



BUZZ POINTS



Terror Probe Links
Suspect to Jantar
Mantar Plot

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Girl's Mother
Thanks PM Modi for
Forgiveness

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Assam Man Saves
2,000 People
During Floods

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Governor Abdul
Nazeer Calls for
Drug-Free
Andhra Pradesh

Vijayawada, August 02 | TPN
Bureau

Governor S. Abdul Nazeer on Sunday participated in the virtual launch of the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and appealed to the youth to support the vision of a drug-free Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing students, MY Bharat volunteers and other participants at Lok Bhavan, the Governor said the campaign aims to empower young people as healthy, responsible and drug-free

P3

CM Naidu Highlights Global Opportunities as AP, Australia Sign Four Key MoUs

Amaravati, August 02 | TPN
Bureau

Andhra Pradesh and Australia have entered a new phase of strategic partnership with the signing of four key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) spanning clean energy, advanced manufacturing, inclusive education, student mental health, and skill development. The agreements were signed during a high-level meeting between Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and an Australian delegation led by Julian Hill at the Chief



Minister's camp office in Amaravati. During the meeting, the Chief Minister highlighted

Andhra Pradesh's rapid economic growth, investor-friendly policies, and expanding op-

portunities for global collaboration. He emphasized the state's commitment to innovation-driven development and invited Australian institutions and businesses to partner in key sectors. As a mark of respect, Naidu felicitated Julian Hill with a traditional shawl and presented him with Araku coffee and a commemorative memento. The MoUs were signed in the presence of State Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh, marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral co-

operation. One of the major agreements focuses on establishing a Centre of Excellence for Solar Manufacturing at IIT Tirupati. This initiative involves collaboration between the Centre of Excellence for Energy Transition, Visakhapatnam, IIT Tirupati, and the University of New South Wales, aiming to position Andhra Pradesh as a leading hub for solar innovation, research, and skill development. Another MoU aims to strengthen inclusive education through a partnership

P3

Jagan Alleges Vendetta Politics and Lawlessness in State

Amaravati, August 02 | TPN
Bureau

YSR Congress Party president and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday accused the Andhra Pradesh government of fostering "lawlessness" and pursuing "politics of vendetta," in a strongly worded post on X.

Targeting Chief Minister

Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Jagan alleged that attacks by ruling party members are being ignored while victims and opposition leaders are facing criminal cases. He questioned whether the state still adheres to the rule of law, claiming that those who question the government are being arrested and subjected to police action, including late-night raids.

P3



Youth Urged to Embrace Entrepreneurship at Global Business Meet Preparations

Rajamahendravaram, August
02 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh on Sunday emphasized the need to empower youth as entrepreneurs, stating that the Alliance Government is committed to creating a conducive ecosystem for business growth and innovation. He was speaking as the chief guest at the preparatory meeting for "Global Business Meet - Samakhya 2026," organized by the Samakhya Chamber of Commerce at a function hall in Rajamahendravaram. During the event, the Minister, along with other dignitaries, unveiled the poster for the Global Business Meet scheduled to be held in Hyderabad from October 13 to 15. Highlighting the significance of the upcoming meet, Durgesh said the event is expected to trans-



form the industrial landscape and provide new opportunities for entrepreneurs. He urged youth to move beyond job-seeking and instead focus on building enterprises that generate employment for others. The Minister also called upon young people to embrace emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing, noting that Andhra Pradesh is positioning itself at the forefront of technological advancement. He encouraged youth, particularly from the Godavari districts, to explore opportunities in industrial and technology-

driven sectors. Durgesh reiterated that the government is extending multiple incentives to investors, especially in tourism, under the New Tourism Policy 2024-29. He assured full support to projects such as resorts, hotels, amusement parks, and adventure tourism ventures, adding that land allocation is being carried out transparently under a dedicated policy framework. Referring to the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, he said the government is focused on rapid economic development with support from the Centre. He also lauded the efforts of the Samakhya Chamber of Commerce for encouraging entrepreneurship and described the upcoming business meet as a valuable platform for growth and collaboration.

PM Modi Launches Drug-Free India Campaign for Youth

New Delhi, August 02 | TPN
Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the youth of the country to take a pledge against drug abuse, warning that while drugs may provide a temporary feeling of excitement, they can damage a person's career, health and personal life permanently.

Launching the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan', PM Modi said a developed India requires a physically and mentally strong youth population. He stressed that young people must stay away from all forms of substance abuse to remain healthy, confident and productive.



"Drugs can give you a high for some time, but it makes your entire career and personal life low," PM Modi said during the virtual launch event attended

P3

Panel Formed to Strengthen Tiger Conservation After Death Incident

Amaravati, August 02 | TPN
Bureau

In a significant move to reinforce wildlife protection, the Andhra Pradesh government has constituted a high-powered committee to review tiger conservation and management practices at the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR). The decision follows directions from Deputy Chief Minister and Forest & Environment Minister Pawan Kalyan, who took serious note of the recent suspicious death of a female tiger in the Nallamala forest region. Officials said the five-member committee has been tasked with conducting a comprehensive field study to evaluate existing conservation measures, identify gaps, and recommend actionable strategies to safeguard tiger populations and their habitats. The



initiative reflects the government's firm stance that there will be no compromise on wildlife protection.

The committee comprises State Forest Department Advisor P. Mallikarjuna Rao and Additional PCCF Rahul Pandey as departmental representatives. It also includes wildlife experts such as B. Rajashekhar from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Imran Siddiqui of the Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society, and noted wildlife scientist Dr. M. Naveen Kumar. The current Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) will coordinate field-level

P3

AP Ties Up with IIT Tirupati, UNSW for Solar Manufacturing Centre

Amaravati, August 02 | TPN
Bureau

In a major boost to Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy ambitions, the state government has partnered with Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati and University of New South Wales to establish a Centre of Excellence for Solar Manufacturing. The agreement marks a significant step toward building a robust clean energy ecosystem in the state.

The partnership was formalised in the presence of Australian Assistant Minister Julian Hill, underscoring the growing strategic cooperation between Andhra Pradesh and Australia in key sectors such as renewa-



ble energy, research, and skill development.

The proposed Centre of Excellence will focus on advanced research, innovation, and workforce development in solar photovoltaic manufacturing. It aims to create a globally competitive talent pool while supporting the state's vision of becoming a leader in clean energy and sustainable industrial growth.

P3



Low-Price Rice Scheme Launched Across State

Vijayawada, August 02 | TPN
Bureau

In a major relief measure aimed at easing the burden of rising food prices, the Andhra Pradesh government on Sunday launched a statewide program to sell rice at subsidized rates through designated centers. The initiative was formally inaugurated in Vijayawada by Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar.

Under the scheme, rice is being sold at 130 Rythu Bazaars and special counters set up at 500 rice mills across the state. The program, implemented by the Civil Supplies Department in coordination with the State Rice Millers Association, aims to make essential commodities accessible to the common public at prices lower than the open market.

At these counters, BPT Super Fine rice is available at 52 per kg, while BPT Raw rice is priced at 50 per kg—significantly lower than prevailing market rates. Each individual can purchase up to 10 kg of rice upon presenting an Aadhaar card. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation, with people turning up in large numbers at various centers.

Speaking at the launch event held at the APIIC Rythu Bazaar in Vijayawada, Minister Nadendla Manohar said the government took the decision after closely monitoring fluctuations in market prices. He noted that discussions with rice millers played a key role in making the scheme possible, and appreciated their cooperation in ensuring affordable supply. The Minister further stated that the government is exploring measures to extend similar benefits for other essential commodities. Talks are underway with the Central Government to provide red gram (toor dal) and palm oil at reduced prices in the near future.

Highlighting the government's commitment to public welfare, Manohar said the initiative reflects a proactive approach to addressing the financial challenges faced by citizens. He urged people across the state to make full use of the low-price rice centers. Several public representatives and officials, including local MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao, Civil Supplies Director Nupur, and district authorities, were present at the inauguration ceremony.



Minister Durgesh Attends Akkamahalli Jatara

Rajamahendravaram, August 2 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh participated in the Sri Gurajala Akkamahalli Jatara celebrations held in the satellite city of Rajamahendravaram on Saturday, highlighting the cultural and spiritual significance of traditional festivals in Andhra Pradesh.

The Minister attended the event as the chief guest and was accorded a warm reception by temple priests and festival organizers. Amid traditional rituals and devotional fervor, he offered special prayers to the presiding deity, Sri Gurajala Akkamahalli, seeking divine blessings for the welfare of the state and its people. As part of the customary honours, he was presented with Sheshavastram (sacred cloth) and Teertha-Prasadam.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Durgesh emphasized the importance of preserving cultural heritage and strengthening the roots of rural traditions through such festivals.



Pingali Venkayya Statue Unveiled at Alma Mater

Rajamahendravaram, August 2 | TPN Bureau:

Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh on Sunday paid rich tributes to Pingali Venkayya, describing his services to the nation as “invaluable and worthy of reverent remembrance.” The Minister unveiled a statue of the national flag designer at the PM SHRI Government High School in Mangalavarapupeta, Rajamahendravaram, to mark Venkayya's 150th birth anniversary. The statue was installed with the support of the school's alumni association at the institution where Venkayya once studied. Minister Durgesh offered floral tributes and joined students and attendees in raising slogans of “Johar Pingali Venkayya,” celebrating the enduring legacy of the freedom fighter and visionary. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the national tricolour stands as a symbol of India's pride and identity, inspiring generations to uphold the nation's dignity. He expressed pride that Pingali Venkayya, a

son of Andhra Pradesh, designed the flag that continues to represent India's unity and sovereignty across the world. In an emotional moment, Durgesh recalled his own student days at the same school—then known as the Government Model Boys' High School—and said it was a matter of great honor to unveil the statue at his alma mater. He reminisced about Independence Day celebrations and even recited a patriotic song, drawing applause from students and staff. Highlighting Venkayya's contributions beyond designing the flag, the Minister noted his role as a freedom fighter and his advocacy of Swadeshi practices. He also encouraged students to learn more about history by visiting the Bapu Museum in Vijayawada, where rare records related to Venkayya are preserved. The Minister distributed prizes to students and commended members of the Bharat Scouts and Guides. He called for the grand annual celebration of Venkayya's birth anniversary and urged everyone to carry forward his ideals.

Minister Hails Successful Bhogapuram Airport Launch

Amaravati, August 02 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Investments and Infrastructure BC Janardhan Reddy expressed happiness over the successful inauguration of the Bhogapuram International Airport, describing it as a landmark achievement for the state. The minister said the airport became a reality because of the vision and leadership of Chief



Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He thanked the people of North Andhra for their enthusiastic participation in the

SIT Seeks Public Help to Trace Absconding Accused in Sai Krishna Case

Vijayawada, August 2

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing Crime No. 107/2026 of Krishnalanka Police Station, popularly known as the Sai Krishna case, has appealed to the public for information on the whereabouts of absconding accused Gulivindala Suresh (A4).

According to the SIT, Suresh, 40, son of Adinarayana and a resident of Satyanarayanapuram in Vijayawada, has been absconding since the registration of the case and is allegedly evading arrest. He is described as being about 5 feet 8 inches tall, of normal build, fair complexion, with a round face and black-and-white hair. The SIT said multiple special teams have been deployed to trace and apprehend the ac-



cused. It urged citizens to immediately share any credible information regarding his location, movements, or possible hideouts. The investigation team also warned that anyone knowingly sheltering, assisting, or providing support to the absconding accused would face strict legal action. Members of the public can share informa-

tion with the nearest police station or contact the Police Emergency Helpline 100 or 112. The SIT assured that the identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential. The appeal was issued by the Investigation Officer, Special Investigation Team, headed by the Additional Superintendent of Police, Bapatla District.

Union Minister Announces Major Relief Package for Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Farmers

New Delhi, August 2 | TPN Bureau

The Central and Andhra Pradesh governments have announced a major relief package for FCV (Flue-Cured Virginia) tobacco farmers in the state, offering interest-free loans, price deficiency compensation, and faster procurement to protect farmers from heavy financial losses. Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar reviewed the situation at his office in New Delhi following reports of falling tobacco prices due to excess production and weak international demand. The meeting was held in coordination with the Union Ministry of Commerce, the Tobacco Board, Andhra Pradesh government officials, and public representatives, as directed by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Addressing the media after the review, Dr. Pemmasani said the Centre has approved interest-free loans of 50,000 per barn for two years. Around 45,000 tobacco barns across Andhra Pradesh will benefit



from the scheme, involving financial assistance of nearly 250 crore. The initiative is expected to provide direct relief to about 40,000 tobacco farmers. The Andhra Pradesh government has also decided to provide a price deficiency payment of 10 per kilogram for low-grade and off-style FCV tobacco. Around 100 crore has been allocated for the scheme, with the amount to be credited directly into farmers' bank accounts through the Agriculture Department. Dr. Pemmasani further said tobacco exporters have agreed to procure bright

grade tobacco at up to 230 per kg, medium grade at 190, low grade at 110, and off-style tobacco at 130 per kg. Buyers have also been urged to procure nearly 20 lakh kilograms of tobacco daily through auctions and complete purchases within the next two months. The Union Minister said the coordinated measures by the Centre and the state government would provide significant relief to tobacco farmers and appealed to growers to utilise the support schemes and complete their sales within the stipulated period.

AP JAC Amaravati Chairman Warns of Statewide Agitation by Employees

Vijayawada, August 02 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (AP JAC) Amaravati has warned the state government that it will launch a statewide employees' agitation if pending financial and service-related issues are not resolved before August 15. The warning was issued after the AP JAC Amaravati State Secretariat meeting held at the Revenue Bhavan in Vijayawada under the chairmanship of Bopparaju Venkateswarlu. General Secretary Palishetty Damodara Rao, Agitation Committee Chairman T.V. Phani Perraju, Treasurer Timmasarthi Nageswara Rao, and representatives of several employee unions attended the meeting. The leaders expressed disappointment that discussions held with state ministers on July 10 and 11, followed by talks with the Cabinet Subcommittee on July 22, have not resulted in any official decisions. They alleged that the delay has created a strong percep-



tion among employees that the government is intentionally postponing action. The AP JAC said employees are demanding only their legally due arrears, pending Dearness Allowance (DA), implementation of Interim Relief (IR), appointment of the 12th Pay Revision Commission (PRC), restoration of pension benefits, and full implementation of the Employees Health Card scheme. It also highlight-

ed 27 pending demands related to contract, outsourcing, and village and ward secretariat employees. The organisation resolved that if the government does not announce clear decisions by August 15, it will convene a state-level meeting in Vijayawada and launch a statewide agitation to secure employees' rights and long-pending financial benefits.



Jana Sena Leaders Stress Crucial Role of Lawyers

Mangalagiri, August 2 | TPN Bureau

Emphasizing the indispensable role of legal professionals in political functioning, Pidugu Hariprasad stated that no political party can effectively progress without the services of lawyers. He made these remarks during a review meeting with Jana Sena Party lawyers from Krishna and Guntur districts held at Tadepalli in Mangalagiri constituency. Addressing the gathering as chief guest, Hariprasad underlined that lawyers play a key role not only in handling legal challenges but also in managing party affairs, resolving public issues, and guiding candidates through the electoral process. He noted that legal expertise becomes essential whenever the party faces crises or requires structured guidance. A major focus of the meeting was the legal challenges faced by party leaders and activists. Hariprasad pointed out that several cases were registered against Jana Sena cadres during the previous government's tenure, allegedly as part of political vendetta. Many activists, including women cadres, continue to face hardships due to prolonged court proceedings. He stressed the need to prepare a comprehensive district-wise report detailing such cases, including their current status and legal requirements, and submit it to the party's central office. Referring to specific incidents, he mentioned cases filed following protests in Kakinada and the Novotel incident in Visakhapatnam, where several individuals were reportedly implicated despite



limited evidence. He said these cases have caused significant distress to activists and called for coordinated legal efforts to secure justice. Hariprasad also highlighted the importance of lawyers in the upcoming local body elections, describing them as a matter of prestige for the party. He urged legal teams to ensure that all nomination papers are properly prepared and compliant with election norms, thereby preventing disqualifications. Raising concerns over increasing instances of abusive remarks against party leadership on social media, particularly targeting Pawan Kalyan, Hariprasad called for immediate legal action. He directed party members and legal teams to file complaints without delay against individuals making defamatory or inappropriate comments and ensure strict action under relevant laws. He concluded by urging lawyers to actively contribute suggestions and strategies to expedite case resolutions and strengthen legal coordination within the party. Several senior leaders and legal cell members attended the meeting, reaffirming their commitment to supporting party activists through robust legal mechanisms.

Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao Centenary Celebrations on August 4

Vijayawada, August 02 | TPN Bureau

The centenary celebrations of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao will be held on August 4 at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada, NTR district. The programme is being jointly organised by the Andhra Pradesh State Creativity and Culture Society (Language and Culture Department), Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao Official Language Commission, and Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University. As part of the celebrations, a new bronze statue of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao will be unveiled at the Kalakshetram

premises. The event will begin at 5 pm. Former Vice President Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu will be the chief guest, while Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao will preside over the programme. Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh, Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education Minister and NTR district in-charge minister Satyakumar Yadav, Mines, Geology and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra, and Avani-gadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad will attend the event along with other public representatives.

