



Published from : Vijayawada - Hyderabad - Delhi - Bengaluru Thursday, 24th July, 2025 | 12 Pages

AP–UAE Strengthen Economic Ties at Investopia Summit

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

At the Investopia Global Andhra Pradesh Summit held in Vijayawada, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reiterated his commitment to transforming Andhra Pradesh into a global investment hub. He welcomed UAE Economic and Tourism Minister Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Lulu Group Chairman Yusuf Ali, and several global and Indian business leaders. Naidu highlighted the strong Indo-UAE relationship and praised the UAE's development, especially Dubai's transformation into a global destination. Drawing parallels with the launch of Hyderabad's Hitec City, Naidu revealed ambitious plans to build Amaravati as a world-class green and knowledge city. He promised rapid project clearances and emphasized AP's use of digital governance, with over 550 services now accessible via WhatsApp. Naidu stated that Andhra Pradesh is targeting a \$2.4 trillion economy, and his administration is focused on Ease and Speed of Doing Business. He also spoke about upcoming green hydrogen and ammonia export projects in Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, with vast potential in renewable energy, food processing, aquaculture, tourism, and aerospace. Naidu confirmed that Visakhapatnam would soon host



India's largest Google data center and that Amaravati will be home to a quantum computing valley by January 2026.

UAE Minister, Lulu Chairman Praise AP's Potential

UAE Minister Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri praised Andhra Pradesh as a progressive state that welcomes entrepreneurs and investors. He emphasized the UAE's longstanding friendship

with India, with \$250 billion in trade between the two nations. Marri noted that the UAE sees Andhra Pradesh as a key partner in sectors like AI, tourism, green energy, digital transformation, and food processing. Lulu Group Chairman Yusuf Ali announced plans to build an ultra-modern shopping mall in Visakhapatnam and expand operations in food processing in Vijayawada.

2 PAGE

Govt Launches ₹30,635 Cr Credit Plan for SHGs



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh has chalked out an ambitious ₹30,635 crore annual credit plan to boost the economic development of 7.69 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across the state. Minister for MSMEs, Rural Poverty Alleviation, and NRI Empowerment KondaPalli Srinivas made this announcement during the conclusion of a two-day review and planning meeting with Project Directors and field officials of the Rural Development Department in Amaravati on July 23. The minister said the state was advancing with the prestigious "Velugu 2.0" program under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, targeting sustainable livelihoods and women-led entrepreneurship. As part of this initiative, 2.5 lakh women will receive individual bank loans during FY 2025–26 to establish manufacturing and service sector enterprises. He emphasized that field-level officials, including PDS, DPMS, and APMS, must analyze agriculture-related activities in their districts and develop strategic plans to enhance farmers'

incomes. As part of this year's initiatives, ₹98.1 crore has been sanctioned to 350 Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs), with clear directives to utilize these funds transparently and effectively. In addition, the minister instructed the SERP CEO to explore all options for social audits of fund utilization and take corrective actions accordingly. Under the NRETP scheme, egg carts worth ₹50,000 each have been distributed to beneficiaries in Guntur district, with a target of distributing 1,000 such units this year. Minister Srinivas also stressed the need to strengthen women-led markets at the grassroots. Outstanding PDS from Chittoor, Tirupati, and Sri Sathya Sai districts were felicitated for efficient execution and promotion of these markets. Similarly, PDS from Anakapalli and Parvathipuram Manyam districts received mementoes for arranging exceptional photo exhibitions. SERP CEO Vakati Karuna, Additional CEO Sriramulu Naidu, Agri Advisor T. Vijay Kumar, and directors and staff from various districts participated in the session.



Anil Kumar Yadav Probed in Quartz Smuggling

2 PAGE



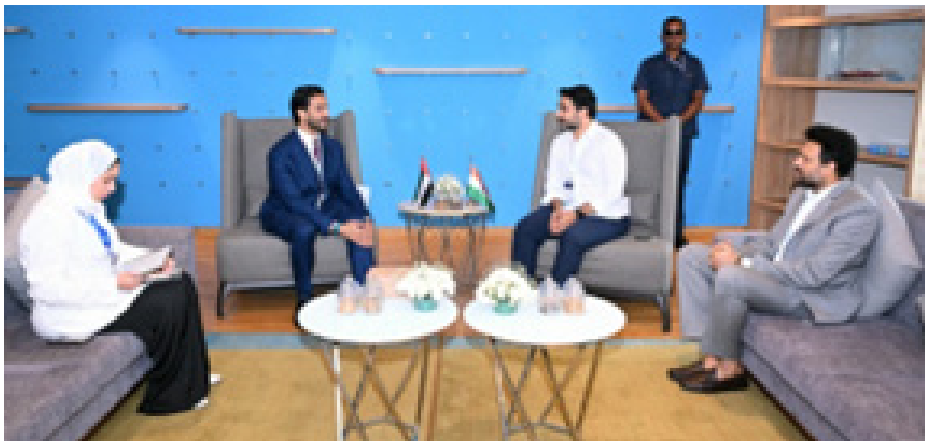
PM Kisan funds on Aug 2

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Big news for the farming community in India — the 20th installment of the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM Kisan Yojana) is set to be credited on August 2. According to national media reports, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to release the funds during a public meeting in Varanasi, scheduled for the same day. This release is part of the Central Government's ongoing support to farmers, where ₹2,000 is directly deposited into the accounts of eligible beneficiaries every four months. Previously, PM Modi had launched the 17th installment from Varanasi, making it a precedent for such announcements. Adding to the Centre's assistance, the Andhra Pradesh coalition government has also planned to release ₹5,000 in additional aid to its farmers. Thus, farmers in Andhra Pradesh are likely to receive a combined benefit of ₹7,000 in a single transfer on August 2 — ₹2,000 from the Central Government and ₹5,000 from the state government. The PM Kisan Yojana continues to serve as a crucial financial lifeline for small and marginal farmers across the country. With over 11 crore beneficiaries nationwide, the scheme aims to ensure a minimum level of income support for farming households.

2 PAGE

Lokesh Invited to UAE for Strategic Talks



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh is set to leverage the data revolution to attract global opportunities, according to Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics, Nara Lokesh. Speaking at the "Investopia Global – Andhra Pradesh" summit organized by the Economic Development Board at Novotel Hotel in Vijayawada, Lokesh emphasized that the state is preparing to be at the forefront of the digital economy. Lokesh highlighted the UAE's pioneering efforts in artificial intelligence (AI), being the first country to establish a dedicated Ministry of AI. He said Andhra Pradesh is keen to emulate the UAE's model to strengthen its own digital economy. With ambitious goals, the state aims to evolve into a \$2.4 trillion economy in the coming years. During the summit, Lokesh held discussions with UAE Minister of Economy, Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, focusing on collaborations in renewable energy, infrastructure, digital governance, AI-first university development, genome sequencing, quantum valley, and logistics. The UAE Minister responded positively and invited Lokesh for an official visit to the UAE.

Lokesh announced that India's first 152-bit quantum computer will be launched in Amaravati in January 2026, a move that he said would transform the state's economy. He also revealed plans to develop Visakhapatnam as a "Data City", with several international companies already expressing interest in setting up data centers there. In education, Lokesh stressed the importance of integrating AI and quantum computing into curricula across polytechnic, degree, and engineering courses. He said the government is introducing skill development programs tailored to emerging technologies. Highlighting governance reforms, Lokesh noted the implementation of "Mana Mitra" WhatsApp governance, which provides over 600 citizen services. This initiative is powered by a massive data lake connecting multiple departments to deliver faster, AI-driven public services. Other key attendees at the summit included G42 India CEO Manu Jain and Primus Partners Vice President Raksha Shraddha. Lokesh reiterated the state's commitment to harnessing AI, data centers, and smart governance to drive economic growth.

Pawan Kalyan Thanks CM, Lokesh

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

Power Star and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan is all set to appear in his much-awaited film Hari Hara Veera Mallu, which is releasing Today (July 24). Ahead of the release, a grand pre-release event was organized in Visakhapatnam where Pawan Kalyan addressed fans and media. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh. He thanked CM Naidu for allowing an increase in ticket prices in Andhra Pradesh, which he said would benefit the film's theatrical run. He also appreciated Lokesh for supporting the movie by posting about it



on social media. Responding to critics who mock him for claiming ties to different regions, Pawan said that such people are like frogs in a well and cannot think beyond their narrow view. "My name itself has 'Pawan' (wind) in it. I can be anywhere," he remarked. Pawan fondly recalled his deep connection with Visakhapatnam, saying it is the city where he learned the ba-

sics of acting before entering the film industry. He noted that he never had big dreams during his childhood, but always felt the urge to rebel against injustice. He said he didn't enter films to earn money and later developed more interest in filmmaking than acting. He emotionally stated that the real gods in his life are his elder brother Chiranjeevi and sister-in-law Surekha, who always believed in him. On Hari Hara Veera Mallu, Pawan said director Krish was the film's original visionary and completed nearly 30% of the shoot. Though Krish had to exit due to personal reasons, Jyothi Krishna took over and carried the project forward successfully. Pawan praised Krish's teaser for clearing all doubts about the movie.



AP–UAE Strengthen Economic Ties at Investopia Summit

Continued from page 1

He praised Chandrababu Naidu’s visionary leadership and confirmed that construction would begin now that Naidu is back in office. He revealed that 8,230 people are employed at Lulu’s Kochi mall, and similar employment generation is expected in AP. Yusuf Ali emphasized the opportunity to process local agri-produce and export globally, benefiting farmers and boosting the state’s economy.

Key Stakeholders Outline Andhra’s Economic Strengths

CII President R. Mukundan underlined that AP is ideal for investments due to its strategic location, skilled workforce, and rapidly expanding infrastructure. He stated that AP is already known as the Food Bowl and Spice Capital of India and is a leader in Agri-Tech innovation.

AP Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand discussed the state’s 2047 Swarna Andhra Vision to build a wealthy, healthy, and happy society. He emphasized the strength of AP’s human capital, its long coastline, and leadership in renewable energy, especially green hydrogen production. Minister T.G. Bharat stressed that AP is India’s Eastern Food Corridor and a major marine and fruit exporter. He outlined the infrastructure available – 9 mega food parks, 3 industrial corridors, and 6 ports – as well as the state’s pro-business policies, including approvals within 21 days.

MoU Signed Between APEDB and Investopia

The summit concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) and UAE-based Investopia to strengthen investment collaboration. The partnership is expected to unlock opportunities in technology, energy, food processing, tourism, and logistics, aligning with AP’s vision of inclusive, green, and innovation-led growth.

PM Kisan funds on Aug 2

Continued from page 1

In Andhra Pradesh, this dual benefit is being seen as a significant move ahead of the Kharif season, offering much-needed relief amid rising input costs and climate uncertainties. State officials confirmed that necessary arrangements have been made to credit the amounts on the same day without delay. Farmers and farmer unions have welcomed the announcement, hoping for consistent and timely support in future installments as well.

Minister Nadendla Launches P4 Anti-Poverty Program

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh’s Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar launched the state’s comprehensive anti-poverty initiative titled “P4 – Program to Promote Prosperity and Eliminate Poverty” during a Vision Action Plan meeting held in Amaravati Secretariat. The minister released a dedicated P4 poster at the event and announced that a full-featured website, www.zeropovertyp4.ap.gov.in, will soon be launched to provide complete information about the program. The initiative is part of the coalition government’s broader 2047 Vision to steer 50 lakh families out of poverty by 2029. Speaking at the launch, Minister Manohar emphasized that the government aims to transform poor families into “Golden Families” by supporting them through targeted welfare schemes. He highlighted that Tenali constituency alone has already identified 14,280 such families, with 376 volunteers adopting around 3,289 households.

Vizag to Add 50,600 Jobs: Nara Lokesh

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Visakhapatnam is all set to transform into a leading IT and electronics hub, thanks to the proactive efforts of Andhra Pradesh IT, Electronics, and Education Minister Nara Lokesh. The State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Wednesday approved ₹20,216 crore worth of investments in four major projects in the IT sector, projected to create over 50,600 jobs. These approvals mark a key milestone in the government’s push to make Vizag a digital capital. Lokesh’s initiatives over the past year, including investment roadshows in Bengaluru and Davos, have already started yielding results. During his Bengaluru visit, MoUs were signed in a single day



with two companies—Satva Developers and ANSR—which alone promise 35,000 jobs. These two projects received SIPB approval in

the latest round. Satva Developers will invest ₹1,500 crore in Madhurawada to create 25,000 jobs, while ANSR plans to set

up a ₹1,000 crore Global Capability Centre (GCC) to generate 10,000 jobs. Another key project is by Sify Infinite Spaces Ltd., which will invest ₹1,466 crore in the first phase to build a Data Centre in Vizag, providing 200 jobs. A second phase will see an additional ₹15,000 crore investment and 400 more jobs. In addition, BVM Energy & Residency Pvt. Ltd. received approval to establish a World Trade Center in Endada with a ₹1,250 crore investment, expected to create 15,000 jobs. Top firms like TCS (12,000 jobs) and Cognizant (₹1,583 crore investment for 8,000 jobs) are also preparing to launch operations in Vizag. Lokesh’s persistent efforts have attracted ₹1 lakh crore in IT and electronics investments from 95 leading firms in the past year, setting the stage for 20 lakh job opportunities over five years.

Tirupati Gears Up for Women Empowerment Meet

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu offered prayers at the sacred Tirumala temple on Wednesday. Upon his arrival, he was received with traditional honors by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) officials, who presented him with Srivari Theertha Prasadam. Speaking to the media after darshan, the Speaker expressed optimism over the state’s development. He stated that Andhra Pradesh, which suffered significant setbacks in the past five years, is now taking progressive strides under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He sought the blessings of Lord Venkateswara for the CM’s success in fulfilling the aspirations of the people and prayed for the health, happiness, and prosperity of all citizens.

Later in the day, the Speaker, accompanied by Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishna Raju, visited the Tirupati District Collectorate, where they were warmly welcomed by District In-charge Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar, and senior officials. They convened a high-level review meeting in the Video Conference Hall to discuss arrangements for the National Conference of the Chairpersons of Committees on Empowerment of Women Welfare, scheduled to be held in September in Tirupati.



