. At the prevailing

price, Avenue Supermarts had a market capitalisation of roughly ₹2.47 lakh crore. The company remains one of India's most closely watched organised retail businesses, with DMart's value-focused retail model continuing to attract investors. The block deal comes despite the company's recent financial performance showing

continued growth. Avenue Supermarts reported a 12.8 percent year-on-year increase in net profit to ₹935.8 crore in the first quarter of FY27, according to the report. The stock's reaction on Wednesday therefore appears to have been driven primarily by the large block transaction rather than a fresh deterioration in the company's quarterly performance. Investors will now be watching subsequent disclosures to determine who participated in the deal and whether the transaction represents a significant change in the ownership structure. Trading volumes and institutional activity in Avenue Supermarts are also likely to remain in focus over the next few sessions. For now, the 1.06 percent equity transaction has triggered a sharp intraday decline in DMart shares, even as the company's underlying earnings growth and long-term retail expansion remain key factors for investors evaluating the stock.

AI Stocks Rise Ahead Of Nvidia Results

Shares of several artificial intelligence-related companies gained on August 26 as investors turned their attention to Nvidia's highly anticipated second-quarter results. E2E Networks, Black Box and GE Vernova T&D India were among the stocks that advanced, with gains of up to 3.5 percent. Netweb Technologies also traded marginally higher. The market focus is firmly on Nvidia because the US chipmaker is widely viewed as a key indicator of global spending on artificial intelligence infrastructure. Its earnings and management commentary are expected to provide clues about demand for AI chips, data centres and related technologies. Investors are particularly watching Nvidia's outlook for capital expenditure by major technology companies. Strong spending plans from hyperscalers would reinforce expectations that the AI infrastructure boom still has significant room to grow. On the other



hand, any indication of slower spending could trigger volatility across AI-linked stocks. Wall Street is expecting another strong quarter from Nvidia, with analysts looking for substantial year-on-year growth in revenue and net income. However, investors are likely to focus beyond the headline numbers and closely examine the company's guidance, customer demand and future growth prospects. Nvidia shares have gained around 14 percent so far in 2026, although

the stock has experienced significant volatility. Concerns about the sustainability of massive AI investments have periodically prompted investors to reduce exposure to technology and semiconductor stocks. Indian AI-related companies have increasingly benefited from the global expansion of AI infrastructure. E2E Networks, for instance, has reported a sharp improvement in its financial performance, with June-quarter revenue rising 334 percent year-on-year to ₹156.76

crore and net profit reaching ₹43.88 crore. The company has also been expanding its GPU infrastructure to cater to growing AI and machine-learning demand. Black Box and other companies involved in data centres, power infrastructure and technology services are also being closely watched because the expansion of AI computing requires significant investments in servers, networking, electricity and cooling infrastructure. Nvidia's results therefore have implications well beyond the company itself. A strong earnings report and optimistic outlook could boost sentiment across the global AI ecosystem, while cautious guidance could lead to profit-taking in stocks that have already rallied sharply. The results are expected after the US market closes on August 26. Indian investors will be watching Nvidia's numbers and management commentary closely for clues about the next phase of the global AI investment cycle.

Raksha Bandhan 2026: Date, Muhurat And Rituals

Raksha Bandhan, one of India's most cherished festivals celebrating the bond between brothers and sisters, will be observed on Friday, August 28, 2026. The festival is traditionally celebrated on the full moon day, or Purnima Tithi, of the Hindu month of Shravan.

This year, there has been some confusion over whether Raksha Bandhan should be celebrated on August 27 or August 28 because the Purnima Tithi begins on August 27 and continues into August 28. According to traditional calendar calculations, August 28 is the appropriate day for observing the festival.

Raksha Bandhan 2026: Purnima Tithi

The Purnima Tithi is expected to begin at around 9:08 AM on August 27 and end at approximately 9:48 AM on August 28. Since the full moon tithi prevails during the relevant period on August 28, Raksha Bandhan will be celebrated on that day.

Auspicious Time To Tie Rakhi
According to Panchang-based calculations, the main Rakhi-tying muhurat on August 28 is in the morning, from approximately 5:58 AM to 9:48 AM. The duration is around three hours and 50 minutes.

Devotees traditionally avoid



Image credit: Unplash

tying Rakhi during Bhadra, an inauspicious period associated with the Purnima Tithi. In 2026, Bhadra is expected to end before sunrise on August 28, allowing families to perform the Rakhi ceremony during the recommended morning period.

How Is Raksha Bandhan Celebrated?

The celebration begins with the sister preparing a traditional thali containing a rakhi, roli or kumkum, rice, sweets and a diya. She applies a tilak to her brother's forehead, performs an aarti and ties the sacred thread around his wrist.

The Rakhi represents love, affec-

tion and a bond of protection between siblings. After the ceremony, brothers traditionally give gifts to their sisters and promise to support and protect them.