Lokesh Highlights Anti-Drug Drive, Backs PM's Initiative

Amaravati, August 2 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Saturday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching the 'Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat' initiative, aimed at building a drug-free society. In a post on X, Lokesh called upon citizens to actively participate in the nationwide campaign, which seeks to eradicate drug abuse through a sustained 100-week movement. He said the initiative reflects a strong commitment towards safeguarding youth and ensuring a healthier future for the country. Highlighting steps taken in Andhra Pradesh, Lokesh said the State government has already been implementing several anti-drug awareness programmes under the banner 'Drugs Vaddu Bro'. He noted that since the formation of the alliance government, multiple campaigns have been conducted to edu-



cate youth and communities about the harmful effects of substance abuse. The Minister also mentioned the formation of a special enforcement team named 'Eagle', which is working to curb drug-related activities across the State. He said the government is combining strict enforcement with public awareness and community participation to tackle the issue effectively. Lokesh reiterated the State's commitment to achieving a drug-free Andhra Pradesh and urged all sections of society to join the movement.

YSRCP Leaders Condemn Arrest of Alur MLA Virupakshi, Demand Immediate Release

Tadepalli, August 02 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders S.V. Mohan Reddy, MLC A. Madhusudhan, B.Y. Ramaiah, and Katasani Ram Bhupal Reddy on Sunday strongly condemned the mid-night arrest of Alur MLA Virupakshi and his son, Chandrasekhar, alleging that it reflected the coalition government's "authoritarian functioning."

Addressing the media in Tadepalli, the leaders claimed that a large police force reached the MLA's residence in Chippagiri around 2:45 a.m., allegedly broke open the doors, entered the house, and arrested both Virupakshi and his son, creating panic among family members.

According to the YSRCP leaders, the MLA had visited Sangala village to console the family of a party leader following an alleged attack by TDP supporters. They alleged that during the visit, TDP activists

tion, and completed financial closure with GMR despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The former minister said Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation again in May 2023 after completing the required formalities and had announced that the airport would become operational in 2026. He alleged that the coalition government was now claiming credit for work largely completed by the previous administration.

Amarnath also criticised the lack of adequate road connectivity to the airport and questioned why GMR, which is investing around 5,600 crore in the project, was not given an opportunity to speak during the inauguration ceremony.

Highlighting other infrastructure projects undertaken during the YSRCP government, including medical colleges, ports, harbours, universities, and the Uddanam Kidney Research Centre, Amarnath claimed the Bhogapuram International Airport bears the "footprints" of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration and accused the present government of attempting to rewrite its history

pleated stones, injuring the MLA's brother, but no action was taken against those responsible. Instead, they claimed, police registered cases against Virupakshi and proceeded with his arrest.

The party leaders also questioned the reported seizure of CCTV hard disks from the MLA's residence, alleging that it raised concerns over possible tampering with evidence. They demanded that the CCTV footage be preserved and made public. Describing the arrests as politically motivated, the YSRCP leaders urged the police to act impartially and uphold the rule of law. They demanded the immediate and unconditional release of Virupakshi and his son, action against those involved in the alleged stone-pelting incident, disciplinary action against the concerned Circle Inspector for alleged partisan conduct, and measures to restore peace and normalcy in Chippagiri.

menting the Super Six welfare schemes. He highlighted the monthly 4,000 pension, Thalli Ki Vandanam, Annadata Sukhibhava financial assistance for farmers, Stree Shakti benefits including free bus travel and LPG connections for women, subsidised meals through Anna Canteens, and free electricity for eligible weavers and barbers. He also mentioned reservations for toddy tappers in liquor outlets and for the Vaddera community in quarry operations.

Highlighting development

through fabricated cases while those associated with the ruling party were being protected.

He claimed that individuals with no connection to the Amudalavalasa incident had been implicated in police cases and alleged that a social media activist in Vinukonda was arrested in violation of legal procedures.

Referring to the recent arrest of Alur MLA Virupakshi and his son Chandrasekhar, Manohar Reddy alleged that both were taken into custody during a midnight operation without mandatory legal procedures, including the issuance of arrest notices and preparation of an arrest memo. He also questioned the reported seizure of CCTV hard

disks from the MLA's residence.

The YSRCP leader further alleged that those responsible for attacks on Opposition leaders were being shielded while victims were facing prosecution, creating what he described as two different standards of justice.

Demanding immediate and unconditional release of Virupakshi and his son, Manohar Reddy also called for the arrest of TDP leader Nagaraju and others allegedly involved in the attack on the MLA's residence. He urged the government to end what he termed illegal cases and midnight arrests targeting Opposition leaders across Andhra Pradesh.

Ritwik Company, which he claimed is owned by CM Ramesh, to the BARC project. He questioned why only lower-level officials had been suspended while senior officers and others allegedly involved had not faced action.

Dharmasri demanded the suspension or resignation of the Anakapalli District Collector, criminal cases against the leaseholder, cancellation of the lease, recovery of a 200 crore penalty from those responsible, and declaration of the entire 32-km Panchadharla Hill region as a No Mining Zone. He said the YSRCP would continue its agitation until the hill's heritage and sanctity are protected.

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav Announces ₹1 Lakh Aid

Tirupati, and Kakinada. The government is also exploring liver transplant services by 2028 and heart transplant facilities in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Kurnool by 2030. Satya Kumar revealed that 5,935 patients in Andhra Pradesh are currently awaiting organ transplants. He noted that organ donations through the Jeevandan programme have steadily increased from 26 donors in 2022 to 93 in 2025, while 57 donors have donated 180 organs so far in 2026. The minister said the government currently provides 10,000 towards the funer-

al expenses of deceased organ donors and has proposed increasing it to 1 lakh. He added that requests for government jobs and pensions for eligible donor family members are also under active consideration. Olympic medalist P.V. Sindhu, who attended the programme, described organ donor families as the "real champions" and encouraged people, especially youngsters, to pledge their organs through the Jeevandan portal. Donor families who shared their experiences were felicitated during the event for their remarkable contribution to saving lives.

citizens. He warned that drug abuse affects health, education and family life, and urged youth to enrol as 'Nasha Mukta Yuva Volunteers' through digital platforms and campaign activities. The Governor later administered the Drug-Free Pledge to participants. As part of the nationwide initiative, weekly cultural, spiritual

and sports programmes will be organised for the next 100 weeks through educational institutions, youth clubs and community organisations. Joint Secretary to the Governor P.S. Surya Prakash, MY Bharat Andhra Pradesh State Director K. Venkat Uzwal, EAGLE team members, volunteers and students attended the programme.

Kollu Ravindra Says Welfare and Development Are Coalition Government's Top Priorities

Machilipatnam, August 02 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra said the coalition government is working with a clear commitment to ensure public welfare and make Andhra Pradesh a leading state in development. He made the remarks while participating in the "Intintiki Telugu Desam" campaign in the 46th Division of Machilipatnam.

Accompanied by APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao and TDP district president Veeranki Venkata Gurmurthy, the minister visited households, explained the government's welfare initiatives implemented over the past two years, and interacted with residents to understand their concerns. He assured that grievances related to welfare schemes, civic amenities, and public services would be resolved without delay, with several issues addressed immediately through officials.

Kollu Ravindra said the coalition government has fulfilled its election promises by imple-

menting the Super Six welfare schemes. He highlighted the monthly 4,000 pension, Thalli Ki Vandanam, Annadata Sukhibhava financial assistance for farmers, Stree Shakti benefits including free bus travel and LPG connections for women, subsidised meals through Anna Canteens, and free electricity for eligible weavers and barbers. He also mentioned reservations for toddy tappers in liquor outlets and for the Vaddera community in quarry operations.

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PM Modi Launches Drug-Free India Campaign for Youth

continued

by youth representatives.

The prime minister said drug addiction affects not only individuals but also their families, taking away a mother's happiness, a father's dreams and the hopes of loved ones. He urged families not to hide addiction issues due to social pressure and instead encourage affected individuals to seek support and medical assistance.

Questioning the stigma faced by people recovering from addiction, PM Modi said those who overcome drug dependence are fighters and should be respected, supported and given a second chance.

He also alleged that hostile forces use drug trafficking as

part of their strategies because they know that the youth are the future of the nation. He said the government has taken strict action against drug networks, with increased arrests and seizures of illegal substances.

The campaign will run for 100 weeks as a nationwide public participation movement. Weekly activities, including sports events, cultural programmes, meditation sessions, awareness drives and community programmes, will be organised to spread the message of a drug-free India.

PM Modi said collective efforts by families, society and the government are essential to protect young people from addiction and build a healthier future.

gauge with field officials, conservationists, and other stakeholders, and base its findings on scientific and technical evidence. A comprehensive report is expected to be submitted to the government at the earliest.

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Minister for HRD, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh said the initiative reflects Andhra Pradesh's long-term vision of going beyond renewable energy generation to building a comprehensive ecosystem of advanced manufacturing, research, and skilled human resources.

"Our partnership with leading global institutions like UNSW will help position Andhra Pradesh as a hub for clean energy innovation while preparing the next generation of engineers and entrepreneurs," Lokesh said.

Officials noted that the collaboration stems from discussions initiated during Lokesh's visit to Australia in 2025, which identified renewable energy and advanced manufacturing as priority areas for international cooperation.

Senior officials from the state government, IIT Tirupati, UNSW, and the Australian government attended the event. The initiative is expected to accelerate innovation, strengthen industrial capabilities, and create employment opportunities in the fast-growing renewable energy sector.

Jagan Alleges Vendetta Politics and Lawlessness in State

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Jagan further cited the arrest of former minister Seediri Appala Raju, alleging that a road accident case in Srikakulam district was converted into a criminal case due to political motives. He also referred to

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The YSRCP chief also questioned the government on pending welfare schemes, unemployment allowance promises, and alleged irregularities in DSC-2025, seeking accountability from Education Minister Nara Lokesh.

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and sports programmes will be organised for the next 100 weeks through educational institutions, youth clubs and community organisations. Joint Secretary to the Governor P.S. Surya Prakash, MY Bharat Andhra Pradesh State Director K. Venkat Uzwal, EAGLE team members, volunteers and students attended the programme.

Former Minister Alleges Chandrababu Naidu Falsely Claimed Credit for Bhogapuram Airport

Visakhapatnam, August 02 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and former minister Gudivada Amarnath on Sunday accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of making misleading claims about the Bhogapuram International Airport, asserting that the project was largely executed during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Addressing a press conference in Visakhapatnam, Amarnath alleged that speeches delivered during the airport's inauguration, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, wrongly credited the coalition government for the project while ignoring the role played by the previous YSRCP government.

He claimed that although Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone in 2019, the project lacked key approvals, land acquisition, and financial closure at that stage. According to Amarnath, the YSRCP government secured all necessary clearances, resolved more than 130 legal issues, acquired around 2,200 acres of land, paid over 1,000 crore towards rehabilitation and compensa-

tion, and completed financial closure with GMR despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The former minister said Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the foundation again in May 2023 after completing the required formalities and had announced that the airport would become operational in 2026. He alleged that the coalition government was now claiming credit for work largely completed by the previous administration.

Amarnath also criticised the lack of adequate road connectivity to the airport and questioned why GMR, which is investing around 5,600 crore in the project, was not given an opportunity to speak during the inauguration ceremony.

Highlighting other infrastructure projects undertaken during the YSRCP government, including medical colleges, ports, harbours, universities, and the Uddanam Kidney Research Centre, Amarnath claimed the Bhogapuram International Airport bears the "footprints" of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration and accused the present government of attempting to rewrite its history

pleated stones, injuring the MLA's brother, but no action was taken against those responsible. Instead, they claimed, police registered cases against Virupakshi and proceeded with his arrest.

The party leaders also questioned the reported seizure of CCTV hard disks from the MLA's residence, alleging that it raised concerns over possible tampering with evidence. They demanded that the CCTV footage be preserved and made public. Describing the arrests as politically motivated, the YSRCP leaders urged the police to act impartially and uphold the rule of law. They demanded the immediate and unconditional release of Virupakshi and his son, action against those involved in the alleged stone-pelting incident, disciplinary action against the concerned Circle Inspector for alleged partisan conduct, and measures to restore peace and normalcy in Chippagiri.

menting the Super Six welfare schemes. He highlighted the monthly 4,000 pension, Thalli Ki Vandanam, Annadata Sukhibhava financial assistance for farmers, Stree Shakti benefits including free bus travel and LPG connections for women, subsidised meals through Anna Canteens, and free electricity for eligible weavers and barbers. He also mentioned reservations for toddy tappers in liquor outlets and for the Vaddera community in quarry operations.

Highlighting development

through fabricated cases while those associated with the ruling party were being protected.

He claimed that individuals with no connection to the Amudalavalasa incident had been implicated in police cases and alleged that a social media activist in Vinukonda was arrested in violation of legal procedures.

Referring to the recent arrest of Alur MLA Virupakshi and his son Chandrasekhar, Manohar Reddy alleged that both were taken into custody during a midnight operation without mandatory legal procedures, including the issuance of arrest notices and preparation of an arrest memo. He also questioned the reported seizure of CCTV hard

disks from the MLA's residence.

The YSRCP leader further alleged that those responsible for attacks on Opposition leaders were being shielded while victims were facing prosecution, creating what he described as two different standards of justice.

Demanding immediate and unconditional release of Virupakshi and his son, Manohar Reddy also called for the arrest of TDP leader Nagaraju and others allegedly involved in the attack on the MLA's residence. He urged the government to end what he termed illegal cases and midnight arrests targeting Opposition leaders across Andhra Pradesh.

Ritwik Company, which he claimed is owned by CM Ramesh, to the BARC project. He questioned why only lower-level officials had been suspended while senior officers and others allegedly involved had not faced action.

Dharmasri demanded the suspension or resignation of the Anakapalli District Collector, criminal cases against the leaseholder, cancellation of the lease, recovery of a 200 crore penalty from those responsible, and declaration of the entire 32-km Panchadharla Hill region as a No Mining Zone. He said the YSRCP would continue its agitation until the hill's heritage and sanctity are protected.

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav Announces ₹1 Lakh Aid

Tirupati, and Kakinada. The government is also exploring liver transplant services by 2028 and heart transplant facilities in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Kurnool by 2030. Satya Kumar revealed that 5,935 patients in Andhra Pradesh are currently awaiting organ transplants. He noted that organ donations through the Jeevandan programme have steadily increased from 26 donors in 2022 to 93 in 2025, while 57 donors have donated 180 organs so far in 2026. The minister said the government currently provides 10,000 towards the funer-

al expenses of deceased organ donors and has proposed increasing it to 1 lakh. He added that requests for government jobs and pensions for eligible donor family members are also under active consideration. Olympic medalist P.V. Sindhu, who attended the programme, described organ donor families as the "real champions" and encouraged people, especially youngsters, to pledge their organs through the Jeevandan portal. Donor families who shared their experiences were felicitated during the event for their remarkable contribution to saving lives.

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Redbook rule has replaced Rule of Law: YSRCP

Tadepalli, August 02 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Legal Cell State President Malasani Manohar Reddy on Sunday accused the Andhra Pradesh government of replacing the rule of law with what he described as "Red Book governance," alleging that the police were being used to target Opposition leaders instead of impartially enforcing the law.

Addressing the media in Tadepalli, Manohar Reddy claimed that the state was witnessing a breakdown of constitutional governance, with false cases, illegal arrests, and selective policing becoming routine. He alleged that Opposition leaders, party workers, social media activists, and journalists were being harassed

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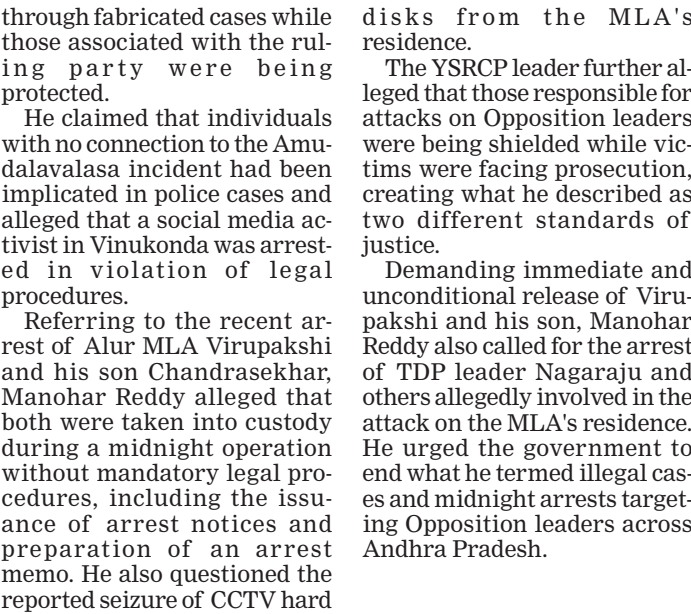
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continued

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The prime minister said drug addiction affects not only individuals but also their families, taking away a mother's happiness, a father's dreams and the hopes of loved ones. He urged families not to hide addiction issues due to social pressure and instead encourage affected individuals to seek support and medical assistance.

Questioning the stigma faced by people recovering from addiction, PM Modi said those who overcome drug dependence are fighters and should be respected, supported and given a second chance.

