



BUZZ POINTS



Deadly Lucknow Coaching Centre Fire Claims 15 Lives, Several Injured

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LDF Walks Out of Kerala Assembly Over Health Department Functioning

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Sewage Water Cannon Row Sparks Uproar in Kerala Assembly

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Basavatarakam Hospital Plans 1,000-Bed Cancer Facility in Amaravati

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Pawan Kalyan's "I Am Not Home Minister, That Is Criminals' Good Fortune" Remark Sparks Political Debate

Ravi Podili Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan's recent comments on law and order have triggered a political debate in the state, with opposition and critics questioning his remarks on the Home Department during an interaction in Kakinada.

Addressing a public session, Pawan Kalyan said, "I am not the Home Minister; that is the criminals' good fortune. Had I been the Home Minister, I would not have spared offenders. Even without holding that post, as Deputy Chief Minister, I will intervene in Home Department affairs. If necessary, I will hold the police system accountable without even consulting the Chief Minister."

His remarks, particularly on intervening in the Home Department without consulting the Chief Minister, have drawn criticism from sections of the political spectrum. Critics argue that such statements reflect an intent to overstep administrative boundaries and challenge the principle of portfolio-based governance.

Pawan Kalyan also reiterated that law and order issues would be dealt with firmly if he were in charge of the Home portfolio. He said the current situation limits his ability to directly act on such matters,



though he expressed willingness to take a strong stance against criminal activity. He has made similar remarks in the past during public meetings and party cadre interactions.

Earlier instances of such statements, particularly in Kakinada during the initial phase of the coalition government, were interpreted as indirect criticism of Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha, leading to political discussion within ruling circles. At that time as well, his remarks were seen as signalling dissatisfaction over the handling of certain law and order issues.

It is noted that Pawan Kalyan, as Deputy Chief Minister,

principle of collective responsibility, where decisions are taken jointly, and each minister is expected to operate within assigned responsibilities. While coordination across departments is encouraged, direct interference in another minister's portfolio without due process is considered outside established norms.

Questions have also been raised about his earlier campaign statements, where he had highlighted issues such as alleged missing cases of women and the Sugali Preethi case. Critics argue that despite raising these concerns before elections, there has been limited visible progress on these issues after assuming office, even though they could have been pursued within the Cabinet framework.

Political analysts note that Deputy Chief Minister posts, while significant in stature, do not carry constitutional authority beyond allocated portfolios. The position does not grant separate executive powers over other departments unless formally assigned.

The latest remarks have once again brought focus on internal coordination within the ruling alliance and raised discussions on the boundaries of ministerial authority in coalition governance.

Lokesh Credits Padyatra for Ground Connect

New Delhi, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Lokesh Credits Padyatra for Ground Connect, Highlights Andhra Pradesh Growth Model and Investment Push

New Delhi, June 22 | TPN Bureau

HRD, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh said his Padyatra was a defining experience that helped him understand people's issues and connect more deeply with ground realities. He made the remarks during an interview with a national media outlet.

Lokesh said that earlier, when issues were presented in his official capacity, it was difficult to fully relate to them. However, extensive travel across constituencies and direct interaction with people during the Padyatra changed his perspective significantly. "Padyatra, I truly believe, was very important for me to understand Bharat. I walked in constituencies, I heard people, and I spent 2-3 nights there. My ability to relate to those issues exists much more," he said.

He added that both academic training and field experience shaped his approach. "Stanford MBA was fantastic for

business, Padyatra was great for politics. The IQ bit I got from Stanford, the EQ bit I got from Padyatra," Lokesh said.

Lokesh said the experience continues to guide decision-making, especially in irrigation and rural development, where ground realities are crucial. He also highlighted education reforms, stating that examination systems such as NEET require review and suggested multiple testing opportunities and strengthened computer-based examinations.

He said Speed, Stability and Service remain the core drivers of investor confidence in Andhra Pradesh. Citing major projects such as the Google data centre, ArcelorMittal steel plant and AMCA fighter jet initiative, he said the state has demonstrated rapid execution capacity.

Lokesh reiterated Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047. He said focus remains on execution, job creation and attracting investments, with Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati developed as key growth hubs and 60,000 crore planned for Amaravati development.

Karnataka Leaders Invite CM for Tungabhadra Project Gate Inauguration



Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Karnataka Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Boseraju, MLA Basavaraju, and MLC Basavana Gowda met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat on Monday and extended an invitation to attend the inauguration of the new gates of the Tungabhadra Project.

During the meeting, the Karnataka leaders presented an of-

ficial invitation to the Chief Minister for the inaugural ceremony scheduled to be held on June 25. The delegation requested Chandrababu Naidu to participate in the event, which is expected to be attended by several public representatives and officials.

Following the presentation of the invitation, the Chief Minister held a cordial interaction with the visiting dignitaries and discussed P3

CM Naidu Calls for Humane Resolution of PGRS Petitions

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to resolve public grievances, including petitions received under the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS), with a humane and citizen-friendly approach. He stressed the importance of improving soft skills among employees and ensuring responsive governance.

The Chief Minister reviewed the performance of various departments during a meeting held at the RTGS centre in the State Secretariat on Monday. He said employees and officials should adopt innovative thinking and take responsibility based on performance outcomes.

"We will encourage employees to think innovatively and



assign responsibilities based on performance. Officials must resolve grievances by putting themselves in the petitioners' position. Interaction with citizens should be courteous to build a positive perception of governance," Naidu said.

He added that human resources must be effectively utilised and continuously upgraded to match changing administrative needs. Field visits, he said, are essential for

understanding ground realities and taking appropriate decisions. Ministers, officials and employees were advised to prioritise field-level inspections.

The Chief Minister noted that the state has already undertaken training programmes for employees on administrative reforms. He said technology has significantly eased file processing, which earlier involved lengthy delays, and

warned that systems without innovation would become ineffective over time.

Referring to public communication and governance challenges, he said certain groups were attempting to politicise issues and spread false propaganda by linking incidents to caste or religion. He cautioned officials to remain vigilant against such misinformation campaigns.

He also said that some criminal incidents were linked to mental health issues and substance abuse, including drugs and marijuana. The government, he said, is actively tracing old cases, including those dating back to 2019, leading to arrests and convictions. He stressed the importance of communicating such outcomes to the public to reinforce confidence in law enforcement.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure strict adherence to vehicle number plate regulations and other statutory norms. He also referred to upcoming technological initiatives, including the planned launch of a quantum computer in December, and directed steps to develop a quantum park and semiconductor park in the interim.

He further emphasised priorities such as increasing green cover, maintaining cleanliness, ensuring water security, groundwater recharge, conservation of water resources and preventing river pollution.

Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad, Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta and senior officials from various departments participated in the review meeting.

Planning Department Signs MoU to Drive Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The State Planning Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR), under KREA University, to support the implementation of the Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reiterated the government's target of achieving



a 15% growth rate as part of the long-term development roadmap. He said Andhra Pradesh recorded a compound annual growth P3

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital was born out of a personal tragedy and has grown into one of India's leading non-profit cancer care institutions.

Addressing the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the hospital in Hyderabad, he said the inspiration for establishing the facility came after the death of

Basavatarakam, wife of former Chief Minister N T Rama Rao, due to cancer at a time when advanced treatment was not easily available in the region.

"There is a story behind the journey of the Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital. It was built inspired by my mother-in-law Basavatarakam. At that time, cancer treatment facilities were available only in cities like Mumbai and Chennai," he said.

He said the hospital was es-

tablished with the vision that no patient should lose their life due to lack of access to treatment. It began with 100 beds and was guided in its early phase by former Speaker Kodela Siva Prasada Rao as Managing Trustee, along with senior doctors including Dr Nori Dattatreyyudu.

Naidu said the institution has grown over 25 years into a major healthcare facility and is now run as a non-profit institution under Trust Chairman Nandamuri Balakrishna, who

continues to actively support its functioning.

He appreciated Balakrishna's commitment and also congratulated him on plans for a 1,000-bed cancer hospital in Amaravati. He said the hospital currently has around 650 beds, performs over 8,000 surgeries, and conducts nearly 22 operations daily. It serves over 3 lakh patients annually from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states including Maharashtra, Karnataka and Odisha.

Naidu said government efforts alone are not enough for public health and stressed the role of non-profit institutions. He added that Andhra Pradesh is focusing on preventive, curative and predictive healthcare models. He also mentioned the contribution of NTR Memorial Trust trustee Bhuvaneshwari in social service activities.

He expressed confidence that Basavatarakam Hospital will emerge as one of the largest non-profit healthcare institutions in the country.

Lokesh Meets Korean Ambassador Lee Seong-ho

New Delhi, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh held a courtesy meeting with Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Lee Seong-ho in

New Delhi, focusing on strengthening economic and industrial cooperation between Korea and India.

During the meeting, they discussed the expansion of Korean P3

We Will Build Cancer Hospital in Amaravati, Says Nandamuri Balakrishna

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

We will build a cancer hospital in Amaravati and further expand healthcare services in Hyderabad, said Hospital Chairman and MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna, reaffirming the institution's commitment to affordable cancer care.

He made the remarks during the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Institute held recently in Hyderabad. The event was attended by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Un-

ion Ministers Anupriya Patel and Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Telangana Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha, AP Minister Satya Kumar, along with dignitaries and members of the NTR family.

Balakrishna said the hospital was established to serve the poor and ensure that no patient is denied cancer treatment due to financial constraints. He said the institution currently performs around 35 to 40 surgeries daily and has become a source of hope for thousands of families. "I stand before you not merely as an actor or an MLA, but



as a son. We were deeply distressed when my mother Basavatarakam was diagnosed with cancer. We had the financial strength to fight, but she used to ask how the poor could face such a disease," he said.

