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Revanth Reddy Offers Prayers at Ujjaini Mahankali Temple for Bonalu

Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday offered special prayers at the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Temple in Secunderabad as the annual Ashada Bonalu celebrations commenced with religious fervour. The Chief Minister, accompanied by Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, visited the temple in the afternoon and offered silk clothes (Pattu Vastralu) to Goddess Sri Mahankali as part of the traditional rituals. He prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the people of Telangana. Sanathnagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav



received and welcomed the Chief Minister at the temple. The visit drew the presence of a large number of devotees and public representatives

participating in the Bonalu festivities. Temple priests conducted special rituals amid Vedic chants and offered blessings

to the Chief Minister. They also presented him with a portrait of Goddess Mahankali as a mark of respect. Among those present during the visit were Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, BC Welfare Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, senior officials, and other dignitaries. The Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu is one of Telangana's most significant religious festivals, attracting thousands of devotees every year who offer prayers to Goddess Mahankali, seeking her blessings for health, prosperity, and protection.



PM Modi Launches Drug-Free India Campaign for Youth

New Delhi, Aug. 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 Mukti 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 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.

Deputy CM Showcases Telangana's Global Vision at IOC Meet



Washington, D.C., Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka declared that the state government is transforming Telangana into a globally competitive economy through a balanced approach to welfare and development. Addressing a meeting of the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) during his visit to the United States, Bhatti outlined the government's ambitious roadmap to position Telangana as a global investment and innovation hub while inviting the Telugu diaspora to actively participate in the state's growth story. The Deputy Chief Minister said the government has launched the 'Telangana Rising 2047' Vision Plan, aiming to transform the state into a \$1 trillion economy within the next five years and ultimately a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. As part of this vision, he announced the development of 'Bharat Future City' at Mucherla as the country's first net-zero, pollution-free smart city, complementing Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Cyberabad. He added that Telangana is being developed through three economic zones- Core Urban Region (CURE), Peri-Urban Region (PURE), and Rural Agri Region (RARE)-to ensure balanced and sustainable growth. Highlighting the government's focus on education and skill development, Bhatti said the Young India Skills University has been established through a public-private partnership to prepare youth for global employment opportunities. He also announced that integrated residential schools with international standards are being developed in every Assembly constituency. The Deputy Chief Minister said the state, in collaboration with the Tata Group, is investing ₹2,100 crore to modernise government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into advanced digital skill centres. He added that the recently launched Telangana Public School serves as a model institution for future educational reforms. Emphasising the government's commitment to student welfare, Bhatti said Telangana has become the first state in the country to provide a nutritious breakfast programme to nearly 2.7 million students studying in government schools. The government has also extended midday meal facilities to Intermediate students in government junior colleges to improve attendance, nutrition and

academic performance. On urban development, Bhatti said the government established HYDRAA to protect lakes, nalas and government lands from encroachments. He also highlighted the Musi Riverfront Development Project, which aims to restore the Musi River on the lines of London's River Thames while creating tourism, commercial and recreational opportunities. Criticising the previous BRS government, Bhatti alleged that Telangana had been pushed into severe financial distress over the past decade. He claimed that government employees earlier received salaries only between the 15th and 25th of every month due to poor financial management. Since assuming office, he said, the Congress government has restored fiscal discipline and now ensures that salaries are credited on the first day of every month. He also announced that the state is providing ₹1.20 crore accident insurance coverage to government employees, describing it as one of the most comprehensive welfare measures in the country. The Deputy Chief Minister said the Congress government is steadily implementing its Six Guarantees, including free bus travel for women, LPG cylinders at RS.500, free electricity, and an enhanced AarogyaSri health insurance limit, which he said have significantly improved the lives of ordinary citizens. Bhatti also highlighted major infrastructure projects such as the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and the Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II expansion, stating that these initiatives, along with sustained investment inflows, have helped raise Telangana's per capita income to RS.4.18 lakh. Calling upon Non-Resident Indians to become partners in Telangana's transformation, Bhatti urged entrepreneurs, professionals and investors in the United States to invest in the state and contribute to its development in sectors such as technology, manufacturing, clean energy, education and innovation. The meeting was attended by Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Government Whip Addanki Dayakar, MLAs T. Ram Mohan Reddy, Rakesh Reddy, Kale Yadaiah, Donthi Madhava Reddy, Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Vijaya Dairy Chairman Gutta Amit Reddy, Congress leader Hanumanla Jhansi Reddy, senior leaders of the Indian Overseas Congress, and members of the Telugu diaspora.

Kishan Reddy Hails Keto Motors' Electric Bus Launch

Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy described the launch of Keto Motors' first commercial electric bus as a major achievement for India's automobile industry, saying it reflects the country's growing strength in electric mobility, indigenous technology, and clean energy. Speaking at the launch event, Kishan Reddy congratulated the company's engineers, management, and employees for successfully developing the 9-metre commercial electric bus, designed to meet the needs of urban public transport. He said the launch marks another step towards building a greener and more self-reliant transportation

sector. The Union Minister said India has made remarkable progress in manufacturing, innovation, and green technology under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He noted that the country has moved from depending on imports to becoming a global manufacturing hub, with the same spirit of self-reliance now driving the electric vehicle industry. Kishan Reddy said electric mobility is essential for improving energy security, reducing pollution, cutting fuel imports, and promoting sustainable development. He added that the Central Government is supporting the entire EV ecosystem, including vehicle manufacturing, battery production, charging infrastructure, research, and

skill development. He also highlighted the government's investments in renewable energy, including solar, wind, hydro, and green energy projects, to ensure clean electricity for electric vehicles. Public sector companies such as Coal India and NLC India Limited are also expanding into renewable energy projects, he said. The Minister spoke about the ₹34,000-crore National Critical Mineral Mission, launched to secure key minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and copper, which are vital for electric vehicles, semiconductors, defence, and advanced technologies. Highlighting Telangana's industrial growth, Kishan Reddy said the state is emerging as a major



centre for pharmaceuticals, information technology, defence manufacturing, electric mobility, electronics, and semiconductor design. He added that Hyderabad is attracting global semiconductor companies, while young engineers from Telangana are contributing to cutting-edge technology development. He also pointed out that India is now the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer, with electronics manufacturing

and exports witnessing significant growth under the Centre's industrial policies and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. Concluding his address, Kishan Reddy said Keto Motors' achievement showcases India's growing technological capabilities and expressed confidence that the company would continue contributing to clean transportation, employment generation, and the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Jupally Krishna Rao Calls on NRIs in US to Promote Telangana Tourism



Baltimore (USA), Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has appealed to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to actively participate in promoting the state's tourism potential by introducing Telangana's destinations, heritage sites and cultural attractions to people across the world. Addressing the 19th American Telugu Association (ATA) conference at the Baltimore Convention Centre in the United States, Jupally Krishna Rao said the Telugu diaspora could play a key role in taking Telangana's rich cultural heritage and tourism opportunities to a global audience. The minister said the state government was making efforts to establish an NRI Bhavan in Hyderabad with an estimated investment of RS.10 crore. The facility would provide various services to visiting NRIs under one roof and strengthen the relationship between Telangana and the global Telugu community. Jupally Krishna Rao invited the American Telugu Association and other NRI organisations to adopt tourist destinations and heritage locations in Telangana. He said such partnerships would support the conservation, restoration and development of important historical and cultural sites in the state. Highlighting the achievements of Telugus settled abroad, the minister said the diaspora had made valuable contributions in areas such as education, tech-

nology, business and entrepreneurship. At the same time, he appreciated their continued efforts in preserving and promoting Telugu language, literature, arts, culture and traditions in foreign countries. The minister urged NRIs to become ambassadors of Telangana tourism by sharing information about the state's scenic locations, historical monuments and cultural attractions with their friends, colleagues and communities abroad. He said collective efforts by the government and the Telugu diaspora could enhance Telangana's identity as an international tourism destination. During his address, Jupally Krishna Rao also expressed concern over changing social trends, particularly the increasing financial burden on families due to high spending on private education and healthcare institutions. He said the Telangana government was investing significantly in strengthening public education and healthcare facilities and appealed to people to make better use of government schools, colleges and hospitals. He stressed that government institutions were being improved to provide quality services to citizens. The minister said Telangana's cultural heritage, traditions and tourism resources were valuable assets that needed collective efforts for preservation and promotion. He expressed confidence that the cooperation of NRIs and cultural organisations would help showcase the state's uniqueness on the global platform.