During the meeting, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker reviewed various logistics and coordination efforts required to host delegates from across the country. The dignitaries stressed the importance of showcasing Tirupati’s hospitality and organizational excellence during the event. They also emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination to ensure the success of the national conference, which focuses on advancing women’s welfare and empowerment through legislative committees. The event marks a significant occasion for Tirupati, bringing national attention to Andhra Pradesh’s commitment to women-centric governance. The combined spiritual and administrative engagements by the Speaker and Deputy Speaker reflect a balanced approach to public service rooted in cultural reverence and progressive governance.

Anil Kumar Yadav Probed in Quartz Smuggling

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a major development in the ongoing illegal quartz transport investigation, YSR Congress Party leader Anil Kumar Yadav faces escalating legal pressure following the arrest of his close associate, Biradavolu Srikant Reddy. Srikant was apprehended in Hyderabad by Andhra Pradesh’s rural crime unit and produced before the Gudur court, which granted a 14 day police remand for further questioning. During custodial interrogation, officials report that Srikant disclosed several critical details implicating senior party members in orchestrating the unauthorized movement of high value quartz consignments across state lines. He is said to have revealed logistics routes, key financiers, and the complicity of certain local officials who allegedly facilitated transport permits and evaded law enforcement scrutiny. This arrest marks the third high profile detention in the case. Former Andhra Pradesh minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy was previously



arrested and remains in judicial custody under similar remand orders. Together, these arrests suggest a far reaching network that extends into political circles, prompting investigators to probe deeper into potential conspirators. Anil Kumar Yadav, who has thus far evaded direct detention, is reportedly under intense surveillance, with police tightening the net around his known associates and properties. Law enforcement sources indicate that a formal summons may be issued shortly, based on leads obtained from Srikant’s testimony.

Dalmia’s Green Cement Expansion in Kadapa



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Dalmia Bharat Limited (DBL), India’s 4th largest cement manufacturer, has announced expansion of a 3.6 MnTPA clinker capacity at its integrated plant in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh along with a 6.0 MnTPA of cement capacity. This capacity will be in addition to the existing 3.6 MnTPA cement grinding capacity at the site. Backed by a strategic investment of ₹3,287 crore, this expansion reaffirms Dalmia Bharat’s commitment to Andhra Pradesh’s industrial progress and regional economic development. Envisioned as a model green manufacturing facility, the new unit will integrate cutting-edge technology, energy-efficient processes, and ESG-aligned practices, reflecting the company’s long-term sustainability vision. Scheduled for completion by Q2FY28, the project is expected to create approximately 5,000 direct and indirect jobs, catalyzing economic activity in Kadapa and across the broader Andhra Pradesh region. This expansion is a key milestone

in Dalmia Bharat’s growth journey, supporting its ambition to achieve 75 MnTPA cement capacity by FY28. Mr. Puneet Dalmia, Managing Director & CEO, Dalmia Bharat Limited, said: “Our investment in Andhra Pradesh strengthens our long-standing association with the state – driven by its progressive industrial policies and strong growth potential. With its strategic location and connectivity, the Kadapa plant will strengthen our ability to serve the growing market demand in the South. This expansion reflects our commitment to contributing to Andhra Pradesh’s development while reinforcing our leadership in the region.” Dalmia Bharat’s Kadapa unit has played a pivotal role in driving both industrial growth and community development in the region since it began operations in 2010. Beyond production, the company has led efforts in water conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and community welfare across surrounding villages. Through the DIK-SHA-Kadapa Skill Centre, Dalmia Bharat continues to empower local youth with vocational training and employment opportunities.



The P4 strategy includes providing livelihood opportunities, educational support, assistance in agriculture and marketing, access to bank loans, and medical aid for chronic illnesses. Minister Manohar noted that the plan involves transforming the community into active partners, including the participation of NRIs and residents from other regions originally hailing from Tenali. A special meet-and-greet program with mentors and supporters is also

scheduled to take place soon in Tenali. The minister described the initiative as a roadmap for holistic development in the constituency. Key officials present included Tenali Sub-Collector Sanjana Simha, Tenali MRO Gopalakrishna, Kollipara MRO G. Siddharth, MPDOs Deepti and Vijayalakshmi, Municipal Commissioner Lakshmipathirao, Women Police officers, and officers from the Swarnandhra Vision Management Unit.

SPREE-2025 Launched to Boost Worker Welfare

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) launched the SPREE-2025 (Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees) campaign at its Vijayawada regional office to boost social security for workers in Andhra Pradesh. Regional Director M. Rama Rao urged factories and establishments to voluntarily register under the scheme, which simplifies the process and enhances health and financial protection. SPREE-2025, approved during ESIC’s 196th meeting, waives past contribution demands and inspections for the pre-registration period, easing compliance and eliminating penalties. Registrations take effect from the date specified by employers, encouraging prompt enrollment. As of now, over 69,000 units and 14 lakh employees are covered under ESI in the state. The scheme offers benefits including medical care, maternity and sickness support, and post-retirement security for employees earning up to ₹21,000 per month. In case of factory closures, ESIC ensures 50% wage compensation. Employers can register via www.esic.gov.in, the Shram Suvidha portal, or helpline 1800-11-2526. The campaign materials were launched by key officials, reaffirming ESIC’s commitment to inclusive and burden-free social security.



‘Adikarmayogi’ to Empower Tribal Villages: Minister

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Minister for Women, Child Welfare and Tribal Welfare, Gummidi Sandhyarani, asserted the importance of the Centre’s new initiative ‘Adikarmayogi’ aimed at the holistic development of tribal areas across the state. Speaking at a state-level review of the program, the Minister described it as a revolutionary step to empower tribal communities through grassroots participation and leadership. “The ‘Adikarmayogi’ program is not merely a training initiative—it’s a movement. It’s designed to instill leadership, responsibility, and trust in the government among the tribal population,” the Minister stated. She said the program ensures direct interaction between tribal villagers and the government to discuss local challenges and priorities. To support the rollout, the government has sanctioned ₹8.80 lakh, with ₹5,500 provided to each of the 40 currently undergoing training as State Master Trainers (SMTs). These SMTs were first trained in Bengaluru and are now training district-level officers, who will in turn train mandal-level officers. The ultimate goal is to reach every tribal village through awareness campaigns. Minister Sandhyarani added that this campaign will involve all key grassroots actors, including Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Self-Help Group (SHG) members, and NGOs. The program will form guidance teams at the village, mandal, district, and state levels to ensure uniform and effective implementation. “This program is a step towards achieving our goal of comprehensive tribal development by 2047,” she said. “Through ‘Adikarmayogi’, we are promoting governance from the ground up, making people active partners in their own development.” Highlighting its broader vision, the Minister said the scheme would help bring lasting changes in the lifestyles of tribal people by empowering them with knowledge, confidence, and leadership.

Minister Gorttipati Reviews Power Projects

TPN Correspondent |
Rajamahendravaram

In a comprehensive review meeting held at Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Power Gorttipati Ravi Kumar instructed power department officials to fast-track key energy initiatives and ensure seamless power supply during the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu. The meeting was attended by MLAs B. Buchaiah Chowdary, Ramakrishna Reddy, and Balaramakrishna, along with senior officials from the energy department. During the review, officials presented progress reports on ongoing projects such as the PM Surya Ghar Yojana and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). Updates were shared on both physical and financial implementation across East Godavari district. Minister Ravi Kumar emphasized the need to accelerate the implementation of rooftop solar installations under PM Surya



Ghar, especially for households and small enterprises. He directed officials to raise public awareness about the scheme’s benefits and streamline the application process to increase participation. The minister also instructed officials to ensure prompt issuance of agricultural power connections to farmers who have already applied. He noted that any delay in electrification would

directly impact agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. With the culturally significant Godavari Pushkaralu approaching, Minister Ravi Kumar stressed the importance of uninterrupted power supply throughout the festival. He ordered the deployment of backup systems and quick-response teams, along with real-time monitoring mechanisms. Coordination with local administrations and power utilities was highlighted as essential to manage the increased demand during the 12-day event. Power department officials assured the minister that preparations are underway. Measures such as transformer capacity upgrades, additional staffing, and contingency planning are being put in place to handle any unforeseen issues during Pushkaralu. Minister Ravi Kumar reiterated the state government’s commitment to strengthening power infrastructure and delivering reliable electricity to all citizens, especially during major public and religious events.

MLA Urges CM to Launch Uddanam Phase 2

TPN Correspondent |
Srikakulam

Patapatnam MLA Mami-di Govindarao (MGR) met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat and submitted a memorandum seeking the fast-tracking of various developmental works in the constituency. During the meeting, the MLA emphasized the urgent need to commence and complete Phase 2 of the Uddanam Jal Jeevan Mission works across all mandals under the Patapatnam constituency. He pointed out that under Phase 2, drinking water pipelines with an allocation of ₹265 crore are to be laid to ensure tap connections to every household. MGR urged the Chief Minister to initiate these works on priority, given the severe groundwater issues affecting the region. The MLA also appealed to the



Chief Minister to establish a Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) College in Patapatnam before the start of the upcoming academic year. He stressed that such an institution would provide much-needed skill development opportunities and employment prospects to the rural youth. In addition, MGR submitted a request for immediate repairs and strengthening of the Gotta Bar-

rage on the Vamsadhara River, which plays a vital role in irrigation for the area. He requested budgetary allocations to repair the right and left main canals associated with the barrage, as they are in a deteriorated condition and affect agricultural productivity. The MLA also urged the Chief Minister to extend full administrative and financial support for the overall development of the Patapatnam constituency. Responding positively, CM Chandrababu Naidu assured that the concerns raised would be addressed promptly and that the government would extend full cooperation for the constituency’s development. The meeting reflects the MLA’s active pursuit of key infrastructure and welfare projects for his region, focusing on water access, education, and irrigation – three pillars crucial to improving living standards in rural Andhra Pradesh.

Every Eligible Rural Family to Get 3-Cent Plot

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur
Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha held a review meeting with housing and revenue officials, instructing them to ensure proper planning and coordination for the distribution of house site pattas and construction of homes for the eligible rural poor. The meeting took place at her camp office in Anantapur, where officials including RDO Keshava Naidu, Housing PD and DE, MPDOs, and Tahsildars from Atmakur, Anantapur Rural, and Raptadu mandals were present. Sunitha emphasized that all deserving families in rural areas must be allotted 3 cents of house sites as per the newly issued government orders. She warned officials to avoid the mistakes committed during the previous government’s housing initiatives, where irregularities were rampant in the distribution of pattas and execution of construction. The MLA reviewed the status of NTR Housing from 2016 to 2019, particularly focusing on pend-



ing house constructions, survey processes through mobile apps, and the progress under PMAY-BLC schemes. She inquired about the number of houses completed between 2021 and 2024 and sought full data on under-construction homes and those who received pattas but are yet to take possession. She instructed officials to reclaim pattas that were issued but never brought under possession and criticized the previous administration’s failure to maintain accurate records — pointing out that

in several cases, even the location of allotted plots couldn’t be traced. Paritala Sunitha asked the officials to assess where government lands are currently available and identify viable private lands if necessary. She directed that a comprehensive list be prepared of individuals without homes so that site pattas can be distributed systematically. Stressing on inter-departmental coordination, she advised revenue and housing officials to work together efficiently to avoid systemic collapse as witnessed previously.



YCP Brokers Now Circle TDP Office: AB Rao

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Former IPS officer and TDP senior leader A.B. Venkateswara Rao launched a scathing attack on certain individuals who recently joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), accusing them of continuing their “broker-style politics” under a new banner. Speaking at a press conference, Rao referred to these individuals as “YCP bulls” who have now switched sides only to protect the illegal wealth amassed during the YSRCP’s regime. He alleged that they have no real purpose except for lobbying and manipulating the system for personal gain. “These people have no genuine political or public service intentions,” Rao said. “They spend their entire day roaming around party offices, not to serve the public, but to find out whom to pressure, whom to threaten, or whom to emotionally exploit — all for money.” He accused them of turning politics into a brokerage business, stating that their entire focus is on earning money through influence rather than participating in any meaningful political or developmental activity. Rao further emphasized that such individuals are already trying to dominate party affairs within TDP and called upon party leadership to take strong disciplinary action. “These people are degrading the values and reputation of our party. They must be reined in before they cause further damage,” he warned. Rao’s comments reflect growing concerns within TDP about opportunistic defections and internal sabotage. He urged the party to act decisively against such elements and restore clean political practices. Rao concluded by reiterating that the Telugu Desam Party must not allow its platform to be hijacked by those who previously contributed to the corruption and decay of the YSRCP government.

PVN Madhav Pays Tribute to Freedom Icons

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Bharatiya Janata Party’s Andhra Pradesh unit observed July 23 as a day of remembrance and reverence, marking the birth anniversaries of two towering figures in India’s struggle for independence: Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Chandra Shekhar Azad. Speaking on the occasion, AP BJP Chief PVN Madhav paid homage to their enduring legacies and their undying commitment to Bharat Mata. Madhav recalled Chandra Shekhar Azad’s legendary declaration, “My name is Azad, my father’s name is Swaraj, my home is the prison,” underscoring the revolutionary’s willingness to sacrifice life and liberty for the nation. He noted that Azad’s fearless actions and inspirational leadership galvanized countless young Indians to join the freedom movement. On Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Madhav highlighted his proclamation, “Swaraj is my birthright,” and his innovative use of public festivals such as Ganesh Utsav and Shivaji Jayanti to foster unity and national pride among citizens. Tilak’s blend of cultural revival and political activism, Madhav said, played a pivotal role in awakening the masses to the cause of self-rule. “These two leaders, with their clarion calls and relentless spirit, laid the foundation for India’s independence struggle,” Madhav stated. “Their sacrifices and ideas remain a guiding light for every Indian today.” The BJP leader urged party workers and citizens alike to draw inspiration from Tilak and Azad’s lives, emphasizing the importance of unity, courage, and dedication in serving the nation. The tribute concluded with a pledge to uphold their principles in contemporary efforts to strengthen India’s democratic fabric.

86,000 Families Identified Under P4: Collector

TPN Correspondent |
NTR District

In a bid to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainable development, NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha urged women industrialists from the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) to actively participate in the government's 'P4' initiative—People's Participation for Poverty-free Prosperous Andhra Pradesh.

During a special meeting held at the Collectorate on Wednesday, the Collector emphasized the need for women entrepreneurs to act as mentors and

support underprivileged families, referred to as "Bangaru Kutumbalu" (Golden Families). He highlighted that the government aims to eliminate poverty completely by 2047, and the P4 initiative plays a crucial role in achieving this vision.