He said the hospital has provided outpatient services to around 3.75 lakh people and continues to ensure dignity and hope for patients. One of India's early bone marrow transplantation centres also began here.

Balakrishna said governments, donors and organisations have supported the institution over the years, enabling steady growth. He said the 25-year journey reflects a long-standing commitment to service and announced plans for a new cancer hospital in Amaravati.

Union Minister Anupriya

Patel said the hospital is a beacon of hope, noting that 1.5 million people are diagnosed with cancer annually in India. She highlighted Ayushman Bharat screening for those above 30 and HPV vaccination for girls to prevent cervical cancer, covering 12 million girls.

Union Minister Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar said the hospital, now expanded from 100 to 650 beds, provides treatment at lower costs under Arogyasri and Ayushman Bharat schemes. Telangana Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha stressed early detection and said cancer has been declared a notifiable disease in the state.



Telugu Cinema Legends Felicitated Ahead of Padma Shri Ceremony

New Delhi, June 22 | TPN Bureau

HRD, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh felicitated senior film actors and Padma Shri awardees Maganti Murali Mohan and Rajendra Prasad in New Delhi on Monday. The ceremony comes ahead of the official Padma Awards presentation scheduled to be held in the national capital on Tuesday, where both veteran actors are set to receive the honours.



Minister Nara Lokesh presented mementoes to the acclaimed actors and conveyed that it is a matter of pride for the state that two stalwarts of Telugu cinema are being simultaneously honoured with the



Padma Shri award. He appreciated their decades-long contribution to Indian cinema, noting that they have acted in hundreds of films and significantly enriched Telugu film culture.

During the interaction, both Murali Mohan and Rajendra Prasad reminisced about their association with legendary actor Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao. Minister Lokesh also expressed hope that the senior actors would continue to contribute to the promotion of Telugu art and culture. Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu and several Members of Parliament were also present and felicitated the awardees.

Satya Kumar Reviews Treatment of Road Accident Victims

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Medical and Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Monday reviewed the medical treatment being provided to victims injured in the road accident near Pullampeta. He spoke with doctors and officials to assess the condition of those undergoing treatment.

Officials informed the minister that 15 injured passengers were given primary treatment and later shifted to RIMS Hospital, Kadapa, for advanced medical care. They also stated that a 17-year-old girl succumbed to her injuries while being transported for further

treatment.

Two other injured passengers who were admitted to the Area Hospital in Rajampet received treatment and were discharged on Monday morning after their condition improved.

During the review, Satya Kumar Yadav directed hospital authorities to ensure the best possible care for all victims. He stressed the need for continuous monitoring, timely treatment, and the availability of all required medical facilities. He also sought regular updates on the condition of the injured and instructed officials to extend every possible support until their complete recovery.

Tirupati District Road Accident Claims Lives; Condolences Expressed to Victims' Families

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Revenue, Registration and Stamps Minister and Tirupati District In-Charge Minister Anagani Satya Prasad expressed deep shock over the tragic road accident that occurred on the Kadapa-Chennai National Highway in Tirupati district.

Anagani Satya Prasad conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the accident. He said the loss of lives in the mishap was deeply distressing and prayed for strength and courage for the bereaved families during this difficult time.

The minister also reviewed the medical treatment being

provided to those injured in the accident. He spoke with officials and sought details about the condition of the victims undergoing treatment at various hospitals.

Anagani Satya Prasad directed officials to ensure that severely injured victims receive the best possible medical care without any delay. He instructed authorities to make all necessary medical facilities available and closely monitor the treatment process.

He assured that the government would stand firmly with the families of the deceased and extend all possible support. The minister also emphasized the need for continuous assistance to the injured until they fully recover.

Minister Ramprasad Reviews Transport Department Progress

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said the Transport Department has achieved significant progress over the past two years through technology-driven reforms, improved transparency, and strengthened public transport services. Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, he said the reforms were implemented under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and with support from Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

He highlighted digitization of licences, registrations, permits, and payments, along with 85 Automated Driving Testing Centres and the "Sarathi" mobile app. Welfare programmes trained over 2.34 lakh drivers. Revenue rose to 5,050 crore in 2025-26, with 8.85 lakh vehicle registrations. APSRTC added 1,189 buses, including electric mobility expansion plans. Schemes like "Stree Shakti" and "Divyang Shakti" boosted inclusive travel, while a 24x7 command centre improved safety, monitoring, and service efficiency across the state.

Dr Purushotham Assumes Charge as Secretary, AP Science & Technology & Innovation Department

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Dr Hanumantu Purushotham assumed charge as the new Secretary of the Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh at the Secretariat's Block-5 in Amaravati. He formally took over from Principal Secretary Kantilal Dande, who held additional charge earlier. After assuming office, he met Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad and expressed gratitude, while the Chief Secretary ex-

tended his congratulations.

With nearly four decades of experience in science, technology, R&D, IPR and innovation systems, Dr Purushotham previously served as CMD of NRDC under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, and held key academic and institutional roles. He thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and the coalition government. Officials expressed confidence that his leadership will strengthen Andhra Pradesh's innovation ecosystem.

Basavatarakam Hospital Plans 1,000-Bed Cancer Facility in Amaravati

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute has announced plans to establish a 1,000-bed integrated cancer hospital in Amaravati, marking a major expansion of its cancer care network in the Telugu states.

The announcement was made during the hospital's Silver Jubilee celebrations in Hyderabad on Monday, marking 25 years of service in cancer treatment, research and patient care.

The institution was founded following the dying wish of Basavatarakam, the wife of former Chief Minister N T Rama Rao, who envisioned affordable cancer care for all. N. T. Rama Rao laid the foundation stone, and the hospital was inaugurated in 2000 by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee with 100 beds.

Under the leadership of Trust Chairman Nandamuri Balakrishna, along with trustees, doctors and philanthro-



pists, the hospital has grown into one of India's leading cancer centres. It now serves patients from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states.

The hospital currently treats over 3 lakh outpatients annually and nearly 90,000 inpatients every year. It has performed more than 8,000 cancer surgeries and 86 bone marrow transplants. Over 65 per cent of patients come from economically weaker sections and receive subsidised treatment under Aarogyasri and Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY schemes.

A multidisciplinary team of over 250 specialists provides comprehensive cancer care, including oncology, radiology, pathology and nuclear medicine services. The hospital also

runs palliative care programmes focused on pain relief and quality of life support.

As part of outreach, mobile cancer screening programmes have covered 2.7 lakh people so far across the Telugu states. During the Silver Jubilee year, 45,000 individuals were screened free of cost, including 25,000 women.

Trustee Nara Brahmani said the institution represents a legacy of compassion carried across generations, turning personal grief into public service.

The proposed Amaravati facility aims to further expand access to advanced, affordable cancer care and strengthen the institution's mission of service.

Minister Anam Ramayana Reddy Reviews Progress in Pushkaram Preparations

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Endowments Minister Anam Ramayana Reddy reviewed the progress of Godavari Pushkaram 2027 preparations and stated that the department has achieved major reforms within the first two years of the NDA coalition government. He said 10 out of 11 manifesto promises have already been implemented, covering temple administration, asset protection, and welfare measures.

He highlighted that honorariums for Vedic scholars have been increased from 10,000 to 15,000, while financial assistance for dhupa-deepa-naivedyam in small temples has been raised to 10,000 per month. High-level committees with senior police and administrative officials have been formed to protect temple properties.

The Minister also reviewed corrective measures for disputed 22-A land records affecting farmers. Officials confirmed that Godavari Pushkaram will



be held from June 26 to July 7, 2027. Reconstruction works in 162 temples are underway at a cost of 71.60 crore, while AI-based systems at Tirumala have improved pilgrim management and services.

Minister Assures Adequate Fertiliser Supply for Kharif-2026

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Adequate fertiliser stocks are available for the Kharif-2026 season, and farmers will not face any shortage, Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu said during a high-level review meeting held at the Secretariat on Monday.

Reviewing fertiliser availability, distribution and stock positions with officials, company representatives and dealer associations, Atchannaaidu warned dealers and fertiliser companies against forcing farmers to purchase unwanted

products along with urea or DAP. He said such practices would not be tolerated and that criminal cases would be registered against those found violating the rules.

The minister also directed dealers to sell fertilisers strictly at MRP and warned of stringent action against overpricing. Special vigilance teams will monitor fertiliser movement to prevent diversion, while authorities will maintain complete tracking of every fertiliser bag distributed across the state.

Atchannaaidu instructed officials to ensure that tenant



farmers and those without Android phones do not face difficulties in accessing fertiliser booking services. He also called for greater awareness on nano urea and natural farming practices to promote sustainable agriculture.

APSCPCR Reviews Child Protection Measures

Ongole, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (APSCPCR), Sri Vetukuri A.V.S. Surya Narayana Raju, along with Commission Member Sri V. Gandhi, visited Prakasam district on Sunday to review child protection systems and welfare initiatives.

As part of the visit, the delegation inspected diagnostic and scanning centres in Ongole to ensure strict compliance with the PCPNDT Act, which prohibits sex selection

and regulates prenatal diagnostic procedures. They stressed proper record maintenance and strict enforcement to prevent gender discrimination and protect the girl child.

The team also inspected the Government Bala Sadan (Children's Home) in Ongole, reviewing facilities including nutrition, education, healthcare, hygiene, and safety. They emphasized creating a secure and child-friendly environment for holistic development.

