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HYDERABAD | VOL-1 | ISSUE - 130 | THURSDAY | AUGUST 6 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : HYDERABAD □ VIJAYAWADA

CM Pushes for Stronger Global Partnerships

New Delhi, August 05 |
TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday met United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor in New Delhi and held wide-ranging discussions on strengthening cooperation in education, technology, investment, research, and employment. The courtesy meeting lasted for over 30 minutes and focused on expanding ties between Telangana and the United States across multiple sectors. During the meeting, the Chief Minister urged the Ambassador to facilitate a smoother visa process for students and professionals from Telangana. He requested an increase in the number of visas issued to students pursuing higher education in the United States and sought assistance in ensuring timely visa appointments. He also



appealed for more visa interview slots and faster processing of applications. Revanth Reddy highlighted the concerns faced by professionals from Telangana working in the United States, particularly with regard to H-1B visa processing, renewals, and visa stamping. He requested that these proce-

dures be simplified to avoid delays and asked that any changes in visa regulations be communicated well in advance so that applicants could plan accordingly. The meeting also covered issues related to the safety and welfare of students from Telangana studying in the United States. Both sides

exchanged views on strengthening support systems for students and promoting closer educational cooperation. Emphasising Telangana's emergence as a major investment destination, the Chief Minister invited greater participation from American companies in sectors such as Information

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Zuckerberg Apologises to PM Narendra Modi Over Video Removal

New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has apologised to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the temporary removal of the Prime Minister's video from Facebook sparked criticism. The apology came amid growing scrutiny over the platform's content moderation practices and its handling of sensitive political content. During discussions with Indian authorities, Meta also expressed concern over the spread of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and AI-generated deepfake content, acknowledging that these pose serious challenges to digital platforms worldwide. The company said it is strengthening its detection systems and investing in advanced technologies to curb the circulation of harmful and manipulated content. Meta further admitted that it had accepted significant payments for boosting cer-

tain categories of content on its platforms, drawing attention to the transparency of its advertising and content promotion policies. The disclosure has intensified calls for greater accountability and stricter oversight of social media companies operating in India. The controversy over the removal of Prime Minister Modi's video had triggered political reactions, with lawmakers demanding an explanation from Meta. Zuckerberg's apology is seen as an effort to address the concerns raised by the Indian government and Parliament while reaffirming the company's commitment to respecting local laws and improving its content moderation standards. The developments have renewed the debate over balancing free expression, platform accountability, and digital safety in the rapidly evolving social media landscape.

CM Seeks Immediate Green Clearances for Key Irrigation Projects



New Delhi, August 04 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged the Union Government to expedite environmental clearances for the state's major irrigation projects, stating that prolonged delays have stalled development works and increased project costs. During his visit to New Delhi, the Chief Minister, accompanied by State Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, met Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav at Parliament and submitted a request for immediate approval of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Gauravelli Project, Seethamma Sagar Project, and Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme. The Chief Minister pointed out that the recent Supreme Court verdict concerning Telangana's irrigation projects had created a favourable environment for granting the required environmental clearances. He urged the Union Minister to take prompt action so that the pending projects could resume without further delay. Explaining the financial implications of the delay, Revanth Reddy said the state government has already made substantial investments in these irrigation schemes. According to him, around

RS.36,437 crore has been spent on the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, RS.3,187 crore on the Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme, RS.1,835 crore on the Seethamma Sagar Project, and RS.1,350 crore on the Gauravelli Project. The Chief Minister stated that despite the significant expenditure, construction activities have remained stalled due to the absence of environmental approvals. He noted that continued delays have resulted in cost escalation and postponed the benefits these projects are expected to provide to farmers and rural communities across Telangana. Revanth Reddy requested the Union Minister to consider the state's appeal sympathetically and issue the necessary clearances at the earliest, enabling the government to complete the projects and strengthen irrigation infrastructure. Several Members of Parliament, including Anil Kumar Yadav, Vem Narendar Reddy, Dr. Mallu Ravi, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, Porika Balram Naik, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, and Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, attended the meeting. State Government Special Representative in Delhi A.P. Jitender Reddy, Irrigation Department Advisor Adityanath Das, and senior officials were also present.

Centre Approves RS.353 Crore for Telangana Fisheries

New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Central Government has approved fisheries and aquaculture development projects worth RS.353.01 crore for Telangana under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) since the 2020-21 financial year, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh) informed the Rajya Sabha. The information was provided in a written reply to a question raised by Rajya Sabha MP Dr. K. Laxman. According to the Minister, the Centre's financial contribution towards the approved projects amounts to RS.112.68 crore, with the objective of strengthening fisheries infrastructure, improving livelihoods, and promoting sustainable aquaculture across the state. The Minister stated that several projects have been sanctioned under PMMSY, including the establishment of freshwater fish hatcheries, modern aquaculture



systems, fish retail outlets, marketing infrastructure, and livelihood development initiatives for traditional fishermen. A state-of-the-art wholesale fish market equipped with comprehensive cold chain facilities has also been approved for Hyderabad at an estimated cost of RS.47.03 crore. To improve fish storage, transportation, and marketing, the Centre has sanctioned 771 two-wheelers fitted with ice boxes, 341 three-wheelers, six insulated transport vehicles, 185 fish kiosks, and two live fish

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CM Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to People's Poet Gaddar



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid heartfelt tributes to legendary Telangana balladeer and people's poet Gaddar on the eve of his death anniversary, describing him as an iconic cultural figure who inspired generations through his songs and unwavering commitment to social justice. The Chief Minister said Gaddar's contributions to the Telangana movement and the upliftment of the marginalised would remain unforgettable. Recalling Gaddar's remarkable life, Revanth Reddy

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PM Narendra Modi Marks Seven Years of Article 370 Abrogation

New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday marked the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A), describing the decision taken on August 5, 2019, as a historic milestone that ushered in a new era of inclusive development for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. In a message shared on X, the Prime Minister said the past seven years had witnessed significant transformation across the two regions, with major improvements in infrastructure, education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and sports. He stated that the full application of the Constitution of India had empowered women and members of marginalized communities who had been denied several constitutional rights for decades. Modi noted that this year's anniversary carries added significance as India is

commemorating the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. He said Dr. Mookerjee's lifelong commitment to national unity continues to inspire generations and that his vision found historic fulfilment with the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A) in 2019. Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the Prime Minister said the government remains focused on creating opportunities for every citizen to pursue their aspirations and contribute to the vision of a Viksit Bharat. Articles 370 and 35(A), which granted special status and privileges to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, were revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019. The move was accompanied by the reorganisation of the state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

CM Pays Tribute to Professor Jayashankar

Hyderabad, August 05
| TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid rich tributes to Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar on the eve of his birth anniversary, describing him as the guiding force and ideological architect of the Telangana movement whose contributions would remain etched in the state's history forever. Recalling Professor Jayashankar's lifelong commitment to the cause of a separate Telangana, the Chief Minister said the renowned academic and thinker devoted every moment of his life to securing justice for the people of the region. He noted that Jayashankar's unwavering determination and intellectual leadership inspired generations of Telangana supporters and played a decisive role in sustaining the movement over several decades. Revanth Reddy stated that Professor Jayashankar consistently highlighted the discrimination and injustices faced by Telangana, presenting factual and statistical evidence to strengthen the demand for statehood. His scholarly approach, combined with his unwavering commitment to the movement, earned him



widespread respect and recognition as the ideological pillar of Telangana's struggle. The Chief Minister said Professor Jayashankar remained steadfast in his mission until his final breath, dedicating his life to realizing the aspirations of the people. He added that the veteran leader's vision, principles, and sacrifices continue to inspire the state's progress even after the formation of Telangana. Revanth Reddy emphasized that the people of Telangana would always remember Professor Jayashankar with gratitude for his invaluable service and unmatched contribution to the movement. He said the state's achievements stand as a tribute to the ideals championed by the late visionary. The Chief Minister reaffirmed that the present government is committed to carrying forward Professor Jayashankar's vision by working for inclusive development, social justice, and equitable opportunities for all sections of society. He said the government would continue to uphold the values and aspirations that Professor Jayashankar tirelessly advocated throughout his life, ensuring that his legacy remains a guiding force for future generations.

BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting Concludes



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the BRICS Experts Network on Asset Recovery concluded successfully in Hyderabad on Wednesday under India's BRICS Presidency. Organised by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the two-day meeting brought together policymakers, anti-corruption experts, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence officials from BRICS nations. Inaugurating the meeting, DoPT Secretary Rachna Shah reiterated India's zero-tolerance approach towards corruption and stressed the importance of integrity, transparency and accountability for effective governance and sustainable development. She highlighted the role of technology-driven governance, timely information exchange and global cooperation in tackling cross-border corruption. India

proposed establishing a dedicated BRICS network of law enforcement experts to help identify, trace and extradite fugitive economic offenders. The proposal received support from member countries, which agreed to continue discussions on creating a practical platform for direct cooperation among experts. The participants welcomed a BRICS information repository to strengthen cooperation in locating fugitives and supporting extradition efforts. They also agreed on standard procedures for improving asset recovery and early-stage investigations. Discussions covered the use of artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data analytics in preventing corruption, along with concerns over misuse of fintech platforms and virtual digital assets for money laundering. The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthen cooperation in anti-corruption measures, asset recovery and technology-based governance.

CM Seeks Centre's Support to Raise Barrage Height

New Delhi, August 04 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil to facilitate the necessary clearances from Maharashtra for increasing the height of the proposed Tummidihetti barrage on the Pranahita River, stating that the revised design would improve irrigation while causing no significant additional submergence. During his visit to New Delhi, the Chief Minister, accompanied by State Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, met the Union Minister at the Ministry of Jal Shakti and discussed the long-pending project. Revanth Reddy highlighted the importance of the Tummidihetti barrage and referred to the letter he had recently written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking approval for the project. He noted that the Prime Minister's Office had forwarded the matter to the Ministry of Jal Shakti for further action. The Chief Minister recalled that Telangana and Maharashtra had earlier agreed to construct the barrage at a height of 148 metres. However, he explained that a study conducted by the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, on barrage heights ranging from 148 to 152 metres found no significant increase in submergence. According to the study, nearly 50 percent of the submergence area would remain within the riverbed. He requested the Union Minister to persuade the Maharashtra government to agree to a barrage height of 150-152 metres, stating that such an elevation would enable gravity-based



water supply. He said a 148-metre barrage would require additional pumping, resulting in higher electricity consumption, while a gravity-based system would reduce operational costs and ensure efficient irrigation. The Chief Minister also sought an early meeting between Telangana and Maharashtra to resolve the issue, emphasizing that the project would provide irrigation benefits to the backward, undivided Adilabad district. Responding positively, Union Minister C.R. Patil said the Ministry had received the communication from the Prime Minister's Office. He assured the Telangana delegation that discussions would first be held between officials of both states under the aegis of the Central Water Commission (CWC), followed by a meeting of the Irrigation Ministers to take the matter forward. Several Members of Parliament, including Anil Kumar Yadav, Vem Narendar Reddy, Dr. Mallu Ravi, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, Porika Balram Naik, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, and Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, attended the meeting along with State Government Special Representative A.P. Jitender Reddy, Irrigation Advisor Adityanath Das, Principal Secretary (Irrigation) E. Sridhar, and senior officials.



Seethakka Reviews Public Grievances

Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Seethakka on Wednesday participated in the weekly "Face-to-Face with the Public" programme at Gandhi Bhavan, where she interacted directly with citizens and reviewed a wide range of public grievances. The initiative, conducted every Wednesday, reflects the government's commitment to ensuring that people's concerns remain at the centre of governance. People from different parts of the state attended the programme and submitted representations regarding issues related to welfare, development, and public services. Minister Seethakka personally received the petitions and interacted with several applicants to understand their concerns in detail.



During the review meeting, the Minister examined each representation and held discussions with officials from the concerned departments. She directed them to take immediate steps to resolve genuine grievances and ensure that pending

cases are addressed without unnecessary delay. Emphasizing the importance of responsive governance, Seethakka instructed officials not only to hear public complaints but also to prepare a concrete action plan for resolving

each issue within a stipulated timeframe. She said every department should work in coordination to provide timely solutions to citizens. The Minister reiterated that addressing public grievances remains one of the highest priorities

of the people-centric administration. She stressed that every petition should be treated with seriousness and transparency, ensuring that applicants receive appropriate responses from the concerned departments. Seethakka also instructed officials to continuously monitor the progress of every representation received during the programme and submit regular status reports until the issues are fully resolved. She said such review mechanisms would improve accountability, strengthen public trust, and ensure that government services reach the people effectively. The weekly "Face-to-Face with the Public" programme continues to serve as an important platform for citizens to directly interact with the government and seek prompt resolution of their grievances.

No New Lands Added to 22-A List, Says Ponguleti

Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Wednesday clarified that the Telangana government is committed to ensuring that no eligible landowner or poor family suffers injustice over lands included under the '22-A' prohibited list. He stressed that the government is equally focused on protecting government lands while safeguarding the legitimate rights of citizens. Speaking at a high-level review meeting held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, the Minister said that not a single cent of land has been newly added to the prohibited list since the Congress government assumed office under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. He dismissed allegations that dispute-free private lands had been intentionally included in the prohibited list, calling such claims baseless. The review meeting examined issues

relating to lands under the Comprehensive Update of Records of Rights (CURE) jurisdiction, including public grievances, media reports, High Court directions, and government policy. Senior officials, including Chief Minister's Special Secretary Seshadri, Principal Secretary (Revenue) D.S. Lokesh Kumar, Inspector General of Stamps and Registration Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthu, and district collectors from Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Sangareddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri, attended the meeting. Ponguleti directed all District Collectors, revenue officials, and Stamps & Registration authorities across Telangana to strictly implement the government's policy on 22-A lands. He instructed officials to examine every application based on legal records and facts while ensuring that genuine landowners receive justice. The Minister ordered that all pending complaints and applications, including those received through the Praja Vani grievance redressal programme, be disposed of within the prescribed time-frame. Referring to the High Court's directions, he instructed officials to complete inquiries and reach final decisions on 22-A land disputes within 45 days. Emphasizing transparency, the Minister warned officials to remain vigilant against illegal registrations, unauthorized



transactions, and encroachments on government land. He said District Collectors should exercise their powers responsibly and take balanced decisions that protect both public interests and government property while ensuring justice for eligible applicants.



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Women & Child Welfare, Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, on Wednesday inaugurated the Representative Office of the World People's Assembly in Hyderabad at Hotel Katriya, Somajiguda. The office was inaugurated alongside Dr. Rayala Neethu Naidu, Head of the World

People's Assembly. Speaking at the event, Minister Seethakka said the Representative Office should serve as a platform to further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the people of India and Russia. She described the decades-old relationship between the two nations as one built on mutual trust, respect, and collaboration. The Minister recalled the significant role

Seethakka Inaugurates World People's Assembly Office

played by the former Soviet Union in India's post-independence industrial development, including support for steel plants, heavy industries, and public sector enterprises. She also noted that the Soviet Constitution had inspired the inclusion of Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution. Highlighting the growing partnership between India and Russia, Seethakka said cooperation has expanded across defence, science, space research, technology, energy, education, and several other sectors. She also praised Russia's efforts in promoting women's participation in political and social life. The Minister said the Telangana government is committed to women's economic empowerment by strengthening self-help groups, encouraging women entrepreneurs, generating employment opportunities,

and promoting financial independence. She expressed confidence that the new representative office would create opportunities for collaboration in education, healthcare, business, tourism, culture, research, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges. Describing Hyderabad as a city known for its rich heritage and technological excellence, Seethakka said the office would further enhance cultural, social, and economic cooperation between India and Russia. She reaffirmed the Telangana government's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote international friendship, global peace, sustainable development, and cultural understanding. The event was attended by representatives of the World People's Assembly, dignitaries, public representatives, and invited guests from various fields.

MoU to Support Girls Pursuing Aviation Careers

Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Department of Intermediate Education has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IndiGoReach, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of IndiGo, along with its implementation partner BharatCares (SMEC Trust), to create opportunities for female students from economically weaker backgrounds to pursue careers in aviation. Under the initiative, titled "Giving Wings to Fly," the Intermediate Education Department will promote the programme across government and private intermediate colleges, ensuring that eligible students are informed about the opportunity through institutional networks. BharatCares will support the initiative by providing awareness materials, conducting webinars, and offering career counselling to aspiring candidates. Eligible students will be encouraged to submit applications through the programme's official online portal. The programme is designed to help deserving young women become licensed commercial pilots. Selected candidates will receive comprehensive support for obtaining a Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) with ATR type rating. The assistance package includes training expenses, accommodation,



meals, medical insurance, mentorship, and career guidance throughout the programme. The training is expected to span approximately 20 months, equipping participants with the skills and qualifications required for a professional career in the aviation sector. Speaking on the occasion, Director of Intermediate Education Abhilasha Abhinav said the initiative would help students from economically disadvantaged families access opportunities that were previously beyond their reach. She noted that the partnership reflects the department's commitment to expanding career options for young women and encouraging greater participation in specialised fields such as aviation. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Joint Director of Intermediate Education Yenkya Naik, Dr. Jyothsna Rani, Principal of SIVE, and C. Sai, representing BharatCares. The collaboration is expected to inspire more girls to explore careers in aviation while promoting educational and professional empowerment through industry partnerships.

RBI Highlights Need for Sustainable UPI Payment Model



New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Amid ongoing discussions over the possibility of introducing charges on certain Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in the future, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the long-term sustainability of the country's digital payment ecosystem requires a viable financial model. Speaking on the issue, Malhotra observed that while UPI services are currently available to users without charges due to government support and subsidies, operating and maintaining the digital payments infrastructure involves significant costs. These include investments in technology, cybersecurity, system maintenance, and payment processing, all of which must ultimately be borne by someone to ensure the continued growth of the ecosystem. At the same time, he clarified that it would be premature to speculate on the introduction of user charges, indicating that no immediate decision has been taken on the matter.

The remarks come as the Central Government considers amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act. As part of the proposed changes, policymakers are examining the possibility of introducing a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on selected UPI transactions carried out by business establishments. According to sources, the proposal under consideration is expected to apply only to commercial transactions above \$2,000, while routine person-to-person UPI transfers are likely to remain free of charge. No final decision has yet been announced by the government. UPI has emerged as India's most widely used digital payment platform, handling billions of transactions every month. Industry experts believe any future policy would seek to balance the need for maintaining a robust payment infrastructure while ensuring that digital transactions remain affordable and convenient for consumers and businesses alike. Until an official announcement is made, the existing fee-free system for most UPI users will continue unchanged.

