



HYDERABAD | VOL-2 | ISSUE - 342 | WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 2 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : HYDERABAD □ VIJAYAWADA

CM to Open 100-Bed Hospital

Nalgonda, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is scheduled to inaugurate a 100-bed hospital at Nakrekal in Nalgonda district on September 5, according to officials. The Chief Minister will also lay foundation stones for a Telangana Model School building and a new tahsildar office during his visit. Revanth Reddy is expected to address a public meeting at the mini outdoor stadium in Nakrekal as part of the programme. A key feature of the new hospital will be a trauma care centre aimed at providing immediate treatment to victims of road accidents on National Highway 65. Officials noted that there is currently no dedicated trauma care facility between Choutuppal and Kodad along the highway, creating difficulties in transporting accident victims for emergency treatment during the critical golden hour. District Collector B. Chandrasekhar and Superintendent

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India Records 7.8% Growth

New Delhi, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed India's 7.8 per cent economic growth recorded in the first quarter of the current financial year, describing the performance as a reflection of the determination and hard work of the people. In a video message shared while he was on a visit to Kyrgyzstan, Modi congratulated citizens on the latest growth figures. He said the economy had maintained strong momentum despite difficult global conditions, including ongoing conflicts, supply-chain disruptions and continuing uncertainty following the COVID-19 pandemic. The Prime Minister said India's economic



progress demonstrated the resilience of the country and its ability to move forward despite international challenges. He stressed the importance of strengthening domestic economic activity and

encouraged citizens to give preference to locally manufactured products. Modi also appealed to people to exercise caution in spending, particularly by reducing unnecessary foreign travel

and avoiding gold purchases unless essential. He said such choices could help strengthen domestic demand and contribute to the country's broader economic objectives. The Prime Minister's remarks came amid continued focus on sustaining India's growth momentum and increasing the contribution of domestic consumption and production to the economy. He said the country was progressing steadily even as several parts of the world continued to face geopolitical tensions and economic disruptions. The latest growth performance, Modi said, reflected India's confidence and capacity to sustain development while navigating a challenging global environment.

Governor Offers Prayers at temples



Tirumala, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, accompanied by his family members, visited the sacred Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Tirumala and offered special prayers to Lord Venkateswara Swamy on Tuesday. During his visit, the Governor sought divine blessings for the well-being, peace and prosperity of the people of Telangana. Temple authorities welcomed the Governor and his family and facilitated their darshan at the

revered shrine. Later, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and his family members visited the Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy Sri Devasthanam at Srikalahasti. They offered prayers to Lord Kalahasteeswara Swamy and participated in rituals at the historic temple. The Governor's visits to the two prominent temples were marked by traditional prayers and devotion, with temple authorities extending customary honours to him and his family.

Kishan Reddy Reviews Coal Supplies



Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday reviewed coal supplies to thermal power plants across the country and directed public-sector coal companies to ensure adequate and uninterrupted supplies to plants covered by fuel supply agreements. During a video conference with senior officials of Coal India, Singareni and other public-sector coal companies, Kishan Reddy noted that electricity consumption had increased significantly across the country. He said coal-producing companies must coordinate closely with power generators to prevent shortages and maintain reliable electricity generation. The Union Minister was informed that 28 thermal power plants were currently reporting low coal stocks. He directed the concerned coal companies to respond promptly and increase transportation wherever necessary to strengthen stock levels at power stations. Kishan Reddy specifically asked Singareni Collieries Company Limited to continue supplying sufficient coal to

its contracted thermal power plants and maintain the supply levels required to meet growing power demand. Singareni Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddaprakash Jyoti said the company was supplying adequate quantities of coal to its linked thermal power plants. He assured the Union Minister that Singareni would continue making necessary efforts to meet the requirements of its contracted plants. Senior Singareni officials participated in the review from Singareni Bhavan in Hyderabad and the Kothagudem headquarters. Those present included Director (Personnel and Finance) Gautam Potru, Executive Director (Coal Movement) B. Venkanna, General Manager (Coordination and Marketing) Tadayoyina Srinivas, Director (Operations) L.V. Surya Narayana, Director (Projects and Planning) K. Venkateswarlu and Director (E&M) M. Thirumala Rao. The review assumes significance amid rising electricity demand and the need to maintain adequate fuel stocks at thermal power stations. The Ministry of Coal oversees coal production and supply to support the country's energy requirements.

India Eyes Five More S-400 Systems



New Delhi, September 1 | TPN Bureau

India is reportedly moving towards acquiring five additional S-400 Triumf air-defence systems from Russia, following the reported performance of the platform during Operation Sindhur. According to reports, Russia has responded to India's tender for five more systems and has agreed to supply them. The proposed acquisition would further strengthen the Indian Air Force's long-range, multi-layered air-defence capabilities. The S-400, known in Indian military references as "Sudarshan," is designed to detect and engage a range of aerial threats using advanced radars, command systems and different interceptor missiles. Certain missiles associated with the system have an engagement range of up to 400 kilometres, allowing threats to be tracked and targeted from considerable distances. The system has gained renewed attention following claims by Indian defence officials regarding its role during Operation Sindhur. Air Marshal Jitendra Mishra, then associated with the Western Air

Command, had spoken publicly about the system's reported effectiveness, including an interception involving a Pakistani surveillance aircraft at a claimed distance of 314 kilometres. India originally signed an agreement with Russia in 2018 for five S-400 units. Four systems have reportedly been delivered, while the final unit is expected to arrive by November, according to the information provided. The proposed purchase of another five systems would significantly expand India's existing S-400 inventory and enhance coverage against aircraft, missiles and other airborne threats. The procurement is also strategically significant amid India's broader efforts to strengthen integrated air and missile defence. The S-400's long-range detection and interception capabilities are intended to complement other systems operating within India's layered defence network. Any final acquisition, however, would depend on completion of India's procurement procedures and formal government approvals.

High Court Clears Way For Welfare Schemes



Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN ABureau

The Telangana High Court has cleared the immediate legal hurdle to the implementation of the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak welfare schemes, providing assistance only to women who had attained the legal marriageable age. The schemes were introduced in 2014 to provide financial assistance to economically disadvantaged families for marriage expenses. Telangana government records state that Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak provide marriage assistance to eligible beneficiaries subject to prescribed conditions. The Division Bench's intervention allows implementation to continue while the underlying legal challenge remains pending. The court is yet to deliver a final judgment on the validity of the challenged Government Orders. The development is significant for eligible families who depend on the schemes to meet marriage-related expenses. Further proceedings before the High Court will determine the long-term legal position of the programmes.

fare measures. The government also submitted that similar marriage-assistance schemes existed in other States and argued that the programmes supported the prevention of child marriages by providing assistance only to women who had attained the legal marriageable age. The schemes were introduced in 2014 to provide financial assistance to economically disadvantaged families for marriage expenses. Telangana government records state that Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak provide marriage assistance to eligible beneficiaries subject to prescribed conditions. The Division Bench's intervention allows implementation to continue while the underlying legal challenge remains pending. The court is yet to deliver a final judgment on the validity of the challenged Government Orders. The development is significant for eligible families who depend on the schemes to meet marriage-related expenses. Further proceedings before the High Court will determine the long-term legal position of the programmes.

Global Knowledge Hub Vision Gains Momentum



Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the state government is working to transform Hyderabad into a global knowledge and education hub, providing young people access to high-quality international education within the state. In a post on X, the Chief Minister said several leading global universities are exploring opportunities to establish a presence in Hyderabad. He stated that the University of London and Northeastern University are planning offshore cam-

pus in the city, while Harvard University has shown interest in offering courses and academic programmes in Telangana. Revanth Reddy said discussions with the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge and Imperial College London have progressed positively. He added that talks with London Business School and the London School of Economics have also produced encouraging outcomes. The Chief Minister further said discussions with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and other leading American universities had been fruitful. The state is working on plans for joint research programmes and the creation of Centres of Excellence in collaboration with international institutions. Specialised courses and certification programmes are also being planned to help working professionals upgrade their skills and remain competitive in a rapidly changing global economy. The proposed international academic partnerships are expected to strengthen Hyderabad's position as an education, research and innovation destination. The government aims to combine global academic expertise with local talent, creating new opportunities for students, researchers and professionals. Revanth Reddy said the initiatives form part of the broader vision of making Hyderabad a globally recognised centre for knowledge, higher education, research and professional development.

Tummidihatti Project Talks Make Progress

New Delhi, September 1 | TPN Bureau

The first round of discussions between Telangana and Maharashtra on the proposed Tummidihatti project made some progress on Tuesday, though no final decision was reached. The meeting was convened by the Central Water Commission (CWC) in New Delhi, with irrigation officials from both states exchanging views on Telangana's proposal. Telangana has proposed constructing a 152-metre-high barrage across the Pranahita river near Tummidihatti village. Maharashtra officials referred to an earlier understanding involving a barrage height of 148 metres, while Telangana explained the reasons for seeking the revised height. Maharashtra raised concerns primarily over possible submergence of land within its territory and the potential impact on its water rights in the Godavari basin. Telangana presented findings from a Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, study indicating that the additional submergence resulting from the increased height would be limited. Telangana also assured Maharashtra that it would bear the cost of relief and rehabilitation arising from any submergence on the Maharashtra side. Officials further maintained that the project would comply with conditions safeguarding Maharashtra's existing water rights. The CWC chairman directed Telangana to share the CWPRS study and the pre-feasibility report prepared for the project

Critical Minerals Research Gets Major Boost

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is stepping up efforts to build research and innovation capabilities in critical minerals through a proposed tripartite collaboration involving Monash University, IIT Hyderabad and Singareni Collieries Company Limited. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka held discussions with senior representatives of Monash University and officials at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan, focusing on mineral exploration, advanced processing technologies and long-term institutional cooperation. Bhatti said critical minerals would become increasingly important as India expands renewable energy, electric mobility, battery storage and electronics manufacturing. He stressed that Telangana should move beyond being a consumer of critical minerals and establish a stronger role across the value chain. The Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to prepare an action plan for the proposed partnership at the earliest. He said the collaboration should extend beyond academic research and focus on developing technologies that can eventually be deployed on a commercial scale. He also called for strengthening the Centre of Excellence at IIT Hyderabad as a platform for advanced research, innovation and technology development in the sector.

Rs 1 Crore Insurance Aid to Employee's Family



Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday handed over an accident insurance cheque of Rs 1 crore to Boda Swathi, wife of Shankar Reddy, a Grade-II electricity department employee who died in an accident while performing his official duties. The cheque was presented to Swathi at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad. Shankar Reddy was reportedly on duty at the Huzurabad 132/11 substation when he lost his life following an electrical short circuit. Ruring the interaction, Bhatti Vikramarka inquired about the family's financial circumstances and the education of the deceased employee's children. He advised Swathi to utilise the insurance assistance carefully and ensure that the children receive quality education. Officials said the government was committed to strengthening welfare and financial security measures for electrici-

ty employees and their families. The Rs 1 crore accident insurance scheme is intended to provide financial support to families of employees who lose their lives in workplace accidents. According to officials, the insurance initiative was initially introduced in Singareni and was subsequently extended across electricity utilities in Telangana. The scheme is expected to provide financial reassurance to employees working in potentially hazardous conditions and support their families in times of crisis. The government said such welfare measures reflect its commitment to protecting the interests of electricity workers and their dependents. Transco CMD Krishna Bhaskar, along with senior Transco officials and employees, attended the programme. The officials reiterated the importance of employee safety and welfare while recognising the risks faced by electricity personnel in the course of their duties.

Minority Welfare Benefits Distributed

Medchal, September 1 | TPN Bureau

State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Legislative Council Government Chief Whip Dr. Patnam Mahender Reddy visited Medchal district on Tuesday and participated in the distribution of welfare benefits to members of minority communities at the Integrated Coll ectorate.

The programme was attended by Collector Manu Chowdary, PAC Chairman Arikepudi Gandhi, MLA Chamakura Malla Reddy, Congress DCC President Vajresh Yadav and District Minority Welfare Officer G. Kanthamma. The officials and leaders formally launched the "Revanth Anna Ka Sahara" scheme, aimed at supporting eco-

nomically disadvantaged sections of minority communities.

The scheme provides eligible beneficiaries with vehicles and related assistance, with government guidelines providing for substantial subsidy support.

Under the Indiramma Minority Women and Youth Scheme, financial assistance amounting to Rs 1.125 crore was distributed with 100 per cent subsidy to 225 beneficiaries out of 232 selected beneficiaries. The programme also included the distribution of stone-cutting generators and tool kits to 57 selected beneficiaries.

Officials also made arrangements for distributing e-scooters to 112 beneficiaries against a larger district target of 414.



Patnam Mahender Reddy said the government was working to expand financial support for minority communities in the district. He stated that assistance would be extended to around 900 minority traders.

He further said Rs 8.23 crore was being provided under the Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme to 37 minority students from the district. Another Rs 27.14 crore was being allocated towards scholarships for

minority students pursuing Intermediate and higher education during 2025-26.

The government was also distributing sewing machines to 563 beneficiaries in Medchal district. The Telangana Minorities

Welfare Department states that its core objectives include the socio-economic development and educational advancement of minority communities through welfare, education, training and employment initiatives.

Bandi Sanjay Defends MPLADS Utilisation

Karimnagar, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has rejected claims that Members of Parliament are failing to utilise funds allocated under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), describing such allegations as misleading and unsupported by facts.

Responding to a report released by the Empowered Indian organisation, Bandi Sanjay said MPLADS utilisation should not be judged merely by completed works without considering the various stages involved in the implementation process.

Presenting statistics related to the Karimnagar parliamentary constituency, which he represents, the Union Minister said Rs 17.50 crore had been allocated under MPLADS for the 18th Lok Sabha term, of which works worth Rs 16.47 crore, or 94.1 per cent of the total allocation, were currently under progress.

He said that 627 proposals had been submitted to District Collectors over the past three years based on public demands for community halls, borewells, high-mast lights and CC roads. These included 313 proposals in Karimnagar, 39 in Hanamkonda, 45 in Jagtial, 151 in Rajanna Sircilla and 79 in Siddipet.

According to him, 82.29 per cent of the proposed works had received approval, while the remaining proposals were at



different stages of the sanction process. He also said he had utilised Rs 2.5 crore in unspent MPLADS funds from the tenure of former MP Boinapally Vinod Kumar.

Bandi Sanjay maintained that MPLADS allocations were inadequate considering the scale of public demands and said several MPs had requested the Centre to increase annual funding.

He noted that the scheme involves multiple stages, including proposals, administrative approvals, departmental action plans and execution. He said all available funds had already been committed through proposals, despite seven months remaining in the financial year.

The Union Minister added that CSR funds were also being mobilised to address additional public welfare needs.

Minister Reviews SIR Voter Revision

Sangareddy, September 1 | TPN Bureau

State Medical and Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha held an awareness meeting with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at his residence in Sangareddy on Tuesday to review the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the Andole Assembly constituency.

The meeting was attended by Congress mandal presidents, public representatives and party leaders from Munipally, Raikode,

Andole, Choutakur, Pulkal, Regode, Vatalpally and Alladurg mandals.

The Minister explained the SIR process through a PowerPoint presentation and addressed queries raised by BLAs regarding voter verification and documentation.

He instructed party representatives to extend full cooperation to voters who had received notices, particularly those whose existing records had not been digitised.

Raja Narasimha directed BLAs to identify such vot-

ers immediately, collect relevant details and assist them in submitting the required supporting documents to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) within the prescribed timeframe. He stressed that every eligible citizen should be able to exercise the right to vote.

The Minister also called for close coordination between BLAs, voters and BLOs to ensure timely submission of enumeration forms and completion of record digitisation. He urged the teams to work towards 100 per cent voter

registration and digitisation in the Andole constituency.

Raja Narasimha appreciated the efforts of BLAs working at the grassroots level and encouraged them to maintain coordination throughout the revision process.

PCC Doctors' Cell Chairman Dr. Rajiv, District Library Organisation Chairman Anjaiah, Jogipet Municipality Chairman Krishna Reddy and several senior Congress leaders and public representatives attended the programme.



Mandal-level party presidents, sarpanches, Congress representatives and constituency-level leaders also participated.

Technical Team to Inspect Kothagudem Sites

New Delhi, September 1 | TPN Bureau

A Central technical team will visit Telangana on September 7 to inspect four to five alternative locations proposed for the development of an airport in Bhadradri Kothagudem district, State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said on Tuesday.

Tummala made the announcement after meeting Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu in New Delhi. He said two sites examined earlier had been found unsuitable for airport construction due to technical constraints, prompting the identification of alternative locations.

The visiting team will conduct field inspections of the proposed sites and assess their geographical and climatic conditions, along with the overall technical feasibility of establishing an airport.

Tummala said Rammohan Naidu had

assured him that the Centre would consider further steps for the project after receiving a favourable technical report. The Minister stressed that an airport would provide a major boost to connectivity and development in the district, which is home to the renowned Bhadrachalam Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Temple. He said he had conveyed the long-standing demand of residents to the Union Minister and highlighted the importance of improved air connectivity for the region.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is expected to discuss proposals concerning the Mamunoor airport in Warangal and the Adilabad airport with the Central Government on September 2.

Tummala also recalled his longstanding association with the late Yerrannaidu, father of the Union Civil Aviation Minister, and expressed appreciation for the Centre's positive response to the



Kothagudem airport proposal. He thanked Rammohan Naidu and the Central Government for arranging the technical inspection and expressed hope that the proposed airport would move forward following the team's assessment.

Preparations Underway for Ganesh Festivities

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Preparations are underway for the Ganesh festivities scheduled to begin on September 14, with the Telangana government focusing on coordinated arrangements to ensure peaceful and smooth celebrations across Hyderabad.