Although the festival has deep religious roots, Raksha Bandhan has also evolved into a celebration of family relationships. Brothers and sisters living in different cities or countries often come together or send Rakhis and gifts to mark the occasion.

With Raksha Bandhan 2026 falling on August 28, families can plan their celebrations around the auspicious morning muhurat and complete the traditional ceremony at an appropriate time.

Partial Lunar Eclipse 2026: Timing, Visibility And Viewing Guide



Image credit: Unplash

A deep partial lunar eclipse is set to occur from the night of August 27 into the early hours of August 28, 2026. During the event, the Moon will pass through part of Earth's dark inner shadow, creating a striking reddish-copper appearance across much of its surface. The eclipse is expected to cover around 96% of the full Sturgeon Moon, leaving only a small portion illuminated directly by sunlight. Unlike a total lunar eclipse, the Moon will not be completely covered by Earth's umbra.

When Will The Eclipse Occur?

According to astronomical timing data, the Moon will begin entering Earth's main shadow at approximately 02:33 UTC on August 28. The eclipse will reach its maximum at around 04:12 UTC, shortly before sunrise in Western Europe.

Since the eclipse reaches its peak close to sunrise in Europe, the Moon will appear relatively low above the western horizon. Observers are therefore advised to choose an open location without buildings, trees or other obstructions blocking the western sky.

Where Will It Be Visible?

The partial lunar eclipse will be visible from large parts of Western Europe, Africa and the Americas. Countries including Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and Germany will have opportunities to observe the event. The maximum phase will also be visible across much of the Americas, except Hawaii and parts of Alaska.

However, the eclipse will not be visible from India, as the event will occur during daytime in the country. This means skywatchers in India will not be able to observe the August 27-28 lunar eclipse.

Is It Safe To Watch?

Yes. Unlike a solar eclipse, a lunar eclipse can be viewed safely with the naked eye, and special protective glasses are not required. Binoculars or a small telescope can nevertheless provide a better view of the Moon's reddish and coppery tones during the eclipse.

For those in regions where the eclipse is visible, clear weather and an unobstructed view of the western horizon will be key to enjoying the astronomical spectacle.

Reddit Praises Boss For Supporting Employees

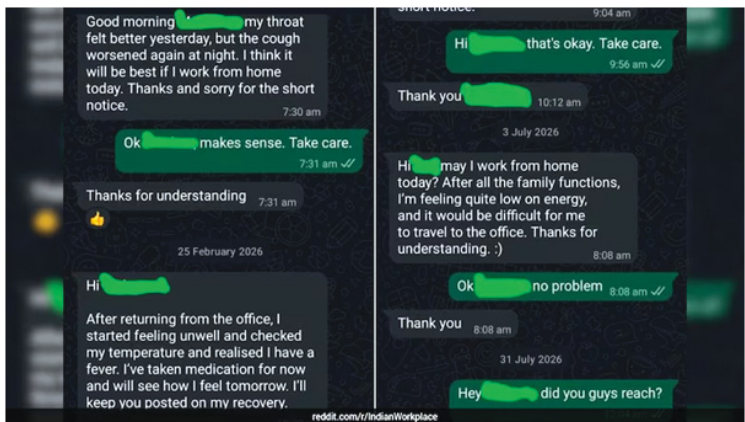


Image credit: reddit.com/indianworkplace

Stories about toxic bosses, unreasonable deadlines and unhealthy workplace cultures are common on social media. But a recent Reddit post has attracted attention for a very different reason: it highlighted a manager who appears to treat employees with understanding and respect.

The post, shared on the IndianWorkplace subreddit, featured screenshots of WhatsApp conversations between employees and their manager. The exchanges involved routine requests for leave and work-from-home arrangements. Rather than responding with anger, guilt-tripping or complaints about workload, the manager appeared to respond normally and supportively.

The employee who shared the screenshots explained that they wanted to offer a positive example amid the large number of posts about toxic workplaces. The interactions were described as ordinary conversations involving reasonable requests for leave and WFH.

The employee also clarified that the post was not intended as a boast. Instead, it was meant to provide a change from the usual workplace complaints frequently seen on the platform.

The post quickly attracted attention from other Reddit users. Several commenters praised the manager's attitude, saying that respectful workplace behaviour should be normal but has become unusual enough to stand out online.

One commenter appreciated seeing a manager demonstrate such an attitude in a professional services environment, while another observed that Reddit's repeated exposure to stories about difficult workplaces has made a manager simply behaving normally seem like an unusual achievement.

The discussion highlights a broader issue surrounding workplace culture. Employees often remember managers not only for their professional expectations but also for how they respond when workers need flexibility, personal time or support.

While the screenshots represent only one employee's experience, the positive reaction suggests that many workers value managers who trust their teams and understand that employees have responsibilities outside the workplace.