K.T. R Writes Open Letter to Rahul Gandhi Over Revanth Reddy's Remarks on Engineers



Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Saturday released an open letter addressed to Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, demanding that he respond to the alleged remarks made by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy describing engineering students and engineers as "criminal waste." In the letter, KTR strongly criticised the Chief Minister's reported comments, stating that engineers have played a crucial role in India's progress by leading global technology companies, driving innovation, and contributing to scientific achievements, including space exploration. He argued that describing such professionals in derogatory terms was an insult to the engineering community and the country's youth. KTR said Rahul Gandhi has both a moral and political responsibility to respond to the controversy, as Revanth Reddy is the Chief Minister of a Congress government. He alleged that Rahul Gandhi's silence on the issue would amount to endorsing the Chief Minister's remarks. The BRS leader demanded that Rahul direct Revanth Reddy to issue an unconditional apology or apologise himself on behalf of the Congress party. The former Telangana minister further alleged that Revanth Reddy has repeatedly made disparaging remarks against students and young people. Referring to previous controversies, KTR claimed that the Chief Minister had earlier described university students as the "beer and biryani

batch" and had consistently belittled student movements and youth aspirations. According to KTR, the latest remarks were not limited to engineering students alone but also reflected disrespect towards engineering teachers and the academic community. He said educators and engineers dedicate their lives to nation-building and deserve appreciation rather than criticism. The BRS Working President urged Rahul Gandhi to remember that India's youth are the architects of the country's future and that political leaders must treat them with dignity and respect. He argued that speeches on democracy, constitutional values, and youth empowerment lose credibility if Congress leaders fail to condemn statements that allegedly insult students and professionals. KTR also accused the Congress government of betraying the trust of Telangana's youth by failing to honour its election promises. He claimed that young voters who supported the Congress are closely watching the government's actions and would respond democratically at the appropriate time. Concluding the letter, KTR reiterated his demand that both Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy issue an unconditional apology to engineering students, teachers, engineers, and the youth of Telangana. He maintained that the alleged remarks reflected the Congress party's attitude towards the academic community and warned that the state's youth would not forget what he described as an insult to their self-respect and aspirations.

Mahindra University Chancellor Anand Mahindra Calls for Adaptive Leadership at Fifth Convocation



Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

The fifth annual convocation of Mahindra University was held at its Bahadurpally campus on Sunday, where 1,309 students were awarded degrees and 29 meritorious graduates received gold medals for academic excellence. The event also marked the inauguration of the Bajaj Engineering Skills Training (BEST) Centre, aimed at strengthening industry-ready skills among students. Presiding over the ceremony,

Mahindra University Chancellor Anand Mahindra said that today's graduates are entering a world undergoing unprecedented technological transformation driven by artificial intelligence, automation, and rapid innovation. He stressed that a degree alone is no longer sufficient for success and urged students to continuously adapt, learn, and evolve to meet changing global demands. Mahindra said the university's mission is not merely to produce graduates but to nurture future leaders equipped with technical expertise, human values, resilience, and a sense of social responsibility. He encouraged students to embrace change while remaining committed to ethical leadership and lifelong learning. Rajiv Bajaj, Managing Director of Bajaj Auto Limited and the chief guest, highlighted that technology, rather than capital alone, has become the driving force of modern business. He noted that technological advancements

are reshaping industries at an unprecedented pace, making the ability to learn quickly, adapt effectively, and implement innovative ideas the key determinants of professional success. He urged graduates to cultivate curiosity, discipline, quality consciousness, and the confidence to make independent decisions. The convocation was also attended by Dr. Pradeep K. Khosla, Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, who participated as the guest of honour. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Yajulu Medury, members of the Board of Management, faculty, academic leaders, students, and parents were also present. A major highlight of the event was the launch of the BEST Centre, established to bridge the gap between academia and industry by providing advanced technical and engineering training. University officials said the centre will prepare students with practical skills aligned with evolving industry requirements, enhancing their employability and readiness for future careers. The presentation of gold medals to 29 outstanding students drew enthusiastic applause from parents, faculty members, and fellow graduates. The Bahadurpally campus celebrated the achievements of the graduating class, with university leaders reminding students that receiving a degree is not the end of their educational journey but the beginning of a lifelong commitment to innovation, leadership, and service to society.



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Minister Seethakka Calls for Mass Awareness Campaign During World Breastfeeding Week

Hyderabad, Aug. 2 TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Women & Child Welfare, Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, has called for the observance of World Breastfeeding Week, being held from August 1 to 7, as a statewide public awareness movement across every village and urban ward. In a statement issued on Saturday, the Minister described breast milk as every child's first right, first vaccine, first source of nutrition, and first line of protection. She stressed that breastfeeding should begin within the first hour after birth, and infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months. Thereafter, breastfeeding should continue alongside age-appropriate complementary foods to ensure healthy growth and development. Seethakka expressed concern over recent reports indicating a decline in breastfeeding practices and said coordinated efforts are needed to reverse the trend. She urged government departments, healthcare professionals, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, women's groups, and community organisations to work together to spread awareness about the importance of breastfeeding among families. The Minister also emphasized the need to educate pregnant women, nursing mothers, and their family members with scientific information while dispelling myths and misconceptions related to breastfeeding. She said healthy children are the foundation of a healthy Telangana, and breastfeeding plays a vital role in ensuring their well-being. Appealing for collective participation, Dr. Seethakka urged everyone to take the message "Breast milk is a baby's first vaccine" to every household and encourage every mother to provide breast milk to her child for a healthier future.



Minister Komatireddy Seeks 'Bumper Majority' Before Next Poll



Nalgonda, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Sunday said he would contest the next Assembly elections only if the people of Nalgonda assured him of a bumper majority, while highlighting the development and welfare initiatives undertaken in the constituency. Addressing a public gathering during his visit to various programmes in the Nalgonda Assembly constituency, the Minister appealed to the people to support him based on his performance. "In the next elections, you should promise me the highest majority. Otherwise, I will not contest," Venkat Reddy said, urging voters to assess the development works carried out in the constituency before casting their votes. He also remarked that despite his long political career, he did not own a house. "I live in a rented

house in Hyderabad and have no personal properties except my ancestral lands," he said. The Minister assured that every acre in the constituency would receive assured irrigation through the Brahmana Vellemla Project. He added that the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) Project is expected to provide irrigation to nearly four lakh acres in Nalgonda district by August 2028. Earlier, Venkat Reddy inaugurated the newly constructed Gram Panchayat building at Kanchanpalli village in Nalgonda mandal. He announced that the ₹11-crore Kanchanpalli Lift Irrigation Scheme would be completed by Dasara, ensuring irrigation facilities to every acre of farmland in the village. The Minister also announced that he would personally distribute silk sarees to all women in Kanchanpalli during the Dasara festival celebrations.



Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana President N. Ramchander Rao said India today commands immense respect across the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and asserted that the NDA government is working towards achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat while contributing to the development of Viksit Telangana. Addressing a meet-and-greet programme with BJP supporters, well-wishers, and sympathisers during the 19th American Telugu Association (ATA) Conference and Youth Convention in Baltimore, Rao said the BJP is steadily emerging as the only credible political alternative in Telangana. He claimed that people in the state are becoming increasingly disillusioned with both the BRS and the Congress, adding that the BJP has strengthened its presence with eight Members of Parliament from Telangana and notable victories in recent MLC elections.