Minister for BC Welfare and Transport Ponnamp Prabhakar, who is also the Minister-in-charge of Hyderabad, said a preparatory meeting was held with senior officials and representatives of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi.

The discussions covered arrangements for Ganesh pandals, sanitation, security, traffic management and cultural programmes. The Minister said officials



were working to ensure that devotees could participate in the celebrations without inconvenience. Prabhakar said the government had appealed to

the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi to distribute saplings to devotees as part of efforts to promote environmental awareness. He also suggested encour-

aging the use of handloom kanduva scarves during the celebrations. The Minister appealed to devotees to choose eco-friendly clay idols of Lord

Ganesha and support environmentally responsible celebrations. He said the government was committed to ensuring that festivities were conducted in

accordance with court directions.

Prabhakar also referred to prayers conducted at temples during the Bonalu festival for adequate rainfall. He said the government had requested the Ganesh Utsav Samithi to organise special prayers at pandals seeking favourable rainfall and relief from weather-related challenges associated with El Niño.

He urged people to participate in the festivities voluntarily and enthusiastically while maintaining peace, environmental responsibility and civic discipline.

The government is coordinating with various departments and festival organisers to finalise arrangements ahead of the celebrations and immersion programmes.

Telangana Cabinet Expansion Buzz Grows

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Speculation over a possible expansion and reshuffle of the Telangana Cabinet intensified on Tuesday, with several Congress leaders travelling to New Delhi for meetings with the party's central leadership.

Minister Konda Surekha reached the national capital along with Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy. Her visit has triggered renewed speculation about her continuation in the State Cabinet following controversial remarks reportedly made by her daughter, Sushmitha, about Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at a recent public event.

Surekha is understood to have sought meetings with senior Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge. She is also expected to meet Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal. The discussions are being closely watched amid reports that the leadership could review her position, although no official decision has been announced.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also

arrived in Delhi and is scheduled to hold discussions with senior Congress leaders. Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Tummala Nageswara Rao, besides TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, are already in the capital.

Meanwhile, Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar met Mallikarjun Kharge. His visit has added to speculation surrounding ministerial aspirants and possible changes in the government.

Rajagopal Reddy is also expected to meet Venugopal. He has reportedly maintained that the party leadership had earlier assured him a ministerial berth and indicated that his Delhi visit was intended to discuss the matter.

Former ministerial aspirant Malreddy Ranga Reddy has likewise reached Delhi amid expectations of cabinet changes. He is seeking representation for the undivided Ranga Reddy district.

With several senior leaders lobbying in Delhi, the Congress High Command is also expected to review nominated posts. However, the final decisions on cabinet expansion, reshuffle and individual appointments remain awaited.

Smart Ration Cards Distributed

Mulugu, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, along with Mulugu District Collector Bhorkhade Hemant Sahadeorao, distributed 2,430 new QR-coded smart ration cards to beneficiaries in Mulugu on Tuesday. The cards were handed over to beneficiaries from Mulugu and Mallampalli mandals at the RDO office conference hall.

Of the total cards distributed, 1,809 were issued to beneficiaries in Mulugu mandal and 621 to those in Mallampalli. The Minister said the smart ration cards were intended to ensure that

eligible poor families could access welfare benefits, including the government's fine rice scheme, without facing financial hardship.

Seethakka said the fine rice programme was currently benefiting 36,405 people belonging to 12,802 newly issued ration-card households in the district. She added that more than 15 lakh new ration cards had been distributed across Telangana. The State's official Smart PDS portal provides real-time information on the public distribution system and ration-card transactions.

The Minister said the new smart cards were more convenient than the earlier large-format cards and could also facilitate access to var-

ious government services and welfare schemes. Telangana began statewide distribution of the new smart ration cards on August 15.

Seethakka also announced a 15-day extension for applications for new social-security pensions, citing difficulties faced by people in remote areas. Around four lakh applications had reportedly been received statewide, with officials instructed to conduct field-level verification. The revised deadline for Cheyutha pension applications is September 15.

Eligible applicants were advised to approach Tahsildar, MPDO or Mee-Seva offices for assistance. The Mulugu district administration also provides citizen services through Mee-Seva centres.



The Minister further said that more than 5,000 houses had already been sanctioned in the Mulugu constituency, while efforts were underway to identify poor families living in huts for inclusion in the second phase of the Indiramma housing programme.

District officials, public representatives, ration dealers and beneficiaries attended the programme. The Mulugu district administration lists Indiramma Indlu and other welfare programmes among its key services.

Minister Calls for IVF Service Expansion

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha has directed officials to expand fertility and in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) services in Telangana's government hospitals while strengthening regulatory oversight of private fertility centres.

Reviewing the availability and implementation of fertility services, the Minister stressed the need for effective enforcement of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and Surrogacy laws. He instructed officials to take strict action against fertility centres found violating statutory provisions and ensure greater transparency in the sector.

The Minister said patients seeking fertility treatment should not face

unnecessary financial burdens. He called for stronger monitoring of treatment procedures, charges and regulatory compliance to protect patients and promote accountable fertility care.

He also directed officials to strengthen the existing government IVF facilities at Gandhi Hospital and Pettaburj Maternity Hospital in Hyderabad. These centres, he said, should be equipped and supported to provide accessible fertility services to people relying on the public healthcare system.

The Minister further asked the department to prepare proposals for the phased expansion of government IVF services to districts across Telangana. Such expansion would reduce the need for patients from outside Hyderabad to travel long distances for specialised fertility treat-



ment. Officials were asked to coordinate regulatory and healthcare measures to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of assisted reproductive services. The Minister emphasised that government institutions should play a stronger role in ensuring safe and affordable fertility care while private centres strictly adhere to legal requirements.

The directions are aimed at creating a more accessible and transparent fertility-care system in Telangana, with stronger safeguards for patients and improved public-sector services.

AABJP Hits Out At Congress Over Governance

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, alleging that its 1,000-day rule had failed to fulfil several major electoral promises and had instead increased hardships for farmers, students, employees and the urban population.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhinagar Police Station, Rao questioned the government over the implementation of its pre-election guarantees. He alleged that the farm loan waiver had fall-



en short of the promised level and claimed that Rythu Bharosa assistance was neither adequate nor released on schedule. He

also questioned the status of the promised Rs 500 bonus for paddy procurement and support for tenant farmers. Rao accused

the government of failing to meet its employment commitments, claiming that only about 16,000 jobs had been provided.

He also criticised the alleged delay in fee reimbursement payments, pension benefits and the implementation of the Pay Revision Commission, saying these issues were affecting thousands of families. On urban concerns, the BJP leader alleged that initiatives such as HYDRAA, HILT and CURE had created uncertainty and additional burdens for Hyderabad residents. He also raised concerns over land-related issues, including difficulties faced by people affected by 22A restrictions. ARao further criticised the government's handling of law and order,

citing recent incidents involving women, students and opposition leaders. He alleged that BJP leaders and offices were being targeted and that cases were being registered against those questioning the government. Comparing the Congress and BRS, Rao accused both parties of following similar policies and said the promised political change had not materialised. He asserted that the BJP would continue its opposition through democratic means, adopting a "people's struggle" approach regardless of arrests, cases or other restrictions.

Harish Rao Demands Fee Dues Clearance

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Former Telangana Minister and BRS Legislative Party Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao has demanded the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement funds, alleging that prolonged delays have pushed private degree and postgraduate colleges across the state into a severe financial crisis.

Harish Rao said private colleges had been struggling for nearly two and a half years due to delayed reimbursements. He claimed teaching and non-teaching staff in several institutions had not received salaries for five to 10 months, while managements were finding it difficult to meet expenses such as rent, electricity bills and university charges.

He alleged that the number of private degree colleges had declined from around 960 to nearly 650, warning that continued financial pressure could force more institutions to shut down. He said rural students would be particularly affected because private colleges often provide crucial access to higher education in smaller towns and mandals.

According to Harish Rao, representatives of the Telangana Private Degree and PG Colleges Management Association had submitted a memorandum highlighting their difficulties. He said the fee reimbursement system was particularly



important for students from economically weaker and marginalized communities, including BC, SC, ST, minority and EWS groups. Harish Rao claimed that when the BRS came to power, it inherited around Rs 2,500 crore in fee reimbursement arrears and subsequently cleared the dues. He said the KCR government disbursed approximately Rs 19,500 crore towards fee reimbursement over nine-and-a-half years. He alleged that around Rs 10,000 crore is currently pending after three budget cycles and accused the Congress government of failing to honour its election commitments.

Harish Rao demanded immediate clearance of all arrears and called for a permanent mechanism to ensure reimbursements are released within fixed timelines every academic year. AHe warned that the BRS would raise the issue strongly in the Assembly and said proceedings could be disrupted if the government failed to address the pending payments.

ATalasanani Backs Students' Demand



Secunderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav has accused the Congress government of neglecting students' welfare by delaying fee reimbursement and scholarship payments, and said the government must be held accountable for the growing arrears. A large group of students, under the banner of ABVP, met Talasani at his camp office in West Marredpally on Tuesday and submitted a representation seeking his intervention for the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement

and scholarship amounts. Addressing the students, Talasani said the fee reimbursement scheme was introduced during the tenure of late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy to ensure that economically weaker students could pursue higher education without financial obstacles. He said the previous BRS government had continued the system and ensured timely payments. The MLA alleged that dues of nearly Rs 11,000 crore were pending under fee reimbursement and scholarship schemes. He expressed concern that some educational institutions were reportedly withholding students' certificates due to unpaid government dues, affecting higher education and employment opportunities. Talasani said the BRS would support students in their struggle and raise the issue strongly during the upcoming Assembly session. He urged students to remain united and intensify their democratic efforts to secure their rights. Referring to student-led protests elsewhere, he said organised movements could compel governments to respond to public concerns. ABVP leaders Balu, Abhinay, Gautam and Revanth were among those who submitted the representation.

Kishan Reddy Condemns BJP Leaders' Detentions



Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy strongly condemned the detention and house arrest of BJP leaders in Telangana, describing the action by the Congress government as "undemocratic" and politically motivated. In a statement issued in New Delhi on Tuesday, Reddy alleged that BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao, along with MLAs and other senior leaders, was placed under house arrest while attempting to visit Nalgonda to meet and console victims of recent incidents. He questioned why opposition leaders were being prevented from meet-

ing affected families and the public. Reddy accused the Congress government of using the police to suppress political dissent instead of addressing public concerns. He alleged that the government was avoiding accountability over unfilled election promises and was responding to criticism through arrests and restrictions. The Union minister also questioned why action had allegedly not been taken against those responsible for attacks on the BJP district president's residence in Nalgonda and the BJP state office. He argued that detaining leaders who sought to meet victims, while allowing alleged attackers to remain free, raised questions about the impartial implementation of the law. Reddy said Telangana had a long history of public movements and asserted that democratic voices could not be silenced through intimidation, house arrests or detentions. He maintained that the BJP would continue raising issues affecting the people and supporting those who faced injustice, regardless of government restrictions. "Power is not permanent; the people are the ultimate arbiters," Reddy said, warning that the Telangana electorate would respond to what he described as attempts to suppress opposition voices. He reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to protecting democratic rights and continuing its political campaign against the Congress government in the state.

Nitin Nabin Seeks Report on BJP Attacks

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday spoke to Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao to obtain details about the recent incidents involving BJP leaders and party offices in the state. Ramchander Rao briefed Nabin on developments since Monday, including the reported attack on the BJP state office and the alleged attack at the residence of Nalgonda district BJP president Nagam Varshit Reddy. According to the state BJP leadership, Ramchander Rao told Nabin that the incidents were politically motivated and followed the party's criticism of the Congress government's performance during its 1,000 days in office. He also explained that he had been placed under house arrest while attempting to visit Varshit Reddy and was later taken to Gandhinagar Police Station. Nabin reportedly assured Ramchander Rao that the BJP's national leadership would extend full support to the Telangana unit. He appreciated the state party's efforts and urged leaders and cadres to continue raising public issues through democratic means. The BJP national president called for the party to intensify its campaign against the Congress government using the "Sadak Se Sadan Tak" approach, taking issues from the streets to the legislature. Nabin is also expected to speak with Nalgonda district BJP president Nagam Varshit Reddy to gather details about the reported incident.

DK Aruna Slams Ramchander Rao's Arrest

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna strongly condemned the arrest of Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao, describing it as an outrageous and undemocratic action. Aruna alleged that the Congress government was using the police to suppress opposition voices and prevent BJP leaders from visiting victims of recent attacks. She questioned whether expressing solidarity with victims had become a crime while those accused of attacks were allegedly being allowed to remain free. She accused the Congress government of adopting repressive policies and alleged that law and order had deteriorated across Telangana. Aruna also criticised the Home Department, saying it had failed to effectively discharge its responsibilities.

ABandi Sanjay Slams Ramachandra Rao's Arrest



Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar strongly condemned the arrest of BJP Telangana president N. Ramachandra Rao, accusing the Congress government of acting selectively against political opponents while failing to take action against those allegedly involved in attacks on BJP leaders and party offices. In remarks circulated to the media on Tuesday, Bandi Sanjay questioned

whether visiting and consoling affected party workers had become an offence. He alleged that BJP leaders were being targeted while those accused of attacking BJP offices and properties were being allowed to escape action.

The Union Minister also raised concerns over the reported attack on the house of the BJP Nalgonda district president and questioned whether those responsible would face legal consequences. He specifically asked why certain Youth Congress leaders allegedly involved in an attack on the BJP state office had not been remanded.

Bandi Sanjay criticised what he described as the Congress government's approach to policing, alleging that vandalism was being allowed while those raising questions were being arrested. Demanding the immediate and unconditional release of Ramachandra Rao, he warned that continued action against opposition leaders could trigger strong public and political resistance.

He said the Congress government should learn from the political consequences faced by previous governments and alleged that public dissatisfaction was growing over its handling of democratic protests and law-and-order issues.

Uttam Condemns 'Purification' Row



Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday strongly condemned the reported "purification" ritual conducted on a stage in Haldwani after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a public meeting there, describing the incident as an affront to Dalit dignity and social equality.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the issue went beyond a political dispute between the Congress and the BJP and represented a larger ideological conflict between constitutional values and social discrimination. He referred to the August 8 Vijay Shankhanad public meeting at Haldwani's Ramliila Maidan, where Kharge addressed public issues and criti-

cised the government. According to Uttam, members of the Sriram Sena Dharmarth Seva Nyas reportedly conducted a havan on the same stage two days later as part of a "purification" exercise.

The Minister said portraying a dais used by one of India's prominent Dalit leaders as requiring purification was deeply insulting to the self-respect of millions of Dalits. He said such practices raised serious concerns about the persistence of caste-based discrimination decades after Independence. Uttam also criticised the registration of an FIR against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after he questioned the incident and described it as a form of untouchability. He alleged that the response of authorities was more troubling than the incident itself, questioning why those accused of carrying out the ritual were not subjected to similar scrutiny. "Questioning injustice cannot be treated as a crime in a democracy," Uttam said, adding that filing FIRs would not silence voices demanding equality and social justice.

He asserted that the Congress would continue supporting Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes, minorities and other marginalised sections. Uttam said the party remained committed to the constitutional principles of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice.

He maintained that India must reject discriminatory attitudes and uphold the dignity and equal rights guaranteed to every citizen under the Constitution.

CPI Rally Highlights Call for Change

New Delhi, September 1 | TPN Bureau

The Communist Party of India (CPI) organised its "Badlaav Zaroori Hai" (Change Is Necessary) rally at Ramliila Maidan in New Delhi on Tuesday, drawing thousands of party workers and supporters from across the country. The event marked a major independent mobilisation by the CPI in the national capital. The rally focused on issues including unemployment, price rise, farmers' and workers' concerns, economic inequality, social justice and the protection of democratic and constitutional values. The CPI had built up to the event through a nationwide campaign and padayatras conducted in August. CPI General Secretary D. Raja said the country was facing growing challenges to the Constitution, democracy, secularism and federalism, and argued that the demand for change was gaining public support. He described "Badlaav Zaroori Hai" as a message reflecting the concerns of people across India.

National leader Annie Raja criticised



what she described as pro-corporate economic policies and highlighted concerns relating to workers, women, tribal communities and other vulnerable sections. Other speakers raised issues concerning agricultural distress, rising input costs and farmers' livelihoods.

The CPI's official rally platform identified democracy, employment, education, farmers' welfare, gender equality, secularism and climate concerns among its key themes. The party presented the gathering as an assertion of its independent political identity and a starting point for expanding mass movements. CPI leaders said the mobilisation would be followed by further nationwide programmes, including a proposed "Jail Bharo" campaign later this year.

New Logos Finalised for Civic Bodies

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister and Municipal Administration Minister A. Revanth Reddy has finalised new logos for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation and Cyberabad Municipal Corporation. The three civic bodies are part of the Hyderabad metropolitan region.

The new designs aim to highlight cleanliness, greenery, environmental protection, sustainable development, improved civic services and citizen-focused governance. The GHMC emblem represents the vision of a clean, green and sustainable Hyderabad. Green leaves signify greenery, growth and environmental conservation, while a blue water droplet represents clean water, water conservation and civic services. A heart-shaped element conveys public welfare and a people-oriented administration. The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation logo similarly presents an image of a modern, healthy and environmentally conscious city. Its leaves represent protection of nature, while the central water AAParency, responsibility, progress and sustainable governance. The Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation logo focuses on the themes of people, nature and development. A green heart-shaped element symbolises concern for citizens and the environment, while fresh leaves represent growth, greenery and a healthier future. Blue signifies trust, accountability and transparent administration.

The logos are intended to provide each municipal corporation with a distinct visual identity while reflecting broader goals of sustainable urban development and better civic administration. The designs also seek to communicate the government's emphasis on cleaner surroundings, improved public amenities and environmentally responsible growth across the expanding Hyderabad metropolitan area.