He also alleged that hostile forces use drug trafficking as

part of their strategies because they know that the youth are the future of the nation. He said the government has taken strict action against drug networks, with increased arrests and seizures of illegal substances.

The campaign will run for 100 weeks as a nationwide public participation movement. Weekly activities, including sports events, cultural programmes, meditation sessions, awareness drives and community programmes, will be organised to spread the message of a drug-free India.

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CM Naidu Highlights Global Opportunities as AP, Australia Sign Four Key MoUs

continued

between UNSW, Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswavidyalayam, and Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh. The initiative will enhance teachers' capabilities to support children with autism and other neurodiverse needs. A third agreement introduces a technology-driven pilot programme to support student mental health. This collaboration between the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education and Australia-based Rebound will be implemented across select higher education institutions at no

cost. The fourth MoU, signed between the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation and Dynamic Learning Services (DLS), focuses on vocational training, workforce development, and creating global employment pathways for youth. Senior officials from both sides, including education administrators and representatives from Australian institutions, attended the meeting. The partnerships are expected to enhance knowledge exchange, improve skill ecosystems, and open new avenues for sustainable growth in the state.

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Sunday announced that the state government is considering a comprehensive support package for organ donor families, including 1 lakh financial assistance, employment opportunities, and pensions for eligible family members.

Addressing a state-level awareness programme organised by Jeevandan on the occasion of National Organ Donation Day at the AU Convention Centre in Visakhapatnam, the minister said the government is upgrading 12 government teaching hospitals to provide advanced treatment and organ transplantation services. In the first phase, kidney transplant facilities will be introduced at teaching hospitals in Visakhapatnam, Palasa, Kurnool, Vijayawada, Guntur,

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He further noted that the Union Budget allocated special assistance for Amaravati, around 10,000 crore for railway projects in 2025-26, and 3,300 crore for the Polavaram project. According to Shaik Baji, flagship Central schemes such as PM Awas Yojana, PM-Kisan, Jai Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat, and PM Gram Sadak Yojana have directly benefited lakhs of families, reflecting the Centre's continued commitment to Andhra Pradesh's development.



2-km National Flag Rally Marks Pingali Venkayya's 150th Birth Anniversary

Eluru, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau
A grand 2-km national flag rally was organised in Jan-gareddygudem town of Eluru district on Saturday to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya, the designer of India's national flag.
Led by alliance leaders, the rally began at Bus Stand Centre and concluded at the Government Boys' School. The town was adorned with tricolour flags as participants raised patriotic slogans, including "Bharat Mata Ki Jai."
Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar participated as the chief



MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Urges Farmers to Shift to Oil Palm

Eluru, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau
Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar urged farmers to gradually reduce tobacco cultivation and focus on oil palm, citing declining international demand for tobacco exports.
Speaking at Jangareddygudem after laying the foundation stone for a multipurpose hall, the MP said the Alliance government was working with the Centre to address farmers' concerns. He noted that global conditions had affected tobacco prices and said interest-free

PNS Demands Crackdown on Illegal Belt Shops

Eluru, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau
The Pragatinari Mahila Sangham (PNS) has urged the Excise Department to take strict action against the growing number of illegal liquor outlets, popularly known as belt shops, in towns and villages.
Led by District Secretary Galla Sarada, PNS leaders submitted a representation to Excise officials on Saturday. Sarada alleged that many liquor traders were violating government regulations by opening shops early in the morning and



Bill Collection Agents to Oppose Proposed Terminations

Tirupati, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau
Leaders of the AP SPDCL Bill Collection Agents' Union will hold a press conference at the Tirupati Press Club on Sunday to oppose the proposed termination of more than 100 bill collection agents working in the APSPDCL jurisdiction.
CITU State Vice-President Kandarapu Murali and union representatives from nine dis-

tricts are expected to participate. The leaders will outline the employees' concerns, explain the implications of the proposed terminations and present their demands before the media.
AP SPDCL Bill Collection Agents' Committee President P.V. Ramana appealed to media representatives to attend the press conference and extend their support.

RUDA Vice-Chairperson Issues Show-Cause Notice Over Alleged Irregularities

Rajahmundry, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

Allegations of large-scale financial irregularities, misuse of public funds, illegal encroachments, and administrative lapses have surfaced in Pidingoyyi Gram Panchayat under Rajahmundry Rural Mandal, prompting the Rajamahendravaram Urban Development Authority (RUDA) to initiate action against the local administration.

According to complaints received by the authority, the panchayat has allegedly witnessed several instances of financial mismanagement and violations of regulations. Despite being located close to the District Collector's office and functioning under a Special Officer, officials have reportedly failed to exercise adequate supervision, allowing irregularities to continue unchecked.

Among the major allegations is the purchase of water supply motors. It is claimed that equipment worth approximately 2.8 lakh was shown in records as costing 9 lakh, resulting in an alleged misappropriation of public funds.

Complaints also allege that applicants were asked to pay 5,000 as house tax deposits without being issued official government receipts. Records related to these collections were allegedly not maintained properly.

The complaints further state that revenue generated from coconut, mango, and other trees on panchayat land, along with 82 open-site plots reserved for public purposes, was allegedly diverted or allotted to private individuals in violation of norms.

Irregularities have also been alleged in the payment of wages to 72 contract workers, with deductions reportedly made towards PF and ESI benefits without depositing the amounts into the employees' accounts. Similar allegations have been made regarding the collection of building fees and trade licence charges from commercial establishments, with claims of under-reporting and illegal collections.

Residents have also complained about unauthorized constructions, encroachments on public roads and drainage systems, and violations of setback norms.
Following the alleged failure of the Panchayat to respond to an earlier notice issued on June 27, 2026, the RUDA Vice-Chairperson issued a show-cause notice to Panchayat Secretary Satyavada Naga Veni, directing her to submit an Action Taken Report with photographs and supporting evi-



dence within three days. The authority warned that failure to comply could invite legal action under the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994.

Responding to the notice, Panchayat Secretary Satyavada Naga Veni denied negligence and said disciplinary action had already been initiated regarding an alleged unauthorized construction in Survey No. 431. She stated that notices had been issued to the concerned individual on April 8 and June 22, and that the person had later informed the Panchayat that an application had been filed under the Building Penalisation Scheme (BPS).

The Secretary also clarified that she could not respond to RUDA's initial notice within the stipulated time as she was on sanctioned leave. She said the Action Taken Report was submitted immediately after resuming duty and maintained that the Panchayat had followed due legal procedure without intentionally violating RUDA's directions.

FLASH Launches Advanced Ambulance in Eluru

Eluru, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

District TDP President and Eluru MLA Badeti Chanti inaugurated a fully equipped advanced ambulance launched by the voluntary organisation FLASH at the "Smaranotsavam-2026" programme held at the Eluru Indoor Stadium on Friendship Day. Former MP Lagadapati Rajagopal and Achan-

ta MLA Pithani Satyanarayana praised the initiative, saying the ambulance would provide timely emergency medical services and save lives. Equipped with a ventilator, advanced life support system and mobile ICU facilities, the ambulance was dedicated to public service. Addressing the gathering, Badeti Chanti said FLASH was

committed to serving society and assured his continued support for its humanitarian activities.

ZP Chairperson Ghanta Padmasri, former MLA Vangaveeti Radhakrishna, AMC Chairman Mamillapalli Parthasaradhi, FLASH members, donors and other dignitaries attended the programme.

Walkers Association Celebrates Friendship Day

Chirala, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

The NR & PM High School Walkers Association celebrated National Friendship Day with enthusiasm at the school grounds in Chirala on Sunday.

Members exchanged friendship bands, shared sweets and participated in refreshments to mark the occasion.

Association President Poludasu Ramakrishna said friendship is a sacred bond that transcends caste, religion and economic status. He remarked that true friendship, which offers support during difficult times, is even greater than blood relationships. He urged members to uphold the ideals of selfless friendship exempli-

fied by Sri Krishna and Kuchela.

Charagulla Guruprasad, Divvela Prabhakar, Narayana-murthy, Dr. Degala Srinivas, Maddula Nageswara Rao, Madhava Rao, Poorna, Ramesh, Devaki Subbarao, Tukaram, Veeranjanyulu and other members participated in the celebrations.

Allegations of Irregularities in Private School Operations

Rajahmundry, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

Serious allegations have surfaced over the operation of private educational institutions in Rajahmundry, with claims that schools are functioning from locations different from those approved by the Education Department.

According to the allegations, a private management ac-

quired another school and later leased it to a third party while operating multiple institutions from a single campus, allegedly in violation of regulations. Critics also alleged that officials failed to act despite being aware of the irregularities.

Questions have also been raised over the alleged involvement of outsourced staff in fa-

cilitating approvals and overlooking violations. Efforts to obtain a response from Education Department officials reportedly did not receive any reply.

The allegations are yet to be officially verified. Educationists have called for a thorough inquiry and appropriate action if any violations are established.

1983-84 Alumni Celebrate Friendship Day

Tirupati, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

The 1983-84 alumni of Sri Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Municipal High School celebrated Friendship Day at a private hotel on Kapilatheertham Road on Sunday. Members fondly recalled their 43-year bond and discussed the importance of

preserving lifelong friendships. Association President Kandarapu Murali and General Secretary Keerthi Pati Lokeswara Varma said the alumni meet several times each year and celebrate Friendship Day as a tradition. They also highlighted the association's social service activities. The gather-

ing paid tributes to former Headmistress Pushpavati and alumnus Venkatadri by observing a two-minute silence. Pagadala Arjun, RR Srinivas, Hari Swami, B. Subrahmanyam, Balakrishna, Kandarapu Surendra, Dr. Ram Kumar and other alumni attended the reunion.

Elephants Roam Farmlands in Manumakonda, Trigger Fear Among Tribal Farmers

Bhamini, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

A herd of wild elephants has been roaming through Manumakonda and nearby Pakudibhadra tribal villages, creating panic among residents and damaging crops. The elephants, which had earlier been spotted in

villages along the Vamsadhara river, reportedly crossed the Katragada (B) side weir late on Friday night before entering the tribal hamlets.

With the Kharif farming season underway, tribal farmers heading to their fields are living in fear due

to the elephants' presence. Villagers said the animals have also entered the premises of several houses in Manumakonda, increasing concerns over public safety.

The elephants have caused extensive damage to cashew, oil palm, and maize plantations in the surround-

ing areas, leading to losses for farmers. Residents have urged the Forest Department to monitor the elephant movement, take immediate preventive measures, and ensure the safety of people while preventing further destruction of agricultural crops.



Grand Chandi Homam Held in Nellore; Minister Narayana Participates

Nellore, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Municipal Administration Ponguru Narayana participated in the Maha Rudrabhishekam, Chandi Homam and Lalita Sahasranama recitation organised at Jagadish Nagar in Nellore on Sunday.

Welcomed by the organising committee and leaders of the TDP and Jana Sena, Narayana said he felt fortunate to attend the spiritual event. He appreciated Bhuvanagiri Subbayya Swamy for conducting the Yagam continuously for the past 18 years.

The Minister described the collective recitation of the Lalita Sahasranama by 1,108 women as a rare spiritual event. He said such rituals, performed for universal well-being and

family happiness, promote positive values, strengthen social harmony and inspire the younger generation.

Highlighting the importance of Indian culture and Sanatana Dharma, Narayana said devotion brings peace while Dharma leads to development. He also prayed for the continued prosperity and all-round development of Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Mayor Devarakonda Sujatha, Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav, TDP leaders Sairam and Yashwant Reddy, Jana Sena leaders Gunukula Kishore and Vijayalakshmi, and organising committee members Ravi Kumar and Narasimhulu were among those present.



Rythu Sangham Warns of Agitation Over Krishna Delta Water

Eluru, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham has warned of an agitation if irrigation water is not released immediately to the Krishna Delta command area. Farmers staged a protest at Sunkari Vari Thota bridge on the outskirts of Eluru, demanding water for Kharif cultivation.

State Assistant Secretary K. Srinivas said the government had assured water release from June 15 but was now discouraging paddy cultivation despite adequate water availability in the Krishna and Godavari rivers.

He urged the government to divert Godavari water through the Pattiseema and Pulichintala projects and release water into the Krishna KE Canal to protect crops.

The Sangham said farmers had already invested 10,000-15,000 per acre in nurseries and transplantation and warned that the lack of irrigation could severely affect livelihoods.

The farmers resolved to stage a protest at the Eluru Collectorate on Aug. 3 and warned of a road blockade if their demands were ignored.

Benefit from Red Cross Free Medical Camp

Chirala, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

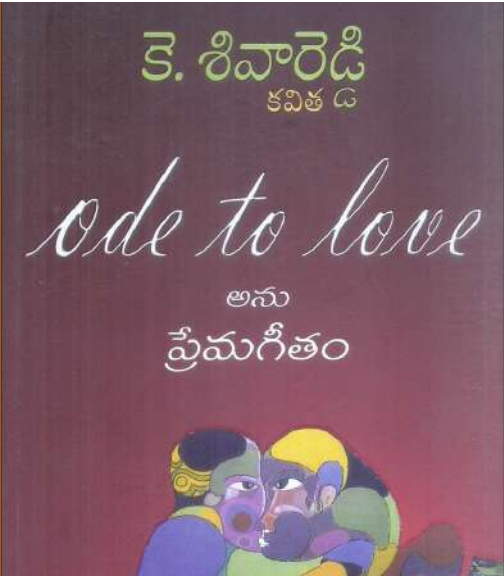
A free medical camp organised by the Indian Red Cross Society, Chirala branch, with support from Guntur Ramesh Hospitals, received an enthusiastic response on Sunday, benefiting around 125 people.

Chirala Tahsildar and Red Cross President Gopikrishna inaugurated the camp and praised the initiative for providing quality healthcare to the poor. He urged people to undergo regular health check-ups for early detection and treatment of diseases.

Cardiologist Dr. Nallamothe Kireeti Rathana and General Medicine specialist Dr. Sandeep conducted consultations and offered medical advice. Free ECGs, 2D Echo tests and blood tests were also provided.

Red Cross Chairman Budaraju Sasikiran said similar free medical camps would be organised every month. Red Cross office-bearers, committee members and hospital staff attended the programme.

Love: The Only Song That Sustains Humanity



Some poems of K.Shiva Reddy

Translated from Telugu by Varala Anand.
Inscription
Do not speak of wounds alone.
"Just a scratch"—that is what they always say.
Let each wound tell its own story.
Let it live.
Draw no lines draw no boundaries draw no line that remembers imprisonment.
Do not command me to write in blood
Do not command me to speak in prescribed sentences.
Instead draw a single line that flows like a river.
Draw a single circle vast as the sea.

Melted Away
Like a well-travelled book, it had wandered the length of the country gathering dust and the breath of roads it had risen, they said as high as the sky only to fall back, its pages worn with knowing.
A man Placed a cup of coffee before me
He had poured the sun into it stirring its light through the dark.
The sun's reflection was woven across its fac.
First I drank the coffee with my eyes.
Then, I received it with my lips
It was coffee in which the sun had melted not coffee, But life.

Desert
From this shore of time to the farthest edge of another, I can walk through miles of scorching emptiness.
I can fill my cupped hands with an oasis.
Then why is it, spread so vast before me, this desert?
Or is it my own desire?
I am not one to be so easily beguiled, thinking that a single fragrance of longing will suddenly surround me.
This is a garden of desires, its perfume stretching for leagues.
It keeps drawing nearer—and, all at once, it comes alive.

The Movement of an Image
Each drop falls one at a time.
I cannot tell whether it is water or a tear.
The drops themselves are unseen only their sound is heard.
The sound becomes visible.
The darkness spread by silence is no darkness at all it is silence itself bursting with an unbearable sound.
One letter begins to move
Slowly, they gather into a procession.
They march across the page, Knocking at the doors of language
A poem a movement
Every single drop becomes a letter; with silence, with sound, the unseen drops the unseen letters become visible
Life itself is nothing but this movement of the invisible toward the visible.



Varala Anand

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

K. Siva Reddy is among the most influential voices in modern Telugu poetry. Born in 1943 in Karurivariapalem village of Guntur district, he grew up in a farming family and experienced the loss of his mother in childhood. He taught English for over thirty-five years at Vivek Vardhini College, Hyderabad, eventually retiring as Principal. His poetic journey began in 1973 with the publication of Raktamm suryudu (The Blood Sun). Since then, he has published more than twenty-three collections of poetry, besides his collected works. His celebrated volume Mohana! O Mohana! Received the Sahitya Akademi Award, while Pakkaki Ottigilite earned the prestigious Saraswati Samman. He has also been honored with the Kabir Samman, among numerous other literary distinctions.Siva Reddy's poetry combines the simplicity of everyday language with philosophical depth. It resonates with revolutionary consciousness while remaining profoundly humane. Rural life, nature, childhood, women, faith, oppression, freedom, and revolution recur throughout his work, making his poetry both socially engaged and emotionally compelling.As Siva Reddy himself once observed, "People pass away, but poetry remains." His poems continue to affirm that literature is not merely

an aesthetic pursuit but also a force capable of transforming society.His Ode to Love is far more than a conventional love poem. It is a song that places love at the very foundation of human existence. In Siva Reddy's vision, love is the only song that sustains humanity—a song that begins in the individual heart yet ultimately embraces the whole world.