Later, a review meeting was held with the District Child Protection Unit and other offi-



cial, focusing on preventing child labour, child marriages, trafficking, and improving rehabilitation mechanisms. The Commission reiterated its commitment to strengthening child rights protection across the district.

Viswabrahmana Association Seek MLC Seat

Vijayawada, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Viswabrahmana Association has urged the Andhra Pradesh government to fulfill its pre-election promise of allocating an MLC seat to the Viswabrahmana community and to introduce a pension scheme for community members aged 50 years and above.

The demand was raised during the swearing-in ceremony of the association's newly elected executive committee, held at the Viswabrahmana Kalyana Mandapam in Chittinagar, Vijayawada. Around 90 office-bearers and executive committee members, including newly

elected President Gorthi Srinivasa Chakravarthy, took the oath of office.

Addressing the gathering, Srinivasa Chakravarthy said the Viswabrahmana community had extended its support to the alliance government during the elections and expressed confidence that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu would honour the commitment made to the community regarding MLC representation.

He stated that his primary objective would be to unite Viswabrahmanas across the state and bring their concerns to the government's attention. He also stressed the need for a pension scheme for artisans aged 50 and above, particularly

goldsmiths and carpenters, who often face health-related challenges due to the nature of their professions. Community members extended financial assistance to the association president for welfare activities aimed at supporting Viswabrahmana families.

The oath of office was administered by the association's Honorary President, Kurmachari. Prominent BC leader Karri Venumadhav, General Secretary Kadaru Venkateswara Rao, Dhanala Kota Vasu, and several senior community leaders participated in the programme and called for greater welfare measures and representation for the Viswabrahmana community.

Pawan Kalyan Congratulates Manoj Paramahansa

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has congratulated noted cinematographer Manoj Paramahansa on his appointment as Chairman of the M.G.R. Government Film and Television Training Institute in Chennai by the Tamil Nadu government.

In a statement, Pawan Kalyan expressed happiness over the appointment and conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to Manoj Paramahansa. He noted that the acclaimed cinematographer has worked extensively in both Telugu and Tamil cinema and possesses deep knowledge of evolving film technologies, cinematic design, and modern filmmaking techniques.

Pawan Kalyan highlighted the rich legacy of the prestigious Chennai-based institute, which has produced several distinguished personalities from the Indian film industry.



He recalled that leading actors such as Chiranjeevi, Rajinikanth, Suhasini, Nassar, and Rajendra Prasad, as well as renowned technicians including P.C. Sreeram and P.S. Nivas studied at the institution.

Expressing confidence in Manoj Paramahansa's leadership, Pawan Kalyan said he hopes the institute will continue to nurture talented filmmakers and technical experts who will contribute significantly to the growth of Indian cinema.

He wished Manoj Paramahansa success in his new role and expressed hope that the institution would reach greater heights under his guidance.

BJP Demands Urgent Action on Food Safety

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

BJP President PVN Madhav has urged the state government to take immediate and strict action on food safety issues raised through the "Janata Varadhi" programme. He said citizens have reported serious concerns, including adulterated milk, fake spices, contaminated drinking water, poor-quality packaged food, and unhygienic meat shops across Andhra Pradesh. He stressed that unsafe food is a major public health risk and

affects families economically. Madhav highlighted shortages of Food Safety Officers and vacant sanctioned posts, leading to weak enforcement. He cited incidents in Rajamahendravaram, Eluru, Srikakulam, Anakapalli, Vijayawada, and Tirumala. He demanded filling vacancies, setting up district-level testing labs, QR-based licensing, strict inspections, closure of illegal slaughterhouses, and 24x7 helplines. He submitted representations at the Collectorates statewide seeking urgent action.

Minister Subhash Launches Online Platform for Workers Welfare Board

Vijayawada, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Workers Welfare Board has launched a new online platform to strengthen digital governance and improve welfare service delivery across the state. The initiative was unveiled during the 45th Board meeting held at a hotel on Monday by Minister Vasantha Subhash.

The new website enables workers to register online, apply for welfare schemes, check beneficiary details, access guidelines, and submit grievances without visiting government offices. The Minister said the government is committed to ensuring transparent, efficient, and timely delivery of welfare benefits through technology-driven systems.

The meeting also reviewed



ongoing welfare schemes, safety measures, and efforts to simplify registration and administrative procedures. Officials discussed ways to enhance transparency and expand social security coverage for workers.

Senior officials, including Labour Department Secretary M.V. Seshagiri Babu and Commissioner Gandham Chandrudu, attended the meeting. The initiative is expected to modernize welfare administration and improve accessibility for workers statewide.

Five Teaching Hospitals to Get Artificial Limb Manufacturing Units

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has announced that Artificial Limb Manufacturing Units will be established in five teaching hospitals to strengthen healthcare and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities.

The first phase of the initiative will cover teaching hospitals in Visakhapatnam, Ongole, Vijayawada, Tirupati, and Kurnool. The centres will manufacture artificial limbs, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and other assistive devices based on medical recommendations, reducing both costs and inconvenience for beneficiaries.

Satya Kumar Yadav said the initiative was approved by the Central Government following a proposal submitted by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Central teams began inspections of infrastructure and facilities at the selected hospitals on Monday.

The units will provide end-to-end services, including measurements, design, fabrication, fitting, repairs, and rehabilitation support. Officials said the facilities will improve accessibility to quality assistive devices and help enhance mobility, independence, and quality of life for persons with disabilities.

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Jagan Consoles Road Accident Victims

Tadepalli, June 22 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed deep shock over the road accident near Uduvuripalle in Pullampeta mandal of Tirupati district, which claimed two lives. He condoled the deaths of Puneeth Sai and

student Yashwitha, who died after an APSRTC bus collided with a lorry. Jagan conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for their strength to bear the loss. He also urged the state government to ensure immediate and advanced medical treatment for the injured and extend all necessary relief and support to the affected families.

Planning Department Signs MoU to Drive Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision

continued
rate (CAGR) of 13.5% between 2014 and 2019, while the current growth rate stands at around 11% due to various constraints.
The MoU was formally exchanged between State Planning Department Principal Secretary Piyush Kumar and IFMR representative Kapil Viswanathan. Under the agreement, IFMR will support the implementation of the ten guiding principles of the Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision and assist in setting up Mission Cells to achieve GSDP targets.
The institute will work with the state on key initiatives, including the Zero Poverty Mission, Water Security Mission and Deep Tech Mission. It will also conduct field studies, provide policy recommendations

and suggest innovative development strategies. The partnership is expected to be expanded in subsequent phases.
A State-Level Committee and Mission Working Groups will be constituted to monitor the implementation of the framework.
The Chief Minister said the state is integrating deep technologies across sectors to accelerate growth. He noted Andhra Pradesh is attracting investments in AI skilling, drones, automobiles, metals, rare earth minerals, semiconductors and defence manufacturing, while also promoting Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technologies.
Minister Payyavula Keshav, IFMR representatives, KREA University officials and senior Planning Department officers attended the meeting.

Atchannaidu Slams Jagan Over Farmer Welfare Remarks

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu launched a sharp attack on former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of misleading farmers through false propaganda and lacking the moral authority to speak on agricultural welfare.

Responding to Jagan's recent criticism of the Alliance government's farmer welfare initiatives, Atchannaidu described him as the "brand ambassador of anti-farmer policies" and alleged that farmers suffered severe hardships during the previous YSRCP regime. He claimed Jagan's social media comments were filled with inaccuracies and aimed at creating confusion among the farming community.

The minister said the Alliance government has been committed to supporting farmers through welfare measures, financial assistance, and timely interventions. He stated that although 300 crore was allocated for certain agricultural support programs in the 2025-



26 budget, the government spent nearly 588 crore keeping farmers' interests in mind. Atchannaidu also rejected allegations regarding aqua farmers and tobacco growers, asserting that the present government had taken concrete steps to address their concerns. He said aqua feed prices had been kept under control despite rising raw material costs and global market pressures. On tobacco cultivation, he noted that the government

was actively engaging with the Tobacco Board and industry stakeholders to safeguard farmers' interests. The minister accused Jagan of attempting to gain political mileage by spreading misinformation and said farmers are fully aware of the difference between genuine welfare efforts and political rhetoric. He maintained that the Alliance government remains focused on farmer welfare and agricultural development across the state.



Jagan to Hold Praja Darbars During Three-Day Pulivendula Tour

Tadepalli, June 22 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will undertake a three-day tour of Pulivendula from June 23 to June 25, during which he is scheduled to interact with the public and participate in religious events.

According to the tour schedule released on Monday, Jagan will arrive in Pulivendula at 4 p.m. on June 23 and conduct a Praja Darbar at the Bhakarapuram Camp Office. During the programme, he will meet people from the constituency, hear their grievances, and receive representations. He will stay overnight at his residence in Pulivendula. On June 24, Jagan will leave Pulivendula at 9 a.m. and travel to Bhumayya-

garipalle village in Vemula mandal to take part in the inauguration ceremonies of the newly constructed Sri Gattu Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. Following the temple event, he will return to the Pulivendula Camp Office and hold another Praja Darbar to interact with local residents and party supporters.

The former Chief Minister is scheduled to stay overnight in Pulivendula after the day's engagements.

On June 25, Jagan will conclude his visit and depart from Pulivendula at 8 a.m. to begin his return journey.

The tour is expected to include direct interactions with the public and participation in community and religious activities within the constituency.