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BJP Telangana Chief N. Ramchander Rao Says India Commands Global Respect Under PM Modi

Alleging that the BRS and Congress are "two sides of the same coin," Rao said both parties had joined hands to defeat the BJP candidate in the MLC elections and have often taken similar positions on national issues. Highlighting the achievements of the NDA government, Rao said India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy, with rapid infrastructure development creating new employment opportunities. He said the country is witnessing record highway construction and major investments in public infrastructure. Referring to India's evacuation efforts during the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Rao said the Modi government safely brought back Indian students and also assisted citizens of other countries, reflecting India's growing global influence. He added that India's strategic planning also ensured energy security during the West Asia crisis, preventing fuel shortages experienced by several nations. The BJP leader said the Centre is encouraging entrepreneurship through initiatives such as Startup India, Stand-Up India, and the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, which have helped India become the world's second-largest startup ecosystem. He cited Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace as an example of India's innovation-driven growth, noting that the startup represents the aspirations of young Indian entrepreneurs. Speaking on defence, Rao said Operation Sindoor showcased India's growing indigenous defence capabilities through the use of domestically manufactured equipment. He added that defence exports have increased significantly under the Modi government. Highlighting development initiatives in Telangana, Rao said the Centre has established AIIMS, approved the Central Tribal University, sanctioned

the Zaheerabad Industrial Smart City, strengthened rail manufacturing facilities at Kazipet, and supported the PM MITRA Textile Park in Warangal. He also said the state's railway allocation now exceeds ₹5,000 crore, with 41 railway stations under redevelopment, five Vande Bharat Express trains in operation, and three proposed high-speed rail corridors that would position Hyderabad as a key rail hub. He further said the Centre has taken up 12 major National Highway projects in Telangana while implementing welfare schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and PM-KISAN, benefiting millions of eligible families and farmers. During his visit to the United States, Ramchander Rao participated in several programmes at the ATA conference and interacted with prominent Telugu NRIs, youth, and members of the Indian community.

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Residents Rally in Support of HYDRAA

Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Several Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) and welfare groups across Hyderabad organised rallies on Sunday expressing support for the State government's HYDRAA initiative, praising its efforts in flood prevention, lake protection, and the removal of encroachments. The rallies were held in Ameerpet, Madhura Nagar, Srinivasa Nagar and nearby localities, where representatives of several colony welfare associations participated. The residents raised slogans supporting the government's initiative and expressed solidarity with HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath. They also submitted video messages backing the government's efforts and condemned what they described as misinformation being spread against HYDRAA on social media. Representatives of the associations said HYDRAA had protected around 3,325 acres of government land, valued at nearly ₹1.50 lakh crore, from encroachments over the past two years. They also appreciated the restoration of 20 lakes in two phases, stating that the initiative had significantly reduced flood risks in several parts of the city. Residents recalled that areas such as Ameerpet used to experience severe waterlogging even after moderate rainfall. They said coordinated efforts by HYDRAA, along with GHMC, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and the Irrigation Department, had helped address long-pending flooding issues. The participants alleged that certain encroachers and vested interests were attempting to discredit HYDRAA through social media campaigns because of the action taken against illegal occupations. They urged the government to continue the initiative without interruption and appealed for A.V. Ranganath to continue leading the organisation. The rallies assume significance in the wake of the recent directions issued by the Telangana High Court regarding the position of the HYDRAA Commissioner, making Sunday's public demonstrations a notable development in the ongoing debate over the agency's future. Officials and residents alike stressed that protecting lakes, government lands and improving urban flood management should remain a priority for the city.

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KIMS Cuddles Marks World Breastfeeding Week with Awareness Drive

Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Marking World Breastfeeding Week, KIMS Cuddles Hospital, Kondapur, has launched a week-long awareness campaign highlighting the importance of breastfeeding for newborn health and maternal well-being. The initiative aims to educate mothers, families, healthcare professionals and the community about the benefits of breastfeeding and the need for a supportive environment. As part of the celebrations, a walkathon was organised on Sunday to spread awareness about the importance of breastfeeding. The event witnessed participation from obstetricians, neonatologists, paediatricians, nurses, lactation consultants, hospital staff, pregnant women and parents of young children. Participants emphasised that successful breastfeeding requires the support of not only mothers but also families, healthcare workers and society. Throughout the week, the hospital is conducting counselling sessions for expectant and new mothers, live demonstrations on proper breastfeeding techniques, Continuing Medical Education (CME) programmes for doctors, quizzes, awareness sessions to dispel myths about breastfeeding, and skit competitions on lactation. Parents are also being educated about the recommendation of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, followed by complementary feeding while continuing breastfeeding for two years or more. Dr. Apama, Head of Neonatology and Regional Director of Neonatology Academics and Research for Telangana at KIMS Cuddles, said breast milk is the first and most valuable investment in a child's health. She noted that it provides complete nutrition, strengthens immunity, supports brain development and enhances the emotional bond between mother and baby. She stressed that many mothers need proper guidance and encouragement to breastfeed confidently. Lactation Consultant Archana Reddy said most breastfeeding challenges can be overcome with accurate information, expert guidance and timely support from family members and healthcare professionals. KIMS Group of Hospitals Chairman and Managing Director Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao said breastfeeding is one of the most effective and cost-efficient public health measures for improving maternal and child health. He added that hospitals have a responsibility to provide scientific guidance and continuous support to every mother from pregnancy through the postnatal period. Hospital authorities said the awareness campaign aims to improve newborn health and create a community that actively supports every mother's breastfeeding journey. The Cyberabad Traffic Police reiterated that drunk driving poses a serious threat to public safety and urged motorists to avoid consuming alcohol before getting behind the wheel. They appealed to people to use public transport, taxis or designated drivers after drinking to prevent accidents and save lives. Police also issued a stern warning that motorists involved in fatal road accidents while driving under the influence of alcohol would face stringent legal action. Officials stated that such offenders would be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which deals with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The offence carries a punishment of up to 10 years' imprisonment, along with a fine. The department said it will continue conducting regular surprise checks across Cyberabad to curb drunken driving and ensure safer roads. Citizens have been urged to cooperate with traffic police and follow road safety rules to reduce accidents and protect lives.



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All efforts to maximise Godavari water for farmers: Uttam

Hyderabad, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday said the state government was making all possible efforts to maximise the utilisation of Godavari river waters to benefit farmers in northern Telangana districts. The minister, along with Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, G. Vivek Venkatswamy and Adluri Laxman Kumar, inspected major irrigation projects including the Sriramsagar Project (SRSP), Kadem Project and Sripada Yellampally Project as they received the first major inflows of Godavari water during the current monsoon season. Speaking during the inspection, Uttam Kumar Reddy said several major irrigation projects constructed decades ago, including the Sriramsagar Project, Nagarjuna Sagar, Srisailem and Flood Flow Canal, continue to play a crucial role in supporting agriculture and water needs

across Telangana. He said these landmark projects, developed during previous Congress governments, have served farmers for several years and remain important assets for the state's irrigation network. The minister also criticised the previous BRS government over the condition of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages, which are part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. He alleged that the barrages, constructed between 2016 and 2019, developed serious structural issues by 2023. Uttam Kumar Reddy clarified that there was no political intention behind keeping the three barrages under free-flow conditions. He said the government was strictly following the guidelines issued by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and the Central Water Commission (CWC), which advised against storing water until detailed investigations and necessary repair works are completed.



The minister stated that Telangana had achieved record paddy production of nearly 300 lakh metric tonnes annually and procured around 152 lakh metric tonnes of paddy in recent seasons even without depending on water storage from the damaged barrages.

He assured farmers in northern Telangana that the government remained committed to ensuring effective utilisation of Godavari waters for irrigation, agriculture and drinking water requirements. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government's priority was to strengthen irrigation infrastruc-

ture, ensure water availability for farmers and utilise available river resources in a scientific and sustainable manner. He added that necessary steps were being taken to improve water management and protect the interests of farming communities across the state.

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar Demands Higher Funds for Bonalu Festival

Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday criticised the Telangana Government over the allocation of funds for the Bonalu festival, alleging that Hindu festivals are being neglected despite Bonalu being declared a state festival. After offering prayers at the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Temple in Secunderabad as part of the Bonalu celebrations, Bandi Sanjay interacted with devotees and later addressed the media. He claimed that devotees were facing inconvenience due to inadequate facilities, including a lack of drinking water and other basic amenities despite large crowds attending the annual festival. The Union Minister alleged that while the state government had allocated ₹33 crore for Ramzan celebrations, only ₹20 crore had been earmarked for Bonalu, a festival celebrated by a majority of the state's Hindu population. He questioned

whether such an allocation was adequate, considering the scale of the celebrations and the large number of temples where Bonalu is observed. Bandi Sanjay also criticised both the present Congress government and the previous BRS government, alleging that both had failed to provide sufficient financial support for Bonalu celebrations. He urged the state government to allocate funds for religious festivals based on population proportions and ensure adequate arrangements for devotees. Recalling the history of the Bonalu festival, he said the tradition originated in the early 19th century when people offered prayers to Goddess Mahankali seeking protection from epidemics, and has since become an important cultural and religious festival of Telangana. The Union Minister called upon the Hindu community to unite and press the government for better support for Bonalu, Ganesh festivals, and other Hindu religious celebrations. He urged



the government to improve infrastructure and provide adequate facilities for devotees attending such festivals across the state.

Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy's Free Eye Camps Bring New Vision to Munugode



Munugode, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

A large-scale eye care initiative launched in the Munugode Assembly constituency has been helping thousands of poor and elderly people regain their vision through free medical camps organised under the banner

of the Komatireddy Susheelamma Foundation. The initiative, led by Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, MLA, Munugode Assembly Constituency, aims to ensure that no person in the constituency suffers due to eye-related problems and that quality vision care reaches people across all villages. As part of the programme, the 16th free eye medical camp was organised on Sunday (August 2, 2026) at the camp office premises in Munugode. The programme began with floral tributes to the portrait of Komatireddy Susheelamma and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by local leaders. So far, 15 rounds of free eye camps have been conducted across Munugode constituency. During these camps, a total of 11,654 people underwent eye examinations,

2,490 patients received eye surgeries, and 5,272 people were provided with spectacles. The camps were conducted in different mandals and municipalities of the constituency, including Munugode, Nampally, Marriguda, Choutuppal, Narayanapur, Gattuppal and Chandur. Hundreds of people from various sections of society benefited from these medical services. The latest 16th camp witnessed a strong response, with 415 people undergoing eye examinations. Among them, 157 people were identified as requiring surgeries and were selected for further treatment. The selected patients were sent to Shankara Eye Hospital in Nanakramguda, Hyderabad, for advanced eye surgeries. The free eye care programme is being organised by the Komatireddy Susheelamma Foundation in association with the Phoenix Foundation and Shankara Eye Hospital. Speaking about the initiative, organisers said that Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy was working with the vision of becoming a support system for elderly parents and economically weaker sections who are suffering from eye problems. A long-term plan has been prepared to eliminate eye-related issues in the constituency. As part of this vision, a target has been set to provide eye surgeries to around one lakh people across Munugode constituency in the coming days. The organisers said the continued success of the free eye camps reflects the commitment towards improving healthcare access for rural communities and bringing a brighter future to thousands of families.

BJP MP Demands Apology from CM Over 'Criminal Waste' Remark

Hyderabad, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

BJP MP D.K. Aruna has strongly criticised Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over his reported remarks describing engineering students as "criminal waste," calling the statement insensitive and insulting to lakhs of students and their families. Addressing the media in Hyderabad, Aruna said the Chief Minister had forgotten the dignity of his office while making such comments. She said students, particularly those from economically weaker families, work hard to pursue higher education with the support and sacrifices of their parents. "Parents from poor backgrounds undergo immense hardship to educate their children. Calling engineering students a 'criminal waste' is unacceptable and deeply hurtful," she said, demanding that Revanth Reddy issue an unconditional

public apology. The BJP MP questioned the government's handling of the education sector, pointing out that the Chief Minister also holds the education portfolio. She asked why the government had failed to improve the quality of education if it believed graduates were not meeting expectations. Aruna alleged that instead of strengthening educational institutions and creating better opportunities for students, the government was shifting the blame onto them. She said the administration should focus on improving standards in higher education rather than making derogatory remarks about students. The BJP leader also criticised the police action against students who staged peaceful protests in Mahbubnagar over fee reimbursement and other education-related demands. She described the baton charge and registration of cases against protesting students as unnecessary and

unfortunate. She urged the police not to register cases against students and advised them to discharge their duties impartially. Aruna also cautioned law enforcement authorities against acting with political bias. Referring to Revanth Reddy's comments about attending short-term courses at Harvard University, Aruna said such opportunities were not available to every student. She challenged the Chief Minister to create similar educational opportunities for students across Telangana instead of, as she alleged, humiliating them. Stating that the Chief Minister had failed



to protect the interests of students, Aruna said he had no moral right to continue as the state's Education Minister. She demanded that Revanth Reddy step down from the education portfolio and focus on improving the state's education system through meaningful reforms.

KTR Says KCR Granted State Festival Status to Bonalu



Hyderabad, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Sunday said the Bonalu festival received official recognition as a state festival only after the formation of Telangana under the leadership of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). KTR visited the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Temple in Secunderabad on the occasion of the annual Bonalu celebrations and offered special prayers to the presiding deity. He was accorded a traditional welcome by temple priests and officials with a Purna Kumbham. After the darshan, former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav felicitated KTR with a shawl and presented him with a memento. Speaking to reporters, KTR described Bonalu as a festival that unites people beyond caste and community. He alleged that previous governments in the undivided Andhra Pradesh did not give due importance to the festival and never recognised it as a state festival. He said that after the formation of Telangana, former Chief Minister KCR officially declared Bonalu a state festival, giving it the recognition it deserved. KTR recalled that KCR had often said the blessings of Goddess Mahankali

played a significant role in the achievement of Telangana statehood. Highlighting the initiatives taken during the BRS government, KTR said funds were allocated for temple development and Bonalu celebrations were organised on a grand scale across the state. He said the government had worked to preserve Telangana's cultural traditions and strengthen the importance of festivals associated with the state's heritage. KTR prayed for abundant rainfall across Telangana and hoped that the state would witness a prosperous agricultural season. He said he had sought the blessings of Goddess Mahankali for the well-being of farmers and wished for peace, prosperity and happiness for every family. Describing Bonalu as one of Telangana's most important cultural festivals, KTR said the celebrations help preserve the state's traditions and bring people together. He added that recognising Bonalu as a state festival had given Telangana a distinct cultural identity and reflected the state's commitment to protecting its rich heritage. He urged people across Telangana to celebrate the festival with devotion and unity while continuing to uphold the state's unique cultural traditions.

BRS Leader B. Vinod Kumar Slams Congress Over Kaleshwaram Remarks

Karimnagar, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

Senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader B. Vinod Kumar on Sunday criticised the Congress government over its comments on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project and urged Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud to organise an awareness programme for Congress leaders on the Godavari and Krishna river systems. Vinod Kumar, along with other BRS leaders, visited the Yellampalli backwaters at Kotilingala and inspected the Gayatri and Nandi pump houses as part of the party's ongoing "Kaleshwaram Bata" programme. Speaking to reporters during the visit, he alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and other ministers lacked a proper understanding of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. Reacting to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's remarks referring to Kaleshwaram as "Kuleshwaram", Vinod Kumar questioned how large quantities of water were continuing to be lifted from Yellampalli through the Nandi and Gayatri pump houses if the project had completely failed, as alleged by the Congress government. He claimed that except for the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages, around 95 per cent of the Kaleshwaram project was functioning. He stated that sufficient water was available at Medigadda and alleged that large quantities of Godavari water were flow-



ing downstream without being utilised. Vinod Kumar claimed that nearly five lakh cusecs of water was passing through the Medigadda area and questioned why the government was not taking steps to utilise available water resources effectively. He further alleged that several irrigation projects across Telangana were facing water shortages due to inadequate rainfall, although recent rains had improved storage levels in some reservoirs. He said better water management was required to ensure irrigation and drinking water availability in the state. The BRS leader urged the government to operate the Kannepally pump house and lift Godavari water to Yellampalli, stating that the move would help provide water to other irrigation projects and prevent possible drinking water shortages in the coming months. Vinod Kumar said the BRS would continue to highlight issues related to irrigation projects and questioned the Congress government's approach towards major water initiatives developed during the previous BRS regime. He maintained that proper understanding of river systems and irrigation infrastructure was essential for effective water management in Telangana.