Under the P4 strategy, economically sound individuals or institutions adopt identified poor families and support them until they achieve stability in key aspects such as education, health, livelihood, and skill development. The Collector stated that mentors are

expected to guide families by understanding their challenges and helping them overcome barriers to economic and social upliftment.

So far, around 86,000 Bangaru Kutumbalu have been identified across the district, with over 3,700 mentors already coming forward, which he appreciated as a commendable step. He urged FLO members to extend their support by adopting families either personally or through their organizations.

Responding positively, FLO Vijayawada representatives as-

sured the Collector that they would soon conduct a meeting to finalize the selection of families for adoption and extend support. They described the P4 program as a unique and meaningful approach to grassroots poverty eradication and acknowledged their social responsibility to be part of it.

Senior FLO officials including Vice Chairperson Supriya Malineni, Secretary Sumabindu Atluri, Treasurer Tuljabhavaneni Devineni, Joint Secretary Deepti Chalasani, and District Industries Officer B. Sambayya participated in the meeting.



VMC Holds Disaster Management Review Meet



TPN Correspondent |
Vijayawada

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) held a comprehensive meeting on disaster management at its new building's conference hall on Wednesday. The session, conducted under the aegis of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, was led by VMC Additional

Commissioner (Projects) Dr. D. Chandrasekhar. Officials from various departments attended the session, which focused on holistic preparedness against disasters. The agenda included discussions on identifying types of disasters, prevention strategies, actions during a disaster, and post-disaster recovery mechanisms. The

meeting also examined global and national best practices and deliberated on how such models could be adapted for local needs.

Dr. Chandrasekhar highlighted that Vijayawada had faced a severe disaster last year and stressed the importance of being prepared at all times.

"We may not predict when and how disasters strike, but we must ensure that the city has detailed protocols in place," he said. He further noted that VMC has already identified rehabilitation centers and shared emergency contact numbers with at-risk areas to enable quick and effective community re-

sponse.

The meeting emphasized community awareness and coordination among civic bodies, traffic, transport, and power departments.

Officials also reviewed the standard operating procedures to ensure a swift and coordinated response during any future emergencies.

Key participants included Chief City Planner Sanjay Ratnakumar, Traffic Inspector A. Umamaheswara Rao, RTO In-charge R. Praveen, BGL Assistant Manager Sra-
vanthi, APCDCL Deputy Executive Engineer M.V.V. Ramakrishna, Program Officer Dhanunjay Rao, and several other VMC staff members.

AI to Monitor BC Hostels: Minister Savitha



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh BC Welfare Minister S. Savitha announced the implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to monitor Backward Classes (BC) hostels, with a dedicated app in development to enhance accountability. Speaking at a review meeting with BC Welfare Department officials, DBCWEOs, and ABCWEOs in Vijayawada, she emphasized improving hostel management.

Minister Savitha directed that admissions to BC hostels be completed by August 5, with repairs and toilet construction finalized by August 30, funded by ₹13 crore from the government. All hostels will have RO plants, CCTV cameras, and inverters installed. She stressed that Hostel Welfare Officers (HWOs) must stay overnight, ensuring accountability through a tour diary submitted by the 5th of

each month. HWOs were instructed to treat students like their own children, ensuring quality meals with fine rice.

Under the P-4 model, inspired by CM Chandrababu Naidu, BC hostels will be adopted by mentors to improve infrastructure and education. CSR funds will be mobilized for development. The Adarana 3.0 scheme will provide modern tools to artisans, with ₹1,000 crore allocated. Free sewing training for women has been successful, and Minister Savitha directed BC Corporation officials to facilitate marketing for their products.

The meeting included BC Welfare Secretary S. Satyanarayana, MJP Schools Secretary Madhavilatha, and officials from 26 districts. The coalition government prioritizes BC students' education and welfare, ensuring quality food and safety through AI monitoring.

ACME Solar secures 275 MW/550 MWh storage deal

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

ACME Solar Holdings has signed Battery Energy Storage Purchase Agreements with NHPC for a combined capacity of 275 MW/550 MWh across two standalone BESS projects. The agreements were executed on July 22, 2025 through wholly owned subsidiaries and follow the Letter of Award issued on July 8.

The first project comprises 50 MW/100 MWh secured at a tariff of INR 210,000 per MW per month, and the second covers 225 MW/450 MWh at INR 222,000 per MW per month. Both were awarded through an e reverse auction on June 24, 2025.

The projects fall under the Government of India's Viability Gap Funding scheme, entitling developers to Rs 27 lakh per MWh or 30 percent of total project cost, whichever is lower.

Strategic customer identification in Andhra Pradesh, which provides the land and evacuation infrastructure, enabled rapid transition from LOA to agreement signing. The standalone installations are expected to be commissioned within 18 months.

By absorbing surplus power during off peak hours and dispatching it during peak demand, the BESS solutions will enhance grid stability and facilitate higher penetration of variable renewable sources such as solar and wind. ACME Solar will adopt a "BESS as a service" model, making capacity charges payable under this pioneering framework. This milestone marks a significant advancement in India's energy storage sector and strengthens ACME Solar's portfolio through large scale battery procurement and deployment.



Dr. Lata Baswaraj Patne, Judicial Member and Head of the Department, Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Hyderabad Bench, has met Governor of Andhra Pradesh S. Abdul Nazeer at Raj Bhavan in Vijayawada on Wednesday, on a courtesy visit

Successful Passport Drive Conducted at CRDA Office

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), in collaboration with the Regional Passport Office, Vijayawada, successfully organized a two-day Passport Drive at the CRDA Office in Thulluru on 22nd and 23rd July 2025. This initiative was aimed at facilitating easy access to passport services for residents of Amaravati and the capital region.

On 22nd July, a total of 30 applicants participated, of which 27 were successfully processed. On 23rd July, 37 applicants attended, and 25 passports were processed. The drive was effectively carried out under the supervision of Mohanthy, Officer from the Regional Passport Authority, along with his team, who managed the entire process with dedication and efficiency.

The services provided included new passport issuance and renewals. Applicants were required to register online, and carry both original and Xerox copies of their date of birth and address proof documents. Married applicants were also instructed to submit a joint photograph of both husband and wife. The passport drive witnessed a good response from residents and was conducted smoothly at the CRDA Office premises.

Building on the success of this initiative, another passport drive is scheduled to be held on 25th July 2025, with provision for 30 applicants. Residents who wish to avail of this service are requested to register through the official passport portal and share their ARN number with the designated contact person, Shanker Chatur, at 9848424207.

RTI Awareness Boosts Transparency

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

In compliance with the directives issued by the Andhra Pradesh Government, the Cooperation Department of NTR district organized an awareness program on the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 for its district, mandal, and village-level officers. The session was held at the meeting hall of the Krishna District Cooperative Central Bank Regional Office.

The awareness program was conducted as per the orders of the Commissioner of the Cooperation Department. The session aimed to enhance the understanding of RTI provisions among field-level officials and ensure better service delivery through transparent and accountable governance.

Renowned RTI expert Mallikarjuna Prasad conducted the workshop as the faculty resource person. During the session, he elaborated on the key provisions, responsibilities of Public Information Officers (PIOs), and the procedures involved in handling information requests under the RTI Act.

District Cooperative Officer Dr. Srinivas Reddy, District Cooperative Audit Officer Ajitha Kumari, Divisional Cooperative Officer Kiran

Kumar, and other staff members from the Cooperation Department actively participated in the program.

Speaking at the event, officials emphasized that the RTI Act plays a critical role in strengthening de-



mocracy and empowering citizens. They highlighted that providing timely and accurate information to the public helps build trust and ensures accountability in the functioning of government departments.

The officials lauded the initiative, stating that such awareness programs are essential to equip field officers with legal knowledge and practical skills to handle RTI applications efficiently. They also underlined the need to conduct similar programs across all departments for improved public service delivery.

Kovvur Politics in Turmoil

TPN | Trinadha Rao Garaga

Kovvur (East Godavari), once known for its peaceful political landscape, is now witnessing growing unrest and factionalism. Historically, political unity prevailed in this constituency since 1983, with all party workers standing united during elections. However, recent developments point to a widening rift within the local TDP cadre. The root of the unrest can be traced back to January 26, when flexis featuring SC Commission Chairman K.S. Jawahar were erected in Domme-



ru village by a group of individuals. That initial event sparked controversy, which has continued to simmer. Rajeev Krishna, son-in-

law of former MLA Pendyala Krishnababu and former advisor during the YSRCP government, joined TDP under the leadership of Nara

Lokesh after the party's defeat. His supporters later put up flexis including Jawahar's image, leading to internal clashes within the TDP. During a party meeting at the Kovvur TDP office, several local leaders expressed anger over Rajeev Krishna's entry without consulting grassroots workers. They alleged that Jawahar covertly supported Rajeev's induction. Subsequently, the party appointed Jawahar as SC Commission Chairman, further fuelling internal resentment. The tension reignited re-

cently during the swearing-in event of Pasive-dala Society Chairman, when unknown persons allegedly removed flexis bearing Jawahar's photo. Dalit groups accused senior TDP leader and Andhra Sugars MD Pendyala Achyutaramaiah of being behind the incident. In response, Dalit leaders met MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao at the TDP office, voicing concerns over being targeted with police cases. The MLA assured them that he would immediately speak to the party's state leadership and resolve the issue.

DMHO Warns Unregistered Hospitals

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centers, and laboratories in Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore district have been warned to ensure valid registration under the Andhra Pradesh Allopathic Private Medical Care Establishments Act, 2002 and Rules, 2007. District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. V. Sujatha instructed that all such establishments must be mandatorily registered with the district health department. She emphasized that any private medical establishment whose registration has exceeded the five-year validity must apply for renewal online at least one month before expiry. Failure to register or renew within the stipulated time will result in strict action under the existing Act, she warned. Dr. Sujatha has directed the concerned field-level medical and health staff to collect data on whether private establishments functioning under primary and

urban health centers have valid registrations or renewals. The collected data must be submitted to the district health office within a week. To strengthen enforcement, seven district, divisional, and program officers have been appointed to conduct surprise inspections. They have been clearly instructed to conduct extensive checks in their allotted areas to verify compliance with the Act. These officials will also oversee the ongoing survey being conducted by field-level staff regarding registration status. Dr. Sujatha stated that once the survey results are in, the department will take action against those running private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centers, or labs in violation of the law. She reiterated that all private health establishments must prioritize compliance to avoid legal consequences. The department aims to ensure that all health services op-



erate with transparency, accountability, and proper authorization, to safeguard public health standards.

LIC Carrom & Chess Tourney Begins



TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry

The LIC South Central Zone Carrom and Chess Tournaments began on July 23 at Surya Gardens, J.N. Road, Rajahmundry, under the auspices of the LIC Rajahmundry Division. The two-day competition was inaugurated by Satyanarayana Sahu, Senior Divisional Manager, LIC Rajahmundry, who encouraged participants and highlighted the value of sports in building teamwork and discipline. Eighty-two players representing Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka are competing across both men's and women's categories. The presence of former National Carrom Champion Smt. Nirmala and former World Carrom Champion Smt. Apoorva added prestige to the event, inspiring ama-

teur and professional players alike. LIC Sports Board Members Suresh and D.V.S.Y. Sharma are serving as official observers to ensure fair play and adherence to tournament standards. International Carrom Referee Shaik Abdul Zaleel is overseeing the carrom matches, while International Arbiter G.V. Kumar is supervising the chess games. Their expertise is expected to elevate the quality of officiating and maintain competitive integrity. The opening ceremony, presided over by M. Poornachandra Rao, Manager (P&IR), LIC Rajahmundry Division, underscored the organization's commitment to fostering employee engagement beyond the workplace. He urged all players to display their best skills and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Father-Son Duo Brutally Murdered Over Real Estate Dispute

TPN Correspondent | Palnadu

Tension gripped Palnadu and Bapatla districts after a father and son duo were brutally murdered, allegedly over real estate and financial disputes. The victims, Veeraswamy Reddy and Prashanth Reddy, long settled in Bengaluru, were engaged in real estate dealings. A dispute with business associate Gaddam Anil Kumar Reddy over financial transactions reportedly led to their kidnapping and murder. According to police, the victims were facing multiple cheque bounce cases in Ongole, Addanki, and Narasaraopet courts. On Tuesday evening, the duo arrived by flight to attend a court hearing scheduled for Wednesday in Narasaraopet, staying overnight at a local lodge. The next morning, they were kidnapped by six unidentified men outside a hotel near the court after breakfast. Their bodies were later found at a private real estate venture near Santamaguluru. Following the incident, Palnadu SP Kanchi Srinivasarao visited the crime scene and gathered details from their advocate Nagabhushanam. Investigations revealed that Anil Reddy was present at the court premises during the abduction. Police have taken him into custody for questioning. They also suspect Badam Madhava Reddy, a former YSRCP leader from Darsi, Prakasam district, as the main conspirator. The attackers are believed to be members of a local gang from Santamaguluru mandal. Efforts are on to trace and apprehend them.

Peddapuram's Red Light Streets Reemerge

TPN Correspondent | Kakinada

Peddapuram's streets have witnessed a troubling revival of prostitution, with red light activities spreading across multiple neighborhoods despite past crackdowns. Local residents report that lanes once free of vice now resemble notorious red light districts, as brothel operators openly solicit clients and lure vulnerable women from other regions. According to victims and witnesses, traffickers send invitations promising safe work before forcing women into rooms equipped with flashy LEDs and luxury bedding. Rates start at ₹500 per half hour, rise to ₹3,000 for an hour, and can exceed ₹10,000 if clients take women offsite. Many of the trafficked women are under 20, and numerous cases involve minors deceived with false marriage promises. Complaints filed at the Peddapuram police station allege that brothel managers attacked those who intervened or threatened exposure. In one horrific incident, traffickers from the Simma Sunny network detained and assaulted a minor from Anakapalli who escaped and sought medical care at Visakhapatnam's KGH;

her mother reported the crime, leading to arrests under the PITA Act and assault charges. Law enforcement temporarily sealed three brothels in 2022 on RD O orders, but operators obtained court release orders and resumed operations covertly. Police inspectors reportedly refuse to register new cases unless ordered by higher officials, leaving residents feeling powerless. Many brothel managers now openly warn that lower ranked officers "can't touch us," emboldening them to expand their trade. A violent clash last month saw Subba Reddy of Kakinada brutally murdered by rival brothel associates, his body abandoned behind a rice mill. Subsequent investigations unraveled the Sunny group's involvement, but locals say police response remains sluggish. Social workers and local leaders are calling for decisive action: immediate re sealing of illicit houses, strict enforcement of anti trafficking laws, and protection for survivors. Without swift intervention, Peddapuram risks backsliding into a red light town, endangering hundreds of women and tarnishing its reputation.