Ministers Inspect Steel Bridge, Flyover



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Wednesday inspected the newly completed Saidabad Steel Bridge and the Musarambagh Bridge along with Minister Mohammed Azharuddin. The visit reviewed the progress of the long-pending infrastructure projects, which are expected to significantly improve traffic movement in the city. MLAs Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala and Kaleru Venkatesh, Government Advisor V. Hanumanth Rao, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, senior officials, and public representatives accompanied the ministers during the inspection. Speaking to the media, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar said the Saidabad Steel Bridge, completed at a cost of approximately ₹680 crore, connects Chanchalguda Jail to Owaisi Hospital and includes an additional link towards Champapet. He said the bridge, which had remained pending for several years, will soon be inaugurated by

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. The Minister stated that the bridge will provide seamless connectivity for residents of Saidabad, Chanchalguda, Santosh Nagar, Champapet, and surrounding localities, helping reduce traffic congestion and travel time. He also announced that the Musarambagh Bridge would be commissioned shortly and opened for public use. To ensure smooth traffic flow, the government will widen the approach roads leading to the bridges. Ponnamp Prabhakar credited Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for taking special interest in completing the long-pending projects and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening Hyderabad's infrastructure in line with the city's growing population. The Minister added that work on the proposed flyover near KBR Park is progressing rapidly and assured that all ongoing infrastructure projects are being executed with a focus on minimizing inconvenience to commuters while improving traffic management and public services across the city.

Vadiraju Participates in Parliamentary Panel Meeting



New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

BRS Parliamentary Party Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra participated in the meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas held in New Delhi on Wednesday evening. The meeting, chaired by Standing Committee Chairman Sunil Dattatraya Tatkar at the Parliament Annex building, reviewed several key issues concerning the petroleum and natural gas sector. Committee members discussed the availability of diesel and LPG stocks, the impact of the prevailing situation in West Asia on energy supplies, and measures required to maintain stability in the sector. The panel also deliberated on ways to prevent fuel price fluctuations, curb adulteration, reduce accidents, and minimize

wastage during storage and distribution. Ensuring uninterrupted supply and improving the quality of services to consumers were among the key focus areas of the discussions. During the meeting, MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra offered several suggestions aimed at strengthening service delivery. He emphasized the need for senior officials to conduct regular field visits and closely monitor operations to ensure efficient implementation of policies and quicker resolution of public grievances. He also stressed that better supervision at the grassroots level would help improve transparency, enhance service quality, and ensure that customers receive reliable and timely services. The committee concluded its deliberations by reviewing measures to strengthen the petroleum distribution system and safeguard consumer interests.

\$105 Crore Sanctioned for Development

Kamareddy, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Government Adviser Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Wednesday announced that the Telangana government has sanctioned ₹75.19 crore for the development of villages in the Kamareddy Assembly constituency. The funds will be utilized through the HUM agency to improve rural infrastructure and provide essential civic amenities. Speaking after meeting Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka in Hyderabad, Shabbir said the allocation would help strengthen basic infrastructure in villages and accelerate ongoing development works. He, along with Congress leaders from the constituency, expressed gratitude to the minister for approving the funds. Shabbir also revealed that he had met Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, who sanctioned an additional ₹30 crore for road development projects in the constituency. The amount will be used to upgrade and construct key roads, improving connectivity and easing transportation for residents. He said the combined allocation of over ₹105 crore marks a significant step towards the overall development of Kamareddy. According to Shabbir, efforts are continuing to secure more financial assistance for the constituency. He expressed confidence that another ₹25 crore under FDA funds, ₹20 crore through other development allocations, and ₹32 crore under CRR funds would be sanctioned in the near future. Shabbir stated that the Congress government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is committed to improving rural infrastructure, strengthening road networks, ensuring safe drinking water supply, and expanding other essential public services across the constituency. He added that several new development initiatives are being planned to transform Kamareddy into a model constituency with better infrastructure and improved quality of life. He assured residents that sustained efforts would continue to bring additional projects and investments for the region's long-term growth and development.



Uttam Kumar Reddy Counters Harish Rao on Water Rights

New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday launched a strong attack on BRS leader and former Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao, accusing him of spreading misinformation on Telangana's irrigation projects and attempting to mislead the public over the upcoming Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) meeting. Speaking during his visit to New Delhi, Uttam Kumar Reddy said Andhra Pradesh has been raising objections to Telangana's irrigation projects before the GRMB, Central Water Commission (CWC), and the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for the past 12 years, and claimed that the issues included in the agenda for the August 18 GRMB meeting were not new. The Minister alleged that the BRS government had failed to effectively protect Telangana's water interests during its nine-and-a-half-year tenure. He questioned why the previous government did not oppose projects such as Polavaram, Pattiseema, and the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme while they were under

implementation. According to Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Congress government successfully countered Andhra Pradesh's objections and secured Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approval for the Seethamma Sagar-Seetharama Lift Irrigation Project on April 24, 2025. He said the project became the first major multipurpose irrigation scheme to receive such approval after the formation of Telangana and secured an allocation of 67 TMC of water. The Minister also stated that the state government had proactively prevented the constitution of a tribunal on inter-state water sharing, arguing that such a move could have adversely affected Telangana's interests. He added that the government has consistently pursued the issue with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and other central agencies. Highlighting the Sammakka Sagar project, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the present government had held three meetings with the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) regarding submergence issues. He expressed confidence that the NOC would be issued by the end of the month,



paving the way for further statutory clearances. He further said the Congress government had responded promptly to the Polavaram-Banakacherla Lift Project (PBLP) proposal by taking up the matter with the Union Ministries of Finance, Jal Shakti, and Environment, the Central Water Commission, the GRMB, the Krishna River Management Board, and the Polavaram Project Authority. He noted that the Chief Minister, senior officials, and engineers had held multiple

rounds of discussions with the Centre while also pursuing legal remedies. The Minister said the government had filed an Original Suit and Interlocutory Applications before the Supreme Court to protect Telangana's interests and that the legal proceedings were continuing. He also pointed out that he had personally represented the state's case before the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal after consulting legal experts. Criticizing Harish Rao, Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that the former minister was attempting to divert attention from the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. He demanded that the BRS first answer allegations regarding irregularities and alleged kickbacks in the execution of the ₹1 lakh crore project before criticizing the present administration. Reiterating the Congress government's commitment to farmers, Uttam Kumar Reddy asserted that there would be no compromise on Telangana's water rights. He maintained that the government would continue to take administrative, legal, and technical measures to safeguard the state's irrigation interests while ensuring that every available opportunity is utilized to secure water for Telangana.

CM Pushes for Stronger Global Partnerships

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Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Life Sciences, pharmaceuticals, startups, advanced manufacturing, research, and innovation. He said the state government is prepared to extend full support to investors and create a favourable ecosystem for global businesses. Revanth Reddy also proposed stronger academic collaboration between universities in Telangana and the United States. He suggested expanding student exchange programmes, joint research initiatives, innovation partnerships, faculty collaborations, and skill development programmes to benefit students and institutions in both regions. Highlighting the growing Telugu-speaking community in the United States, the Chief Minister noted that Telugu is among the fastest-growing Indian languages in the country. He appreciated Ambassador Sergio Gor's understanding of India's history and culture and praised his interest in Telangana's traditions, cuisine, and heritage. Responding positively, Ambassador Sergio Gor assured the Chief Minister of full cooperation in strengthening bilateral engagement. He expressed support for expanding trade, investments, educational partnerships, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people ties between Telangana and the United States. The meeting concluded with both sides expressing confidence that closer collaboration would open new opportunities in education, innovation, business, and technology, further enhancing Telangana's global engagement and contributing to long-term economic and social development.

CM Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to People's Poet Gaddar

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said that although he was born into a humble family and pursued engineering studies, he chose to dedicate his life to serving the poor and oppressed instead of pursuing a comfortable career. He noted that Gaddar transformed music into a powerful medium of social awakening, using his songs to spread awareness, inspire change, and advocate for equality, dignity, and justice. The Chief Minister said Gaddar played a defining role in strengthening the second phase of the Telangana movement by carrying its message to every village and every section of society. Through his performances and public engagements, he kept the spirit of the movement alive and encouraged people to participate in the struggle for a separate Telangana state. Despite facing numerous hardships and challenges throughout his life, Gaddar remained steadfast in his beliefs and continued to champion the cause of the common people. Describing Gaddar as the "Praja Yuddha Nauka" (Warship of the People's Struggle), Revanth Reddy said the revolutionary singer turned his voice into a powerful instrument of resistance and his songs into symbols of hope for those fighting against injustice. He added that Gaddar's literary and cultural legacy continues to inspire artists, activists, and young generations across Telangana. The Chief Minister also recalled his close personal association with Gaddar and said the revolutionary artist's ideals would continue to guide the state's progress. As a mark of respect for his immense contribution to Telangana's cultural heritage, the government has instituted the Telangana Film Awards in Gaddar's name to honor excellence in cinema and recognize outstanding contributions to the film industry. Revanth Reddy further stated that the Telangana government officially observes both the birth and death anniversaries of Gaddar to preserve his legacy. He affirmed that the government is committed to ensuring that Gaddar's ideals, values, and vision continue to reach future generations through cultural initiatives and public commemorations, keeping alive the spirit of one of Telangana's most influential people's icons.

Centre Approves RS.353 Crore for Telangana Fisheries

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vending centres. These facilities are expected to strengthen the supply chain and help fishermen secure better prices for their produce. The Minister also announced the development of a Murrel fish cluster in Mancherial district along with the establishment of a Murrel Centre of Excellence, aimed at promoting scientific breeding and cultivation of the commercially valuable fish species. The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), headquartered in Hyderabad, has been designated as the nodal agency for evaluating, approving, and monitoring PMMSY proposals submitted by states and Union Territories. Besides overseeing project implementation, the NFDB has been conducting extensive training and capacity-building programmes for fish farmers. According to the data shared in Parliament, the NFDB has organized 389 training programmes in Telangana and trained 15,565 fish farmers, equipping them with modern aquaculture techniques and best management practices. The Minister further revealed that PMMSY has supported the establishment of 21 freshwater fish hatcheries, development of 823.68 hectares of grow-out ponds, aquaculture inputs covering 759.86 hectares, 11 Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) units, 89 reservoir cage culture units, and two mini feed mills. In addition, 4,970 traditional fishermen have received livelihood support, while 52 boats and fishing nets have been distributed to enhance fishing activities. The Centre stated that these initiatives are intended to modernize Telangana's fisheries sector, improve fish production, generate employment opportunities, and enhance the income of fishing communities through sustainable and technology-driven aquaculture practices.

Vivek Vows Faster Development and Welfare Delivery



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

State Labour and Mines Minister Vivek Venkataswamy said the government is taking steps to strengthen administration and ensure welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. He made the remarks while unveiling a statue of tribal leader Kumram Bheem at the mandal headquarters along with District Collector Kumar Deepak. The Minister appreciated the efforts of Adivasi associations in installing the statue, stating that such initiatives help preserve history and inspire future generations. He said arrangements were being made to provide new pensions to eligible beneficiaries on Independence Day and urged people to utilize government opportunities effectively. Collector Kumar Deepak assured that special measures would be taken to ensure welfare schemes reach tribal communities without delays. During a review meeting at his camp

office in Chennai, Minister Vivek directed officials to speed up development works and complete ongoing projects on time. He stressed the importance of making proper arrangements for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram, including construction of internal roads, improvement of public amenities, and preparation of Pushkar ghats. Inspecting road works in Chennai town, the Minister instructed officials to complete works quickly while maintaining quality standards. He also announced that forest clearances for the Tadicherla block and the second phase of RK OCP are expected soon, adding that efforts are underway to secure more mines for Singareni. The Minister also assured that the reopening of closed mines would be examined and discussed with the Chief Minister. Meanwhile, Congress leaders submitted a representation seeking primary cooperative centers for farmers in Bheemaram mandal.

Dr Peruka Raju Conferred Life Membership by the International Academy of Ethics



Hyderabad, August 5 2026:

The International Academy of Ethics has conferred Life Membership upon Dr Peruka Raju, a distinguished Indian poet, author, literary critic multilingual translator and Junior Commissioned Officer in Indian Army in recognition of his outstanding contributions to literature, translation, ethical values and humanitarian service. Fondly regarded as Telangana's proud son who brings honour to Mother India, Dr Peruka Raju holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, a Master's degree in English Literature, a Ph.D. and three Honorary Doctorates. He has authored thirteen books in various languages and has made remarkable contributions to poetry, fiction, literary criticism and translation. Patriotism, human values, social justice and national integration are the defining themes of his literary

works. As the founder of the voluntary organisation My Gift, Dr Peruka Raju has been actively involved in educational and humanitarian initiatives for the underprivileged. Guided by his inspiring motto, "Encouragement is the Greatest Gift," he continues to motivate and empower countless individuals through selfless service. On the occasion, Dr Jernail Singh Anand, Founder President of the International Academy of Ethics, Dr P. Ramakrishna and Dr Maja Herman Sekulic, Vice-President, stated that the Life Membership was conferred in recognition of Dr Peruka Raju's lifelong dedication to literature, ethical values, cultural harmony and humanitarian service. They praised him as an exemplary soldier, scholar, and literary humanist whose contributions continue to inspire society. Accepting the honour, Dr Peruka Raju expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Dr Jernail Singh Anand, Dr P. Ramakrishna, Dr Maja Herman Sekulic, and the International Academy of Ethics. He reaffirmed his commitment to continue serving literature, upholding human values and contributing to society with greater dedication. The conferment of Life Membership by the International Academy of Ethics marks yet another significant milestone in Dr Peruka Raju's distinguished literary journey and stands as an international recognition of his enduring contributions to literature, ethical values and humanitarian service.

Forgery Row Over Junior College Approvals: RS Praveen Kumar



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

BRS State General Secretary Dr. RS Praveen Kumar on Wednesday alleged serious irregularities in the approval process for junior colleges in Telangana, accusing the Congress government of failing to prevent corruption and forgery within key departments. In a press statement and a video shared on the social media platform X, Praveen Kumar claimed that forged signatures of HYDRA Commissioner Ranganath were allegedly used to obtain Fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs), which were then used to secure permissions from the Intermediate Education Department for junior colleges. Questioning Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's administrative oversight, he asked what had been achieved through

the Chief Minister's frequently mentioned 18-hour review meetings if such alleged irregularities could occur within departments directly under his charge. Praveen Kumar expressed concern that college management allegedly forged official documents while authorities failed to detect the fraud. He also criticized the police, education officials, and HYDRA authorities, alleging that despite a complaint reportedly being filed by HYDRA officials at the Lake View Police Station, no action had been initiated. The BRS leader further alleged that corruption and irregularities were being encouraged under the present administration and said the Chief Minister, who also oversees the Education, Home, and Municipal Administration portfolios, should focus on curbing forgery and illegal approvals. He questioned who would be held accountable if students faced hardships or any untoward incidents occurred at institutions allegedly operating without proper permissions. Praveen Kumar demanded a thorough investigation and appropriate action against officials of the Intermediate Board, HYDRA, the police, and any other individuals found responsible for the alleged forgery and irregularities. He urged the government to ensure transparency and accountability in the approval process for educational institutions.

Over 9.5 Lakh Hyderabad Voters Marked ASD

Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

More than 21 per cent of voters in Hyderabad district have been identified as absentee, shifted, or dead (ASD) during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, according to election officials. The district has a total of 47.36 lakh electors across 15 Assembly constituencies. So far, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has digitized 12.08 lakh voter enumeration forms, covering 57.56 per cent of the total electorate. Among the voters verified, around 9.5 lakh have been categorized under the ASD list. Jubilee Hills constituency reported the highest number of ASD electors with 88,933 cases, followed by Musheerabad with 84,917 and Yakutpura with 84,792. Officials stated that enumeration forms have been distributed to all voters in the district. Around 4.91 lakh electors, accounting for 10.37 per cent, have submitted their forms online so far. Bahadurpura recorded the highest number of online submissions with 72,393 forms, followed by Nampally with 50,699 and Jubilee Hills with 49,710. The deadline for submitting voter enumeration forms has been fixed as August 10, and officials have urged eligible voters to complete the process within the stipulated time.

Harish Rao Alleges Threat to Telangana's Water Rights Over GRMB Agenda



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Former Telangana Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday alleged that the agenda prepared for the upcoming Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) meeting poses a serious threat to Telangana's irrigation interests. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, he questioned the State government's silence over the agenda and demanded immediate action to safeguard Telangana's water rights. Harish Rao said the GRMB meeting, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on August 18, includes proposals submitted by Andhra Pradesh seeking a review and suspension of clearances granted to several Telangana irrigation projects. He claimed the agenda targets projects such as Kaleshwaram, Choutuppal Hanumanthra Rao, Chinna Kaleshwaram, Chanaka-Korata, Modikunta Vagu, Kadem Gudem Lift, Sitarama Lift, and the proposed Sammakka Barrage. The BRS leader alleged that the clearances for these projects had been secured during the previous BRS government after prolonged efforts and that any attempt to review or revoke them would adversely affect Telangana's irrigation and drinking water needs. He accused the Congress government of failing to respond despite the agenda having been circu-

lated well in advance.

Harish Rao also criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for not strongly opposing what he described as Andhra Pradesh's attempts to undermine Telangana's interests. He questioned why the State government had not objected to the inclusion of these issues in the GRMB agenda and alleged that the Centre and the Andhra Pradesh government were acting against Telangana's water rights. He further claimed that no new irrigation project had received approval during the tenure of the present State government and alleged that detailed project reports of key schemes had been returned. Harish Rao demanded the immediate withdrawal of agenda items related to Telangana's projects and called upon Telangana MPs, Union Ministers, and irrigation officials to protect the state's interests. He asserted that the BRS would oppose any move to dilute Telangana's share of Godavari waters and warned that the party would launch a statewide agitation if necessary to safeguard the state's irrigation rights. Former ministers L. Ramana, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Satyavathi Rathod, Tatikonda Rajaiah, MLC Ravinder Rao, MLA Chinta Prabhakar, former MLA Shashidhar Reddy, former Corporation Chairman Errolla Srinivas, and other party leaders attended the press conference.