Ode to Love

"Love transforms the human heart into an eternal song."
"Love is like the wind—you cannot see it, yet it sustains life."
"In love, silence often speaks more eloquently than words."These are among the many profound meditations that the distinguished Telugu poet K. Siva Reddy unfolds in his remarkable poem Ode to Love. It is one of the deepest explorations in his poetic oeuvre, presenting love not merely as a romantic emotion but as a philosophical, humane, and universal force.Some loves do not arrive in our lives like festivals. They come without fireworks, without garlands, without fanfare. They quietly settle into the spaces between conversations, lingering like an unfinished silence within the heart. They accompany us, unnoticed yet inseparable. Ode to Love speaks precisely of such love.This is not a poem that simply

celebrates love. Rather, it gently reveals the emotional residue that loves leaves behind and the responsibility it quietly imposes upon us. The poem unfolds like a procession of memories, each memory transforming into a question:

What is love? Is it something we possess, or something we carry throughout our lives?

In Siva Reddy's poetry, love is never a garden in perpetual bloom. It is an endless pilgrimage. There is weariness in it, moments when one longs to stop, yet never the temptation to turn back.

There is no anxious desire here to possess another human being. Even when distance separates two souls, the poem honours that distance with dignity. Love becomes the courage to respect another's freedom rather than the urge to claim ownership.The love portrayed in this poem carries the past, but the past is not an unhealed wound. It becomes a living memory that continually reminds us of our humanity. In Ode to Love, love refuses to remain confined within the boundaries of the body. It transcends physical existence and becomes an ethical vision, a moral consciousness, and even a silent form of resistance. Against a world obsessed with possession and authority, Siva Reddy redefines love as responsibility. Love is not found in declaring, "You belong to me." It resides in ensuring that, even in separation or difference, we never become the cause of another's suffering.After reading this poem, our own memories of love return like a quiet procession. They gently knock upon the heart. They may not always



bring happiness, but they leave behind a deeper sense of responsibility.Love alone may not complete our lives. Yet it teaches us how to live with greater honesty and deeper compassion. That is the quiet gift K. Siva Reddy offers through Ode to Love.Traditionally, poems about love begin in celebration with longing, passion, desire, and emotional intensity. These have become the familiar vocabulary of love poetry. Siva Reddy, however, approaches love from an altogether different perspective. Ode to Love is not an ode of praise. It is an inquiry into the ethical dimensions of love. Here, love does not remain merely a private emotion; it evolves into a state of be-

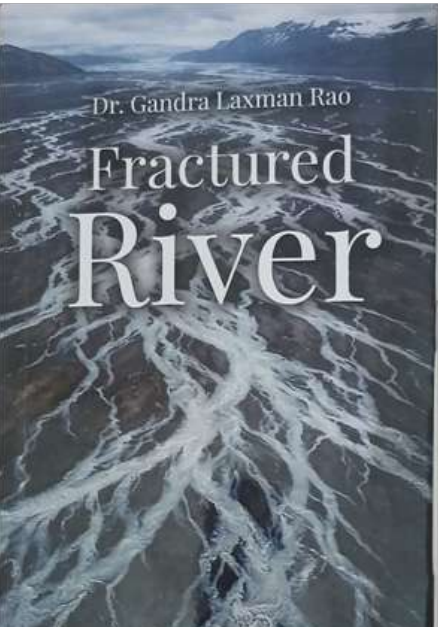
ing, a mode of consciousness, and ultimately a social value.Siva Reddy refuses to treat love as something to be acquired or possessed. Instead, he presents it as an experience of profound emotional and moral awakening. The poem quietly reminds us that the language of "mine" and "yours" is often what corrupts love.Its emotional force emerges not through dramatic declarations but through silences. It asks, almost imperceptibly, What remains between two people after the excitement of love has faded?The answer is simple yet profound, love is not merely togetherness. It is the ability to continue respecting one another even while remaining apart.ed to the body. It rises beyond physical experience to occupy an ethical space. Consequently, this love knows neither domination nor command nor possessiveness. It becomes a silent resistance against every social structure that attempts to transform love into ownership.In Siva Reddy's poetry, love also possesses political significance. It extends beyond intimate relationships and speaks to the inequalities that shape society itself. To regard love as responsibility is, above all, to protect another person's freedom.Rather than portraying love as an emotional flood, Ode to Love establishes it as awareness, conscience, and moral awakening.Ultimately, the poem offers one enduring truth, love may not make life perfect, but it teaches us to live more honestly, more ethically, and more humanely. That is why Ode to Love remains one of the most significant poems in modern Telugu literature, compelling readers to rethink the very meaning of love.

Fractured River: Where Telugu Poetry Finds Its



Dr Peruka Raju

Poet, Author & Literary Critic



There are translations that merely transfer words from one language to another, and there are translations that carry the very soul of a literary tradition. Fractured River, the English rendering of selected poems from Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao's acclaimed Telugu collection Satadru, belongs to the latter. It is not simply an English version of Telugu poems; it is a graceful literary bridge that carries the aesthetic richness of Telugu language, culture, philosophy, and lived experience to readers across the world.The title itself is profoundly symbolic. A river may divide into many streams, yet every stream remains inseparable from its source. Likewise, the poems in this collection flow through diverse landscapes of memory, nature, labour, silence, faith, friendship, justice, and philosophical inquiry, while remaining united by a single, enduring current—the celebration of humanity. Every poem stands independently, yet together they form an unbroken river of wisdom and compassion.

Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao is one of the distinguished literary voices of contemporary Telugu literature. Born in the village of Pegadapalli to Smt. Satyamma and Sri Gandra Hanumantha Rao (Late), he grew up amidst the rhythms of rural life that continue to nourish his creative imagination. Even today, after an illustrious academic career, he remains actively engaged in agriculture, believing that the soil is not merely a source of livelihood but a source of philosophy, humility, and poetic inspiration. A distinguished Telugu lecturer for more than four decades, Dr. Laxmana Rao inspired generations of students through his scholarship, eloquence, and extraordinary classroom teaching. He is not only a poet but also a scholar, translator, literary critic, Avadhani, public speaker, and cultural ambassador of Telugu literature. Deeply rooted in the classical literary tradition while remaining sensitive to the realities of contemporary society, he has created a body of work that is timeless in spirit and universal in appeal. His literary contribution spans nineteen published books across poetry, fiction, literary criticism, philosophy, and translation. Among his notable works are the free-verse collection Muggu, the philosophical poetry collection Satadru, and Verrimanavudu, his acclaimed Telugu rendering of Khalil Gibran. Through every work, he has consistently upheld literature as a means of moral reflection, social awareness, and human compassion. Beyond his own writings, Dr. Laxmana Rao has rendered invaluable service to the literary world

through Avadhanams, public lectures, literary organisations, seminars, and cultural movements. In memory of his revered father, Sri Gandra Hanumantha Rao, he instituted the Gandra Hanumantha Rao Memorial Literary Award, presented annually with a cash award to honour eminent writers and literary personalities. Such initiatives reflect his unwavering commitment not only to creating literature but also to nurturing literary culture. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao has received more than twenty-five prestigious literary awards, honours, and honorary titles (Birudulu) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Telugu literature, education, oratory, and cultural service. Among the prominent honours are the Telugu University Keerti Puraskaram and the My Gift Sahiti Puraskaram, reflecting the esteem he commands in literary and cultural circles. The poetry of Fractured River possesses a rare artistic balance. It is simple without being simplistic, philosophical without becoming obscure, and deeply reflective without sacrificing emotional warmth. Nature is never treated as decorative imagery; rivers, trees, rain, fields, wind, and silence become living participants in the moral and emotional journey of humanity. Farmers, labourers, forgotten voices, and ordinary lives are portrayed with extraordinary dignity, revealing the poet's profound faith in the resilience of the human spirit. Among the most compelling sections is the Questions sequence, where the poet gently in-

Fractured River
Original Telugu Work: Satadru
Author: Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao
Translated into English by: Julie Pages: 150

vides readers to reflect upon truth, justice, faith, labour, friendship, responsibility, and the meaning of existence itself. Rather than offering easy conclusions, these poems encourage contemplation, allowing readers to discover their own answers within the silence that follows each verse. Julie deserves the highest appreciation for a translation of remarkable literary sensitivity. Poetry cannot survive through literal translation alone; it demands emotional understanding and artistic recreation. Julie succeeds in preserving the cadence, cultural richness, philosophical depth, and lyrical beauty of the Telugu originals while allowing the English poems to stand confidently as works of literature in their own right. Her translation is faithful not only to language but to the living spirit of the poems. For me, this volume carries a deeply personal significance. I had the privilege of studying under Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao during my Degree course at SRR Government Degree & PG College, Karimnagar. He was not merely our Telugu lecturer; he was an extraordinary teacher whose classroom became a living academy of literature. Every lecture was an unforgettable literary experience. His melodious recitation of poetry, expressive voice, profound interpretation, and captivating teaching transformed learning into inspiration. Students from other departments frequently gathered simply to listen to his lectures. He did not merely teach literature; he awakened in us a lifelong love for poetry. Reading Fractured River today is like hearing that unforgettable voice once again. The same warmth, humility, philosophical depth, compassion, and artistic brilliance that illuminated his classroom continue to flow through every page of this remarkable collection. Fractured River is far more than an English translation of Telugu poetry; it is a meaningful conversation between languages, cultures, and literary traditions. Dr. Gandra Laxmana Rao's poems, deeply rooted in the soil of Telangana yet universal in their human vision, find an eloquent English voice through Julie's accomplished translation. Rich in philosophical insight, lyrical grace, and ethical reflection, this volume deserves recognition as a significant contribution to Indian literature in English translation. It extends the reach of an accomplished Telugu poet while affirming that authentic literature knows no linguistic boundaries. This is not merely a book to be read; it is a river to be entered—one that leaves the reader enriched, reflective, and profoundly human.

Life, Love & Dark Chocolates

1. Life rolls on, like the ticking of time both throw the challenge to stop them Do we count sorrow from the thorns of pain hidden under the petals of happiness the rugged pathway tempts to find a bypass A 'stop' board hangs loosely at the entrance of my heart, denying admission to all! But Love walks in, smilingly 'I enter everywhere' bringing in some Swiss thins of dark chacos Chocolates, Chocolates everywhere! Neil Diamond is singing 'songs of life' he can't be stopped!!
2. My mission to remain 'far from the madding crowd' fails often Do we wish to see a place on Earth Where no bells ring, no whistles blow a nd no clocks strike! Mix, mingle and merge.... Beauty and Love are like sleep and dreams Inseparable and inevitably indispensable, I reckon Are love and life sweeter than Lindts' Darkies or Cadbursys? Who is jealous of who? I hear Elton John singing "Your Song" It leaps itself into my life
3. Life – It's a fabulous story When it drifts like a well composed song Its an excellent movie When all the frames are in my direction Let me stand in the thickest shadow only to realize the brightest light Love endorses Life for the price of a partner it checks itself in the mirror of life where are the loyal hearts can any mirror reflect them? I need an answer a blank screen on a mirror; after all? I feel sorry that love cant use a mirror without life-- Van Houten's Dark chocolates claim the proportions of life and love they are sweet and bitter to the core!
4. I pushed myself on the invisible glass door of the shop A small freckle of laughter alerted me I looked down the board read-- 'sorry, sold out!' Oh,hu, what did I want to buy And what did he sell out My journey continues.... The life's barcode can't be read by any scanner..... It goes on....goes forever!! My dark chocolates are always sweet I love my life and my love too.....!!!

Dr Srinivas Vasudev
Academic Director,
Krishnaveni
Talent School,
Hyderabad





Waris Punjab De Protest Revives Panthic Politics in Punjab

The large-scale protest march organised by Waris Punjab De in Chandigarh has highlighted the continuing influence of Panthic politics in Punjab and indicated that the political space once dominated by the Shiromani Akali Dal is now being contested by new players.

The July 29 rally was organised to demand the release of jailed Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh. The gathering was not only a protest but also a show of organisational strength by Waris Punjab De, which aims to emerge as a key political voice representing Panthic concerns.

For decades, the Shiromani Akali Dal held a strong position on Sikh religious and political issues, with a widespread organisational network and the ability to mobilise supporters on Panthic matters. However, the party's influence has declined due to repeated electoral setbacks, internal conflicts, leadership challenges and controversies surrounding the 2015 sacrilege issue.

With the Akali Dal weakened and several smaller factions unable to establish themselves as its replacement, Waris Punjab De sees an opportunity to occupy the political space linked with Sikh identity, religious institutions, federal issues and concerns over Sikh prisoners. The choice of Chandigarh for the protest was politically significant. A major

mobilisation in the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana carried a wider message for both the state government and the Centre. The participation of a large number of supporters despite security arrangements demonstrated the group's growing organisational presence.

The development also poses challenges for mainstream political parties. The Aam Aadmi Party has attempted to balance governance with engagement on religious issues, while Congress has maintained a cautious approach. The BJP has expanded politically in Punjab but continues to face limitations in connecting with Panthic sentiments.

The timing of the protest is important as debates over sacrilege laws, Akal Takht interventions, Sikh prisoners and Centre-state relations remain sensitive issues in Punjab.

However, converting public mobilisation into electoral success will be a major challenge for Waris Punjab De. Building a wider organisation, addressing broader issues such as employment and development, and maintaining public support will determine its future ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

The Chandigarh rally has nevertheless changed Punjab's political conversation by showing that Panthic politics remains a powerful force in the state.



Chaiwalaz Founder Rohit Sharma Dies By Suicide

Chaiwalaz founder Rohit Sharma has allegedly died by suicide at his residence in Dausa, police confirmed. The 30-year-old entrepreneur was found hanging at his home on Saturday afternoon.

According to officials from Kotwali police station, family members broke open the door after finding him unresponsive. They brought him down and rushed him to the district hospital, where doctors declared him dead. His body was later handed over to the family after post-mortem procedures.

Police said the reason behind the incident is yet to be established, and further investigation is underway.

Rohit Sharma, a resident of Saket Colony, came from a family background unrelated to business. His father, Hitendra Mohan Sharma, runs a medical store, while his wife works as a teacher at a private school. The couple has a seven-year-old son. Sharma began his entrepreneurial journey at the age of 17 while pursuing nursing studies. He founded the tea-based startup Chaiwalaz in Jaipur and gradually expand-

ed the brand. He opened his first tea cafe at Shipra Path in Mansarovar, Jaipur, and later launched additional outlets in the city.

Over the years, Sharma expanded Chaiwalaz to seven outlets across different cities. Along with his business activities, he was also involved in social service initiatives in Dausa.

Around six months ago, Sharma closed all Chaiwalaz outlets and shifted his focus towards spirituality. During this period, he was reportedly visiting several religious places.

His sudden death has left family members, friends and those associated with his entrepreneurial journey shocked. Police are continuing their investigation to understand the circumstances that led to the incident.

Mental health experts advise people facing emotional distress, stress or personal difficulties to seek support from family members, friends or professional counsellors. Support services are available through mental health helplines for those in need.

Girl's Mother Thanks PM Modi for Forgiveness

The mother of a minor girl who faced criticism and legal action for making abusive remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi has thanked him for forgiving her daughter, calling the gesture a "jeevandaan" or a new life. The girl had earlier apologised to the prime minister in a video message, saying she regretted using offensive language and requested forgiveness. Following PM Modi's appeal for restraint and compassion, her mother said the decision to forgive had given her daughter an opportunity to move forward. "PM Modi has shown greatness by forgiving a daughter of the country who made such mistakes. I thank him with folded hands. Today is her new birth. The prime minister has given her the biggest gift of jeevandaan," the mother said. She also appealed to PM Modi to help withdraw the case registered against her daughter, stating that the family was aware of the mistake and wanted her to live peacefully. She claimed that certain details mentioned



in the police complaint, including the girl's name and age, were incorrect. The mother further requested stronger restrictions on social media access for children below 18 years, saying young users can be influenced easily and may not understand the consequences of their actions. She urged that children should focus more on education and avoid being exposed to harmful online influences. PM Modi had earlier appealed for forgiveness after abusive slogans were allegedly raised against him during student protests.

In a message shared on social media, he said that abuses do not solve problems and appealed to society to guide young people instead of only punishing them. The girl, in her apology video, said she was only 15 years old and had made a mistake under the influence of others. She expressed regret over her words and apologised to the prime minister and the public. The incident has sparked discussions about the role of social media, youth behaviour and the importance of guidance and accountability.

Assam Man Saves 2,000 People During Floods



A 25-year-old man from Assam has emerged as a hero after rescuing nearly 2,000 people during devastating floods, despite having no formal rescue training or access to a motorised boat.

Shravan Kumar, a Class 10 dropout from Bihubor, began his rescue efforts after noticing dangerous changes in the Dihow River during the early hours of July 19. Having grown up near the river, he sensed the rising threat as heavy currents and floating tree trunks indicated the possibility of severe flooding.

When floodwaters entered his own home, Shravan's family was forced to move belongings to safer places. However, instead of returning to protect his own house, he decided to help others trapped by the rising waters.

Using a traditional wooden boat known as a "Tulunga Nao", Shravan and a group of friends entered flooded areas where even experienced boat operators were hesitant to go. Without any professional equipment, they navigated dangerous waters to rescue

children, elderly people, pregnant women and patients stranded inside houses and on rooftops.