Advocate Loses RS.3.5 Lakh in APK Scam

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

A Tirupati advocate fell victim to a sophisticated cyber fraud after receiving an unsolicited APK application link on his phone. The fraudsters sent the link to the advocate's number, claiming it was an official banking update. Upon installing and opening the APK file, the malware silently transferred ₹3,50,999 from his primary account, then moved cash across two additional accounts and finally into eight separate wallets controlled by the criminals. Unaware of the breach until notified by his bank, the lawyer immediately contacted the national Cyber Help Desk at 1930 to report the

incident. The victim, a resident of Peruru Panchayat in Vidyanagar Colony, filed a formal complaint at the Tirupati Rural Police Station. Police officials have registered a case and begun an investigation, warning citizens to avoid installing apps from unverified sources. They advised smartphone users to download software only from official app stores, verify sender credentials, and enable two-factor authentication on all financial apps. The cyber cell has urged anyone receiving suspicious APK links to report them immediately to the Cyber Help Desk or local police to prevent further losses.



TPN Correspondent | East Godavari

Heavy sea waves battered Mayapatnam village in Kothapalli mandal, East Godavari district,

causing severe flooding after coastal protection measures failed to withstand the force of nature. Swells breached compromised geo-tube structures

DCM Orders Relief for Flood-Hit Mayapatnam

and damaged protective walls, allowing seawater to inundate several streets and enter ground floor homes. Residents are reportedly wading through knee-deep saltwater, unable to leave their houses. The recurring threat of seawater intrusion has sparked concern among locals, especially fishermen and farmers, who fear for their homes and livelihoods. They have demanded permanent

solutions to prevent future erosion and flooding. In response, Deputy Minister Pawan Kalyan conducted a high-level review with the Kakinada district administration. Officials informed him that several houses had been affected due to the powerful tidal activity along the Uppada coast. Taking serious note, Pawan Kalyan directed authorities to immediately provide essential supplies such as food,

milk, and drinking water to the villagers. He also instructed them to deploy medical teams and ensure the availability of emergency medicines. Emergency teams have been mobilized to pump out floodwater into the Bay of Bengal and reinforce vulnerable areas with temporary sandbag walls. Plans are also being prepared for long-term and more durable coastal defense projects. The Deputy CM asked for

a full assessment of the existing infrastructure, including the damaged geo-tubes and sea walls, and emphasized the need for enhanced preparedness in light of the ongoing heavy rain forecasts. Pawan Kalyan reiterated that protecting the lives and livelihoods of the people in vulnerable coastal regions is a top priority and ordered the official machinery to stay on high alert for further emergencies.



Neglect of Plant Scientist J.C. Bose by Agricultural University Raises Concern

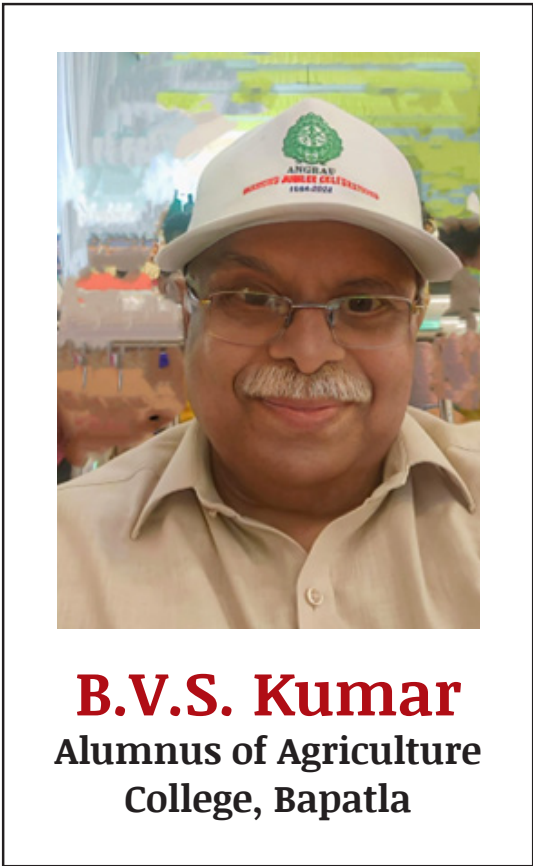
Prof. Jagadish Chandra Bose, a world-renowned Indian plant scientist, biologist, physicist, and botanist, has left an indelible mark on the global scientific community. Born on November 30, 1858, he was a pioneer in the study of radio and microwave optics and made groundbreaking contributions to plant physiology. India has honored his legacy by naming esteemed institutions such as the J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology in Faridabad, Haryana after him.

In Andhra Pradesh, one of the most prominent institutions in the field of agricultural sciences is the Agricultural College, Bapatla, which celebrated its Platinum Jubilee just a year ago. Established in 1945 under the Composite Madras State and initially affiliated with Andhra University, the college has played a pivotal role in producing generations of agricultural scientists and professionals.

The college's historic association with Prof. J.C. Bose is symbolized through the "J.C. Bose Life Science Building," a landmark structure inaugurated in the late 1960s. The building was named to honor the scientific legacy of Prof. Bose and housed key departments and classrooms where generations of students attended lectures and wrote their examinations.

In 2015, the university undertook a redevelopment project, demolishing the aging structure to make way for a more modern facility. Funded by NABARD under its RIDF-XX scheme, the new building was inaugurated by the then NABARD Chairman Sri C. Govinda Rajulu, himself an alumnus of the college. However, to the surprise and disappointment of alumni and well-wishers, the newly constructed building was christened "College Annex Building," omitting the name of J.C. Bose entirely. This move has sparked widespread dismay among alumni and academic circles. Over 14,000 students have graduated from this historic campus, many of whom hold prestigious positions in government, academia, industry, and civil society. For them, the J.C. Bose Building was more than just a physical structure—it was a place filled with formative memories and deep academic engagement.

In response, concerned alumni have come together to demand the rightful restoration of the building's original dedication. Leading this initiative are



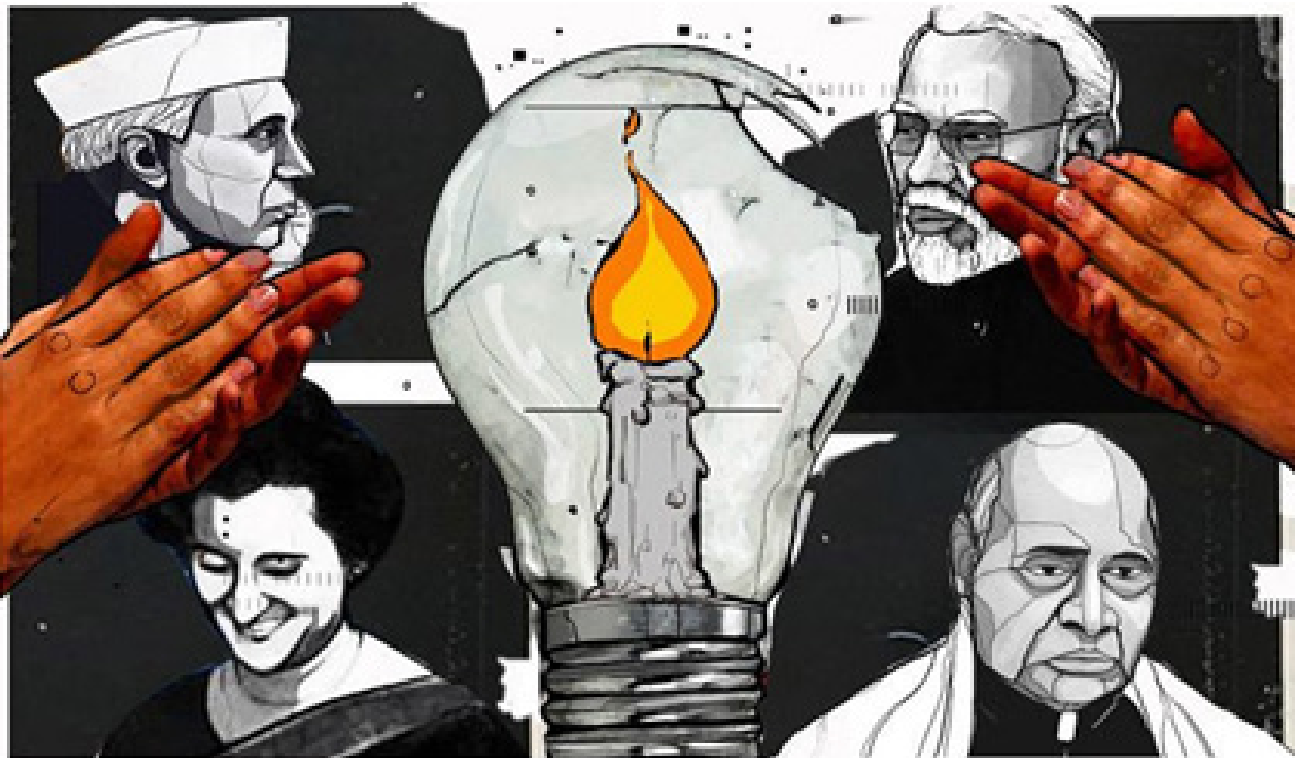
B.V.S. Kumar
Alumnus of Agriculture
College, Bapatla

Mr. B.V.S. Kumar, former Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee, Krishna District, and Mr. K.S. Sai Baba, retired IFS officer and former Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Karnataka, the alumni of this college. Through active discussions on alumni social media groups and formal representation to the Vice Chancellor of Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), they have urged the university to reinstate the name "J.C. Bose Life Science Building," but nothing materialized so far.

The appeal is grounded not only in sentiment but also in principle. Honoring legendary Indian scientists like Prof. Bose is crucial to preserving the scientific heritage of our country. It also serves as an inspiration to future generations who walk through the corridors of such esteemed institutions.

The alumni firmly believe that neglecting the name of a scientist of J.C. Bose's stature is not just an oversight but a disservice to India's scientific legacy. They hope the university will act swiftly and affirmatively to restore the original name, ensuring that the legacy of Prof. J.C. Bose continues to live on in the minds of students and scholars alike.

Why India Needs a New Forum of Free Enterprise Moment



This week's National Interest is sparked by three sharply relevant and interconnected developments that point toward an unsettling trend in India's economic and intellectual discourse: the creeping return of old, failed economic instincts.

The first trigger is the viral circulation of a misleading social media post that conflated India's GDP with the wealth of its billionaires, claiming it exposes the country's worsening inequality. While India does have serious inequality issues, the post reflects a broader confusion—GDP is annual national income, whereas wealth is accumulated assets. Many smart and well-meaning people fell for this argument, showing how deeply emotional narratives rooted in old "povertarian" thinking still resonate—even 33 years after the 1991 reforms.

India's stock market capitalization—around \$6 trillion—has little to do with annual GDP figures. The wealth of industrialists like Ambani, Adani, Tata, and others is largely market-based. The ma-

ajority of India's 1.42 billion people contribute to GDP, but not everyone accumulates comparable wealth. This misunderstanding, though romantic, reveals how anti-capitalist sentiment still finds an audience, even among the educated.

The second trigger concerns India's steel industry. Steelmakers are lobbying for more import duties, pushing domestic steel prices to among the highest in the world. The burden falls on everyday Indians—whether building homes or buying scooters, tractors, or even kitchen utensils. Worse, 20% of the steel required by India's automotive sector isn't manufactured locally. Yet, a protectionist government remains unmoved, stalling industry and choking MSMEs.

FDI inflows have halved in recent years—from \$56 billion in 2019-20 to \$26.8 billion in 2023-24—and India's trade is stagnant. Growth is slipping; the RBI just revised GDP forecasts downward to 6.6%.

The third trigger is personal and symbolic. The writer recalls at-

tending an event hosted by the Forum of Free Enterprise (FFE) in the Emergency era, a pivotal moment in shaping his economic worldview. Founded in 1956 by A.D. Shroff as a counter to Nehruvian socialism, the FFE stood firm against government overreach, nationalisation, and the licence-quota raj. Supported by intellectual heavyweights like Nani Palkhivala, Minoo Masani, and H.T. Parekh, the FFE was once a vibrant platform defending free markets and economic liberty.

But since the 1991 reforms, the FFE's momentum has faded. It no longer has the visibility or influence to counter the resurgence of protectionism, government overreach, and economic nationalism. At a time when India needs bold voices for reform and resistance against creeping statism, institutions like the FFE are missing in action.

As Shroff once argued, it is not capitalism but socialist overreach that endangers democracy and freedom. That truth matters more now than ever.

Finding Meaning in the Age of AI: Reclaiming Humanity in a Digital World

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to redefine how we live, work, and interact, an urgent question arises: How do we preserve meaning and purpose in a world increasingly run by machines? The AI era, while marked by unprecedented innovation, is also triggering deep existential anxieties.

Take, for instance, a doctor deeply committed to healing her patients through human insight and empathy. Suddenly, AI outperforms her in diagnostics and treatment protocols. Her role feels diminished, and so does her sense of purpose. Similarly, a farm labourer proud of his honest toil watches helplessly as AI-powered machinery renders him irrelevant—leaving him disoriented in a life he once found meaningful.

In the gig economy, a food delivery worker navigates pothole-filled roads under harsh weather, only to be evaluated by cold, impersonal AI metrics. He becomes a cog in an algorithmic wheel, his human struggles unacknowledged, his autonomy steadily eroded. A schoolteacher relying entirely on AI-generated content soon loses her pedagogical identity, feeling alienated from the profession she once pursued with passion.

These are not isolated cases. They signal a growing crisis of authenticity, freedom, and identity. While humanity has always



faced existential questions, AI accelerates and intensifies them. From Socrates, who championed critical self-examination, to Kafka, Sartre, and Camus, thinkers have long warned about losing oneself in systems that strip agency and meaning from life.

Camus' Sisyphus—eternally pushing a boulder uphill—epitomises the absurd struggle for purpose. Sartre's insistence on living with freedom and authenticity resonates now more than ever. Kafka's alienated characters mirror the psychological estrangement people feel when governed by algorithmic systems. Harari reminds us that much of modern life runs on fictional narratives—some of which AI is now writing for us.