Karnataka Leaders Invite CM for Tungabhadra Project Gate Inauguration

continued

matters of mutual interest. The meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere at the Secretariat. The inauguration of the new gates at the Tungabhadra Project is considered an important development aimed at strengthening irrigation infrastructure and improving water management in the region. The visiting delegation expressed hope that Chandrababu Naidu would grace the occasion and make the event a

success. Later, they met Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu at the Secretariat and invited him to attend the event. Karnataka Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Boseraju, MLA Basavaraju, and MLC Basavana Gowda discussed inter-state water issues. They recalled the 2024 floods when a dam gate was damaged, and emergency repairs helped save 80 TMC of water. Minister Ramanaidu said 51 crore was spent to replace 33 gates in one season.

YSRCP Demands CBI Probe into Sai Krishna Case

Tadepalli, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Monday demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the disappearance of Sai Krishna and the death of Kranthi Kumar, alleging serious lapses and police misconduct in both cases.

Addressing the media at Tadepalli, former minister and YSRCP leader Ambati Rambabu alleged that Sai Krishna was brought from Markapuram on May 9 by a police task force operating under the supervision of the Vijayawada Police Commissioner. He questioned why Sai Krishna was not produced before a court within 24 hours despite a Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) reportedly being issued against him. Rambabu stated that the whereabouts of Sai Krishna remain unknown and claimed that the matter came to light only after persistent appeals by family members. He demanded the disclosure of the identities of the officers involved in



bringing Sai Krishna from Markapuram and called for the suspension of the city's top police official to ensure an impartial investigation.

The YSRCP leader further alleged that the Kranthi Kumar case, initially registered as a suspicious death, should be investigated as a murder case in light of video evidence purportedly indicating police har-

assment before the suicide.

Rambabu also criticized the state government, alleging contradictory statements from Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan regarding the incidents. He asserted that only an independent CBI inquiry could uncover the facts and deliver justice to the affected families.

YSRCP Alleges Political Vendetta Against MLC's Institutions

Nellore, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Monday strongly condemned the inspections and actions initiated against educational institutions run by MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy, alleging that the move was politically motivated and aimed at silencing criticism of the government.

Addressing the media in Nellore after meeting Chandrasekhar Reddy, YSRCP MLC Lella Appi Reddy described the inspections as a clear act of political vendetta. He alleged that the institutions were being targeted because Chandrasekhar Reddy had exposed irregularities in the DSC-2025 recruitment process. Appi Reddy questioned why only his institutions were subjected to scrutiny while numerous other educational institutions across the state remained untouched.

He stated that the action was not merely directed against an individual but represented an

attack on the YSRCP and the democratic right to question the government. As a mark of protest, 18 YSRCP MLCs reportedly wore black badges and paid tributes at the statue of B. R. Ambedkar in Nellore.

Appi Reddy accused the coalition government of using official machinery to intimidate political opponents through raids, inspections, and legal cases. He said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh should respond politically to criticism rather than resorting to administrative action.

The YSRCP leader asserted that the party would intensify its agitation and expand the movement from Nellore across the state. He maintained that the party would continue its struggle against what it described as undemocratic practices and political retaliation against those who question the government's functioning.

Lokesh Meets Korean Ambassador Lee Seong-ho

continued

companies in India and explored opportunities for deeper collaboration in key technology and manufacturing sectors. Korea is recognised as a global leader in semiconductors, microelectronics, storage systems, shipbuilding and electric vehicle manufacturing. Lokesh highlighted that Andhra Pradesh can emerge as a long-term strategic partner for Korean companies looking to expand

their presence in India. He outlined the state's focus on building a strong industrial ecosystem supported by infrastructure, skilled manpower and investor-friendly policies, particularly in emerging sectors such as electronics and advanced manufacturing. Both sides expressed interest in enhancing future cooperation and investment opportunities, strengthening bilateral ties in technology-driven growth areas.



MLC Duvvada Questioning Triggers Protest

Srikakulam, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Tension prevailed at the Kothuru Police Station in Srikakulam district on Monday evening after supporters of MLC Duvvada Srinivas staged a protest during his questioning by police.

According to police sources, a case had earlier been registered against Duvvada Srinivas in connection with remarks allegedly made about Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Following the registration of the case, Kothuru police issued a notice directing the MLC to appear before them for inquiry.

Complying with the notice, Duvvada Srinivas reached the police station on Monday for questioning. As the inquiry continued for several hours, Duvvada Madhuri arrived at the police station and staged a protest, demanding that the questioning be concluded and that Srinivas be allowed to leave.

Holding placards, Madhuri and supporters questioned the duration of the police inquiry and expressed concern over the treatment being meted out to the MLC. The protest soon gathered momentum as a large number of Duvvada Srinivas' followers assembled outside the police station and joined the demonstration.

The gathering led to a tense atmosphere in and around the police station premises, prompting authorities to maintain heightened security to prevent any untoward incidents. Police personnel monitored the situation closely and appealed to the protesters to remain peaceful.

Despite the tension, the situation remained under control, and no major law-and-order issues were reported. Police officials stated that the inquiry was being conducted as part of the ongoing investigation and in accordance with legal procedures. Further developments in the case are awaited.

YSRCP Demands Apology from Nanaji Over Remarks Against Jagan

Tadepalli, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Monday demanded an immediate apology from Kakinada Rural Jana Sena MLA Pantam Nanaji for his alleged remarks against former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, asserting that public representatives must maintain dignity and decorum in political discourse.

Addressing a press conference at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli, party official spokesperson Karumuri Venkata Reddy criticized Jana Sena leaders for allegedly using abusive language and engaging in political provocation. He claimed that such behaviour had become increasingly common over the past two years and accused the coalition government of diverting attention from public issues.

Karumuri alleged that instead of addressing people's concerns, the ruling alliance was encouraging intimidation and attacks on opposition voices. He also questioned why Jana Sena leadership remained silent when its own cadre allegedly faced humiliation and why action was not taken against leaders making



offensive remarks.

The YSRCP leader stated that the party had exercised restraint because Jagan Mohan Reddy had always promoted responsible political conduct and democratic values. However, he warned that repeated personal attacks and derogatory

comments against the former Chief Minister would not be tolerated.

He urged Pantam Nanaji to maintain respect in public life, exercise restraint, and immediately apologize for his remarks.

Pawan Kalyan a Leader Beyond Caste Politics, Say Alliance Leaders

Ramachandrapuram, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Alliance party leaders in Ramachandrapuram strongly defended Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party President Pawan Kalyan, asserting that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has no moral right to criticize him after allegedly failing to fulfill promises made to the Kapu community during its tenure in power.

Addressing a press conference at the Lions Club Kalyana Mandapam on Monday, Jana Sena constituency in-charge Polishetti Chandrasekhar and several Kapu community leaders accused the YSRCP of betraying the aspirations of Kapus by neglecting commitments related to reservations and weakening institutions meant for their welfare.

The leaders described Pawan Kalyan as a statesman who represents all sections of society, including farmers, youth, women, workers, and middle-class families, rather than being confined to any single caste group. They said attempts to portray him solely as a Kapu leader were politically motivated and intended to undermine his broader appeal.

Criticizing the recent Venkatayapalem meeting organized by YSRCP leaders, they alleged that it was driven by

political survival rather than genuine concern for the Kapu community. According to them, the gathering reflected the anxiety of leaders facing political setbacks rather than a sincere effort to address community issues.

The alliance leaders also objected to the use of the term "YSR Kapus," stating that no community should be politically tied to a single party. They emphasized that the Kapu community is capable of making independent political decisions and determining its own future.

Highlighting Pawan Kalyan's growing national stature, the speakers pointed to the recognition he has received from national leaders and praised his commitment to public service, honesty, and social harmony.

The leaders further lauded State Minister Vasamsetti Subhash for undertaking development initiatives in the constituency and working for the welfare of all communities. They called for an end to caste-based politics and urged political parties to focus on public issues and development.

Several alliance leaders, Kapu association representatives, and party workers attended the meeting.

Tragic Drowning of Two Brothers Sparks Political War of Words in Kadapa

Kadapa, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Two teenage brothers, Karapureddy Jayantreddy and Karapureddy Rajavarjan Reddy, tragically drowned in an illegal sand quarry pit in the Papagani river near Ardhalamari in Chakrayapet mandal. The incident triggered a massive row, with grieving relatives and villagers sitting on a protest with the bodies all night, refusing to move them until the district administration intervened. Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy visited the site to comfort the family, demanding immediate justice. He slammed the local Telugu Desam Party leadership, alleging that the illegal sand



mafia operating under former MLC B'Tech Ravi caused the tragedy. Following the intervention of District Collector Cherukuri Sridhar, who promised a Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia and 5 cents of land, the villagers called off the agitation. Meanwhile, TDP in-charge

B'Tech Ravi strongly rejected the claims, accusing Avinash Reddy of practicing body politics over an accidental drowning where the youths went swimming by choice. Shankar Reddy, Chandrasekhar, and Cherukuri Sridhar participated in this program.

Collector Anand Orders Speedy Redressal of Grievances



Anantapuram, June 22 | TPN Bureau

District Collector O Anand directed officials to accelerate the resolution of petitions received during the Public Grievance Redressal System and Revenue Clinic program held on Monday at the Revenue Building. Anand, who received 751 applications alongside Joint Collector C Vishnucharan and Assistant Collector Suyash Kum

ar, emphasized that grievance disposal must be qualitative, thorough, and strictly within designated deadlines. The Collector also reviewed institutional performance, directing the power department to improve feedback metrics and instruct the SE to inspect field-level supply lines. Additionally, he ordered the mining department to open Penna sand reaches and called for better

performance tracking within the police and other welfare wings. DRO A Malola, District Forest Settlement Officer G Ramakrishna Reddy, and Special Deputy Collectors Rammohan, Mallikarjuna Reddy, and Kiranmayi were among the numerous district officials present to oversee the process. C Vishnucharan, and Suyash Kumar participated in this program.