The rescue operation continued for hours, including during the night, when visibility was extremely poor. Shravan and his team repeatedly travelled through floodwaters filled with floating debris and strong currents, risking their own lives to save others.

By the end of the operation, Shravan estimated that around 2,000 people from five villages

had been rescued. His efforts brought relief to many families affected by the floods in the region.

Meanwhile, the flood situation in Assam showed some improvement, with the number of affected people reducing to around 1.78 lakh. However, several districts continued to face severe challenges, with hundreds of villages submerged and thousands of residents depending on relief camps and emergency assistance.

PM Modi Government Owes NEET Students Justice - Rahul Gandhi

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has criticised the Central government over the NEET examination controversy, saying that students do not need forgiveness but deserve truth, justice and an apology. His remarks came after he met the families of three medical aspirants from Tamil Nadu who died by suicide following the NEET paper leak and the cancellation of the examination.

During his visit to Tamil Nadu on Saturday, Gandhi met the families of Gopika, Roshini and Vetri Anandan. On Sunday, he shared a video of the interaction on Instagram, describing the emotional pain experienced by the families and raising concerns over the country's education system.

Gandhi said each family was left asking the same question: why should honest and hard-working students suffer because of failures in the examination system. He stated that the paper leak led to the cancellation of the examination, forcing students to appear for a re-exam and placing immense mental pressure on thousands of aspirants. According to Gandhi, every statistic represents a child with dreams and a family that has suffered an irreplaceable loss. He said he listened to the grief of the



parents and stressed that the country needs an education system where merit is respected, examinations are conducted fairly and students are not pushed to extreme distress because of institutional failures.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reported remarks about "forgiving" students, Gandhi said the students themselves have done nothing wrong. He argued that it is the government that owes students the truth about what happened, justice for those affected and an apology for the failures that led to the crisis.

In the video shared on social media, Gandhi is seen speaking with the bereaved families in Mamallapuram. He expressed sympathy for parents who had lost their children, saying there is no greater pain than a parent grieving the death of a child. Gandhi also said the families' sorrow would remain forever and that their

suffering highlights deeper problems in the country's examination system. He criticised repeated incidents of question paper leaks, cancelled examinations and the destruction of years of preparation by students due to administrative lapses. The Congress leader reiterated that students are encouraged to work honestly and prepare sincerely for competitive examinations, but the system must also uphold fairness and integrity. He called for meaningful reforms to restore public confidence in the examination process and ensure that such incidents do not recur.

The NEET examination has faced repeated criticism in recent years over allegations of paper leaks and irregularities, with opposition parties demanding greater accountability and stronger safeguards to protect students and maintain the credibility of the country's competitive examination system.



Terror Probe Links Suspect to Jantar Mantar Plot

A terror suspect arrested in West Bengal had allegedly planned to target Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari and disrupt a recent protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, according to the state Special Task Force (STF). The accused, Hamim Mondal, was arrested from Purba Bardhaman district for alleged links with Pakistan-based terror operatives.

STF Inspector General Gaurav Sharma said Mondal was allegedly instructed by his handlers to enter the Jantar Mantar protest site wearing a police uniform and create disturbances. He was also allegedly asked to track the movements of the chief minister and collect information about places where security arrangements could be weaker.

The STF said Mondal had links with handlers connected to the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad terror group. During questioning, investigators claimed they found details about multiple suspected operatives involved in radicalisation and recruitment activities.

A court has sent Mondal to 14 days of STF custody for further investigation.

His girlfriend, Arpita Sarkar, was also arrested from Jharkhand. Officials alleged that the duo was involved in a

conspiracy to honeytrap and kidnap the son of state minister Umesh Ray and demand money from his family.

According to investigators, Sarkar allegedly used social media platforms to contact and gather information about several individuals, including politicians, before sharing details with Mondal. Police said her WhatsApp conversations revealed suspected links with foreign-based handlers.

The STF said Mondal and Sarkar first met through Instagram and had been in a relationship for around four years. Investigators reportedly traced Sarkar's social media activity while probing the honeytrap case, which eventually led them to Mondal.

Authorities also claimed to have recovered international SIM cards from the accused, including cards issued in the United Kingdom and Mexico, which were allegedly used for encrypted communication.

The STF is continuing its investigation to identify other members of the suspected network and examine possible cross-border connections. Officials said further details would be revealed after the completion of the probe due to the sensitive nature of the case.



Gujarat Flood-Hit Boy Keeps Engineering Dream Alive

A 10-year-old boy from Gujarat has shown remarkable determination despite losing much of his comfort and belongings to devastating floods. While floodwaters entered his home and disrupted daily life, his dream of becoming an engineer remains stronger than the challenges around him.

The boy, Viraal, lives in Navsari, where heavy rainfall caused severe flooding. The district received over 400 mm of rain within 24 hours, leading to waterlogging, damaged houses and displacement of thousands of residents.

Viraal's house was among those badly affected. Floodwater entered every corner of the home, damaging the door, beds and essential items. With limited space, his room has also become the family's kitchen, where his mother prepares food during the difficult conditions.

Standing in waist-deep water, Viraal spoke about the hardships his family has been facing. Access to basic needs such as food and clean drinking water has become a daily struggle. His sister has to travel a long distance to collect drinking water for the family. Despite the difficult situa-

tion, Viraal refuses to give up on his ambitions. The medals displayed on the walls of his home represent his achievements and serve as a reminder of his goals. He dreams of becoming an engineer and wants to support his mother in the future.

With tears in his eyes, Viraal expressed hope that the situation would improve and requested authorities to help rebuild his damaged home.

The floods have affected several parts of Gujarat, causing widespread destruction. In Surat, the diamond industry has also suffered major losses due to water entering factories. Around 300 diamond units in the Shantadevi area were affected, damaging machinery and halting production.

Thousands of diamond workers have been impacted as the flooding disrupted their employment. The losses are expected to run into several crores due to damaged equipment, reduced production and prolonged work interruptions. Amid the destruction, stories like Viraal's highlight the strength and determination of children who continue to hold on to their dreams despite facing severe hardships.



Spain Installs 500-Metre Sea Barrier After Massive Migrant Influx Into Ceuta

Spain has installed a 500-metre-long sea barrier along the maritime border of its North African enclave of Ceuta following an unprecedented surge in migrant crossings that triggered a humanitarian and political crisis. The move came after an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 migrants entered Ceuta over two days, overwhelming local authorities and reigniting debate over migration policies across Europe.

According to the Spanish government, at least 67 migrants lost their lives during the mass crossing. Some drowned while attempting to swim into Spanish territory, while others reportedly died in a stampede near a breakwater barrier. The tragedy has drawn international attention to the dangers faced by migrants attempting irregular border crossings.

Spanish authorities said the newly installed floating barrier is aimed at preventing further large-scale sea crossings. On Saturday, a small number of migrants who managed to swim to Ceuta's Tarajal beach were intercepted by soldiers and escorted back across the border.

Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska stressed that Spain would act firmly against illegal border crossings while maintaining cooperation with Morocco. He described Morocco as a "reliable partner" and said both countries would jointly assess how the mass breach occurred despite heavy

security along the border.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez criticised some European leaders for their response to the crisis, rejecting calls to suspend Spain from the Schengen travel system. He argued that such reactions were driven by political interests and misinformation, emphasising that protecting the European Union's external borders is a shared responsibility.

The incident has prompted more than 20 European Union member states, including Germany, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Poland and the Netherlands, to seek urgent discussions on a coordinated response to irregular migration. Several leaders have called for an emergency meeting of EU interior ministers to address border security and migration management.

Meanwhile, hundreds of migrants have voluntarily returned to Morocco after spending days in difficult conditions in Ceuta. Many reported shortages of food, shelter and basic necessities, while others remained determined to stay despite the hardships.

Spain has reinforced security in Ceuta by deploying additional police and armed forces. On the Moroccan side, security personnel used water cannons, tear gas and warning shots to prevent further crossings. The crisis has once again highlighted the humanitarian challenges and political tensions surrounding migration at Europe's southern borders.



Moscow Restaurant Blast Kills Three, 21 Injured in Suspected Terror Attack

A powerful explosion outside a restaurant in central Moscow killed three people and injured 21 others on Saturday evening, Russian authorities said. The incident has been described by Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin as a "brutal terrorist act," while investigators have launched a probe into the attack.

The blast occurred around 8 pm near a restaurant located at Kudrinskaya Square, one of Moscow's well-known areas featuring Stalin-era skyscrapers. According to Russian officials, the explosion was caused by an improvised explosive device carried by a woman.

Authorities said the woman attempted to enter the restaurant but was stopped by a security guard before the device exploded. The woman, a security guard and a restaurant customer were among those killed in the incident. Officials have not released the identities of the victims.

The National Anti-Terrorism Committee said the explosion involved a handmade bomb. Initial reports suggested the blast may have occurred inside the restaurant, but the establishment later stated that the incident happened outside the premises.

Some reports indicated that investigators are examining

the possibility that the explosive device may have been remotely activated by another person. However, officials have not confirmed the claim, and the investigation remains ongoing.

The injured victims suffered various levels of trauma and were taken to nearby hospitals for medical treatment. Authorities said emergency teams immediately reached the area and provided assistance to those affected.

Following the explosion, security forces sealed off the surrounding area, and traffic movement was temporarily restricted near Kudrinskaya Square. Access to the nearby Barrikadnaya metro station was also reportedly affected during the security operation.

Russian law enforcement agencies have begun collecting evidence and questioning witnesses to determine the motive behind the attack and identify any possible individuals involved.

The incident comes amid heightened security concerns in Moscow, where Russian authorities have previously reported attacks targeting officials and military figures. Investigators are continuing efforts to establish the full details of the explosion and prevent further threats.

Trump Says US, Israel Pause Iran Strikes as Peace Deal Takes Shape

US President Donald Trump has announced that the United States and Israel have agreed to temporarily suspend planned military strikes on Iran after receiving requests from Tehran and several Middle Eastern countries. Trump claimed that the three sides have reached the "parameters" of a potential agreement aimed at ending the ongoing conflict.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said the proposed deal would include the immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil shipping routes, which has remained largely closed since the conflict began. He also stated that the agreement seeks to address concerns over Iran's nuclear programme and reduce regional tensions.

Trump reiterated that the US military remains fully prepared to act if necessary, saying the country is "locked and loaded" and capable of launching powerful military operations. However, he added that he had decided to postpone any attacks in the interest of achieving a peaceful resolution. According to Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also agreed to delay military action while negotiations continue. He ex-



pressed optimism that diplomatic efforts could eventually bring an end to the conflict and urged all parties to work towards finalising the agreement. The announcement came amid reports that the United States was considering fresh strikes on Iran's energy infrastructure. Earlier, Trump had warned that Iran could face severe military action if tensions continued to escalate. Media reports also suggested that the US and Israel had coordinated plans for possible joint attacks on strategic Iranian targets.

The conflict between the United States and Iran intensified after earlier peace efforts collapsed. A preliminary

agreement reached in June failed after both sides accused each other of violating its terms. Since then, the situation has worsened, with military exchanges involving American and Iranian forces and disruptions to commercial shipping in the Gulf region.

While Trump's latest announcement has raised hopes for a diplomatic breakthrough, no official confirmation has yet been issued by Iran regarding the reported framework. Observers say the coming days will be crucial in determining whether negotiations can lead to a lasting ceasefire and restore stability in the Middle East.

Ferry Fire in Indonesia Kills Five, 41 Still Missing



At least five people were killed and 41 others remained missing after a passenger ferry caught fire while travelling through Indonesian waters, triggering a major rescue operation. The vessel, identified as KMP Mutiara Sentosa 2, was carrying 271 passengers and crew members when the blaze broke out.

According to Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency, 225 people had been rescued as teams continued searching for those still unaccounted for. Several nearby vessels joined the emergency operation after passengers were forced to escape the burning ferry. Dramatic visuals from the incident showed passengers rushing towards the front section of the vessel as thick black smoke covered the sky. Some passengers jumped into the sea in an attempt to save themselves while others waited on the ship's bridge and bow for evacuation.

The ferry's captain reportedly informed authorities about the fire before communication with the vessel was lost. Rescue teams immediately moved towards the location, with multiple ships assisting in evacuating passengers stranded on the burning ferry.

Authorities said rescue ves-

sels and nearby ships worked together to save passengers who had entered the water. However, the operation faced challenges as rescuers struggled to approach the ferry due to safety concerns and the intensity of the flames.

The ferry was travelling between major Indonesian ports when the fire erupted. By the time rescue teams arrived, a large portion of the vessel had reportedly been engulfed by flames, leaving many passengers trapped until evacuation efforts could be completed.

Officials have not yet confirmed the exact cause of the fire. Investigations will be car-

ried out after rescue operations are completed to determine how the blaze started and whether any safety failures contributed to the tragedy.

Indonesia, an archipelago nation with thousands of islands, relies heavily on ferry services for passenger and cargo transportation. Previous maritime accidents have raised concerns about vessel safety standards, emergency preparedness, and passenger protection measures. Rescue teams are continuing their search efforts as authorities work to account for all passengers and provide assistance to survivors and their families.

Trump Halts Iran Strikes, Says Peace Deal Reached



strikes and retaliatory attacks targeting American interests in the Gulf region. The conflict had raised concerns over regional stability, energy supplies and global oil markets.

Iran has not officially confirmed the agreement. However, Iranian military officials have warned regional countries against supporting any further US actions, urging nations to reconsider their partnerships with Washington.

Saudi Arabia has also expressed concerns over a possible expansion of the conflict. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman reportedly discussed the issue with Trump

and raised fears that attacks on Iranian infrastructure could lead to retaliatory strikes on energy facilities in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations.

Meanwhile, the US State Department has advised American citizens in the Middle East to remain alert and consider leaving the region if security conditions worsen. The advisory warned of possible flight cancellations, airspace restrictions and travel disruptions.

The future of the agreement now depends on whether the US, Iran and their allies can convert the announced understanding into a formal peace deal.



South Korea Records Highest Temperature in History as Heatwave Hits 42.5°C

South Korea recorded its highest temperature since modern weather records began, with the southeastern city of Yangsan registering a scorching 42.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). The record-breaking temperature was measured at 1:26 pm local time, surpassing all previous highs recorded in the country.

Yangsan has been at the centre of South Korea's ongoing heatwave, with temperatures crossing the 40-degree mark for the fifth consecutive day. Several other cities also experienced extreme heat, with daytime temperatures rising well into the high 30s, prompting authorities to issue widespread heat warnings.

To tackle the worsening weather conditions, the government has placed more than 20 regions under emergency heatwave alerts, a new warning category introduced this year. The alert is issued when areas are expected to experience a perceived temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or an actual temperature of 39 degrees Celsius for at least one day.

According to KMA data, South Korea has witnessed a sharp rise in the frequency of heatwaves over the past five

decades. The average number of heatwave days has increased from around eight days annually in the 1970s to 19 days a year over the past five years.

The weather agency defines a heatwave day as one when the maximum daytime temperature reaches at least 33 degrees Celsius, while a tropical night occurs when overnight temperatures remain 25 degrees Celsius or higher, offering little relief from the daytime heat. Scientists have repeatedly warned that extreme weather events such as prolonged heatwaves are becoming more frequent and severe due to human-induced climate change. Rising global temperatures are increasing the likelihood of record-breaking heat, placing greater pressure on public health systems, energy supplies, and infrastructure. Authorities have advised residents to stay indoors during peak afternoon hours, remain hydrated, avoid strenuous outdoor activities, and take precautions to protect vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and people with underlying health conditions, as the country continues to grapple with one of its most intense heatwaves on record.



Trump Says Iran Deal Near, Tehran Warns Against Escalation

US President Donald Trump has said that a possible agreement to end the ongoing Iran war is close, while Iran has warned that any further military escalation would receive a strong response. The developments have increased uncertainty across the Middle East, with regional countries closely monitoring the situation.

Trump said that Iran and other countries in the region had requested time to complete discussions on a possible deal. He announced that the US would temporarily hold off on launching new strikes while negotiations continue.

According to Trump, the proposed agreement would include the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy route, and measures to address concerns over Iran's nuclear programme. He also said Israel would support efforts to complete the agreement, though no separate statement was issued by Israel.

Saudi Arabia has expressed concerns over the possibility of further US military action against Iran. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman reportedly discussed the issue with Trump and sought clarity over possible future steps. Riyadh is concerned that attacks on Iran's energy infrastructure could lead to retaliation

against oil facilities in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned against what he described as any "aggressive action" by the US or its allies. He said Iran was prepared to respond firmly to any attack and warned regional countries against supporting military action.

Tensions have also affected global energy markets, with oil prices remaining elevated since military strikes involving the US, Israel and Iran began. Shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz has been disrupted, raising concerns over international oil supplies.

The conflict has already impacted several countries in the region, with reports of drone-related incidents and increased security alerts for foreign citizens. The US has issued warnings for Americans in multiple Middle Eastern nations amid fears of further instability.

The future of the proposed agreement depends on whether Iran, the US and their allies can convert the current discussions into a formal deal. Until then, regional governments and global markets remain cautious as diplomatic efforts continue alongside fears of renewed conflict.



Remote Work Changes Woman's View on Office Life

A woman's account of working from home for just one week has gone viral on social media, sparking a fresh debate about the benefits of remote work and whether traditional office routines are still the best option for employees. Her experience resonated with thousands of professionals, many of whom shared similar stories about improved productivity and a better work-life balance while working remotely.