In an online environment dominated by stories of workplace stress and difficult bosses, this Reddit post offered a simple reminder: sometimes, a manager who communicates respectfully and treats reasonable requests like reasonable requests can make a significant difference.

Chhattisgarh Women Get RS.1,000 Raksha Bandhan Gift

Ahead of Raksha Bandhan, the Chhattisgarh government has released the 31st instalment of the Mahtari Vandana Yojana, providing eligible women with financial assistance of ₹1,000. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai announced the release of the funds at the Matru Shakti Samman Samaroh in Balod district on August 25, ensuring that the money reaches beneficiaries before the festival.

Under the Mahtari Vandana Yojana, eligible women receive ₹1,000 every month through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The scheme aims to provide financial support to women and encourage greater economic independence. Beneficiaries can use the money according to their personal needs. The scheme covers eligible married women as well as widows, divorced women and women who



have been abandoned. Married applicants must generally be at least 21 years old as of January 1 of the year in which they apply. Aadhaar details, a mobile number

and bank account information are among the requirements, with the mobile number linked to the bank account.

The scheme also provides support

to women who receive less than ₹1,000 under certain social assistance pension programmes. In such cases, Mahtari Vandana Yojana makes up the difference. For instance, a beneficiary receiving a ₹600 pension could receive an additional ₹400 under the scheme. The Chhattisgarh government is also considering expanding the scheme to include additional categories. A proposal reportedly covers unmarried women with disabilities, transgender persons and women above 40 years of age. If approved, eligible beneficiaries from these categories could also receive ₹1,000 per month.

The early release of the instalment has been positioned as financial assistance for women ahead of Raksha Bandhan, giving beneficiaries additional support as families prepare for the festival.

Gated Society Or Open Neighbourhood: Which Is Better?

A social media video comparing life in gated societies with living in open neighbourhoods has sparked a lively debate among urban Indians. The discussion focuses on a question many people face while choosing between an apartment in a gated community and an independent house in a traditional locality.

The content creator points out that gated societies offer several advantages from the moment residents enter the premises. Security guards, CCTV cameras, basement parking, street lighting, cleanliness and organised maintenance are usually part of the package. These facilities can make daily life more convenient and provide residents with a greater sense of security.

Open neighbourhoods, on the other hand, often require residents to manage several basic needs themselves. Roads, parking, security and cleanliness may not always be as organised as they are inside a gated complex. However, the creator argues that comparing the two only on infrastructure misses an important aspect of urban living: community.

According to him, people living in traditional neighbourhoods may have fewer organised facilities, but they can often enjoy stronger relationships with their neighbours. People tend to know one another, help each other during emergencies and remain connected to the wider community. Gated communities can sometimes create the