Congress MPs Announce 'Jala Yagnam', Level Allegations Against Harish Rao

New Delhi, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Congress MP and Convener of the Telangana Congress MPs' Forum, Dr. Mallu Ravi, on Wednesday announced that the state government would organize a 'Jala Yagnam' at Nagarjuna Sagar to pray for abundant rainfall and agricultural prosperity. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, alongside Mahabubabad MP Porika Balaram Naik, Mallu Ravi also made allegations against BRS leader T. Harish Rao over his reported visits to certain temples in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Mallu Ravi alleged that media reports over the past two days claimed Harish Rao had visited temples associated with Aghora traditions in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, and Shivamogga, Karnataka. He further alleged that these visits were intended to perform rituals aimed at preventing rainfall in Telangana, thereby creating drought conditions and public dissatisfaction with the state government. He said the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) possessed evidence of Harish Rao's visits and called upon the BRS leader to

clarify his position publicly. If the allegations were untrue, he said, Harish Rao should deny them, and if they were true, he should apologize to the people of Telangana. The Congress leader announced that the proposed Jala Yagnam would be conducted under the leadership of Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, either in the last week of August or the second week of September. He said the ceremony would be performed to invoke Lord Varuna for timely rains, prevent drought, and ensure good harvests across the state. Speaking at the press conference, MP Balaram Naik criticized what he described as the misuse of religious practices for political purposes. He said public representatives should work for the welfare of society rather than engage in activities that could allegedly harm public interests. He also stated that the Congress would not be deterred by legal notices or threats over its remarks. The allegations made by the Congress leaders were presented during the press conference. There was no immediate response from BRS leader T. Harish Rao regarding the claims at the time of reporting.

HUMTA Reviews Plans for Smarter Urban Transport

Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Hyderabad Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (HUMTA) Working Group-2 convened a high-level meeting on Tuesday to review key initiatives aimed at developing a smarter, safer, and more integrated urban transport system for Hyderabad.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Commissioner (Traffic) P. Uday Kumar, IAS, and attended by Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) D. Joel Davis, IPS, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, IAS, and HUMTA Managing Director B. Jeevan Babu. Senior officials from various civic and transport agencies also participated in the discussions. The review focused on strengthening coordination among departments involved in urban mobility and implementing comprehensive planning to improve transportation infrastructure across the city. Officials discussed strategies to enhance connectivity, streamline traffic movement, and ensure better integration between various modes of transport.

A major emphasis was placed on developing safer roads and adopting measures to improve traffic management. The participants also deliberated on creating commuter-friendly infrastructure that would enable citizens to travel more safely, efficiently, and comfortably. The



meeting highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts among multiple agencies to address Hyderabad's growing transportation needs and support the city's expanding urban landscape. Officials also reviewed plans to improve road safety, reduce traffic congestion, and introduce infrastructure that supports sustainable and efficient mobility. They stressed the need for long-term planning to ensure that Hyderabad's transport network keeps pace with rapid urbanization and increasing commuter demand. Zonal Commissioners and senior officials from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Hyderabad Metropolitan development agencies, and other concerned departments actively participated in the meeting. The officials reaffirmed their commitment to working together to implement integrated transport solutions that will strengthen urban mobility and enhance the quality of life for residents across the Hyderabad metropolitan region.

Fogging Carried Out After True Point Coverage

Thulasi Naveen Kumar

After months of complaints from residents over the growing mosquito menace, the Entomology Department conducted a fogging operation at Green Hills Housing Colony in Bahadurpally under the Dundigal Circle. According to local residents, the colony had not witnessed a single fogging operation for nearly seven months following the formation of the Dundigal Circle, leading to an increase in mosquito breeding and raising concerns about public health. Residents said they had repeatedly approached the concerned authorities, but no action was taken.

The issue later gained attention through True Point coverage, following which the Entomology Department initiated a fogging drive in the colony. Residents welcomed the prompt response from officials and expressed relief that preventive measures had finally been taken.

However, they stressed that a one-time fogging exercise would not be sufficient to address the problem permanently. They urged the authorities to introduce a regular schedule for anti-mosquito measures, suggesting that fogging should be conducted at least once a week or every ten days to effectively control mosquito breeding and reduce the risk of seasonal diseases.

Residents also appealed to civic authorities to ensure continuous monitoring of sanitation and public health conditions in residential colonies, especially during the monsoon season. They expressed hope that sustained preventive measures would help create a cleaner and healthier environment for the community.



Modern High School Hosts Investiture, Cyber Safety Program



Mallapur, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Modern High School, Mallapur, organized its annual investiture ceremony along with a cyber crime awareness programme on Wednesday, encouraging students to embrace leadership and stay safe in the digital world.

School Chairman G. Muthyam Reddy, Correspondent Devi, and Headmistress Lakshmi Prasanna attended the event. Circle Inspector Dhanunjaya graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Sub-Inspector P. Francis participated as the guest of honour. Addressing the newly elected student leaders, CI Dhanunjaya said leadership is not just about holding a position but about demonstrating responsibility, honesty, discipline, and a com

mitment to serving others. He encouraged students to respect their parents and teachers, set ambitious goals, and work with dedication to achieve success. Following the investiture ceremony, a cyber crime awareness session was conducted for nearly 150 students. Police officials educated participants on ways to prevent cyber fraud, the use of the 1930 cyber crime helpline and Dial-100 emergency services, road safety, drug abuse prevention, responsible social media usage, and the importance of understanding the concepts of "good touch" and "bad touch."

Cyber Warrior PC Anil, ARPC Mallikarjun, teachers, and students actively participated in the programme.

Auto Unions Announce Indefinite Strike from August 24



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Auto Unions Joint Action Committee (JAC) has announced an indefinite statewide strike by auto-rickshaw drivers from August 24, urging drivers and trade unions across the state to unite in support of their long-pending demands.

Ahead of the strike, the JAC organized a round-table conference titled "Auto-Rickshaw Drivers Betrayed Under Revanth Reddy's Administration" at the Press Club in Bashirbagh, Hyderabad. The meeting was attended by BRS General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar, representatives of various trade unions, and leaders of several auto-rickshaw associations, who discussed the challenges facing the transport sector. The JAC demanded that the state government withdraw its proposal to introduce electric auto-rickshaws through the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC), arguing that the move could adversely affect the livelihoods of existing drivers. The leaders also called for the immediate establishment of a welfare board for auto-rickshaw and private transport workers, stating that it was an election promise yet to be fulfilled. Citing rising fuel prices and the increasing cost of living, the unions sought an immediate revision of auto and cab meter fares and measures to ensure a sustainable minimum income for drivers. They also demanded the release of the promised annual financial assistance of ₹12,000, along with pending arrears.

Among other demands, the JAC sought financial support for the families of drivers who allegedly died by suicide after the introduction of the free bus travel scheme for women, a reduction of up to 80 percent in pending traffic fines, continuation of the ₹5 lakh accident insurance scheme, and a ban on illegal app-based bike taxi services. The unions also urged the government to introduce a regulated transport app to curb high commissions charged by private aggregators. The JAC appealed to auto-rickshaw drivers and labour organizations across Telangana to participate in large numbers and make the indefinite strike beginning on August 24 a success.

Man Arrested with 71 Ganja Chocolates

Quthbullapur, August 05 | TPN Bureau

A joint operation by the Quthbullapur Special Operations Team (SOT) and Dundigal Police led to the arrest of a man from Bihar for allegedly possessing and selling ganja-infused chocolates in Dundigal. Police said the accused was supplying the narcotic-laced chocolates to fellow labourers in the area. According to officials, the raid was conducted on the evening of August 4 after the police received credible information about the illegal sale of ganja chocolates at Tanda-2 under the Dundigal police station limits. Acting swiftly on the tip-off, the police team intercepted the suspect and conducted a search. The accused, identified as Ranjith Kumar, was found in possession of 71



ganja chocolates weighing a total of 350 grams. The contraband was seized and the accused was taken into custody. During the preliminary investigation, police found that Ranjith Kumar is a



native of Bihar and is currently residing in Tanda-2, Dundigal. He has been working as a labourer at a private company in Kazipally. Investigators suspect that he procured the ganja chocolates from

his mother-in-law's village in Bihar and transported them to Telangana for sale. Police said the chocolates were allegedly being sold to workers living in the locality, raising concerns over the spread of narcotic substances in residential labour settlements.

A case has been registered at Dundigal Police Station under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway to determine whether others are involved in the supply chain. The police reiterated that they will continue intensive surveillance against the illegal trafficking and sale of ganja and other narcotic substances. Officials warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone found involved in drug-related activities to ensure public safety and curb the menace of narcotics.

Rural Students Showcase Talent at Multi-Sport Tournament

Quthbullapur, August 05 | TPN

A multi-sport tournament featuring cricket, kabaddi, and kho-kho was organized at the YNR Cricket Ground in Gagillapur with the objective of identifying and nurturing sporting talent among rural students. The event was conducted under the banner of the Osmania Law Student JAC and led by Osmania student leader Rajesh Naik. Students from both government and private schools participated enthusiastically, displaying impressive skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the competitions. The tournament provided young athletes with an opportunity to test their abilities while promoting a healthy spirit of competition.

Addressing the participants, Rajesh Naik encouraged students to pursue excellence in sports alongside academics. He said that sporting activities contribute not only to physical fitness but also help develop discipline, leadership, teamwork, confidence, and mental resilience. He emphasized that the tournament was aimed at giving rural youth a platform to showcase their hidden potential and prepare for future competitive opportunities.



The organizers felicitated the winners and assured participants that similar sporting events would be conducted regularly to encourage young talent and expand opportunities for aspiring athletes across rural areas. The programme witnessed the participation of school headmasters, teachers, physical education instructors, local youth, and student leaders, including Vijay Kumar, Abhilash Reddy, Sirigalla Babu, Shabir, Shekhar, and Anusha Naik. Parents and local residents also attended the event, cheering the students and appreciating the initiative to promote sports at the grassroots level.

Gen Z Student Organization to Hold First Foundation Day at Osmania University



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Gen Z Student

Organization has announced that it will celebrate its first Foundation Day on

August 30 at the Arts College premises of Osmania University, Hyderabad. The decision

was taken during a virtual meeting of the organization's key members held on Wednesday, where future programmes, student issues, employment opportunities, education reforms, and statewide movements were discussed. The meeting resolved to organize the event in the presence of nearly 1,000 students and youth representatives. Leaders said the programme would serve as a platform to highlight issues affecting students and young people

while mobilizing support for democratic reforms. The organization urged the Central and State governments to fully implement the Right to Education Act and provide 75 percent reservation for local youth in private sector employment. It also demanded the immediate filling of 10 lakh vacancies in Central government departments and 2 lakh posts in the Telangana government. Among its other key demands were the regulation of fees charged by corporate educational institutions, immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues, and the adoption of policies

that prioritize economically weaker families. The organization also called for legal recognition of a recall system in politics and sought at least 20 percent reservation of election tickets for Gen Z youth in Assembly, Parliament, and local body elections. The meeting concluded with a resolution to launch democratic movements across Telangana to achieve these eight major demands. The organization appealed to students, youth groups, student unions, public organizations, and intellectuals to participate in large numbers and make the August 30 Foundation Day event a success.

MLA Facilitates \$3.5 Lakh CMRF Aid for Kidney Transplant



gratitude to the MLA, stating that the aid would significantly ease the burden of the expensive kidney transplant and related medical expenses. They said the

timely support had renewed their hope during a difficult phase. Several BRS leaders and party workers attended the programme, including

Jeevan Reddy, Madhusudan Reddy, Prasad Reddy, and Yashwant Reddy. They highlighted the importance of ensuring that government welfare

BRS Leaders Hit Back at Congress Over Remarks on RS Praveen Kumar, Harish Rao

Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

BRS leaders on Wednesday strongly criticized the Congress government and its leaders during a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan, defending former IPS officer and BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar while rejecting allegations made against former Minister T. Harish Rao. Former MLA Chirumarthi Lingaiah said RS Praveen Kumar has consistently worked for the welfare of poor and underprivileged communities, both during his career in the Indian Police Service and in public life. He credited Praveen Kumar with helping many eco-

nomically disadvantaged students achieve success through education and social welfare initiatives. The BRS leaders accused Congress leaders Sampath Kumar and Addanki Dayakar of making personal and irresponsible remarks against RS Praveen Kumar and Harish Rao. They alleged that the Congress was targeting senior BRS leaders to divert public attention from governance and unresolved issues affecting the state. Addressing the media, former Corporation Chairman Dr. Errola Srinivas said the Congress government should focus on addressing public concerns such as drinking water shortages, farmers' distress, and



corruption allegations instead of making what he described as baseless accusations against opposition leaders. He also defended Harish Rao, describing him as an experienced public representative who has earned the confidence of the people over several terms as an

MLA. The BRS leaders further alleged that Congress leaders were resorting to personal attacks because K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), Harish Rao, and RS Praveen Kumar were exposing alleged shortcomings of the state government. They also raised

issues related to welfare schemes, irrigation, Dalit welfare, and Telangana's water interests. Several party leaders, including Rambal Naik, Tunga Balu, Sarath, Yadayya Goud, and Naresh Reddy, were present at the press conference.

RS.100 Crore Road Boost for Sangareddy

Sangareddy, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Residents of the Sangareddy Assembly constituency are set to benefit from a major road infrastructure upgrade, with ₹100 crore sanctioned for the development of 83 kilometres of roads. The project includes 29 kilometres of Roads & Buildings (R&B) roads and 54 kilometres of Panchayat Raj roads, aimed at improving connectivity between villages, mandal headquarters, and urban areas. Congress leaders Jagga Reddy and Nirmala reviewed the proposed works with officials from the R&B and Panchayat Raj departments and directed them to expedite preparations so that construction can begin at the earliest. Speaking after the review, Jagga Reddy alleged that road maintenance had been neglected during the previous BRS gov-



ernment, leaving several stretches in poor condition and causing inconvenience to commuters. He said the new works would significantly improve transportation and enhance access to rural and

urban areas across the constituency. Among the major R&B works are new and upgraded roads connecting National Highway-65 with Ismail Khan Pet, Lakdaram, Byathol, and the improve-

ment of the Peddapur-Ananth Sagar road through Togarpally, Aliabad, Kondapur, and Marepally. The Panchayat Raj Department will undertake improvements on several village roads, including stretches connecting Chimnapur Thanda, Rajampet, Tallapally, Cheryala, Tunkila Thanda, Kalivemula, Meligiripet, Machireddypalli, Ananth Sagar, Edurugudem, Parameshwara Gutta, Nagsanpalli, and CH Konapur. The review meeting also discussed pending bills for previously completed road works. Jagga Reddy said he would meet Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka to seek the early release of these payments. He expressed confidence that the sanctioned projects would improve road connectivity, reduce travel time, and support the region's overall development.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Pays Tribute to Poet Dr. Talla Lakshminarayana Goud



Janakampet, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud visited Janakampet village in Bodhan constituency on Wednesday to offer condolences to the family of noted Telugu poet Dr. Talla Lakshminarayana Goud, who recently passed away. During his visit, Mahesh Kumar Goud paid floral tributes by garlanding the portrait of the late poet and expressed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family. He urged them to remain strong during the difficult period and assured them of the Congress party's continued support. Speaking on the occasion, the TPCC President described the demise of Dr. Talla Lakshminarayana Goud as an irreparable loss to Telugu literature. He said the poet had made valuable contributions to

the literary world and would always be remembered for his dedication to the Telugu language and culture. Mahesh Kumar Goud observed that despite possessing literary talent comparable to eminent poet Dr. C. Narayana Reddy (popularly known as Sinare), Dr. Talla Lakshminarayana Goud did not receive the recognition he truly deserved. He expressed confidence that the poet's writings and literary legacy would continue to inspire future generations. The condolence visit was attended by Corporation Chairmen Kesha Venu and Shekhar Goud, Farmers' Commission member Gadugu Gangadhar, DCC Presidents Nagesh Reddy, Ramakrishna, and Dayakar Goud, along with Congress leaders, party workers, local public representatives, and villagers, who paid their respects to the departed poet.

Additional Collector Reviews Revenue Services

Adilabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Adilabad District Additional Collector R.S. Chithru conducted an inspection of the Tahsildar's office in Bazarhatnoor Mandal on Wednesday and reviewed the status of public services, pending applications, and office administration. During the visit, he instructed officials to ensure prompt disposal of pending cases and deliver citizen services without unnecessary delays. The Additional Collector examined office records and reviewed applications related to Sadabainama, Bhu Bharathi, and the issuance of various certificates. Stressing the importance of efficiency and transparency, he directed officials to clear pending files at the earliest and ensure that revenue-related services are



provided in a timely and accountable manner. R.S. Chithru emphasized that government welfare schemes and public

services should effectively reach every eligible beneficiary. He urged revenue officials to discharge their responsibili-

ties with dedication and maintain high standards of transparency while dealing with applications from the public. Following the inspection, Bazarhatnoor Tahsildar K. Shyam Sundar felicitated the Additional Collector with a traditional shawl in recognition of his visit and guidance to the department. The programme was attended by Mandal Girdawars R. Noorsingh and A.R. Mahender, Junior Assistants T. Ravi and Sravanthi, GPOs S. Amol Kumar, Ganesh, Pochanna, K. Ravinder, and Mehraj, along with staff members Machender, Gautam, and Salman. Officials assured the Additional Collector that necessary steps would be taken to expedite pending work and further improve the delivery of public services in the mandal.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Pays Last Respects to Former Councillor

Nizamabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Wednesday paid his last respects to former Nizamabad councillor Bellala Pothanna and offered condolences to the bereaved family. Visiting the residence of the deceased, Mahesh Kumar Goud paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of Bellala Pothanna and spent time consoling his family members. He expressed profound sorrow over the demise of the former councillor and prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace. The TPCC President conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the grieving family and encouraged them to remain strong during this difficult period. He assured them of the Congress party's support and wished them the strength and courage to overcome their loss. Remembering Bellala Pothanna's contribution to public life, Mahesh Kumar Goud said he had earned the respect of the people through his service to the community. He noted that his dedication and commitment would be remembered by those who worked with him and the people he represented.



