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Murmu Expresses Solidarity Amid Floods

New Delhi, August 26 | TPN Bureau

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday conveyed her deepest sympathies to Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel and the people of Nepal following the devastating flash floods that have caused widespread destruction in the neighbouring country. Murmu said India stood in solidarity with Nepal during the crisis and remained prepared to support the country's rescue and relief efforts. Her message came as emergency agencies continued operations in areas affected by the sudden flooding. The flash flood struck the Bhote Koshi River region near Nepal's northern border, affecting several districts and damaging infrastructure, including bridges and other public facilities. Reports indicated that 46 bodies had been recovered, while hundreds of people remained unaccounted for. Among those reported missing were 105 Indian nationals, with many believed to have been travelling towards Tibet for the Kailash Manasarovar pilgrimage. Authorities were working to verify the identities and locations of those affected. The disaster has also prompted the Indian government to closely monitor developments and coordinate with Nepalese authorities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah and assured him that India was ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance. Indian teams were coordinating with Nepalese authorities on rescue and relief operations. The Union government has also placed agencies on alert in Indian areas that could potentially be affected by rising water levels. The Ministry of Home Affairs said authorities, along with the National Disaster Response Force, were maintaining close watch on the situation. India's Embassy in Kathmandu has issued emergency

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Bhatti Pushes Critical Mineral Expansion

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) to accelerate exploration work at the Devadurga gold and copper mineral block in Karnataka, signalling a broader push to diversify the State-owned mining company beyond coal. Bhatti held a high-level review meeting with senior SCCL officials in Hyderabad on Wednesday to examine the company's new projects and future expansion plans. SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhi Prakash Jyoti and senior directors and officials attended the meeting. The Devadurga block, secured by SCCL through the Ministry of Mines' exploration-licence process, was a major focus of the discussions. The Union Ministry of Coal's latest annual report confirms SCCL's successful acquisition of the gold and copper exploration block at Devadurga. Bhatti said he would visit the Devadurga block on Thursday along with senior SCCL officials to assess ground conditions and review the progress of exploration personally. He instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan covering the geological assessment, exploration work and subsequent requirements. The Deputy Chief Minister said SCCL should seek the Karnataka government's cooperation in securing permissions, infrastructure and other support necessary for mineral exploration. He described the Devadurga project as an important opportunity to establish SCCL as a major player in the critical and strategic minerals sector. Bhatti stressed that Singareni's expertise, built over decades in mining, should be

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Flash Floods Trigger Regional Alert

New Delhi, August 26 | TPN Bureau

A devastating flash flood in Nepal's Rasuwa district near the Tibet border has triggered a major rescue operation and raised concerns in neighbouring Indian states. A preliminary list from the Nepal Tourism Board identified 384 travellers as missing, including 105 Indian nationals. The disaster occurred after a sudden surge in the Bhote Koshi River swept through parts of Rasuwa and neighbouring districts. Roads, bridges, homes and other infrastructure were severely damaged, while several hydropower facilities were affected. Officials are continuing to assess the scale of destruction and trace missing travellers. The incident has also raised concerns downstream in India. Bihar authorities have moved to a heightened state of preparedness amid the



possibility of rising water levels in the Gandak River. Rescue and disaster-response teams have been placed on standby, while officials are monitoring vulnerable areas along the river basin. Parts of Uttar Pradesh have also been placed on alert. Authorities in districts bordering the Nepal region

are monitoring the Gandak-Narayani river system and preparing for a possible increase in water levels. The situation remains fluid, with rescue teams in Nepal working to locate missing people and provide assistance to those stranded by the floods. The Nepal Tourism Board, Tourist Police,

travel agencies and security agencies are coordinating efforts to establish the whereabouts and safety of the missing travellers. The disaster has highlighted the vulnerability of Himalayan river systems to sudden flooding and the potential for impacts to extend beyond national borders.

Helpline Set Up to Assist Stranded Residents



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has established a dedicated helpline and coordination centre at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi to assist residents from the State who may be stranded or facing difficulties amid the prevailing flood situation in Nepal. The initiative was taken following the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. The government said the coordination centre is maintaining contact with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Embassy of India in Kathmandu and

other concerned authorities to facilitate assistance to affected residents. The move comes as severe flash floods in Nepal have affected hundreds of people, including Indian nationals. Family members who are unable to establish contact with relatives, pilgrims or tourists from Telangana currently in Nepal can approach the helpline. They have been asked to provide available details, including the person's name, passport details, mobile number, present or last known location, travel or tour operator information and family contact numbers. The helpline contacts are Vandana - 9871999044, Ch. Chakravarthy - 9949351270, and G. Rakshit Naik - 9618597969. Officials said requests received through the facility would be brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities on priority. The State government said it is closely monitoring developments and maintaining continuous liaison with authorities in India and Nepal. The arrangement is intended to provide a direct channel for families seeking information or assistance concerning their relatives in the flood-affected areas. Further updates are expected as authorities assess the situation and receive information from Nepal.

Hotter Days Ahead



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is likely to experience warmer and more humid weather in the coming days as rainfall activity is expected to decline from August 27, according to weather forecasts. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the low-pressure area that recently influenced rainfall over the region has moved away and will have no further influence on Telangana. The change in weather conditions could bring a gradual rise in temperatures across several parts of the State. IMD forecasts indicate maximum temperatures around 31-33°C in Hyderabad during the coming days, with isolated spells of rain or thunderstorms still possible. Rainfall activity is expected to remain limited, although northern and eastern districts could continue to receive occasional showers. The latest IMD warning bulletin has not issued any weather warning for Telangana for August 27-30.

Hyderabad received spells of rain in recent days, bringing temporary relief from the prevailing humidity. However, the weather is expected to become comparatively drier as the influence of the recent weather system weakens. The possibility of reduced rainfall later in the monsoon season has also raised concerns among farmers and water managers. However, long-range rainfall trends should be interpreted separately from short-term weather forecasts, as day-to-day conditions can change depending on evolving monsoon systems. The IMD's latest agricultural forecast shows temperatures in several Telangana districts remaining in the low-to-mid 30s through the weekend, with limited rainfall expected in many locations. Residents have been advised to remain prepared for hot and humid conditions, particularly during the afternoon. Authorities will continue monitoring rainfall patterns and temperature trends as the State moves towards September.

Governor Extends Onam Greetings

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla extended warm greetings and best wishes to the Malayali community in Telangana, across India and around the world on the occasion of Onam. In his message, the Governor described Onam as a vibrant festival celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour. He said the festival represents happiness, togetherness, harmony and prosperity, while reflecting enduring values of compassion, equality and unity. Shukla said the spirit of Onam offers an opportunity for people to come together and strengthen bonds of mutual respect and friendship. He expressed hope that the festival would inspire everyone to work towards peace, joy and collective progress. The Governor wished that the celebrations would bring renewed happiness and prosperity to families and strengthen the spirit of unity among people from different backgrounds. He also expressed his hope that the festive occasion would fill every household with peace, success and happiness. Extending his greetings to the Malayali community and all those celebrating the festival, Shukla conveyed his best wishes for a joyful and prosperous Onam.

Governor Extends Milad-un-Nabi Greetings

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla extended warm greetings to the people of Telangana on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad. In his message, the Governor said the auspicious occasion should inspire people to strengthen the values of peace, harmony and mutual understanding in society. He emphasized the importance of kindness, compassion and service to humanity, describing these values as essential for building a caring and inclusive society. Shukla called upon people to draw inspiration from the noble teachings associated with Prophet Muhammad and promote unity and togetherness while respecting one another. The Governor expressed hope that Milad-un-Nabi would deepen the spirit of communal harmony and encourage people to work collectively for the welfare of society. He also wished that the festival would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to every family across Telangana. Conveying his best wishes to the people, Shukla said the occasion should serve as an opportunity to reaffirm the values of brotherhood, compassion and peaceful coexistence. He wished everyone a peaceful and joyous Milad-un-Nabi.

Modi Offers Flood Relief Support

New Delhi, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Wednesday and expressed condolences over the loss of lives in the devastating flash floods that have affected parts of the country. Modi assured Nepal of India's readiness to provide humanitarian assistance and support relief and rescue operations. In a message following the conversation, Modi said India stood in solidarity with the people of Nepal during the crisis and that Indian teams were coordinating with authorities on relief and protection measures. The floods, which struck the Bhote Koshi River system along the Nepal-Tibet border, caused extensive destruction in Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading districts. Roads, bridges, houses and power infrastructure were damaged, while rescue operations were complicated by the mountainous terrain and disrupted communications. According to a preliminary list prepared by the Nepal Tourism Board, 384 travellers were reported missing, including 105 Indian nationals. Authorities were continuing efforts to verify their whereabouts and establish contact with affected travellers. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also reiterated India's support for Nepal and said the government was working to provide relief assistance.



India has been coordinating with Nepalese authorities and other agencies to assist those affected by the disaster. The flash floods have also prompted heightened vigilance in downstream areas of India, particularly Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, because interconnected Himalayan river systems flow into the Indian plains. Authorities in the affected regions have been monitoring water levels and preparing emergency response measures. The Indian government said its focus remained on supporting rescue efforts, providing humanitarian assistance and helping Indian nationals whose safety and whereabouts remain uncertain.

Khelo India Youth Games Set for Grand Scale



New Delhi, August 26 | TPN Bureau

The eighth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Telangana in December, with the State government preparing for the event in coordination with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The Centre has released ₹22 crore for organising the national-level sporting event. Competitions will be conducted in Hyderabad, Warangal, Karimnagar and Mahabubnagar, with more than 6,000 young athletes from across the country expected to participate. The games will feature 25 sports disciplines. Telangana will have the option of proposing one local sport, while another new discipline will also be introduced. The event will be organised jointly by the Telangana government, Sports Authority of India, National Sports Federations, School Games Federation of India, CBSE and the committees associated with the Khelo India programme. Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy welcomed the decision to allot the games to Telangana and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. He said the Khelo India programme had created opportunities for

young athletes, including those from remote areas, to develop their sporting abilities. Kishan Reddy said sports facilities worth around ₹5,30 crore had been developed in Telangana under Khelo India, including infrastructure at Osmania University and facilities in various towns. He added that 33 Khelo India Centres had been established in the State, while ₹8.5 crore had also been spent through the National Sports Development Fund. He highlighted the contribution of schemes such as Khelo India, TOPS, assistance to National Sports Federations and SAI programmes in supporting athletes. Telangana sportspersons Nikhat Zareen and PV Sindhu were cited as examples of athletes who benefited from central support and international-standard training. The government said the Khelo India initiative has provided a platform for thousands of athletes through multiple national competitions. Meanwhile, the nationwide 'Khelo India Samvad', titled 'Khel Ki Baat, PM Ke Saath', will be held on August 27 in more than 1,500 colleges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to interact virtually with young athletes and students on sports, fitness and youth-led nation-building.