V.C. Sajjanar Launches AI-Based Crowd Management System for Bonalu



Hyderabad, Aug. 02 | TPN Bureau

The Hyderabad City Police on Sunday introduced an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based crowd management system for the first time as part of the security arrangements for the annual Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu festival in Secunderabad. Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar inspected the newly established AI-enabled crowd management facility at the Mahankali Police Station and reviewed its operations. The initiative has been introduced to enhance public safety and ensure smooth crowd movement during one of the city's largest religious festivals, which attracts lakhs of devotees every year. During the inspection, the Commissioner interacted with police officials and technical teams to understand the system's functioning. He reviewed its real-time monitoring capabilities, operational efficiency and the support it provides to field personnel in handling large crowds. Officials explained that the AI-powered platform enables continuous surveillance of crowd movement, helping authorities identify congestion, monitor sensitive locations and respond quickly to any emerging situation. According to the police, the technology is designed to supplement conventional policing rather than replace it. The system provides real-time data and visual inputs, allowing officers to regulate the movement of devotees more effectively, particularly during peak festival hours when crowd density is at its highest. The AI-enabled monitoring system is expected to improve coordination among police personnel deployed at different locations, reduce response time during emergencies and strengthen overall crowd management during the Bonalu celebrations. Officials said the technology would also assist in preventing overcrowding and ensuring safer access to the temple premises. Senior police officers present during the inspection included M. Srinivasulu, Rakshittha K. Murthy, Vaibhav Gaikwad Raghunath, and Chaitanya Kumar, who reviewed the operational aspects of the new facility along with the Commissioner. The deployment of the AI-based crowd management platform is part of the Hyderabad Police's comprehensive bandobast plan for the Bonalu festival. Along with traditional security measures, the integration of advanced technology reflects the department's efforts to improve public safety through modern policing methods. Police officials expressed confidence that the AI-powered system would help ensure the smooth conduct of the festival while enabling devotees to participate in the celebrations in a safe and well-managed environment. The initiative marks a significant step towards adopting smart policing solutions for managing large public gatherings in Hyderabad.

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud Offers Special Prayers at Ujjaini Mahankali Temple



Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud visited the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Temple in Secunderabad along with his family and offered special prayers to Goddess Mahankali on Sunday. The temple priests performed traditional rituals accompanied by Vedic chants and offered special blessings to Mahesh Kumar Goud and his family. They also presented them with the temple's sacred holy water (Theertham) and sacred offering (Prasadam) after the rituals. Mahesh Kumar Goud prayed for the peace, prosperity, and overall development of Telangana and sought the blessings of the Goddess for the welfare of the people. The visit took place during the festive period when thousands of devotees are visiting the temple to offer prayers. Among those who accompanied the TPCC President were MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav and Telangana Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar, along with several public representatives and political leaders. The temple authorities welcomed the dignitaries and made arrangements for their special visit. A large number of devotees were present at the temple, participating in the religious ceremonies and seeking the blessings of Goddess Mahankali.

Nacharam Temple Forms New Committee



Nacharam, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

A new managing committee has been constituted for the Sri Sri Sri Nalla Pochamma Temple located in Indira Nagar Colony under the HMT Nagar Division in Nacharam. As part of the newly formed executive body, Bollam Chandramouli was elected as President, Pentam Ramesh Kumar as General Secretary, and B. Balayya as Treasurer. The committee also includes Vice Presidents, Joint Secretaries, Organisers, and Executive Members to oversee the temple's activities and development. Following the announcement, BJP leaders Pothagani Gopal Goud, Mora Narasimha Reddy, Manjula Vani, G. Krishna Reddy, Mahesh Yadav, and Naresh met the newly elected committee members, felicitated them with shawls, and extended their best wishes. Several local leaders, temple committee members, and devotees attended the event and expressed confidence that the new committee would work towards the welfare and development of the temple and its religious activities.

BC Leader Jajula Srinivas Goud Opposes Move to Remove JNTU Registrar



Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

BC organisations and student unions staged a protest near the Arts College at Osmania University on Saturday, opposing alleged attempts to remove Prof. Dr. A. Jayalakshmi, Registrar of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), from her post. Addressing the gathering, Jajula Srinivas Goud, a BC leader, criticised the reported efforts to remove the Registrar, stating that she had assumed office only 45 days ago and should not be subjected to political pressure. He said targeting officials appointed on the basis of merit and qualifications would undermine the integrity of the higher education system. Srinivas Goud alleged that attempts were being made to remove Prof. Jayalakshmi without any specific or proven allegations against her, describing such actions as unfair and unjustified. He urged the government to respect the autonomy of prestigious institutions such as JNTU and immediately halt any move to remove the Registrar from office. He further warned against any action that could be perceived as discriminatory towards a woman academic belonging to the BC community. Several representatives of BC organisations, student unions, and other association leaders participated in the protest and expressed solidarity with the Registrar.

Ayansh Clinches Under-14 Title at TPL Tennis Tournament



Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Ayansh emerged champion in the boys' under-14 category at the TPL Ranking Tennis Tournament, defeating R. Vedanth 5-1 in the final held in Hyderabad on Sunday. The tournament witnessed exciting matches across various age groups, with young players displaying impressive talent and competitive spirit. In the boys' under-8 final, Mohd Razzik defeated Abhi Chandra 5-2 to claim the title. Monith Sai secured

the under-10 championship after registering a 5-3 victory over B. Om Preetham. In the boys' under-12 final, B. Pradyumna outplayed G. Ayansh 5-1 to lift the title. In the girls' under-12 category, Udhadriti delivered a dominant performance, defeating Sreeya Reddy 5-0 to emerge champion. The tournament provided a competitive platform for budding tennis players to showcase their skills and gain valuable match experience as they continue their development in the sport.

Bonalu Celebrations Begin at Secunderabad Mahankali Temple

Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

The famed Lashkar Bonalu celebrations began with grandeur at the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Temple in Secunderabad on Sunday, drawing thousands of devotees from across Telangana. Devotees started arriving at the temple before dawn to offer Bonam to Goddess Mahankali, with the temple premises and surrounding streets witnessing massive crowds. The atmosphere was filled with chants of "Jai Mahankali" as the annual festival commenced with traditional fervour. On behalf of the Telangana government, Endowments Minister Ponnampallabharathi, accompanied by his wife, offered the first Bonam and presented silk clothes (Pattu Vastralu) to the presiding deity before participating in special prayers. To manage the heavy influx of devotees, authorities made elaborate arrangements at the temple. Three separate queue lines were set up for general devotees, while two dedicated queues were arranged for women carrying Bonams. An exclusive queue was also provided for VIP visitors. Special parking facilities were established at designated locations, and nearly 1,500 police personnel were deployed to ensure security and maintain law and order throughout the celebrations.



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As part of the festival, devotees will continue offering Bonams to the Goddess on Sunday. On Monday morning, the traditional Rangam ceremony, during which the temple oracle delivers prophetic messages, will be held. The festivities will conclude with the grand procession of the Goddess's Ghatas carried on a decorated elephant. Meanwhile, the Hyderabad Traffic Police have imposed traffic restrictions around the temple and surrounding areas in view of the large gatherings. Traffic Joint Commissioner Joel Davis said diversions will remain in force within a two-kilometre radius of the temple until the morning of August 4. Roads leading to the temple from Tobacco Bazaar, Subhash Road, and General Bazaar have been closed, while vehicles from Karbala Crossroads are being diverted towards Ranigunj. RTC buses and other vehicles heading to Secunderabad Railway Station have been advised to use the Minister Road-Gopalapuram route until the festival concludes.

ABVP Protest Triggers Tension at Osmania University

Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Tension prevailed near the Arts College at Osmania University on Sunday after activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) staged a protest over the alleged suicide of an unemployed youth from Madhira constituency in Khammam district. During the protest, ABVP leaders burned an effigy of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Police attempted to stop the effigy burning, leading to a brief scuffle between the protesters and the police personnel. Following the incident, several ABVP activists were taken into preventive custody and shifted to the Osmania University Police Station. ABVP leaders alleged that although around 19,000 government vacancies exist in the state, notifications had been issued for only about 7,000 posts, which they claimed had disappointed unemployed youth. They demanded that the government expedite recruitment and fill all vacant posts. The organisation also sought accountability from the state government over the alleged suicide of Gaddam Venugopal and urged the Chief Minister to accept moral responsibility for the incident. Additional police forces were deployed around the Arts College and other sensitive areas on the campus, and the situation was later brought under control.



they claimed had disappointed unemployed youth. They demanded that the government expedite recruitment and fill all vacant posts. The organisation also sought accountability from the state government over the alleged suicide of Gaddam Venugopal and urged the Chief Minister to accept moral responsibility for the incident. Additional police forces were deployed around the Arts College and other sensitive areas on the campus, and the situation was later brought under control.