Several Congress leaders and public representatives also attended the condolence visit and paid homage to the late leader. Among them were Corporation Chairmen Shekhar Goud and Kesha Venu, Farmers' Commission members Gadugu Gangadhar and Dayakar Goud, along with party workers and local residents, who gathered to offer their final respects to Bellala Pothanna.

BJP ST Morcha Reviews Organisation, Plans Statewide Agitations



Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The BJP ST Morcha held a meeting of its state office bearers at the BJP Telangana state office in Nampally under the chairmanship of State President Nenavath Ravi Naik. District presidents, district in-charges, and state office bearers attended the meeting to discuss organisational strengthening and future action plans. Addressing the gathering, BJP Telangana State General Secretary (Organisation) Chandrasekhar highlighted the Central Government's tribal welfare initiatives and urged party leaders to take these schemes to tribal communities across the state. BJP State General Secretary Vemula Ashok stressed the importance of party discipline, organisational development, and nurturing future

leadership. Ravi Naik directed district leaders to complete the formation of district committees by August 12 and mandal committees by August 25. He also instructed the appointment of organisational committees in every tribal village. The meeting resolved to launch intensified statewide agitations after August 15, focusing on the distribution of Podu land pattas, release of pending tribal subsidies, and implementation of the Congress government's SC/ST Declaration made during the Chevella election campaign. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the ST Morcha at the grassroots level and continuing public movements to address the concerns and welfare of tribal communities across Telangana.

BJP Demands CM's Resignation Over Governance

Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana BJP on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, accusing it of failing to fulfill its election promises and prioritizing publicity over governance. Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office, BJP State Chief Official Spokesperson and Media In-charge N.V. Subhash demanded the immediate resignation of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging poor administration of the Home, Municipal Administration, and Education departments. Speaking alongside state spokespersons Ashok Mustapure and Sandeep Sai, as well as media panelists Raju Mudiraj and Suresh Goud, Subhash claimed that the Congress government had failed to implement the assurances it made before the elections despite being in office for several months. He alleged that unemployment and pending fee reimbursement dues had left students and job aspirants facing uncer-

tainty. According to Subhash, educational institutions were withholding certificates due to the non-release of fee reimbursement funds, adversely affecting students' futures. He also criticized the government for allegedly failing to implement a job calendar as promised before the elections. Subhash further accused the government of focusing on publicity campaigns instead of addressing civic issues, claiming that Hyderabad continued to face problems such as waterlogging, traffic congestion, and inadequate public services. He also alleged that law and order had deteriorated under the present administration. The BJP leader asserted that the party would take these issues before the people during the upcoming Graduate MLC and municipal corporation elections. He expressed confidence that the BJP would emerge as a strong alternative in Telangana by highlighting what he described as the Congress government's failures and unfulfilled promises.

CPI to Launch Nine-Day Campaign Against Centre's Policies



Karimnagar, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Communist Party of India (CPI) will launch a nine-day district-wide campaign to highlight what it describes as the anti-people policies of the BJP-led Central government, CPI Karimnagar District Secretary Panjala Srinivas announced on Wednesday. The campaign poster was unveiled at Baddam Yella Reddy Bhavan in Karimnagar in the presence of party leaders. Srinivas said senior CPI leader and former MLA Chada Venkat Reddy would inaugurate the campaign at Padmanagar, Karimnagar. Addressing the gathering, Srinivas alleged that the BJP had failed to fulfil several promises made during the elections. He claimed that while the party had promised "Achhe Din" (Good Days), people were instead facing increasing hardships due to rising prices of essential commodities and other economic challenges. He also accused the Central government

of failing to address key public concerns, including unemployment, limited access to quality education and healthcare for economically weaker sections, farmers' issues, erosion of workers' rights, and delays in implementing the Women's Reservation Bill. According to Srinivas, the campaign is being organized following a nationwide call given by the CPI National Committee. The jatha, scheduled to continue until August 14, aims to interact with people across the district and present the party's views on the Centre's policies and governance. The poster release programme was attended by CPI State Council members Ponaganti Kedari and Ande Swami, District Executive Council members Kasireddy Surender Reddy, Boini Ashok, Gudem Lakshmi, Nagelli Lakshma Reddy, Boini Tirupati, Pittala Sammayya, Chokkala Srisaillam, Banda Raji Reddy, Govindula Ravi, Lankadasari Kalyan, Maulana, and other party leaders.

Lecturers Trained on Revised Intermediate Syllabus

Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) has launched a two-day training programme for government junior college lecturers to ensure the effective implementation of the revised Intermediate syllabus across the state. The programme has brought together master trainers from 430 government junior colleges, who will receive subject-specific orientation in Hyderabad before returning to their respective districts to train lecturers at the local level. The initiative is aimed at ensuring uniform teaching standards and helping faculty members adapt to the updated curriculum. According to officials, this is the first comprehensive training programme of its kind since 2015, reflecting the Board's focus on strengthening classroom instruction and improving learning outcomes for Intermediate students. The training sessions have been divided into three subject groups for better academic coordination. The first session covers Physics, Chemistry, Commerce, Economics, and Telugu. The second session includes History, Civics,



Zoology, and Mathematics, while the remaining subjects are being covered in a separate segment to ensure focused discussions and effective knowledge sharing. To ensure representation from across Telangana, two lecturers from each district have been invited to participate in the programme. These lecturers will serve as master trainers and conduct similar workshops in their respective districts after completing the Hyderabad sessions. The Board expects the cascading training model to help lecturers understand the revised syllabus, modern teaching methods, and updated academic requirements. Officials said the programme would contribute to maintaining uniformity in teaching practices and improve the overall quality of Intermediate education in government junior colleges throughout the state.

BJP to Hold Seven-Month Ravidas Campaign

Hyderabad, August 05 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announced a seven-month statewide 'Samarasata Sankalpa Abhiyan' in Telangana to commemorate the 650th birth anniversary of Sant Shiromani Sri Guru Ravidas Maharaj. The announcement was made during a press conference at the BJP state office in Nampally. BJP SC Morcha State President Kanthi Kiran said the campaign is being organized in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to spread the teachings and philosophy of Sant Ravidas across the country. He noted that the celebrations began at Guru Ravidas' birthplace in Varanasi on Ashadha Purnima and will continue until Magha Purnima on February 20, 2027. BJP State General Secretary and campaign convener Vemula Ashok said the programme includes Kalash Yatras, cultural events, musical performances, literary activities, and public outreach across all districts, mandals, and towns in Telangana. He added that sacred urns containing soil from Guru Ravidas' birthplace were brought to Telangana and the state-level Ratha Yatra was launched on August 2. Former MLA Guvvala Balaraju appealed to people from all communities to participate in the campaign, saying Guru Ravidas' message of equality, devotion, and social harmony remains relevant today. Several BJP leaders, SC Morcha representatives, and members of the campaign committee attended the media conference.

Editorial

August 5: A Date That Redefined NDA's Political Journey

August 5 has emerged as one of the most significant dates in India's recent political history, associated with two landmark decisions taken during the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In two consecutive years, this date witnessed developments that transformed the country's constitutional and cultural discourse.

In 2019, the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A marked a historic turning point in Jammu and Kashmir's political journey. The decision removed the region's special constitutional provisions and reorganized it into two Union Territories-Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The NDA government described the move as an effort to achieve greater national integration, ensure equal rights, improve governance, and accelerate development in the region.

The decision also reflected a long-standing ideological demand associated with the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and other organisations of the broader Sangh Parivar, which had advocated the removal of Article 370 for decades. While the final decision was taken by the elected government through constitutional procedures, the issue had remained an important part of their ideological agenda. Supporters viewed it as the fulfilment of a historic commitment, while critics raised concerns over federal principles, democratic consultation, and the manner of implementation. A year later, on August 5, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the bhoomi puja for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, marking the beginning of construction after a prolonged legal and social dispute. The Ram Janmabhoomi movement, in which the VHP played a central organisational role, had been one of the most prominent campaigns in India's modern political history. The temple construction was seen by supporters as the fulfilment of a decades-old cultural aspiration following the Supreme Court verdict, while also marking the conclusion of a significant chapter in India's political discourse. Together, these two decisions gave August 5 a special place in the NDA's political narrative. However, in the years that followed, no other decision of similar historical and ideological significance has been taken by the NDA government. The changing political landscape, increased dependence on alliance partners after the 2024 elections, and the participation of parties with different ideological perspectives have influenced the government's approach towards major policy decisions. August 5 therefore remains unique-a date remembered for decisive actions that shaped debates on national integration, identity, culture, and governance, leaving a lasting impact on India's political journey.

Editor

The Timeless Legacy of the "Diviseema Gandhi"

Centenary Tribute to Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao (1926-1997)

Dr. Arja Srikanth



Commissioner,
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The birth centenary of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao is not merely the commemoration of a remarkable individual; it is a celebration of an enduring philosophy of public service rooted in compassion, integrity, and Gandhian values. Revered across Andhra Pradesh as the "Diviseema ma Gandhi," he exemplified a rare blend of political wisdom, moral courage, and cultural vision. His life remains a shining testament to the belief that leadership derives its greatness not from authority or power, but from selfless service to humanity.

Among his many contributions, his response to the catastrophic Diviseema cyclone of 1977 stands as one of the finest examples of humanitarian leadership in independent India. At a time when over 10,000 lives were lost, and entire villages lay devastated, Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao chose duty over office. Setting aside political considerations, he immersed himself in relief and rehabilitation,

often wading through floodwaters to comfort survivors. His unforgettable conviction-"We must first go forward to console those in pain"-captured the essence of his leadership. He proved that in moments of crisis, people seek not merely administrators but compassionate leaders who stand beside them. His commitment to social justice was equally transformative. Understanding that poverty could not be eradicated without economic empowerment, he pioneered the distribution of nearly 15,000 acres of barren land to landless families in the Diviseema region. This visionary initiative gave thousands an opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity and self-reliance, demonstrating that genuine governance creates opportunities rather than dependence.

Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao was also a distinguished champion of Telugu language and culture. As the chief architect of the First World Telugu Conference in 1975, he united Telugu-

speaking communities from across the world, fostering a renewed sense of linguistic pride and cultural identity. His efforts ultimately led to the establishment of the International Telugu Centre, preserving and promoting Telugu heritage for future generations.

As Education Minister, he introduced the culturally meaningful tradition of Guru Poojotsavam, reaffirming the timeless Indian reverence for teachers and learning. His life offers invaluable lessons for contemporary society. In an age when politics is often judged by electoral success, he demonstrated that the highest purpose of public office is public welfare. In an era of sophisticated disaster management technologies, he reminded us that empathy, physical presence, and human connection remain irreplaceable.

His philosophy of respecting one's mother tongue while embracing global knowledge continues to inspire a balanced vision of cultural confi-



dence and international engagement. Mandali Venkata Krishn a Rao also taught that true leadership transcends divisions. He united political rivals, intellectuals, and cultural leaders in pursuit of common goals. He proved that character outweighs credentials, that values endure beyond positions, and that one can remain deeply rooted in local traditions while nurturing a global outlook. As we celebrate the centenary of

this extraordinary son of Andhra Pradesh, we do more than honour his memory-we reaffirm the ideals he lived by. His legacy is a timeless blueprint for ethical governance, compassionate leadership, and cultural renaissance. The "Diviseema Gandhi" may no longer walk among us. Still, his ideals continue to inspire every generation that believes politics can be a noble mission of service, humanity, and nation-building.

Taslima Nasrin Reopening of a Long Silenced Window

Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee



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She came, She saw and She conquered the mind of Kolkata people. Taslima Nasrin's return to Kolkata was like a physical homecoming and more like the reopening of a long silenced window. After decades of exile, debate, and distance, her footsteps on the city's old pavements echoed with the unresolved questions of freedom, identity, and dissent. Kolkata, a city that has always carried the pulse of rebellion in its veins, greeted her not merely as a writer but as a symbol of unfinished conversations. Her presence stirred the air of Rabindra Sadan where the mind was without fear and the head was held high. It roused the dormant College Street, where arguments rise like incense, and Park Street, where nostalgia walks beside modernity.

In this return, the city's cultural conscience was once again tested. Taslima's voice-sharp, unyielding, and rooted in human rights-met a Kolkata that has changed yet remains emotionally porous. For many, her arrival is not the coming of a Swedish citizen or that of a Bangladeshi writer in exile but a restoration of moral courage; for others, a reminder of controversies that once divided public sentiment. But beyond all reactions, her return would reaffirm the city's historic commitment to dialogue. Kolkata has always embraced complexity, and Taslima's reappearance will deepen that legacy, turning

the city once more into a living forum where literature and life confront each other without fear.

Taslima Nasrin is one of the most controversial and influential writers of contemporary South Asian literature. A physician by training and a writer by passion, she has become internationally known for her fearless advocacy of women's rights, secularism, freedom of expression, and human dignity. Born in Mymensingh, Bangladesh, in 1962, Nasrin began her literary career as a poet before expanding into fiction, memoir, essays, and journalism. Over the decades, her works have sparked intense debate, admiration, criticism, and censorship, making her one of the most widely discussed Bengali authors of modern times. Nasrin's literary career began with poetry in the early 1980s. Her poems often express loneliness, love, rebellion, and the emotional struggles of women living in patriarchal societies. Unlike traditional romantic poetry, her verse frequently challenges social conventions and questions the unequal treatment of women. Her poetry established her distinctive literary voice-direct, emotionally charged, and uncompromising. Her reputation grew substantially with the publication of the novel Lajja (Shame) in 1993. Set against the backdrop of communal violence in Bangladesh following the demolition of the Babri Masjid in India, the novel fol-

lows a Hindu family facing persecution and insecurity. Rather than presenting a conventional political narrative, the novel explores the human cost of communal hatred through the lives of ordinary people. Lajja was translated into numerous languages and gained international recognition, while also becoming the center of intense controversy in Bangladesh. The novel remains an important work in discussions of communal conflict, minority rights, and the responsibilities of literature in times of crisis. Another significant novel is Shodh (Revenge), which examines marriage, betrayal, and female self-respect. The novel portrays a woman who refuses to remain a passive victim of patriarchal injustice and instead asserts control over her own life. Through psychological depth and realistic characterization, Nasrin questions traditional expectations imposed upon women. French Lover presents a different aspect of her literary vision.

Set partly in Europe, the novel explores migration, loneliness, cultural identity, and the search for personal freedom. It examines how geographical distance does not necessarily free individuals from emotional isolation or social expectations. The novel also reflects on the experiences of immigrant women negotiating between different cultures. Equally important are Taslima Nasrin's autobiographical writings. Interesting it is to note that Taslima Nasrin did not write a single word against Islam in her novel Lajja. The very novel for which she was driven out of her homeland contains no direct criticism of Islam. She wrote an article in which she argued that reli-



gious minorities in those countries had little protection and describes a situation in which extremists targeted Hindu communities. It also referred to more recent incidents of attacks on Hindu temples and homes in Bangladesh, citing the case of Dipu Das as an example. Her memoirs form one of the most remarkable autobiographical projects in modern Bengali literature. Beginning with Amar Meyebela (My Girlhood), she recounts her childhood, education, family life, and early intellectual development. The memoir presents a vivid picture of Bengali society while tracing the evolution of a young girl

determined to think independently. Subsequent volumes such as Uttal Hawa, Ka, Dwikhandito, Sei Sob Andhokar, and Nirbasan continue the story of her literary career, public controversies, exile, and personal struggles. These memoirs combine intimate recollections with reflections on politics, religion, literature, and freedom of expression. They have become valuable documents for readers interested in contemporary South Asian cultural and political history. Nasrin has also written numerous collections of essays and newspaper columns. Her non-fiction addresses issues such as

women's education, legal equality, domestic violence, secular democracy, minority rights, and freedom of speech. She argues that societies progress through reason, education, scientific thinking, and equal rights rather than through intolerance or discrimination. Whether or not readers agree with her conclusions, her essays consistently encourage critical discussion of social institutions and cultural traditions. By transforming personal experience into literary expression, she has expanded the scope of contemporary Bengali writing and encouraged readers to engage critically with

questions of justice, equality, and social responsibility. Today, Taslima Nasrin occupies a distinctive place in world literature. Her writings remain an important part of contemporary discussions on literature, feminism, secularism, and the universal quest for human freedom.

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Lok Sabha Passes Appropriation Bill, Adjourns Amid Opposition Protests

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day on Tuesday after passing the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2026, amid continued protests by Opposition members over the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple and other issues. When the House re-assembled at 2 pm after an earlier adjournment, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to replace an Ordinance that removed income tax provisions relating to foreign investment in government securities. Although several Opposition members had submitted notices to oppose the introduction of the Bill, none spoke when their names were called by the Chair. The Bill proposes amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the Income-tax Act, 2025, and the Finance Act, 2027. Despite the uproar, the Lok Sabha passed the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2026 by voice vote. The legislation authorises the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India to cover expenditure incurred on certain services during the financial year ending March 31, 2023, that exceeded the amounts originally approved. Earlier in the day,



Speaker Om Birla appealed to members to allow Question Hour to function smoothly and sought cooperation from all parties. Opposition members continued raising slogans, including "Home Minister, answer us", protesting police action against student demonstrators during their march to Parliament on July 20. Birla said he had requested leaders of all political parties during the Business Advisory Committee meeting to ensure the smooth functioning of Parliament. Describing Parliament as the country's highest

democratic institution, he said it should be used for debating and passing legislation rather than slogan-shouting or displaying placards. During the ongoing Monsoon Session, the Lok Sabha has passed five Bills. Two have already received approval from both Houses, while the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2026, and the Supreme Court Judges (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, are awaiting consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

Rahul Gandhi Attacks RSS, PM Modi Over History and Student Protest Crackdown

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing the RSS of attempting to rewrite India's history and asserting that the country's historical legacy would not be allowed to be distorted.

Addressing the media, Gandhi said the RSS could not alter India's past and insisted that the nation would not tolerate any attempt to undermine or rewrite its history. He maintained that India's historical heritage belongs to its people and cannot be changed to suit any political ideology.

"The RSS can't change our history. India will not tolerate its history being trampled upon by anybody," Gandhi said while criticising what he described as efforts to reshape the country's historical narrative.

The Congress leader also



strongly criticised the Union government's handling of recent student protests, saying students had suffered because of police action and deserved justice instead of symbolic gestures.