YISU Signs Sports MoU with KNSU



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

The Young India Physical Education & Sports University (YISU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Korea National Sport University (KNSU), opening a new avenue for cooperation in athlete training, sports science and high-performance education. The partnership is aimed at connecting Telangana's emerging sporting talent with international expertise and established training practices. The development was welcomed as an important step towards strengthening the State's sports ecosystem and preparing athletes for national and global competitions. The Telangana government highlighted KNSU's strong record in developing elite athletes. According to the statement, athletes trained at KNSU contributed 16 of South Korea's 32 medals at the Paris Olympics, underlining the university's role in high-performance sports. The initiative follows an earlier interaction between Telangana representatives and a KNSU delegation during a visit to South Korea. The delegation included KNSU President Moon Won-Jae.

The State government said the agreement would facilitate opportunities for young athletes to gain exposure to advanced coaching methods, sports science, athlete development and high-performance education. Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, officials of the Sports Ministry and YISU were appreciated for supporting the initiative and advancing international cooperation in sports. The government said its broader objective is to create pathways for talented athletes from villages and towns to compete at the highest level. With preparations for the 2036 Olympic Games gaining momentum in India, Telangana intends to strengthen its sporting infrastructure and athlete-development programmes. The MoU is expected to encourage knowledge sharing and institutional collaboration between the two universities, while giving aspiring athletes access to global sporting practices. Officials said the long-term vision is to build a culture of sporting excellence in Telangana and help produce athletes capable of representing India successfully on the international stage.

Revanth Reddy Extends Onam Greetings



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to people on the occasion of Onam, describing the festival as a celebration of Kerala's rich cultural heritage, traditions and spirit of togetherness.

In his message, the Chief Minister said Onam reflects India's cherished tradition of unity in diversity. He noted that the festival is marked by a wide range of cul-

tural practices, artistic performances and customs that bring communities together. Revanth Reddy said Onam also carries an important message of gratitude towards nature and highlights the values of brotherhood, sharing and collective happiness. He observed that the festival provides an opportunity for families, friends and communities to come together and celebrate with joy. The Chief Minister expressed hope that the festive occasion would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to every household. He also wished that the celebrations would strengthen mutual affection, harmony and the spirit of brotherhood among people. Revanth Reddy conveyed his best wishes to Malayali communities and all those celebrating the festival, calling for the continuation of the values of harmony and togetherness associated with Onam. The festival, celebrated with traditional rituals, cultural programmes and community gatherings, is regarded as an important expression of Kerala's cultural identity. The Chief Minister's message emphasized the broader values of inclusiveness, gratitude and social unity associated with the occasion.

Revanth Extends Milad-un-Nabi Greetings



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to Muslim brothers and sisters on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, commemorating the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad. In his message, the Chief Minister said the teachings and life of Prophet Muhammad continue to inspire people to uphold values such as love, kindness, compassion, patience and brotherhood. He emphasized the importance of these principles in promoting harmony and mutual respect in society. Revanth Reddy called upon people to draw inspiration from the life and teach-

ings of Prophet Muhammad and contribute collectively to the progress of the nation. He stressed that peaceful coexistence, understanding and unity are essential for building a stronger and more harmonious society. The Chief Minister said Milad-un-Nabi provides an opportunity to reaffirm the values of compassion, humanity and brotherhood. He hoped that people would celebrate the occasion with devotion and in an atmosphere of peace and communal harmony. Revanth Reddy expressed his wishes that the auspicious festival would bring peace, happiness and prosperity to everyone and strengthen the bonds of friendship and brotherhood among communities.

Cultural and Tourism Ties Get a Boost



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has reaffirmed the State government's commitment to strengthening Buddhist, cultural and tourism ties between Telangana and Sri Lanka. He also stressed the importance of expanding cultural exchanges and opportunities for artists from both regions. A Sri Lankan artist troupe that recently performed traditional dances at the 'Nrutayaganam' programme at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad met Minister Jupally Krishna Rao at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Wednesday. The Minister felicitated the visiting artists and appreciated their efforts to showcase Sri Lanka's traditional performing arts on a Telangana platform. The event was jointly organised by the Telangana Department of Language and Culture, the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, and the Singidi Cultural Organization.

The Sri Lankan troupe, led by Srangika Nanayakkara, met the Minister under the guidance of Singidi Cultural Organization Director Vishwakarma

D.R.K. During the interaction, Jupally highlighted the historical and cultural connections represented by Buddhism, art, heritage and traditional practices. He said cultural exchange programmes could play an important role in deepening people-to-people ties and creating greater opportunities for artists.

The Minister expressed his willingness to support initiatives aimed at promoting cultural relations not only with different parts of India but also with other countries. South Central Cultural Centre Director Aastha Karlekar briefed the Minister about programmes organised by the Centre and sought Telangana government cooperation for its activities. Jupally responded positively to the request. The Minister further announced that he would soon visit the South Central Cultural Centre in Nagpur. He said the visit would provide an opportunity to explore stronger collaboration in cultural exchanges, artist participation, Buddhist heritage and tourism.

The interaction concluded with a renewed emphasis on using cultural and tourism initiatives to strengthen ties between Telangana and Sri Lanka.

Revanth Pays Tribute to Mother Teresa



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid rich tributes to Mother Teresa on her birth anniversary, remembering her lifelong commitment to serving humanity and supporting vulnerable sections of society. In his message, the Chief Minister described Mother Teresa as a symbol of compassion, love and selfless service. He said her extraordinary life and dedication to helping people in distress continue to inspire generations. Revanth Reddy recalled her tireless efforts for the poor, orphans and other marginalized communities. He said

Mother Teresa considered service to humanity as a form of service to the Divine and dedicated her life to bringing hope and dignity to those facing hardship. The Chief Minister highlighted her contribution to humanitarian service and said her values remain relevant in today's society. He noted that her life demonstrates the importance of compassion and concern for people in need. Revanth Reddy paid his respects to the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Bharat Ratna recipient, stating that her legacy of kindness and service would continue to inspire people to work for the welfare of society.

Revanth Pays Tributes to Seshamma



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attended the tenth-day memorial ceremony of Seshamma, mother of former minister Kasu Krishna Reddy, in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

The ceremony was held at the JRC Convention Centre in Jubilee Hills, where the Chief Minister paid floral tributes to Seshamma's portrait and conveyed his respects to the bereaved family. Revanth Reddy was accompanied by MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and MLAs Jaiveer Reddy, Rajesh Reddy and Nagaraju. Other public representatives

and well-wishers also attended the memorial programme.

The gathering provided an opportunity for political leaders and family members to pay their respects and remember Seshamma on the tenth day following her death.

The Chief Minister interacted with members of the family and expressed his condolences to them. The presence of several elected representatives reflected the support extended to the family during the period of mourning.

The memorial ceremony concluded with floral tributes and prayers in remembrance of Seshamma.

Surekha Calls for Peace and Harmony



Warangal East, August 26 | TPN Bureau

State Minister Konda Surekha participated in special prayers organised at the Urs Dargah and Pochammaidan areas of Warangal city on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi. She also distributed kheer among devotees and inaugurated newly constructed rest rooms for people visiting the Urs Dargah. Speaking at the programme, Surekha highlighted the teachings of Prophet Muhammad and said they emphasised peace, love, compassion, brotherhood and humanity. She urged people to follow these values and work towards strengthening communal harmony and mutual understanding in society.

The Minister said the central message of the Prophet's teachings was the importance of people living together with respect and compassion, irrespective of differences based on caste, religion or social status. She called upon citizens to promote an atmosphere of peace and brotherhood and to reject divisions that

could create tensions within society. Surekha said occasions such as Milad-un-Nabi provided an opportunity for people to reflect on values that promote unity and humanitarian responsibility. She expressed hope that the celebrations would help strengthen bonds among communities and encourage people to contribute towards a peaceful and inclusive society. The Minister also interacted with devotees and those attending the prayers during her visit to the Urs Dargah.

The newly inaugurated rest rooms are expected to provide additional facilities for devotees visiting the religious site. Surekha conveyed her greetings to people observing Milad-un-Nabi and reiterated the importance of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. The celebrations in Warangal featured prayers and community activities, with devotees participating in the religious observances. The Minister appealed to everyone to uphold the values of compassion, unity and humanity in their daily lives.

Push for Oil Palm Expansion



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government is preparing a major initiative to expand oil palm cultivation as a profitable alternative to paddy, Heavy Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Wednesday. He said the government was working towards linking cultivation with processing and industry to provide farmers with better returns and assured markets. Uttam said Reliance has shown interest in establishing an integrated oil palm hub in Suryapet and suggested that expansion should initially focus on the Kodad-Huzurnagar region. Plans are also being considered for an oil palm corridor covering Suryapet, Khammam and Kothagudem. The Minister said the government's objective was to develop a "farm-to-industry" model under which oil palm cultivation could support processing and value-added manufacturing, including palm-based consumer products. According to the official Telangana Oil Palm Mission, oil palm cultivation has crossed 3.13 lakh acres in the State.

The government's long-term strategy also envisages substantial expansion of the crop in irrigated regions.

Uttam said oil palm can provide income over several decades after plantations mature. He added that Reliance representatives would undertake a field assessment to determine the availability of fresh fruit bunches (FFB) required for a large processing facility. Representatives are expected to visit Kodad, Huzurnagar, Suryapet, Khammam and Kothagudem. The Minister said expanding oil palm could reduce the government's burden associated with paddy procurement, transportation, milling and storage while helping farmers secure more stable incomes. Official district data shows oil palm is already being cultivated in Suryapet, with the crop listed among its major horticultural plantation activities. He said 14 companies are currently associated with the State's oil palm programme and expressed confidence that Telangana could contribute significantly towards reducing India's dependence on imported edible oils.