Critical Minerals Research Gets Major Boost

Continue

The proposed partnership is expected to examine mineral exploration and extraction, processing technologies and methods to recover critical minerals from industrial and other waste streams. Bhatti said coordinated efforts by Monash University, IIT Hyderabad and Singareni could help address raw-material challenges faced by strategic industries. The initiative assumes significance as critical minerals are essential for clean-energy technologies, electric vehicles, energy-storage systems, electronics and other advanced industries. Developing domestic expertise in exploration, processing and recovery could contribute to supply-chain resilience. Bhatti assured that the Telangana government would provide necessary support to establish the state as a centre for critical-minerals research and technological innovation. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister's Special Secretary Krishna Bhaskar, Monash University Dean Professor Yiannis Ventikos, Australia-India Critical Minerals Research Hub founders Professor Mohan Ellishetty and Professor Raman Singh, besides senior officials from Singareni.

Tummidihatti Project Talks Make Progress

Continue

with Maharashtra. The neighbouring state has been given time to examine the documents before the next round of discussions. The CWC has scheduled another meeting in about three weeks. Officials described Tuesday's discussions as cordial and constructive, with both sides presenting their positions openly.

CM to Open 100-Bed Hospital

Continue

of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar inspected the mini outdoor stadium to review preparations for the Chief Minister's visit. They directed officials to make necessary arrangements and ensure the programme is conducted smoothly. The proposed hospital and trauma care facility are expected to strengthen healthcare services in Nakrekal and surrounding areas, particularly for residents and travellers along the busy highway. The Chief Minister's visit will also include development-related programmes covering education and local administration infrastructure.

Jupally Demands Withdrawal of Rahul Case

Nagarkurnool, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has demanded the immediate withdrawal of the case registered against Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi under provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, calling it an act of political vendetta.

A large protest was organised at the Nagarkurnool district headquarters by the District Congress Committee following a call from the All India Congress Committee (AICC). Jupally Krishna Rao participated in the demonstration along with District Congress President and Achampet MLA Dr. Chikkudu Vamsi Krishna. Protesters burned an effigy of the BJP to express their opposition to the case. Jupally alleged that the case was filed against Rahul Gandhi after he questioned an incident involving the alleged "purification" of a venue following a public meeting addressed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Haldwani, Uttarakhand.

The Minister said Rahul Gandhi had raised concerns over Dalit dignity, social discrimination and constitutional rights. He questioned the rationale behind invoking the SC/ST Act against a leader



who, according to him, had demanded action under the same legislation against those responsible for the alleged discriminatory incident. Jupally accused the BJP-led government of using investigative and legal mechanisms to target opposition leaders instead of addressing pressing public concerns. He cited unemployment, poverty and inflation among issues requiring greater attention. He asserted that the Congress would continue its campaign for social justice, equality and protection of constitutional values despite legal cases against its leaders. The protest was attended by a large number of Congress leaders, elected representatives, party workers and supporters. The demonstrators demanded that the authorities withdraw the case against Rahul Gandhi without delay and ensure that issues concerning social equality are addressed through constitutional means.

BJP, BJYM Protest Office Attack

Quthbullapur, September 1 | TPN Bureau



BJP and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) leaders staged a protest at Shapurnagar on Tuesday, condemning the reported attack on a BJP party office and demanding action against those responsible. The protest was organised under the leadership of BJYM leader Ravula Prithvi and presided over by Medchal-Malkajigiri Urban President Girivardhan Reddy. During the demonstration, protesters burned an effigy of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy as a mark of protest. Addressing the gathering, BJP and BJYM leaders described the attack on the party office as an assault on democratic values and political freedom. They alleged that such incidents were unacceptable in a democratic system and warned that the party would strongly

oppose any attempts to intimidate political workers. The leaders demanded that the authorities identify those involved in the incident and initiate strict legal action against them. They also called for adequate protection of political party offices and workers. The protest witnessed the participation of several BJP and BJYM leaders and activists. Among those present were Dr. S. Malla Reddy, OBC District President Shekhar Yadav, Vaddapalli Rajesh war and BJYM leader Sai Krishna Reddy. The protesters reiterated that democratic dissent and political activity must be protected and urged the government and law enforcement agencies to ensure accountability over the incident.

High Court Relief for Ranganath

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

HYDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath received major relief from the Telangana High Court on Tuesday after a Division Bench suspended the earlier Single Bench order directing his removal from the post. Ranganath had challenged the Single Bench ruling through an appeal. The earlier order, issued in connection with a contempt matter involving the Lothukunta land dispute, had directed the authorities to relieve him as HYDRA Commissioner and appoint another suitable officer. After hearing Ranganath's appeal, the Division Bench suspended the operation of the Single Bench order, allowing him to continue in the post for the time being. The Bench comprised Justices P. Sam Koshy and Narsing Rao Nandikonda. The Single Bench had earlier taken a serious view of allegations concerning repeated violations of court directions and had ordered the government to replace Ranganath as HYDRA Commissioner. The matter arose from proceedings related to a dispute over land at Lothukunta and allegations concerning HYDRA's actions. The Division Bench's interim order has temporarily put the removal direction on hold. The High Court has adjourned further hearing of the matter to November 3. The development provides significant legal relief to Ranganath, who can continue functioning as HYDRA Commissioner until further orders. The final outcome will depend on the detailed hearing of the appeal and the court's subsequent directions. The latest proceedings come amid continuing legal scrutiny of HYDRA's enforcement activities and its handling of alleged encroachments and disputed properties in and around Hyderabad.

MLA Calls for Smooth Ganesh Festivities

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Malkajigiri MLA Marri Rajasekhara Reddy has urged government departments to adopt coordinated and proactive measures to ensure the peaceful and successful conduct of the 2026 Ganesh festivities and immersion programmes across Hyderabad. He made the appeal at a preparatory review meeting chaired by Telangana BC Welfare and Transport Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar at the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resources Development Institute in Jubilee Hills. The MLA submitted a memorandum containing recommendations for improving arrangements across Malkajigiri constituency. Rajasekhara Reddy asked the Malkajigiri Municipal Corporation to distribute clay Ganesh idols free of cost, strengthen sanitation at pandals, repair damaged roads, trim tree branches and restore streetlights. He also sought temporary immersion ponds, cranes, platforms, lighting and mobile toilets at immersion locations, particularly Safilguda Cheruvu, Banda Cheruvu and Kotha Cheruvu in Alwal. He urged the Electricity Department to remove hanging wires, install bundled cables and mobile transformers where required, and use spacers and protective PVC coverings to reduce the risk of electrical accidents during processions. The MLA requested the Water Board to provide drinking water at pandals and immersion points. He stressed that advance planning, inter-departmental coordination and devotee safety should remain priorities throughout the celebrations. State Government Advisor V. Hanumantha Rao, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLAs Danam Nagender and Naveen Yadav, DGP C.V. Anand, police commissioners, district collectors, municipal commissioners, senior officials and Bhagyanagar Utsav Samithi representatives attended the meeting.

BRAOU Staff Protest for Old Pension

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Employees of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) staged a lunch-hour protest on Tuesday, observing "Pension Betrayal Day" to demand restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and resolution of several long-pending service-related issues. Responding to calls from the Telangana Universities Non-Teaching Employees Association (TUNTIA), Telangana Joint Action Committee (TJAC) and other employee organisations, staff members gathered outside the university's Administrative Building wearing black badges. They raised slogans highlighting pension security and employee unity. The protesters opposed the existing Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS/ NPS), demanding a guaranteed monthly pension after retirement. They also called for immediate implementation of Pay Revision

Commission (PR C) recommendations and the release of pending Dearness Allowances. Another major demand was the provision of cashless health cards for employees and their dependent family members to enable access to medical treatment without financial hardship. TUNTIA Secretary General and BRAOU Non-Teaching Employees' Association President Kantham Prem Kumar participated in the demonstration. TUNTIA Working President Dr. Yakesh Daida and several representatives of employee associations also joined the protest. Employees including Vishwanath, Miyajani, Pandu, Ashok, Bharat Reddy, K. Manjula, G. Jyothi Sree, Rajnikanth and Mohammad Shabbir participated in the programme. The demonstration remained focused on seeking policy changes and early resolution of pending demands through collective employee representation.

Uttarakhand Journalists Visit Hyderabad

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

A 15-member media delegation from Uttarakhand is undertaking a Hyderabad Press Tour from August 31 to September 4 to gain first-hand knowledge of development initiatives and programmes implemented by the Central Government in Telangana. The delegation is led by

Sanjeev Sundriyal, Assistant Director, Press Information Bureau (PIB), Dehradun. On the first day, the journalists visited the PIB office in Hyderabad and interacted with Shruti Patil, Additional Director General, PIB Hyderabad, Dr. Manas Krishnakanth, Joint Director, and other officials. Shruti Patil briefed the delegation on Telangana's changing media environment and

explained the publicity, communication and outreach initiatives undertaken by PIB and the Central Bureau of Communication to disseminate information on government schemes and flagship programmes. She encouraged the journalists to actively participate in PIB programmes and share their experiences from the tour with audiences in Uttarakhand. Earlier, the delegation visited

the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Journalists were briefed on India's ocean-monitoring capabilities, tsunami early-warning mechanisms, forecasting systems and dissemination of alerts. The delegation is scheduled to visit the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), under the Indian Council of Medical

Research, and an ESIC hospital under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The visits will provide insights into nutrition research, public health initiatives and healthcare services delivered through the Employees' State Insurance system. The journalists will also visit an exhibition highlighting Telangana's handlooms and handicrafts under the Ministry of Textiles.

The cultural itinerary includes visits to the Salar Jung Museum, Charminar and Laad Bazaar, offering an opportunity to explore Hyderabad's historical and cultural heritage. The tour aims to strengthen awareness of development initiatives while providing journalists with direct exposure to Hyderabad's institutions, heritage and diverse social landscape.

Payal Shankar Condemns Attacks on BJP

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Adilabad MLA and BJP Deputy Floor Leader Payal Shankar strongly condemned the alleged attacks on BJP offices and leaders in Telangana, calling for a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the incidents. Shankar specifically condemned the reported attack on the residence of Nalgonda BJP district president Nagam Varshit Reddy. He alleged that household items, including a television and refrigerator, were damaged and that Reddy's mother was assaulted and injured during the incident. He said political differences were normal in a democracy but maintained that violence, destruction of property and attacks on political opponents



could not be justified. He urged the police to identify all those responsible and take

strict action according to law. Shankar also criticised the arrest of BJP state president

N. Ramchander Rao, BJP floor leader Maheshwar Reddy and MLC Anji Reddy

while they were reportedly preparing to visit the affected leaders and workers.

He termed the arrests an attempt to restrict democratic rights and questioned why those seeking to express solidarity were being detained instead of the alleged perpetrators being brought to justice. Shankar said he and other BJP leaders met the Director General of Police officials on Tuesday and submitted a representation seeking a special investigation into the incidents. He also sought an inquiry into an alleged incident involving the portrait of Sant Ravidas Ji, stating that proven violations should attract action under applicable laws, including the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. "Everyone is equal before the law," Shankar said, calling for an impartial investigation free from political pressure and adequate security for BJP leaders and workers.

Lift Freeze on Dalit Bandhu Funds

Osmania University, September 1 | TPN Bureau

The Dalit Bandhu Sadhana Samithi on Tuesday demanded the immediate lifting of restrictions on funds deposited in the bank accounts of beneficiaries during the second phase of the Dalit Bandhu scheme in 2023. The organisation staged a protest at the Arts College on the Osmania University campus, urging the government to allow beneficiaries to access and utilise the funds without further delay. Speaking during the protest, Samithi Convener Ganesh said several beneficiaries have up to Rs 3 lakh deposited in their accounts but are unable to use the money due to restrictions. He said the continued freeze was causing financial hardship to eligible beneficiaries and their families.

Ganesh questioned why restrictions were continuing even after the Congress government assumed office. He demanded that the government fulfil assurances made under the Ambedkar Abhayahastam initiative and take immediate steps to resolve the issue. The Samithi alleged that despite earlier directions concerning the release of Dalit Bandhu funds, elected representatives and government authorities had failed to ensure their implementation effectively. Protesters urged the Telangana government to intervene immediately, lift the freeze on the deposited funds and enable all eligible Dalit Bandhu beneficiaries to access the financial assistance intended for their welfare and economic empowerment.



Colony Woes Trigger Questions



Quthbullapur, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Questions are being raised over the absence of civic offi-

cial during an inspection of public problems at Rajiv

Gruhakalpa (RGK) Colony in Suraram, with residents alleg-

ing that their long-pending grievances continue to remain unresolved. Senior BRS leader Varala Vinod Kumar visited the colony, located in Suraram Saibaba Nagar Division 292, on Tuesday and inspected the prevailing civic issues. Residents highlighted damaged roads, accumulated garbage and stagnant sewage, which they said were causing serious inconvenience and health concerns. Local residents expressed disappointment over the reported absence of Kompally Deputy Commissioner Lavanya, who was expected to visit the area following representations made by residents and leaders from various political parties. The absence of the official has led to criticism and questions over the response of authorities.

ties to ground-level public grievances. Some residents alleged possible political influence behind the official's failure to visit, though no official clarification was immediately available from the concerned authorities. After inspecting the colony, Vinod Kumar reportedly spoke with officials and urged them to take immediate steps to address the civic problems. He assured residents that the matter would also be brought to the attention of Quthbullapur MLA KP Vivekananda Goud. Residents demanded a clear timeline for road repairs, permanent sewage management and regular garbage clearance, stressing that the long-standing problems require urgent attention from the authorities.

ABVP Seeks Release of Scholarships



Quthbullapur, September 1 | TPN Bureau

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has demanded the immediate release of pending student scholarships, estimated at around Rs 11,000 crore, and urged the government to address the issue without further delay. Following a call given by the ABVP state unit, members of the Chintal city unit in Medchal district submitted a memo-

randum to Quthbullapur MLA K.P. Vivekananda Goud on Tuesday. They requested the MLA to raise the issue of pending scholarships in the Telangana Legislative Assembly and press the government for the early release of funds. Speaking on the occasion, Medchal District Convener Mrutyunjaya alleged that delays in scholarship disbursement were creating serious difficulties for students across educational

institutions. He claimed that some institutions were withholding students' certificates due to non-payment of scholarship amounts. According to ABVP representatives, the situation could adversely affect students seeking admission for higher education and those applying for employment opportunities. They expressed concern that continued delays could put the academic and professional futures of many students

at risk. The organisation demanded immediate intervention by the state government to clear the pending scholarship dues and ensure that eligible students receive financial assistance on time. Chintal City Secretary Karthik, Kompally City Secretary Vivek, Kompally City Unit Secretary Chandu and other ABVP leaders participated in the programme and reiterated their demand for urgent action on the scholarship issue.

Nomadic Tribes Seek Government Support

Quthbullapur, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Marking the Liberation Day of India's Nomadic and De-notified Tribes (NT-DNT), the Sancha Bail Kammara Ghisadi Sangham, Hyderabad, submitted a representation to the Medchal-Malkajigiri District Collector on Tuesday, seeking government intervention to address the challenges faced by nomadic communities. Association representatives highlighted several concerns affecting the social, economic and educational development of Nomadic and De-notified Tribes. They urged the district administration to bring these issues to the notice of the state government and take appropriate measures for the welfare, development and protection of the rights of these communities. The representatives stressed the need for focused government initiatives to improve access to education, employment opportunities, social welfare schemes and other essential facilities for members of the



nomadic tribes. Hyderabad association President Bhimaji Salunke, Vice-President Ram Salunke and General Secretary Srimanth Pawar participated in the programme. Suresh, Anil, Dasharath, Santosh, Satish, Shiva, Gopal and Govind were also present. A large number of community members and activists from Kukatapally, Balanagar, Quthbullapur and Alwal joined the programme. The association expressed hope that the representation would receive serious consideration and that concrete steps would be taken to resolve the long-pending issues faced by Nomadic and De-notified Tribes.

D.S. Jagan Promoted as Additional Director

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

D.S. Jagan has been promoted and appointed as Additional Director in the Telangana Department of Information and Public Relations. He assumed charge following the government's orders approving his promotion. After taking charge, Jagan paid a courtesy visit to Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. The Minister congratulated him and expressed confidence that he would effectively communicate government welfare schemes, development programmes and policy initiatives to



the public.Ponguleti also emphasised the importance of strengthening coordination between the government, citizens and the media to ensure that information about public programmes reaches people effectively. Jagan later met Special Commissioner of Information and Public Relations Dr. G. Mukunda Reddy, who congratulated him on his promotion and assumption of the new

responsibility. Speaking after taking charge, Jagan said he would work diligently to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to him by the government. He assured that he would coordinate with departmental officials to improve the dissemination of information on government policies, development activities and welfare initiatives. Officials and staff of the Information and Public Relations Department conveyed their greetings and best wishes to Jagan on his promotion. The appointment comes as the department continues its role in communicating government initiatives and facilitating interaction among the administration, media and the public.

SI Held in Bribery Case

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

A Sub-Inspector attached to Toli Chowki Police Station was caught by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while allegedly accepting a Rs 10,000 bribe, officials said on Tuesday. The accused, identified as R. Pandu Naik, was apprehended by ACB City Range-1 officials during a trap operation. According to the ACB, the SI allegedly demanded the money in connection with a family dispute. Officials said the bribe was sought to avoid registering a case based on a complaint submitted by the complainant's mother, facilitate an amicable settlement and refrain from seizing the

complainant's passport. The ACB team reportedly caught the officer while he was accepting the cash and recovered the amount from his possession. The bureau alleged that the officer had sought an undue advantage instead of performing his official duties in accordance with the law.Pandu Naik was arrested and is expected to be produced before the Special ACB Court at Nampally for judicial remand. Further investigation into the allegations is underway.The ACB appealed to citizens to report demands for bribes by government employees. Complaints can be lodged through the bureau's toll-free helpline 1064, with officials stating that complainants' identities would be kept confidential.