Fertilizers Must Be Sold at Fixed Prices Demands Farmers Association



Srikalahasti, June 22 | TPN Bureau

AP Farmers Association District President Angeri Pullaiah demanded that fertilizer dealers sell their stocks at fixed prices. Under the aegis of the association, members inspected a fertilizer shop located at the Basavayyapalem check post on Monday. They expressed strong dissatisfaction over the absence of mandatory

price lists for fertilizers and pesticides. The association protested against the dealer for charging an additional Rs 3,500 for five DAP bags from a local farmer named Nagaraju. Following their intervention, the dealer returned the excess amount to the farmer and assured that overcharged amounts would be refunded to all other affected buyers. Pullaiah criticized

the lack of supervision by Agriculture Department officials, which allows dealers to exploit farmers. He warned that the association would launch a massive agitation on behalf of the farmers if dealers fail to display proper price lists at their shops. Angeri Pullaiah, Penagadam Guravaiah, and Chuttu Guravaiah participated in this program.

PDSU Demands Action Against Irregularities in Private Junior Colleges

Tirupati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The Progressive Democratic Students Union staged a dharna in front of the RIO office on Monday, demanding action against private and corporate junior colleges violating government rules. Protesters submitted a memorandum highlighting that

institutions are turning education into a business by charging illegal fees and exploiting families for uniforms, books, and hostels. PDSU District President S Zakir and Secretary Lokesh demanded a thorough investigation into corporate giants like Narayana, Sri Chaitanya, and NRI colleges.

They called for an end to unauthorized coaching centers, forced purchases from specific shops, and student harassment over unpaid fees. The union insisted that colleges display government-fixed fee structures on notice boards, establish grievance redressal committees, and undergo strict inspections

Minister Satyakumar Yadav's visit to Dharmavaram constituency

Minister to participate in Mahashanathi Pratishtha, Kumbhabhishek Mahotsavam and NDA government's victory rally 12 years at the Centre - 2 years of NDA governments in AP. Minister Satyakumar Yadav to attend victory rally



State Minister for Medical, Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education, Dharmavaram MLA Satyakumar Yadav, will visit Dharmavaram constituency on June 24 and 25, the Minister's Office said in a

statement. As part of this visit, the Minister will participate in spiritual and political programs. Minister Satyakumar Yadav will participate in Mahashanathi Pratishtha and Kumbh abhishek Mahotsavam to be held on June 24 (Wednesday). This divine Mahotsavam, which is held once every 12 years, will be held with devotion and grandeur. The Minister's Office revealed that the Minister will participate in special puja programs by participating in this holy program. It was stated that such programs are inspiring for the society in preserving religious and spiritual values. Later, on June 25 (Thursday) at 10:00 am, Minister Satyakumar Yadav will participate in the victory cere-

mony of the 12-year and 2-year NDA governments in Andhra Pradesh at the center set up at the CNB Kalyana Mandapam in Dharmavaram town. On this occasion, the Minister will explain the development programs, welfare schemes implemented by the Central and State governments in the past years, services provided to the people and future activities. It was stated that the main goal of the NDA governments is the development of the country, progress of the state and public welfare. During this two-day visit, Minister Satyakumar Yadav will engage with the people and participate in various programs with the aim of spiritual service, public service, and development.

SP Jagadish Congratulates State Level Yoga Winner Chalapathy

Anantapur, June 22 | TPN Bureau

District Superintendent of Police Jagadish congratulated police constable and yoga athlete M Chalapathy for his exceptional performance at the state-level Yoga Andhra-2026 competitions. Chalapathy, who is stationed at the District Police Training Center, secured third place in the senior category solo yoga asana competition held at Guntupalli Don Bosco English Medium School near Vijayawada. He had previously secured the first position at the district-level selections to qualify for the state finals. Chalapathy, who also showcased his talent in the 2025 edition and performed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was given a special place during the main International Yoga Day event at Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium. He participated in the protocol program alongside Chief Minister, yoga guru Baba



Ramdev, and various state ministers. SP Jagadish expressed immense pride in Chalapathy representing the police department and

shared his hope that the athlete would continue to excel at national and international levels. District Police Training Center DSP B

Vijaya Kumar also extended his congratulations. M Chalapathy, and B Vijaya Kumar participated in this program.

Apollo University and Mind Weavers Sign MoU for Clinical Training

Chittoor, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The Apollo University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mind Weavers to strengthen mutual cooperation in mental health, clinical training, research, and skill development. This agreement aims to provide students and faculty with international standard training and extensive research opportunities. Under this partnership, specialized training programs will focus on clinical internships, psychological assessment internships, student research projects, behavior therapy, solution-focused brief therapy, parent management training, and counseling skills. The institutions



also agreed to jointly organize national and international conferences, seminars, fac-

ulty development programs, certification courses, and student-faculty exchange initia-

tives to enhance mental health education and clinical skills.



Sai Prasad Slams Perni Nani Over Remarks on Pawankalyan

Srikalahasti, June 22 | TPN Bureau
Srikalahasti Swamy Governing Council Chairman Kotte Sai Prasad strongly condemned YSRCP leader and former minister Perni Nani for his comments against Jana Sena Party President Pawankalyan. Speaking at a press conference, Sai Prasad stated that Jana Sena stands by its activists while Jagan Reddy stands by murderers. He recalled being attacked



during the YSRCP regime for questioning local corruption, noting that Kalyan personally sought justice from the district police chief. Sai Prasad criticized Nani's

remarks as political bankruptcy, highlighting past YSRCP atrocities including harassment of a doctor during the pandemic and the murders of Amarnath Goud

and a Dalit driver involving MLC AnanthaBabu. He added that the public clearly observes the developmental works under Deputy Chief Minister PawanKalyan, such as rural road constructions and a massive tree plantation drive. He warned YSRCP leaders to halt hate politics or face severe public rejection. Kumar, Jayaprakash, and Mahesh participated in this program.

TDP Leaders Accuse Jagan Reddy of Supporting Criminal Elements

Srikalahasti, June 22 | TPN Bureau
Srikalahasti Constituency Telugu Desam Party leaders accused Jagan Reddy of inciting hatred and using anti-social forces, rowdy groups, and robbery gangs for political benefits. They alleged he supports criminals rather than victims, highlighting his strong reaction to the disappearance of rowdy sheeter Gaade Saikrishna while ignoring numerous disappearances during his own rule. The leaders claimed Jagan



Reddy shares a close affinity with Karumuri Sunil, Nageswara Rao, and Mithun Reddy, who allegedly siphoned off Rs 400 crore of public money through a shell

company named Sigma. They further criticized him for shielding YS Avinash Reddy in the Vivekananda Reddy case and failing to visit the family of Dalit doctor

Sudhakar. They noted that MLC AnanthaBabu was never suspended from the YSRCP despite facing murder allegations. Furthermore, they stated perpetrators behind the murders of Nandan Subbaiah, Kancharla Jallaiah, Thota Chandraiah, Amarnath Goud, and Melupaku Gopi Mudiraj received high positions, while victims like Abdul Salam and Misbah were ignored. Minnal Ravi, Umesh Rao, and Bhimala Bhaskar Mudiraj participated in this program.

YSRCP Turned Its Back on Kapus Says Arani Srinivasulu

Tirupati, June 22 | TPN Bureau
MLA Arani Srinivasulu stated that the public will reject the YSRCP's conspiracies to paint caste-based colors on Pawankalyan. Speaking at his office on Monday morning, Srinivasulu criticized YSRCP Kapu leaders for making false allegations against Kalyan regarding the lockup death of Kapu youth Sai Krishna. He called it ridiculous for YSRCP leaders to claim Kapus face injustice under the two-year NDA coalition rule, highlighting



that the previous YSRCP regime weakened the Kapu Corporation and halted Kapu Bhavans. Srinivasulu questioned whether Jaganmohan Reddy

has the courage to contest outside Pulivendula, contrasting him with Kalyan who elevated a common worker, Sai, to the Srikalahasti Devasthanam chairman

post. He reminded that YSRCP did not provide scholars shifts to Kapu students and stayed silent when Reddy denied Kapu reservations. He alleged that under YSRCP rule, only one caste received posts and participated in widespread looting. He expressed complete confidence that the NDA alliance will fulfill every promise given to the Kapu community. Tammineni Venkateswara Rao, Raja Reddy, Babaji, Arcot Krishnaprasad, Konda Raj Mohan and Others participated in this meeting.

Nara Lokesh, Prasada Rao Attends Republic Summit and Express Adda in Delhi

Delhi, June 22 | TPN Bureau
TDP Polit Bureau Member and Chittoor Member of Parliament Daggumalla Prasada Rao participated in the prestigious Republic Summit 2026 and the Express Adda program organized by Indian Express in the national capital. Prasada Rao attended these prominent events as the chief guest alongside Andhra Pradesh



Information Technology Minister Nara Lokesh. Earlier, the Chittoor Member of Parliament arrived in Delhi for the official visit. Upon arrival at the Delhi airport, he was accorded a warm and formal welcome by fellow members of parliament. The summit and interaction sessions highlighted key institutional representations from the state.