Ponguleti Seeks Housing Funds

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Wednesday criticised the Centre over the alleged delay in releasing funds for the Indiramma Housing scheme in rural areas, saying the State has been waiting for central assistance for nearly a year. In a post on X, Ponguleti said repeated requests had been made to the Union government, but Telangana had not received funds for the rural housing programme. He said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had personally met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan on several occasions to seek approval and financial support for houses in Telangana. Ponguleti said he had also met Chouhan during the Union Minister's recent visit to Telangana along with Members of Parliament and raised the issue. However, he claimed that there had been no favourable response so far. The Minister said the delay had particularly affected beneficiaries who had completed construction and were awaiting their final instalment payments. He maintained that despite financial constraints, the State government was committed to ensuring that poor families could realise their dream of owning a house. According to

the State government, Rs 185 crore has so far been released to 15,475 beneficiaries who completed construction of Indiramma houses. The government has also announced that payments covering eligible beneficiaries who completed their houses by March 31 would be credited to their bank accounts on Thursday, August 27. Ponguleti assured beneficiaries that payments for the remaining eligible households would be released in phases and appealed to them not to be concerned about delays. The Indiramma Housing scheme is one of the Telangana government's major welfare programmes, aimed at providing permanent homes to eligible poor families. The State has been seeking greater central participation in rural housing through the Union government's housing programmes. The Minister's remarks come amid continuing discussions between the State and Centre over the allocation of funds and approvals for housing projects. Telangana officials have maintained that timely release of central assistance is important for completing sanctioned houses and ensuring that beneficiaries receive payments without interruption. Ponguleti reiterated that the State government would continue working to complete the housing programme and support beneficiaries until all eligible payments were cleared.

Vivek Assures Fair Housing Allocation

Mandamarri, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Minister Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy has assured beneficiaries that the allocation of double-bedroom houses in Mandamarri was conducted transparently and without political interference or financial irregularities. Currently visiting Germany, the Minister conveyed the message through WhatsApp following the open lottery conducted on Tuesday for the allocation of houses. He said the lottery was organised in a fair and impartial manner, with the objective of ensuring that homes meant for eligible poor families reached the rightful beneficiaries. Vivek said there was no scope for recommendations, manipulation or monetary transactions during the selection process.

He urged beneficiaries to remain cautious if anyone approaches them after the lottery claiming that money must be paid to confirm or secure a house. The Minister made it clear that beneficiaries are not required to pay even a single rupee for the allocation of double-bedroom houses.

He warned that anyone demanding money in the name of housing allotment

should not be trusted and that beneficiaries should remain alert to possible attempts at fraud. He reiterated that the government would take steps to prevent misuse of housing schemes intended for economically weaker sections. Vivek appealed to beneficiaries to immediately exercise caution if they receive suspicious calls, messages or requests for payments following the lottery. The Minister also urged the public not to fall prey to misleading information or misconceptions regarding the housing allocation process. He said the administration had followed established procedures to ensure fairness and transparency.

The open lottery was conducted to select eligible beneficiaries for the available double-bedroom houses in Mandamarri. The Minister's clarification was aimed at reassuring beneficiaries and preventing intermediaries or fraudsters from exploiting the process. Vivek reiterated that the government's priority was to ensure that housing benefits reached deserving families without financial burdens or outside interference. He called upon beneficiaries to cooperate with officials and report any attempts to demand money in connection with the allotment.

name, passport information, mobile number, last known location, travel or tour operator details and the family's contact information.

Such information is expected to help authorities identify and trace individuals more efficiently.

The government said it was closely monitoring the situation and would take up requests received through the helpline with the appropriate authorities on a priority basis.

The special arrangement is aimed at providing Telangana families with a direct point of contact during the ongoing emergency and ensuring that requests for assistance reach the concerned agencies without delay.

Helpline Open for Residents in Distress

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has established a special helpline and coordination centre at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi to assist families who are unable to contact relatives currently in Nepal amid reports of severe flooding and people going missing. Health Minister Damodar

Rajanarsimha expressed concern over the situation and prayed for the safety of those affected by the floods. He appealed to the Union government to take all possible measures to rescue Indians who may be stranded in the affected areas. The minister said families in Telangana who have lost contact with pilgrims, tourists or other residents travelling in Nepal can approach the dedicated helpline for

information and assistance. The facility is intended to coordinate requests with the concerned authorities and help families obtain updates about the safety and whereabouts of their relatives. The helpline can be contacted through Vandana, Personal Secretary to the Resident Commissioner and Liaison Head, at 9871999044. Families can also contact C.H. Chakravarthi, Public Relations

Officer, at 9949351270, or G. Rakshith Naik, Liaison Officer, at 9618597969. The State government is coordinating with the Union Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu and other relevant authorities to monitor developments and facilitate assistance. Officials have advised families seeking help to provide available details, including the missing person's

BJP Seeks Probe into 22A Land Dispute

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao has demanded a judicial inquiry by a sitting High Court judge into alleged irregularities involving lands classified under Section 22A of the Registration Act and the functioning of the Bhu-Bharati system. Addressing a meeting with colony association representatives and affected landowners from Kukatpally and Ranga Reddy district at the BJP state office, Rao accused the Congress government of creating confusion over land records. He alleged that residents had earlier faced problems under Dharani and were now experiencing similar difficulties under Bhu-Bharati. Rao claimed that 60 to 70 per cent of residents in some



Hyderabad suburbs were affected by the 22A classification issue. He cited complaints from Vasanth Nagar in Kukatpally and Arutla village, where

around 1,100 acres of common land were allegedly placed under the prohibited category. He said owners of registered and fully paid properties were

being forced to approach government offices repeatedly for No Objection Certificates, without receiving timely responses. Rao alleged that private proper-

ties were being classified as government land and warned the government against using land administration for revenue generation. He demanded a judicial inquiry into land transactions from the introduction of Dharani in 2018 through the Bhu-Bharati period, covering 2025-26, and sought restoration of pre-Dharani land records. Rao also demanded that private and public lands wrongly placed under Section 22A be removed from the prohibited list and granted freehold status. He called for clear guidelines to prevent repeated visits to government offices. Criticising AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, Rao also alleged political coordination between AIMIM and Congress. He said the BJP would continue its campaign over land-related grievances and other public issues.

Bhatti Pushes Critical Mineral Expansion

Continue

utilised to explore minerals beyond coal. He urged the company to actively pursue opportunities involving copper, graphite, lithium and cobalt and to monitor domestic as well as international auctions for mining blocks. SCCL has already announced its move into critical minerals, including gold and copper exploration. He also directed the company to strengthen its coal production capacity in response to rising electricity demand and changing weather conditions. At the same time, he emphasised the need for SCCL to expand its operations nationally and explore suitable opportunities abroad. The Telangana government, he said, would provide all possible support for SCCL's diversification strategy. SCCL remains a key public-sector mining enterprise and has recorded substantial coal production in recent years. Its official data shows 58 million tonnes of coal production in 2025-26, underlining the scale of its existing operations. The Devadurga initiative marks a significant step in SCCL's proposed transition from a predominantly coal-focused enterprise towards a diversified mining organisation with a presence in critical minerals.

Murmu Expresses Solidarity Amid Floods

Continue

contact numbers for Indian nationals affected by the floods, while authorities continue efforts to trace missing travellers. The disaster has highlighted the vulnerability of Himalayan communities and the need for rapid cross-border coordination during major natural emergencies.

Kishan Reddy Seeks Fee Dues Clearance



Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday urged the Telangana government to clear the reported Rs 15,000 crore in pending fee reimbursement dues before proceeding with plans to introduce foreign universities in the State. In a post on X, Kishan Reddy questioned the government over what he described as unfulfilled education-related commitments made during the Assembly election campaign. He sought clarity on promises concerning allocation of 15 per cent of the State budget to education, Rs 5 lakh education assurance cards and scooters for girl students. The Union Minister criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that the government was attempting to divert public attention by announcing new initiatives without first addressing existing commitments. Kishan Reddy said the priority should be supporting students who are awaiting reimbursement payments and ensuring that educational institutions receive their pending dues. He argued that introducing

or discussing foreign universities would have limited significance if students and colleges continued to face financial difficulties because of unpaid reimbursement amounts. Fee reimbursement is an important component of Telangana's welfare and higher-education support system, particularly for students from economically weaker sections who depend on government assistance to pursue professional and higher studies. The remarks come amid a broader political debate over education funding and the implementation of election promises in the State. The Congress government has also been facing criticism from opposition parties and student organisations over delays in releasing scholarship and fee reimbursement funds. Kishan Reddy maintained that the government should first demonstrate progress on its existing education commitments before promoting major new initiatives. The BJP leader's comments are likely to add to the political pressure on the State government over student welfare and education financing ahead of the forthcoming Assembly session.

GP Workers Seek Better Pay, Job Security



Sircilla, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Gram Panchayat workers staged a rally in Sircilla on Wednesday, demanding that the Telangana government honour promises made to them during the Assembly elections and address their long-pending grievances. The protest was organised by the Gram Panchayat Employees and Workers Union, affiliated with CITU, following a call from its state committee. Workers marched from the Junior College grounds to the Ambedkar statue, where they submitted a memorandum and later staged a demonstration. CITU District Secretary Kodam Ramana demanded a minimum monthly wage of Rs 26,000, job security and timely payment of salaries. He criticised the government for failing to fulfil assurances given to workers who, he said, work throughout the year to maintain sanitation and greenery in villages despite difficult weather conditions.

Ramana sought the abolition of the multipurpose worker system and demanded health cards and insurance coverage for all Gram Panchayat workers. He also urged the government to ensure that wages are deposited directly into workers' bank accounts on the first day of every month, as previously announced. The union further sought employment for eligible family members of workers who have died or crossed the age of 60. Leaders alleged that some workers had gone several months without receiving their wages because of budget-related issues. They also claimed that certain local officials and governing bodies were threatening workers with dismissal and urged the District Collector and concerned authorities to intervene. CITU District President Egamanti Yellareddy, union district president Boora Srinivas, Treasurer Annaldas Ganesh, Secretary Malayala Narsayya and several other leaders and workers participated in the protest.

Nagam Plans Farmers' Agitation



Nagarkurnool, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Dr. Nagam Janardhan Reddy on Wednesday announced plans to launch a movement highlighting farmers' problems and pressing the government to fulfil its promises on irrigation projects. Addressing a press conference at his residence in Nagarkurnool, Nagam questioned the delay in releasing the Rs 1,000 crore reportedly promised by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and other ministers during their recent visit to a project site in the district. Nagam alleged that warnings he had earlier issued about the impact of Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme works at Narlapur on the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation (KLI) project had been ignored. He claimed that five KLI motors were damaged and only two were currently functioning, affecting water supply to the project's ayacut. He said full operation of the five motors could facilitate the use of two TMC of

water daily for 40 days, enabling reservoirs to be filled and irrigation extended to the entire command area. Nagam demanded immediate release of the promised Rs 1,000 crore for KLI distributary canals. He also alleged that reduced canal capacities and permissions for underground works had adversely affected farmers. The former minister questioned the proposed allocation of Rs 1,800 crore for diverting water towards Nalgonda and alleged that alternative arrangements through the Vattam reservoir could have served the Dindi project. Nagam also criticised the government over power supply, public education and its dependence on liquor revenues. He said he would mobilise farmers and take up agitations to secure their interests. He urged the government to avoid suppressing public movements and said peaceful mass action was essential to protect democratic rights. Youth leader Nagam Sashidhar Reddy and several local leaders participated in the meeting.