But there is a way forward. By embracing Socratic questioning,

we can challenge the unchecked flow of AI-generated content and distinguish truth from illusion. Sartre's existentialism teaches us to reclaim responsibility, even in constrained systems. Camus urges us to confront absurdity with defiance, and Kafka reminds us to prioritise genuine human connection over digital substitutes.

AI is not inherently dangerous. But when we blindly accept its dominance or fail to critically engage with its presence, we risk losing the very essence of what makes us human. In an AI-shaped world, preserving meaning demands more than technological adaptation—it calls for self-awareness, critical thinking, and authentic engagement. Only then can we reclaim freedom, agency, and purpose in our lives.

India to Resume Tourist Visas for Chinese Citizens

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant diplomatic development, India will resume issuing tourist visas to Chinese citizens starting July 24, 2025 — marking the first such move in five years. The decision, announced by the Indian Embassy in Beijing on Wednesday, comes after a prolonged suspension that began with the COVID-19 pandemic and was further compounded by the military standoff between the two nations in Eastern Ladakh in 2020.

The embassy stated that Chinese nationals can now apply for a tourist visa to India by completing an online application, booking an appointment, and submitting their passport and necessary documents in person at Indian Visa Application Centres in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. The statement also noted that any passport withdrawal requests must include an official withdrawal letter. India had halted all tourist visa services in early 2020 as part of pandemic containment efforts. Following that, bilateral relations sharply deteriorated due to the deadly Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020, which led to the worst border tensions between India and China in over six decades.

While China had gradually reopened visa issuance for Indian students and business travellers, tourist visas had remained re-



stricted until now. The latest move signals a cautious thaw in ties, with India extending travel permissions to Chinese tourists for the first time since hostilities began.

In recent months, there have been signs of de-escalation. In October 2024, India and China announced a disengagement agreement at the remaining friction points of

Depsang and Demchok. Shortly afterward, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan, Russia, where they agreed to empower their Special Representatives to accelerate resolution of the ongoing boundary dispute. The resumption of tourist visas is being seen as a tentative step towards normalization of bilateral relations.

LS Polls in K'taka Stolen, Exposed EC's Game: RaGa

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday accused the ruling party of "stealing elections" in India, sparking widespread protests by the INDIA bloc both inside and outside Parliament. The unrest centered around the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, which the Opposition claims is being used to selectively delete voters.

Gandhi, speaking to the press outside Parliament, said the Congress had uncovered the mechanism of "vote theft" by analyzing voter data from a Lok Sabha constituency in Karnataka after the 2024 elections. "It took six months, but we have figured out their entire system — how votes are stolen, who is brought in, how voter lists are manipulated," he claimed. He added that the findings would be presented in detail to the public and the Election Commission (EC).



Gandhi alleged that similar tactics were used in Maharashtra, where he claimed over one crore new voters were added without transparency, and that the EC refused to share the voters' list or videography of the process. "They understood that we exposed them, so they changed the law and started

deleting voters in Bihar," he said.

Protests erupted in both Houses of Parliament. Members of the Opposition, wearing black clothes as a symbol of dissent, disrupted proceedings and later staged a demonstration at the steps of the Parliament building. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav even draped a black scarf around Rahul Gandhi, who was in his usual white T-shirt, to mark the protest.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla criticized the Opposition, calling their actions "street-like behavior." The Rajya Sabha also saw similar disruptions, with only MDMK leader Vaiko speaking during Zero Hour.

Legislative business continued briefly with the introduction of the National Sports Governance Bill and the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, but debates were cut short due to the uproar.



Muslim population in Assam will be almost equal to Hindus by 2041: CM

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday made a striking demographic projection, claiming that if current trends persist, the Muslim population in Assam will nearly equal the Hindu population by 2041.

Speaking at a press conference following a state cabinet meeting, Sarma said that according to the 2011 Census, Muslims constituted approximately 34% of Assam's population. Of that figure, he said, around 31% were Muslims who had migrated to Assam in earlier decades, while only 3% were indigenous Assamese Muslims.

"This is not my opinion, it is based on Census data," the Chief Minister stated. "If you project the same trend into the future — for 2021, 2031, and 2041 — the demographic balance will be close to 50:50. That's what the statistics suggest," he claimed.

Sarma's remarks come amid ongoing political discourse over illegal migration and its impact on Assam's demographic structure, a long-standing issue in the state's politics.

When asked whether indigenous Assamese communities risk becoming a minority, Sarma did not directly answer but emphasized that he was only quoting official data and making a statistical projection. He added that the state's future policies would continue to focus on preserving the cultural and demographic integrity of the indigenous population.

The Chief Minister has previously made headlines for his strong stance on issues of illegal migration, border security, and identity preservation in Assam. His government has also launched several initiatives aimed at population control and community development, particularly in Muslim-majority areas.

While critics may view Sarma's comments as politically charged, he framed them as a factual reading of demographic trends. The statement is likely to reignite debate over Assam's population policy and migration issues ahead of the next census and elections.

Bihar Assembly Uproar Over Voter List Revision

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls sparked heated debates for the third consecutive day in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, with the Opposition cornering the government over the controversial drive's timing and execution.

Speaker Nand Kishor Yadav, after sustained protest by the Opposition, allowed a discussion on the issue despite Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's objection. The move opened the floor for Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav to launch a scathing critique of the Election Commission's process.

Yadav reiterated that the Opposition was not against updating the rolls but questioned the "urgency, transparency, and fairness" of the exercise. "The right to vote is guaranteed by the Constitution to every citizen above 18, regardless of social or economic status. This equality is non-negotiable," he stated.

He raised concerns about the documentation required for inclusion in the revised rolls, noting that many poor and marginalized citizens lacked the 11 documents reportedly being demanded. "Why are Aadhaar cards, ration cards, or MNREGA cards being rejected, even though the Supreme Court has supported their use?" he asked. Yadav also accused the Election Commission of operating in opacity. "A major



democratic exercise is underway, yet no senior official has come forward to clarify the process. Instead, all information is being leaked anonymously," he said.

Highlighting logistical issues, he questioned why the SIR was launched during the monsoon season — a time when Bihar's rural mobility and document access are heavily impacted. "The last major revision in 2003 took nearly two years. What's the rush now, especially so close to the Lok Sabha elections?"

The Opposition continues to press for greater transparency and inclusion in the voter verification process, warning of disenfranchisement among vulnerable communities if reforms are not made.

India Rejects UK Media Report on Air India Crash Victim Misidentification

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian government has strongly dismissed claims made in a British media report that the bodies of victims in the June 12 Air India plane crash were misidentified and sent to the wrong families in the UK.

Responding to the allegations published by the Daily Mail, which quoted two unnamed British families alleging serious errors in the repatriation of their loved ones' remains, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a firm rebuttal on Wednesday.

"All mortal remains were handled with utmost professionalism and with due regard for the dignity of the deceased," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. He added that Indian authorities followed all established protocols and technical procedures for identification before repatriating the bodies.

The tragic crash of Air India Flight AI-231 in Ahmedabad claimed the lives of all 241 people on board, including 53 British nationals. In the aftermath, the MEA confirmed that it had been in close coordination with UK authorities to ensure that the victims' remains were identified and returned appropriately.

"We have seen the report and have been working

closely with the UK side from the moment these concerns and issues were brought to our attention," Jaiswal said. He also noted that India continues to engage with British officials to address any specific concerns raised by the families.

The Daily Mail report alleged that grieving relatives were subjected to renewed trauma after receiving the wrong remains, calling the process a "horrific



ic bungle." Indian officials, however, emphasized that identification was carried out using internationally accepted standards, and maintained that no mishandling took place.

The incident has drawn significant media attention in both countries, but India's response reaffirms its commitment to transparency and dignity in handling such sensitive matters.



Dam on upper reaches Brahmaputra will not impact India, Bangladesh: China

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

Beijing on Wednesday defended the construction of a massive hydropower dam on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, dismissing concerns raised by India and Bangladesh about its potential downstream impact. The project, located in Nyingchi City near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh, was formally announced by Chinese Premier Li Qiang over the weekend.

The dam, situated on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River (as the Brahmaputra is known in Tibet), is expected to generate over 300 billion kWh of electricity annually — enough to power 300 million people. However, the scale and location of the project have sparked alarm in India, with concerns over both environmental risks and strategic vulnerabilities.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun insisted that the project would not negatively affect lower riparian countries, emphasizing that China has communicated with India and Bangladesh, and continues to share hydrological data to aid in flood control and disaster management.

“China strictly adheres to the highest ecological and industrial standards,” Guo said. “This is part of our clean energy efforts and supports local livelihoods while addressing climate change.”

India, however, remains wary. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu recently described the dam as a ticking “water bomb” and a more serious threat than military tensions. He noted that China’s refusal to sign any international water treaty makes the project especially concerning, warning that China’s control over water flow could be used as a strategic tool.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh received assurances from Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen that the dam’s purpose is solely energy generation and will not reduce water flow.

Five jets shot down in Ind-Pakistan conflict which could have turned nuclear

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Washington has once again asserted that the United States, under President Donald Trump’s leadership, played a key role in recent de-escalations between India and Pakistan. However, India has strongly refuted the claim, maintaining that the ceasefire agreement following Operation Sindoor was initiated at Pakistan’s request, without any third-party mediation.

At a UN Security Council debate on ‘Multilateralism and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes,’ chaired by Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, U.S. Ambassador Dorothy Shea claimed that American diplomacy was instrumental in facilitating peaceful outcomes in several global flashpoints — including between India and Pakistan, Israel and Iran, and the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

“The United States continues to work with parties to disputes to find peaceful solutions,” Shea said. She praised recent resolutions and



urged all UN member states to follow the example of nations choosing diplomacy over conflict.

India, however, pushed back strongly. Ambassador Parvathane-

ni Harish, India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, clarified that Operation Sindoor — a focused strike on terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) — was a precise, non-escalatory action. Once India achieved its operational objectives, a ceasefire was concluded directly at Pakistan’s request.

“There is no one-size-fits-all approach to conflict resolution,” Harish stated, emphasizing India’s position that external mediation is neither needed nor accepted in India-Pakistan matters.

India also reaffirmed its commitment to global peace, stating that it remains engaged with the UN and international partners to promote stability and justice worldwide.

Meanwhile, the U.S. also took aim at China’s maritime claims in the South China Sea, condemning its ongoing defiance of the 2016 international tribunal ruling. Washington urged Beijing to respect international law and cease destabilizing actions in the region.

PM Modi’s Visit Will Boost Indian Tourism and Strengthen Ties: Nasheed

TPN Correspondent | Maldives

Male [Maldives], July 23 (ANI): Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed expressed optimism that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s upcoming visit to the Maldives will significantly enhance Indian tourist arrivals and reinforce long-standing bilateral ties between the two nations.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Nasheed said, “When relations are strong, everyone benefits. I believe the Prime Minister’s visit will further boost Indian tourist arrivals to the Maldives.” PM Modi is set to visit the island nation from July 25 to 26 as the guest of honour for the Maldives’ 60th Independence Day celebrations.

Nasheed highlighted the nearing completion of the Hanimadu Airport project, developed with In-



dian financial assistance. “Hanimadu Airport would be just a little over an hour from most of the southern Indian cities. There is a big opportunity for both countries to benefit,” he noted, emphasizing its potential to enhance regional connectivity and tourism.

Reflecting on broader economic cooperation, Nasheed credited India for helping the Maldives avoid a financial crisis. “If not for India, we would have gone default,” he stated, underlining how Indian assistance played a vital

role in maintaining the Maldives’ economic stability during tough times.

“Indian partnership is deeply valued,” he added. “It reflects mutual trust and regional solidarity, vital for the resilience of our nations.”

Nasheed reiterated the Maldives’ commitment to an ‘India-first’ foreign policy, acknowledging past shifts due to political changes but asserting that democracy has now allowed for more consistent diplomacy. “Today, across the political spectrum, the approach is firmly India-first,” he said.

PM Modi’s visit also aims to reset ties after recent tensions and will include high-level talks with President Mohamed Muizzu to review the India-Maldives Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership, marking 60 years of diplomatic relations.

Baloch Families Mark 7th Day of Islamabad Sit-In

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Baloch families have entered the seventh consecutive day of a peaceful sit-in protest in Islamabad, demanding the release of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders and an end to enforced disappearances in Balochistan.

Despite enduring heavy rain, the protestors — including women, children, and elderly members — have remained steadfast in their demonstration. Authorities have not permitted the families to set up a proper camp, and roads leading to the Islamabad Press Club remain sealed. Additionally, more surrounding roads have now been blocked by security forces.

To further isolate the demonstration from public view, authorities have strategically placed buses around the protest site, preventing citizens from seeing or engaging with the protestors. This move, protestors say, is an attempt to silence and erase their peaceful struggle for justice.

“The state’s response has been intimidation and suppression,” read a statement posted by the protest organizers on social media platform X (former-



ly Twitter). “Despite these efforts, the families remain resolute in their non-violent call for justice.”

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) is urging human rights defenders, journalists, and concerned citizens to stand in solidarity with the families who have traveled from Balochistan to Islamabad. They stress that the protest is not just about the release of their leaders but also against the larger issue of enforced disappearances that

have long plagued the region.

A heavy police presence has been reported at the site today, adding further pressure on the demonstrators. Still, the protest continues peacefully, with the families determined to remain until their demands are addressed.

The sit-in has become a powerful symbol of resistance and highlights the ongoing human rights concerns in Balochistan.

Obama Calls Trump’s 2016 ‘Treason’ Claim Outrageous and Bizarre

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former U.S. President Barack Obama has responded to Donald Trump’s recent “treason” accusations, dismissing them as a “weak attempt at distraction” from growing scrutiny over the Trump administration’s handling of the Jeffrey Epstein case.

Trump, speaking during a press event with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, called for Obama’s prosecution, citing a report by U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. The report alleged that officials from the Obama administration manipulated intelligence regarding Russia’s interference in the 2016 election — claims widely discredited by experts and lawmakers from both parties.

Obama spokesman Patrick Rodenbush issued a rare public response: “Out of respect for the office of the presidency, our office usually does not respond to the constant stream of misinformation. But these claims are outrageous and deserve a response. These bizarre allegations are a ridiculous and weak attempt at distraction.”