Steroid Injections Seized

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

RC Puram Special Operations Team (SOT) police seized steroid injections worth approximately Rs 1 lakh during a checking operation in Chandanagar and detained two individuals allegedly involved in their illegal sale. Acting on credible information, police conducted checks near PJR Stadium in Chandanagar and intercepted two persons carrying the injections. The accused were identified as Sarasai Ram and Kunchala Ravindra. According to police, the duo was allegedly involved in selling the injections illegally. The seized stock reportedly consisted of Mephentermine Sulfate injections (Wofen 10 ml). Investigators said the transactions between the accused were carried out

through online payments. Police are examining the financial transactions and circumstances surrounding the alleged sale to establish the wider network involved. Officials also identified five alleged customers-Deepak, Sai Prasad, Shakeel, Kishore and Nitish-who are reportedly absconding. Efforts are underway to trace and question them as part of the investigation. The seizure highlights concerns over the unauthorised distribution of pharmaceutical injections outside regulated medical channels. Police said further investigation would determine the source of the injections and the extent of the alleged illegal activity. The two accused were taken into custody, while efforts continued to locate the remaining persons allegedly connected with the transactions.

Three Held In Gold Chain Theft Case

Mulugu, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Mulugu police have cracked a gold chain theft case reported from Abbapuram village and arrested three persons in connection with the incident. Police recovered 4.28 grams of gold along with two motorcycles and a car from the accused. The theft occurred on August 19 when a gold pustela thadu, a traditional chain, was allegedly stolen from an elderly woman in Abbapuram village of Mulugu mandal. Police launched an investigation and examined CCTV footage collected from the area. Based on the visual evidence and subsequent investigation, police identified and apprehended three suspects from Peddapalli, Nirmal and Nizamabad districts. The recovered gold and vehicles

were taken into police custody as part of the investigation.Police said the arrests followed coordinated efforts to trace the suspects after the theft was reported. The case highlights the role of CCTV surveillance in identifying suspects and helping investigators establish their movements. The accused were taken into custody as police continued further investigation into the incident and were examining whether they were linked to any other theft cases. Authorities have urged residents, particularly elderly people, to remain vigilant and promptly report suspicious activity to the police. Police have also stressed the importance of functioning CCTV cameras around residential areas and public locations to assist investigations into property offences.

Hash Oil Worth Rs 21 Lakh Seized

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad police seized 1.710 litres of hash oil valued at approximately Rs 21.37 lakh and arrested two interstate suspects allegedly involved in transporting the narcotic to the city for sale. The accused were identified as Poddu Mohan Rao, 41, from the Araku area of Alluri Sitarama Raju district, and T. Bistudas, 27, from Dumbbriguda mandal. According to police, Mohan Rao worked as a farmer and auto-rickshaw driver before allegedly turning to drug trafficking in search of additional income. Police said Mohan Rao came into contact with a person from Odisha's Koraput district and arranged to procure hash oil for sale in Hyderabad. He and Bistudas reportedly travelled to Odisha on August 30 and purchased the contraband. The duo subsequently boarded a train

from Visakhapatnam to Secunderabad around 3 am on August 31. After reaching Secunderabad, they allegedly travelled by auto-rickshaw to the Water Tank Line area in SR Nagar and waited for a prospective buyer. Acting on specific information, personnel from the Commissioner's Task Force and SR Nagar Police conducted a raid and detained the two suspects. Police recovered the hash oil and two mobile phones from their possession. The operation was carried out by Task Force Inspectors Chhatrapati Yadendar, Jubilee Hills Zone Task Force Sub-Inspector D. Ravi Raj and SR Nagar police personnel. Task Force DCP Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, IPS, disclosed the details. Police appealed to young people to stay away from narcotics and warned that involvement in drug trafficking could seriously damage their future. The public was also urged to report suspected drug-related activities to authorities.

Murder Case Accused Dies In Hospital

Warangal, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Jannu Madhu, an accused in the murder case involving Congress leader Adupa Mahesh, died while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Warangal on Tuesday. Police said Madhu was receiving medical care for an illness when he died. Mahesh, 42, who had served as Congress president of the 14th division of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation, was allegedly set on fire in Warangal recently. He sustained serious burn injuries in the incident and later died while undergoing treatment. Before his death, Mahesh reportedly gave a statement to police in which he alleged that rowdy-sheeter Pathri Kumar had poured petrol on him and set him ablaze. Based on the complaint and investigation, police registered a murder case and arrested several persons in connection

with the incident. Madhu, a resident of NTR Nagar, was identified by police as accused number three (A-3) in the case. He had been taken into custody as part of the investigation into the circumstances surrounding Mahesh's death. His death while in treatment is expected to add another dimension to the ongoing investigation. Police are likely to establish the circumstances of his illness and death as part of the proceedings. Authorities have not yet disclosed further details regarding the medical condition that led to Madhu's death. Investigators are continuing their probe into the original case and the roles allegedly played by the accused. Further information, including details of the post-mortem examination and any subsequent developments in the investigation, is awaited from the police.

BJP Condemns Leaders' Arrests

Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

BJP chief official spokesperson N.V. Subhash strongly condemned the reported arrests of Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao and several other party leaders and activists, describing the action as "undemocratic" and an abuse of power. Subhash alleged that the Congress government was using the police to suppress the BJP after the party raised questions over the Revanth Reddy

government's 1,000-day performance. He claimed Ramchander Rao was placed under house arrest while attempting to visit BJP leaders and activists affected by recent attacks and was later taken to Gandhinagar Police Station. He further alleged that BJP Legislature Party leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy and several other senior leaders and activists were detained at different police stations in Hyderabad, while similar arrests were reported

from various districts. Subhash questioned the alleged delay in action against those responsible for attacks on BJP offices and the residence of Nalgonda district BJP president Nagam Varshit Reddy.He also accused the government of failing to maintain law and order and said arrests would not deter BJP workers from raising public issues. Subhash warned that the party would intensify its campaign against what he described as political repression and urged the government to uphold



democratic rights and ensure impartial law enforcement.

Complaint Over Defacing Sant Ravidas Portrait



Hyderabad, September 1 | TPN Bureau

A complaint was lodged at Abids Police Station seeking action against those accused of smearing black paint on portraits of Sant Ravidas in Hyderabad. The complaint was submitted under the leadership of BJP State General Secretary Vemula Ashok, BJP SC Morcha National Secretary S. Kumar and SC Morcha State President Kanthi Kiran. The leaders urged police to identify those responsible

and initiate appropriate legal action. The complaint comes amid heightened political tensions in the city following recent incidents involving the alleged defacement of BJP premises and portraits. A report by Hyderabad Mail also noted that BJP leaders had raised the Sant Ravidas portrait issue while seeking a police probe. The Abids Police Station falls under the Abids Division of Hyderabad City Police.

Complaint Over Defacing Sant Ravidas Portrait

Parkal, August 25 | TPN Bureau

A large-scale plantation drive was conducted across Damera, Parkal and Nadikuda mandals in the Parkal Assembly constituency as part of the State government's Vana Mahotsavam programme. Saplings were planted in various locations in coordination with officials and local representatives. Organisers called upon residents to actively participate in the programme and ensure that the newly planted trees are properly nurtured and protected. Speakers emphasised that the success of Vana

Mahotsavam should not be measured merely by the number of saplings planted, but by their survival and healthy growth. People were urged to take responsibility for watering and protecting the plants regularly.The importance of trees in maintaining ecological balance was also highlighted. Speakers said increased green cover could help reduce environmental pollution, improve air quality and support healthier living conditions. Trees also contribute to maintaining oxygen levels and reducing the impact of vehicular pollution. Participants appealed to



the public to work collectively to protect the saplings planted under Vana

Mahotsavam and contribute to building a greener and cleaner environment. They stressed that sustained community involvement would be essential for achieving the long-term objectives of the plantation programme.

Candlelight Rally Seeks Justice For Victim

Chennur, September 1 | TPN Bureau

Adivasi association leaders and members of the public organised a peaceful candlelight rally in Chennur town on Monday, demanding stringent action against those accused in a recent crime against a woman.

The protesters marched from Telangana Thalli Junction to Ambedkar Chowk, carrying candles and raising slogans seeking justice for the victim. After reaching the Ambedkar statue, the participants submitted a memorandum outlining their demands to the authorities.

The protesters urged the government to ensure that the accused receive severe punishment under the law. They also demanded a government job for one member of the victim's family and an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1 crore as immediate assistance. Adivasi leaders expressed

concern over what they described as the increasing number of attacks and sexual crimes against women. They argued that inadequate deterrence and delays in strict punishment were contributing to the recurrence of such incidents.The participants called upon the government and law-enforcement agencies to take firm measures to prevent crimes against women and strengthen protection mechanisms for vulnerable communities.The rally remained peaceful, with participants stressing that their demands were aimed at securing justice for the victim and ensuring accountability.

They appealed to authorities to respond promptly to the family's concerns and take effective steps to prevent similar incidents in the future. The protesters said they would continue to seek justice through democratic and peaceful means until appropriate action is taken.

Lorry Crashes Into Solar Poles

Gudihatnoor, September 1 | TPN Bureau

A tomato-laden lorry crashed into solar street-light poles on National Highway 44 near Gudihatnoor in Adilabad district on Tuesday morning, causing property damage estimated at Rs 5.62 lakh. No casualties were reported in the incident. According to police, the lorry bearing registration number

AP 39 U 7488 was travelling from Hyderabad towards Nagpur carrying a consignment of tomatoes. The vehicle reportedly lost control near the Mekalagandi-Gudihatnoor stretch after the driver

allegedly drove at excessive speed and in a negligent manner. The lorry veered towards the road divider and collided with two solar street-light poles installed along the median.

Both poles were completely damaged in the impact. The estimated value of the damaged solar infrastructure was put at Rs 5,62,800. Following information about the accident, Rathod Kesar Singh, Public Relations Officer at Pippalwada Toll Plaza, visited the location and assessed the damage. He subsequently approached Gudihatnoor Police Station and lodged a complaint seeking

action against the lorry driver. Gudihatnoor Sub-Inspector L. Srikanth confirmed that police had registered a case based on the complaint. An investigation is underway to establish the circumstances leading to the accident and determine responsibility for the damage. Police are examining the available evidence, including details concerning the vehicle

and the circumstances of the driver's alleged negligent driving. The incident has once again highlighted the risks posed by speeding and careless driving on busy national highways. Authorities have urged motorists, particularly heavy-vehicle drivers, to maintain safe speeds and exercise caution while travelling through highway stretches and populated areas.

Editorial

Veligonda Credit Should Be Based on Facts

Leaders should be transparent and honest while claiming credit for public service and development works. Development projects are not the personal property of any political party or leader. They are the result of public money, administrative efforts and the contributions of different governments over several years. Therefore, political parties should not create confusion among people by making exaggerated claims.

The ongoing political debate over the Veligonda Project in Andhra Pradesh is a clear example. Both the ruling and opposition parties are arguing over who deserves the credit for completing the project. Instead of continuing this political quarrel, the government and concerned officials should release a detailed fact sheet explaining the history, budget allocations and expenditure of the project under different governments.

The facts indicate that the foundation stone for Veligonda was laid twice by N. Chandrababu Naidu, and work continued during his earlier tenure from 2014 and again after 2024. However, the project did not begin with the present government. The first budgetary allocation for Veligonda was made in 2004 by the then Chief Minister Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy. During his tenure, steps were taken for canals and other important works connected with the project. Later, YS Jaganmohan Reddy's government spent around Rs.800 crore on the project. However, compared with the contributions made by Dr YSR and the present government, his share appears to be relatively smaller. Now, N. Chandrababu Naidu has taken up the project and completed it, giving his government a significant share of the credit.

Therefore, politically speaking, both Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu can legitimately claim substantial credit for Veligonda. The contribution of YS Jaganmohan Reddy should also be acknowledged according to the actual expenditure and work carried out during his tenure.

What matters finally is not who shouts the loudest, but what the official records establish. The government should publish the complete facts, including year-wise allocations, expenditure and works undertaken by every government. Such transparency will end unnecessary political confusion.

Ultimately, Veligonda should be seen as a project shaped by different governments, with Dr YSR and N. Chandrababu Naidu having major contributions.

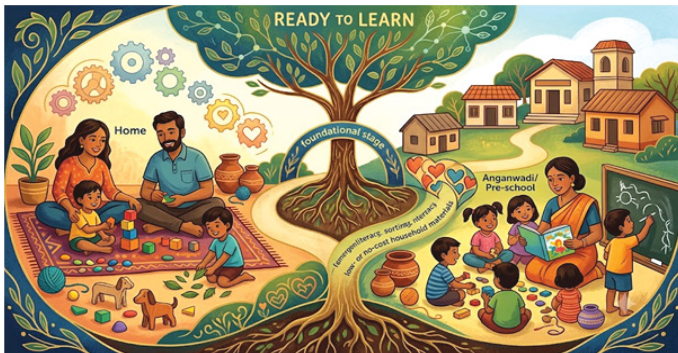
Editor

The Home as the First School!

A Huge Paradigm Shift in Early Education

Nobel laureate James J. Heckman has stated that every one rupee invested in pre-primary education yields six to ten rupees in future benefits, contributing significantly to the country by creating a strong foundation for future learning, improving cognitive and social-emotional skills, and increasing earning potential. Studies have shown that 90% of brain development happens during the crucial age of 3-5 years. Early childhood programmes equip children with school readiness skills and also mitigate socioeconomic disparities in education by providing equal learning opportunities from a young age. Recognising this, the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as a key component in ensuring a strong foundation for children aged 3-8 years, with a firm commitment to a smooth transition from pre-school to primary school.

The policy has restructured education into a 5+3+3+4 model, where the first five years (ages 3-8) form the foundational stage, which includes three years of pre-school and Grade 1 and 2 in primary school. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has already rolled out a special curriculum, contextualising its content with local examples that connect to a child's familiar reality. Familiar contexts help children grasp concepts easily, anchoring abstract lessons such as basic literacy, numeracy, and social skills, and engaging them with activities for better learning. This fosters the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs, building a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing.



However, to fulfil the aspirational goals of the 21st century through the lens of SDG-4, it is essential to involve parents in children's learning processes especially at a young age. Parental involvement offers ample scope for shaping cognitive and language skills through conversations, curiosity, and enthusiasm woven into routine life, requiring no special toys or learning materials. Research indicates that 20-30 minutes of meaningful daily interaction with parents builds cognitive skills, with parents acting as the child's first teachers helping children identify colours and shapes and guiding simple problem-solving exercises. Back-and-forth conversations also build vocabulary and sentence formation and improve listening and speaking skills, supporting language acquisition.

At an institutional level, ECCE is provided by different institutions. The public sector provision by the Government of India covers approximately 32% of all children in the 3-6 years age group for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). Besides this, a large number of NGOs are also working with government departments to enhance the quality of ECE like Pratham, standalone NGO-run ECE centers including the nursery school of the

Andhra Mahila Sabha and multinational philanthropic organizations such as the Aga Khan Foundation etc. Most NGO-run facilities develop their own curriculum, and a number of them have been instrumental in guiding the framing of the National ECCE Curriculum Framework as well.

Bal Raksha Bharat(also known as Save the Children), one of the leading organisations working in ECCE focuses on early learning through its own "Ready to Learn" approach focusing on three core components - emergent literacy and emergent math at the institution (Anganwadi Centre/pre-school) and at Home as well as assessment. The modules help integrate over 100 play-based activities into daily schedules, along with 25 sample hands-on games caregivers can play at home with young children. The approach gives parents/caregivers a wider role in ECCE by focusing on children's early learning at home. The capacities of parents/care-givers are built to conduct pre-literacy and numeracy sessions for children aged 3-6 years within their regular household routine.

Ready to Learn Approach: Given that different stakeholders have a role to play in children's learning, Bal Raksha Bharat focuses on four dimensions



Malladi Sree Nagesh

Education Analyst

sions of school readiness - getting the children ready, getting the family (parents/caregivers and community) ready, getting Anganwadi Centres/Schools ready, and system ready to provide 3-6-year-old children with early learning opportunities and school readiness skills in Centres as well as at home which is done through Ready to Approach. This Approach supports 3 - 6-year-old children to develop the foundational literacy (talking and listening; understanding print; knowing what books are; knowing about alphabets; and understanding sounds and words) and math skills (numbers and counting; pattern; sorting and classification; comparison and measurement; and geometry) the need to learn and succeed in life. Ready to Learn focuses on five emergent literacy skills and five emergent math skills. ECCE practitioners and caregivers are trained to use common objects for counting and sorting, drawing on a resource bank of play-oriented activity cards in the toolkit, enabling teaching at home with low- or no-cost household materials. The approach has been formalised through a set of cards with relevant pictures, a daily calendar of activities for teaching young children sequentially at home. At home over a period, the parents/care-givers continue school readiness sessions at home under the supervision of Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors.

Assessment
The International Development and Early Learning

Assessment (IDELA) is an easy-to-use assessment measuring children's progression in a standardised manner, allowing comparison across multiple contexts. The tool is developed by Save the Children International; it comprises 30-35 play-based tasks that evaluate standard ECCE milestones across four pillars: motor development, early language and literacy, early numeracy, and socio-emotional skills. It also captures how gender, poverty or special needs affect early development, helping policymakers design relevant programmes for marginalised and vulnerable children.