Konda Murali Meets Bhatti Amid Party Row

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

A meeting between Konda Murali, Congress leader Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka at Praja Bhavan has triggered fresh speculation amid uncertainty over possible disciplinary action against Minister Konda Surekha. The meeting came after the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) disciplinary committee reportedly submitted its findings concerning remarks and conduct involving several party leaders, including Konda Surekha and Chinna Reddy. The discussions have attracted attention within Congress circles as the party leadership considers its next course of action. However, Konda Murali later clarified that his meeting with Bhatti was not related to the controversy surrounding his daughter Susmitha's remarks or the disciplinary committee report. He said he had met the Deputy Chief Minister regarding a specific bill. Murali also dismissed suggestions that Minister Surekha was unavailable, saying she was touring Warangal. Defending Susmitha's right to express her views independently, he said she was 38 years old and capable of taking her own decisions. He stated that Susmitha's remarks were her personal opinions and maintained that nobody had the right to question her for expressing them. Murali said the relevant issues had already been conveyed to the disciplinary committee. He further affirmed his faith in the Gandhi family and said he would remain with the Congress. Referring to recent political developments involving leaders moving between parties, he questioned why there was heightened attention on his daughter's statements. The developments have added to the political debate surrounding the controversy, while the Congress leadership's final decision on the disciplinary committee's report remains awaited.

Voter Roll Sabhas Across Telangana

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Special Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas will be conducted at polling stations across Telangana on Thursday, August 27, as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The exercise is aimed at allowing citizens to verify the draft voter list, identify omissions and report errors. The arrangements were directed by Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudharshan Reddy. The draft electoral rolls were published on August 17. Electors can submit claims and objections until September 16, while the verification and disposal process is scheduled to continue until October 15. The final electoral rolls are expected to be published on October 19. In Hyderabad, notices are being issued to more than 12 lakh electors, including 5,80,908 unmappped voters and 6,72,678 voters whose records have been flagged for discrepancies. In rural areas, the special sabhas will be held at Gram Panchayat buildings, while urban voters will attend meetings at designated polling stations. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and members of Chunav Pathshala will participate. During the meetings, BLOs will read out the names appearing in the draft electoral rolls and identify eligible citizens whose names have been omitted. Residents reaching 18 years of age by October 1, 2026, can seek enrolment through Form-6. Voters who find errors in their details can submit Form-8 with supporting documents. Objections to the inclusion of a name can be filed through Form-7, provided the objector is registered in the same constituency. Officials will also explain the documents and procedures prescribed by the Election Commission of India for claims, objections and verification.

Harish Rao Slams Government Over 22-A Lands

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Former Telangana Minister T. Harish Rao criticised the Congress government over the classification of private properties under Section 22-A of the Registration Act, alleging that the administration was causing uncertainty among landowners and damaging Hyderabad's reputation. Harish Rao met residents affected by the 22-A land issue in Kukatpally and addressed their concerns. He contrasted the previous BRS administration with the current government, saying KCR's governance was people-oriented while the present administration was focused on land. He alleged that government properties, including parks, plots and other public land, were being sold instead of being protected for future generations. He further claimed that private properties were being placed on the prohibited list while government lands were being allotted to influential individuals. Harish Rao also alleged that large areas of assigned land were being taken away and subsequently transferred for industrial purposes in exchange for commissions. He said the uncertainty surrounding 22-A classifications had created anxiety among residents, who were worried about possible action by HYDRAA or restrictions on their properties.



According to Harish Rao, large numbers of properties across Telangana, including lakhs of properties in Hyderabad, had been affected by the 22-A classification. He alleged that errors in land records were forcing ordinary people to repeatedly approach government offices and claimed that some were being pressured to pay commissions to resolve their problems. He said the BRS would raise the issue during the Assembly session scheduled to begin on September 7 and seek answers from the government. Harish Rao urged affected landowners not to pay money to brokers or intermediaries. He assured them that the BRS would continue to raise their concerns and fight for protection of their property rights.

MeeSeva to Become Digital Marketing Hub

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Wednesday launched a new portal and helpline facility aimed at helping local merchants access digital marketing support through MeeSeva centres. Speaking at the second phase of the MeeSeva digital marketing training programme in Gachibowli, the Minister said the government plans to transform MeeSeva centres across the State into digital marketing hubs. Telangana has more than 5,000 MeeSeva centres, providing a wide network through which small traders and local businesses can gain access to digital promotional services. The initiative is intended to help merchants improve their online presence and expand their customer base by making digital marketing assistance available closer to their businesses. The programme also seeks to strengthen the role

of MeeSeva centres beyond conventional citizen services. Officials said merchants seeking information about digital marketing services can visit the official MeeSeva portal. The Telangana government's State Web Directory lists the MeeSeva portal among its official citizen-service platforms. For assistance, merchants can contact the MeeSeva Call Centre on 1100 or 1800-425-1110. These numbers are also listed on the official Telangana government emergency and public-utility contacts page. The government's IT, Electronics and Communications Department has identified e-governance, technology adoption and entrepreneurship support among its key objectives. The initiative is expected to particularly benefit small businesses and local entrepreneurs by providing them with easier access to digital tools and marketing support through the extensive MeeSeva network.

BC Jagruthi Sena Warns Congress



Warangal, August 26 | TPN Bureau

BC Jagruthi Sena State President Burugupalli Krishna Yadav warned the Congress government that the BC community would strongly oppose any attempt to target BC ministers or undermine their dignity. Addressing a meeting of senior BC Jagruthi Sena leaders at the National BC Welfare Association office on Wednesday, Krishna Yadav said it was unfair for Congress leaders and MLAs to seek action against Minister Konda Surekha after she had clarified that remarks made by her daughter were personal and unrelated to her. He questioned why similar demands had not been raised when leaders such as Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy and Jagga Reddy had previously made strong comments against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over ministerial posi-

tions. Krishna Yadav alleged that BC public representatives were not receiving even basic respect and said the community would not tolerate actions affecting its self-respect. He questioned whether controversial remarks made by leaders from other communities had been ignored. He warned that any political leader who insulted or discriminated against the BC community would face a democratic response from voters in future elections. He appealed to BC leaders and members of the community to remain united and protect their interests through democratic means. National BC Welfare Association Joint District President Kalla Niranjan, District Working President Kumbham Mallesh Goud, BC Women's District President Renuka, and leaders Neesha Lakshmaiah, Sudhakar Goud, Raju and Chaitanya attended the meeting.

Literary Award Conferred on the 'Sun of Letters'

Eminent poet, writer, translator, multilingual scholar and creator of 42 literary volumes, Dr Nalimela Bhaskar, was conferred with the Dr Devulapalli Ramanuja Rao Literary Award on the occasion of the 109th birth anniversary of Dr Devulapalli Ramanuja Rao. The ceremony, held at Telangana Saraswatha Parishat, Hyderabad, was attended by writers, scholars, students, youth and admirers of literature. On the occasion, Dr Nalimela Bhaskar delivered an insightful and extensive address on literature, poetry and the art of translation. The audience listened to him with remarkable attention throughout, reflecting the depth of his scholarship, literary accomplishment and eloquence. While recalling his literary journey, Dr. Bhaskar made a special mention of Dr. Peruka Raju, saying, "Dr. Peruka Raju is another traveller walking along my literary path." The affectionate acknowledgement became one of the



memorable moments of the programme. Adding further significance to the occasion, a review written by Dr. Peruka Raju on Dr. Nalimela Bhaskar's book Shirasethina Shikharalu was published in an English newspaper on the same day. Several writers and literary personalities present at the gathering appreciated the review and congratulated both the author

and the reviewer. Marking the presentation of the prestigious literary award, Dr Nalimela Bhaskar was also felicitated on behalf of My Gift by the distinguished guests present at the programme. The felicitation was an expression of admiration for his sustained contribution to literature, translation and multilingual literary culture. The programme was presided

over by Prof Elluri Siva Reddy, President of Telangana Saraswatha Parishat. Among those present were Parishat Treasurer Mantri Rama Rao Principal of the Parishat Oriental College Dr. A. Silmanayak noted writer and multilingual scholar Dr. Ponnann Ravichandra, film director G.V. Shyamsundar Lal, IAS officer, Dr Peruka Raju, multilingual writer and Army officer, Annavaram Devender, N. Satyanarayana, Kukatla Tirupati, N. Savitri, A. Rajeswari, B.V.N. Swamy, Chandrayya Shivanna, representatives of Nizam College, and Parishat Programme Coordinator Ringu Ramamurthy, besides several writers, students, youth and literary enthusiasts. The presentation of the literary award to Dr Nalimela Bhaskar, his thought-provoking literary discourse and the warm felicitation by My Gift together transformed the occasion into a memorable confluence of literature, scholarship and human fellowship.

RTC to Run 15 Night Buses From September 1

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

The Hyderabad city RTC is set to introduce 24-hour bus services on six major routes in the Greater Hyderabad area from September 1. A total of 15 buses will operate through the night on routes identified as having significant passenger demand. RTC Greater Hyderabad Executive Director Sridhar said route plans had been finalised and officials were taking special measures to ensure the new services receive adequate passenger response. He said the number of night services could be increased in future depending on demand. The services are expected to benefit IT professionals, shift workers and other passengers travelling during late-night and early-morning hours. Four buses will operate on Route 222A between Koti and Patancheru, with services scheduled roughly from 10:45 pm to 4:55 am in both directions. Route 218 will have two buses, operating four night

trips at intervals of about 75 minutes. One bus will run on Route 219 between Secunderabad and Patancheru, covering major locations including Paradise, Tarnaka, Balanagar, Kukatpally, KPHB and Lingampally. Three buses will operate on Route 290U between Hayathnagar and Secunderabad, with services available throughout the night at approximately 40-minute intervals. Another three buses will operate on Route 195 between Bachupally (W) and Waverock. Services will run from around 9 pm to 4:20 am at 40-minute intervals, covering Nizampet, KPHB, Hitec City and major IT-sector locations. Two buses will operate on Route 10H between Secunderabad and Kondapur at hourly intervals. Officials urged employees and other night travellers to make use of the services. The RTC is monitoring passenger response closely to determine whether additional night routes or buses can be introduced.