Referring to the police action against student protesters, Gandhi said the Prime Minister should apologise to them rather than seek forgiveness. "Students are in severe

pain. They don't need the Prime Minister's forgiveness; Modi needs to apologise instead," he said.

His remarks came amid an ongoing political confrontation between the Opposition and the ruling BJP over the treatment of student demonstrators and wider ideological issues. Opposition parties have repeatedly accused the government of suppressing

dissent and using excessive force against protesting students. The BJP, however, has defended the government's actions and accused the Congress of politicising the issue for electoral gains.

The comments also coincided with continued disruptions in Parliament, where Opposition parties intensified their protests over multiple issues. Among the key concerns raised were the police action against student protesters and allegations regarding the theft of donations at the Ayodhya Ram Temple.

The exchange has further sharpened the political divide between the Congress and the BJP, with both sides continuing to trade allegations over governance, democratic values and the handling of public protests. The issue is expected to remain a major point of contention during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Security Tightened in J&K Ahead of Article 370 Anniversary

Security has been intensified across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the seventh anniversary of the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to revoke the erstwhile state's special constitutional status under Article 370 and bifurcate it into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Several political parties have announced protests and Black Day observances on Wednesday, prompting authorities to deploy additional security personnel, especially in the Kashmir Valley.

Officials in Srinagar and Jammu are scheduled to hold security review meetings to finalise measures to regulate or prevent political gatherings. While the National Conference (NC) has not disclosed its complete plans, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Congress, Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) and other regional parties have announced protest programmes. Party leaders have expressed concerns that they may face house detention or preventive restrictions.

PDP president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has directed party workers to organise district-level demonstrations demanding the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A and the release of political de-



tainees. The party has also appealed to the public to observe a 15-minute lights-out blackout as a symbolic protest. The protest schedule was issued by General Secretary (Organisation) G.N. Lone Hanjura.

NC Provincial President (Jammu) Rattan Lal Gupta said the party would observe August 5 as Black Day, calling the 2019 decisions unconstitutional and asserting that people continue to face political, constitutional and emotional consequences. He also criticised the BJP over the delay in restoring statehood.

The Congress has planned statewide protests under the

slogan "Meri Riyasat, Mera Haq", reiterating its demand for the restoration of statehood.

Meanwhile, AIP, led by MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, announced Black Day programmes in Srinagar and New Delhi. Party spokesperson Inam Un Nabi said Rashid would wear black clothes in Parliament and observe a day-long hunger strike as a peaceful protest. The party will also hold seminars highlighting its demand for the restoration of democratic and constitutional rights in Jammu and Kashmir.



Gen Z Should Lead Youth Outreach, Says Abhijeet Dipke

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday welcomed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's planned interaction with students but said such initiatives would be more meaningful if they were led by young people from Gen Z.

Bhagwat is scheduled to interact with Gen Alpha and Gen Z students in Mumbai on August 6. The programme will bring together more than 2,000 students aged between 15 and 19 from over 100 cities across the country.

Speaking to reporters at his residence in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Dipke said the growing engagement with young people reflected the influence of the youth on national politics. He remarked that even Prime Minister Narendra Modi had started posting Instagram reels and Bhagwat was now preparing to interact with Gen Z.

"The youth has forced this. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has to post a reel on Instagram, and Mohan Bhagwat also wants to interact with Gen Z," Dipke said.

He added that while the dialogue was a positive step, Gen Z needed representatives from

its own generation to lead such conversations. According to Dipke, interactions would be more effective if young people engaged directly with other young people instead of senior leaders.

Dipke said it was encouraging that the importance of Gen Z was finally being recognised, describing young people as the future of the country. However, he stressed that youth outreach should feature younger faces to better understand the aspirations and concerns of students.

He also referred to the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister on July 25 following CJP-led protests over the alleged NEET examination paper leak.

Commenting on student protests in Jharkhand, Dipke accused the state government of ignoring the demonstrators. Students have been holding an indefinite protest in Ranchi since July 29 over alleged paper leaks in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission examinations and other recruitment tests. Dipke said he had spoken with the protesting students and claimed they lacked basic facilities, adding that the CJP stood in solidarity with their agitation.



Ranchi Protesters Seek Independent Probe into Paper Leak Allegations

Job aspirants protesting the alleged paper leaks in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) examination and other recruitment tests have demanded an investigation by an independent panel of retired High Court judges from outside Jharkhand, expressing a lack of confidence in the ongoing probe.

The protesters have been staging an indefinite sit-in at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in Ranchi since July 29. They alleged that the JMM-led government was attempting to "whitewash" the issue by assigning the investigation to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Earlier, the protesters had demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry along with an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe, claiming the alleged recruitment scam involved large-scale financial transactions.

Vinay Mehta, a job aspirant from Hazaribag district, said the protesters had lost faith in the CID investigation. He claimed that during the earlier JSSC-CGL paper leak inquiry, the CID found that answers to 135 out of 150 questions had

been leaked, with 120 questions matching the actual examination paper.

Mehta also alleged that despite candidates submitting documentary evidence through emails and WhatsApp, authorities neither acknowledged nor acted on the complaints. He reiterated the demand for either a CBI investigation or an independent inquiry by retired High Court judges from outside the state.

The protesters also announced plans to pay tribute to former Chief Minister Shibu Soren on his first death anniversary. Pawan Goswami, a protester from Palamu district, said the students would march to Soren's residence to pay their respects, describing him as an inspiration.

While emphasising that the agitation would remain peaceful, Goswami warned that the protesters would intensify their movement if the government continued to ignore their demands. He said they would gherao the Jharkhand Assembly on August 10 if no action was taken. The protest has received support from several organisations in recent days.

Udhayanidhi Stalin Released After High Court Order in Trisha Remarks Case

DMK leader and Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin was released by the police on Tuesday after the Madras High Court directed authorities to free him immediately following questioning in connection with a case over his alleged objectionable remarks about actor Trisha Krishnan.

Udhayanidhi was arrested earlier in the day from his residence in Chennai after a case was registered over comments he made during a public meeting. During the hearing, Tamil Nadu Advocate General Vijay Narayan informed the High Court that Udhayanidhi had been taken to Thanjavur for questioning and that the police had no intention of seeking judicial remand. He said the plan was to question him and release him on station bail.

Taking note of the submission, the Madras High Court ordered the police to release Udhayanidhi immediately after the questioning was completed. He was subsequently released on Tuesday evening.

The controversy stems from a speech delivered by Udhayanidhi on Monday during a protest over the Cauvery water dispute. While criticising the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government, some party workers began chanting "Trisha, Trisha." In response, Udhayanidhi made remarks that were alleged to carry a double meaning and were widely criticised as inappropriate.

Following the backlash, Udhayanidhi clarified that his comments were intended to refer to the Cauvery issue and not the actor. However, the explanation failed to end the controversy, with several political parties demanding an unconditional apology, alleging that the remarks were derogatory towards women.

The TVK lodged a police complaint over the comments, leading to the registration of a case against Udhayanidhi. He then approached the Madras High Court seeking relief, prompting an urgent hearing that resulted in his release after police questioning.

MK Stalin Targets CM Vijay After Udhayanidhi Stalin's Arrest

DMK president MK Stalin on Tuesday launched a strong attack on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay and the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government following the arrest and subsequent release of Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin.

Udhayanidhi Stalin was detained for nearly four hours over alleged double entendre remarks linked to actor Trisha Krishnan before being released on the orders of the Madras High Court.

Reacting to the incident, MK Stalin accused the state government of using arrests to divert attention from governance failures, particularly on the Cauvery water dispute and the Mekeedatu dam issue. He said the arrest, carried out a day before the state budget session, was intended to prevent Udhayanidhi Stalin from participating in the Assembly. "Arrogance leads to destruction; persistent arrogance only accelerates it," MK Stalin said while criticising the Vijay-led



government. He also alleged that instead of fulfilling electoral promises, Chief Minister Vijay had focused on social media publicity. "From the moment he assumed office, instead of striving to fulfil promises, Chief Minister Vijay, content to roam as a mere reels creator, must now awaken to his responsibilities," he said. The DMK chief further accused the government of repeatedly using arrests against political opponents, students, farmers and protesters. He claimed protests against the NEET examination, farmers' demonstrations and awareness campaigns against NEET had faced restrictions under the present administration. The

controversy stems from remarks made by Udhayanidhi Stalin during a protest in Thanjavur over the Cauvery water dispute. The comments drew criticism from several political leaders and public figures, who alleged they contained a vulgar double meaning. Police booked Udhayanidhi Stalin under multiple legal provisions, including charges related to the use of obscene words, outraging the modesty of women, promoting enmity, provoking riots and criminal intimidation. Provisions of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act were also invoked before he was released following court intervention.

Police Halt Kejriwal's March Against E20 Petrol Policy

Delhi Police on Tuesday stopped Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal and other party leaders from marching to the Prime Minister's residence to submit more than 2.30 lakh petitions opposing the Centre's E20 petrol policy. The action prompted AAP leaders and supporters to stage a sit-in protest on Feroz Shah Road. Kejriwal, accompanied by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, AAP leader Jasmine Shah and other party members, sat on the road after police prevented the group from proceeding towards the Prime Minister's residence. The party had begun the march with around 100 participants carrying petitions collected from people across the country. According to AAP, the petitions represent the concerns of vehicle owners over the government's promotion of E20 petrol, an ethanol-blended fuel. The party alleged that the increased use of E20 petrol was adversely affecting vehicle owners and urged the Centre to reconsider the pol-

icy. AAP leaders said the petitions were intended to highlight public opposition to the fuel initiative and seek a review of the government's decision.

Addressing supporters before the march, Kejriwal said the party had collected more than 2.30 lakh signatures from citizens across the country. He appealed to the government to take note of the concerns raised by crores of vehicle owners and respond to the issues associated with the E20 fuel policy. The protest remained peaceful as police restricted the march before it could reach the Prime Minister's residence. AAP leaders continued their demonstration on the roadside, reiterating their demand that the government engage with the concerns expressed through the petitions. The E20 petrol policy has become a point of political debate, with AAP claiming it could negatively impact vehicle users, while the Centre has been promoting ethanol blending as part of its broader fuel and energy strategy.

Bangladesh Seeks India's Stand on Sheikh Hasina's Planned Address

Bangladesh has sought clarification from India over former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's proposed virtual address from New Delhi, saying that allowing a fugitive to engage in political activities could negatively affect the improving bilateral relationship between the two countries.

The issue marks Dhaka's first official response to Hasina's planned participation in an August 5 event organised by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCCSA) in New Delhi. The programme is being held to mark the second anniversary of the student-led uprising that led to the fall of Hasina's government in 2024.

The matter comes as Bangladesh continues to pursue Hasina's extradition from India, where she has been living since leaving Bangladesh in August 2024. Despite facing multiple criminal cases, Hasina recently told Reuters that she intends to return to Bangladesh in December. Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said her government was committed to maintaining a forward-looking relationship with India but wanted New Delhi to clarify its position on the issue. "We are moving forward with India with a forward-looking approach. We don't want that progress to be affected. India has to be clear about its stance," Islam told reporters. According to the FC-



CSA, Hasina, 78, is scheduled to address the event through video conferencing. She is expected to be joined by her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and other speakers. The organisation has not responded publicly to Bangladesh's concerns. Islam said Bangladesh had repeatedly conveyed its objections to India regarding Hasina and other Awami League leaders making political statements while staying in India. She said Dhaka did not want bilateral relations to suffer because of comments made by individuals facing legal proceedings in Bangladesh. She also noted that India had earlier indicated it did not expect fugitives to carry out political activities from its territory. Although she acknowledged that the event was not being organised

by the Indian government, Islam said Bangladesh would raise the issue through diplomatic channels if required. There was no immediate response from India's Ministry of External Affairs. Relations between India and Bangladesh have remained strained since Hasina's removal from office, though both governments have recently expressed interest in rebuilding ties through increased engagement and cooperation after the formation of Tarique Rahman's government following February's elections. Bangladesh has also sought Hasina's extradition after she was sentenced to death in 2025 for crimes against humanity related to the 2024 crackdown, a verdict she has rejected as legally invalid.

US Begins Largest Citizenship Revocation Drive Against 25 Naturalised Citizens

The United States Department of Justice (DoJ) has initiated proceedings to revoke the citizenship of 25 naturalised citizens, including an Indian-origin man, in what officials describe as the largest coordinated denaturalisation effort in the department's history. The cases involve allegations ranging from identity fraud and marriage fraud to attempted murder, child sexual abuse and other serious offences.

Among those named is 65-year-old Narinder Singh, a resident of Delaware, who is accused of obtaining US citizenship by using a fraudulent identity. According to the DoJ, Singh allegedly used two different identities to gain admission into the United States beginning in 1996 before becoming a naturalised citizen on May 1, 2008. The complaint against him includes seven counts related to alleged misrepresentations and unlawful conduct that authorities say reflect adversely on his moral



character.

The list of 25 individuals also includes two people of Pakistani origin, Zia Murad Bhatti and Mohd Wasif, who are accused of falsifying their identities. Others facing denaturalisation proceedings are naturalised citizens originally from Moldova, Mexico, Colombia, Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, Jamaica, Taiwan, Honduras, Cameroon, Jordan, Cuba, El

Salvador, Haiti and Sweden.

The complaints were filed between July 20 and August 3. With these new filings, the total number of denaturalisation cases initiated by the Justice Department since January 20, 2025, has risen to 123 as part of the Trump administration's intensified immigration enforcement measures.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said US citizen-

ship is one of the nation's highest privileges and must be obtained lawfully and honestly. He stated that the complaints allege the individuals secured naturalisation through fraud, concealment or other unlawful conduct, including hiding violent crimes, sexual offences against children, fraudulent identities and other disqualifying facts.

Blanche said the latest actions marked only the beginning of the department's efforts to protect the integrity of the naturalisation process and public safety.

Assistant Attorney General Brett Shumate described the initiative as the largest denaturalisation surge in recorded history. The Justice Department said the allegations across the 25 cases include attempted murder, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, identity fraud, passport fraud, bank and credit card fraud, marriage fraud and practising medicine without a licence.

Former FBI Agent Accused of Stealing \$1 Million in Cryptocurrency

A former FBI counterintelligence agent has been arrested in the United States on allegations of stealing nearly \$1 million worth of cryptocurrency from digital wallets that the bureau was monitoring as part of an investigation, according to court documents.

Patrick Steven Yaroch, who previously served in the FBI's Counterintelligence and Espionage Division, is accused of using his access to government systems to transfer cryptocurrency from accounts linked to a foreign adversary. According to CNN, the accounts were connected to Russia.

Prosecutors allege that Yaroch became dissatisfied with the FBI's handling of the cryptocurrency accounts and, in late 2024, created a personal digital wallet. Investigators claim he accessed FBI databases to obtain passphrases linked to the monitored wallets and transferred the funds through 10 to 12 separate transactions.



Authorities estimate the stolen cryptocurrency was worth about \$1 million. During a search of Yaroch's home in Ashburn, Virginia, investigators recovered cryptocurrency valued at approximately \$925,426. They also seized a hardware wallet, handwritten seed phrases used to access digital assets, and documents indicating that Yaroch may have been planning to relocate abroad, including paperwork

related to Portugal.

The FBI said it acted immediately after learning about the allegations. In a statement, the agency said it had launched an investigation, executed an arrest warrant and reaffirmed that it holds its employees to the highest ethical standards. The bureau added that such conduct would not be tolerated and declined to comment further because the investigation remains ongoing.

Investigators also recovered conversations from Yaroch's mobile phone in which he allegedly used ChatGPT to seek advice on investing or spending \$1 million and asked about relocating overseas. Court records state that he later admitted to a colleague that he had made poor decisions before contacting the US Department of Justice.

Bloomberg News reported that Yaroch was dismissed from the FBI and arrested on the same day federal agents searched his residence. He has been charged with interstate transportation of stolen goods and receipt of stolen goods. A federal magistrate judge has ordered that he remain in custody temporarily while legal proceedings continue. His lawyer has not issued a public statement regarding the allegations. The case remains under investigation by federal authorities.

UN Experts Urge Canada to Protect Sikh Activist Moninder Singh

A group of United Nations human rights experts has called on Canada to take all possible measures to protect Sikh activist Moninder Singh, citing allegations of foreign intimidation and repeated threats to his life.

In a letter dated June 3 and made public two months later under standard UN procedures, five independent UN experts expressed concern over what they described as allegations of foreign intimidation and reprisals against Singh, a Canadian citizen. They noted that Canadian authorities had issued Singh four "duty to warn" notices since 2022, informing him of credible and imminent threats to his life.

The experts urged the Canadian government to ensure the safety of Singh, his family and others facing similar risks. They also called for accelerated investigations into the allegations, accountability for those responsible, appropriate remedies for victims and measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The letter was signed by the UN Special Rapporteurs on protecting human rights while countering terrorism, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, human rights defenders, freedom of religion or belief, and the Independent Expert on promoting a democratic and equitable international order. A copy of the com-



munication was also sent to the Government of India.

UN Special Rapporteurs and independent experts are appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to examine and report on specific issues. They serve in an independent capacity and do not speak on behalf of the United Nations.

Earlier this year, Singh visited the UN in Geneva to seek international attention to what he described as the targeting of Sikh activists abroad and broader concerns about transnational repression.

The issue has remained a source of diplomatic tension between India and Canada since the 2023 killing of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia. Canada alleged Indian involvement in

the killing, an accusation India has consistently denied. The dispute led to a deterioration in bilateral relations and the expulsion of diplomats by both countries in 2024. Relations have improved in recent months following renewed diplomatic engagement.

Singh, who supports the Khalistan movement advocating an independent Sikh state, welcomed the UN experts' intervention. He said the letter highlighted concerns about the safety of Sikh activists and reaffirmed that his advocacy was based on international law, human rights principles and the experiences of his community. India has consistently rejected allegations of targeting Sikh activists abroad.



UK Man Jailed for Hiding Mother's Body and Claiming Benefits

A court in the United Kingdom has sentenced a 60-year-old man to two years and four months in prison after he kept his mother's body in a chest freezer for nearly three years while continuing to claim her pension and government benefits worth more than £78,000 (about Rs 99 lakh).