Residents Seek JBS-Medchal Metro Corridor



Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Residents and members of the Medchal Metro Sadhana Yatra (MMSS) on Sunday organised a padayatra demanding that the JBS-Medchal Metro corridor be included in Hyderabad Metro Phase II, saying the project is essential to meet the growing transportation needs of northern Hyderabad. The padayatra began at the Gandhi Statue in Jeedimetla and concluded at the first pillar of the proposed metro corridor near Suchitra (JBS Metro Hub). Participants urged both the Central and Telangana governments to expedite the announcement and approval of the long-pending metro project. Residents said the proposed corridor would benefit commuters from Medchal, Kompally, Shamirpet, Gandimaisamma, and other rapidly developing areas in the northern part of the city. Members of the Medchal Metro Sadhana Samithi said Hyderabad's expanding population requires an efficient and sustainable public transport system, with the Metro Rail serving as the backbone of urban mobility. They stressed that the city's metro network must be expanded to address increasing traffic congestion and improve connectivity. The organisers pointed out that although the Telangana government had recommended the JBS-Medchal Metro corridor, the proposal is yet to receive approval from the Central government. They said the delay has deprived lakhs of commuters of a safe, reliable, and environmentally friendly mode of transport. The participants appealed to both governments to clear the proposal at the earliest and begin work on the corridor to improve public transportation in northern Hyderabad.

Members of the Medchal Metro Sadhana Samithi said Hyderabad's expanding population requires an efficient and sustainable public transport system, with the Metro Rail serving as the backbone of urban mobility. They stressed that the city's metro network must be expanded to address increasing traffic congestion and improve connectivity. The organisers pointed out that although the Telangana government had recommended the JBS-Medchal Metro corridor, the proposal is yet to receive approval from the Central government. They said the delay has deprived lakhs of commuters of a safe, reliable, and environmentally friendly mode of transport. The participants appealed to both governments to clear the proposal at the earliest and begin work on the corridor to improve public transportation in northern Hyderabad.

Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender Invited to Nacharam Bonalu Festival



Nacharam, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender was invited to the upcoming Bonalu festival of Sri Sri Sri Nallapochamma Temple in Indira Nagar Colony, Nacharam, scheduled to be held next Sunday. A delegation led by temple committee president Bollam Chandramouli, with the support of BJP district official spokesperson Pothagani Gopal Goud, met the MP and formally extended the invitation on behalf of the temple committee. During the meeting, the committee members informed the MP that devotees visiting the temple face difficulties during heavy rains and scorching heat due to the absence of adequate shelter. They requested the construction of a shed in the vacant space in front of the temple to provide protection and comfort to devotees. Responding positively, Etela Rajender assured the delegation that he would extend support from his Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) funds and make efforts to facilitate the construction of the shed for the convenience of devotees. Among those present were temple committee Vice President Gaddam Rajireddy, Treasurer B. Balayya, committee members Dattadri, Srisailam, Ashok, Uppalaya, BJP district official spokesperson Pothagani Gopal Goud, and other temple representatives.

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Green Hills Residents Allege Seven-Month Delay in Fogging, Demand Immediate Action

Quthbullapur, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Green Hills Housing Colony in Bahadurpally, under the Dundigal Circle, have raised serious concerns over the worsening mosquito menace, alleging that the colony has not been covered under fogging operations for the past seven months despite repeated appeals to the authorities. Locals questioned the functioning of the Entomology Department, asking whether it is actively carrying out its responsibilities or merely exists on paper. They pointed out that although a fogging vehicle has reportedly been made available through the municipal authorities, no fogging activity has been undertaken in their colony, reflecting what they described as official negligence. The mosquito problem has intensified following recent rains, making life difficult for residents. Families say children have stopped cycling and playing outdoors during the evenings, while many adults have discontinued their regular walks due to the increasing mosquito population. Residents claim they are often forced to keep doors and windows shut to avoid mosquito bites. According to the colony residents, the Entomology Department has failed to pay adequate attention to Green Hills Housing Colony since the formation of the Dundigal Circle. They warned that the lack of preventive measures during the monsoon season could increase the risk of mosquito-borne diseases, posing a serious threat to public health. The residents have urged the concerned civic authorities to immediately conduct fogging operations in the colony and intensify mosquito control measures to safeguard the health and well-being of the community. They also appealed for regular monitoring and timely preventive action to prevent the situation from worsening further.



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LB Nagar MLA Sudhir Reddy Inaugurates Agrasen Bank's 14th Branch

Hyderabad, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

The Agrasen Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd. expanded its footprint in Telangana with the inauguration of its 14th branch at Laxminagar Colony, Kothapet 'X' Road in Hyderabad on Sunday. The new branch was inaugurated by LB Nagar MLA Devi Reddy Sudhir Reddy in the presence of Bank Chairman Pramod Kumar Kedia, members of the Board of Directors, senior management, customers, and other dignitaries. The Kothapet branch has been equipped with a 24x7 ATM Centre, Safe Deposit Lockers, and a range of modern banking services aimed at providing convenient and technology-driven financial solutions to customers. Speaking on the occasion, Pramod Kumar Kedia said the inauguration marks another milestone in the bank's expansion, increasing its network to 14 branches across Telangana. He reiterated the bank's commitment to offering quality banking services and invited customers to benefit from its deposit schemes, loan products, and digital banking facilities. "The opening of the Kothapet branch reflects our continued focus on expanding accessible and customer-centric banking services. We remain committed to supporting the financial needs of individuals, families, and businesses through



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innovative and reliable banking solutions," Kedia said. The event was attended by Senior Vice Chairman CA Naveen Kumar Agarwal, Vice Chairman Suresh Kumar Agarwal, Board of Management Chairman Narayan Dutt, General Manager & CEO C.V. Rao, Deputy General Manager Anand Agarwal, Branch Manager Jyoti Rathi, members of the Board of Directors and Board of Management, customers, staff members, and distinguished guests. Bank officials said the new branch has been designed to provide a comprehensive range of retail banking services while enhancing customer convenience through modern infrastructure and digital banking facilities. They added that the expansion is part of the bank's strategy to strengthen its presence across Telangana and improve access to financial services for individuals and businesses.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Promises Model Nalgonda Corporation, 24x7 Drinking Water

Nalgonda, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau
Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Sunday said the State Government is committed to transforming the Nalgonda Municipal Corporation into a model urban local body by ensuring better civic infrastructure, uninterrupted drinking water supply, and expanded welfare schemes for the poor.
Addressing a programme at the Nalgonda Tahsildar's Office after distributing Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques worth ₹64.07 lakh to 64 beneficiaries, the Minister said every division in the municipal corporation would be equipped with CC roads, underground drains, and 24-hour drinking water supply.
He said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had recently laid the foundation stone for an ₹83-crore drinking water treatment plant and had also sanctioned an additional ₹300 crore to strengthen Nalgonda's drinking water infrastructure. Since Nalgonda has been upgraded as a Municipal Corporation, the town would also become eligible for nearly ₹1,000 crore in Central funds for urban development, he added.
The Minister said the government is issuing ration cards and supplying fine rice to all eligible families. He also stat-



ed that 700 Indiramma houses have already been sanctioned and urged eligible beneficiaries who own land but are yet to receive houses to apply this year. Reaffirming the Congress government's commitment to welfare, Komatireddy said the administration is focused on addressing the needs of economically weaker sections and empowering women through interest-free loans to improve their financial independence.
MLC Shankar Naik said the State

Government has been implementing several welfare and development programmes for the poor, including ration cards, fine rice distribution, Indiramma housing, free bus travel for women, improved roads, drainage systems, and drinking water facilities in Nalgonda. Earlier, the Minister inspected the progress of a major drain construction project at Sai Nagar and directed officials to complete the works at the earliest. He also reviewed the status of proj-

ects sanctioned to the Nalgonda Municipal Corporation under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme with Public Health Assistant Executive Engineer Venkateswarlu. District Collector B. Chandrasekhar, In-charge Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Prem Karan Reddy, Tahsildar Parashuram, MPDO Yakkoob Naik, Deputy Mayor Ameer Ali, Corporator Rafi Uddin, PACS President Nagaratnam, other corporators, and officials were present at the programme.