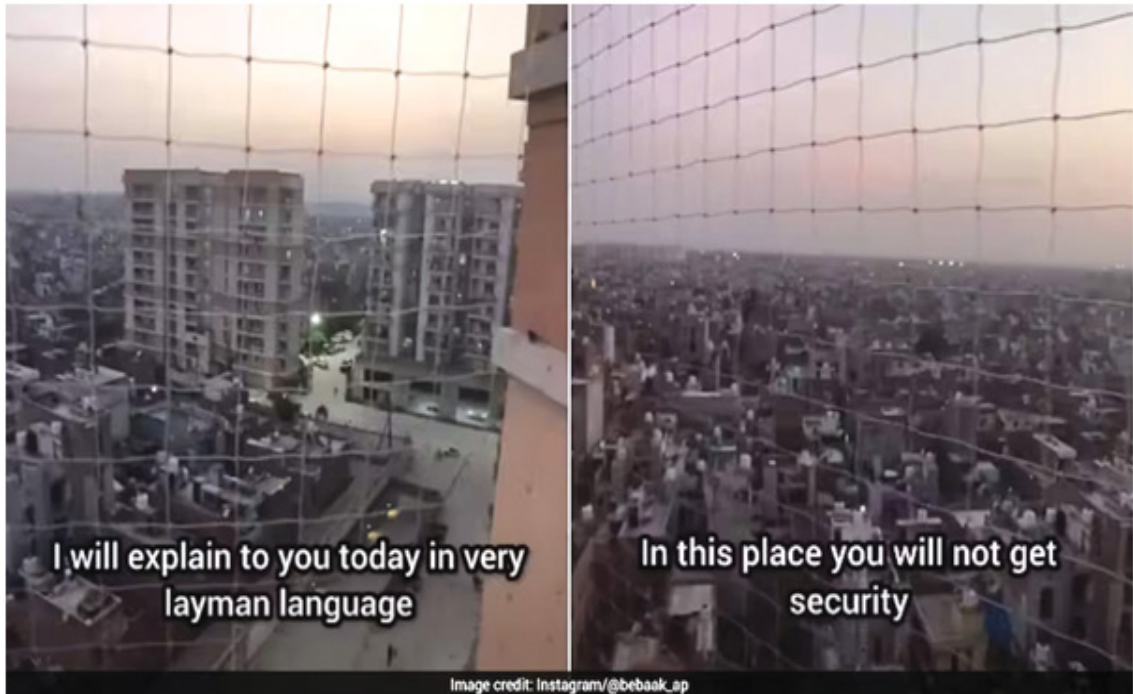


Image credit: Instagram/@bebaak_ap

opposite experience. Residents may have access to better facilities and security but remain socially disconnected from people living outside the complex. The creator clarified that he was not opposed to gated societies, acknowledging the importance of safety, cleanliness and infrastructure.

The video ultimately raises a broader question about modern urban life: Are people creating safer homes while becoming

increasingly disconnected from the communities around them?

The comparison has resonated with social media users, with many sharing personal experiences of both lifestyles. Some argued that traditional neighbourhoods provide stronger human connections, while others said they would prefer the security and convenience offered by gated communities. For many, the choice may therefore depend on priorities. A

gated society can offer convenience, security and organised amenities, while an open neighbourhood may provide greater independence and stronger community interaction. The debate suggests that choosing a home is not simply about deciding between a flat and an independent house. It is also about deciding what kind of lifestyle, neighbourhood and social connection people want in the long run.

Sridhar Vembu Says Entrepreneurs Must Embrace Rejection

Zoho co-founder and Chief Scientist Sridhar Vembu has shared a straightforward piece of advice for engineers, scientists and doctors planning to become entrepreneurs: learn to sell and be prepared to face rejection.

In a post on X on August 26, Vembu said technical professionals moving into business should spend considerable time making sales calls. According to him, repeatedly approaching potential customers and dealing with rejection can provide valuable lessons that cannot be gained from technical expertise alone.

Vembu stressed that no business can succeed without selling something. For professionals accustomed to working primarily with technology, research or medicine, interacting directly with customers can offer an entirely different understanding of how businesses operate.

He explained that sales calls can also improve communication skills. Entrepreneurs may have excellent ideas or products, but explaining their value clearly to customers is often much harder than expected. Learning to communicate those ideas effectively



can therefore become an important part of building a successful business.

Vembu also said that experiencing rejection can help entrepreneurs develop persistence and patience. Instead of viewing a rejected sales pitch simply as failure, he encouraged aspiring business owners to treat it as an opportunity to understand customers, improve their approach and try again.

His comments quickly attracted attention online, with several users agreeing that sales experience can teach lessons about humility, patience and communication. Some also shared their own experiences of learning more from direct customer interactions than from formal technical training. The broader message from Vembu is that technical expertise alone is not enough to build a business. Entrepreneurs must understand customers, communicate their ideas, handle rejection and continue making the effort to sell their products or services. For professionals considering the transition from technical careers to entrepreneurship, his advice is simple: get out, talk to customers, face rejection and keep going.

Manjrekar Slams Lenient Punishment For Jaiswal

Former India cricketer and commentator Sanjay Manjrekar has criticised the ICC and BCCI for what he considers a lenient punishment handed to Yashasvi Jaiswal following his on-field confrontation with Sri Lankan pacer Asitha Fernando during the second Test in Colombo. Manjrekar believes stronger disciplinary action is necessary to prevent similar incidents from being repeated. The controversy occurred on the opening day of the Colombo Test after Fernando dismissed Jaiswal. As the Indian opener was walking back towards the dressing room, he appeared to react to something said by the Sri Lankan pacer. Jaiswal turned around and confronted Fernando, leading to a heated exchange between the two players. Their heads also came into contact during the confrontation before other Sri Lankan players intervened. The ICC subsequently charged both players with a Level 1 offence under Article 2.12 of its Code of Conduct, which deals with inappropriate physical contact involving players and other match officials or participants. Jaiswal and Fernando were each fined 25 percent of their match fees and given one demerit point. Both players accepted the charges. Manjrekar was not convinced that the punishment was sufficient. In a post on social media, he linked the Jaiswal incident to a separate controversy involving young Indian batter Vaibhav Sooriyavanshi during an India A tour of Sri Lanka. He argued that allowing players to escape with relatively light penalties could encourage similar behaviour in the future. According to Manjrekar, disciplinary authorities need to send a stronger message, particularly when young cricketers are involved. He believes repeated leniency could influence players' behaviour and ultimately



damage both their careers and the image of the sport. Jaiswal's incident has already attracted criticism from several former players and commentators. Harsha Bhogle suggested that the Indian opener should have simply walked away from the confrontation, while other voices have also stressed the importance of maintaining boundaries during heated moments on the field. At the same time, India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak acknowledged that emotions can run high during competitive matches. He suggested that something may have been said to Jaiswal but agreed that the batter should not have moved so close to Fernando. The debate comes amid a series in which disciplinary incidents have received considerable attention.