The report Gabbard released claimed Obama’s administration manufactured intelligence to support what she called a “years-long coup” against Trump. However, multiple investigations from 2019 to 2023 — including criminal, counterintelligence, and oversight probes — consistently confirmed Russian interference in the 2016 election in support of Trump.

A 2020 bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee report, led by then-Chairman Marco Rubio (now Secretary of State), concluded that the Trump campaign sought to “maximize the impact” of stolen Democratic documents leaked by Russian operatives. The report called Russia’s interference and the Trump team’s cooperation “one of the most grave counterintelligence threats to American national security in the modern era.”

Despite this, Trump accused Obama of being the “leader of the gang” in a conspiracy, also naming Joe Biden, James Comey, James Clapper, and John Brennan. Critics have dismissed his statements as a continued effort to deflect from legal and political pressure.

Indian Stock Markets Surge Sharply

Nifty Reclaims 25,200, Sensex Up 539 Points

Indian stock markets rallied on Wednesday. Benchmark indices closed with huge gains. The indices initially traded in a range-bound mode due to foreign institutional investors' withdrawal, mixed signals from global markets and lackluster US inflation data. After the afternoon, buying picked up and they reached new highs. Shares from banking, auto and finance sectors contributed to this. Overall, Nifty gained 159 points and Sensex 539 points. Nifty closed above the crucial 25,200 level, which is a positive development.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,186 in the previous session, opened at 82,451 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 82,279. It reached an intraday high of 82,786. It finally closed at 82,726 with a gain of 539 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,139, touched a low of 25,085 and a high of 25,233. It closed at 25,219, up 159 points. The Nifty Bank rose 454 points to settle at 57,210.

In the Nifty50, 38 companies gained and 12 lost. Tata Motors, Shriram Finance, Bharti Airtel, Apollo Hospitals and Bajaj Finance were the top gainers. Tata Consumer, Hindustan Uni-



lever, BEL, Ultratech Semi and Grasim were the biggest losers. Auto, finance, healthcare, bank, infra, private bank, oil, consumer durables, pharma, metal and PSU bank indices rose today. Realty, media and FMCG indices rose.

Market breadth on NSE today was equal for buyers and sellers. Out of a total of 3055 stocks traded, 1500 gained and 1462 lost. 71 shares touched their 52-week high and 25 touched their 52-week low. The upper circuit was 79 and the lower circuit was 58.

The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.41. In-

on Dixon Technologies with a target price of Rs 21,154. Citi maintained its buy rating on Paytm with a target price of Rs 1215.

Stock Recommendations

Tata Motors: These shares, which have been in a down-trend for a few months, are currently in the accumulation zone. A good base has been formed. Higher losses are being formed. The shares that closed at Rs. 690 on Wednesday should be bought in the Rs. 680 range through buy-on-dips. They should be held for a long time.



Adani Green Energy: These shares, which have been in a down-trend for a long time, are currently in the accumulation zone. A good base has been formed. Relative strength and momentum are increasing. The shares that closed at Rs. 1033 on Wednesday should be bought in the Rs. 100 range. They should be held for a long time.



MRPL: A bullish trend has started in these shares. Breakouts are being recorded with large volume. The momentum is good. Investors should take a position in the Rs. 150 range in this counter that closed at Rs. 155 on Wednesday.



Indus Tower: These shares are currently moving sideways. The trend is bullish. They have reversed at the 50-day moving averages. Investors should enter the Rs.400 range in this counter, which closed at Rs.405 on Thursday.

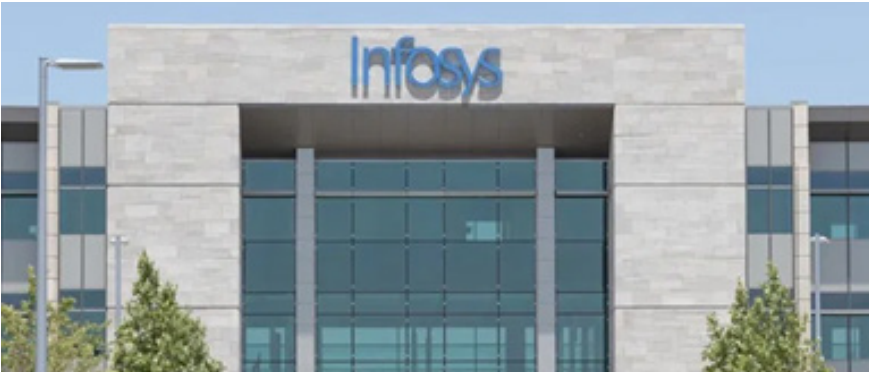


Biocon: These shares have currently reached the crucial Rs.400 level. Relative strength is good. Volatility has decreased. Investors should invest in this counter, which closed at Rs.396 on Wednesday, using the buy-on-dips method.



Infosys Q1 Profit Up 8.7% to ₹6,921 Cr

Plans to Hire 20,00 Freshers



Infosys Ltd reported a consolidated net profit of ₹6,921 crore for the first quarter of FY26, marking an 8.7% year-on-year rise from ₹6,368 crore in Q1 FY25. However, profit declined 1.5% sequentially from the previous quarter. Revenue from operations reached ₹42,279 crore, up 7.53% year-on-year and 3.3% quarter-on-quarter, driven by strong performance in AI offerings and large deal wins.

CEO and MD Salil Parekh said the Q1 performance reflects Infosys' leadership in enterprise AI and strong client relationships. "Our large deal wins of USD 3.8 billion demonstrate our competitive positioning," he stated during the earnings call.

With a strong start to the financial year, Infosys revised its full-year constant currency revenue growth guidance to 1–3%, raising the lower end from its earlier forecast of 0–3%. Margin guidance remains unchanged at 20–22%.

Parekh noted that AI-led demand

and client consolidation were key growth drivers. "We are seeing strong interest in AI agents, which is boosting our enterprise engagements," he said.

Infosys also reported a marginal increase in headcount by 210 employees during the quarter, bringing the total workforce to 3,23,788 — a 2.6% rise year-on-year. The company confirmed it is on track to hire 20,00 freshers during FY26.

Financial services continued to be the top revenue contributor at 27.9%, followed by manufacturing at 16.1% and retail at 13.4%. Geographically, North America contributed 56.5% of revenue, down from 58.9% in Q1 FY25, while Europe's share rose to 31.5% from 28.4%.

CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka attributed Europe's performance to strategic investments made in the region over recent years, while reaffirming the U.S. remains the company's largest market.

Gold Tops ₹1 Lakh, Silver Hits ₹1.15 Lakh/kg Record

Gold and silver prices soared to fresh highs on Wednesday, with both metals setting new benchmarks in the domestic market, supported by stable global cues and strong investor demand.

According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold surged by ₹1,025 to ₹1,00,533 per 10 grams, breaching the ₹1 lakh mark once again. The previous day, gold had closed at ₹99,508. Similarly, 22-carat gold rose to ₹92,088 per 10 grams from ₹91,149, while 18-carat gold increased to ₹75,400 per 10 grams from ₹74,631.

Silver saw an even sharper jump, hitting an all-time



high of ₹1,15,850 per kg, up ₹1,357 from ₹1,14,493. Since the beginning of 2025, silver has appreciated by over 34%, having been priced at ₹86,055 per kg on January 1.

In the futures market, the bullish momentum continued. On the Multi Commod-

ity Exchange (MCX), the gold contract for August 5 traded 0.17% higher at ₹1,00,500, while the silver contract for September 5 rose 0.58% to ₹1,16,323.

Global trends, however, were mixed. On COMEX, gold slipped marginally by

0.08% to \$3,441.10 per ounce, while silver climbed 0.52% to \$39.76 per ounce.

Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities noted that gold remained range-bound near record highs, buoyed by stable global prices and a steady rupee. He expects gold to trade between ₹99,000 and ₹1,01,500 on MCX in the short term, pending further cues from upcoming U.S. economic data, particularly the Manufacturing and Services PMI reports.

Silver, by contrast, continues to display strong upward momentum both domestically and internationally, driven by industrial demand and investor interest.

Indian Cities to Create 70% of Jobs by 2030, Face \$5B Flood Risk: World Bank

New Delhi: Indian cities are poised to become the engines of economic growth by 2030, creating nearly 70% of the country's jobs. However, they also face significant risks, including a potential annual loss of \$5 billion due to urban flooding, according to a new World Bank report.

Released in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the report highlights the urgent need for Indian cities to enhance their climate resilience. It estimates that building climate-resilient infrastructure and services will require a massive investment of \$2.4 trillion by 2050.

At the report's launch, World Bank Country Director for India, Auguste Tano Kouame, emphasized the importance of empowering urban local bodies (ULBs). "Cities that have greater autonomy and decision-making power have consistently outperformed others in adapting to climate risks," he said.

Despite the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992, which gave constitutional recognition to ULBs to promote local self-governance, many still face challenges in financing and implementing climate adaptation projects. The report urges decentralization of authority and finances to enable cities to respond more effectively to the growing threats posed by climate change.



Urban flooding, heatwaves, water scarcity, and poor waste management are among the key risks identified. With India rapidly urbanizing, the report calls for a comprehensive overhaul of urban planning to integrate climate risk management and sustainability into city development.

Experts at the event stressed that climate-resilient infrastructure is not only essential for safeguarding livelihoods but also for sustaining long-term economic growth. The World Bank recommends creating dedicated funding mechanisms, improving access to green finance, and strengthening data systems for risk assessment and urban planning.

Without timely action, the report warns that urban climate risks could severely undermine India's growth potential in the coming decades.

Navi Mumbai Earns ‘Clean City’ Tag

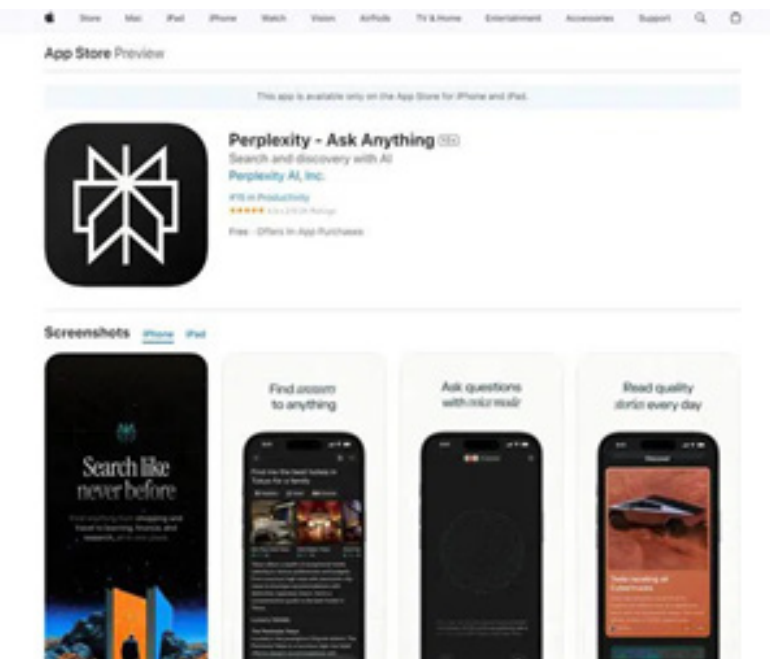
Just days after being named India’s third cleanest city in the Central Government’s annual cleanliness survey, Navi Mumbai is at the center of an online debate over its real on-ground conditions. A viral social media post has cast doubt on the city’s clean image, showing Starbucks-branded plastic cups discarded on a wet roadside pavement. The images, shared by a user on X (formerly Twitter), featured multiple plastic cups with green straws, left carelessly on the street. Expressing disappointment, the user wrote, “#Disgraceful. How to explain basic civic sense to the children of a spoilt parent?” He further questioned whether parental responsibility ends with providing money and cars. His frustration highlighted the disconnect between official rankings and public behavior. The post quickly gained traction, prompting reactions from citizens across the country. One user commented, “Till the time fines are not put... Common man won’t learn.” Another sar-



castically noted, “Fancy beverages worth Rs 500, but basic civic sense is worth less than a paise.” Some users called for stricter enforcement, suggesting the use of AI surveillance to issue automatic complaints and hefty fines. Others blamed broader societal patterns, arguing that adults and public figures set poor examples. One remark summed up the sentiment: “If these kids went abroad, they wouldn’t dare do this. They’re only following what they see around here.” Despite Navi Mumbai’s official recognition, the incident sparked reflection on the gap between policy and practice. It underscores the need for not only cleaner infrastructure but also a deeper cultural shift in civic behavior. While Indore topped the survey for the eighth year, followed by Surat, Navi Mumbai’s experience reveals that cleanliness must go beyond rankings—it requires personal accountability and social discipline to truly reflect in everyday life.

Perplexity AI Tops App Store

In a major shake-up in the global AI landscape, Perplexity AI has overtaken OpenAI’s ChatGPT to become the No.1 free app on Apple’s App Store. This dramatic rise comes on the heels of a game-changing partnership with Indian telecom giant Airtel, which now offers its users free access to Perplexity Pro, a subscription service valued at ₹17,000 annually. Founded in 2022 by Aravind Srinivas, Perplexity AI has rapidly grown into a strong contender in the generative AI space. The Pro version of the app provides access to leading-edge AI models like GPT-4.1, Claude, Grok 4, and image generation capabilities. It also grants early access to the invite-only Comet browser, adding to its appeal among tech enthusiasts and professionals. While Perplexity currently leads on iOS, ChatGPT still dominates the Google Play Store, where Perplexity has yet to launch. Google’s Gemini ranks fifth on the App Store’s free apps list, highlighting the intense competition among AI tools across platforms. OpenAI, led by Sam Altman, is responding with new features such as its ChatGPT agent, which can perform complex user



tasks including reading emails, creating presentations, and browsing the web. The platform’s popularity also surged earlier this year after the rollout of GPT-4-powered image generation. However, the AI space remains volatile. Elon Musk’s Grok saw a spike in interest following its third version and the viral Ghibli-style image trend. Chinese AI firm DeepSeek also made waves by launching models aimed directly at rivaling ChatGPT. With its fast-growing user base, investor backing, and clever strategic moves, Perplexity’s valuation soared from \$1 billion to \$3 billion in just a year, signaling a bright future for the startup in the evolving AI arms race.