Christopher Phillips, from Porthcawl in South Wales, concealed the body of his mother, Sylvia Phillips, following her death in March 2023. According to court proceedings, he failed to inform authorities of her death and continued to receive state pension payments, attendance allowance, housing benefits, winter fuel payments and other financial support that should have ceased after her passing. The case came to light in February 2026 after doctors became concerned about Sylvia Phillips' welfare and requested a police welfare check. When officers visited the property, Phillips initially claimed that his mother was staying with relatives in London. However, inconsistencies in his statements prompted further investigation, leading police to discover her body inside a chest freezer at the home they had shared. Investigators also found that Phillips had continued accessing his moth-

er's bank accounts while receiving benefits in her name. The court heard that the total amount fraudulently obtained exceeded £78,000 during the nearly three-year period. During the trial, Phillips' defence lawyer said he had been his mother's full-time carer for many years and struggled emotionally after her death. According to the defence, Phillips told investigators he "didn't want to let her go." His lawyer also cited mental health difficulties following his mother's death as a contributing factor to his actions. Judge Tracey Lloyd-Clarke sentenced Phillips to two years and four months in prison after he pleaded guilty to preventing a lawful burial and multiple fraud offences related to the continued receipt of government benefits. Police described the case as deeply distressing and expressed sympathy for Sylvia Phillips' relatives. Authorities said the discovery of her body finally allowed family members to arrange a proper burial and bring the matter to a close. The case has drawn attention across the UK because of its unusual circumstances and the prolonged misuse of public funds through fraudulent benefit claims after the death of a family member.

Lufthansa Cuts Profit Outlook as West Asia War Raises Fuel Costs

German aviation giant Lufthansa on Tuesday lowered its earnings outlook for 2026, citing rising jet fuel prices caused by the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The announcement triggered a sharp decline in the company's share price, which fell more than 11 percent in trading on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The airline now expects its core operating profit to be between 1.7 billion euros and 2.2 billion euros for 2026. Earlier, Lufthansa had projected significantly higher earnings than its 2025 core profit of 1.96 billion euros. Speaking during the company's earnings call, Chief Financial Officer Till Streichert said the biggest challenge remained the sharp increase in fuel costs and uncertainty over how much of the additional expense could be passed on to customers. Streichert said Lufthansa intends to continue raising ticket prices during the second half of the year to offset higher fuel expenses. However, he noted that predicting customer demand had become more difficult because travellers were booking flights closer to their departure dates rather than making advance reservations. Despite a 10 percent increase in revenue to 11.1 billion euros during the April-June quarter, Lufthansa's core operating profit, excluding one-time items, dropped nearly 56 percent to 383 million eu-

ros. According to the airline, higher fuel prices alone added around 750 million euros to its operating costs during the period. Lufthansa said it had managed to recover approximately 60 percent of those additional costs by increasing ticket prices, but the higher fares were not enough to fully compensate for the surge in fuel expenses. The airline group, which also operates Swiss, Brussels Airlines and Eurowings alongside the Lufthansa brand, has become the latest global carrier to feel the financial impact of the prolonged conflict in West Asia. The war has disrupted petrochemical supplies moving through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, contributing to higher jet fuel prices worldwide. Lufthansa also reported that labour unrest significantly affected its financial performance. Repeated strikes by pilots and cabin crew over pay and pension disputes led to the cancellation of thousands of flights this year, costing the airline around 200 million euros during the second quarter. Several major international airlines, including British Airways parent IAG, Air France-KLM, EasyJet, American Airlines and Ryanair, have also reported weaker profits in recent weeks, attributing the decline largely to rising fuel costs linked to the conflict in West Asia.



India Invites Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman to BRICS Summit

India has invited Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to attend the outreach session of the upcoming BRICS Summit in New Delhi in his capacity as the current chair of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The 18th BRICS Summit will be held in New Delhi on September 12 and 13, with India hosting the event as the current chair of the grouping. The summit is expected to focus on several global issues, including the economic impact of the ongoing West Asia crisis.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the invitation to Rahman was extended in line with the

standard practice followed for BRICS outreach sessions. He also noted that India had separately invited Rahman to undertake a bilateral visit after he assumed office as Bangladesh's Prime Minister in February. "As far as the BRICS Summit is concerned, India has separately extended an invitation to the Bangladesh Prime Minister in his capacity as the current chair of BIMSTEC to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit," Jaiswal said during a regular media briefing. He added that invitations had also been extended to the heads of other regional organisations following the same practice.

Several world leaders, including Chinese President Xi

Jinping, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin, are expected to participate in the summit. Originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, BRICS expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining the grouping in 2025. The bloc now represents nearly half of the world's population, around 40 percent of global GDP and about 26 percent of global trade. BIMSTEC is a regional organisation comprising India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan, aimed at strengthening cooperation among countries in the Bay of Bengal region.

UFC Flyweight Allan Nascimento Dies at 34 After Reported Heart Attack

Brazilian UFC flyweight fighter Allan Nascimento has died at the age of 34, the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) confirmed. According to reports, Nascimento was found unresponsive on the morning of August 3 after reportedly suffering a heart attack in his sleep.

In an official statement, the UFC said medical personnel responded to the incident but were unable to revive the fighter. The organisation extended its condolences to Nascimento's family, friends, teammates and loved ones.

Known by his nickname "Puro Osso", meaning "skin and bones," Nascimento had been part of the UFC roster since 2021. He last competed in June at UFC Fight Night: Kape vs Horiguchi, where he lost to Mitch Raposo by split decision. The bout took place only weeks before his unexpected death.

Nascimento first gained recognition in 2018 after appearing on Dana White's Contender Series, where he lost a closely contested split decision to Raulian Paiva. Despite that setback, he later earned a UFC contract and went on to compile a respectable record of four wins and two losses in the promotion. During his UFC career, he also received two Fight of the Night bonuses for his performances.

Overall, Nascimento finished his professional mixed martial arts career with an impressive record of 22 wins and seven defeats. Competing in the flyweight division, he was known for his technical skills, resilience and entertaining fighting style.

The Brazilian was also a respected Brazilian jiu-jitsu black belt and trained at the renowned Chute Boxe Academy in São Paulo alongside former UFC lightweight champion Charles Oliveira.

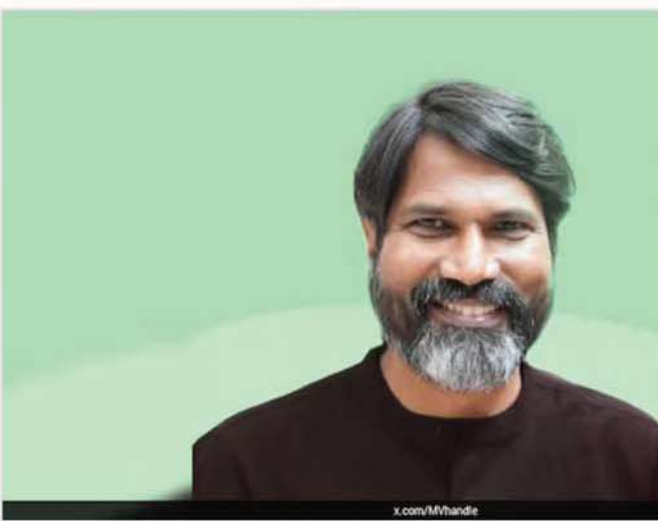
Following the news of his passing, Oliveira paid an emotional tribute to his longtime training partner on social media, describing Nascimento as a brother and thanking him for the years they spent training, competing and supporting one another. He said Nascimento would be deeply missed and remembered as a legend.

Tributes have continued to pour in from fellow fighters, coaches and fans across the mixed martial arts community, who remembered Nascimento not only for his achievements inside the octagon but also for his humility and dedication to the sport. His untimely death has left the MMA world mourning the loss of a respected athlete at the age of 34.



Zoho CEO Says Flexible Work Is About People, Not Gen Z

Zoho Chief Executive Officer Mani Vembu has said that flexible working is not a concept introduced by Generation Z, pointing out that the software company has followed flexible work practices for nearly three decades. Vembu made the remarks while responding to a post on X that claimed the traditional 9-to-5 work culture was fading because Gen Z employees preferred more flexible work schedules. Rejecting the idea that flexibility is a new workplace trend, he said Zoho had adopted such practices long before Gen Z entered the workforce. "We've been working this way at Zoho for nearly 30 years. Interesting that it's been framed as new Gen Z culture," Vembu wrote on X. He added that the desire for flexible working is not limited to any particular generation but reflects a broader human preference. According to him, employees have always valued flexibility, provided that work



is completed efficiently and business objectives are achieved. "I think this is more about human beings. We always preferred flexibility, as long as work gets done," Vembu said. His comments come at a time when organisations across the world continue to debate the future of workplace

ments and productivity rather than being driven by generational stereotypes. His comments also contribute to the ongoing discussion on balancing employee flexibility with organisational performance. Mani Vembu has been associated with Zoho for several years and is one of the company's senior leaders. He is the brother of Zoho co-founder and Chief Scientist Sridhar Vembu, who has also been an advocate of unconventional workplace and business practices. The debate over flexible work continues to gain momentum as companies explore ways to attract and retain talent while maintaining collaboration and productivity. Vembu's observations highlight that flexible working arrangements have existed well before the emergence of Gen Z in the workforce and should be viewed as a practical business approach rather than a trend associated with a single generation.

Hyderabad Father Uses AI to Help Son Build Robotic Arm for School Project

A Hyderabad-based technology enthusiast has shared how Artificial Intelligence helped him and his son build a working robotic arm for a school technology fair, with the experience winning praise from social media users.

In a post on X, the father explained that his son initially wanted to build a robot for the school event. However, considering the limited time available, they decided instead to create a voice-controlled robotic arm. To bring the idea to life, they relied on Anthropic's AI assistant, Claude, as a virtual engineering guide throughout the project.

According to the father, they first searched YouTube for ideas as before using Claude to create 3D designs for the robotic arm. The components were then 3D printed in Tolichowki and delivered through Rapido. They later visited Koti to purchase motors, chips, capacitors, resistors and other elec-



tronic components needed for the project.

The father said Claude also helped write the programming code, troubleshoot technical issues and suggest improvements. He added that they continued refining the design using Opus 5 and Fable until the robotic arm functioned more effectively.

Reflecting on the experience, he said the project became

The post quickly gained attention online, with many users appreciating how AI had been used as a learning tool rather than a replacement for human effort. Several parents said the story demonstrated how technology could make challenging school projects more engaging and accessible.

One user commented that AI had helped bridge the gap between the child's ambition and their existing technical knowledge without replacing the experience of working together. Another praised the father-son collaboration, while a third remarked that successfully completing such a project after overcoming technical challenges felt like a major achievement.

The story has sparked discussions about the positive role Artificial Intelligence can play in education by supporting creativity, problem-solving and hands-on learning when used responsibly.

OpenAI Faces Online Criticism Over Influencer Retreat in New York

OpenAI has come under criticism on social media after hosting an exclusive three-day retreat for influencers at Wildflower Farms, a luxury resort in New York's Hudson Valley. The event, described by attendees as an "OpenAI summer camp," has sparked debate over the company's marketing strategy and the environmental impact of artificial intelligence.

The retreat took place at the 140-acre resort, where room rates typically range from 1,500 to 3,100 US dollars per night. Influencers shared videos and photos showcasing private cabins, farm-to-table meals and branded gifts, including tote bags and honey jars.

The posts quickly drew criticism across platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, X and Reddit. Many users accused the ChatGPT maker of "greenwashing," arguing that a nature-themed event conflicted with the environmental costs associated with running large-scale AI data centres, which consume significant amounts



of electricity and water. Critics described the retreat as "dystopian" and questioned the company's decision to promote sustainability-themed experiences while operating energy-intensive AI infrastructure. Some social media users also criticised influencers who attended the event, asking why they promoted AI technologies without discussing their broader environmental and social implications. One attendee, content creator Grace McCarrick, defended her participation on social media, saying that attending discussions about emerging technology did not compromise her personal values. Technology journalist Taylor Lorenz also commented on X, noting that creators attending the event had received widespread criticism, while similar retreats organised by competing technology companies had attracted far less attention. Responding to the controversy, OpenAI said the

gathering was an educational initiative linked to the recent launch of ChatGPT Work. According to the company, the retreat was designed to help creators better understand its AI tools so they could explain practical use cases to their audiences. An OpenAI spokesperson said content creators are an important part of the company's community and play a significant role in helping people discover and understand new technologies. However, the company declined to disclose whether influencers were paid to attend, whether travel and accommodation expenses were fully covered or whether participants were contractually required to publish promotional content. The episode has renewed discussions about the environmental footprint of artificial intelligence and the growing public scrutiny facing technology companies as they promote AI products while addressing concerns about sustainability, transparency and responsible innovation.

Viral Videos of Misconduct at Bhogapuram Airport Spark Civic Sense Debate

Videos showing visitors allegedly damaging property and removing plants at the newly inaugurated Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) International Airport at Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh have gone viral on social media, triggering widespread criticism and a debate on civic responsibility.

The videos show several visitors stepping into and playing in decorative fountains within the airport premises, while another clip allegedly captures people removing ornamental plants from landscaped areas. The footage also shows some visitors treating parts of the airport premises like a recreational space.



The airport, which recently began operations, is considered a major infrastructure project aimed at boosting connectivity and economic development in Andhra Pradesh. However, the viral videos have shifted public attention from the new facility to concerns over public behaviour and the protection of public property.

The clips have attracted thousands of reactions across social media platforms, with many users expressing disappointment over the incidents. Several commentators said modern public infrastructure can only be preserved if citizens demonstrate responsible behaviour and respect for shared spaces.

Many users argued that dam-

aging public property or taking plants from landscaped areas undermines efforts to improve civic infrastructure. Some also called for stricter monitoring at the airport to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Several social media users urged airport authorities to deploy additional security personnel and impose penalties on those found vandalising or stealing public property.

One user commented that authorities might even need the Forest Department to protect the airport's plants from irresponsible visitors. Another remarked that a lack of civic sense, coupled with a sense of entitlement, was responsible for such behaviour. A third suggested introducing civic

Google Executive Shares Six Leadership Lessons From 20-Year Career

An Indian Google executive has reflected on his two-decade journey with the technology giant, sharing six leadership lessons that shaped his career from the company's early days in India to leading teams in California.

Shankar Murali, an Engineering Analyst Manager in Google's Trust & Safety Payments division in California, marked 20 years at Google with a LinkedIn post recounting his professional journey and the experiences that influenced his leadership style.

Murali said he joined Google India when the company was still in its early stages in the country. At the time, the office was small, there were no cafeterias and the workforce was relatively limited. He recalled working on Google's early payments initiative, Checkout, where he helped design the company's first risk, merchant review and order review models while collaborating with engineering teams. He also remembered Google's early "TGIF" meetings, where employees could openly interact with senior leaders and ask questions. Over the years, Murali contributed to Google's payments licensing efforts in the United States before moving to Dublin. There, he worked on scalable compliance systems for UK payment licences and financial reporting. He later led Google's counterfeit operations team during the company's early advertising policy enforcement initiatives, worked on account security projects and eventually re-



turned to the payments business. Reflecting on his career, Murali shared six leadership principles. He said leadership begins with listening, explaining that effective managers often allow people to talk through problems rather than immediately offering solutions. He also stressed the importance of remaining curious and continuously learning, adding that knowledge becomes truly valuable when it is shared with others. Murali said leaders should lead by example and encourage their teams by working alongside them rather than directing from a distance. He highlighted empathy as another

essential quality, urging leaders to recognise that everyone faces unseen challenges and to assume good intentions. He also encouraged professionals to build resilience by accepting differing opinions, developing a thick skin and treating others with respect despite disagreements. Finally, Murali said embracing change is essential because technology, products and leadership styles evolve constantly. He thanked his managers, colleagues and mentors for their support over the past 20 years and expressed confidence that his curiosity would continue to guide the next phase of his career.

Markets End Volatile Session With Modest Gains



Indian benchmark equity indices witnessed a highly volatile trading session on Wednesday, as investors reacted to the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision, global market cues and company-specific developments. Although the market opened on a strong note and surged sharply during early trade, much of the gains were erased before the closing bell due to profit booking and cautious investor sentiment. The Sensex and Nifty started the day with healthy gains, supported by positive global markets, easing crude oil prices and optimism surrounding the RBI's policy announcement. Investor confidence improved after the central bank kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 percent while maintaining a neutral policy stance. The RBI also revised its inflation outlook lower and raised its economic growth forecast, reinforcing confidence in the Indian economy. Despite the positive policy announcement, the market struggled to sustain its early momentum. Selling pressure emerged in the second half of the session as investors booked profits in several heavyweight stocks. Concerns over geopolitical developments and continued volatility in the newly introduced closing auction mechanism also weighed on market sentiment. Among the major sectors, banking, financial services and select auto stocks supported the indices during the early part of the session. However, weakness in information technology, oil and gas, FMCG and pharmaceutical stocks restricted further gains. Stock-specific action remained strong as investors reacted to quarterly earnings announced by several listed companies. Shares of companies such as Bharti Airtel, ONGC, Marico, Nykaa, MCX and Kalyan Jewellers remained in focus following their latest financial results and corporate announcements. While a few companies reported better-than-expected earnings, others witnessed profit booking after investors expressed concerns over margins and future growth prospects. Foreign institutional investors continued to monitor global developments closely, while domestic institutional investors provided support through selective buying. Market experts noted that the RBI's decision to maintain policy stability has strengthened confidence in India's medium-term growth outlook, though global uncertainties are likely to keep markets volatile in the coming weeks. Analysts believe the Nifty is likely to remain range-bound in the near term, with investors closely watching upcoming corporate earnings, global economic indicators, crude oil prices and foreign fund flows. The market's direction will also depend on developments in international trade, geopolitical tensions and expectations surrounding interest rate decisions by major central banks. Overall, the trading session reflected a cautious but resilient market. While investors welcomed the RBI's supportive policy stance and improving macroeconomic indicators, profit booking at higher levels prevented a stronger rally. Market participants now expect stock-specific movements to dominate in the coming sessions as earnings season progresses and fresh domestic and global triggers emerge.