Conclusion

These interventions are creating immense impact among young children and have led to a special Resource Centre in Karnataka, supported by the Women Welfare and Child Development Department, to replicate this proof of concept across many geographies in the state. Similar examples exist in almost 10 Indian states, drawing on the experiences of countries including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi and Rwanda, while research is underway in five more countries, Bhutan, Bolivia, Mali, Nepal and Vietnam, for further replication. The success of the ELM at Home and centre, has yielded better results, contributing to ECCE under NEP 2020 as the most critical foundation of India's entire education landscape.

(Writer is an Education Analyst, views are personal, not related to his organisation)

Rabindranath Tagore as a Teacher and the Natural Environment of Santiniketan



Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

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Rabindranath Tagore occupies a unique place in the history of Indian education. He was not merely a poet, philosopher, novelist and Nobel laureate; he was also a visionary teacher who challenged the conventional system of education. He believed that education should not imprison a child within four walls, nor should it be reduced to memorisation, examinations and discipline imposed through fear. For Tagore, education was a joyful process of discovering oneself, understanding nature and developing a harmonious relationship with the world. Santiniketan was the living embodiment of this educational philosophy. Here, trees became classrooms, the open sky became a roof, nature became a teacher, and learning became a celebration of life.

Tagore's own childhood experiences played an important role in shaping his educational ideas. He disliked the mechanical atmosphere of conventional schools and felt that children were often separated from the natural world in the name of education. He believed that the child's mind was naturally curious and creative. Instead of forcing children to learn within rigid structures, education should provide them with freedom to observe, question, imagine and create. This conviction ultimately inspired him to establish an educational institution where learning could take place in close contact with nature.

In 1901, Tagore established the Brahmacharyashrama at Santiniketan with a small group of students. The institution later developed into Visva-Bharati, one of India's

most celebrated centres of learning and culture. From its very beginning, Santiniketan was different from an ordinary school. Classes were often conducted beneath trees rather than inside enclosed classrooms. Students and teachers sat together in the open air, surrounded by greenery, bird-song and changing seasons. The environment itself became an essential component of the educational process.

For Tagore, nature was not merely a beautiful background to education. It was a living textbook. A child could learn science by observing plants, birds and insects; geography by understanding the landscape; literature by experiencing the changing moods of the seasons; and art by observing colours, forms and light. Such direct contact with the natural world stimulated curiosity and encouraged children to learn through experience rather than through memorisation alone.

The landscape of Santiniketan had a profound influence on Tagore's educational experiment. The red earth, groves of trees, flowering plants, open fields and vast skies created an atmosphere of simplicity and freedom. The students could experience sunrise, sunset, rain, spring, autumn and winter as part of their daily lives. The changing seasons became an integral part of the cultural calendar of Santiniketan.

Tagore transformed the natural cycle of the year into occasions for education and celebration. Spring was welcomed through Basanta Utsav, while the monsoon inspired Varshamangal.



Sharadotsav celebrated autumn, and Poush Mela brought together culture, community and tradition. These festivals were not merely recreational events. They helped students understand the relationship between human life, nature, art and culture. Learning became something to be experienced with the whole personality rather than something confined to books. Tagore also placed great emphasis on music, dance, painting, drama and literature. He believed that education should develop the imagination and aesthetic sense of the learner. In Santiniketan, artistic activities were not treated as secondary subjects. They were essential to the development of a complete human being. The natural environment provided an ideal setting for artistic expression. Songs were sung beneath trees, plays were performed in open spaces, poems were recited in the midst of nature, and festivals brought together music, dance and visual beauty. Another important feature of Tagore's educational philosophy was the relationship

between teacher and student. He did not consider the teacher merely an authority who dictated information. The teacher was a guide, companion and source of inspiration. The relationship was based on affection, trust and mutual respect. In the open environment of Santiniketan, teachers and students could interact naturally. Such an atmosphere encouraged students to ask questions and express their ideas without fear. Tagore also believed strongly in the individuality of every child. Each student, he felt, possessed a unique personality and a distinct creative potential. Education should therefore not attempt to make every child identical. Instead, it should provide opportunities for individual growth. The freedom of Santiniketan allowed students to develop their interests in literature, music, art, science, agriculture and other areas according to their abilities.

His educational philosophy also included a strong sense of responsibility towards nature. Long before environmental protection became a

global concern, Tagore understood that human civilisation could not survive by destroying its natural surroundings. He encouraged tree planting and introduced Vriksharopan Utsav as a cultural celebration of the relationship between humanity and the earth. Planting a tree was not simply an environmental activity; it was an expression of gratitude and affection towards nature. Tagore's environmental vision has acquired even greater significance today. The modern world is facing climate change, deforestation, pollution, loss of biodiversity and increasing alienation from the natural world. Children spend increasing amounts of time with digital screens and decreasing amounts of time outdoors. In this context, Santiniketan offers an important lesson: education must reconnect the learner with the earth. Technology can provide information, but nature provides experience, wonder and a sense of belonging. Santiniketan also reflected Tagore's larger philosophy of internationalism. He wanted the institution to become a

meeting place of cultures. His famous vision of Visva-Bharati was expressed through the ideal of making the world a single nest-"Yatra Visvam Bhavatyekanidam." Students and scholars from different parts of India and the world were encouraged to meet, exchange ideas and learn from one another. The open natural environment of Santiniketan symbolised this universal vision. Nature knows no political boundaries, and Tagore wanted education to transcend narrow nationalism and cultivate a sense of global humanity.

The greatest contribution of Tagore as a teacher was perhaps his understanding that education must develop the whole person. Intellectual growth alone was not enough. A truly educated individual should possess sensitivity, creativity, compassion, social responsibility and an awareness of beauty. Nature, art, literature and human relationships all had a role in this process. Today, when education is increasingly dominated by competition, examinations, grades and career anxiety,

Tagore's educational philosophy deserves renewed attention. His model reminds us that education is not simply preparation for employment. It is preparation for life. A child should learn not only how to earn a living but also how to appreciate beauty, respect nature, understand other cultures and become a responsible human being.

Santiniketan therefore remains much more than a historical educational institution. It represents a philosophy of learning that seeks harmony between human beings, nature and culture. Tagore's experiment demonstrated that a school could be both a place of knowledge and a place of joy, freedom and creativity.

The teacher Tagore and the natural environment of Santiniketan were inseparable. The poet who celebrated nature in his songs and poems brought that same love of nature into his educational practice. Beneath the trees of Santiniketan, he created a classroom without walls and a curriculum without narrow boundaries. His message remains relevant: education becomes meaningful when the mind is free, the heart is open and the learner remains connected with the living world.

In an age of technological advancement and environmental crisis, Tagore's Santiniketan offers us a powerful reminder that the future of education may depend not on building higher walls around classrooms, but on opening those classrooms to the sky, the trees, the seasons and the wider world.

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PM Modi Calls for Stronger SCO Cooperation Against Terrorism



Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for stronger regional cooperation on security, connectivity, trade and people-to-people relations while addressing the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. His address focused on practical cooperation among member countries and the need to respond collectively to terrorism, organised crime and geopolitical conflicts.

Modi said the SCO should strengthen its three key pillars of security, connectivity and opportunity. He stressed that member countries should move beyond broad visions and work towards outcomes that can be measured and deliver tangible benefits to people.

A major focus of his address was terrorism. Modi called for dismantling the entire terrorism ecosystem, including terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens. He stressed that there should be no double standards in the fight against terrorism and urged SCO members to speak with one voice.

He also called for a strong regional message against state-supported terrorism. According to Modi, countries that use terrorism as an instrument of state policy or provide shelter and support to terrorists must face a clear response. Terrorism, he said, should never be allowed to become a strategic asset.

On Afghanistan, Modi emphasised the importance of peace, stability, development assistance and humanitarian support. He said India's contribution to Afghanistan's development and humanitarian needs would continue, linking stability in the country with the wider goal of a peaceful and secure Eurasia.

The Prime Minister urged stronger cooperation against drug trafficking, organised crime and other emerging security threats. He called for better coordination between SCO mechanisms and timely action against such challenges.

Connectivity and trade also featured prominently in his speech. Modi called for reliable and inclusive connectivity while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in accordance with the SCO Charter. He proposed more efficient trade and logistics through simplified customs procedures, digital documentation and improved logistics networks.

The Prime Minister said SCO cooperation should remain people-centric, with greater opportunities for youth, entrepreneurs, farmers and citizens. He also highlighted the importance of scientific, cultural and civilisational exchanges among member countries.

Initiatives such as the SCO Start-up Forum, Young Authors' Conclave and Young Scientists' Forum were cited as examples of cooperation. Modi also referred to the proposed SCO Civilizational Dialogue Forum, with its first session set to be held in India.

The SCO was established in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became full members in 2017, followed by Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024. The summit was held in an expanded SCO-Plus format, involving leaders from associated countries including Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Mongolia, Laos and Togo.

Rahul Gandhi Targets EC Over Maharashtra Voter Roll Exclusions



Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has stepped up his attack on the Election Commission and the BJP after more than 2.06 crore electors were excluded from Maharashtra's draft electoral roll following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Gandhi described the development as "vote theft" and referred to the Election Commission as the "Vote Chori Aayog", alleging that the BJP and the poll body were changing their tactics while pursuing the same objective of ensuring a BJP victory.

"The BJP and the 'Vote Chori Aayog' keep changing their tactics, and they will continue to do so - the goal remains just one: BJP's victory at any cost, and the end of India's democracy," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer, 2,06,88,487 electors, representing 21.14 per cent of Maharashtra's previous voter base, did not figure in the draft electoral roll. Their enumeration forms could not be collected because they were untraceable, deceased or had shifted their residences. The draft roll contains more than 7.71 crore voters, representing 78.86 per cent of the previous electorate. It includes around 3.95 crore men, 3.75 crore women and 3,087 third-gender voters.

He also referred to Bengal 2026, claiming that 91 per cent of names removed during the SIR were restored following appeals. Gandhi questioned the differing voter figures recorded during the Lok Sabha 2024, Vidhan Sabha 2024 and SIR 2026 exercises.

"For a government built on vote theft, the people are not important - that's why this BJP neither listens to the people nor obeys their command," he said.

Before the SIR exercise, Maharashtra had 9.78 crore voters. Among districts, Pune recorded the highest number of uncollectable enumeration forms at 28.6 lakh, followed by Thane at 28.5 lakh and Mumbai Suburban at 26.5 lakh. Nagpur recorded 14.43 lakh, Nashik 10.27 lakh and Mumbai City 9.5 lakh.

The electoral process now provides an opportunity for eligible voters missing from the draft roll to seek inclusion. Claims and objections can be filed between August 31 and September 30. Form 6 can be used for inclusion, Form 7 for objections and Form 8 for corrections to details such as name, address, age or gender.

Electoral registration officers and their assistants will process claims, objections and notices between August 31 and October 29. The final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on November 4, according to the Election Commission's timetable.

Bank Unions Set Strike Dates

Banking operations could face disruption as the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), representing more than 90 per cent of the banking workforce, announced a series of strikes over unresolved issues concerning the five-day banking week and the government's revised Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. The UFBU has called a one-day strike on September 11, followed by a three-day strike from September 28 to 30. If the issues remain unresolved, the unions have warned of an indefinite strike beginning October 26, 2026. The forum comprises seven unions - AIBEA, AIBOC, NCBE, AIBOA, BEFI, INBOC and INBEF - representing employees across public sector, private, foreign, regional rural and cooperative banks.

According to the unions, their four principal demands are implementation of a five-day banking week, withdrawal of the revised PLI scheme, modification of the incentive structure through bilateral negotiations and settlement of pending residual issues.

The five-day banking week has been a long-standing demand. The unions said banks agreed in principle to the proposal in 2015, when the second and fourth Saturdays were declared holidays. The matter was subsequently revisited in 2020 and formalised through a wage settlement signed on March 8, 2024.

Under the arrangement, employees agreed to work an additional 40 minutes every day from Monday to Friday in exchange for all Saturdays being declared holidays. The unions said the recommendation was sent to the Finance Ministry more than two years ago but is still awaiting approval.

They also pointed out that five-day working weeks are already followed by institutions including the Reserve Bank of India, LIC, GIC and NABARD, besides several government and private organisations. According to the unions, customer service hours would not be affected because employees have agreed to longer working hours during weekdays.

Under the revised formula, senior officers could receive incentives of up to 365 days' wages, compared



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Congress Targets Modi Government Over MGNREGA, Job Guarantee

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Modi government of weakening the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), calling the rural employment programme a lifeline for the country's poor and alleging that its replacement was aimed at taking away the statutory employment guarantee.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh made the allegations while sharing a media report on X about the situation of job card holders in Ballia district. The report claimed that workers were becoming increasingly disillusioned with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), with departmental statistics also reflecting the trend.

Ramesh alleged that the Modi government had destroyed MGNREGA in the name of "VB G RAM G", despite the BJP making what he described as grand claims in Parliament about the new employment framework.



According to Ramesh, the changes went beyond simply renaming an existing programme. He alleged that the government had deliberately planned to end what he described as one of the country's

most successful and historic poverty alleviation schemes.

"The Modi government has destroyed the lifeline of the country's poor, MGNREGA, in the name of 'VB G RAM G'," Ramesh said in a post in Hindi on X.

He further claimed that the government had ended the right to employment for poor and deprived sections that had been guaranteed under the Congress-backed MGNREGA framework.

Ramesh cited figures from Ballia to underline his criticism. Against a target of 1.76 lakh man-day work, only 10,669 days of employment were reportedly provided over a period of two months. He claimed that similar conditions were being seen across districts in the country.

The Congress leader alleged that the new system would ultimately weaken employment opportunities for rural workers at a time when households were already facing pressure from inflation.

"In this back-breaking era of inflation, snatching the last morsel of

bread from the poor to fill the coffers of crony capitalists is the real policy of the anti-poor Modi government," Ramesh said.

The dispute follows the implementation of the VB-G RAM G Act earlier this year. The Congress had opposed the replacement of the rural employment scheme and demanded that the new law be repealed and a strengthened version of MGNREGA restored.

The party has also criticised what it described as unjustifiably low wages under the new legislation, arguing that rural workers could be adversely affected if employment opportunities and wage protections are reduced.

For the Modi government, the new VB-G RAM G framework represents a different approach to rural employment and livelihood support. The contrasting positions have turned the issue into a broader political debate over poverty alleviation, rural wages and the nature of employment guarantees available to India's poorest households.

She had been employed as a clerk at Bolpur High School but lost the job following a Calcutta High Court order in March 2023.

At the time, her father Nihar Ranjan Mukherjee had maintained that she had secured the position on the basis of her own merit.

The latest incident has brought renewed attention to Bristi's personal and professional circumstances. However, police have not announced any conclusion regarding the cause of death and are continuing their investigation.

The postmortem examination is expected to provide further information as investigators seek to establish the circumstances leading to the death. Authorities are also expected to examine the statements of family members and other available evidence before determining the next course of action.

Police are examining the statements provided by relatives along with other circumstances surrounding the incident. Bristi's name had earlier figured in the controversy surrounding the School Service Commission recruitment scam during the Trinamul Congress government.

lowing the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 examination. Tushar Mehta said the Centre remained committed to honouring its assurance but requested three months to work out the modalities. The Supreme Court directed the Centre to complete the compensation modalities within three months.

The CJP had announced the September 5 protest accusing the Centre of failing to fulfil commitments concerning the withdrawal of cases against students and compensation for families of NEET aspirants who died by suicide following the paper leak.

With the latest order, the dispute has moved from the streets to the legal and administrative process, while the CJP's decision to cancel its planned march marks a significant de-escalation between the student group and the authorities.

Mamata Banerjee's Niece Found Dead at Bengal Home

Bristi Mukherjee, 28, niece of Trinamul Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, was found hanging at her ancestral home in Kusumba village of Rampurhat in West Bengal on Tuesday morning. Police said the circumstances surrounding her death are under investigation.

Bristi Mukherjee was the daughter of Nihar Ranjan Mukherjee, Mamata Banerjee's cousin brother from her mother's side. She had been staying at the family's ancestral house following her separation from her husband.

According to police, Bristi was found at around 9 am on the first floor of the house. A long white piece of cloth was found tied around her neck and attached to a ceiling fan.

Police sent the body to Rampurhat Medical College and Hospital for postmortem examination. Officials said no suicide note was

found at the residence.

Investigators have spoken to family members as part of the inquiry into the circumstances of her death. Family members told police that Bristi had been suffering from depression following her separation and had been undergoing medication for the past four years.



found at the residence. Investigators have spoken to family members as part of the inquiry into the circumstances of her death. Family members told police that Bristi had been suffering from depression following her separation and had been undergoing medication for the past four years.

Police are examining the statements provided by relatives along with other circumstances surrounding the incident.

Bristi's name had earlier figured in the controversy surrounding the School Service Commission recruitment scam during the Trinamul Congress government.

SC Quashes FIRs Against CJP Student Protesters

The Supreme Court has given major relief to student protesters associated with the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), ordering the quashing of FIRs registered against protesters in connection with demonstrations held between July 20 and 25. The court's intervention also led the CJP to withdraw its proposed September 5 protest march.

The order followed assurances from the Centre that cases filed against protesters would be withdrawn and that no fresh FIRs would be registered in connection with the protest-related events during the specified period.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta told the court that the Centre, through Delhi Police, and the states of Bihar, Assam, West Bengal and Maharashtra had filed applications seeking quashing of the FIRs. He said the applications were submitted to honour the



assurance given by the Centre to CJP leaders on July 25.

However, the Supreme Court made an exception for protesters with criminal antecedents. The Delhi Police has been allowed to pursue one FIR involving 2,873 individuals who were present at the Jantar Mantar protest and were identified as having serious criminal antecedents.

CJP spokesperson Saurav Das welcomed the court's decision and said the organisation had decided to withdraw its September 5 march following the positive assurances from the Government of India and the Supreme Court's order.