Pension Applications Open Until August 31



Quthbullapur, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Eligible beneficiaries in seven categories have been given another opportunity to apply for government pensions, with the deadline set for August 31, 2026. The initiative is being implemented following directions from the Telangana government within the limits of the

Gajularamaram Circle. Gajularamaram Circle Deputy Commissioner U. Venkat Ramulu urged all eligible individuals who have not yet applied to make use of the opportunity and submit their applications before the deadline. Officials said pension applications are being accepted from widows, single women, persons with disabilities, filariasis patients, dialysis patients, toddy tappers and handloom weavers. Beneficiaries meeting the eligibility criteria can submit their applications at the nearest Mee-Seva centre or at the Gajularamaram Circle office. The Deputy Commissioner stressed that eligible persons should not miss the final opportunity and advised applicants to complete the process within the stipulated time. Officials appealed to eligible residents and concerned families to make use of the government's pension facility and ensure that applications are submitted on or before August 31. The authorities said the initiative is aimed at extending social security support to eligible sections and ensuring that beneficiaries who meet the prescribed criteria are able to access the pension benefits.

Driver Attacked Over Cigarette Dispute



Quthbullapur, August 26 | TPN Bureau

A minor dispute over a cigarette reportedly escalated into an assault in Bhagyalakshmi Colony under the jurisdiction of Petbasheerabad police station. A driver was allegedly attacked with sticks by a group of youths following an argument on Tuesday night. According to the complaint, Akash, 26, a native of

Chandrapur in Maharashtra, has been working as a driver with Anil Travels for the past five months. He was reportedly returning to his room after completing his duty when the incident occurred between 8 pm and 8:30 pm. Police said that Akash was passing near the Saibaba Temple while smoking a cigarette when Mahesh, also known as Munna, and his friends Hemanth, Charan, Abhi and Ravi were reportedly celebrating a birthday nearby. The youths allegedly asked Akash to give them a cigarette. When he refused, an argument reportedly broke out between Akash and the group. The disagreement subsequently intensified, with the youths allegedly attacking him with sticks. The incident caused a commotion in the locality, prompting the victim to approach the police and lodge a complaint. Based on Akash's complaint, Petbasheerabad police registered a case and launched an investigation. Officers are collecting information from those involved and examining the circumstances that led to the assault. Police are also working to establish the exact sequence of events and determine the individual roles of those allegedly involved. Further details are expected after the completion of the investigation. Authorities have advised residents to avoid confrontations over minor disputes and to approach the police if disagreements escalate.

Youth Held for Marijuana Sale



Ghatkesar, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Ghatkesar Prohibition and Excise officials arrested a 23-year-old man for allegedly selling marijuana from his residence in Srinivasa Colony, NFC Nagar, in Medchal-Malkajgiri district. Officials seized 1.96 kg of dried marijuana along with a two-wheeler, an iPhone 15 Pro and a weighing machine. Excise Inspector Jupalli Ravi said officials received credible information on Tuesday evening about the alleged sale of marijuana from a house in the locality. After obtaining permission from senior officers and arranging witnesses, an enforcement team reached Plot No. 177SP at around 11:35 pm. The occupant, identified as Madanu Nikhil Kumar, was taken into custody and his premises were searched. Officials reportedly found two packets wrapped in black tape containing 740 grams and 1.020 kg of marijuana. They also recovered another 100 grams packed in 20 ziplock covers and a further 100 grams in 20 smaller covers.

The total quantity seized was 1.960 kg. During questioning, officials said Nikhil disclosed that he had allegedly been consuming marijuana for about five years and had been involved in its sale for around two months. He reportedly told investigators that he purchased the contraband from an unidentified person in Bidar, Karnataka, at Rs 25,000 per kilogram. According to the officials, Nikhil allegedly repackaged the marijuana into packets of approximately five grams and sold each packet for Rs 800. A case was registered against him under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The seized contraband, Honda Activa, mobile phone, weighing machine and related documents were produced before the court. Following the court's directions, Nikhil was remanded to judicial custody. Excise authorities are continuing their investigation to establish the source of the contraband and identify any other persons who may be connected to the alleged supply chain.

CP Inspects Police Station



Quthbullapur, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Cyberabad Police Commissioner Ramesh Reddy, IPS, conducted a surprise inspection of Suraram Police Station, personally reviewing its functioning and the performance of police personnel. The unannounced visit focused on both administrative records and policing practices at the station. During the inspection, the Commissioner interacted with Sub-Inspectors, reception staff and personnel handling different sections. He sought details about the nature of work being carried out in each department, pending cases, the progress of investigations and the responsibilities being discharged by the staff. Ramesh Reddy also reviewed the overall management of the police station and assessed the law and order situation in the Suraram area. He directed personnel to remain alert and ensure that police services are delivered to the public promptly and efficiently.

The Commissioner stressed the importance of completing investigations without unnecessary delays and instructed officers to perform their duties with responsibility and professionalism. He also emphasised the need for effective monitoring of cases and timely action on public complaints. The surprise inspection was seen as an effort to strengthen accountability at the police station level. By directly reviewing various sections and interacting with personnel, the Commissioner assessed the operational challenges and progress of ongoing work. Quthbullapur DCP Koti Reddy, Additional DCP Purushotham and ACP Bala Gangireddy accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection. Suraram police personnel also participated in the review. The senior officers advised station staff to maintain vigilance, improve public service delivery and ensure effective law and order management in their jurisdiction.

Launch of the collection of essays "Samakaleenam"

~ written by Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy



The launch of the essay collection "Samakaleenam" by renowned poet, writer, columnist, orator, retired principal Lion: Captain: Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy has been arranged to be held at the Karimnagar District Central Library on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 1 pm, said the State President Secretary of Telugu Language Preservation Society, Dasayam Senadhipathi, Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy in a press release. He said that Acharya Anisett y Ravindranath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of

Kashmir, will be the chief guest for this book launch program. Dr. V. Narender Reddy, Chairman, Allpor es Educational Institution, will be the chairperson of the meeting, while Dasayam Senadhipathi, Karimnagar Library Chairman Sathu Mallesam and Karimnagar Library Secretary Shashija Devi will be the guest of honor. It has been decided to distribute this essay collection, which will be useful for competitive exams, free of cost to women candidates preparing for competitive exams after its launch, he said.

BJP Plans Statewide Liberation Campaign

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Vice-President and Telangana Liberation Committee chairman Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud said the party would take the history of Telangana's liberation struggle to every household and intensify efforts to preserve its historical legacy. Addressing a media conference at the BJP state office on Wednesday, Goud said Telangana was liberated from the Nizam's rule on September 17, 1948, a year after India attained independence. He alleged that the sacrifices of Telangana's martyrs had not received adequate official recognition and described this as a historical injustice. He said the BJP had prepared a comprehensive action plan under the Telangana Liberation Celebrations Committee following the Centre's official celebrations and suggestions from BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao. Goud placed seven demands before the State government, including officially observing September 17 as Telangana Liberation Day, constructing a memorial dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, establishing an inter-

national-standard Telangana Liberation Museum and creating memorial centres at every district headquarters. He also demanded that the liberation struggle be included in school textbooks, a comprehensive list of martyrs and activists be prepared, and a tourism circuit connect important historical sites such as Veerabhairanpally, Parkal, Kadavendi, Jodeghat, Nirmal and Nalgonda. Goud further announced five BJP pledges focused on Telangana's self-respect, democratic governance and ending what he described as dynastic and feudal political practices. He also criticised Congress, BRS and MIM, alleging vote-bank politics and distortion of history. He said martyr remembrance programmes would be held at Veerabhairanpally on August 27 and the Parkal Martyrs' Memorial on September 2, followed by statewide programmes until September 17. A major public meeting is scheduled at Parade Grounds on September 17 under Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay. Goud appealed to people across political and religious lines to participate in the celebrations.

67 Defence Liquor Bottles Seized

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

An enforcement team seized 67 bottles of 'Defence' liquor during a raid in Tarnaka, Hyderabad, on Wednesday. The seized stock was estimated to be worth approximately Rs 2 lakh, according to officials. The action followed information received by the enforcement authorities about the alleged sale of Defence liquor in the Tarnaka area. Acting on the tip-off, officials conducted a search at a house suspected to be linked to the activity. During the initial inspection, the team reportedly recovered 10 liquor bottles from the premises. A further search led to the discovery of another 57 bottles, taking the total seizure to 67 bottles. Officials said the liquor had reportedly been brought from Karnataka and Haryana. The authorities are examining the circumstances under which the bottles reached Hyderabad and whether they were intended for unauthorised sale. The person allegedly involved in selling the liquor was identified as R. Madhavan, the son of a former service-



man. Following the raid, enforcement officials handed him over to the Secunderabad Excise Station for further proceedings. The authorities are expected to investigate the source of the liquor, its transportation and the alleged distribution network. They will also examine whether other individuals were involved in procuring or selling the stock. The seizure comes amid continuing enforcement efforts to prevent the unauthorised movement and sale of liquor in Hyderabad. Officials said inspections and raids would continue based on credible information. Further action will be taken based on the findings of the ongoing inquiry and applicable excise regulations.

BJP Questions Congress, AIMIM on Judiciary

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N.V. Subash on Wednesday accused the Congress and AIMIM of adopting a selective approach towards the Constitution and constitutional institutions. Reacting to the political debate over a recent Allahabad High Court ruling concerning the wearing of hijab in an educational institution, Subash said criticism of the verdict by leaders of the Congress and AIMIM raised questions about their commitment to judicial institutions. Subash said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi often carries a copy of the Constitution and alleges that it is under threat, while AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi frequently uses the slogan "Samvidhan khatre mein hai". He argued that respect for the Constitution should also involve accepting judicial decisions, including those that may be politically or ideologically inconvenient. The Allahabad High Court had dismissed a petition by a Class XI student seeking permission to wear a hijab contrary to her school's prescribed uniform. The court upheld the institution's authority to enforce its dress code and ruled that wearing a headscarf was not an essential religious practice in the circumstances of the case. Subash alleged that AIMIM leaders and some Congress voices criticised the ruling on religious grounds, while BJP leaders welcomed it as upholding institutional discipline and uniform rules. He questioned whether the BJP-led NDA or the Congress-led Opposition and AIMIM were showing greater respect for constitutional institutions. Subash claimed that the BJP had consistently respected judicial authority, including during politically sensitive cases such as the Ayodhya dispute. He said constitutional respect meant accepting court verdicts and upholding the rule of law rather than merely invoking the Constitution. He urged Congress and AIMIM leaders to maintain consistent respect for constitutional bodies irrespective of whether their decisions aligned with their political positions.