Manjrekar's argument is that fines and demerit points alone may not always be enough to discourage physical confrontations. For Jaiswal, the incident has now become an additional talking point during India's Sri Lanka tour. While the ICC has closed the disciplinary matter with the Level 1 sanction, Manjrekar's criticism has reignited the debate over whether cricket authorities should adopt tougher measures when players cross the line between competitive aggression and physical confrontation. The larger issue, according to Manjrekar, is not simply about punishing one player. It is about ensuring that young cricketers understand that on-field aggression must remain within the boundaries of sportsmanship and respect.

India Dominate Sri Lanka As Follow-On Pressure Mounts



India remained firmly in control of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo as the hosts struggled to withstand the pressure on Day 4. India had declared their first innings at a commanding 503 for 9, giving Sri Lanka a massive deficit and putting the visitors in a strong position to push for a series-clinching victory. Sri Lanka were eventually bowled out for 290 in their first innings, conceding a 213-run lead to India. Sonal Dinusha was the standout performer for the hosts, scoring a fighting 103. His innings provided some resistance, but the Indian bowlers kept Sri Lanka under pressure throughout. Prasidh Krishna and Manav Suthar were among India's leading wicket-takers. With Sri Lanka falling well short of India's total, captain Shubman Gill enforced the follow-on. The hosts were therefore forced to bat again immediately, facing the daunting task of saving the match against an Indian bowling attack that had already established control. India's first-innings total was built around impressive contributions from the middle order. Dhruv Jurel produced a memorable unbeaten 115, while Rishabh Pant added a rapid 63. Jurel's century was particularly significant as it was his second Test hundred and his first overseas century. Sri Lanka, however, showed considerable determination in their second innings. Pasindu Sooriyabandara and Kamindu Mendis put together a strong partnership, scoring half-centuries and keeping the Indian bowlers waiting for breakthroughs. At one stage, Sri Lanka had reduced the deficit significantly and were threatening to make India work hard for the remaining wickets. India eventually managed to break the partnership, with Shubman Gill taking an important catch to dismiss Sooriyabandara. The breakthrough restored some control for the visitors, although Sri Lanka's resistance meant the match was not ending as quickly as India would have hoped. By the end of Day 4, Sri Lanka had reached 229 for 6 in their second innings, giving them a 16-run lead over India. The hosts still had four wickets remaining, setting up an intriguing final day in Colombo. India continue to hold the advantage because of their huge first-innings total and the follow-on they enforced. However, Sri Lanka's determined lower-order resistance has given them a chance to prolong the contest. With the final day approaching, India will look to take the remaining wickets quickly and chase whatever target Sri Lanka can set. The hosts, meanwhile, will hope their remaining batters can extend the lead and create a challenging fourth-innings target. The match remains heavily tilted in India's favour, but Sri Lanka's second-innings fight has ensured that the final day could still provide plenty of drama.

Prasidh Krishna Earns Praise After Colombo Masterclass



Prasidh Krishna emerged as one of India's biggest positives in the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo, delivering a crucial spell that helped India gain a commanding position. The pacer claimed three wickets for 47 runs from 14 overs as Sri Lanka were eventually bowled out for 290 in their first innings. India then enforced the follow-on. Krishna's performance earned special praise from former India batter Mohammad Kaif, who felt the Karnataka pacer had outperformed senior fast bowler Mohammed Siraj during India's tour of Sri Lanka. Kaif pointed out that Siraj has considerably more Test experience, while Krishna is still relatively new to the format. Despite that difference, he said Krishna had looked ahead in terms of pace, effort and overall performance during the series. The three-wicket haul in Colombo was particularly impressive because Krishna consistently troubled the Sri Lankan batters with his pace and bounce. His ability to maintain his natural back-of-a-length approach allowed him to create pressure and force mistakes. Former India Test batter Cheteshwar Pujara also analysed Krishna's spell and highlighted the tactical changes that helped him succeed. According to Pujara, Krishna changed his angle during the first session and subsequently used the short ball effectively. Two of Krishna's wickets came from bouncers, while another came from his preferred six-to-eight-metre length. Pujara felt this combination made the bowler particularly effective against the Sri Lankan batting lineup. The praise comes at an important stage of Krishna's Test career. After facing fitness and consistency concerns in the past, the pacer appears to be finding greater confidence and rhythm. His ability to generate bounce from a good height gives India an additional weapon, particularly when conditions do not offer significant assistance to fast bowlers. India's decision to enforce the follow-on further underlined the impact of the bowling performance. Sri Lanka had fallen 213 runs short of India's first-innings total of 503 for 9, forcing them back onto the field almost immediately. Krishna's emergence also gives captain Shubman Gill another reliable pace option. With Siraj providing experience and Krishna offering bounce and variation, India's attack has looked increasingly balanced during the series. However, Pujara stressed that Krishna would need to maintain his standards in the next innings as well. With Sri Lanka batting again under pressure, India's bowlers have the opportunity to finish the match and seal a 2-0 series victory. For now, Krishna's Colombo performance has strengthened his reputation as a valuable member of India's Test bowling attack. His ability to combine pace, bounce and tactical discipline has earned recognition from two former India players and could prove crucial as India look to complete a series triumph.