The court proceedings also covered compensation for families of students who died by suicide fol-

lowing the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 examination. Tushar Mehta said the Centre remained committed to honouring its assurance but requested three months to work out the modalities. The Supreme Court directed the Centre to complete the compensation modalities within three months.

The CJP had announced the September 5 protest accusing the Centre of failing to fulfil commitments concerning the withdrawal of cases against students and compensation for families of NEET aspirants who died by suicide following the paper leak.

With the latest order, the dispute has moved from the streets to the legal and administrative process, while the CJP's decision to cancel its planned march marks a significant de-escalation between the student group and the authorities.



Nepal Flood Death Toll Crosses 1,000

The death toll from catastrophic flooding and landslides in Nepal and neighbouring China has crossed 1,000, while rescue teams continue searching for thousands of people reported missing after a massive disaster in the Himalayan region. Nepal's disaster agency said 987 deaths had been recorded, while 3,916 people remained missing, including 583 foreigners. Chinese authorities had reported 16 deaths in their latest update. At least 11,814 people have been rescued so far, according to Nepalese authorities. The disaster began on August 26 following a chain of events in the high Himalayas. Scientists studying satellite imagery said a collapse involving bedrock beneath a glacier triggered a massive rock, ice and meltwater surge into valleys. The rockfall was powerful enough to register as a magnitude 5.2 seismic event. The resulting surge entered rivers flowing through Tibet and Nepal,



causing water levels to rise rapidly. Powerful floods and landslides swept away homes, buildings, roads and bridges, carrying mud, rocks and other debris downstream. Rescue operations remain focused on reaching communities cut off after roads and bridges were destroyed. Emergency crews are using helicopters and other aircraft to reach stranded people and deliver assistance to survivors in difficult-to-access areas.

One of the most urgent tasks is locating at least 900 workers reported missing from 12 hydropower projects damaged by the flash floods. About 500 of them are believed to be trapped inside tunnels, raising concerns over their survival. Visuals released by Nepal's army showed rescue teams entering dark, debris-filled tunnels while wading through mud and water and climbing over rocks in search of survivors.

Bimal Sharma, a helicopter pilot who has been involved in rescue missions since the disaster began, described the devastation in Timure, a border town near Tibet that he has known for years. "It felt like I was flying over an entirely different landscape," Sharma said, describing the scale of destruction. He said there had been little opportunity to speak with many of the people rescued during the operations, but their expressions reflected the trauma caused by the disaster. "I can see the pain in their eyes. It's heartbreaking," Sharma said. Authorities continue to face major challenges as thousands remain unaccounted for and transportation links have been severely damaged. Rescue teams are concentrating on locating missing people, reaching isolated communities and providing immediate support to those affected by the floods and landslides.

Trump Keeps 2028 Republican Succession Race Open



US President Donald Trump has kept speculation over his political successor alive while declining to endorse any potential candidate for the 2028 presidential race. Asked about reports that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had discussed a possible White House campaign, Trump praised Hegseth's performance but said it was too early to discuss the next presidential contest. Trump described Hegseth as doing a "fantastic job" but stressed that the immediate political priority for the Republican Party was the upcoming US congressional midterm elections. "We have to get through the midterms first," Trump told reporters, as Republicans prepare to defend their control of both chambers of Congress. Hegseth, an Army National Guard veteran and former Fox News Channel television host, has emerged as a prominent figure within the Trump administration. His appearance at the Iowa State Fair, where he campaigned for Republican candidates, further fueled speculation that he could have political ambitions beyond his current role as Defense Secretary. Trump is constitutionally limited to two terms as president and is expected to leave office in 2029. However, he has not formally identified a successor who could take charge of his "Make America Great Again" movement and carry his political influence into the next presidential cycle. Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio have already attracted support from Republicans interested in seeing them compete for the presidency in 2028. Hegseth's name has now entered the wider discussion, although he has denied having plans to run for president. Trump also suggested that the potential field could be larger than currently understood, indicating that several Republican figures may be considering presidential ambitions without making them public. He said there could be "a lot of people considering it" who were not yet known to the public. Trump has also strongly emphasised the value of his political backing. In a Truth Social post, he described his political endorsement as "the strongest endorsement in the History of Politics," underlining the influence he believes he continues to hold within the Republican Party. With the midterm elections approaching, attention inside the Republican Party is expected to remain focused primarily on protecting its congressional majority. At the same time, speculation over who could inherit Trump's political movement is likely to intensify. For now, Trump has kept the 2028 field open while refusing to publicly favour Hegseth, Vance, Rubio or any other potential successor.

Indians May Face 179-Year Wait For US Green Card

Indian professionals seeking US employment-based green cards could face extraordinarily long waits, with some new applicants potentially waiting up to 179 years, according to an analysis by the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAF). The report examined backlogs in the employment-based EB-1, EB-2 and EB-3 categories using US Citizenship and Immigration Services data. It found that Indian nationals face the longest delays due to visa backlogs, country-specific statutory limits and strong demand for foreign-born scientists and engineers in the United States. US immigration law limits employment-based green cards to about 140,000 annually, with no more than 7 per cent allocated to nationals of any one country in a year. As of December 2025, nearly one million Indians were waiting



in the employment-based immigration backlog. The overall backlog across EB-1, EB-2 and EB-3 increased by 20.6 per cent over five years, reaching an estimated 1.26 million people in December 2025, compared with about 1.05 million in April 2020. EB-3 accounted for 30.1 per cent of the backlog, followed by EB-2 at 22.9 per cent and EB-1 at 16.6 per cent.

NFAF estimates that a new highly skilled Indian worker could face a wait of up to 179 years under EB-2, 38 years under EB-3 and four to five years under EB-1. Many applicants remain in temporary H-1B status during the prolonged immigration process. The foundation warned that such delays could undermine US companies' ability to attract and retain skilled talent while creating seri-

ous hardships for workers and their families. The situation has become more complicated under US President Donald Trump, who returned to the White House for a second term and has pursued an aggressive immigration crackdown. His administration has intensified deportations and made visa and green card procedures more difficult, including by imposing new and expensive fees for certain work visas. Indian immigrants, numbering about 3.2 million in 2024, are the second-largest foreign-born group in the United States. Human rights groups have criticised Trump's immigration policies as discriminatory and harmful to free speech and due process, adding to concerns among Indian professionals waiting for permanent residency.

Climber Rescued After Spending Night On 6-Inch Ledge In California

Climber Rescued After Spending Hours On Six-Inch LedgeA climber stranded on a tiny six-inch ledge in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range was rescued after an overnight high-angle operation by emergency responders. The climber, identified as Rob Martin, became trapped on the Mendenhall Couloir, a steep alpine rock-climbing gully on the east face of Laurel Mountain. Martin contacted the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team at around 1:20 pm after taking a wrong turn and finding himself unable to move safely. The drop below the narrow ledge was considered too dangerous for Martin to climb down. Authorities said the route is a complex alpine gully containing loose rock and thousands of feet of vertical exposure, making any fall potentially fatal. Clay Tyson, owner of local climbing service Ground Up Climbing Guides, told The New York Times that the route can be difficult to follow because climbers may believe they are in the correct area

while navigating its tricky sections. The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team faced difficult terrain, steep angles and dangerous nighttime conditions while planning the rescue. The dangerous drop meant that rescuers could not simply approach Martin from below, forcing them to organise a specialised high-angle operation. The rescue team extended its operational timeline and worked through the night to reach Martin before he could suffer a potentially fatal fall. Emergency personnel established specialised rope systems and carefully lowered a technician down the mountain face toward Martin's location. After reaching a position above Martin, the technician secured him with a rope and harness system. The climber and rescuer then moved together as a tandem unit down the precarious offshoot gully and toward the main climbing route. The rescue technician reached Martin by early morning and helped bring him safely out of the



hazardous section of the mountain. Emergency responders examined Martin at the scene and reported that, despite being exhausted after spending hours stranded on the tiny ledge, he had avoided major injuries. The rescue highlighted the extreme risks involved in navigat-

ing complex alpine routes, where a wrong turn can quickly leave climbers exposed to dangerous drops and unstable terrain. Authorities and local climbing experts stressed the difficulty of the Mendenhall Couloir and the importance of careful route-finding while climbing in such challenging mountain environments.

India Steps In To Identify Nepal Flood Victims



More than 1,000 people have been killed and 3,916 remain missing after devastating floods near Nepal's border with Tibet, as rescue operations continue into the seventh day. The death toll is still rising as authorities recover more bodies from affected areas. According to the Foreign Ministry, 275 Indian nationals and 128 people of Indian origin are among those missing. Most of them are believed to be pilgrims who were travelling for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Nepalese authorities are facing major difficulties in identifying and storing the bodies being recovered. Morgues have reportedly run out of space, while the exact number of foreigners among the recovered bodies remains unclear. To help relatives identify their missing family members, the Nepal government has prepared a PowerPoint slideshow containing photographs and descriptions of recovered bodies. The move is aimed at speeding up the identification process amid the growing number of casualties. The Indian Embassy in Nepal has now issued a step-by-step guide to help Indian families identify and claim the bodies of their loved ones. The embassy said the Nepal government has been releasing photographs and descriptions of the deceased through an online portal. Families who recognise a missing relative through the photographs can approach the Indian Embassy for assistance. The embassy will coordinate with local authorities to facilitate the procedures required for handing over the mortal remains and repatriating them to India. The Nepalese government has also established a nine-step procedure for families seeking to claim the remains of victims. The process is intended to ensure proper identification and documentation before the bodies are handed over. The initiative comes as Nepal authorities struggle to manage the humanitarian consequences of the floods, with large numbers of people still unaccounted for and bodies continuing to be recovered. For Indian families anxiously waiting for information about missing relatives, the identification mechanism and assistance from the Indian Embassy could provide an important route to confirm the fate of their loved ones and bring the remains home.

Indian Among 12 Killed In Russian Attack On Kyiv

At least 12 people, including an Indian citizen, were killed and dozens injured in an overnight Russian air assault on Kyiv and surrounding areas, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said. The attack marked the sixth consecutive day of strikes on the Ukrainian capital, with residential buildings and other civilian infrastructure damaged. Emergency crews were deployed to several locations to tackle fires and assist those affected by the strikes. Zelensky said a large number of jet-powered drones and ballistic missiles were used in the assault. Expressing condolences to the families of those killed, he said the attacks were designed to cause maximum loss of life. The Ukrainian president said Russia had continued guided aerial bomb and drone strikes against Odesa and the surrounding region since Monday evening. He alleged that Moscow's attacks were calculated to destroy as many lives as possible and argued that the damage becomes particularly severe when Ukraine lacks sufficient air



defence resources. Ukraine has been at war with Russia since February 2022 and is currently facing a shortage of interceptor missiles. The shortage is particularly significant for US-made Patriot systems, which are used to counter ballistic missile threats. According to Zelensky, Moscow has been taking advantage of the global shortage of air defence interceptor missiles, which has been largely attributed

to the United States' war in Iran. Russia has subsequently increased the scale and intensity of its air attacks against Ukraine. Russian strikes have also intensified against export infrastructure in the Odesa region, which contains Ukraine's major Black Sea ports as well as the Danube river ports of Reni and Izmail. The attacks have effectively disrupted the country's maritime export routes. The Black Sea ports previously handled

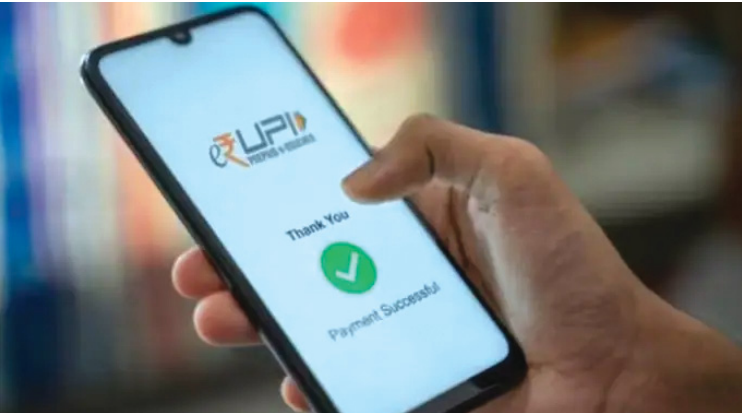
around 90 per cent of Ukraine's exports, but continuing attacks have forced Kyiv to redirect cargo through lower-capacity Danube river ports and railway crossings along the western border. The latest casualties add to the growing human cost of the prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict, while Ukraine continues to seek stronger air defence capabilities to protect civilians and critical infrastructure.

Nifty Holds Above 24,000 Amid Volatility



Indian equity markets witnessed a volatile trading session, with the Nifty managing to hold above the crucial 24,000 mark despite weakness across several key sectors. The broader market, however, remained under pressure as selling emerged in multiple sectors, limiting the overall performance of the indices. The Nifty faced fluctuations during the session but succeeded in maintaining its position above the psychologically important 24,000 level. Market activity remained cautious as investors assessed sectoral trends and looked for signs of stability following recent market movements. Sectoral performance remained mixed, with several important indices recording declines. Nifty Pharma emerged as the biggest laggard, falling 1.5 per cent. Nifty Consumer Durables and Nifty Realty followed, declining 1.4 per cent each. The automobile and public sector banking segments also witnessed notable selling pressure. Nifty Auto and Nifty PSU Bank dropped 1.2 per cent each, reflecting weakness across both consumption-linked and financial stocks. Nifty Bank declined 1 per cent, while Nifty Private Bank fell 0.9 per cent. The weakness in banking stocks remained an important factor influencing the broader market. Financial companies carry significant weight in the benchmark indices, and declines across banking segments can affect overall market sentiment. The selling also contributed to the underperformance of broader indices during the session. However, some sectors managed to buck the negative trend. Nifty FMCG and Nifty IT gained 0.9 per cent each, providing support to the benchmark. The performance of information technology stocks offered some relief amid the wider market weakness, while FMCG stocks also attracted buying interest. The contrasting performance among sectors indicated that investors were becoming increasingly selective rather than taking a broad-based approach to equities. While some areas witnessed selling, others continued to attract interest based on their individual growth prospects and market expectations. The Nifty's ability to remain above 24,000 was viewed as an important feature of the session. The level has emerged as a key psychological zone for market participants, with traders closely watching whether the index can sustain itself above the mark in subsequent sessions. At the same time, the underperformance of broader indices suggested that market sentiment remained cautious. Declines in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, consumer durables, real estate, automobiles and banking showed that the selling pressure was spread across several parts of the market. Overall, the session reflected a market caught between volatility and selective buying. While the Nifty succeeded in protecting the 24,000 level, weakness in several major sectors kept the broader market under pressure. The gains in FMCG and IT provided some support, but a sustained improvement in market breadth may be necessary for a stronger recovery.

UPI Transactions Hit Record 24.51 Billion in August



Transactions through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) reached a record 24.51 billion in August, highlighting the continued rapid expansion of digital payments in India. According to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), transaction volumes increased significantly from the previous month, while the total value remained close to the record levels seen earlier this year. UPI transactions stood at Rs 29.82 lakh crore in value during August, compared with Rs 24.85 lakh crore in the same month a year ago. This represents annual growth of around 20 per cent in transaction value. In volume terms, UPI transactions rose to 24.51 billion in August, compared with 23.66 billion in July. The figure was also higher than the 23.2 billion transactions recorded in May and 22.72 billion in June. The latest numbers underline the growing dependence of consumers, merchants and businesses on instant digital payments. UPI enables real-time transactions between individuals as well as payments to merchants, making it an important part of India's retail payment infrastructure. The transaction value in August remained close to the record Rs 29.9 lakh crore registered in May and July 2026. The combination of strong volume growth and sustained transaction value indicates that digital payments are becoming increasingly embedded in routine economic activity. On an annual basis, UPI transaction volume increased by 22 per cent, rising from 19.63 billion transactions in August last year to 24.51 billion this August. The increase reflects both the expansion of the digital payment user base and the growing frequency with which existing users conduct transactions. Festive activity also contributed to the increase in transaction volumes. Cashfree Payments co-founder Reejuu Datta said occasions such as Raksha Bandhan naturally resulted in a surge in everyday peer-to-peer (P2P) transfers and small-value gifting transactions. Datta said the consistent aggregate transaction value, together with rising volumes over the past three months, demonstrated the expanding reach and depth of the UPI ecosystem. NPCI is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). It is an umbrella organisation responsible for operating retail payment and settlement systems in India and runs the UPI platform. With transaction volumes continuing to rise, the August performance reinforces UPI's growing role in India's digital economy. The platform's ability to handle billions of transactions while maintaining strong annual growth is likely to remain a key indicator of the country's shift towards real-time digital payments.

Sensex, Nifty Slip As Crude Prices And US-Iran Tensions Weigh



Indian benchmark indices opened lower on Tuesday as rising crude oil prices, renewed tensions between the United States and Iran and expectations of tighter US monetary policy kept investors cautious. The weak opening followed a decline in the previous session, with foreign fund selling adding to pressure on domestic equities. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 121.48 points to 76,835.79 in early trade, while the 50-share NSE Nifty declined 52.6 points to 24,027.80. The movement reflected growing concerns that higher crude prices and geopolitical uncertainty could affect inflation, corporate earnings and overall market sentiment. Among the 30 Sensex companies, Bajaj Finserv, InterGlobe Aviation, Titan, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and Axis Bank were among the major laggards. ITC, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel and Infosys were among the stocks that gained, providing some support to the broader market. Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said Indian equity markets were expected to remain cautious as renewed US-Iran tensions and the resulting rebound in crude prices continued to cloud investor sentiment. He also pointed to growing expectations that the US Federal Reserve could keep monetary policy tighter for longer. Such expectations can reduce risk appetite in emerging markets as investors reassess the attractiveness of equities and other assets outside the US. However, domestic economic strength is providing some cushion to the Indian market. India's real GDP expanded 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of FY27, comfortably exceeding the Reserve Bank of India's 7 per cent projection as well as market expectations. Ponmudi said the strong growth performance demonstrated resilience in India's domestic economy despite global uncertainty. The robust expansion could help offset some of the external pressures currently affecting investor sentiment. Asian markets also reflected a cautious mood. South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng traded lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index moved higher. US markets had ended lower on Monday. Foreign Institutional Investors sold equities worth Rs 7,985.88 crore on Monday, according to exchange data, adding to the pressure on domestic benchmarks. In the previous session, the Sensex declined 307.24 points, or 0.40 per cent, to close at 76,957.27, while the Nifty dropped 95.25 points, or 0.39 per cent, to end at 24,080.40.