Grand Birthday Celebrations for Mayor

Karimnagar, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Birthday celebrations of Karimnagar Mayor Kolagani Srinivas were held on a grand scale across the city on Wednesday, with BJP leaders, corporators, party workers, supporters and citizens gathering to convey their wishes. The Mayor cut a large cake at his camp office in the presence of party leaders and well-wishers. Later, he offered special prayers at the Shiva Bhakta Hanuman Temple, Kodanda Rama Temple and Mahashakti Temple, seeking the well-being of residents and the continued development of Karimnagar. At the Mahashakti Temple, Srinivas also received greetings from Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar.



As part of the celebrations, the Mayor inaugurated a free medical camp organised by the Lions Club and Venkatadri Hospital at a government school in Teegalagu tta-

palli. The camp provided health check-ups and medical services to local residents. A major attraction was the celebration at Telangana Chowk, where municipal corporators

arranged a 39-kg cake. Party workers, corporators and supporters participated in large numbers. The celebrations also included several service activities. At Bus

Stand Junction, the Mayor participated in a food distribution programme organised by Devarakonda Ajay and personally served food to members of the public.

He later joined another food distribution programme at Veerabrahmendra Old Age Home in Housing Board Colony, organised by corporators APP Chandra and Thota Anil. Birthday events were also organised at the Municipal Corporation office by elected representatives, officials and staff. Srinivas later participated in celebrations at Chintakunta Shantinagar and joined a tree-plantation programme conducted by a women's association. Expressing happiness over the celebrations, Srinivas thanked Bandi Sanjay Kumar, citizens, party leaders, corporators, activists and well-wishers for their affection. He said the public's support had increased his responsibility and pledged to work with renewed dedication for Karimnagar's overall development.

Rajagopal Reddy Warns Against False Claims

Munugode, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Congress leader Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy on Wednesday issued a strong warning against what he described as the spread of false information about him. He also criticised ABN Media chief Radhakrishna over the manner in which certain reports were being written. Speaking on the issue, Rajagopal Reddy urged those in the media to exercise restraint and responsibility while publishing information about political leaders. He said he would not remain silent if false claims were repeatedly circulated against him. The Congress leader asserted that his political strength came from public support rather than media recognition. He said that those with public backing did not need to depend on media platforms for validation. Rajagopal Reddy also claimed that they had the capacity to establish numerous media channels if necessary, but stressed that their priority remained their connection with the people.

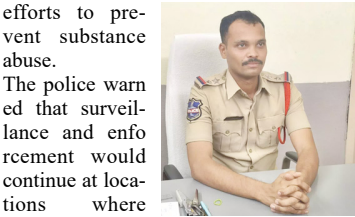


While stating that he respected the media and its role in society, he expressed disappointment over what he termed a one-sided approach by sections of the media. He maintained that journalism should present issues fairly and responsibly rather than promoting selective narratives. His remarks came amid continuing political discussions and differences between leaders and sections of the media over coverage of political developments. Rajagopal Reddy reiterated that he would respond firmly to misinformation while maintaining that public trust and direct engagement with people remained the foundation of his political strength.

31 Held in Marijuana Crackdown

Balkonda, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Balkonda police apprehended 31 people during a crackdown on alleged marijuana consumption at Mallanna Gutta and the Vannel B flood canal in Nizamabad district. Acting on credible information that groups were gathering at the locations to smoke marijuana, police reached the area and detained 31 individuals. During the operation, officers also identified a person allegedly involved in selling the substance. Police seized 40 grams of dried marijuana and a mobile phone from the alleged seller. A case was registered against him under the relevant provisions of the law, and he was subsequently produced before a court and remanded to custody. Balkonda Sub-Inspector Shailender said strict action would also be taken against those found consuming marijuana. He stated that cases would be registered against consumers and that they would be sent to de-addiction centres as part of



efforts to prevent substance abuse. The police warned that surveillance and enforcement would continue at locations where groups allegedly gather for drug consumption. Officers appealed to residents to provide information about the sale or use of narcotic substances in their neighbourhoods. Police personnel Shankar, Rajesh, Naveen, Farooq, Mahipal and Ramulu participated in the operation. Officials said the crackdown was aimed at curbing the circulation and consumption of marijuana in the area and preventing young people from becoming involved in substance abuse. Further investigation is underway into the source of the seized marijuana and the alleged supply network.

BJP Sets September Protest Over Bhu Bharati

Hyderabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy on Wednesday announced intensified protests over alleged irregularities involving lands placed on the prohibited list under Section 22A of the Bhu Bharati system. He alleged that the Congress government had misused land records and demanded transparency from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. Addressing a media conference at the BJP state office, Maheshwar Reddy alleged large-scale manipulation of the 22A list, including the removal of certain properties and addition of others for vested interests. He demanded



that the government disclose details of land transactions and alleged "secret deals" associated with the system. He also alleged that assets worth around \$15,000

crore had been transferred illegally to benami and shell companies allegedly linked to the Revenue Minister. These allegations could not be independently verified. Maheshwar Reddy demanded an immediate clarification from the government and called for the Revenue Minister's dismissal. The BJP leader said he had sent an open letter in

English and Telugu to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, seeking his response to the allegations. He demanded a white paper containing details of lands included

in the 22A list before and after 2014. He further sought a comprehensive investigation, including a forensic audit by the CBI or a sitting judge, into alleged asset transfers and shell-company transactions. Maheshwar Reddy announced that BJP MLAs, MPs and MLCs, along with affected landowners, would hold large-scale protest demonstrations at Indira Park Dharna Chowk on September 5 and 6. He warned that if the government failed to address the grievances and respond to the BJP's demands, the party would intensify the agitation and proceed with a siege of the Telangana Assembly. He appealed to BJP workers and affected residents to participate in the protests in large numbers.

BJP Backs Ramchander Rao's Strike



Karimnagar, August 26 | TPN Bureau

BJP leaders and cadres from Karimnagar district extended their solidarity to

Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao, who is undertaking a two-day hunger strike as part of the party's "Fee Arrears & BJP Struggle" campaign in

Hyderabad. Led by Karimnagar District BJP president Sainy Mallesh, a delegation of district leaders travelled to Hyderabad, met Ramchander Rao and participated in the hunger strike. The leaders conveyed their support for the ongoing agitation over pending fee reimbursement funds. Speaking on the occasion, Mallesh demanded that the Congress government immediately release the outstanding fee reimbursement arrears. He alleged that delays in clearing the dues were affecting students and educational institutions and urged the government to address the issue without further delay. Mallesh warned that the BJP would intensify its agitation if the government failed to respond to the concerns of students. He said the party would continue

to stand with students and pursue the issue under the leadership of Ramchander Rao. Among those who met the State BJP president were former district president Gangadi and state leaders Inukonda Nageshwar Reddy, Gurrala Venkat Reddy, Puppala Raghu, Bari Jitender, Narasimha Raju, Gunjeti Shiva, Vimal G. Ramesh and Rahul P. Several other district and Mandal-level leaders also participated, including BJYM State Vice President Neredla Praveen Reddy, District President Sanga Naresh, OBC Morcha District President Akula Rajender and Kisan Morcha President Mothe Gangareddy. The Karimnagar delegation reiterated its support for the BJP's campaign and pledged to participate in further protests over the fee reimbursement issue.

Burglary Suspect Held

Jangaon, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Jangaon police have arrested a 29-year-old man in connection with a house burglary reported near Jangaon Crossroads and recovered gold jewellery weighing 44,990 grams. The accused was identified as Dabbata Balalingam, also known as Balu or Praveen Raju, a native of Rayavaram village in Kukurunpally Mandal of Siddipet district. Police said he allegedly targeted a locked house on Hyderabad Road in May 2026. According to investigators, the suspect arrived at the house on a Royal Enfield motorcycle bearing registration number TS-13-

ES-4164. He allegedly broke open the doors and a cupboard using an iron rod before fleeing with gold ornaments. Police recovered two pairs of gold earrings, a two-strand gold chain and another gold chain, together weighing 44,990 grams. Balalingam was reportedly carrying a significant criminal history, with more than 90 cases registered against him in the past. Police also said a case under the Preventive Detention (PD) Act was pending against him at Gajwel Police Station. Investigators said the suspect had recently been released from jail. While allegedly travelling towards Warangal to sell the stolen jewellery, he was intercepted at the Jangaon bus stand



by Sub-Inspector M. Bharat and his team on suspicion. Police detained him and subsequently linked him to the burglary during the investigation. The case

was solved by the team led by SI M. Bharat under the supervision of West Zone DCP Rajam Ahendra Naik, Jangaon ACP Bhima Sharma and Circle Inspector

P. Satyanarayana Reddy, following directions from the Warangal Commissioner of Police. Police said further investigation is underway.

Three Young Men Killed in Road Crash in abroad

Nizamabad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Three young men from Telangana reportedly died in a tragic road accident in Florida, United States, after the car they were travelling in crashed into

a tree on Tuesday night. Among the deceased was Rahul, a native of Naveepet in Nizamabad district. According to information received by his family, Rahul had travelled to the United States only around three

months ago. His sudden death has left his family and friends in deep shock. The three friends were reportedly travelling together in a car when the vehicle met with the accident. The crash resulted in the deaths of all three

occupants, according to information conveyed to Rahul's family. Local authorities have launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash. Further details regarding the identities of the other two victims and the precise cause of the accident are awaited. News of Rahul's death triggered grief in Naveepet, where relatives, friends and acquaintances were left

devastated by the unexpected loss. Family members were reportedly inconsolable after receiving information about the accident. Rahul had travelled to the US recently in pursuit of higher studies or employment, making the tragedy particularly distressing for his family. His death so soon after his arrival has cast a pall of gloom over his hometown. Family members are reportedly making arrangements

to bring Rahul's mortal remains back to Naveepet. They are awaiting completion of the necessary procedures in the United States before the remains can be transported to India. The incident has once again highlighted the risks faced by young people living or studying abroad and the profound impact that such unexpected tragedies can have on families back home.