RBI MPC policy: Seven Rate-Sensitive Stocks In Focus



The Reserve Bank of India's decision to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged for the fourth consecutive monetary policy meeting has once again turned investors' attention towards rate-sensitive sectors. With the central bank maintaining a neutral policy stance while expressing confidence in India's economic growth, market experts believe several stocks from the banking and financial services sectors could benefit from the stable interest-rate environment. The RBI unanimously retained the repo rate at 5.25 percent and maintained its neutral stance, signalling that future policy decisions will depend on inflation trends and evolving economic conditions. The central bank also projected stronger economic growth while revising its inflation outlook lower, reinforcing confidence in the domestic economy and improving sentiment across equity markets. Following the policy announcement, analysts identified seven rate-sensitive stocks that could remain on investors' radar in the near term. These include Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI Cards and Payment Services, and Jio Financial Services. These companies are expected to benefit from stable borrowing costs, healthy credit demand and improving financial conditions. Banking and non-banking financial companies generally perform well when interest rates remain predictable, as stable borrowing costs encourage higher loan demand from both retail and corporate customers. A supportive lending environment can also improve credit growth, asset quality and profitability, making financial stocks attractive during periods of monetary stability. Market experts believe the RBI's balanced approach provides additional confidence to investors, especially since inflation remains under control while economic activity continues to strengthen. If inflation behaves in line with the central bank's projections during the coming quarters, there could be room for a more accommodative policy later in the financial year, which would further benefit rate-sensitive sectors. Apart from financial companies, sectors such as automobiles, housing finance and real estate are also expected to gain from the unchanged interest-rate environment. Stable home and vehicle loan rates could support consumer spending and boost demand across these industries. Despite the positive outlook, analysts advise investors to remain selective rather than making broad-based investments. Company-specific fundamentals, quarterly earnings, loan growth, asset quality and valuation levels should continue to play an important role in investment decisions. Global economic uncertainties, crude oil prices and geopolitical developments also remain key factors that could influence market sentiment in the months ahead. Overall, the RBI's latest policy decision has reinforced confidence in India's economic outlook while maintaining stability in the financial system. With borrowing costs remaining unchanged and growth prospects improving, rate-sensitive stocks are likely to remain in focus as investors look for opportunities in sectors expected to benefit from a stable interest-rate cycle.

Realty Stocks Surge After RBI Holds Rates

Real estate stocks rallied sharply on Wednesday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the benchmark repo rate unchanged for the fourth consecutive monetary policy meeting. The decision boosted investor confidence, with market participants viewing the stable interest-rate environment as a positive development for the housing and property sectors. Several leading real estate companies recorded gains of up to 4 percent during the trading session as investors increased exposure to rate-sensitive stocks. Analysts said the RBI's decision to maintain the repo rate at 5.25 percent would help sustain housing demand by ensuring that home loan interest rates remain broadly stable. The central bank also retained its neutral monetary policy stance while expressing confidence in the country's economic outlook. Along with keeping interest rates unchanged, the RBI revised its inflation forecast downward and raised its GDP growth projection, indicating that the Indian economy continues to remain resilient despite global uncertainties. A stable interest-rate environment is considered beneficial for the real



estate sector because it keeps borrowing costs predictable for both developers and homebuyers. Affordable financing encourages more consumers to purchase homes, while developers gain greater confidence to launch new residential and commercial projects without worrying about rising financing costs. Market experts believe the housing

sector has witnessed steady momentum over the past few years, supported by strong demand in both affordable and premium housing categories. Continued urbanisation, infrastructure development and improving consumer confidence have also contributed to the sector's growth. The RBI's latest policy decision is expected to strengthen

these positive trends further. Real estate companies with strong residential project portfolios attracted significant buying interest during the session. Investors expect these firms to benefit from sustained demand, healthy sales and improved cash flows if lending rates remain stable over the coming months. Apart from real estate, other rate-

sensitive sectors such as banking, financial services and automobiles also remained in focus after the policy announcement. Stable borrowing costs are expected to support loan growth, consumer spending and investment activity across multiple industries. Despite the positive outlook, analysts caution that the sector's performance will continue to depend on several factors, including employment growth, consumer confidence, construction costs and the pace of new project launches. Global economic developments, commodity price movements and changes in financial market conditions could also influence investor sentiment. Overall, the RBI's decision has reinforced optimism surrounding the Indian real estate sector. With inflation under control, economic growth expected to remain strong and interest rates staying stable, the industry appears well-positioned for continued expansion. Investors now believe the favourable policy environment could support better property sales, stronger financial performance for developers and sustained momentum in real estate stocks during the months ahead.

SEBI Tightens Rules On Closing Auction

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed stockbrokers to strengthen investor awareness and upgrade their trading platforms following the rollout of the new Closing Auction Session (CAS). The market regulator is keen to improve transparency and reduce confusion among investors but has made it clear that there are no plans to roll back the recently introduced mechanism. During discussions with leading brokerage firms, SEBI reviewed the initial implementation of the Closing Auction Session and sought feedback on the operational challenges faced by brokers and investors. The regulator emphasised that brokers must play a more active role in educating clients about how the new system works and the factors that influence the final closing price of securities. One of SEBI's key instructions is for brokers to prominently display the indicative auction price and indicative

index levels on their trading platforms during the closing auction period. By making this information easily accessible, investors will be able to better understand how the official closing price is evolving before the market closes. The regulator believes this will improve transparency and help investors make more informed decisions. SEBI also asked brokerage firms to upgrade their technology infrastructure to ensure smooth functioning of the new system. Trading applications and online platforms are expected to provide timely updates and accurate information throughout the auction process. The regulator stressed that technology improvements are essential for enhancing the overall trading experience and minimising confusion during the closing session. The move follows feedback received from market participants after the introduction of the Closing Auction Session. While some investors wel-



comed the mechanism as a step towards better price discovery, others expressed concerns over the lack of awareness and limited understanding of how the closing auction influences stock prices and market indices. Despite these concerns, SEBI has indicated that it remains committed to the Closing Auction Session

and does not intend to withdraw or reverse the system. Instead, the regulator's strategy is focused on improving implementation through stronger investor education, better communication and enhanced technological support from brokers. Market experts believe the closing auction mechanism can contribute to

more efficient price discovery by reflecting genuine buying and selling interest at the end of the trading day. They also note that greater awareness among investors and seamless technology will be crucial for the long-term success of the initiative. Overall, SEBI's latest directions highlight its commitment to strengthening

market transparency while ensuring investors adapt smoothly to the new trading framework. By encouraging brokers to improve both awareness and technology, the regulator aims to build greater confidence in the Closing Auction Session and create a more efficient and transparent equity market for all participants.

Tech Startups Brace for Lower IPO Valuations



Shares of PNB Housing Finance climbed around 4 percent after the company reported a steady improvement in its financial performance for the first quarter of the financial year. The positive results, driven by strong credit

demand and healthy growth in its loan portfolio, boosted investor confidence and led to buying interest in the housing finance stock. The company reported a net profit of ₹557 crore for the June quarter, marking an increase

of about 4 percent compared to the same period last year. The growth was supported by rising demand for housing loans, higher interest income and continued expansion of its lending business. Revenue also recorded healthy growth during the quarter, reflecting sustained momentum in the company's core operations. One of the biggest highlights of the quarterly performance was the strong growth in the company's loan book. Loan assets expanded by around 15 percent year-on-year, while assets under management (AUM) also registered double-digit growth. The steady expansion indicates robust demand for home loans across retail and affordable housing segments despite an evolving interest-rate environment. The company's asset quality also remained healthy during the quarter. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) improved compared to the previous year, reflecting disciplined lending practices and effective risk management. Analysts believe the improvement in asset quality strengthens investor confidence and provides a solid foundation for future growth. Although the company witnessed a slight moderation in its net interest margin, investors largely focused on the healthy growth in lending activity and stable profitability. Market

participants believe expanding loan volumes and improving operational efficiency will continue to support earnings over the coming quarters. Analysts also pointed out that demand for housing finance remains resilient, supported by urbanisation, rising disposable incomes and stable interest rates. The Reserve Bank of India's decision to maintain policy rates has further strengthened confidence in the housing finance sector by ensuring borrowing costs remain broadly predictable for homebuyers. Brokerages remain optimistic about the long-term outlook for housing finance companies, particularly those with diversified retail portfolios and strong capital positions. PNB Housing Finance is expected to benefit from sustained demand in both affordable and premium housing segments while continuing to strengthen its market presence. Overall, the company's latest quarterly performance reinforced confidence in its growth strategy. Strong loan growth, improving asset quality and stable profitability helped offset concerns over margin pressure, resulting in a positive reaction from investors. With housing demand expected to remain healthy and macroeconomic conditions remaining supportive, PNB Housing Finance appears well-positioned to maintain its growth momentum in the coming quarters.

BSE, MCX Shares Slip After Results

Shares of leading stock exchanges BSE and Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) declined by as much as 3 percent after the companies announced their first-quarter financial results. Despite reporting healthy year-on-year earnings growth, investors chose to book profits, leading to a fall in both stocks during the trading session. BSE shares came under pressure even after the company posted a strong rise in quarterly profit and revenue. Market participants said the decline was largely driven by valuation concerns and profit booking, as the stock had delivered exceptional returns over the past year. Investors appeared to have already factored in the robust earnings, leaving limited room for further immediate gains. MCX also witnessed selling pressure after reporting its quarterly performance. Although the commodity exchange registered healthy growth compared to the same period last year, its profit declined sequentially from the previous quarter. The weaker quarter-on-quarter numbers disappointed some investors, resulting in a decline in the stock price despite the company's overall solid operational performance. Analysts noted that both companies continue



to benefit from higher trading volumes and increased participation in India's capital and commodity markets. However, expectations had risen significantly ahead of the earnings announcements, making it difficult for the results to exceed market forecasts. As a result, many short-term investors opted to lock in profits following the release of the quarterly numbers. Market experts believe the correction does not necessarily indicate a deterioration in the long-

term fundamentals of either company. Both BSE and MCX remain key beneficiaries of the growing financialisation of savings, increasing retail investor participation and expanding trading activity across equity, derivatives and commodity markets. Brokerages also pointed out that valuation remains an important consideration after the strong rally witnessed in exchange stocks over the past year. While long-term growth prospects remain positive, investors may witness intermittent corrections

whenever quarterly earnings fail to significantly surpass already elevated expectations. The broader market environment also contributed to the cautious mood. With investors closely tracking corporate earnings, monetary policy developments and global market trends, stock-specific reactions have become more pronounced. Even companies delivering healthy financial results have experienced sharp price swings as traders reassess valuations and future growth potential. Analysts believe both exchanges continue to enjoy strong structural growth drivers, including rising investor participation, technological advancements and expanding financial markets. However, they also advise investors to focus on long-term business fundamentals rather than short-term price movements immediately after earnings announcements. Overall, the decline in BSE and MCX shares reflects a classic case of profit booking after strong rallies rather than concerns about the companies' businesses. While near-term volatility may continue, the long-term outlook for India's exchange operators remains supported by the continued expansion of the country's capital markets and growing participation from retail and institutional investors.

Agarkar's Position Under Cloud Amid Controversy

Team India chief selector Ajit Agarkar is reportedly facing an uncertain future following the controversy surrounding Rohit Sharma's ODI career. According to recent reports, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reviewing the leadership of the national selection committee, with former India cricketer VVS Laxman emerging as a strong contender to replace Agarkar if changes are made. The speculation comes after the much-discussed developments involving Rohit Sharma during India's ODI tour of England. Reports claimed that the selectors

were looking beyond the veteran opener as part of their long-term plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup, leading to widespread debate over communication between the selection committee, team management and senior players. The episode generated significant criticism and placed Agarkar's decisions under intense scrutiny. Agarkar's tenure as chief selector was initially scheduled to conclude in June 2026. However, it was reportedly extended by three months until September. While many expected another extension that would allow him to continue until the

2027 World Cup, fresh reports suggest the BCCI is now considering a leadership change in the selection panel. Among the names being discussed, former India batter and current cricket administrator VVS Laxman is said to be the leading candidate. Laxman has earned widespread respect for his work with the National Cricket Academy and for guiding several India A and junior teams. His experience in talent development and player management is believed to make him a strong option if the BCCI decides to appoint a new chief selector. Despite the growing specula-

tion, there has been no official confirmation from the BCCI regarding Agarkar's future or any decision to replace him. The reports remain based on sources familiar with the developments, and the board has not issued a public statement on the matter. The uncertainty has sparked widespread discussion among cricket fans and experts. While some believe a change in leadership could help restore confidence in the selection process, others argue that such decisions should be based on the committee's overall performance rather than a single controversy.



Many have also pointed out that handling transitions involving senior players is one of the most challenging responsibilities for any selec-

tion panel. With India's preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup already underway, the BCCI's next move will be closely

watched. Whether Ajit Agarkar continues in his role or a new face takes charge of the selection committee, the decision is expected to have

a significant impact on the future direction of Indian cricket and the team's long-term planning.

Brett Lee Ends Preity Zinta Rumours

Former Australian fast bowler Brett Lee has finally addressed the long-running rumours linking him romantically with Bollywood actress and Punjab Kings co-owner Preity Zinta. The speculation, which began during the early years of the Indian Premier League (IPL), persisted for years as the two were frequently seen together at matches and team events. Lee has now categorically denied the rumours, saying their relationship has always been based on friendship and mutual respect. The rumours gained momentum between 2008 and 2011 when Brett Lee represented Kings XI Punjab, now known as Punjab Kings, in the IPL. During that period, Preity Zinta was actively involved with the franchise and regularly interacted with players on and off the field. Their public appearances together fuelled widespread speculation, with many assuming they were more than just friends. Despite repeated gossip, neither of them had seriously addressed the issue until now. In a recent interview, Lee made it clear that there was never any romantic rela-

tionship between him and Preity Zinta. He said they were, and continue to be, "great friends," adding that people were free to speculate but that the rumours never affected him personally. The former pacer also stated that he has never dated a Bollywood actress, putting an end to years of speculation surrounding his personal life. Lee also spoke warmly about his association with India, describing the country as his "second home." He recalled fond memories of playing in the IPL, interacting with Indian fans and spending time in Mumbai during his cricketing career. According to him, his friendship with Preity developed naturally through their association with the franchise and remained strictly professional and cordial throughout. Interestingly, Preity Zinta had also dismissed the dating rumours years ago, maintaining that she and Brett Lee shared only a friendly relationship. Her earlier clarification, combined with Lee's latest statement, has effectively put the long-standing speculation to rest. The revelation has generated significant



interest on social media, where many fans expressed relief at finally hearing the truth from Lee himself. While some reminisced about the early IPL days and the rumours that dominated entertainment headlines, others appreciated the former cricketer's straightforward response and his emphasis on respecting genuine friendships. The episode is another

reminder of how public personalities often become the subject of speculation simply because of frequent professional interactions. With Brett Lee now setting the record straight, the rumour that lingered for nearly two decades appears to have finally reached its conclusion, leaving behind a story of friendship rather than romance.

Mohammad Amir Opens Up On IPL



Former Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Amir has addressed growing speculation over his possible participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL) after officially becoming a British citizen. The change in his nationality has made him eligible to register for the IPL under the league's regulations, sparking widespread discussion among cricket fans about whether the left-arm pacer could finally feature in the world's biggest T20 tournament. Amir recently completed all the legal formalities required to obtain British citizenship. The new status has already benefited him in England, where he is representing Trent Rockets in The Hundred as a domestic player instead of occupying an overseas slot. The development has also opened new opportunities for him in franchise cricket around the world. When asked about the possibility of playing in the IPL from the 2027 season, Amir gave a measured response. He confirmed that he intends to play in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in 2027 as an overseas player but said he has not yet decided whether he will enter the IPL. According to Amir, no final decision has been made regarding his participation in the Indian tournament, and he is keeping his options open for the future. For years, Pakistani players have been absent from the IPL because of political tensions between India and Pakistan. However, Amir's acquisition of British citizenship changes his eligibility status

under the tournament's player registration rules, making him technically eligible to register for the league. Whether any franchise chooses to sign him, however, will depend on future auctions, team requirements and the prevailing cricketing and administrative circumstances. Amir remains one of the most experienced T20 bowlers in world cricket. Having retired from international cricket, he has continued to feature in franchise leagues across different countries and remains a sought-after pace bowler because of his ability to swing the new ball and deliver under pressure. His performances in global T20 competitions have helped him stay relevant despite stepping away from international cricket. The prospect of Amir appearing in the IPL has generated mixed reactions among fans. Some believe his experience and skill would make him a valuable addition to any franchise, while others feel the issue extends beyond cricket because of the long-standing absence of Pakistani players from the tournament. His British citizenship may have removed one hurdle, but it does not guarantee an IPL contract. For now, Amir's immediate focus remains on his commitments in The Hundred and his plans to feature in the PSL. As for the IPL, the former Pakistan pacer has made it clear that he is yet to make up his mind. Whether fans eventually see him in the IPL will depend on decisions taken over the coming months by both the player and the franchises.

BCCI Rift Over Rohit Sparks Fresh Debate



Fresh reports of differences between the BCCI leadership and the national selection committee have triggered widespread discussion in Indian cricket. The reported disagreement centres on veteran batter Rohit Sharma's future in One-Day Internationals, with claims that senior board officials and selectors are not on the same page regarding the former cap-

tain's role in India's plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup. The controversy gained momentum during India's recent ODI series against England. Before the final match, media reports suggested that Rohit had been informed by the selectors and team management that he was no longer part of the long-term roadmap for the 2027 World Cup. However, just two days

before the decisive ODI, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia publicly dismissed the speculation, stating that Rohit continued to remain in India's plans. His statement surprised many observers and appeared to contradict the earlier reports. According to subsequent reports, the secretary's public clarification created unease within the Ajit Agarkar-led

selection committee. It is claimed that several selectors believed the board's leadership had altered its stance following strong public and social media reactions. The report further alleges that some members of the selection panel felt "betrayed" because they believed discussions regarding Rohit's future had already taken place internally before the public statement was issued. The report also claims that a section of the selectors continues to believe India should begin preparing a younger squad for the next ODI World Cup and that moving beyond senior players would better serve the team's long-term interests. However, these claims remain based on media reports, and neither the BCCI nor the selection committee has officially confirmed any internal disagreement. The developments come at a time when questions are already being raised about the future of chief selector Ajit Agarkar. His tenure, which was extended beyond its original expiry, has

become the subject of speculation, with reports suggesting that the BCCI may consider changes in the selection committee before the next World Cup cycle. However, no official announcement has been made regarding his position. The reports have generated mixed reactions among cricket fans and former players. While some believe experienced campaigners like Rohit Sharma still have an important role to play, others argue that India should focus on grooming the next generation well ahead of the 2027 World Cup. Many observers have also stressed that clear communication between the board, selectors and players is essential to avoid unnecessary controversies. For now, the reported differences remain unverified beyond media accounts. Until the BCCI issues an official clarification or announces its future plans, the discussion surrounding Rohit Sharma, the selection committee and the board's leadership is likely to continue dominating headlines in Indian cricket.