Tirupati Collector Urges Youth to Utilize Venkatagiri Job Mela

Tirupati, June 22 | TPN Bureau
Tirupati District Collector Venkateswar and Joint Collector Govinda Rao announced a mega Job Mela to be held at the Government ITI in Venkatagiri on Thursday. Jointly organized by the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation, Employment Change, and CEDAP, the fair features interviews for over 520 jobs. These opportunities span across Sri City, Menakuru SEZ, EMC Cluster



Tirupati, and ten multinational companies located in

Chennai. Venkateswar urged the educated, unemployed

youth of the district possessing qualifications ranging from tenth class, intermediate, ITI, diploma, to any degree or post-graduation to utilize this opportunity. Candidates must register online by June 24, though spot registration is also available. Applicants are required to generate an admit card using Aadhaar verification on the official portal before attending. T N ShobhanBabu, Chandra Shekhar Rao, and R Lokanatham participated in this program.

Three Tons of Flowers Offered at GovindarajaSwamy Temple

Tirupati, June 22 | TPN Bureau
A grand flower offering festival was celebrated with spiritual splendor at the Govindaraja Swamy temple in Tirupati on Monday. In the morning, the ceremonial deities of Govindaraja Swamy along with Devi and Bhudevi received the sacred SnpaThirumanjanam rituals. Special pujas were performed using milk, curd,



honey, coconut water, turmeric, and sandalwood. Following this, the traditional flower offering took place from 1 pm to 4 pm to seek atonement for any lapses during past Brahmotsavams and daily rituals. A total of three tons of flowers, comprising 12 varieties such as Tulsi, Chamanti, Gunneru, Mogali, Sampangi, Roja, and Kaluvalu, alongside six sacred leaf types including Maru

vam, Damanamu, Bilvam, and Panniraku, were offered. These were donated by devotees from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. In the evening, a procession of the deities took place along the four Madaveedhus. TTD Deputy EO V R Shanti, Deputy Director of Peace and Gardens Department S Srinivasulu, and AEO AB Narayana Chowdhury participated in this program.

YS Jagan to Tour Kadapa District

Kadapa, June 22 | TPN Bureau
Former Chief Minister and YSRCP chief YS Jagan is scheduled to tour Kadapa district from June 23 to 25, focusing on a series of local engagements in Pulivendula. Upon reaching Pulivendula on Tuesday evening, the party leader will interact with citizens, local workers, and party cadres at his camp office. Following these introductory interactions, he will conduct a public darbar to

address public grievances. On June 24, YS Jagan will visit the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple located in Bhumayagaripally in Vemul amandal. During his previous tenure as Chief Minister, the YSRCP administration had sanctioned more than Rs 1.5 crore to fund the comprehensive development of this specific temple. After performing special pujas at the shrine, he will return to the Pulivendula camp office to



resume another session of the public darbar in the afternoon. This session will facilitate open communication with citizens and party ranks arriving from different parts of the district. The former

Chief Minister will conclude his regional tour and return from Pulivendula on the morning of June 25. Avinash Reddy, temple priests, and Ycp cadres participated in this program.

Narayana Reviews Arrangements for Nellore Roti Festival

Nellore, June 22 | TPN Bureau

State Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana has instructed officials to work in complete coordination across all departments to ensure the smooth conduct of the upcoming Roti Festival, which will be held at the Barashahid Dargah in Nellore city from June 26 to 30. During a review meeting, the Minister ordered that top priority be placed on sanitation, safety, and drinking water facilities for the thousands of devotees expected to attend, with special directives for police to manage security and traffic efficiently. The minister



noted that a new prayer hall is under construction, while plans are underway to develop a tourist circuit linking the Barashahid, Kasumuru, and AS Peta dargahs. District Collector Himanshu Shukla and State Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Aziz confirmed that all government machinery is prepared to

ensure the event proceeds smoothly, with information on parking and traffic management to be shared publicly. Local leaders Kotamreddy Giridhar Reddy, Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav, and Dargah Committee Chairman Munir Basha participated in this meeting.

Nellore Sets New Record in Resolving Public Grievances

Nellore, June 22 | TPN Bureau

State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana announced that the district has achieved a record 87 percent clearance rate at the Public Grievance Resolving Forum. Speaking at a grievance program held on Monday at Thikkana Bhavan in the Collectorate, Narayana revealed that out of 82,166 petitions received since the government formed, officials successfully resolved 71,549 applications. He noted that only 5,384 applicants were unsatisfied and reapplied. The revenue department alone accounted for a lion's share of 57 percent of total applications, primarily concerning family property and



farm boundary disputes, with 84 percent already resolved. Narayana added that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is personally monitoring the weekly grievance cell. District Collector Himanshu Shukla directed officials to take immediate steps to ensure applications do not breach the Service Level

Agreement limits. The organizers also arranged educational tents, drinking water, a first-aid center, and food facilities for the visiting public. Joint Collector Mogili Venkateswarlu, Trainee Collector Pawan Teja, and District Revenue Officer Vijay Kumar participated in this program.

People Do Not Believe YSRCP Street Plays Says Narayana

Nellore, June 22 | TPN Bureau

State Municipal and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana stated that it is shameful for YSRCP leaders to perform street plays when authorities issue notices for regulatory violations. Responding to media queries regarding the YSRCP agitation over notices issued to MLC Chandrasekhar Reddy College in Nellore, the Minister asserted that the public does not believe in dramas staged for political gain. Narayana noted that he was unaware of those specific notices, pointing out that authorities recently issued notices to Narayana educa-



tional institutions in Bhimavaram as well. He emphasized that the coalition government does not act in a partisan manner or trouble businessmen and educational institutions. He reminded that during the previous government, factions harassed

Narayana groups, but they remained patient and sought clearance from officials rather than doing politics. He clarified that if there are shortcomings, they must be corrected, and the law will take its course wherever mistakes are made.

Vijayashree Calls for Strengthening Coalition Rule via SIR Campaign

Naidupeta, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Sullurpet MLA Nelavala Vijayashree stated that party workers must effectively implement the Special Intensive Revision program for the upcoming elections. Speaking at an awareness meeting at her residence, she emphasized that the party ranks carry the responsibility of taking the welfare and development initiatives launched by the coalition government over the last two years to every household. Vijayashree instructed booth, unit, and cluster in-charges to personally contact voters to ensure all eligible citizens are registered. She



urged party workers to actively participate in the door-to-door campaign starting June 25. Constituency Observer Maddipatla Suryaprakash added that the party needs further strengthening at the grassroots booth level,

urging coordinated efforts to ensure the revision program succeeds in collaboration with local communities. Maddipatla Suryaprakash and voter lists management officials coordinated the awareness meeting.

Over 11 Lakh Enumeration Forms Distributed for SIR Campaign

Chittoor, June 19 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Sumit Kumar announced that 11,60,227 enumeration forms have been distributed across Chittoor district as part of the Special Intensive Revision 2026 program. Trained Booth Level Officers commenced house-to-house visits on June 15 to survey the district's 13,40,126 total voters. By Monday afternoon, offi-

cials successfully distributed forms to 86.58 percent of the targeted population, with continuous online registration of collected field data underway. A constituency-wise breakdown shows 2,39,885 forms distributed in Palamaner, 1,81,979 in Nagari, 1,89,026 in Kuppam, 1,99,256 in Puthalapattu, 1,91,533 in G.D. Nellore, and 1,58,548 in Chittoor.

Under this intensive field operation running from June 15 to July 14, Booth Level Officers hand out two forms per household and retrieve one completed copy. The Collector urged Booth Level Agents and political parties to extend full cooperation to ensure the campaign's complete success. Booth Level Officers, and Booth Level Agents participated in this program.

editorial

Who Will Carry the Burden of Tomorrow's Borrowing?

State finances in India are entering a phase where borrowing is no longer a policy tool but a structural dependence.

Tamil Nadu's debt is estimated at 7-10 lakh crore, Karnataka's at 6-7 lakh crore, Kerala's above 5 lakh crore with one of the highest debt-to-GSDP ratios.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's State Finances 2024-25 report notes that the combined liabilities of 28 states rose to 90.51 trillion in 2024-25.

This is where the debate shifts from welfare to sustainability. Free bus travel for women, cash transfers, farm loan waivers, subsidised power, and housing support schemes have become central to state politics.

At the same time, disaster-related spending is rising, with floods, cyclones, drought relief, and rehabilitation becoming recurring fiscal burdens.

The two Telugu states reflect this contradiction. Andhra Pradesh continues to balance large welfare commitments with revenue stress, while Telangana is recalibrating spending amid rising debt obligations.

The core issue is not welfare itself but its financing model—whether states are building long-term capacity in education, health, infrastructure, and climate resilience, or expanding consumption-led expenditure funded by debt.

Ultimately, borrowing today is not free; it is a deferred burden carried by future taxpayers.

Editor

AI: Laying the Foundation Today for Tomorrow's Job Market

Chennu Peddiraju Sr Journalist

Quantum & Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovation marks a significant milestone in technology. Across the world, technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing are ushering in revolutionary changes in industries, governance, education, healthcare, and agriculture.

Singapore, in particular, has become a model for other nations through its effective collaboration among government, industry, and universities. According to experts, the success of these countries is driven not merely by technology itself, but by their ability to develop highly skilled human resources.

educational qualifications, many young people struggle to find suitable job opportunities. Under such circumstances, the establishment of a Quantum & AI Innovation Center may initially create anxiety among youth about the future of employment.

One of the major challenges facing today's youth is unemployment. Despite possessing degrees and higher educational qualifications, many young people struggle to find suitable employment opportunities. Under such circumstances, the establishment of a Quantum & AI Innovation Center may initially create concerns among youth about the future of jobs.