The woman, identified as Sneha, shared her experience in an Instagram video after getting the opportunity to work from home during a week-long company training programme. She said she had not expected the temporary change to make such a significant difference to her daily life.

According to Sneha, eliminating the daily commute gave her several extra hours each day, allowing her to build healthier habits. She said she finally had time to go for morning walks, exercise at the gym, read books, and enjoy relaxed evenings with a cup of tea instead of rushing through her routine.

"I finally understood why people fight for work from home," she said in the video. Sneha explained that she initially believed working from home might reduce productivity, but her experience proved the opposite. She said she completed more work than usual while feeling happier, more energetic, and far less exhausted by the end of each day.

She added that she was no

Polish Woman's Funny List of 15 'Only in India' Habits Goes Viral

A Polish woman living in India has amused social media users after sharing a humorous list of 15 everyday habits that she says have become completely normal while living in the country but would feel unusual almost anywhere else. Her Instagram post has gone viral, with thousands of people appreciating her observations and celebrating the quirks of Indian life.

The video was posted by Dominika Patalas Kalra, who regularly shares her experiences of adapting to Indian culture. In her latest post, she described several habits she has picked up while living in India, joking that the country seems to follow "a different rulebook."

Among the experiences she highlighted was happily eating street food from roadside stalls without worrying much about hygiene, while becoming far more cautious about food safety whenever she travels abroad. She also joked about comfortably hopping into an auto-rickshaw with a driver she had known for only a few seconds and trusting him without hesitation.

Dominika said she has grown accustomed to crossing busy roads without depending on pedestrian crossings, sipping roadside chai as though it were served at a luxury café, and relying on directions from a random "uncle" rather than Google Maps.

Her list also included entering someone's house the moment they say, "Come inside!", patiently listening to unsolicited advice from aunties on life, marriage, and career, and confidently eating extremely spicy food while insisting that it is "not that spicy."

She further mentioned squeezing into crowded autos,



Things I would do in India, but never in other countries

Image Credit: Pexels

Delhi Man Duped in Dating App Scam, Pays ₹20,500 on First Date

A Delhi man's account of paying 20,500 for a first date arranged through a dating app has gone viral on social media, reigniting concerns about alleged dating app scams operating in the Delhi-NCR region. The incident, shared on Reddit, has prompted widespread discussion, with many users claiming they have heard of or experienced similar situations.

According to the Reddit post, the man matched with a woman on a dating app and chatted with her for some time before they agreed to meet later that day. He expected a casual first meeting, but after they met, the woman reportedly suggested going to a pub instead. Believing it would be a normal outing, he agreed.

Once at the pub, the woman allegedly began ordering premium items, including multiple bottles of champagne worth nearly 13,000, two hookahs costing around 6,000, and several food items. The total bill eventually reached 20,500. The man said he does not drink



alcohol or smoke but chose not to object to her orders during the date.

According to his post, the woman went to the washroom just as the bill arrived, leaving him to pay the entire amount. Although he settled the bill, he later wrote that what disap-

pointed him most was not the money but the lack of courtesy shown during the date. He said she neither offered to split the bill nor asked how much it was, making him feel the situation was unfair.

The post quickly attracted thousands of comments on

Reddit and other social media platforms. Many users described the incident as resembling a common dating app scam, in which unsuspecting individuals are persuaded to visit specific restaurants or pubs where unusually expensive bills are generated. Some

commenters said such scams have been reported repeatedly in the Delhi-NCR region and warned that people should remain vigilant while meeting someone for the first time.

Several users advised dating app users to choose public places independently, avoid venues suggested solely by a new acquaintance, discuss how expenses will be handled before ordering, and leave immediately if they feel pressured into an uncomfortable situation. Others stressed the importance of trusting one's instincts and not hesitating to question unusually expensive orders.

The viral incident has once again highlighted the risks associated with meeting strangers through online dating platforms. While many people successfully build genuine relationships through such apps, social media users emphasised that caution, transparency, and careful planning can help prevent financial losses and protect users from falling victim to potential scams.

Beach Brawl Between Two Men and Their Dogs Goes Viral



A violent altercation between two men and their dogs at Mission Beach in San Diego, California, has gone viral after a bystander recorded the dramatic incident and shared it on social media. The video has attracted widespread attention, with viewers expressing concern over the safety of the people involved, nearby beachgoers, and the animals caught in the confrontation.

According to reports, the incident began with a heated verbal argument between the two pet owners. What initially appeared to be a disagreement quickly escalated into a physical fight, with the men exchanging punches before wrestling each other on the sand. The unexpected brawl left several people at the popular beach stunned as they watched the confrontation unfold.

As the fight intensified, the owners' dogs—a Pit Bull and a German Shepherd—also became involved. The animals reportedly barked aggressively, lunged at one another, and joined the scuffle while their owners continued fighting. The chaotic scene created panic among nearby visitors, who kept their distance while some attempted to understand what had triggered the altercation.

The video was later uploaded to Instagram with the caption, "Crazy fight I caught on cam-

era. Why fight when the weather is so nice?" Within hours, the footage had spread widely across social media, generating thousands of views, comments, and shares.

The incident also sparked a debate online. Some viewers suggested that one of the dogs appeared to be off its leash, which may have contributed to the confrontation. Others questioned whether the animals were reacting instinctively to protect their owners or were simply responding to the tense atmosphere created by the fight. Many social media users criticised the behaviour of the pet owners, arguing that disagreements should never be allowed to escalate into violence, particularly in crowded public places. Several commenters expressed sympathy for the dogs,

Friendship Day 2026: Celebrating the Bond That Makes Life Special



Friendship Day is being celebrated across India today, with millions of people expressing gratitude and affection for their friends through heartfelt messages, social media posts, phone calls, and personal gatherings. Observed on the first Sunday of August each year, Friendship Day 2026 falls on August 2, highlighting the importance of friendship as one of life's most cherished relationships. The occasion celebrates the bond of trust, loyalty, understanding, and companionship that friends share. Across the country, people are exchanging friendship bands, gifts, and greetings while spending quality time with those who have supported them through life's joys and challenges. Although India and several other countries celebrate Friendship Day on the first Sunday of August, the United Nations officially observes the International Day of Friendship on July 30. The UN established the day to encourage peace, solidarity, mutual respect, and understanding among people from different cultures and communities around the world. The concept of Friendship Day dates back to 1930 when Joyce Hall, the founder of Hallmark Cards, proposed dedicating a

special day to celebrating friendships through greeting cards and thoughtful messages. The idea later gained international momentum in 1958 when Dr. Ramon Artemio Bracho of Paraguay founded the World Friendship Crusade, promoting friendship as a path toward peace. In 2011, the United Nations formally proclaimed July 30 as the International Day of Friendship. With the growth of digital communication, Friendship Day has become one of the most celebrated occasions on social media. Platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and X are filled with photos, videos, status updates, and messages celebrating lifelong friendships and memorable moments. Some of the most widely shared Friendship Day wishes this year include, "Friends are the family we choose," "True friends are never apart, maybe in distance



Bengaluru Creator Shows How Small Expenses Drain Salaries

A Bengaluru-based content creator has sparked an online discussion after sharing what he believes are the everyday spending habits that quietly drain people's salaries each month. His Instagram video, which has gained significant attention, suggests that the biggest obstacle to saving money is often not low income but unnoticed daily expenses.

Akshay CN, who runs the Instagram page @bangalore_viral, shared a video explaining five common habits that, according to him, reduce savings over time. He argued that food deliveries, frequent cab rides, impulse shopping during sales, unused digital subscriptions, and unplanned weekend outings are among the biggest reasons many people struggle to save despite earning decent salaries.

In the caption accompanying the video, Akshay wrote that it is not the salary that disappears but the small expenses people fail to notice. He explained that many individuals believe they will begin saving only after receiving a higher salary. However, based on conversations with people living in Bengaluru, he observed that some earning 40,000 a month manage to save regularly, while others earning 1 lakh or more still find themselves waiting for the next payday.

According to Akshay, the difference often lies in financial awareness rather than income. He said that many recurring expenses appear insignificant when viewed individually but become substantial when added together over an entire month.

Explaining his observations, he said ordering food occasionally is not expensive, but making it a daily habit can significantly increase monthly spending. Similarly, a 300 cab ride may seem affordable, but

taking cabs frequently instead of using public transport or other alternatives can result in thousands of rupees being spent every month.

He also challenged the common perception that shopping during sales always saves money. Instead, he suggested that genuine savings come from buying only what is necessary rather than purchasing discounted items that were never needed in the first place.

Akshay further highlighted the growing impact of recurring digital subscriptions. He said many people continue paying for streaming platforms, fitness apps, or premium services that they rarely use, allowing these small monthly charges to quietly consume a portion of their income.

Another area he identified was weekend spending. While he clarified that social outings are not a problem, he said regularly going out without a budget can quickly reduce monthly savings.

The content creator also shared one personal habit that he believes transformed the way he manages money. Before making any purchase, he asks himself a simple question: "Will I still be happy that I bought this 30 days from now?" According to him, this practice has helped him avoid unnecessary purchases and save more money than any budgeting application.

The video has resonated with many social media users, who agreed that small, recurring expenses often have a greater impact on personal finances than people realise. Many viewers said the advice encouraged them to review their own spending habits and focus on mindful financial planning instead of relying solely on higher incomes to improve their savings.

Broader Markets End Losing Streak

Indian equity markets witnessed a strong recovery during the week, with broader market indices snapping a two-week losing streak as improved investor sentiment boosted buying across sectors. The rebound was supported by strong corporate earnings, renewed foreign institutional investment, easing global uncertainties, and positive domestic economic indicators. The benchmark BSE Sensex climbed 2,034.87 points, or 2.67 per cent, to close at 78,094.64, while the NSE Nifty gained 616.15 points, or 2.59 per cent, ending the week at 24,383.60. The broader markets mirrored this strength, with the Nifty Midcap 100 rising over 2 per cent and the Nifty Smallcap 100 advancing 2.6 per cent. The rally was driven by better-than-expected June-quarter earnings, easing crude oil prices, improved monsoon progress, stronger industrial production data, and the return of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) as net buyers. During the week, FIIs purchased equities worth nearly ₹5,950 crore, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also continued to support the market with investments of over ₹5,380 crore. Among the mid-cap stocks, Coforge, Laurus Labs, Swiggy, Container Corporation of India, and Ashok Leyland emerged as top gainers, each rising by more than 10 per cent during the week. In the small-cap segment, Redington, Kaynes Technology, Firstsource Solutions, Brigade Enterprises, Affle 3i, IIFL Finance, KFin Technologies, and IFCL posted impressive gains. Sector-wise, information technology stocks led the rally, with the Nifty IT index surging 6.75 per cent, its strongest weekly performance since December 2023. Media, auto, pharma, healthcare, and consumer durable stocks also recorded healthy gains, while the defence and energy sectors ended the week marginally lower. Market experts remain optimistic about the near-term outlook. According to Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice-President (Research) at Religare Broking, the Nifty has strengthened its bullish trend after moving above the key 200-day exponential moving average. He believes the index could soon test the 24,600 level, and a decisive breakout may pave the way for a move towards the 24,800-25,000 range. Analysts expect market sentiment to remain positive in the coming week, with investors closely tracking the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision, manufacturing and services PMI data, crude oil prices, geopolitical developments, and the ongoing corporate earnings season.



Commodities Face Volatile Week Amid Iran Tensions, US Jobs Data

Indian equity markets recorded their strongest weekly performance in nearly four months, with benchmark indices surging more than 2.5 per cent as renewed foreign investor buying, strong corporate earnings and improving macroeconomic indicators lifted market sentiment. The rally erased the previous week's losses and reflected growing optimism among investors. The BSE Sensex climbed 2,034.87 points, or 2.67 per cent, to close the week at 78,094.64, while the NSE Nifty 50 gained 616.15 points, or 2.59 per cent, ending at 24,383.60. Analysts attributed the rally to better-than-expected June-quarter corporate earnings, a strengthening rupee, easing crude oil prices and encouraging progress of the southwest monsoon. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) played a significant role in the market's recovery by ending a two-week selling streak. During the week, FIIs purchased equities worth ₹5,949.96 crore, reflecting renewed confidence in Indian markets. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also extended support by investing ₹5,387.66 crore, though at a slower pace than in previous weeks. Sector-wise, the Information Technology (IT) index emerged as the top performer, rising 6.75 per cent, its best weekly gain since December 2023. The rally was followed by gains in the Media, Auto, Pharma, Healthcare and Consumer Durables sectors. However, Defence and Energy stocks ended the week slightly lower, making them the only major sectors to close in negative territory. The broader markets also participated in the rally. The Nifty Smallcap 100 index advanced 2.6 per cent, with stocks such as Redington, Kaynes Technology, Firstsource Solutions, Brigade Enterprises, Affle 3i, IIFL Finance, KFin Technologies and IFCL posting gains of up to 24 per cent. The Nifty Midcap 100 index rose 2 per cent, led by Coforge, Laurus Labs, Swiggy, Container Corporation of India and Ashok Leyland. The total market capitalisation of companies listed on the BSE increased by more than ₹10 lakh crore during the week. Bajaj Finance emerged as the biggest wealth creator, followed by Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries. On the other hand, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Bharat Electronics and Hindustan Unilever were among the major laggards. Adding to the positive sentiment, the Indian rupee ended its five-week losing streak by appreciating 118 paise to close at 95.39 against the US dollar, compared with 96.57 in the previous week. Analysts believe sustained foreign inflows, stable macroeconomic conditions and healthy corporate earnings could continue to support the market in the near term, although global geopolitical developments and upcoming economic data will remain key factors for investors to monitor.



Top 10 Firms Add \$2.5 Lakh Crore in Market Value as Stock Market Rebounds



India's stock market staged a strong comeback during the past week, with the combined market capitalisation of nine

of the country's 10 most valuable listed companies rising by nearly ₹2.51 lakh crore. The sharp rally was

driven by strong quarterly earnings, easing crude oil prices, improved global sentiment, and renewed investor

confidence. The benchmark indices posted impressive gains over the week. The BSE Sensex

climbed 2,034.87 points, or 2.67 per cent, while the NSE Nifty advanced 616.15 points, or 2.59 per cent, reflecting broad-based buying across sectors. Among the top-10 listed companies, Bajaj Finance emerged as the biggest gainer in terms of market valuation. The non-banking financial company witnessed a sharp rise in its share price after reporting better-than-expected quarterly earnings, which boosted investor confidence. Analysts attributed the rally to strong loan growth, improving asset quality, and robust profitability. Apart from Bajaj Finance, several other blue-chip companies also recorded significant gains in market capitalisation. Reliance Industries retained its position as India's most valuable listed company, followed by Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), and Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL). Hindustan Unilever was the only company among the top

10 to witness a decline in market value during the week. Market experts said positive corporate earnings, steady foreign institutional investor inflows, and optimism over India's economic outlook helped fuel the rally. Strong performances by banking, financial services, information technology, and infrastructure stocks also contributed to the market's recovery. Foreign investors have returned to Indian equities after months of selling, supported by resilient domestic economic indicators and improving corporate performance. The recovery has also been aided by easing geopolitical concerns and expectations of continued economic growth. The latest surge in market capitalisation reflects renewed confidence in India's equity markets despite global uncertainties. Analysts believe investor sentiment is likely to remain positive in the near term, provided corporate earnings continue to meet expectations and macroeconomic conditions remain favourable.

FPIs Invest \$20,200 Crore in Indian Stocks

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) made a strong comeback to the Indian stock market in July, investing a net ₹20,200 crore in equities after four consecutive months of heavy selling. The renewed inflows reflect improving investor confidence, supported by attractive market valuations, strong corporate earnings, and easing global economic concerns. The return marks a significant reversal after sustained outflows in recent months. FPIs had withdrawn ₹1.17 lakh crore in March, followed by ₹60,847 crore in April, ₹32,963 crore in May, and ₹49,340 crore in June, creating considerable pressure on Indian equity markets. July's positive inflow has ended this prolonged selling streak and provided fresh momentum to the markets. Despite the encouraging turnaround, foreign investors remain net sellers for the year. So far in 2026, FPIs have withdrawn a net ₹2.54 lakh crore from Indian equities,

already exceeding the total outflow of ₹1.66 lakh crore recorded during the entire 2025 calendar year. Market analysts attribute the renewed buying to improved corporate earnings, easing geopolitical tensions, and relatively attractive valuations following the recent market correction. Strong domestic economic indicators, resilient consumption demand, and expectations of sustained economic growth have also enhanced India's appeal among global investors. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) continued to provide strong support to the markets during the period, helping offset the impact of earlier foreign outflows. Analysts believe the combination of steady domestic investments and the return of foreign capital has strengthened overall market sentiment. The renewed FPI interest has contributed to the recent rally in benchmark indices, with both the BSE Sensex and NSE



Nifty posting strong gains during the week. Investors are now closely watching upcoming corporate earnings, global interest rate trends, and eco-

nomc data to assess whether foreign inflows will continue in the coming months. While experts caution that global uncertainties remain, July's inve-

stment figures are being viewed as a positive sign for India's equity markets. If favorable economic conditions persist and corporate performanc-

e remains strong, FPIs could continue increasing their exposure to Indian stocks, providing further support to market growth in the months ahead.