Pucovski Sues School Over Career-Ending Concussion

Former Australia Test cricketer Will Pucovski has launched legal action against his former school, Brighton Grammar, alleging that the institution failed to properly manage a serious head injury he suffered during an Australian rules football training session in 2014. The incident occurred when Pucovski was 16 and is being described in his legal claim as the first of a series of concussions that eventually ended his cricket career. According to documents filed in the Victorian Supreme Court, Pucovski was knocked unconscious after his head collided with a teammate's knee during an aggressive training drill. His lawyers allege that he was helped from the field but was subsequently allowed to return to training without appropriate medical assessment. They also claim that his parents were not immediately informed about the incident. Pucovski reportedly developed headaches and other symptoms in the days following the incident,



including blurred vision and nausea. His parents later took him to hospital, where medical staff advised him to stop physical activity and stay away from school while he recovered. His lawyers allege that the 2014 injury caused a traumatic brain injury from which he never fully recovered. The incident gained greater significance as Pucovski went on to suffer repeated concussions throughout his cricket career. He sustained 13 known concussions, with

several injuries interrupting his progress at crucial stages. His final serious concussion came in March 2024 while playing for Victoria in a Sheffield Shield match, when he was struck on the head by a delivery from Tasmania fast bowler Riley Meredith. Pucovski was once regarded as one of Australia's most promising batting talents. He made his Test debut against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground in January 2021 and scored 62 in his first innings.

However, repeated injuries prevented him from establishing himself at international level. He eventually announced his retirement from professional cricket in April 2025 at the age of 27, following medical advice. His lawyers allege that Brighton Grammar failed to follow appropriate concussion-management procedures and breached its duty of care. They argue that the initial injury left Pucovski more vulnerable to further head trauma. Brighton Grammar has declined to comment on the allegations, stating that the matter is now before the courts. The claims made in Pucovski's legal action have not yet been tested in court. Pucovski's case has renewed attention on concussion management in schools and professional sport. His experience highlights the importance of identifying head injuries at an early stage and ensuring that young athletes receive proper medical evaluation before returning to physical activity.

DPL Controversy Forces DDCA To Review Rules

The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) is set to review a controversial Delhi Premier League rule following the selection of relatively unknown cricketer Dev Chaudhary by the New Delhi Tigers. The episode has raised questions about transparency in player selection and whether the existing regulations can be misused. The current DPL rules allow each of the eight franchises to select three local players outside the main auction. The only requirement is that the players must have appeared in at least five DDCA League matches. This provision has now come under scrutiny following Chaudhary's inclusion in the New Delhi Tigers squad. Chaudhary played two matches in the tournament as an opener. He scored 0 off 2 balls against South Delhi Superstarz and 16 off 24 balls against West Delhi Lions. His unusual batting technique and limited impact in those matches led to questions about how he secured a place in the playing XI. Several DDCA Apex Council mem-

bers had reportedly opposed the rule when it was introduced. They had expressed concerns that allowing franchises to directly pick players outside the auction could create opportunities for favouritism and potentially leave deserving cricketers without opportunities. Apex Council member and lawyer Shyam Sharma said he had raised objections to the rule earlier and had warned that simply playing five DDCA League matches should not be sufficient to establish eligibility for the DPL. He has now called for the provision to be reconsidered. The DDCA has acknowledged the concerns. DDCA secretary Ashok Sharma said the rule would be reviewed after the conclusion of the tournament. The controversy has also raised questions about Chaudhary's cricketing background. His publicly known credentials are limited, although he was reportedly called for Delhi Under-19 trials in the past. He played DDCA League matches for Sporting Club, the



same club associated with India pacer Prince Yadav. The New Delhi Tigers, coached by former India Under-19 coach and Virat Kohli's childhood coach Rajkumar Sharma, have struggled in the tournament. They have won only one of their first ten matches and remain at the bottom of the eight-team table. The controversy has therefore gone beyond one player's selection.

It has triggered a wider debate about the credibility of the DPL recruitment system and whether local talent is receiving a fair opportunity. With the DDCA now preparing to review the regulations, the Dev Chaudhary episode could lead to significant changes in the way franchises select players outside the auction in future editions of the Delhi Premier League.