Tim Cook Bids Farewell to Apple, Passes Baton to John Ternus

Apple CEO Tim Cook has formally stepped down from the top post after nearly three decades with the technology giant, marking the end of a leadership era that began in 2011. In his final memo to employees, Cook paid tribute to Apple founder Steve Jobs and praised the company's workforce as an "extraordinary" team. Cook, who took charge just weeks before Jobs died from pancreatic cancer, reflected on his long association with Apple and the transformation the company underwent during his tenure. He said the company had succeeded in making its "dent in the universe", echoing a phrase Jobs had used while describing Apple's broader mission. Jobs hired Cook in 1998, and Cook rose through the company's ranks, becoming chief operating officer in 2005. He built a strong reputation for managing Apple's complex global supply chain before succeeding Jobs as CEO. Under Cook, Apple grew into one of the world's most valuable companies. Its market value crossed \$4.5 trillion on Monday, highlighting the scale of the business he leaves behind. In his farewell message, Cook credited Apple's employees for the company's achievements. "Whatever there is to say about my success, I know it is all because of you," he wrote. He described the opportunity to lead Apple as "the privilege of a lifetime" and said he loved both the company and the team behind it. Apple has around 166,000 employees worldwide, according to its latest annual report. Cook will now take on the role of executive chairman, allowing him to remain involved with the company while handing day-to-day leadership to John Ternus. Ternus will have little time to settle into his new position. Apple is scheduled to hold its annual iPhone event on September 9, where it is expected to unveil its first foldable handset. Apple must additionally navigate a complicated political environment in Washington and manage the risks surrounding its global manufacturing network. Cook's departure therefore marks more than a change at the top. It signals the beginning of a new phase for Apple, with Ternus expected to preserve the company's enormous strengths while addressing the technological and geopolitical challenges shaping its future.



Rupee Gains 26 Paise to 94.96 Against US Dollar

The Indian rupee strengthened 26 paise to 94.96 against the US dollar, supported by robust domestic economic growth, contained fiscal slippage and portfolio-related inflows. The currency's recovery came despite continued volatility in global markets and concerns over geopolitical tensions and elevated crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.06 against the US dollar before gaining ground to touch 94.96. The currency had closed at 95.22 on Monday after recovering from its initial losses and gaining 21 paise during the session. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair appeared to have established a strong near-term base around the 95.10-95.20 levels. Portfolio-related inflows, including those linked to MSCI, have provided temporary support to the domestic currency. The dollar index, which measures the strength of the US currency against a basket of six major currencies, was trading at 99.46, up 0.03 per cent. Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.63 per cent to USD 91.06 per barrel in futures trade. Domestic equity markets were also weak during early trading. The Sensex declined 121.48 points to 76,835.79, while the Nifty fell 52.6 points to 24,027.80. Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 7,985.88 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data. Despite the recent selling, foreign portfolio investor flows showed improvement in August. FPIs invested around USD 3.1 billion during the month, marking their strongest monthly inflow in 23 months and the second consecutive month of net buying. However, foreign investors



remained net sellers of around USD 24.6 billion so far in 2026. Pabari said the direction of foreign flows had improved, although the broader picture remained uncomfortable. On the economic front, India's economy expanded 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter, exceeding expectations and demonstrating resilience despite Middle East tensions and uncertainty in global markets. Amit Pabari, MD of CR Forex Advisors, said the strong growth was particularly significant because it came during a period of elevated crude prices and geopolitical tensions. He said robust growth does not automatically strengthen the currency

but reinforces the perception that India's domestic economy remains resilient despite global turbulence. Fiscal conditions have also supported sentiment. According to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the central government's fiscal deficit for 2026-27 stood at 26.8 per cent of the full-year target at the end of July. This was lower than the 29.9 per cent of Budget Estimates recorded during the corresponding period of 2025-26. The combination of strong economic growth, controlled fiscal slippage and improved portfolio inflows has provided support to the rupee, even as global risks continue to keep currency markets volatile.

Gold Futures Fall Rs 208 to Rs 1.54 Lakh Per 10 Grams

Gold prices declined by Rs 208 to Rs 1,54,252 per 10 grams in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), weighed down by weaker spot demand. The decline came as global gold prices also edged lower, indicating subdued buying interest in the precious metal. On the MCX, gold contracts for October delivery were trading at Rs 1,54,252 per 10 grams, down Rs 208, or 0.13 per cent, from the previous level. The contracts recorded a business turnover of 2,452 lots during the trading session. Market analysts attributed the decline primarily to weaker demand in the spot market. Spot demand is an important factor influencing gold prices, particularly when traders and consumers reduce purchases at elevated

price levels. The latest movement suggests that buyers remained cautious despite gold continuing to trade at historically high levels. The decline in domestic futures prices also followed a marginal weakness in international gold markets. Globally, gold futures fell 0.12 per cent to USD 4,432.26 per ounce in New York. Gold has remained under close watch among investors and consumers as prices have stayed at elevated levels. The precious metal is influenced by several factors, including international prices, currency movements, interest-rate expectations, geopolitical developments and physical demand. The latest fall, however, remained relatively modest, with the October contract declining only 0.13 per cent.

This indicates that the broader market continued to remain closely balanced, even as immediate spot demand weakened. The turnover of 2,452 lots on the MCX showed continued participation in gold futures despite the decline. Futures contracts allow market participants to take positions based on their expectations about future prices and are closely tracked as an indicator of sentiment in the commodities market. The international movement also remained important for domestic prices. Since gold is globally traded in US dollars, changes in international prices and currency movements can influence domestic futures rates. The marginal fall in New York therefore provided an additional factor contributing to the softer



domestic trend. For consumers, gold prices remain significantly higher

than levels seen in previous years, making affordability an important consideration

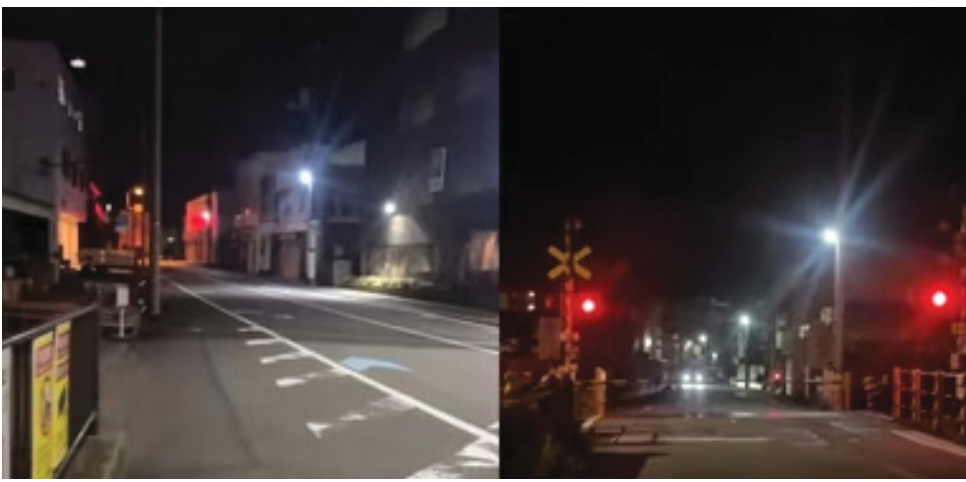
for jewellery buyers. Higher prices can also influence purchasing patterns, particular-

ly when spot demand weakens. For investors, the precious metal continues to remain a closely watched asset amid changing global economic conditions. Any renewed demand in the spot market or movement in international prices could influence domestic futures prices in the coming sessions. The latest trading session therefore reflected a combination of weak spot demand and marginal softness in global prices. While gold futures remained above Rs 1.54 lakh per 10 grams, the Rs 208 decline highlighted the cautious sentiment currently visible in the precious metals market. Market participants will continue to monitor international price movements and domestic demand for further direction.

Indian Woman's 11 PM Japan Walk Sparks Safety Debate

An Indian woman living in Japan has shared her experience of stepping out for a walk at 11 pm, saying the sense of security she experienced there felt significant to her. The woman, identified as Sheetal, shared a video on her Instagram handle in which she spoke about her late-night walk in Japan. The video attracted attention on social media, with users reacting to her observations about safety and the freedom to move around alone at night. In the video, Sheetal said it was 11 pm and that she had come outside for a walk. She explained that while walking in Japan, she did not feel the

need to constantly distinguish between late night and daytime or worry about what could happen while she was outside. Sheetal said that, as an Indian woman, being able to take such a walk at 11 pm without the same level of concern was a "very big deal" for her. Her comments appeared to highlight how everyday experiences can feel very different when people move between countries with different public environments and perceptions of safety. The video struck a chord with several social media users, who connected with Sheetal's broader point about women being able to use pub-



lic spaces freely after dark. Rather than describing the walk as an extraordinary adventure, her account focused on the simplicity of being outside late at night without feeling that the timing itself was a major concern. Her observation also

sparked discussion about the meaning of safety in everyday life. For women, the ability to walk, travel or spend time outdoors alone can be influenced by concerns about harassment, crime and the surrounding environment. A routine activity such as taking a walk can therefore carry a very different meaning depending on where a person lives. Sheetal's experience in Japan offered a personal perspective on that contrast. Her reaction suggested that what may appear to be an ordinary late-night activity can represent a considerable sense of independence for someone accustomed to being more cautious about going out alone at night.

Social media users responded to the video by discussing their own experiences and perceptions of safety in different countries. While individual experiences can vary, Sheetal's post drew attention to the importance of creating public spaces where people, particularly women, can move around without feeling restricted by the time of day. The video has consequently become a conversation about more than just an 11 pm walk. It has highlighted how safety, freedom and access to public spaces can shape everyday experiences, and why something as simple as taking a walk alone at night can feel meaningful to many women.

Indian Parents Amazed by Food Delivery Robot During US Visit



An Indian woman in the United States captured a heartwarming moment when her parents encountered a food delivery robot for the first time, leaving them visibly surprised, confused and excited by the unfamiliar technology. The wholesome incident was shared on Instagram by Priyanka, who was taking her parents around India Square in Jersey City, New Jersey, when they came across a small autonomous delivery robot moving along a pedestrian walkway. In the video, Priyanka's parents are seen walking along the street when the driverless machine quietly rolls past them. The couple immediately turns around to get a second look at the unusual sight. Their expressions appear to reflect a mixture of curiosity, amusement and disbelief as they watch the robot continue along the pavement. The unexpected encounter soon became a memorable part of their visit to the US. Priyanka explained that her parents could hardly believe that a small machine moving independently was delivering food. Sharing the video, she described their reaction as one of "shock, confusion, and excitement". She said they were amazed that a "little box on wheels" could deliver food without a person operating it. Priyanka also imagined what her parents might have been thinking as they watched the machine, writing, "Mummy Papa like, 'What on earth is that?!'" She described the moment as an "absolute core memory". The video has attracted attention on social media, particularly among viewers who found the parents' reaction relatable. Many people have experienced similar moments while introducing parents or older family members to technologies that have become routine in other parts of the world. For Priyanka's parents, the delivery robot appeared to be more than simply another machine on the street. It represented an unfamiliar form of technology that is increasingly becoming part of modern urban life. Priyanka said the experience was especially memorable because she could watch her parents discover such technology for themselves during their US trip. "Taking my Desi parents around the USA and seeing them experience these everyday futuristic things for the first time is truly priceless," she wrote. The incident also offered a glimpse into how technology is changing ordinary activities such as food delivery. Autonomous delivery vehicles are designed to transport orders without a conventional driver, navigating designated routes before reaching customers. However, it was not the technology alone that attracted viewers. The parents' spontaneous decision to turn around and watch the robot transformed an ordinary street encounter into an amusing family moment. The viral video ultimately offered a lighthearted reminder that even familiar technology can seem extraordinary when encountered for the first time. For Priyanka and her parents, a routine walk through a US neighbourhood became an unexpectedly memorable experience.

Indian-Origin Creator Sparks Debate Over Indians "Stealing" US Jobs

A 23-year-old Indian-origin digital creator based in Seattle, Yuvaan Ibanez Garware, has sparked an online conversation after challenging the familiar claim that Indians moving to the United States "steal" jobs from American workers. In a video shared on social media, Yuvaan questioned the idea that Indian immigrants are taking away employment opportunities, arguing that many Indians move to the US without established networks, local connections or familiarity with the country and still manage to build careers through their qualifications and determination. Addressing the argument directly, Yuvaan said, "If someone can move across the world to a country where no one speaks their native language, has zero connections, is on a visa, and within a few months, take your job... you did

not deserve that job. Yuvaan specifically referred to Indian students studying at institutions such as IIT Kharagpur, contrasting their academic preparation with the lives of some American college students. His argument was that the professional success of Indian immigrants should be viewed through the lens of their qualifications and hard work rather than simply being described as competition for jobs. According to Yuvaan, Indians often take up such roles because they are willing to work hard and persist despite challenging circumstances. He rejected the perception that Indians are lazy, arguing that their willingness to work long hours and adapt to difficult situations demonstrates the opposite. "Indians do it because they work hard and refuse to lose," he said,



adding that calling Indians lazy while they are "outworking you" is contradictory. Towards the end of the video, Yuvaan drew from his own experience of living in the US. He described Indians as "one of the most adaptable species on the planet", pointing to their ability to adjust to unfamiliar surroundings, navigate a new culture and establish careers far from their homeland. His comments have brought renewed attention to the wider debate surrounding immigration and employment in the US. While the question of immigration remains politically and socially sensitive, Yuvaan's video focuses on the effort, adaptability, education and willingness to work that he believes many Indian immigrants bring to their new lives abroad.

Air India Express Crew's Rakhi Gesture Wins Hearts Online



The short clip did not attract attention only because of the Rakhi exchange. Social media users also noticed several passengers visible

in the background and began sharing light-hearted observations about their reactions to the unusual celebration taking place inside the aircraft. One user joked that the passenger receiving the Rakhi should have given a gift in return. Another focused on a passenger in a white T-shirt who appeared to be sleeping through the entire incident. Other viewers noticed another passenger sitting behind the pair and humorously suggested that remaining uninvolved was the best way to avoid the "drama." Some users were amused by how casually other passengers appeared to react, with several seemingly unfazed by the festive interaction happening around them. The gesture also received appreciation from viewers who found it a sweet and unexpected way to celebrate Raksha Bandhan. One commenter described the moment as a warm gesture that made the passenger feel included

in the festivities. Raksha Bandhan is traditionally celebrated by siblings, with sisters tying a Rakhi around their brothers' wrists as a symbol of affection and protection. While the festival is generally associated with family gatherings, the Air India Express interaction offered an unusual version of the celebration at cruising altitude. The passenger's "bro-zone" comment added another layer of humour to the moment, making the brief exchange even more entertaining for viewers. What began as a simple festive gesture by the cabin crew eventually became a viral social media moment, with users discussing both the Rakhi ceremony and the seemingly relaxed reactions of people around them. The incident also highlighted how small, spontaneous gestures during travel can create memorable experiences for passengers.

Tim Cook to Step Down as Apple CEO After 15 Years

Tim Cook is set to hand over the leadership of Apple to hardware chief John Ternus after 15 years at the helm, marking a major transition for one of the world's most valuable technology companies. Cook, who succeeded co-founder Steve Jobs, leaves behind a dramatically larger company, having helped transform Apple from a business valued at around \$350 billion into a technology giant worth more than \$4.5 trillion. Cook will become executive chairman on September 1, while Ternus will take charge as Apple enters an increasingly competitive artificial intelligence era. Cook is expected to remain involved in Apple's engagement with policymakers, particularly as relations between the United States and China remain complicated. Unlike Jobs, whose leadership was closely associated with product design and innovation, Cook built his reputation around operations, supply-chain management and long-term business strategy. He followed Jobs' advice to focus on doing what was right rather than attempting to replicate his predecessor. Under Cook, Apple expanded its recurring-revenue businesses by turning its enormous customer base into a major source of income beyond hardware sales. Its installed base of around 2.5 billion iPhone users has supported strong growth in services and related businesses. Apple's annual revenue increased from \$108 billion when Cook began



as CEO to \$416 billion in the latest fiscal year, while profit rose more than fourfold to \$112 billion. Its wearables business, including Apple Watch and AirPods, generated \$35 billion in sales in fiscal 2025. Christopher Brown, a financial adviser at private wealth management firm Synovus Securities, which holds Apple shares, said Cook combined operational and supply-chain success with a values-driven culture. Bill Birmingham, managing director at REX Financial, said Cook developed a broader leadership team and transformed Apple into an institution, allowing greater focus on strategy and resource allocation. Yet Cook's tenure has also attract-

ed criticism over innovation. Apple has struggled to identify a product capable of eventually replacing the iPhone as its central consumer device. The company abandoned its decade-long electric vehicle project in 2024, while Apple Maps suffered a troubled launch in 2022. The \$3,499 Vision Pro augmented-reality headset, launched in 2023, has also failed to generate strong sales. The bigger concern is artificial intelligence, where Apple has lagged rivals and faced delays in its planned Siri overhaul. Ternus will also inherit the challenge of reducing Apple's dependence on China while protecting margins. Rising US-China tensions, tariffs and supply-chain disruptions have pushed Apple to

Meta Fixes Smart Glasses Recording Loophole

Meta is rolling out an update to its AI-powered smart glasses after users discovered a loophole that allowed them to continue recording even after covering the device's front-facing capture LED. The LED is designed as a privacy safeguard. It flashes when the glasses are being used to capture photos or videos, alerting people nearby that recording is taking place. Previously, the glasses prevented users from starting a recording when the LED was blocked. However, some users found that they could begin recording first and then cover the light, allowing the camera to continue operating without the visible signal. Meta's latest software update is aimed at closing that gap. Alex Himel, Meta's vice president of augmented reality, said the company was introducing changes to improve the reliability of the capture LED and ensure it functions as a meaningful warning for bystanders. Himel said the camera would now stop recording if the LED was covered while a recording was already underway. The change is intended to prevent users from deliberately bypassing the privacy protection. The latest change follows another privacy-related measure introduced by Meta a month earlier. The company had enabled its smart glasses to shut down when users tampered with the capture light. The issue has emerged amid grow-



ing concerns about the privacy implications of camera-equipped and AI-powered wearable devices. Unlike smartphones, smart glasses can potentially record people without making the act of filming immediately obvious, raising questions about consent and awareness in public spaces. Concerns have also extended beyond individual users. A German advocacy group recently filed a criminal complaint against Meta and other companies selling AI glasses in the country, arguing that such devices raise privacy and legal concerns. Cinema operators in the UK are also introducing policies to prohibit or restrict camera-enabled smart glasses,

including Meta's AI-powered glasses. The measures are linked to concerns over privacy as well as potential film piracy. Courts in England and Wales have similarly prohibited the use of Meta's smart glasses because of restrictions governing the capture of images and videos inside court premises. Meta's latest update highlights the growing challenge faced by technology companies as wearable cameras become more sophisticated. While the devices offer hands-free photography, video recording and AI-powered features, ensuring that people nearby can clearly understand when they are being recorded remains a major privacy concern.