AI will eliminate jobs, it is important to remember that it will also create substantial demand for entirely new categories of employment. Professions such as data scientists, AI engineers, software developers, cybersecurity specialists, quantum researchers, and digital transformation consultants are expected to gain even greater prominence in the coming years.

In addition, the center can serve as a platform for startups. Today, many young innovators possess promising ideas but lack the guidance, infrastructure, and investment needed to transform those ideas into reality.

comes. In education, AI can provide personalized learning experiences tailored to individual student needs. In governance, it can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery.

First, increasing automation may lead to the disappearance of certain traditional jobs. Workers engaged in repetitive tasks may face difficulties adapting to future workplace requirements. Therefore, technological advancement must be accompanied by reskilling and upskilling initiatives to help people remain relevant in the evolving job market.

standards, and transparency. As quantum computing advances, it may also pose challenges to existing cybersecurity systems. Hence, technological progress must be supported by appropriate regulatory frameworks and governance mechanisms.

From a long-term perspective, the Quantum & AI Innovation Center has the potential to become a focal point for regional economic development, investment attraction, research, and innovation. Institutions of this nature will play a crucial role in ensuring competitiveness in the global technology race.

A Reader's Reflection on Meenakshi Natarajan's Literary Voice

K. S. Anantha Charya Poet

(Response to True Point Article by Varala Anand)

Anand sir, congrats. A great work is being done by you, sir.

Political power is transient. Elections are won and lost, terms end, and names fade from government letterheads. But literature endures. A single line written with honesty can outlive a hundred speeches delivered from power.

As Anand Sir rightly noted, "Political power may come and go, but your literature will spread across generations." That statement is not flattery. It is a historical pattern.

Great literature does not list dates; it revives pain. Meenakshi Natarajan's treatment of 1857 is a case in point. The First War of Independence is often reduced to textbooks and names—Mangal Pandey, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Bahadur Shah Zafar.

By detailing 1857 "k lankashanga"—with thoroughness—she shifts history from the battlefield to the courtyard. She reminds us that every revolution begins at the hearth, not just in the cantonment. This is history with a heartbeat.

Prati Inti Kurukshetram: Her most striking contribution is the concept of Prati Inti Kurukshetram—"A Kurukshetra in Every Home."

The Mahabharata is not a 5,000-year-old epic; it is a daily reality. Brothers dispute property. Ideologies clash between father and daughter. A woman's dignity is gambled in the casual words of family members.

By drawing parallels between epic characters and modern actors, she makes the classics urgent again. Literature becomes a tool for social introspection, not just aesthetic pleasure.

Indian political writing has long been male, macro, and policy-driven. Natarajan

Meenakshi Natarajan: Not Just a Politician, but a Student of History and Literature



brings a woman's drushti—perspective. Where male writers see budgets, she sees the mother who budgets a family meal. Where others debate laws, she examines the law that operates inside a kitchen: who eats first, who eats last.

This does not make her work "soft." It makes it complete. A nation cannot be understood without understanding its homes. Prati Inti Kurukshetram is therefore not domestic fiction. It is political theory written in the language of relationships.

India has a rare tradition of s hit v tala r jak ya parampara—politicians who are also men and women of let-

ters. Meenakshi Natarajan belongs to this lineage of P.V. and A.B. Vajpayee. Her prose carries policy insight, but her soul is literary. She writes not to win votes, but to win empathy.

To place her "next after P.V. and Vajpayee" is therefore not exaggeration. It is recognition that when a public servant writes honestly, she serves twice—once in office, once on paper.

A book by a politician faces a natural bias. Readers assume propaganda. Critics assume ghost-writing.

Anand Sir's hitya vivechana—literary discernment—did something vital: He separated the author from the office. He read Meenakshi Natarajan not as "Congress leader," but as "writer." By doing so, he gave literature the dignity of being judged on merit, not on party symbol.

Sir your line—"Your literature will spread across generations"—is the highest validation. Awards rust. Reviews fade. But to be told that your words will raise questions in a child yet unborn

is immortality.

Defeat in an election is a footnote. But a defeat in literature—when no one reads you after you're gone—is the real loss. Meenakshi Natarajan's work ensures she will not face that defeat. Prati Inti Kurukshetram will be read when today's manifestos are archival waste. The 1857 she described will be remembered when today's headlines are forgotten. So, vandanam to Natarajan gaaru's literature. Abhinandanalu to Anand Sir for his vision. And respect to every reader who chooses to see the writer beyond the neta. Because the throne is temporary. The thought is permanent.

Where Monsters Truly Dwell

Sudha Murali Poet, Writer 8309622246

Every time a child is subjected to sexual violence and brutal murder, society recoils in horror. Candlelight vigils are held, slogans demanding justice echo across streets, and calls for harsher punishments grow louder. Yet, beneath this familiar cycle of outrage and grief lies an uncomfortable truth: we rarely confront the deeper roots of such crimes.

Such labels are not only inadequate; they are misleading. The scale of cruelty involved in these crimes defies the notion of a fleeting lapse. When an individual can witness a child's

terror, hear their cries, and still persist in unspeakable violence, it is no longer about impulse—it is about a deeply embedded brutality. What kind of mind suppresses empathy so completely? What drives a person to destroy innocence and then, in fear of exposure, escalate that violence into calculated murder? These are not acts of sudden weakness; they are manifestations of a long-nurtured moral decay.

a profound failure of empathy and conscience.

The most unsettling reality, however, is that such individuals are not easily identifiable. They do not resemble the monsters we imagine. They are not marked by visible signs of cruelty. They exist within our families, neighborhoods, and workplaces—often as trusted, even respected, members of society. Their public personas conceal inner distortions, leaving us shocked in the aftermath, repeating the same refrain: "We never imagined he was capable of this."

dren, therefore, cannot be reduced to a legal issue alone. It is a social, moral, and psychological crisis—one that strikes at the very foundation of civilization. Childhood is a time when trust in the world begins to take shape. When that trust is shattered by the very people meant to protect, the damage is not confined to the individual—it ripples through families and corrodes the moral fabric of society. These crimes do more than harm the body; they fracture the ability to trust, to feel safe, to believe in human goodness. They leave behind a society gripped by suspicion, where faith in relationships weakens and fear takes root.



Deadly Lucknow Coaching Centre Fire Claims 15 Lives, Several Injured

A devastating fire that erupted in a three-storey commercial building in a residential area of Lucknow on Monday afternoon claimed the lives of at least 15 people, most of them believed to be students, while seven others sustained injuries. The tragedy has sent shockwaves across Uttar Pradesh and triggered a massive rescue operation involving multiple emergency agencies.

According to officials at King George's Medical University (KGMU) Trauma Centre, around 21 to 22 students were brought to the hospital following the incident. Medical Su-

perintendent Dr. Anil Agrawal confirmed that 15 victims were brought dead, while several injured students are receiving treatment. Two students suffered serious back injuries after jumping from the building in an attempt to escape the flames.

The fire broke out in a commercial building reportedly housing an animation and coaching centre on the upper floors, while a pet-related establishment operated on the ground floor. Thick smoke rapidly engulfed the structure, trapping many occupants inside. Eyewitnesses reported seeing students leaping from

windows and balconies as panic spread through the building.

Rescue teams from the Fire Department, Police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and Civil Defence rushed to the scene. Firefighters used ladders and accessed the building through adjacent structures after dense smoke made entry difficult. Rescue personnel conducted extensive searches of classrooms, offices, washrooms, and other sections of the building.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who visited

the site, said authorities were focused on ensuring that anyone trapped inside was rescued safely. He noted that hospitals, ambulances, and emergency medical teams had been placed on high alert.

The blaze also affected animals housed within the building. Rescue workers recovered several animal bodies during the operation, highlighting the broader impact of the disaster.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and directed officials to provide the best possible treatment to the injured and all necessary sup-

port to affected families.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also conveyed his condolences and announced an ex gratia of 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each deceased victim, while injured persons will receive 50,000.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire, with preliminary reports suggesting a possible electrical spark. The incident has once again raised concerns about fire safety compliance in educational and commercial establishments.



Odisha Transfers Rayagada Mob Assault Probe to Special Unit; 23 Arrested



The Odisha Police have transferred the investigation into the shocking mob assault of a young woman and her male companion in Rayagada district to the Integrated Unit for Crime Against Women (IUCAW), underscoring the seriousness of the incident. Authorities have so far arrested 23 people in connection with the attack, which was triggered by rumours that the victims were child kidnappers.

Additional Director General of Police S. Shyni, who heads the Crime Against Women and Children Wing, announced that the case has been classified as a "Red Flag" investigation and will be closely monitored by the specialized unit. She stated that the transfer aims to ensure a comprehensive, impartial, and speedy probe into the incident.

The assault took place on June 16 when the victims, travelling on a scooter from Dar-

ingbadi to Kalahandi, reportedly lost their way and entered Intalguda village in Rayagada district. Rumours quickly spread among villagers that the pair were involved in child kidnapping activities. A mob allegedly chased them, causing their scooter to skid before they were physically attacked.

Police said the victims were eventually rescued by local residents who intervened and prevented further violence. Both sustained injuries and were initially treated at a community health centre before being shifted to the district headquarters hospital in Rayagada. Officials confirmed that they have since recovered and been discharged.

ADG Shyni praised the villagers who helped rescue the victims and reiterated that strict action would be taken against all those found responsible. She also assured full support to the woman victim, who

is reportedly not a resident of Odisha.