India's Memorable Test Records In Sri Lanka

India and Sri Lanka have shared a fiercely competitive Test rivalry for decades, with many unforgettable performances unfolding on Sri Lankan soil. From monumental batting displays to match-winning bowling spells and dominant team victories, Indian cricketers have produced several historic moments in the island nation. As the two teams prepare for another chapter in their rivalry, a look back at India's finest Test records in Sri Lanka highlights the country's rich cricketing legacy. India have enjoyed considerable success in Test cricket in Sri Lanka over the years, registering several memorable victories and producing world-class individual performances. Legendary batters such as Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag and Virat Kohli have all left their mark, while bowlers including Anil Kumble, Ravichandran Ashwin and Harbhajan Singh have played crucial roles in

India's achievements. Their consistent performances have helped India establish itself as one of the most successful visiting teams in Sri Lanka. One of India's most iconic batting performances in Sri Lanka came from Virender Sehwag, who smashed a magnificent 293 in Colombo in 2008, narrowly missing a triple century. The explosive opener dominated the Sri Lankan bowling attack with his trademark aggressive stroke play, producing one of the finest innings by an Indian batter in overseas Test cricket. Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Virat Kohli have also registered multiple centuries in Sri Lanka, underlining India's batting strength in challenging subcontinental conditions. India's bowlers have been equally impressive. Spin legends Anil Kumble and Ravichandran Ashwin have repeatedly troubled Sri Lankan batters with their accuracy and variations. Kumble's match-winning spells and



Ashwin's ability to exploit turning tracks have contributed significantly to India's victories. Harbhajan Singh and Ravindra Jadeja have also delivered crucial performances, ensuring India maintained control in several memorable Test matches. India have also recorded some commanding team performances in Sri Lanka. The team has posted massive first-innings totals on several occasions, putting oppo-

nents under sustained pressure. Under captains such as Sourav Ganguly, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli, India developed into a formidable touring side capable of winning consistently in Sri Lankan conditions. Strong partnerships, disciplined bowling and sharp fielding have often been the hallmarks of India's success in the country. The rivalry has also witnessed several closely contested encounters that

have tested the skills and temperament of both teams. Sri Lanka have produced legendary performers of their own, making every Test series a challenging contest despite India's impressive overall record. The competitive spirit between the two neighbours has contributed significantly to the history of Test cricket in Asia. As India prepares for future Test assignments in Sri Lanka, these records serve as a

reminder of the team's consistent excellence over the years. The blend of batting brilliance, spin dominance and memorable victories has helped India build an outstanding record in the island nation. Fans will now be hoping the next generation of Indian cricketers can add more memorable performances to this impressive legacy and continue the team's success in one of Asia's most competitive cricketing rivalries.



Indian domestic cricket has produced several outstanding performers who dominated the first-class circuit but never enjoyed long international careers. Among them, Faiz Fazal's story stands out as one of the most remarkable. Despite scoring 9,184 runs in first-class cricket and making an unbeaten half-century on his ODI debut, the left-handed batter never played for India again, making his career one of the game's biggest "what if" stories. Fazal built an impressive domestic career representing Vidarbha and Railways. Known for his consistency and calm approach at the crease, he amassed 9,184 first-class runs in 138 matches at an average of over 41, including 24 centuries and 39 half-centuries. His performances over two decades earned him widespread respect as one of India's finest domestic batters. His breakthrough finally came in 2016 when he was selected for India's ODI tour of Zimbabwe. At the age of 30, Fazal became the first Indian in 16 years to make his ODI debut after turning 30. In the third ODI at Harare, he made an immediate impact, scoring an unbeaten 55 off 61 balls while opening the batting alongside KL Rahul, who also remained unbeaten with 63. The pair guided India to a comfortable 10-wicket victory while chasing a modest target. Despite such a promising debut, Fazal was never picked for India again. The fierce competition for places in the national side, coupled with the emergence of younger opening batters, meant his international journey ended after just one appearance. His case remains one of the most unusual examples of a player delivering on debut but never receiving another opportunity. Although his international career was brief, Fazal continued to serve Vidarbha with distinction. He captained the team during one of the most successful periods in its history, leading the side to back-to-back Ranji Trophy titles and an Irani Cup triumph. His leadership and consistency played a crucial role in transforming Vidarbha into a domestic powerhouse. In 2024, Fazal retired from professional cricket, bringing an end to a remarkable 21-year career. In an emotional farewell, he expressed pride in representing both India and Vidarbha, describing it as the greatest honour of his life. Though his international record consists of just one ODI, his contribution to Indian domestic cricket remains immense. Faiz Fazal's journey is a reminder of the intense competition in Indian cricket, where even exceptional domestic performances do not always translate into extended international careers. Yet his unbeaten debut, outstanding first-class record and lasting impact on Vidarbha cricket ensure that his name will continue to be remembered with admiration by cricket followers across the country.

Actresses Unite Against Rising AI Deepfakes

The growing misuse of artificial intelligence to create deepfake images and videos has become a serious concern for celebrities, particularly female actors. In recent months, several Indian actresses have begun taking a firm stand against the unauthorised use of their identities, signalling a major shift in how the entertainment industry is responding to digital abuse. Public warnings, legal notices and court cases are now replacing silence as actors fight to protect their privacy and personality rights. The latest actress to speak out is Mrunal Thakur, who recently issued a strong warning against individuals creating or circulating AI-generated deepfake content using her image. She described such material as "illegal and unacceptable" and made it clear that any further misuse of her likeness would invite legal action. Her public statement prompted several social media accounts to remove the objectionable content, while many fellow actors extended their support. The conversation around deepfakes had already gained nationwide attention after actress Rashmika Mandanna became the victim of a viral AI-generated video. That incident sparked widespread debate about online safety, digital consent and the urgent need for stronger safeguards against identity misuse. Since then,

awareness about the dangers of deepfake technology has grown significantly within the film industry and among the public. The issue has now reached the courts. Veteran actress Tabu has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection for her personality and publicity rights. Her petition aims to prevent the unauthorised use of her name, voice, photographs and likeness through AI-generated content and digital impersonation. The legal move reflects increasing concern over how rapidly advancing technology can be exploited to spread misleading or harmful content. Tabu is not alone in seeking legal protection. Actress Shruti Haasan has also approached the Delhi High Court over similar concerns, while Kajol and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan have previously secured judicial relief against AI-generated misuse and fake digital content. These legal actions highlight a growing determination among celebrities to defend their identities and establish stronger legal safeguards in the digital era. The increasing number of legal challenges shows that the entertainment industry is adapting to the new realities created by artificial intelligence. Experts



believe that while AI offers enormous creative opportunities, it also raises complex questions about consent, privacy and ownership of a person's identity.



For many actresses, the message is now clear: technological innovation should never come at the cost of personal dignity or privacy. By speaking out publicly



and pursuing legal remedies, they are encouraging stronger accountability while reminding content creators that a person's image, voice and identity can-



not be used without permission. Their collective stand is expected to influence future discussions on digital ethics and AI regulation in India.

Nani, Keerthy Set For Box Office Clash



After winning audiences' hearts with their on-screen chemistry in Nenu Local and the blockbuster Dasara, actors Nani and Keerthy Suresh are now preparing to compete against each other at the box office. The popular duo's upcoming films are expected to release during the same period in September, setting



the stage for an exciting battle between two much-awaited projects. Nani will be seen in The Paradise, one of the most anticipated Telugu films of the year. Directed by Srikanth Odela, who previously delivered the critically acclaimed Dasara, the film has generated massive buzz ever since it

was announced. The recently released promotional material has further heightened expectations, with fans eagerly awaiting another intense performance from the Natural Star. On the other hand, Keerthy Suresh is gearing up for the release of Adarsha Kutumbam, a family entertainer that has also attracted considerable attention. The film is expected to showcase the National Award-winning actress in a refreshing role, and the makers are confident that its emotional storyline and family appeal will strike a chord with audiences across all age groups. The coincidence of both films arriving around the same time has become a major talking point among movie lovers. While Nani's film is expected to attract audiences looking for a large-scale action drama, Keerthy's movie is likely to appeal to families seeking wholesome entertainment. Trade analysts believe the contrasting genres could allow both films to coexist successfully, depending on audience response and word-of-mouth publicity. Nani and Keerthy have previously shared the screen in Nenu Local and Dasara, with both films receiving positive responses from audi-

ences. Their performances and chemistry were widely appreciated, making them one of Telugu cinema's most admired on-screen pairs. This time, however, they will be competing as rivals at the ticket counters rather than appearing together on screen. Industry observers point out that festival seasons often witness multiple major releases, giving audiences a variety of choices. If both films receive positive reviews, the competition could ultimately benefit the Telugu film industry by drawing larger crowds to theatres and boosting overall box-office collections. The success of each film will largely depend on content, audience reception and sustained momentum after release. Although the makers have yet to officially confirm the final release dates, the possibility of Nani and Keerthy Suresh locking horns at the box office has already created excitement among fans. Whether one film emerges as the bigger winner or both succeed simultaneously, September promises to be an eventful month for Telugu cinema, with audiences eagerly waiting to see which former Dasara co-star enjoys the stronger run at the box office.

RAPO23 Shoot Intensifies With Grand Action Sequences

Ram Pothineni's ambitious project RAPO23 is progressing at a rapid pace, with the latest shooting schedule currently underway in Puducherry. The film has generated considerable excitement among fans, not only because of its grand scale but also because it marks Ram's directorial debut. The actor is simultaneously handling the responsibilities of lead actor, writer and director, making it one of the most significant ventures of his career. The ongoing schedule in Puducherry is one of the film's most crucial phases. The team is filming a series of high-octane action sequences, along with an energetic song that is expected to be a visual highlight of the movie. Large-scale sets, elaborate stunt choreography and extensive production planning have been put in place to ensure the sequences meet the makers' ambitious vision. Produced by Krishna Pothineni under the Rapo Cinematics banner, RAPO23 is being mounted on a lavish budget and is expected to be one of the biggest productions in Ram's career. Reports suggest that no compromises are being made in terms of technical quality, action design or visual presentation, with the team aiming to deliver a theatrical spectacle for audiences. The film has already attracted attention for Ram's willingness to take on multiple creative responsibilities. Industry observers believe directing while also playing the lead role is a challenging task, but the actor is said to be personally supervising every aspect of the production to ensure that his vision is translated effectively onto the screen. This commitment has further increased curiosity surrounding the project. Although the makers have remained tight-lipped about the storyline, the project is expected to blend intense action, emotional drama and commercial entertainment. The decision to shoot key portions in Puducherry has also added a fresh visual appeal, with picturesque locations expected to feature prominently in the film. Fans are eagerly awaiting the release of the first teaser or glimpse, hoping it will offer a better idea of the movie's scale and style.



The production has been moving steadily since its launch, and the current schedule is considered an important milestone in completing the film. Once the Puducherry schedule concludes, the team is expected to move on to the next phase of filming before entering post-production. With an impressive budget, large-scale action episodes and Ram Pothineni taking charge behind the camera for the first time, RAPO23 has become one of the most anticipated Telugu films in production. Fans and trade analysts alike are now looking forward to official promotional material that will provide the first glimpse into what promises to be a high-energy cinematic entertainer.

Mahesh Birthday Glimpse Unlikely For Varanasi

As Superstar Mahesh Babu's birthday on August 9 approaches, fans have been eagerly waiting for a major update on his highly anticipated film Varanasi, directed by acclaimed filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli. Speculation had been rife that the makers would unveil a special glimpse or teaser to mark the occasion. However, the latest reports suggest that fans may have to wait a little longer for a visual update. According to industry buzz, the team behind Varanasi is unlikely to release a birthday glimpse this year. Instead, the filmmakers are reportedly planning a much larger promotional campaign at a later stage, believing that the project deserves a grand launch rather than a routine birthday reveal. While there has been no official confirmation from the production team, the current indications point towards a delay in unveiling fresh footage from the film. Despite the

absence of a glimpse, excitement surrounding the film remains exceptionally high. Directed by S.S. Rajamouli, Varanasi marks his first collaboration with Mahesh Babu and is regarded as one of the biggest Indian films currently in production. The movie also stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran in pivotal roles, adding to its nationwide appeal. Reports indicate that a significant portion of the shooting has already been completed, with the production progressing smoothly across multiple international locations. Rajamouli recently revealed that the film is an ambitious globe-trotting adventure spanning diverse locations, including Varanasi, Antarctica and even ancient Rome. The film is also being designed for IMAX presentation, highlighting its massive visual scale. Fans have flooded social media with requests for a



birthday surprise, hoping the makers will reconsider and release at least a short promotional video. However, industry observers believe Rajamouli is known for meticulously planning every promotional event and is unlikely to compro-

mise his long-term marketing strategy simply to coincide with a birthday celebration. Even without a fresh glimpse, Mahesh Babu's birthday is expected to be celebrated in a grand manner by fans across the globe. Special screenings of his earlier films, social

media trends and charity initiatives are already being planned by fan associations, ensuring the occasion remains memorable. While the wait for Varanasi continues, anticipation for the film has not diminished. With Rajamouli's reputation for delivering cinematic

spectacles and Mahesh Babu leading one of the most ambitious projects in Indian cinema, expectations remain sky-high. Whenever the first major promotional material is finally unveiled, it is expected to become a landmark event for movie lovers across the country.

Trisha's Shelved Film Returns To Limelight

Actress Trisha Krishnan is currently enjoying a successful phase in her career with several prestigious projects across multiple languages. Amid the excitement surrounding her upcoming films, an old and long-forgotten project has once again become a topic of discussion. The film, titled Rambha Urvashi Menaka (RUM), was announced more than a decade ago but never made it to theatres, leaving fans wondering what had happened to the ambitious venture. The film was to be directed by veteran filmmaker and producer M.S. Raju, who had planned it as a female-centric entertainer featuring an impressive ensemble cast. Trisha was cast as Rambha, while Nikesha Patel and Isha Chavla were signed to play Urvashi and Menaka, respectively. Actress Charmme Kaur was also expected to make a special appearance in the movie, making it one of the most talked-about projects at the time. Production on Rambha Urvashi Menaka began with considerable enthusiasm, and the team even completed an initial shooting schedule in locations such as Muscat and Dubai. Promotional stills from the sets created curiosity among

movie lovers, who were eager to see Trisha in a refreshing, women-oriented role. However, despite the promising start, the project gradually lost momentum and eventually came to a standstill. Although the makers never officially announced the reasons behind the delay, industry reports suggested that production-related challenges and changing priorities resulted in the film being shelved indefinitely. As the years passed, the cast members moved on to other projects, and the movie quietly faded from public attention without receiving a theatrical release. The forgotten film has resurfaced in discussions because director M.S. Raju has remained active with new projects, prompting fans to revisit some of his unfinished works. Many movie enthusiasts have expressed disappointment that Rambha Urvashi Menaka never reached audiences, believing the unique concept and star cast had the potential to create something memorable. For Trisha, however, the shelved project has become just a small footnote in an



illustrious career. Over the years, she has established herself as one of South India's most successful actresses, delivering acclaimed performances in both Telugu and Tamil cinema. Today, she continues to headline big-budget films and remains one of the industry's most sought-after stars. While Rambha Urvashi Menaka is unlikely to be revived after so many years, its story serves as a reminder that not every ambitious film reaches the big screen. In the film industry, even projects with popular stars, experienced directors and promising concepts can sometimes remain unfinished, becoming intriguing "what could have been" chapters in cinema history.

Korean Kanakaraju Advance Bookings Begin Strong

Varun Tej's upcoming horror-comedy Korean Kanakaraju is steadily building momentum ahead of its theatrical release, with advance bookings officially opening in several regions. Backed by encouraging promotional material and positive early reactions, the film has generated decent pre-release buzz, raising expectations among moviegoers and trade circles. The film is directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, known for blending comedy with engaging storytelling, while UV Creations and First Frame Entertainment have jointly bankrolled the project. The movie features Varun Tej in the lead role alongside Ritika Nayak, with comedian Satya expected to provide a major dose of entertainment through his comic timing. Music has been composed by S. Thaman, whose background score is expected to play a crucial role in enhancing the film's horror-comedy atmosphere. The recently released trailer has received a favourable response from audiences, with many appreciating its mix of supernatural elements, humour and commercial entertainment. Fans have particularly praised Varun Tej's refreshing makeover and energetic screen presence, while the chemistry between the lead cast has also drawn positive attention. The promotional campaign has successfully created curiosity without revealing too much about the storyline. With the promotional activities gaining traction, advance ticket bookings have now commenced in selected territories. Industry observers believe the opening of advance sales reflects the confidence of the makers in the film's box-office prospects. Although the initial response has been described as decent rather than extraordinary, trade analysts expect bookings to

improve further as the release date approaches and word-of-mouth surrounding the trailer continues to spread. The horror-comedy genre has enjoyed considerable popularity among Telugu audiences in recent years, especially when backed by entertaining performances and engaging humour. This trend is expected to work in favour of Korean Kanakaraju, which combines spooky situations with light-hearted comedy in a unique setting. The film's Korean backdrop has also added freshness to the promotional campaign, making it stand out from conventional commercial entertainers. For Varun Tej, the film is seen as an important release as he looks to bounce back with a solid commercial success. Fans are optimistic that the combination of Merlapaka Gandhi's direction, Thaman's music and an entertaining screenplay will deliver a memorable theatrical experience. With advance bookings now underway and promotional buzz continuing to grow, all eyes are on Korean Kanakaraju to see whether it can convert the positive pre-release response into a strong opening at the box office. Trade experts believe the coming days will be crucial in determining the film's commercial momentum ahead of its release.