Pakistan Women Take Unusual Route Ahead Of Asia Cup

Pakistan's women's cricket team has adopted an unusual approach to prepare for the upcoming Women's Asia Cup, taking on men's teams in competitive T20 matches during their pre-tournament camp in Lahore. The matches were played at the National Cricket Academy and featured a combination of teenage and older male players. Rather than being simple practice sessions or scenario-based drills, the games were conducted as full 20-over contests. The objective was to expose Pakistan's players to greater pressure and help them improve their decision-making during difficult phases of matches. Pakistan captain Fatima Sana said the unusual preparation had proved useful for the team. She explained that facing male players created challenging situations and forced the batters and bowlers to respond under pressure. According to

her, the experience would help the team adapt better to the demands of the Asia Cup. Pakistan is placed in Group A alongside arch-rivals India, Hong Kong, China and Thailand. Their campaign will begin against Thailand on September 1, followed by the much-awaited clash against India on September 5. Pakistan will then face Hong Kong-China on September 7. Pakistan enter the tournament with a point to prove. The team has never won the Women's Asia Cup and has also failed to reach the final for the last decade. Their best performances came in 2012 and 2016, when they reached consecutive finals but lost to India on both occasions. The team's preparations have therefore focused not only on technical skills but also on handling pressure. Fatima Sana stressed the importance of remaining



calm during crucial moments and making the right decisions when the game is on the line. Playing against stronger and physically more challenging oppo-

sition in practice can provide players with a different kind of competitive experience. For Pakistan, the idea appears to be aimed at preparing the team for high-pressure situations that could arise during the tournament. The Asia Cup will be held in the UAE from August 28 to September 13. Pakistan will be hoping that its unconventional preparation strategy translates into stronger performances when the competition begins. With India also in their group, Pakistan's preparations are being closely watched. The September 5 encounter between the two rivals is expected to be one of the biggest attractions of the tournament. For Fatima Sana and her team, however, the immediate focus will be on starting their campaign strongly and finally ending Pakistan's long wait for an Asia Cup title.

Nagarjuna's King 100 First Glimpse On August 29

Akkineni Nagarjuna is gearing up for a major milestone in his career with his 100th film, currently referred to as King 100. The highly anticipated project is being directed by Tamil filmmaker Ra. Karthik and has already created significant buzz among Telugu cinema fans. The latest update is particularly exciting for Nagarjuna's fans. The makers are planning to unveil the first glimpse of King 100 on August 29, coinciding with Nagarjuna's birthday. Along with the glimpse, the film's official title and release plans are also expected to be announced. The movie is being presented as a commercial entertainer with an emotional father-daughter relationship forming the heart of the story. The narrative is also said to feature a rags-to-riches element, giving the film a combination of family emotions and commercial entertainment. One of the most interesting aspects of the project is Nagarjuna's characterisation. The actor is reportedly seen across different stages of his life, portraying the character from the age of 25 to 60. This multi-age portrayal is expected to be one of the major attractions of the film. The cast also includes several prominent actors. Tabu, Sushmita Bhatt and Vijayendra are said to be playing important roles in the project. The presence of Tabu has generated additional interest, particularly because of her previous association with Nagarjuna. King 100 is being produced by Annapurna Studios, making the project especially significant for Nagarjuna as he reaches the landmark of his 100th film. The production is currently progressing, with the team reportedly working on bringing together the film's large-scale commercial elements and emotional storyline. The choice of Ra. Karthik as director has also attracted attention. Known for his Tamil filmmaking work, Karthik is attempting to present Nagarjuna in a fresh setting while retaining the commercial appeal expected from a milestone project. Although the makers have not yet revealed all the details, the August 29 glimpse is expected to provide the first major look at the film's world, Nagarjuna's character and its overall tone. With a landmark 100th film, an unusual multi-age character and a father-daughter emotional core, King 100 is shaping up as one of Nagarjuna's most important upcoming projects. Fans will now be eagerly waiting for August 29 to discover what the makers have prepared for this special milestone.