Myntra Under ED Probe for ₹1,600 Cr FDI Violation

Myntra Designs, the leading fashion e-commerce platform, has come under the radar of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over suspected violations of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) norms. A notice has reportedly been issued to the company concerning ₹1,654 crore in foreign direct investment (FDI) that allegedly breached existing retail policy regulations. According to official sources, the complaint accuses Myntra of violating FDI guidelines by engaging in retail sales through group entities, a practice restricted under India’s FDI rules in the multi-brand retail sector. FEMA regulations allow FDI in marketplace models but prohibit inventory-based models for foreign-funded e-commerce firms. The ED is investigating whether Myntra routed sales through related party entities, potentially circumventing these rules. The alleged contravention involves transactions that occurred over several financial years, during which Myntra reportedly received significant foreign capital infusion while continuing to conduct sales via related business arms, which may qualify as an inventory-led model—a grey area under current law. The investigation follows similar scrutiny faced by other major e-commerce players in India, including Amazon and Flipkart, who were earlier probed for comparable FEMA-related concerns. Regulatory agencies are tightening their oversight to ensure foreign



investment does not violate India’s retail trade frameworks. Myntra, a subsidiary of Walmart-owned Flipkart Group, is expected to respond to the notice with detailed records and clarifications regarding its business practices and FDI inflows. The case is likely to reignite debates around FDI norms in e-commerce, especially concerning the distinction between marketplace and inventory-led models. If violations are proven, penalties could be significant, including financial fines or restrictions on future foreign investment. This development marks yet another instance of increased scrutiny on big-tech players in India, highlighting the government’s intent to strictly enforce compliance in the digital commerce ecosystem.

Chinese Firm Unveils World’s First Humanoid Robot That Can Change Its Own Battery

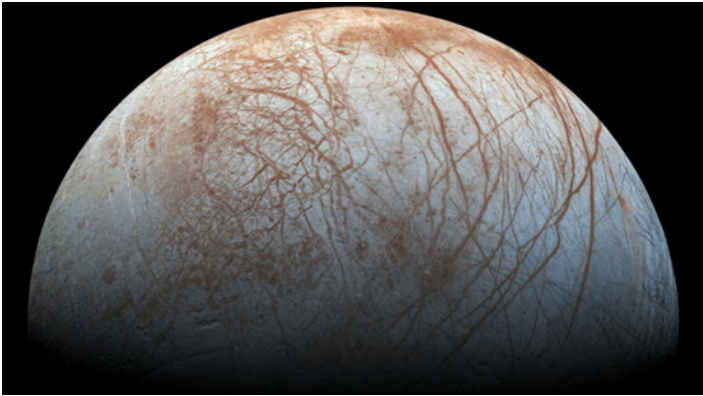
A Chinese robotics company, UBTECH Robotics, has introduced the world’s first humanoid robot capable of autonomously changing its own battery, marking a significant breakthrough in robotic technology. Named Walker S2, this robot can operate continuously for 24 hours a day across seven days without any human intervention. Standing at 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighing approximately 95 pounds (43 kilograms), Walker S2 is equipped with 20 flexible joints that allow for smooth, human-like movement. The robot supports both Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, enabling seamless interaction and communication in various environments. Walker S2 runs on a dual 48-volt lithium battery system, which provides it with the ability to walk for two hours or remain standing for four hours before needing a recharge. The robot takes around 90 minutes to fully recharge its batteries. Thanks to its unique self-charging mechanism, the robot can replace its own batteries autonomously, drastically reducing downtime and increasing operational efficiency. The company demonstrated Walker S2 working in industrial settings, highlighting its potential use in factories, public spaces, and customer service roles where continuous operation and autonomous functionality are essential. UBTECH Robotics, founded in 2012, is a leading player in humanoid and smart service robots. The firm went



public on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in December 2023 and has developed a complete suite of humanoid robotic technologies independently. UBTECH’s mission is to “bring intelligent robots into every family and make everyday life more convenient and intelligent.” Their Walker series is China’s first mass-produced, commercialized, life-sized bipedal humanoid robot, designed to revolutionize robotics with practical applications in everyday life and industry. This innovation positions UBTECH Robotics at the forefront of the global robotics industry, combining cutting-edge technology with autonomous capabilities that could redefine human-robot interaction and automation.

Scientists Detect Signs of a Liquid Water Ocean Beneath Europa’s Ice

Jupiter’s icy moon Europa, long considered a prime candidate for harboring extraterrestrial life, may be hiding a vast ocean of liquid water beneath its frozen surface—an ocean that could contain twice the amount of water found on Earth. Europa’s surface, once thought to be a quiet, unchanging shell of ice, is now understood to be geologically active. Observations from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have revealed new details about this intriguing moon. According to recent studies conducted by the Southwest Research Institute, Europa’s surface ice is crystallizing at varying rates across different regions. This discovery points to dynamic geological processes at work beneath the surface. The interaction between the moon’s icy crust and its hidden ocean below creates what scientists refer to as “chaos terrains”—areas where the surface ice is constantly shifting and renewing. This ongoing activity suggests a subsurface ocean exchanging material with the surface, potentially creating an environment



where life could exist. Europa has captivated scientists since the 1960s, when telescopic observations first detected its icy exterior and raised speculation about the vast saltwater ocean beneath. Now, with advanced technology like JWST, researchers are closer than ever to understanding the moon’s complex geology and its capacity to support life. These findings reinforce Europa’s position as a key target for future space missions aimed at exploring the habitability of worlds beyond Earth. With its active geology and hidden ocean, Europa offers a tantalizing glimpse into the possibilities of life in our solar system.

China Open 2025

Satwik-Chirag Cruise

Sindhu Battles Through



Changzhou [China], July 23 (ANI): India's top men's doubles pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, sailed comfortably into the Round of 16 at the China Open 2025, while star shuttler PV Sindhu survived an intense battle to secure her spot in the next round. The tournament is underway at the Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium in Changzhou. Satwik and Chirag faced the Japanese duo of Kenya Mitsuhashi and Hiroki Okamura in their Round of 32 match. The Indian pair dominated the contest, winning in straight games 21-13, 21-9 in just 31 minutes. Maintaining their unbeaten record against this Japanese pair, Satwik and Chirag displayed relentless aggression and precision, giving their opponents little chance to respond. On the women's singles front, PV Sindhu was tested by Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki but showed great resilience

to emerge victorious. The match lasted over an hour, with Sindhu winning 21-15, 8-21, 21-17. Sindhu took control early in the first game, but Miyazaki fought back strongly in the second, handing Sindhu a heavy 8-21 defeat. In the closely fought decider, Sindhu raised her game to clinch the win and move forward into the pre-quarterfinals. However, in the women's doubles, Indian sisters Rutaparna and Swetaparna Panda faced a tough challenge from a seasoned Hong Kong China pair. The Pandas were defeated in straight games, 12-21, 13-21, ending their run in the tournament. Earlier, Lakshya Sen's campaign came to a disappointing end, while HS Prannoy managed a narrow escape to advance. The China Open continues to showcase intense competition as players vie for top honours.

Venus Williams, 45, Becomes Oldest to Win Tour-Level Singles Match

Venus Williams scripted a remarkable comeback at age 45, becoming the second-oldest woman ever to win a tour-level singles match in professional tennis. At the DC Open, Williams defeated Peyton Stearns, who is 22 years younger, with a solid 6-3, 6-4 victory. This win marked her first singles match in over a year and her first singles victory in nearly two years. Williams aimed to send a powerful message—to herself and others—about resilience, competing at an elite level despite a long hiatus and her age. “Each week of training, I questioned if I was good enough,” she admitted. “Even the week leading up, I thought, ‘I need to improve so much more.’ It’s all a head game.” The only woman older than Venus to win a tour-level singles match was Martina Navratilova, who achieved the feat at 47 in 2004. Venus had been out of singles competition since March 2024 due to surgery for uterine fibroids and was listed as “inactive” by the WTA until this week.



Supported by a lively crowd in Washington D.C., Venus showed flashes of her legendary power, including fierce serves clocked over 110 mph. “I wanted to play a good match,” she told fans, “and win the match.” Stearns, ranked 35th and an NCAA champion, praised Venus's performance, saying, “Her serves were on fire, and she was moving really well.” The match wasn't without challenges; Venus struggled early but showed determination, converting her sixth match point with a 112 mph serve to seal the win. “It's not easy out here,” she said, “but I'm up for the fight.” Next up for Venus is No. 5 seed Magdalena Frech.

Women's Euro 2025: England Beats Italy 2-1 in Extra Time and Reach Final

In a thrilling Women's Euro 2025 semi-final on July 22, reigning champions England mounted a dramatic comeback to defeat Italy 2-1 after extra time, securing their place in the final. Italy took the lead in the first half thanks to Barbara Bonansea's stunning strike in the 33rd minute, but England fought back valiantly to turn the game around. Italy, boosted by confidence from their last-minute quarter-final win against Norway, defended resolutely and attacked sharply on the counter. Their persistence paid off when Bonansea's fierce shot found the top corner, putting Italy ahead. However, England dominated possession in the second half, creating several chances but struggling to break through the Italian defense. Just when it seemed England's hopes of retaining their title were fading, 19-year-old substitute Michelle Agyemang capitalized on a loose ball in the box to score six minutes into



stoppage time, leveling the match and sending it into extra time. In extra time, Agyemang came close again, outpacing the Italian defense before her delicate lob struck the crossbar. England continued to press forward and earned a penalty after Emma Severini fouled Beth Mead inside the box. Chloe Kelly stepped up to take the penalty, but her initial shot was saved by Italy's goalkeeper Laura Giuliani.

Quick to react, Kelly fired in the rebound in the 119th minute, securing a dramatic winner for England. This victory sets up a final clash against either Spain or Germany on July 27 in Basel. England's resilience and determination shone through, overcoming a tough Italian side to reach the Women's Euro final once again. The champions are now just one step away from defending their crown.

PARET-PEINTRE WINS MONT VENTOUX

France's Valentin Paret-Peintre clinched a dramatic victory on the iconic Mont Ventoux during Stage 16 of the Tour de France, ending the host nation's long wait for a win this year. The 24-year-old Soudal Quick-Step rider powered past Ireland's Ben Healy and Colombia's Santiago Buitrago in the final moments of the grueling 171.5km stage through Provence. Meanwhile, battle for the yellow jersey intensified as Tadej Pogacar (UAE Emirates) successfully defended his lead against multiple attacks from Jonas Vingegaard (Visma-Lease a Bike). Vingegaard launched three fierce assaults on the climb, supported by teammates, but Pogacar responded to every move and used a strong uphill sprint to gain crucial seconds, finishing fifth on the stage. Paret-Peintre, with a timely assist from teammate Ilan van Wilder, surged ahead on the steep final ramp to take his biggest career win, adding to his maiden Giro stage victory last summer. Healy

finished second and climbed back into the top ten overall, while Buitrago claimed third place. The yellow jersey fight unfolded less than a minute behind the stage winner, with Pogacar extending his overall lead to 4 minutes 15 seconds over Vingegaard. Third place remains held by Lipowitz, who kept a solid grip on the white jersey competition. The stage featured intense tactical racing with a large breakaway, several team strategies, and a record-setting climb time on Mont Ventoux. Pogacar's team struggled to maintain the breakaway's advantage, but the Slovenian star's resilience and explosive finish kept him firmly in control. Looking ahead, Stage 17 offers sprinters a chance to shine on a less mountainous route from Bollene to Valence. With the final week underway, fatigue will play a major role as the Tour de France 2025 continues its thrilling battle for glory.

Historic Feat for Pant as India Post 264/4 on Day 1 vs England

On Day 1 of the fourth Test between India and England at Old Trafford in Manchester, Rishabh Pant etched his name in the history books before an unfortunate injury forced him to retire hurt. The dynamic left-hander became the first wicketkeeper-batter in the history of Test cricket to score over 1000 runs in a single away country. With this feat, Pant surpassed his own previous record of 879 runs in Australia, setting a new benchmark for wicketkeeper-batters in overseas conditions.

India, opting for a patient and traditional approach, reached 264 for four at stumps on Wednesday. The innings was marked by calculated shot selection and steady partnerships, reflecting a more measured brand of Test cricket. While Pant's innings was cut short due to injury, his contribution once again highlighted his value in India's middle order, especially in challenging conditions abroad.

Also making headlines was Sai Sud-



harsan, who capitalized on his opportunity in the playing XI by notching up

a well-made half-century on his comeback. His composed knock gave India much-needed solidity in the top order and ensured that the visitors maintained control through much of the day's play.

Pant's world record is particularly significant given the context of the match and the challenges of performing consistently in foreign conditions. Known for his aggressive batting and fearless approach, Pant has time and again shown the ability to take on the best attacks away from home. Despite his injury, his achievement on Day 1 added yet another milestone to his growing legacy in Test cricket.

As the match progresses, India will be hopeful that Pant's injury isn't serious and that he can return to continue contributing. Meanwhile, his world record remains a testament to his consistency and impact as a modern-day wicketkeeper-batter.



Vijay Antony's Badhrakali Locks Release Date

Asian Suresh & Rana Daggubati Join Telugu Release

Vijay Antony, known for picking bold and unconventional scripts, is all set to hit the screens with his landmark 25th film, Badhrakali. Following the unexpected success of Maargan, the actor-musician teams up with director Arun Prabhu for this intense political action thriller. The film is produced by Ramanjaneyulu Javva-jji under the Sarvanth Ram Creations banner, in association with Vijay Antony Film Corporation and Meera Vijay Antony.

The makers have officially confirmed that Badhrakali will be released in theatres on September 5th, 2025. The striking release poster features Vijay Antony in a fierce avatar—seated on the ground, gripping a pistol, his expression radiating rebellion.

The backdrop adds a mythical edge with a blood-red full moon and ancient temple structures silhouetted behind him. In a notable development, Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media has partnered with Asian Suresh Entertainment to distribute the film in Telugu-speaking regions. This collaboration hints at a strong regional push for Badhrakali, which aims to make an impact across South Indian markets. The ensemble cast includes veteran actor Vaagai Chandrasekar, along with Rini Bot,

Riya Jithu, and young talent Master Keshav. Music for the film is composed by Vijay Antony himself, staying true to his multi-talented reputation. Shelley Calist cranks the camera, promising a visually rich narrative to match the film's gritty tone. With a powerful premise, intriguing visuals, and a proven lead, Badhrakali looks poised to leave a mark. Fans of political thrillers and Vijay Antony's intense storytelling have every reason to look forward to this release.