NIT Warangal Hosts First Industry Conclave Ahead of 2026-27 Placements

Warangal, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau
The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal successfully hosted its first Industry Conclave-Career Launch Summit 2026, a two-day initiative aimed at preparing students for the 2026-27 campus placement season through industry interactions, leadership sessions, and career guidance.
Organised by the Centre for Career Planning and Development (CCPD) on August 1 and 2, the summit brought together industry leaders, alumni, and students to discuss changing industry expectations, emerging employment trends, and the skills required to succeed in an increasingly competitive job market. Addressing the participants virtually, NIT Warangal Director Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi encouraged students to understand evolving industry requirements and

continuously enhance their professional competencies to remain competitive in the global workforce. Dean (Student Welfare) Prof. Kiran Kumar highlighted the importance of adaptability, initiative, and holistic personality development in building successful careers. CCPD Head Prof. P.V. Suresh said the conclave was organised to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and equip students with a better understanding of career opportunities before the commencement of the placement season.
During the event, the institute also released its 2026-27 Placement Brochure, showcasing the academic strengths, research capabilities, and talent pool available to prospective recruiters. Representatives from leading companies, including HPCL, Exxon Mobil, Micron, and Truvela, participated in leadership



talks, panel discussions, and interactive sessions. They shared valuable insights into career opportunities in sectors such as core engineering, semiconductors, energy, and artificial intelligence, while distinguished NIT Warangal alumni working in these organisations interacted

with students and shared their professional experiences. The summit concluded with a renewed focus on industry readiness, skill development, and stronger partnerships between academia and the corporate sector to enhance student employability.

Mulugu, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau
A team of researchers from Kakatiya University (KU), Warangal, on Sunday conducted a field study to examine the tornado-like winds that uprooted hundreds of trees in the forests of Mangapet mandal in Mulugu district earlier this week.
Led by environmentalist and botanist Dr. Sutari Satish, the team visited the affected forest area near Sandroni Ooru on the Mangapet-Komatipalli road to assess the extent of the damage and understand the factors behind the unusual weather event. Speaking after the inspection, Dr. Satish said tornado-like winds struck the area on July 28, uprooting more than 200 trees. He explained that many forest trees develop shallow, surface-level root systems instead of deep roots, making them more vulnerable to powerful winds.
The researcher attributed the increasing frequency and intensity of such extreme weather events to human activities such

KU Team Studies Tornado-Like Forest Damage in Mulugu

Among the affected species were Tunika, Dumpena, Tanikkaya, Vishamushi, Eucalyptus, Kanuga, Juvvi, Neem, and Soapnut, many of which are ecologically and economically significant.
Dr. Satish said tornado-like conditions are formed when warm, moisture-laden air rises rapidly due to atmospheric instability, creating rotating wind currents capable of causing severe damage to forests and other structures.
He also recalled a similar incident on August 8, 2024, when nearly 1.5 lakh trees spread across about 800 acres of the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary near Medaram were destroyed by intense winds.
The researcher attributed the increasing frequency and intensity of such extreme weather events to human activities such



as indiscriminate tree felling, illegal sand mining, and destruction of natural landscapes, which disturb ecological balance and increase environmental vulnerability.

Researchers Vanguri Anil Kumar, Pasula Janakiramudu, Dakuri Varsha, Naitham Indu, Kathi Sandeep, and Pagadala Sai Kumar also participated in the field study.

Harish Rao to Fund MBBS Education of NEET Qualifier



Siddipet, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister T. Harish Rao has announced that he will sponsor the entire MBBS education of Akhila, a Siddipet student who recently qualified in the NEET examination. Harish Rao, who has been supporting the education of the semi-orphaned student and her family for the past four years, invited Akhila and her family to his residence for breakfast on Sunday. He congratulated her on clearing NEET and assured her of full financial support for pursuing a medical degree. Akhila's father, Madduri Raju, who ran a tea stall in Siddipet, passed away due to brain cancer about five years ago. Since then, her mother has struggled to support her three daughters by working in hotels. With no permanent home and facing financial hardship, the family had earlier approached Harish Rao for assistance. Responding to their situation, Harish Rao had helped the family secure a 2-BHK house and arranged financial support for the daughters' education. Akhila scored 453 out of 720 marks in the NEET examination and is expected to secure an MBBS seat in a reputed medical college. Appreciating her determination and academic achievement, Harish Rao assured that all expenses related to her medical education would be borne by him. The family expressed gratitude to Harish Rao for his continued support during difficult times. The former minister also appreciated the management of Meridian School, Siddipet, for extending educational support to Akhila and helping her achieve success. Harish Rao said encouraging talented students from economically weaker backgrounds would help them achieve their dreams and contribute meaningfully to society.

HC Relief for 292 Farmers as Sangareddy Withdraws Land Acquisition



Sangareddy, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

In a major relief to farmers in Sangareddy district, the district administration has withdrawn the land acquisition notification for 566.12 acres in Rejinth village of Nyalkal mandal following directions from the High Court.
The decision benefits 292 farmers, who had challenged the acquisition of their fertile agricultural lands proposed for the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ). The farmers argued that the acquisition process violated the provisions of the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, and that the land was their only source of livelihood.
The district administration had issued the acquisition notification in January this year. The affected farmers approached the High Court, stating that the land was highly fertile and supported multiple crops every year. They also argued that the authorities had failed to follow the legal procedures required under the Act.
Although the High Court initially directed officials to exclude the petitioners' lands from acqui-

sition, the administration reportedly extended the benefit only to those farmers who had filed the case, prompting the remaining affected farmers to approach the court again. Following the latest High Court order, Sangareddy Collector Pratheek Jain issued a notification on June 29 withdrawing the acquisition notification for the entire 566.12 acres. The farmers received a copy of the notification on Saturday evening and celebrated the decision by distributing sweets and bursting crackers. The farmers said the verdict had protected their only means of livelihood and preserved lands that their families had cultivated for generations. They expressed gratitude to the judiciary for safeguarding their rights.
Officials had originally planned to acquire 1,880 acres in Rejinth village, including government, assigned and private patta lands, for the proposed NIMZ project. While the acquisition of the remaining lands has already been completed and compensation paid, the withdrawal of the notification ensures that the disputed 566.12 acres will remain with the farmers.

BVRIT Holds 26th Convocation, 1,510 Students Graduate



Medak, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

The BV Raju Institute of Technology (BVRIT), Narsapur, celebrated its 26th Convocation on Sunday, with 1,510 undergraduate and postgraduate students receiving their degrees. Speaking at the ceremony, JNTUH Registrar Prof. Dr. A. Jayalakshmi urged graduates to pursue their goals with commitment, discipline and perseverance.
Addressing the gathering, Prof. Jayalakshmi said graduation marked the successful completion of years of hard work and dedication. She also acknowledged the invaluable role of parents in shaping their children's future, describing them as the silent architects of every student's success. She congratulated both the graduates and their families on the milestone.
Sri Vishnu Educational Society Vice-Chairman Ravichandran Rajagopal advised students to develop qualities such as capability, adaptability and transdisciplinary skills to excel in their careers. He appreciated the institution's student entrepreneurs and assured graduates that BVRIT would continue supporting its alumni through its growing

startup ecosystem.
BVRIT Principal Dr. Sanjay Dubey highlighted the institute's achievements in campus placements, research and innovation. He formally declared the convocation open and administered the graduation pledge to the students.
During the ceremony, the Padma Bhushan Dr. B.V. Raju Memorial Award-2026 was presented to Gaddam Sai Likhith Kumar Reddy of the Biomedical Engineering Department. The Best Outgoing Academic Award-2026 was conferred on Gopishetti Soumya from the Computer Science and Engineering Department.
Gold medals were also awarded to department toppers and outstanding students in recognition of their exceptional academic performance.
Among those present were BVRIT Director K. Lakshmi Prasad, Placement Officer Dr. J. Bangarajju, Chief Controller of Examinations Dr. Kapula Prabhakara Rao, faculty members, parents and students. The event concluded with graduates taking the pledge to uphold professional ethics and contribute meaningfully to society.