Kuchipudi Students Shine

Malkajgiri, August 26 | TPN Bureau

Students of Bhavanalaya Dance Academy, Malkajgiri, secured several honours at the All-India Dance and Music Competition held in Nagpur from August 20 to 23. Around 50 Kuchipudi students from the academy participated in the competition under the guidance of its founder-president and dance guru, Dr. Vatikota Yadagiracharyulu. Of them, 22 students won first, second and third prizes in various categories. The academy added to its achievements by receiving the Best Dance Academy award. It also won the Devaharsha Award for the best dance performance, bringing further recognition to the institution and

its students. Dr. Yadagiracharyulu said Bhavanalaya Dance Academy has been promoting and performing Kuchipudi across different parts of the country for the past 35 years. He said the academy had received appreciation for its performances over the years and that the latest awards reflected the dedication and talent of its students. Parents of the participating students expressed happiness over their children's achievements and appreciated the academy's efforts in nurturing their artistic abilities. He expressed confidence that Bhavanalaya Dance Academy would achieve greater success in the coming years while continuing to uphold the traditions and values of Indian classical dance.

Father Dies by Suicide After Daughter's Death

Shamirpet, August 26 | TPN Bureau

A 50-year-old man died by suicide after reportedly struggling to cope with the recent death of his daughter at Bommarasipet on the outskirts of Shamirpet. The deceased, identified as Ramulu, was a native of Lalgadi Malakpet and worked as a construction supervisor. He had two daughters and a son. His son, Arun Kumar, resides in Shamirpet and works at a furniture company. According to police, Ramulu was deeply distressed following his daughter's death. Unable to overcome the grief, he reportedly died by suicide by hanging from a tree on the outskirts of Bommarasipet.

Police received information about the incident through Dial-112 at around 5.15 pm on Wednesday. Shamirpet Circle Inspector Narasimha Reddy immediately reached the location along with police personnel and inspected the scene. The body was subsequently shifted to the Gandhi Hospital mortuary for post-mortem procedures. Police registered a case and launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death. Officials said further details would be established during the course of the inquiry. The incident has left Ramulu's family and local residents deeply distressed. Police are following the required procedures as part of the investigation.

BSP Seeks Probe into Alleged Police Assault

Nagarkurnool, August 26 | TPN Bureau

BSP State General Secretary Pruthviraj has demanded a comprehensive investigation and strict action against a Sub-Inspector and two constables over an alleged assault on Palamuru Mahender of Avancha village at Thimmajipet police station. BSP and KVPS leaders visited Mahender at the district hospital on Wednesday, where he is undergoing treatment. Speaking during the visit, Pruthviraj said Mahender had alleged that police summoned him to the station for questioning and subsequently assaulted him. Pruthviraj called for an impartial inquiry into the allegations and urged senior officials to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident. He also referred to Mahender's allegation that the SI urinated on him, describing the claim as serious and warranting a thorough investigation. KVPS District Vice-President Ashok demanded that the Superintendent of Police conduct a detailed probe and initiate stringent action against anyone found responsible. He also appealed to senior authorities to take preventive measures to ensure that similar incidents do not occur in police stations. BSP leaders Kalyan, Balaswamy, Sriharsha Mudiraj, Parashuramulu and Shankar, along with KVPS leaders Satyanarayana, Sultan and Tarasingh, participated in the hospital visit. The allegations are subject to investigation, and further details are expected once authorities complete their inquiry.

Warning Before Fatal Crash

Kodad, August 26 | TPN Bureau

A warning issued by a private bus driver shortly before a fatal road accident at Dwarakunta in Kodad Mandal has emerged as a key detail in the investigation. A video showing the driver alerting a stalled lorry driver has reportedly gone viral on social media. According to the available information, the lorry had earlier hit a road divider and stopped on the carriageway, creating a serious obstruction. A driver of a 'Zing' bus reportedly noticed the vehicle and warned the lorry driver to move it to a safer location. However, the lorry allegedly remained on the road. Shortly after the 'Zing' bus passed the location, a 'Fresh Travels' bus collided with the stationary lorry. The crash resulted in six deaths, while 14 others were injured. Local residents and police personnel immediately launched rescue operations and shifted the injured to nearby hospitals for treatment. The emergence of the video has drawn attention to the circumstances that preceded the collision. Authorities are expected to establish the sequence of events, including the actions of the lorry and bus drivers, as part of the ongoing investigation.

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



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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-



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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.

If 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



Pullemma Ganesh

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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**

Curriculum.*

From primary education to higher education, regardless of the course, constitutional values, human values, moral responsibility, civic responsibility, and democratic culture should be taught according to age.Students should be given not just education that helps them score marks in exams, but also education on "How to live as a good human being?" How to be a responsible citizen? How to respect the rights of others? How to solve problems in a democratic way instead of violence?By conducting discussions on humanitarian values, reading of the Constitution, programs on civic responsibilities, and social service programs in every school, social responsibility can be increased among children. In public places too, continuous public awareness programs should be conducted on topics like constitutional values, fundamental duties, ill effects of drugs, and child rights.

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.

PM Modi to Engage Students Ahead of Sports Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with students and young people from across the country on Thursday through the Khelo India Samvaad - "Khel Ki Baat, PM Ke Saath" programme, ahead of National Sports Day. The virtual interaction will begin at 11 am and will connect youth from more than 1,500 locations across India. The nationwide programme, organised by Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, aims to bring students, athletes, educational institutions and public representatives together on a common platform. The initiative focuses on sports, fitness, youth leadership and nation-building. During the interaction, young participants will have an opportunity to share their ideas, experiences and suggestions with policymakers. Discussions are expected to focus on improving sports infrastructure, strengthening coaching facilities, identifying sporting talent and developing athletes through scientific training. Another major focus will be India's preparations for future international sporting competitions, including the 2036 Olympics. The programme will also highlight the importance of youth participation in governance, volunteering and nation-building activities. The event will feature interactions with several leading Indian sportspersons and medal winners. Athletes are expected to share their personal journeys, challenges, failures and achievements with young participants, inspiring them to pursue sports and fitness. The programme will also promote awareness against substance abuse through youth engagement and community activities. Participants will be encouraged to contribute ideas for building a healthier and more active generation. National Sports Day is observed on August 29 to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. The government is using the occasion to promote a stronger sporting culture and encourage greater participation among young Indians. Officials said suggestions received from the youth will be taken forward to policymakers and the wider sports ecosystem, creating a direct link between young people's aspirations and future sports policies.



PM Modi Assures Nepal of All Possible Aid



Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Wednesday and conveyed his condolences over the loss of lives in the devastating flash floods that hit parts of Nepal. Modi assured Shah that India is ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance to Nepal during the crisis. He also said Indian teams were coordinating closely with Nepalese authorities on rescue and relief operations. The flash floods affected areas near Nepal's border with Tibet, with Rasuwa district among the worst-hit regions. Sudden flooding caused widespread damage to homes, roads, bridges and other infrastructure, leaving several people dead and many others missing. The disaster has also raised concerns over the safety of tourists and travellers in the affected region. Preliminary information indicated that 384 travellers were reported missing, including foreign nationals and Nepali citizens. Indian nationals were also among those reported missing. Rescue teams have been working to locate missing people and assist those stranded by the floods. Difficult terrain, damaged roads and disrupted infrastructure have complicated rescue operations in several areas. India is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with Nepalese authorities to provide assistance wherever required. The Indian government is also keeping track of the situation involving Indian citizens who may have been affected by the disaster. The Prime Minister's conversation with Balendra Shah highlights the close ties between India and Nepal and New Delhi's readiness to support its neighbouring country during a major natural disaster. As rescue and relief operations continue, authorities are assessing the extent of the damage and working to restore connectivity in the affected areas. More information about casualties and missing persons is expected as rescue teams reach remote locations. The situation remains fluid, with both countries continuing coordination to ensure that emergency assistance reaches those affected as quickly as possible.

105 Indians Missing After Nepal Flash Floods

A devastating flash flood in Nepal's Rasuwa district, near the border with Tibet, has left hundreds of people missing, including 105 Indian nationals, according to preliminary details released by the Nepal Tourism Board. The sudden flooding struck the Bhote Koshi river area, causing widespread destruction in villages and tourist routes. Roads, bridges, buildings and other infrastructure were damaged or washed away, severely affecting connectivity in the region. The Nepal Tourism Board has reported 384 people missing, including 291 foreign nationals and 93 Nepali citizens. Indians constitute the largest group among the foreign nationals reported missing. Several of those affected are believed to have been travelling towards Mount Kailash, a major pilgrimage destination. Authorities are working to verify the identities and locations of those who remain unaccounted for. Tourism officials, travel agencies, local guides, police and security forces are coordinating efforts to collect information about missing travellers and establish contact with their families. Rescue operations have been launched across the affected areas, but the difficult Himalayan terrain and extensive damage to roads and bridges have made the operation challenging. Nepalese security personnel are using available resources to search for stranded tourists and local residents. The disaster has also raised concerns in India, particularly among families whose relatives had travelled to Nepal for pilgrimage and tourism. Indian authorities are monitoring the situation and coordinating with Nepalese officials to obtain updated information about the missing nationals. The exact cause of the flash flood is still being examined. Initial assessments suggest that an ice-and-rock avalanche may have caused a sudden surge of water in the river system. The disaster has caused significant damage to Nepal's infrastructure and disrupted movement across several areas. Authorities have also issued warnings to people living near riverbanks to remain alert and move to safer locations if necessary. With rescue operations continuing, officials are working against time to locate the missing people and determine the full extent of the disaster. The number of casualties and missing persons could change as rescue teams gain access to remote and severely affected areas.



Bihar On High Alert After Nepal Flash Floods

The Bihar government has sounded an alert in several districts following devastating flash floods in neighbouring Nepal, with authorities closely monitoring the possibility of a sudden rise in water levels in rivers flowing into the state. The Gandak River is being watched particularly closely after severe flooding in Nepal's upper catchment area. Officials have warned that a sudden increase in water flow could affect districts located along the river in Bihar. The state's Disaster Management Department has directed district administrations to remain prepared and take precautionary measures. Residents living near riverbanks have been advised to remain alert and follow instructions issued by local authorities. A high-level monitoring mechanism has also been put in place to assess the situation continuously. Officials are keeping track of water levels and developments in Nepal's catchment areas to ensure



that any potential threat is identified at the earliest. The flash floods in Nepal have caused significant destruction, with deaths reported and hundreds of people missing. The disaster has damaged roads, bridges, homes and other infrastructure, particularly in areas near the

Nepal-Tibet border. The situation has raised concerns in neighbouring Indian states because rivers originating in Nepal flow into Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Any sudden surge in water could potentially affect low-lying areas along these rivers. Authorities in Bihar have been

instructed to keep rescue and relief resources ready. Disaster response teams are also being prepared for deployment if the water level rises significantly. Officials have appealed to people not to panic but to remain cautious, particularly those living in vulnerable areas close to river channels. Residents have been asked to avoid unnecessary movement near rivers and pay attention to official advisories. The administration is maintaining close coordination with agencies responsible for water resources, disaster management and district-level emergency response. With the situation in Nepal still evolving, Bihar authorities are keeping a close watch on the Gandak and other rivers. The government has stressed that preparedness and timely action will remain the priority to minimise any potential impact on people and property.