Korean Market Crash Raises Margin Trading Concerns



The recent sharp correction in South Korea's stock market has emerged as

a cautionary tale for Indian retail investors, particularly

those using Margin Trading Facility (MTF) to amplify their investments. Market

experts say the Korean experience demonstrates how excessive leverage can magnify losses during periods of heightened volatility, even for investors who initially appear to be making profitable trades. South Korea's benchmark KOSPI index has suffered a steep decline since its June peak, triggering widespread losses among retail investors who had borrowed heavily to invest in equities. The correction reportedly wiped out nearly ₹12,000 crore in leveraged retail positions within just a few weeks, highlighting the risks associated with investing borrowed money during market downturns. Margin Trading Facility allows investors to purchase shares by borrowing funds from brokers, enabling them to take larger positions than their own capital would permit. While leverage can significantly boost returns during a rising market, it also increases losses when stock prices fall. If the value of pledged securities drops below required levels, brokers may issue margin calls or liquidate holdings to recover outstanding dues, often locking in heavy losses for investors. The Korean market turmoil has also prompted concern among Indian

brokerage firms. Zerodha founder Nithin Kamath recently described the rapid growth of MTF exposure as the "biggest nightmare" for brokers, warning that leveraged investments in less liquid stocks could create severe risks during a sharp market correction. He noted that a large portion of margin-funded positions across the industry are concentrated in stocks that may become difficult to sell if prices hit lower circuits. Market analysts stress that leverage should only be used by experienced investors with strong risk management strategies and sufficient financial capacity to absorb losses. They advise retail investors to avoid borrowing merely to chase higher returns and instead focus on building diversified portfolios using their own capital. The Korean experience serves as a timely reminder that while markets often recover from temporary declines, excessive leverage can quickly turn manageable losses into significant financial setbacks. Experts believe Indian investors still have the opportunity to learn from overseas events and adopt a disciplined approach to investing before similar risks emerge in the domestic market.

Korean Market Turmoil Deepens

South Korea's stock market crash has left millions of retail investors nursing heavy losses, triggering widespread frustration and eroding confidence in the country's equity markets. Despite a record one-day rebound at the end of the week, many investors continue to exit the market after suffering steep financial setbacks during one of the worst months for the KOSPI since the 2008 global financial crisis. The benchmark KOSPI index lost 22 per cent during July after tumbling nearly 40 per cent from its June peak. Although the market staged an impressive 18 per cent recovery on the final trading day of the month, the rally failed to restore investor confidence. Retail investors sold a record amount of KOSPI shares even as prices rebounded, signalling continued caution and distrust. The sell-off was driven largely by a sharp decline in technology stocks, particularly semiconductor giants Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, whose shares came under pressure despite reporting strong financial results. Concerns over lofty valuations, slowing momentum in the artificial intelligence sector, and growing global uncertainty triggered a

wave of selling across the market. The crisis was made worse by the extensive use of leverage and high-risk exchange-traded funds (ETFs) by retail investors. As share prices fell, many investors faced margin calls, forcing them to liquidate their holdings and accelerating the market's decline. Trading in KOSPI stocks was halted four times during July through market-wide circuit breakers, an extraordinary development for a market where such interventions had previously been rare. The market turmoil has also sparked criticism of President Lee Jae Myung's administration. Many retail investors expressed disappointment over the government's handling of the crisis and questioned whether enough had been done to prevent excessive speculation and protect small investors. Some have even vowed to stay away from the stock market after incurring substantial



losses. Financial regulators have acknowledged the risks posed by leveraged investing and are considering stricter rules on high-risk investment products, including tighter limits on leveraged ETFs and additional safeguards for retail investors. Officials hope the measures will reduce market volatility and restore confidence. Despite the sharp correction, analysts believe South Korea's long-term economic fundamentals remain intact. However, they caution that investor confidence may take time to recover as markets adjust to heightened volatility and stricter regulatory oversight.

Markets Post Biggest Weekly Rally in Four Months

Indian equity markets recorded their strongest weekly performance in nearly four months, with benchmark indices surging more than 2.5 per cent as renewed foreign investor buying, strong corporate earnings and improving macroeconomic indicators lifted market sentiment. The rally erased the previous week's losses and reflected growing optimism among investors. The BSE Sensex climbed 2,034.87 points, or 2.67 per cent, to close the week at 78,094.64, while the NSE Nifty 50 gained 616.15 points, or 2.59 per cent, ending at 24,383.60. Analysts attributed the rally to better-than-expected June-quarter corporate earnings, a strengthening rupee, easing crude oil prices and encouraging progress of the southwest monsoon. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) played a significant role in the market's recovery by ending a two-week selling streak. During the week, FIIs purchased equities worth ₹5,949.96 crore, reflecting renewed confidence in Indian markets. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also extended support by investing ₹5,387.66 crore, though at a slower pace than in previous weeks. Sector-wise, the Information Technology

(IT) index emerged as the top performer, rising 6.75 per cent, its best weekly gain since December 2023. The rally was followed by gains in the Media, Auto, Pharma, Healthcare and Consumer Durables sectors. However, Defence and Energy stocks ended the week slightly lower, making them the only major sectors to close in negative territory. The broader markets also participated in the rally. The Nifty Smallcap 100 index advanced 2.6 per cent, with stocks such as Redington, Kaynes Technology, Firstsource Solutions, Brigade Enterprises, Affle 3i, IIFL Finance, KFin Technologies and IFCL posting gains of up to 24 per cent. The Nifty Midcap 100 index rose 2 per cent, led by Coforge, Laurus Labs, Swiggy, Container Corporation of India and Ashok Leyland. The total market capitalisation of companies listed on the BSE increased by more than ₹10 lakh crore during the



week. Bajaj Finance emerged as the biggest wealth creator, followed by Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries. On the other hand, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Bharat Electronics and Hindustan Unilever were among the major laggards. Adding to the positive sentiment, the Indian rupee ended its five-week losing streak by appreciating 118 paise to close at 95.39 against the US dollar, compared with 96.57 in the previous week. Analysts believe sustained foreign inflows, stable macroeconomic conditions and healthy corporate earnings could continue to support the market in the near term, although global geopolitical developments and upcoming economic data will remain key factors for investors to monitor.

Abhishek Sharma Smashes 233, Powers Amritsar to 533

Indian cricketer Abhishek Sharma delivered a breathtaking batting performance in the Punjab Inter-District Senior Tournament, smashing 233 runs off just 91 balls to guide Amritsar to a mammoth total of 533 for 8 against Tarn Taran in a 50-over match. The explosive knock has gone viral on social media, with fans praising the left-hander's remarkable return to form. Abhishek's innings was nothing short of extraordinary. He struck 15 fours and 25 towering sixes, finishing with an astonishing strike rate of 256.04. His aggressive stroke play dominated the opposition bowlers from the outset and kept the scoreboard moving at a rapid pace throughout

the innings. The innings comes at an important time for the 25-year-old, who has been struggling to replicate his domestic success in international cricket over the past few months. While he remains one of India's most explosive T20 batters, his recent performances for the national team have raised concerns. Abhishek, currently ranked No. 3 in the ICC T20I batting rankings after previously occupying the top spot, endured a disappointing tour of Zimbabwe, scoring just 11 runs in three innings at an average of 3.66. Before that, he managed 131 runs in five T20Is against England at an

average of 26.2 and scored 49 runs in two matches against Ireland. Across his last 10 T20I innings, Abhishek has registered only one half-century. His repeated dismissals against Zimbabwe pacer Blessing Muzarabani exposed technical weaknesses, particularly against deliveries outside the off stump. Cricket analysts noted that he appeared uncertain against pace bowling, with his dismissals resulting from loose shots and poor shot selection. Statistics also reflect the dip in form. Before the T20 World Cup, Abhishek averaged over 37 with a strike rate nearing 195. Since then, his average has dropped to below 20, while his strike rate



has also declined significantly. Despite his international struggles, the stunning double century in domestic cricket has reminded fans of the immense talent that made him one of India's most exciting young batters. The innings has sparked optimism that Abhishek may soon

regain his confidence and carry this form back to the international stage. His sensational knock not only powered Amritsar to a massive total but also reaffirmed his reputation as one of the most destructive hitters in Indian cricket.

Ajinkya Rahane to Receive BCCI Pension After Retirement

Former India batter Ajinkya Rahane is set to receive a fixed monthly pension of ₹70,000 from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) following his retirement from international cricket. Rahane, who announced his retirement on July 30, qualifies for the board's highest pension bracket after representing India in 85 Test matches during an illustrious career. One of India's most dependable batters in overseas conditions, Rahane will be eligible for the pension under the BCCI's revised pension scheme introduced in 2022. The scheme, announced during Sourav Ganguly's tenure as BCCI President, increased the monthly pension for retired cricketers in the top category from ₹50,000 to ₹70,000. Rahane's retirement marks the end of a distinguished international career in which he represented India in 85 Tests, 90 One-Day Internationals, and 20 Twenty20 Internationals. He scored crucial runs in several memorable victories and is best remembered for leading India to a historic Border-Gavaskar Trophy tri-



umph in Australia during the 2020-21 series after regular captain Virat Kohli returned home following the first Test. The elegant right-handed batter earned widespread praise for his calm leadership, composed batting, and ability to perform under pressure, particularly in overseas conditions. Throughout his

career, Rahane played several match-winning innings that helped India achieve memorable victories abroad. The BCCI's pension scheme aims to provide financial security to retired cricketers and former umpires after the conclusion of their playing careers. Announcing the revised pension struc-

ture in 2022, former BCCI President Sourav Ganguly said the board had a responsibility to ensure the financial well-being of former players, recognising their contributions to Indian cricket. Under the existing rules, Rahane will continue to receive the ₹70,000 monthly pension unless he accepts an official position with the BCCI as a coach, administrator, or in another salaried role. In such a case, the pension would be temporarily suspended while he receives remuneration for those responsibilities. Although Rahane has not officially announced his post-retirement plans, he has indicated an interest in mentoring young cricketers and contributing to the development of future talent. Many former players have also suggested that his vast experience and leadership qualities could make him an excellent coach or mentor. As Rahane begins a new chapter after international cricket, the BCCI pension offers financial support while recognising the lasting contribution of one of India's most respected and dependable cricketers.

Yuvraj Singh Gets Court Protection Against AI Deepfakes

The Delhi High Court has granted interim protection to former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh's personality rights, restraining the unauthorised use of his name, image, voice, likeness, and other identifying attributes for commercial or personal gain. The order also prohibits the creation and circulation of AI-generated and deepfake content that misuses the former cricketer's identity. Justice Jyoti Singh passed the interim order on July 29



while hearing a lawsuit filed by Yuvraj Singh. The court observed that Yuvraj, who represented India across all formats of international cricket for 17 years, is one of the country's most celebrated and globally recognised sportspersons. It said violations of his personality and privacy rights deserved to be dealt with firmly. The court specifically restrained the unauthorised use of the names "Yuvraj Singh" and "Yuvi," along with his image, voice, likeness, signature, and other personality attributes. The order also bars third parties from using these attributes for selling merchandise or creating misleading digital content without permission. In his petition, Yuvraj alleged that several individuals and social media accounts were using his identity to sell merchandise and publish AI-generated images and deepfake videos portraying him in fabricated situations. According to his legal team, some of the content showed him making offensive statements, engaging in aggressive behav-

iour toward fellow cricketers, and appearing in religiously insensitive or vulgar posts, which they argued damaged his reputation and public image. The High Court directed Meta Platforms and other online platforms to remove the objectionable content. Observing that Yuvraj enjoys proprietary rights over his personality, the court held that he has the exclusive right to commercially exploit his identity and prevent its unauthorised use by others. The court further noted that the AI-generated posts and deepfake videos had the potential to tarnish the goodwill and reputation Yuvraj had earned through years of outstanding performances on the cricket field and his contributions to social welfare. The ruling adds to a growing list of judicial orders protecting the personality and publicity rights of public figures in India. Several prominent personalities, including Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Salman Khan, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Sudhir Chaudhary, Raj Shamani, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and cricketer Abhishek Sharma, have previously obtained similar interim relief from the Delhi High Court against unauthorised commercial use and misuse of their identities. The judgment is being viewed as another significant step in addressing the growing challenge posed by AI-generated content and deepfake technology in the digital age.

Jasprit Bumrah Likely to Miss Sri Lanka Test Series

India's premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah is set to miss the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka after failing to fully recover from a knee injury, according to reports. The development comes as a significant setback for the Indian team, which is already dealing with multiple injury concerns ahead of the series beginning on August 15 in Galle. Bumrah, 32, suffered an impact injury during the ODI series against England and was forced to miss the third ODI at Lord's. He has since been undergoing rehabilitation at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, where the Sports Science and Medical team has been closely monitoring his recovery. Although there had been hopes that Bumrah would regain match fitness before the Sri Lanka tour, reports suggest that swelling in his knee has persisted longer than expected. The medical team is believed to have advised against rushing him back into Test cricket, considering the heavy workload the format demands and India's busy international calendar in the coming months. Sources indicate that Bumrah is still experiencing discomfort and may not be fully fit even if he recovers before the first Test. With the second Test



scheduled to begin on August 23, team management is expected to take a cautious approach rather than risk aggravating the injury. India's pace attack has already been weakened by injuries to several key players. All-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy has been ruled out with a hamstring injury, while fast bowler Harshit Rana and all-rounder Washington Sundar are also sidelined with hamstring issues and are expected to miss at least the opening Test. Bumrah's absence is likely to open the door for another fast bowler to join the squad. Selectors are reportedly considering Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi and Vidarbha speedster Yash Thakur as possible replacements. Both have impressed in domestic cricket and could receive an opportunity at the international level if Bumrah is officially ruled out. The Sri Lanka series is an important assignment for India as the team continues its preparations for a demanding international season. While Bumrah's fitness remains a priority, the management appears determined to ensure that the star pacer returns only when he is fully fit. An official announcement on India's final squad and Bumrah's availability is expected in the coming days as the team prepares for the Test series in Sri Lanka.

Hardik Pandya Visits Tirumala Temple, New Look Goes Viral

Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya visited the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala on Sunday, where he offered prayers and sought the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. The cricketer's visit attracted significant attention after he appeared with a completely shaved head, prompting widespread discussion among fans on social media.



Pandya was accompanied by his girlfriend, Mahika Sharma, during the temple visit. The couple was seen dressed in traditional white attire while participating in the temple rituals. Photographs and videos of their visit quickly went viral, with fans praising the cricketer's spiritual gesture and expressing curiosity about his new appearance. In Tirumala, many devotees offer their hair as an act of faith, gratitude, or in fulfilment of a vow made to Lord Venkateswara. Although Pandya has not publicly explained the reason behind shaving his head, many social media users speculated that it could be part of the traditional ritual followed by millions of pilgrims visiting the temple each year. The temple visit comes at an important stage in Pandya's cricketing career as he continues his recovery from injury. The 32-year-old all-rounder has been out of competitive cricket since the conclusion of the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) season. He initially suffered from back stiffness before later sustaining a

thigh injury, which delayed his return to international action. As a result, Pandya missed India's limited-overs series against Afghanistan, the ODI and T20I tour of England, and the white-ball series against Zimbabwe. His last competitive appearance came while captaining the Mumbai Indians during IPL 2026. Despite high expectations, the five-time IPL champions failed to qualify for the playoffs. Pandya remains one of India's most valuable all-rounders, known for his aggressive batting, effective pace bowling, and leadership abilities. His return to full fitness is expected to be a major boost for the national team as it prepares for a packed international calendar in the coming months. While the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has not announced a timeline for his comeback, fans remain hopeful that the experienced all-rounder will soon return to action. In the meantime, his visit to Tirumala and his new look have become one of the most talked-about moments on social media, with many wishing him good health, success, and a strong comeback to international cricket.

Indian CWG 2026 Medallists Receive Grand Welcome in Glasgow Return



India's Commonwealth Games 2026 medallists received a warm and enthusiastic welcome on their return from Glasgow, with hundreds of fans gathering at the Indra Gandhi International Airport to celebrate the athletes' outstanding performances. The first batch of returning sportspersons included Olympic medallist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, Lovepreet Singh, Bindyarani Devi Sorokhaibam, and Rishikanta Singh. Mirabai Chanu, who secured her third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal in the women's 49kg weightlifting event, expressed pride in representing the country. "Coming from Manipur, I feel really proud that I have done something good for my country," she said after arriving in New Delhi. Weightlifter Lovepreet Singh, who won the silver medal in the men's 110kg category, narrowly missed out on the gold medal by just one kilogram. The Punjab athlete lifted a combined total of 388kg, including a Commonwealth Games record of 176kg in the snatch event. Despite the narrow defeat, Lovepreet remained optimistic and said his next focus would be the Asian Games in Japan. "I did my hard work and got the result. When two players compete, one has to lose. I will prepare even better for the

Asian Games," he said while thanking the Indian Navy, his coaches, and supporters. Bindyarani Devi Sorokhaibam, who claimed the bronze medal in the women's 58kg category, said the warm reception made her feel proud and motivated. She thanked the fans for making the athletes feel at home and pledged to train harder for future international competitions. Silver medallist Rishikanta Singh, who finished second in the men's 60kg category, also vowed to come back stronger. The Indian Army weightlifter said winning a medal for the country was a proud moment but added that he would work even harder to convert silver into gold in future events. Rishikanta also appealed for peace in his home state of Manipur, saying a peaceful environment would help nurture more talented athletes. "We need peace in Manipur so that the state can produce even more sportspersons," he said. India's weightlifting team concluded an impressive Commonwealth Games campaign with eight medals—one gold, six silver, and one bronze. Overall, India currently occupies fourth place in the medal standings with 13 gold, 17 silver, and nine bronze medals, taking the country's total tally to 39 medals as the Glasgow Games continue.