BRS Alleges Congress Betrayed Unemployed Youth

Khammam, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders on Sunday accused the Congress government in Telangana of deceiving unemployed youth by failing to fulfil its promises on job notifications and employment.
Former Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar, MLC Tata Madhusudhan, former MP Nama Nageswara Rao, along with party leaders Lingala Kamal Raju, Gundala Krishna, Bachu Vijay Kumar and others, visited Gaddam Venu Kumar, who is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Khammam after an alleged suicide attempt. They enquired about his health and expressed solidarity with his family.
According to reports, Venu Kumar, an MSc graduate, allegedly consumed rat poison and sleeping pills near Kotha Lakshimpuram village in Mudigonda mandal on Saturday. He was reportedly distressed over the delay in issuing notifications for government recruitment, including the Group examinations.
Speaking to the media, Ajay Kumar alleged that the Congress had promised a job calendar and regular recruitment notifications before the elections but failed to deliver after assuming power. He said the government's inaction had left unemployed youth frustrated and



uncertain about their future.
MLC Tata Madhusudhan said the incident reflected the disappointment among job aspirants. He claimed Venu Kumar had supported the Congress in the last Assembly elections with hopes of securing employment opportunities but now felt let down by the government.
The BRS leaders also questioned the government over the implementation of welfare schemes, stating that Venu Kumar's family, which lives in a rented house, had not received benefits under the Indiramma housing scheme. They urged the government to clarify the eligibility criteria for allotments.
While criticising the Congress government, the BRS leaders appealed to unemployed youth not to resort to extreme steps. They assured that the party would continue raising the issues of job seekers and work towards protecting their interests and securing their legitimate rights

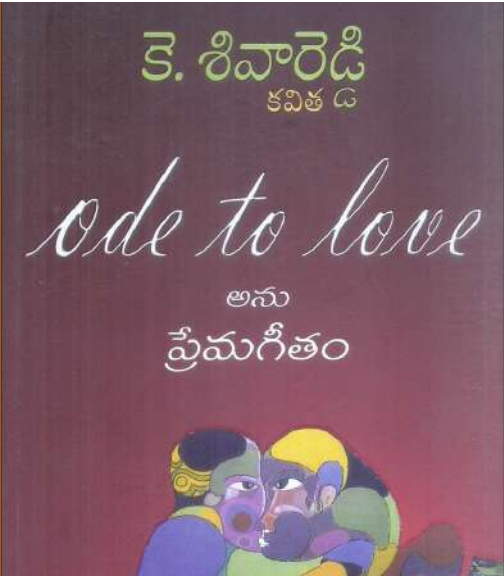
Godavari Flood Warning Withdrawn at Bhadrachalam



Kothagudem, Aug. 2 | TPN Bureau

The flood situation at Bhadrachalam improved on Sunday as the Godavari River receded below the first warning level, prompting authorities to withdraw the first flood warning. The development brought relief to thousands of residents living along the riverbanks after days of rising water levels. According to officials, the river's water level, which stood at 43 feet at 5 p.m., dropped to 42.90 feet by 6 p.m. The discharge also reduced to 9.32 lakh cusecs, indicating a gradual easing of the flood situation.
Following the decline in water levels, district authorities officially withdrew the first warning. However, District Collector Ankit advised residents evacuated from flood-affected villages not to return to their homes immediately. He urged them to continue staying at the designated relief centres until officials confirmed that conditions were completely safe and normal. Meanwhile, the district administration has begun restoration efforts in villages affected by floodwaters. Panchayat staff have launched extensive sanitation drives to clear mud, silt and garbage left behind after the floods. The cleaning operations are aimed at preventing the outbreak of waterborne diseases and restoring normal life as quickly as possible. Officials are also monitoring the river's water level round the clock and reviewing the situation regularly. The administration has assured residents that all necessary relief and rehabilitation measures will continue until normalcy is fully restored. Authorities have appealed to people living in low-lying areas to remain cautious and follow official advisories, even though the immediate flood threat has subsided. The district administration said it would continue to monitor weather conditions and river inflows to ensure public safety.

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

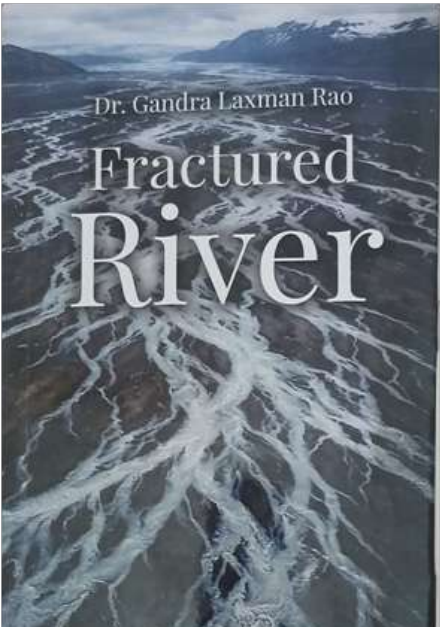


Dr Peruka Raju

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 and 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 economic data to assess whether foreign inflows will continue in the coming months. While experts caution that global uncertainties remain, July's investment figures are being viewed as a positive sign for India's equity markets. If favourable economic conditions persist and corporate performance 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



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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.

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.

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.

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-

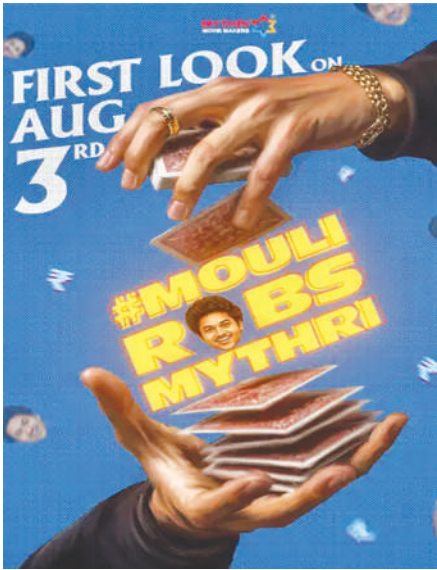
line, are likely to be unveiled during the event. According to reports, actress Vaishnavi Chaitanya is expected to play the female lead opposite Nithiin. However, an official confirmation regarding her casting is yet to be made by the production team. Fans are eagerly waiting for the announcement, as 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-



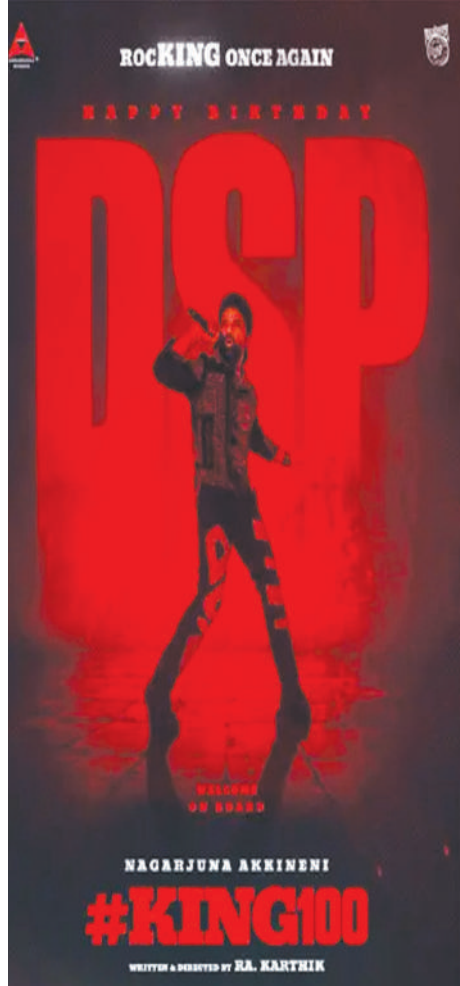
um formats. The makers are expected to unveil additional promotional material, including character posters and new trailers, in

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.