Suriya's Karuppu Teaser Unleashed: A Mass Entertainer in the Making

Marking his birthday with a bang, Suriya has thrilled fans with the electrifying teaser of his upcoming film Karuppu. Following the impressive first-look poster released yesterday, the teaser dropped today as a special birthday treat, setting social media abuzz and raising expectations for the film.

The teaser opens on a vibrant note, showcasing a colorful village carnival steeped in tradition and energy. As drums beat and crowds cheer, a commanding voiceover invokes spiritual power and divine strength—instantly setting the tone for a larger-than-life narrative. Then comes the

moment fans were waiting for: Suriya enters the frame with a commanding presence, wielding a weapon, his look fierce and intense.

Throughout the teaser, Suriya appears in multiple avatars, each one crafted to resonate with his mass audience. His final appearance, dressed entirely in black with charismatic swagger, leaves a lasting impression and is sure to become a fan-favorite. Powerful dialogues, visually rich frames, and whistle-worthy action moments make it clear—Karuppu is designed for the big screen. Directed by RJ Balaji, Karuppu is being produced on a grand scale

by SR Prakash Babu and SR Prabu under Dream Warrior Pictures. The technical team adds immense value—GK Vishnu's cinematography brings a rich visual flair, while Sai Abhyankkar's pulsating background score elevates the teaser to a whole new level of intensity.

Trisha Krishnan stars opposite Suriya, adding further excitement to the film's stellar cast. With its compelling visuals, mass elements, and an iconic lead in top form, Karuppu promises a cinematic celebration. If the teaser is anything to go by, fans can gear up for a high-octane, emotionally charged spectacle.

Teja Sajja & Ritika Nayak Turn Up the Heat in Mirai's First Single Poster

Teja Sajja, riding high on the success of larger-than-life entertainers, is back with yet another ambitious project—Mirai. Directed by Karthik Ghattamaneni and backed by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner, the film has already caught the attention of fans across the country with its visually grand teaser.

Adding to the excitement, the makers have officially announced the launch of Mirai's musical journey. The first single, titled "Vibe Undi", will drop on July 26th, promising a vibrant and youthful tune to kickstart the film's audio promotions. Music for the film is composed by Gowra Hari, who previously delivered a memorable soundtrack for HanuMan.

The song's poster, released ahead of the single, has instantly grabbed eyeballs. Featuring Teja Sajja and Ritika Nayak in an intimate pose, the image radiates style, chemistry, and pure energy. Teja sports a suave look with a beard, stylish hair, and glasses, while his intense gaze locked on Ritika adds a dramatic edge. Ritika, leaning into the frame with equal intensity, complements the roman-

tic tension perfectly. The chemistry between the two leads suggests that "Vibe Undi" will be more than just a catchy track—it'll be a visual treat as well.

Mirai is shaping up to be a visual spectacle, and what's more, it will be released worldwide in both 2D and 3D formats on September 5th, 2025. With high production values, a star cast, and a promising soundtrack, the film is clearly aiming to be a mass entertainer with global appeal. All eyes are now on the first single to see just how strong the "vibe" really is.



Brad Pitt's F1 Races Past ₹100 Cr in India, Becomes Box Office Sensation

Hollywood's latest sports action drama F1 is creating waves at the Indian box office. Released globally on June 27, the high-octane Formula 1 racing film has taken audiences by storm and recently achieved a major milestone—crossing the ₹100 crore mark in India.

Headlined by Brad Pitt, the film features a powerhouse ensemble including Damon Idris, Kerry Condon, Javier Bardem, Tobias Menzies, Sarah Niles, Kim Bodnia, and Samson Kayo in key roles. With its adrenaline-charged racing sequences and emotionally gripping narrative, F1 has struck a chord with Indian audiences far beyond expectations.

What's adding to the buzz is the film's endorsement by some of Indian cinema's biggest names. Top directors like SS Rajamouli and Prashanth Neel, along with super-



stars Prabhas and Vijay Deverakonda, have publicly praised the film after

watching it, further fueling interest among Indian moviegoers.

Until now, The Lion King was among the very few Hollywood films to breach the ₹100 crore mark in India. Now, F1 joins that elite club, proving that international content with universal appeal and strong storytelling can break cultural boundaries and perform on par with local blockbusters.

The combination of Hollywood star power, thrilling race sequences, and sleek direction has made F1 a must-watch across metro cities and smaller towns alike. As it continues its theatrical run, the film is showing no signs of slowing down—on track to becoming one of the most successful Hollywood imports in Indian cinema history. Whether you're a racing enthusiast or just a fan of powerful sports dramas, F1 is racing full throttle at a theatre near you.

Rajinikanth's 'Powerhouse' Song From Coolie Ignites the Charts

Superstar Rajinikanth is back to set the screens on fire with the third single from his much-anticipated film Coolie. Titled "Power House", the song was officially unveiled at a grand launch event in Hyderabad and has already taken the internet by storm.

Composed and sung by Anirudh Ravichander, along with rapper Arivu, the track delivers high-energy beats infused with intense rap elements, giving fans a full-on mass experience. The powerful lyrical video, packed with vibrant visuals and dynamic animations, has become an instant chartbuster, racking up millions of views on YouTube within just a few



hours of release.

"Power House" follows the previously released singles "Chikitu" and "Monika", both of which have received widespread appreciation for their catchy tunes and stylish presentation. With each track, Coolie is building serious hype, especially

among younger audiences and long-time Rajini fans. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, Coolie is shaping up to be a star-studded action drama. Apart from Rajinikanth in the lead, the film boasts an impressive ensemble cast including Nagarjuna, Upendra, Sath-

araj, Shruti Haasan, and Aamir Khan in pivotal roles. Adding more glamour to the film, Pooja Hegde is said to feature in a special item number.

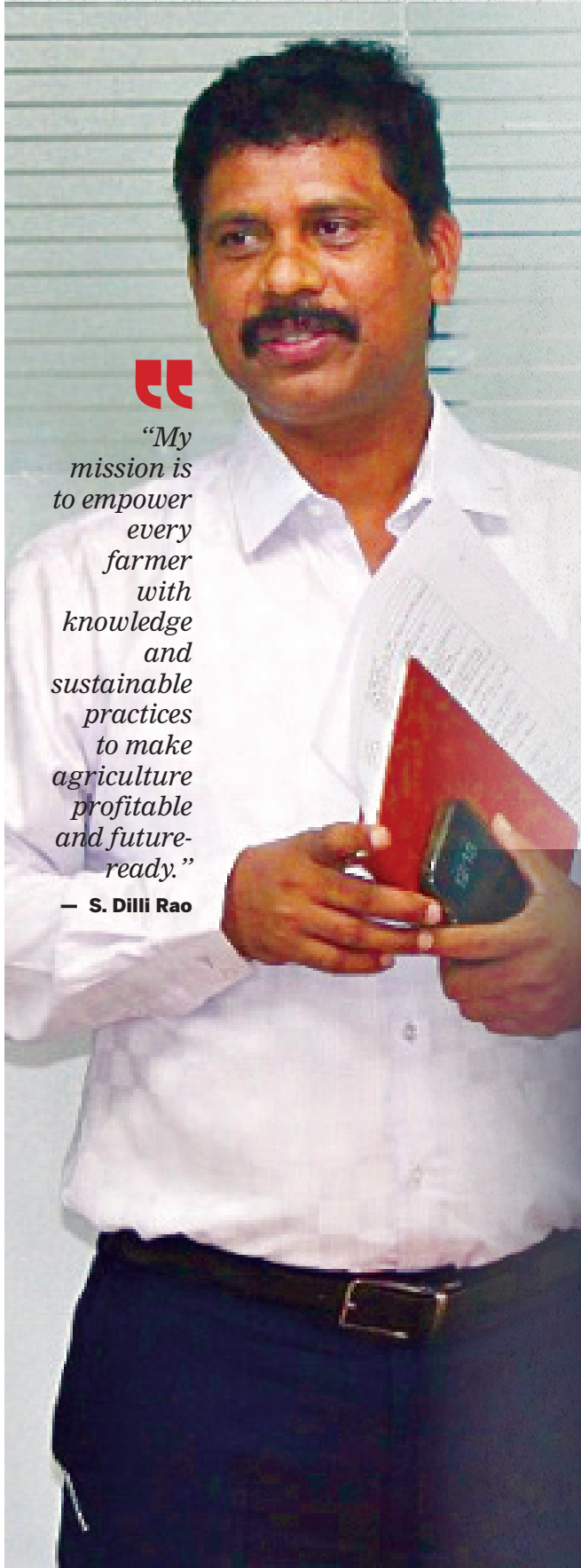
Produced by Kalanidhi Maran under the prestigious Sun Pictures banner, Coolie is one of the most awaited films of the year. With the music album already creating waves and the buzz around the film growing with each update, expectations are sky-high. As "Power House" dominates playlists and trends across platforms, fans are eagerly waiting to witness Rajinikanth's electrifying presence on the big screen once again.



In a world where civil servants are often spotlighted more for their public persona than their purpose, **S DILLI RAO, IAS** (2007 batch), stands out for his rootedness, humility, and resolve to bring lasting change to farming communities. Hailing from a small farming family in Andhra Pradesh, Dilli Rao grew up watching his father till the land, dreaming of a better life for his son, one of dignity, service, and respect. That dream took root in Dilli Rao's heart early on

inner view

WHEN YOUR FATHER'S DREAM BECOMES YOUR LIFE'S CALLING



“My mission is to empower every farmer with knowledge and sustainable practices to make agriculture profitable and future-ready.”
— S. Dilli Rao

Navigating Silent Hierarchies

“In the services, officers are broadly categorised... and these distinctions sometimes create divisions,” he notes. Yet, he chose to rise above internal rifts, staying focused on his duties and letting professionalism be his anchor.

The Battle Against Ganja

Among the most intense moments of his career was the task of eliminating ganja cultivation and trade in his district. “It was immensely stressful,” he says. But the satisfaction was equally intense. “I executed the task effectively and felt deeply satisfied... knowing it made a difference.”

Natural Farming: Not Just a Trend

“Natural farming is gradually gaining traction,” he observes. Through seminars and awareness programs, he’s helping farmers move away from chemical-heavy methods and embrace sustainability.

Tailoring Israeli Tech to Telugu Terrain

While inspired by Israel’s cutting-edge farming methods, he believes adaptation, not adoption, is key. “Some areas depend on rainfall, others face floods... We are working to facilitate knowledge transfer tailored to local conditions.”

Paddy Woes and Practical Solutions

Paddy farmers often suffer due to moisture-related rejections, poor storage, and pricing inconsistencies. “As someone with an agricultural background, I understand these complexities,” he says. He’s working to ensure stable pricing and improved infrastructure.

Being the only educated member of his family, he saw his brother and sister sacrifice their education so that he could chase his. From poring over success stories in magazines to being inspired by IAS officers visiting his school, every step in his journey was paved with quiet determination. After facing an initial setback in the UPSC exam, he went on to work as a scientist in Meghalaya and Nagaland, yet the fire for public service never died. “Why not try again?” he asked himself. That second chance brought him into the IAS.

His first posting as a Village Revenue Officer during probation taught him that no job is too small for public service. From dismantling a drug network in his district to advocating for natural farming across Andhra Pradesh as Director of Agriculture, Dilli Rao has never forgotten where he came from. He knows the pulse of the paddy farmer because he lived it.

A committed reformer, he brings both scientific acumen and grassroots empathy to the table. His mission is simple: make agriculture sustainable, fair, and forward-looking. As he told The True Point’s Correspondent **Sumanth Jangam**, “With patience and persistence, Andhra’s farmers can rise. My job is to walk with them.”



ROOTED IN PURPOSE, DRIVEN BY PASSION
“Agriculture gave me life. Now I want to give back.”

A Dream Sown in His Father’s Heart

For Dilli Rao, becoming an IAS officer wasn’t just a personal ambition; it was his father’s vision. “Becoming an IAS officer was my father’s dream for me,” he says, his voice filled with quiet pride. That seed of expectation sprouted in school, where reading success stories and watching IAS officers up close became his compass.

A Childhood Nurtured by Soil and Sacrifice

Raised in a humble farming family, his world revolved around a small patch of land. His father toiled on it, and the entire family survived from its yield. “My brother and sister had to discontinue their schooling,” he recalls. “But my family always believed in me.”

From Research Labs to Rural Roads

After completing his MSc in Agriculture, Dilli Rao attempted UPSC, but missed clearing the mains. He then joined IARI in Delhi as a Senior Research Fellow and later worked as a scientist in Meghalaya and Nagaland. Yet, the dream never faded. “I decided to give the UPSC exam another try, thinking, ‘Why not?’” he shares.

Learning Begins at the Grassroots

His first posting as a Probationary Deputy Collector in Vizianagaram taught him humility. “I underwent training as a Village Revenue Officer and Mandal Revenue Officer. I embraced the simplicity of the VRO role in training,” he remembers fondly. He approached every assignment with seriousness and respect.

The Only Educated One at Home

Being the sole educated person in his family came with both responsibility and pressure. “Despite our financial constraints, my family supported my education,” he says. That belief became the backbone of his journey.



OFF DUTY DIARIES

Who’s your biggest cheerleader at home, mom, dad, sibling, or spouse?
Spouse Prasanthi
What’s the funniest or most awkward moment during your training days?
Confrontation with one Constable

Do you have any secret talents, like singing, sketching, or mimicry?
Unfortunately No such
What’s the one dish you can cook well (or fail at)?
Andhra Chicken Curry
What’s one thing your colleagues would be surprised to learn about you?
Now a teetotaller, not like so during my college days

What’s one childhood memory that still makes you smile?
The head was stuck up in big firewood logs in the backyard
Which movie or song always lifts your mood, no matter what?
No comments
If not IAS, what would you have become: Chef, Cricketer, Stand-up comic?
Chef. By the way, I am good at cooking too.



Tea or Coffee to start your day?
No tea and coffee... hot water
One subject you dreaded during your UPSC prep?
Arithmetic & mental ability
What’s your stress-buster after a long day at work?
Motivational videos on YouTube

RAPID-FIRE

One funny or unexpected situation you’ve faced as an IAS officer?
During the induction training programme, in LBSNAA treated us, school children

Who was stricter growing up, your parents or your teachers?
Study hours after dinner on school days
What’s your favourite spot in your district/state that you’d recommend to everyone?
Vizag beach
How many hours of sleep do you get?
Less than 5 hours
If not an IAS officer, what would you have become?
Scientist
Your go-to comfort food after a long review meeting?
Samosa