Hardik Pandya's Mumbai Indians Captaincy Safe Despite Poor IPL Run

Hardik Pandya's position as Mumbai Indians (MI) captain is reportedly safe despite the team's disappointing campaign in IPL 2026. The five-time champions are currently placed ninth with six points from 10 matches, putting their playoff hopes under considerable pressure. Pandya's leadership has come under scrutiny following Mumbai Indians' inconsistent performances, but the franchise management is understood to have retained its faith in the all-rounder. According to a report in The Indian Express, MI does not consider captaincy to be the main reason for the team's underwhelming campaign. Instead, the management reportedly believes that Mumbai Indians have been slow to adapt to the changing nature of T20 cricket. The franchise is understood to be focusing on how the players and team strategy can respond to the evolving demands of the tournament rather than immediately changing the captain. Mumbai Indians have traditionally been among the most successful teams in the Indian Premier League, having won the title five times. However, their IPL 2026 campaign has fallen significantly below expectations, with the side struggling to establish consistency during the league stage. Pandya has faced considerable attention since taking over the captaincy, particularly because of the franchise's previous success under Rohit Sharma. His leadership has been closely examined as MI have struggled to produce a sustained winning run. The latest report, however, suggests that the management is not currently considering a change at the top. Pandya is therefore expected to remain captain as the team enters a crucial phase of the season. Mumbai Indians' ninth-place position means their remaining matches have become increasingly important. With only six points from 10 games, the team needs a strong run of results to stay in contention for the playoffs. It may also need favourable results from other matches to improve its qualification chances. The recent victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) offered some relief, but it did not completely resolve concerns about the team's overall performance. MI will need greater consistency and improved displays across batting, bowling and fielding in their remaining fixtures. The management's decision to continue backing Pandya indicates that it is examining the team's difficulties from a broader perspective. Rather than blaming the captain alone, MI is reportedly assessing how effectively the squad has adapted to changes in the tournament. For Pandya, the continued support could provide valuable stability during the decisive stage of IPL 2026. His contributions as both captain and all-rounder will remain important if Mumbai Indians are to revive their campaign. Unless there is a dramatic change in circumstances, Pandya is expected to continue leading the five-time champions. The immediate challenge for him and the team will be to turn the management's confidence into consistent performances and keep their playoff hopes alive.

Hyderabad E-Champions Felicitated After TG20 League Triumph

Hyderabad E-Champions, winners of the inaugural TG20 League, were felicitated by Truzon Solar, the flagship brand of Suntek Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd. and a leading solar energy company. Truzon Solar is the Title Sponsor of the Hyderabad E-Champions franchise. The felicitation ceremony brought together the full playing squad, support staff and senior leadership of the company to recognise the team's successful debut season. Hyderabad E-Champions produced an impressive campaign, winning 10 of their 11 matches to lift the inaugural TG20 League trophy. The TG20 League was organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association with the approval of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. The tournament featured eight franchises and was played at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal. It was the first tournament of its kind staged in Telangana and was designed to provide young cricketers with a professional platform alongside established players. The Hyderabad E-Champions franchise is owned by Ushodaya Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. Team captain Abhirath Reddy, who finished the season as the tournament's leading run-scorer, and vice captain Ajay Dev Goud were felicitated along with their teammates and support staff. V. Chamundeswaranath, former Andhra Cricket Captain, former IPL Governing Council Member, current BCCI Apex Council Member and an investor in Truzon Solar, attended the event as Chief Guest. Charugundla Bhavani Suresh, Founder and Managing Director, and Jakkula Srinivas, Chief Executive Officer, represented the company. Speaking at the ceremony, Charugundla Bhavani Suresh said the team's achievement reflected preparation, discipline and belief. He said Truzon Solar's association with Hyderabad E-Champions was aimed at providing meaningful support to young players rather than being limited to brand visibility. He also highlighted the need to create professional opportunities for sporting talent across the country, particularly for young players from smaller towns and districts. "Talent is distributed everywhere. Opportunity is not," he said, emphasising that exposure, infrastructure and confidence could make a significant difference to emerging sports persons. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of mementos to the players and support staff. The company reiterated its intention to remain associated with sport and support emerging talent through future



Delhi HC Seeks WFI Response On Vinesh Phogat's Disciplinary Challenge

The Delhi High Court has sought the response of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to a petition filed by Olympian Vinesh Phogat challenging two show-cause notices and the disciplinary proceedings initiated against her. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said the court was not issuing a formal notice at this stage and directed WFI counsel to obtain instructions. The matter will next be heard on September 29. Phogat has challenged show-cause notices dated May 9 and June 17, alleging that they form part of a continuing course of arbitrary, discriminatory and mala fide disciplinary action by the federation. She has claimed that the proceedings have affected her return to competitive wrestling following maternity. According to her petition, the International Testing Agency (ITA), through a communication dated July 3, 2025, confirmed that she would be eligible to compete from January 1, 2026. Phogat has claimed that despite complying with the requirements for her return, WFI later introduced an eligibility framework that effectively prevented her from entering the selection process. She has argued that the first show-cause notice is legally unsustainable as it relies on the superseded UWW Anti-Doping Rules, 2015 and refers to a "Rule 56", which she says does not exist. She has also contended that the alleged whereabouts violation does not satisfy the requirements for an Article 2.4 violation under the World Anti-Doping Code. The first notice also concerns her participation in two weight categories during the March 2024 Selection Trials. Phogat has said the WFI's Ad-Hoc Committee expressly permitted her to compete in both categories. She has further alleged that WFI later changed its selection framework by recognising a tournament in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, as an additional qualifying event. According to Phogat, this was despite WFI having defended before the Supreme Court a fixed pool of qualified wrestlers. She claimed the change was not disclosed during the May 29 hearing.

Phogat participated in the Selection Trials on May 30 and raised objections over the selection process, including the draw. WFI subsequently issued the second show-cause notice on June 17 regarding her conduct. She described the allegations as vague and insufficiently detailed. In her June 30 response, she explained the circumstances and cited similar incidents involving other wrestlers, alleging selective application of disciplinary standards. The petition has also challenged the constitution of the WFI Disciplinary Committee. Phogat claims its composition was disclosed only on July 30 after repeated requests and objections and was not supported by a formal order, resolution or signed federation document. She has sought quashing of both notices and consequential disciplinary proceedings. The court also considered her separate plea seeking a fair framework for women athletes returning after pregnancy, childbirth and post-partum recovery. Justice Sharma issued notice to WFI, the Union Government and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), with the matter listed for hearing in November.



Messi Retires From International Football

Lionel Messi has announced his retirement from international football, bringing the curtain down on an extraordinary career with Argentina that spanned more than two decades, 207 matches and 125 goals. His journey featured early setbacks, painful defeats in major finals and, ultimately, the World Cup triumph that completed his remarkable international story. Messi began his Argentina career in 2005 as an 18-year-old. His first appearance came in a friendly against Hungary in Budapest, but lasted only 90 seconds after he was sent off as a substitute when the referee judged that he had used his elbow. A year later, Messi made his World Cup debut in Germany. He scored Argentina's final goal in the 6-0 victory over Serbia and Montenegro, beginning a historic association with the tournament. At the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, Messi captained Alejandro Sabella's Argentina side. The team had endured several disappointments, including World Cup quarter-final defeats to Germany in 2006 and 2010, when Diego Maradona was coach. Argentina had also lost the 2007 Copa America final to Brazil and struggled at the 2011 Copa America on home soil. Messi scored in every group match in Brazil and helped Argentina reach its first World Cup final since the era of Maradona. However, Germany defeated Argentina at the Maracana. The following year brought another setback as Argentina lost the Copa America final to Chile on penalties. At the 2016 Copa America Centenario, Argentina again reached the final against Chile at MetLife Stadium. Messi missed his penalty in the shoot-out as Argentina suffered another defeat. Heartbroken, Messi announced his international retirement. "For me the national team is over," he said after suffering his fourth final defeat. Six weeks later, however, he reversed his decision. The appointment of Lionel Scaloni as coach in 2018 transformed Argentina's fortunes. In 2021, Messi finally won a major international title when Argentina defeated Brazil 1-0 in the Copa America final, with Angel Di Maria scoring the decisive goal. The defining achievement came at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Messi, then 35 and playing for PSG, scored seven goals and provided three assists in seven matches. He scored twice in the final against France and converted his penalty during the shoot-out as Argentina won the World Cup for the third time. Messi continued with Argentina and captained the team to another Copa America title in 2024. He then featured in his record-equalling sixth World Cup, scoring eight goals in his team's first five matches and helping Argentina reach another final. Messi became the player with the most World Cup appearances, with 34 matches, and scored 21 goals in the tournament. He also became only the second player to appear in three World Cup finals. However, Argentina lost to Spain in extra time, ending his international career on an anticlimactic note.

Kalki 2: Nag Ashwin Reveals Progress on Prabhas Starrer



Director Nag Ashwin has shared a fresh update on Kalki 2, the highly anticipated sequel to the successful science-fiction epic Kalki 2898 AD. The filmmaker revealed that a portion of the sequel has already been shot and said a major shooting schedule will be planned once lead actor Prabhas becomes available. Nag Ashwin spoke about the progress of Kalki 2 during the pre-release event of I Am Game. His comments have given fans a glimpse into the current stage of the much-awaited project, which is expected to continue the story and futuristic world established by Kalki 2898 AD. According to Nag Ashwin, the team has completed 10 days of shooting for the sequel so far. While the initial schedule has been completed, the director indicated that a larger shooting programme will be organised after Prabhas has time in his schedule. "We have shot for 10 days so far. Once Prabhas gets time, we will plan a big schedule," Nag Ashwin said while discussing the project at the event. The update suggests that Kalki 2 is being developed on a long-term production schedule, with the availability of Prabhas playing an important role in determining the next major phase of filming. As one of the most prominent actors in Indian cinema, Prabhas has several projects in different stages, making scheduling a key aspect of the production. Kalki 2898 AD, the predecessor to the sequel, created considerable attention with its ambitious futuristic setting, large-scale visuals and a storyline that connected mythology with science fiction. Directed by Nag Ashwin, the film featured Prabhas in the lead and established a larger cinematic world that is expected to be explored further in Kalki 2. The sequel has consequently become one of the most closely watched projects among Prabhas fans and followers of Indian big-budget cinema. The confirmation that filming has already begun adds to the anticipation surrounding the project, even though the makers have not yet revealed details about the upcoming major schedule. For Nag Ashwin, Kalki 2 represents the next stage of a story that combines futuristic technology, mythology and large-scale action. The director is expected to expand the narrative while maintaining the distinctive visual world introduced in Kalki 2898 AD. The completion of the first 10 days of filming also indicates that the production has moved beyond the planning stage. However, the next substantial phase will depend on Prabhas' availability, according to Nag Ashwin. While details regarding the plot, additional cast members, production scale and release plans remain closely guarded, the latest update provides a clear indication that work on Kalki 2 is progressing. For now, fans will have to wait for the announcement of the next major shooting schedule. With 10 days of filming already completed and Nag Ashwin preparing for a larger schedule once Prabhas is available, Kalki 2 is gradually taking shape as the next major chapter in the Kalki universe.



Rashmika Double Treat : Mysaa Locks Release Date

Rashmika Mandanna is preparing for a packed theatrical schedule, with her upcoming pan-Indian film Mysaa officially locking its release date. The actress is set to appear in a dramatically different role after portraying the innocent Anu in The Girlfriend. Mysaa is scheduled to arrive in cinemas on November 27, 2026. The makers announced the release date with an intense poster featuring Rashmika holding a spear, offering a glimpse of the fierce character she will portray in the film. Rashmika plays a Gond tribal woman and rebel in Mysaa, marking a significant departure from some of her recent roles. The film is expected to present her in a rugged and intense avatar, with the makers positioning the project as a major pan-Indian release. Tarak Ponnappa is playing a key role in the film, while Rawindra Pulle is making his directorial debut with Mysaa. The director is currently filming the project, which is being mounted under the UnFormula Films banner. Mysaa is produced by Anil, Ajay Sayyapureddy and Srikanth Sathi. Music for the film is being composed by Jakes Bejoy, adding another important element to the project's technical lineup. The release announcement has also created interest because of Rashmika's unusually busy theatrical calendar. Before Mysaa reaches theatres, she will be seen opposite Vijay Deverakonda in Ranabaali. Ranabaali is scheduled for release on October 16, 2026. With that film arriving first and Mysaa following on November 27, Rashmika will have two theatrical releases within a span of just 42 days. The back-to-back releases are expected to give the actress a strong presence at the box office during the latter part of the year. More importantly, the two films appear to offer contrasting roles, allowing audiences to see Rashmika in different shades. In Ranabaali, she shares the screen with Vijay Deverakonda, continuing the interest surrounding their pairing. Mysaa, meanwhile, shifts the focus towards a character rooted in tribal identity and rebellion, with the actress expected to carry a physically demanding and intense role. The announcement also comes at a time when Rashmika continues to strengthen her presence across multiple Indian film industries. Her ability to move between different genres and character types has made her one of the prominent actresses associated with pan-Indian cinema. For the Mysaa team, the November 27 release date provides a clear target as filming progresses. The combination of a new director, an unconventional lead character, a strong supporting cast and Jakes Bejoy's music has generated curiosity around the project. The spear-holding poster has further amplified the film's visual identity, suggesting that Mysaa will rely heavily on its central character's strength and rebellious nature. For Rashmika, however, the immediate attraction is the unusual prospect of appearing in two films within a short span.

on the big screen twice in a little over six weeks. Ranabaali will open the run on October 16, followed by Mysaa on November 27, making the period a significant theatrical stretch in her career.

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Ramba Oorvasi Menaka Clears Censor Hurdle

Allari Naresh's upcoming comedy drama Ramba Oorvasi Menaka has cleared a key hurdle ahead of its theatrical release.



and is set to arrive in theatres on September 4, 2026. The film, written and directed by Chandra Mohan Chintada, has secured a U/A certificate after facing concerns during the censor certification process. The certification process reportedly became complicated over the use of names and references associated with Hindu deities and their portrayal in the film. The delay had led to speculation that the makers might postpone the release. However, the team has now completed the certification formalities, allowing the film to retain its planned release date. Ramba Oorvasi Menaka features Allari Naresh in the lead role and is positioned as a comedy entertainer. Raashi Singh, Vishnu Priya and Prisha Singh are among the key cast members. Surabhi plays the main female lead, while Srinivasa Reddy and Vennela Kishore are also part of the prominent cast. The film has already generated attention with its trailer, which offers a glimpse into its comedy-driven premise. With the censor issue now resolved, the focus has shifted towards its theatrical performance and whether the entertainer can translate the trailer's humour into a successful audience experience. The title itself, built around the names Ramba, Oorvasi and Menaka, has contributed to curiosity surrounding the project. The censor concerns reportedly centred on references connected with Hindu religious figures, making the certification process an important stage for the film's release plans. The makers' decision to retain the September 4 release date means the film will reach audiences as originally planned. With the certification hurdle behind them, the promotional campaign is now expected to focus more strongly on the cast, comedy and entertainment elements. Allari Naresh is known for his association with comedy-oriented films, and Ramba Oorvasi Menaka is expected to continue that space while presenting a new story under Chandra Mohan Chintada's direction. The film has been produced by Annapurna Studios and Hasya Movies. The combination of an established comedy performer, a young creative team and a supporting cast featuring familiar names is expected to be among the film's key attractions. For the makers, clearing the certification process without changing the planned release date is significant. The film can now enter its final promotional phase without uncertainty over its theatrical arrival. With the September 4 release confirmed, Ramba Oorvasi Menaka will now have to meet the expectations created by its trailer and overcome the usual challenges faced by comedy films at the box office. The response from audiences will determine whether the film's offbeat title and comedy-driven approach can translate into strong theatrical interest.