Kejriwal Leads AAP Protest in Goa Over E20 Petrol

Former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal joined an AAP protest in Goa against the Centre's E20 petrol policy, accusing the government of imposing additional financial burdens on motorists and raising concerns over the impact of ethanol-blended fuel on vehicles. Addressing party workers and supporters, Kejriwal criticised the mandatory use of petrol containing up to 20 per cent ethanol, arguing that consumers should not be forced to use a fuel they believe could affect vehicle performance and maintenance costs. The protest is part of AAP's wider campaign against the Centre's ethanol-blending policy. The party has been demanding greater transparency over the pricing and benefits of ethanol-blended petrol and has questioned whether consumers are receiving adequate savings from the policy. Kejriwal alleged that motorists are



being made to bear additional costs while the government promotes the policy as an environmental and energy-security measure. He called for greater accountability and urged authorities to address concerns raised by vehicle owners. The Centre has promoted ethanol blending as a way to reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil, lower carbon

emissions and provide an additional market for agricultural products. The government has also highlighted the potential benefits of ethanol production for farmers and the country's energy security. The debate over E20 petrol has intensified as more vehicles across India transition to fuel containing higher levels of ethanol. While newer vehicles are general-

ly designed to handle higher ethanol blends, concerns have been raised about compatibility, mileage and possible maintenance costs for older vehicles. AAP leaders in Goa said the protest was aimed at highlighting the concerns of ordinary motorists and demanding that consumers be given clearer information about fuel quality, pricing and vehicle compatibility. The protest also gives AAP an opportunity to expand its political presence in Goa, where the party has previously contested elections and sought to build a stronger organisational base. The E20 controversy is likely to remain a political issue as the government continues its push towards higher ethanol blending. With motorists, automobile manufacturers and policymakers debating its economic and environmental impact, the issue has become an important part of the wider discussion on India's fuel policy.

Karnataka Minister B Nagendra Offers To Resign Amid Row

Karnataka minister B Nagendra has offered to resign from his position amid allegations of corruption, putting fresh pressure on the ruling Congress government in the state. The minister's decision comes against the backdrop of allegations surrounding the functioning of the department under his charge. The controversy has triggered political criticism, with opposition parties demanding accountability and seeking a detailed investigation into the allegations. Nagendra, who has faced questions over the issue, is understood to have indicated his willingness to step down to ensure that the controversy does not affect the government or the functioning of the department. His offer is also being viewed as an attempt to allow an impartial investigation into the allegations. The controversy has become politically significant for the Congress government, which has repeatedly maintained that corruption will



not be tolerated. Opposition leaders have seized on the issue to target the government and question its handling of allegations against ministers. The BJP and other opposition parties have demanded that the government provide clarity on

the allegations and take strict action if wrongdoing is established. They have also questioned whether merely offering to resign is sufficient and called for a comprehensive probe. The issue has added to the political challenges

facing the Karnataka government, with the opposition seeking to portray the controversy as evidence of administrative lapses. Congress leaders, meanwhile, are expected to discuss the matter and decide on the next course of action. Nagendra's resignation offer comes at a crucial time for the state government, as allegations involving ministers can have wider political consequences. A decision on whether to accept the resignation is expected after consultations within the party and government. The controversy has also renewed the debate over transparency and accountability in public administration. Political parties are closely watching the developments, while the public is awaiting clarity on the allegations and the government's response. If a formal investigation is ordered, the findings could determine the political and legal course of the matter. For now, Nagendra's resignation offer has brought the controversy to the centre of Karnataka's political debate.

India Confident Rice Exports to Iran Can Withstand Sanctions

India is confident that its rice exports to Iran will remain resilient despite tougher US sanctions, with exporters expecting demand from the West Asian country to continue amid geopolitical tensions and disruptions in regional trade. Rice is one of the key commodities in India's trade with Iran. Iran depends significantly on imports to meet part of its domestic food requirements, making rice an important product in bilateral trade. Indian exporters have continued to see demand from the Iranian market despite higher prices and difficulties in transportation. The confidence comes at a time when the United States has announced stricter sanctions targeting entities linked to Iran. Washington has also warned that countries and businesses maintaining certain economic ties with Tehran could face consequences. Indian exporters, however, believe that the essential nature of food products could help rice shipments withstand the impact of sanctions. Iran's demand for Indian rice, particularly basmati rice, remains an important factor supporting the trade. At the same time, exporters acknowledge that sanctions could create challenges related to payments, shipping,



insurance and logistics. Any restrictions on financial channels or shipping routes could increase costs and make transactions more complicated. The ongoing tensions in West Asia have already affected commercial shipping through the region. Disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial global energy and trade route, have raised concerns among exporters of several Indian commodities. Despite these challenges, the Indian rice industry remains optimistic about the Iranian market.

Exporters believe Iran's food requirements and limited alternatives could help sustain demand even if trade becomes more expensive or complicated. The Indian government is also closely monitoring developments and their potential impact on exporters. Trade between India and Iran includes several essential commodities, with agricultural products and pharmaceuticals forming an important part of India's exports. The latest developments highlight the delicate balance

Indian exporters must maintain between commercial opportunities and geopolitical risks. While sanctions could increase operational difficulties, strong Iranian demand for food products provides some confidence to the industry. For India's rice exporters, the coming months will be crucial. If payment mechanisms and shipping routes remain workable, the sector expects to continue serving the Iranian market despite growing international pressure on Tehran.

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 the 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-

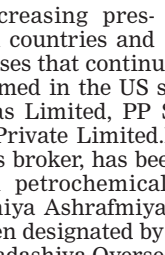
A painting depicting a ship's hull, with a person's leg and foot visible on a sandy beach in the foreground. The scene is set against a backdrop of a calm sea and a clear sky. The painting style is somewhat abstract, with visible brushstrokes and a muted color palette.

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-

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, Indrimsiya Ashrafmiya Sheikh and Harish Ramachandra Rangi, 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 complication 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



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



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.

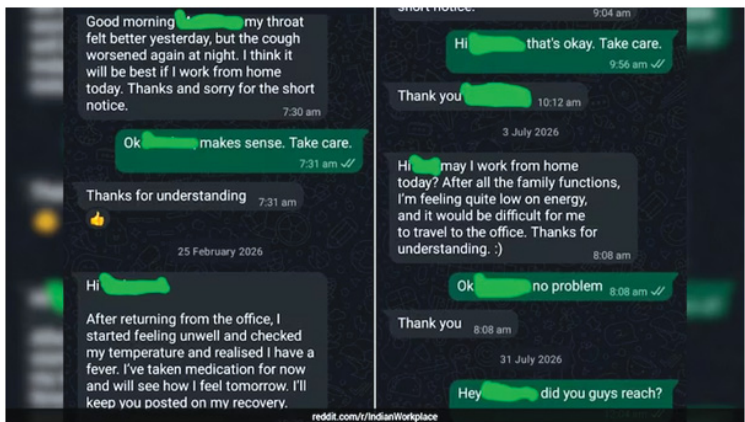
However, the eclipse will not be visible from India, as the event will occur during daytime in the country. This means skywatchers in India will not be able to observe the August 27-28 lunar eclipse.

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



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.

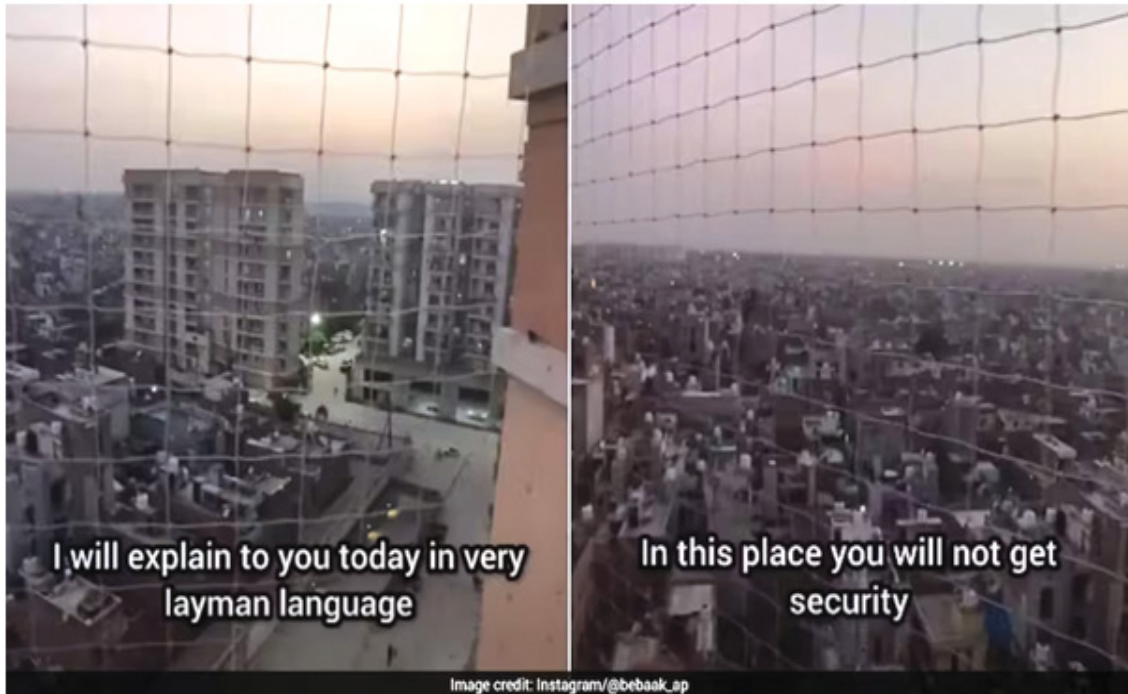
Gated Society Or Open Neighbourhood: Which Is Better?

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



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 past 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.