Tilak Varma to Lead South Zone in Duleep Trophy

India T20I vice-captain Tilak Varma has been appointed captain of the South Zone team for the upcoming Duleep Trophy, while Andhra batter Ricky Bhui has been named vice-captain. The prestigious domestic tournament will be held at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru from August 23 to September 10. Tilak, who was recently part of India's successful T20I series victory over Zimbabwe, will lead a balanced 15-member squad featuring a blend of experienced campaigners and promising young talents. The team will be coached by MN Vikram Varma, an experienced Level 2 coach from Andhra Pradesh. The South Zone selection committee meeting was convened by Andhra Cricket Association Secretary Sana Satish Babu. The panel was chaired by former Andhra Ranji cricketer RV Chandramouli Prasad and included representatives from the cricket associations of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Hyderabad, Kerala, Goa, and Puducherry. The squad includes veteran batter Karun Nair, who brings valuable experience to the middle order. Also earning a place is



Karnataka's R Smaran, who topped the run-scoring charts in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy season with an impressive 950 runs. Hyderabad batter K Himateja has also been rewarded for his consistent

performances. Young Andhra batter Shaik Rasheed, who recently represented India A during the tour of Sri Lanka, has been included in the squad. Goa's Abhinav Tejrana also

finds a place, while Tamil Nadu wicket-keeper-batter N Jagadeesan will handle the wicketkeeping responsibilities after his recent stint with the India A side. South Zone enter this year's competition with confidence after finishing runners-up in the previous edition, where they lost to Central Zone in the final. Their strong performance last season has earned them direct qualification to the semifinals. They will begin their campaign on August 30 at the BCCI Centre of Excellence's Ground No. 2 against the winner of Quarterfinal 2. The bowling attack features a good mix of pace and spin. Left-arm spinner Tanay Thyagarajan and leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal will spearhead the spin department, while pacers K Sai Teja, Tripurana Vijay, Vidwath Kaverappa, and M.D. Nideesh provide depth and variety in the fast-bowling unit. With an experienced leadership group, a strong batting lineup, and a well-rounded bowling attack, South Zone will be aiming to go one step further this season and lift the Duleep Trophy after narrowly missing out on the title last year.

Bandla Ganesh Invites Ram Charan to Daughter Janani's Wedding

Actor-producer Bandla Ganesh, along with his family, met actor Ram Charan at his residence on Sunday to personally invite him to the wedding of his daughter, Janani Bandla. The meeting was part of the family's ongoing efforts to personally invite close friends and prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry to the wedding ceremony. Following the meeting, Bandla Ganesh shared photographs with Ram Charan on his official X account. Expressing his gratitude, he thanked the actor for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to his family during the visit. The pictures quickly attracted attention on social media, with fans appreciating the cordial relationship between the two. Janani Bandla is set to marry Suryateja Chilukuri on August 16, 2026. Preparations for the wedding are in full swing, and the family has been personally delivering invitations to leading personalities from the entertainment and political circles over the past few weeks.

Bandla Ganesh has already met several prominent figures from the Telugu film industry to invite them to the wedding. Among those who have received invitations are Megastar Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu, acclaimed filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli, Allu Arjun, and actor Naga Chaitanya along with his wife Sobhita Dhulipala. Photographs from each of these meetings have been shared on social media, drawing enthusiastic responses from fans. Known for maintaining strong relationships within the Telugu film fraternity, Bandla Ganesh has chosen to personally invite many of the industry's leading stars instead of sending formal invitations alone. The gesture has been widely appreciated and reflects the close bonds he shares with several celebrities. With the wedding date approaching, more well-known personalities are expected to receive personal invitations from the family in the coming days. Fans are also looking forward to seeing several top actors, filmmakers and other



distinguished guests attend the wedding celebrations. The wedding of Janani Bandla and Suryateja Chilukuri is expected to

be a star-studded affair, bringing together many of the biggest names from Tollywood. As preparations continue, the family's

social media updates have kept fans engaged and added to the excitement surrounding the upcoming ceremony.

Nani Announces New Production with Nithiin

Natural Star Nani has officially announced his next production venture under his banner, Unanimous Productions, adding another exciting project to his growing list of films as a producer. The announcement comes at a time when fans are eagerly awaiting updates on Nani's upcoming film The Paradise, making the new project another reason for celebration among movie enthusiasts. The film will feature actor Nithiin in the lead role and will be directed by Muralikanth Devasoth, who received appreciation for his work with Dhandoraa. This marks the director's second feature film and his first collaboration with both Nani and Nithiin. The makers have confirmed that the project's formal pooja ceremony will be held tomorrow, officially marking the beginning of production. The launch is expected to be attended by members of the cast, crew and several prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry. More details about the film, including the technical team and story-

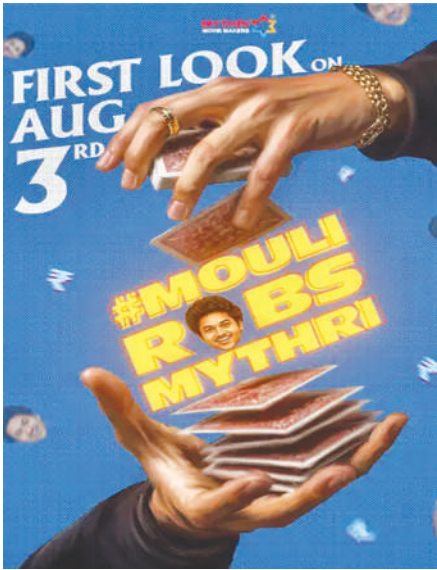
line, are likely to be unveiled during the event. According to reports, actress Vaishnavi Chaitanya is expected to play the female lead opposite Nithiin. However, an official confirmation regarding her casting is yet to be made by the production team. Fans are eagerly waiting for the announcement, as the pairing is expected to bring a fresh combination to the big screen. For Nani, the project reflects his continued commitment to supporting unique stories and talented filmmakers through Unanimous Productions. Over the years, the actor has successfully balanced his acting career with film production, backing content-driven projects that have received critical and commercial appreciation. Nithiin, meanwhile, will be looking to deliver another memorable performance with this collaboration. The actor has consistently experimented with different genres, and his partnership with Muralikanth Devasoth has generated curiosity among audiences. The announcement has already created a



buzz on social media, with fans expressing excitement over the combination of Nani as producer, Nithiin as the lead actor and Muralikanth Devasoth as director. Expectations are also high for the film's music, supporting cast and first-look poster, which are expected to be revealed in the coming

weeks. With production set to commence soon, the untitled project is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu films currently in development. More announcements regarding the cast, crew and release plans are expected after the official launch ceremony.

Mouli's New Film with Mythri Movie Makers to Get Title and First Look Today



Following the success of Little Hearts, actor Mouli Tanuj Prasanth is set to return with a new project backed by leading production house Mythri Movie Makers. The makers have announced that the film's title and first-look poster will be officially unveiled tomorrow, marking the next major update for the much-awaited project. The film is being directed by Srinu Kambala, who is making his directorial debut with this venture. The collaboration between Mouli and the first-time filmmaker has already generated curiosity, especially with the project being produced under the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers banner,

known for delivering several successful Telugu films. According to the production team, the title and first look will be launched during a special event at a college, where the cast and crew are expected to interact with students and fans. The event is likely to reveal more details about the film and offer the audience their first glimpse of the lead characters. Reports suggest that the film has been titled Donga Na Kodaka, a crime-comedy entertainer that promises a blend of humour, suspense and engaging storytelling. The makers have indicated that the film is currently in the final phase of shooting, with only a

few portions left to be completed before post-production begins. Actress Sushmitha Shen plays the female lead opposite Mouli, while Suriya Balaji is handling the cinematography. The technical team is expected to deliver a visually appealing film that complements the entertaining narrative. Although the makers have not yet announced the complete supporting cast or music director, more information is expected to be shared during the title launch event. Fans are also looking forward to learning about the film's release schedule, teaser and promotional campaign. The announcement has already

created a buzz on social media, with movie enthusiasts expressing excitement over the unique title and the crime-comedy genre. Expectations are high as Mythri Movie Makers has earned a reputation for backing commercially successful and content-driven films. With the title and first look set to be unveiled tomorrow, Donga Na Kodaka is expected to attract significant attention from audiences and industry circles alike. Further announcements regarding the film's release date, trailer and soundtrack are likely to follow in the coming weeks as the project moves closer to completion.

'Ramayana' Was Initially Planned as a Trilogy, Says Director Nitesh Tiwari

Filmmaker Nitesh Tiwari has revealed that his upcoming epic Ramayana was originally conceived as a three-part film before the makers decided to present the story in two installments. The ambitious mythological adaptation stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana. Speaking during an interaction at San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC) 2026, Tiwari explained that the creative team spent considerable time deciding how best to adapt the timeless epic for the big screen. He said the emotional depth of the story made it difficult to fit into a single film, while a trilogy created its own storytelling challenges. According to the director, the proposed third installment would have focused almost entirely on the war sequence, leaving little room for the emotional moments and character development that form the heart of the Ramayana. After several creative discussions, the team concluded that a two-part format offered the ideal balance between emotion, storytelling and cinematic spectacle. The recently released trailer has generated significant excitement among audiences. Yash's powerful portrayal of Ravana has emerged as one of the biggest highlights, while the film's grand visuals, large-scale production design and visual effects have received widespread appreciation from fans. Apart from the lead trio, the film features an impressive ensemble cast, including Sunny Deol, Vivek Oberoi, Kajal Aggarwal and Rakul Preet Singh in pivotal roles. Produced by Namit Malhotra and Yash, Ramayana has been shot for IMAX and will be released in multiple languages and premi-



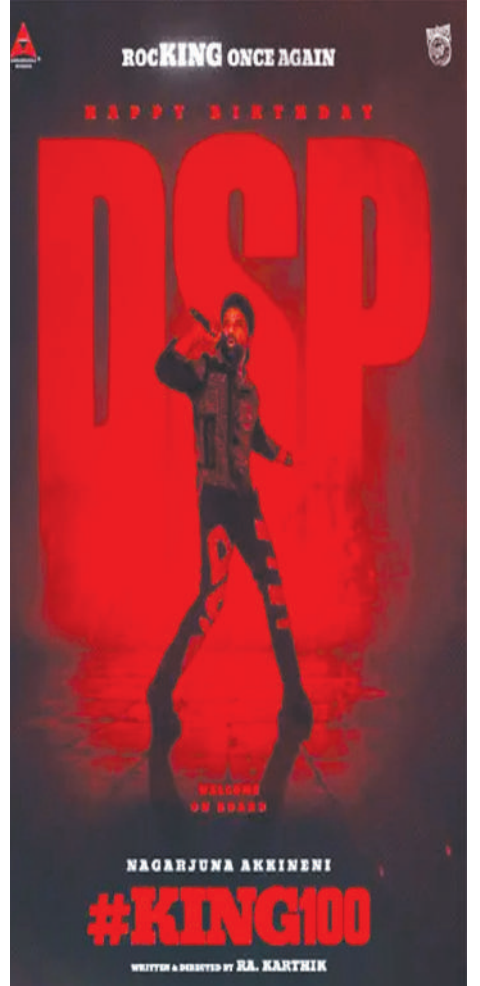
um formats. The makers are expected to unveil additional promotional material, including character posters and new trailers, in

the coming months as they build anticipation for one of India's most ambitious cinematic projects. With its star-studded cast, large-

scale production and faithful adaptation of the legendary epic, Ramayana is already among the most eagerly awaited Indian films.

Devi Sri Prasad to Compose Music for Nagarjuna's Landmark Film 'King 100'

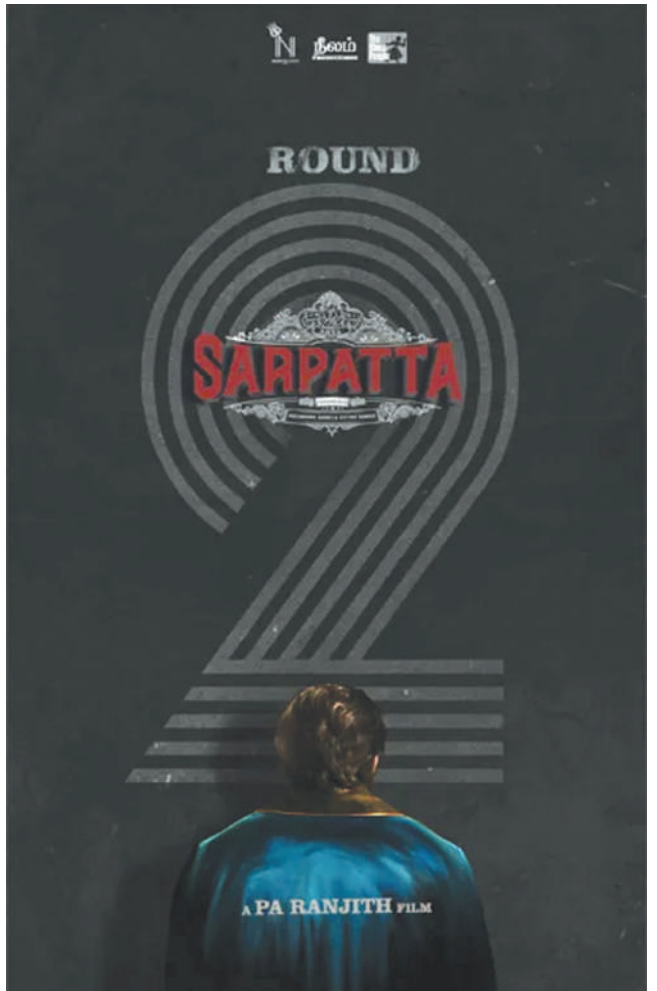
The makers of King 100, actor Nagarjuna Akkineni's milestone 100th film, have officially announced that National Award-winning music composer Devi Sri Prasad (DSP) will score the soundtrack for the much-awaited project. The announcement has generated excitement among fans, who had been eagerly waiting for a major update on the film. The announcement was made on Sunday to coincide with DSP's 47th birthday. Production house Annapurna Studios unveiled a special poster welcoming the composer to the project and extended birthday wishes, making the occasion even more memorable for fans of the celebrated musician. The film marks another collaboration between



Nagarjuna and Devi Sri Prasad, a duo that has delivered several successful musical albums over the years. DSP previously composed music for Nagarjuna's hit films Manmadhudu, Mass, King, and more recently Kubera. Their successful partnership has raised expectations for the soundtrack of King 100, with fans anticipating another memorable album. The latest announcement comes shortly after the makers confirmed the inclusion of veteran actress Tabu in the cast. Her return alongside Nagarjuna has further increased curiosity about the project, as the pair has shared successful on-screen chemistry in several acclaimed films. King 100 is being directed by Ra. Karthik and produced under the prestigious Annapurna Studios banner. The

film is regarded as a landmark project in Nagarjuna's illustrious career, making every update surrounding its production a major point of interest for movie lovers. While the makers have not yet revealed details about the film's storyline, supporting cast or release date, each new announcement has steadily built anticipation. With Devi Sri Prasad now officially handling the music, expectations have risen further, as his energetic compositions and chart-topping songs have played a key role in the success of many Telugu blockbusters. The production team is expected to unveil more details about King 100 in the coming weeks, including additional cast members, first-look promotional material and other key updates, as work on Nagarjuna's milestone film progresses.

'Sarpatta 2' to Be a Prequel, Confirms Actress Dushara Vijayan



Fans of the acclaimed Tamil sports drama Sarpatta Parambarai have received an exciting update, with actress Dushara Vijayan confirming that the upcoming Sarpatta 2 will be a prequel rather than a sequel. Directed by Pa. Ranjith and starring Arya in the lead role, Sarpatta Parambarai became a major success after its direct release on Amazon Prime Video during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The film earned widespread praise for its engaging storyline, powerful performances and authentic portrayal of North Chennai's boxing culture. The makers officially announced the second installment last year, generating excitement among fans eager to revisit the world of Sarpatta. While many expected the story to continue from where the first film ended, Dushara Vijayan has now revealed that the new film will instead explore events that took place before the original story.

Speaking in a recent interview, the actress said she is thrilled to return for the project and confirmed that her character, Mariyamma, will also be part of the film. She added that the shooting of Sarpatta 2 is scheduled to begin this month and expressed excitement about seeing how the prequel unfolds. Dushara also noted that while the first film premiered on an OTT platform because of the pandemic, the second installment is planned for a full-fledged theatrical release, allowing audiences to experience the film on the big screen. The announcement has further raised expectations for the project, with fans eager to learn more about the origins of the characters and the boxing rivalry that made the original film so memorable. More details regarding the cast, release date and production are expected to be announced as filming progresses.