Speculation about a second collaboration between Superstar Mahesh Babu and director Anil Ravipudi has been put to rest. Recent reports suggested that Mahesh Babu was planning to work with Ravipudi after completing his upcoming film Varanasi. However, the director has now officially dismissed the reports as false. Mahesh Babu is currently busy with Varanasi, his highly anticipated collaboration with filmmaker S. S. Rajamouli. The film is being mounted on a massive scale and is scheduled to release in April 2027. With the project expected to be one of the biggest Indian films, speculation about Mahesh's next movie has been intense. Amid this buzz, reports emerged that Mahesh Babu might choose a comparatively quick project with Anil Ravipudi after Varanasi. The reports quickly became a talking point among fans, with many expressing excitement about the possibility of the actor and director reuniting. However, Anil Ravipudi took to social media to directly address the speculation. He stated that the reports circulating about a new collaboration were completely false and urged fans and the media not to believe or spread such rumours. Ravipudi also made it clear that he continues to share immense respect and affection for Mahesh Babu. The two previously worked together on Sarileru Neekevvaru, which became a successful commercial entertainer. The clarification has now ended the current speculation about their immediate reunion. While Mahesh Babu's post-Varanasi plans remain a subject of interest, there is no confirmation of a new project with Ravipudi at this stage. For Mahesh, the immediate focus remains Varanasi. Directed by Rajamouli, the film also stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran and is being planned as a major global-scale adventure. For Ravipudi, meanwhile, the filmmaker continues to focus on his own upcoming projects. His latest clarification makes one thing clear: despite the strong online buzz, Mahesh Babu and Anil Ravipudi are not currently teaming up for a film after Varanasi. The rumour may have generated considerable excitement among fans, but Ravipudi's statement has brought the speculation to an end-for now.

Mahesh Babu, Anil Ravipudi Collaboration Rumours Denied

Kriti Sanon Questions Backlash Over Rakhi Ad

Kriti Sanon has responded to the social media backlash surrounding her latest Raksha Bandhan advertisement, which drew criticism from a section of viewers over her outfit and the way the ad was presented. The actress questioned why women continue to face scrutiny and judgment over their clothing choices. The advertisement was released ahead of Raksha Bandhan and featured Kriti in a glamorous outfit while promoting a brand associated with the festival. Soon after its release, the commercial became a topic of discussion online, with some viewers describing the styling as inappropriate for a festival traditionally associated with the bond between brothers and sisters. Kriti, however, challenged the criticism and questioned the larger attitude behind such reactions. Her response focused on the recurring tendency to tell women what they should or should not wear. The controversy has once again brought attention to the debate surrounding women's clothing and social expectations. While some viewers believe celebrities should consider the cultural context when appearing in festival-themed advertisements, others argue that an actress's choice of clothing should not become a measure of her character or suitability for a particular occasion. The advertisement has therefore triggered two contrasting viewpoints. Critics have focused on the styling and presentation, while supporters of Kriti have argued that women should have the freedom to decide how they dress without being subjected to unnecessary moral judgment. Social media debates around celebrity advertisements are not new, particularly when fashion, festivals and cultural traditions intersect. Advertisers often use glamorous celebrity imagery to attract attention, but such creative decisions can also invite criticism when audiences feel that the presentation does not match the sentiment associated with a festival. Kriti's response has shifted the discussion beyond the advertisement itself, raising a broader question about the expectations placed on women in public life. Her central argument is that conversations about women should move away from repeatedly dictating what they should wear. The controversy has also generated significant attention for the advertisement, with users on social media continuing to debate whether the criticism is justified or whether it reflects outdated attitudes toward women's clothing. For now, the Raksha Bandhan advertisement remains at the centre of an online discussion that goes beyond fashion. It has become another example of how celebrity campaigns can quickly turn into debates about culture, personal choice and society's expectations of women.

Spirit Will Get A Certificate, Says Vanga

Sandeep Reddy Vanga's upcoming film Spirit, starring Prabhas, is already generating considerable curiosity even though the movie is still in production. The director has now added to the anticipation with a strong statement about the film's content and likely certification. Speaking at the trailer launch of Romanchakam, which he is presenting under Bhadrakali Pictures, Vanga jokingly pointed out that the upcoming film is the first movie from his banner to receive a U/A certificate. He noted that his earlier projects were certified A. When the discussion turned to Spirit, Vanga confidently stated that the Prabhas starrer would "surely" receive an A certificate. He attributed this expectation to the film's intense and violent content. His comment has naturally increased curiosity about the kind of action and themes audiences can expect from the movie. Spirit marks the collaboration between Vanga and Prabhas, creating significant expectations among fans of both the actor and director. Vanga has previously made films such as Arjun Reddy, Kabir Singh and Animal, all of which became known for their intense themes and controversial content. The film is currently being shot and is scheduled to arrive in theatres on March 5, 2027. Triptii Dimri has been cast as the female lead, while Vivek Oberoi is also part of the project. Harshavardhan Rameshwar is composing the music. The movie is being produced jointly by T-Series and Bhadrakali Pictures. Vanga's latest comment has particularly caught attention because an A certificate would restrict the film to adult audiences. While the final certification will depend on the examining authorities after the completed film is submitted, the director's remarks indicate that Spirit is likely to follow the intense storytelling style associated with his previous work. With Prabhas in the lead and Vanga behind the camera, Spirit is among the most anticipated upcoming Indian films. The promise of a violent and intense narrative has only heightened expectations, leaving fans eager to see the first glimpse of the film. For now, audiences will have to wait for the trailer and further updates to understand how far Vanga has pushed the boundaries with Spirit.