The police have registered three separate cases and launched an extensive investigation with assistance from the Crime Branch. Following intensified police raids, many adult men from Intalguda village are reported to have fled, leaving large parts of the village deserted.

The incident has once again highlighted the dangers of mob justice and misinformation. Police appealed to the public not to take the law into their own hands and urged citizens to report suspicious activities directly to law enforcement agencies rather than acting on rumours.

Authorities have emphasized that maintaining law and order remains a top priority and vowed to ensure justice for the victims while preventing similar incidents in the future.

LDF Walks Out of Kerala Assembly Over Health Department Functioning

The Kerala Assembly witnessed sharp exchanges between the ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) and the opposition Left Democratic Front (LDF) on Monday over the functioning of the Health Department amid growing concerns about communicable diseases in the state. The opposition staged a walkout after the Speaker rejected its demand for an adjournment motion.

The motion was moved by CPI(M) MLA and former minister P. A. Mohammed Riyas, who alleged that Kerala's widely acclaimed healthcare system was showing signs of decline under the Congress-led government. He expressed concern over reported cases of diseases such as Nipah virus, West Nile fever, amoebic meningoencephalitis and monkey fever, claiming that the government had failed to ensure proper coordination within the health sector. Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan accused the government of allowing grassroots disease-prevention activities to weaken and alleged that extensive transfers within the department had disrupted public health services. He maintained that preventive measures had been taken during the previous adminis-



tration and rejected allegations of negligence.

Responding to the criticism, Health Minister K. Muraliedharan strongly defended the government's performance. He stated that only one Nipah case had been reported in the state and emphasized that there was no confirmed Ebola case anywhere in India. The minister said medicines required for Nipah treatment were procured from abroad within 24 hours and asserted that effective coordination existed

among health authorities.

Muraliedharan also said the government's focus was on preventing disease outbreaks through vigilance, public participation and joint inspections by health and food safety departments. He assured the House that vacancies in the health sector would be filled soon and dismissed claims that the state faced a public health crisis.

After hearing the arguments, Speaker Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan denied

permission for the adjournment motion, stating that the matter did not warrant suspending House business. In protest, LDF members walked out of the Assembly, accusing the government of failing to address serious public health concerns.

The debate highlighted the political tensions surrounding healthcare management in Kerala, particularly during the monsoon season when the risk of communicable diseases typically increases.

Six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs Join Shinde Camp

Mumbai witnessed a significant political development on Monday as six Lok Sabha members of the Shiv Sena (UBT) formally joined the ruling Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, deepening the split within the faction headed by Uddhav Thackeray.

The induction took place at a party event attended by Shinde and senior Shiv Sena leaders, just five days after the rebel MPs skipped a crucial parliamentary party meeting convened by the Shiv Sena (UBT) in New Delhi. Only three MPs attended that meeting, fuelling speculation about an impending split.

The six MPs who switched allegiance are Sanjay Deshmukh, Sanjay Jadhav, Sanjay Dina Patil, Nagesh Patil-Ashtikar, Omprakash Rajenimbalkar and Bhausaheb Wakchaure. All six had won their seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, defeating candidates from the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance.

The development is a major setback for the Shiv Sena (UBT), which had secured nine Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra in the 2024 general elections. With six MPs crossing over, the party's parliamentary



strength has been significantly reduced.

Addressing the gathering, Shinde described the move as a return to the "original Shiv Sena" founded on the ideals of the late Bal Thackeray. He said the MPs had chosen to join a party that continues to follow Balasaheb Thackeray's vision and principles.

Drawing a parallel with his 2022 rebellion that split the undivided Shiv Sena, Shinde remarked that the latest development represented the "second stage" of the party's expansion. Referring to the six MPs who joined his camp, he said

he had "hit a sixer," highlighting the numerical significance of the defections.

Shinde also declared the success of what he termed "Operation Tiger," claiming that the political realignment further strengthened his faction's position in Maharashtra politics.

The latest defections are expected to intensify the political battle between the Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Uddhav Thackeray camp ahead of upcoming electoral contests, while also reshaping opposition dynamics in Maharashtra.

A fresh political controversy erupted in the Kerala Assembly after Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan alleged that police used contaminated water in water cannons to disperse protesters marching towards the Assembly against the PM SHRI education scheme. The allegation triggered heated exchanges between the opposition and the government, prompting authorities to order a scientific examination of the water used during the protest.

Raising the issue in the Assembly on Monday, Vijayan claimed that activists of the AISF and AIYF, who staged a protest march to the legislature, were sprayed with contaminated water rather than clean water. To support his allegation, he reportedly displayed a bottle containing the water in the House and expressed concern over its potential health implications.

Vijayan argued that the matter was particularly serious at a time when Kerala was already facing concerns related to communicable diseases. He alleged that the water used could pose health risks and even contribute to diseases such as amoebic meningoencephalitis. Questioning the necessity of using such water, he said ordinary water could have been used and urged the government to treat the matter with utmost seriousness.

Responding to the allegations, Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala defended the po-



lice action, stating that water cannons are routinely used when protesters attempt to breach police barricades. He pointed out that such crowd-control measures have been employed by successive governments and are not unusual in Kerala.

However, the minister acknowledged concerns regarding the quality of the water. He stated that the water used in police tankers is sourced from the Kerala Water Authority and said preliminary in-

structions had already been issued to investigate the allegation. According to Chennithala, samples of the water have been sent to a laboratory for testing, and the findings will be presented before the Assembly once the analysis is completed.

The controversy stems from a protest organized by AISF and AIYF activists demanding the withdrawal of the PM SHRI scheme. As protesters attempted to advance toward the Assembly premises, police in-

tervened with water cannons to disperse the crowd.

The incident has now shifted from a law-and-order issue to a public health and political debate, with opposition parties demanding accountability and clarity regarding the source and quality of the water used during the protest. The laboratory report is expected to play a crucial role in determining the validity of the allegations and the government's next course of action.

Jaishankar Reviews Strategic Partnership with Mongolia

India and Mongolia reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held high-level discussions with Mongolian leaders during his visit to Ulaanbaatar on Monday. The talks focused on expanding cooperation across development projects, security, culture, education, mining, clean energy, and multilateral engagement.

Jaishankar's visit marks the first leg of his two-nation diplomatic tour and reflects India's continued efforts to deepen relations with key partners in Asia. During his meeting with Mongolian Foreign Minister Battsetseg Batmunkh, both sides reviewed the progress achieved under the India-Mongolia Strategic Partnership and explored new opportunities for collaboration.

The discussions covered a wide range of sectors, including capacity building, cultural exchanges, educational cooperation, and security partner-



ships. Particular emphasis was placed on emerging areas such as mining, clean energy, and agricultural processing, which are expected to play an important role in future economic cooperation between the two countries.

Jaishankar described the relationship as one rooted in both strategic interests and deep cultural bonds. He reiterated India's commitment to supporting Mongolia as a trusted partner and referred to the country as India's "third neighbour" and a significant spiritual ally.

The External Affairs Minister also called on Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and conveyed greetings from President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the meeting, both leaders reviewed the momentum generated by President Ukhnaa's visit to India last year and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation across multiple sectors.

A significant aspect of the visit was the emphasis on cultural and spiritual ties between the two nations. Jaishankar met Khamba Nomun

Khan Geshe Lharampa D. Javzandorj, Chief Abbot of Mongolia's Gandan Monastery, the country's largest Buddhist monastery. The meeting highlighted the enduring Buddhist heritage shared by India and Mongolia and the role of cultural diplomacy in strengthening people-to-people relations.

Upon his arrival in Ulaanbaatar, Jaishankar was welcomed by Mongolia's State Secretary Munktushig Ilkhanajav. He expressed optimism about productive engagements aimed at advancing the special partnership between the two countries.

Following the Mongolia visit, Jaishankar will travel to South Korea, where he is scheduled to hold talks with Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and deliver the keynote address at the prestigious Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity. The visit underscores India's broader strategy of enhancing regional cooperation, economic partnerships, and stability across Asia.

US Lifts Iran Oil Sanctions; Breakthrough in Switzerland Talks



A significant diplomatic breakthrough has emerged after high-level talks between Iran and the United States in Switzerland, with Iran announcing that Washington has agreed to lift sanctions on Iranian oil exports. The development is being viewed as a major step toward easing tensions between the two longtime adversaries and could have far-reaching implications for global energy markets.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi announced the outcome following the first round of negotiations. According to Iranian officials, both sides agreed on a memorandum of understanding and decided to establish a joint committee to oversee its implementation. The move is expected to facilitate the gradual return of Iranian crude oil to international markets, potentially easing concerns over

global energy supplies and prices.

As part of the discussions, the two countries also agreed to create a direct communication mechanism aimed at preventing misunderstandings and military tensions in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, through which a substantial portion of the world's oil shipments pass. Another key outcome was the decision to establish a de-escalation mechanism concerning developments in Lebanon, a region that has frequently witnessed tensions involving regional and international powers.

Pakistan and Qatar, which played important mediating roles during the negotiations, issued a joint statement welcoming the progress and expressing hope that continued dialogue would contribute to regional stability and peace.

Despite the positive developments, challenges remain. Technical-level discussions are scheduled to continue throughout the week to finalize details and ensure implementation of the agreements reached during the initial round of talks.

The negotiations, however, faced a moment of tension following comments made by U.S. President Donald Trump. In a social media post, Trump called for an end to the activities of Iran's intelligence apparatus and warned of severe consequences if concerns were not addressed. His remarks reportedly caused friction during the talks, with members of the Iranian delegation expressing strong objections.

Iranian parliamentary officials responded by asserting that Tehran remains prepared to defend its interests and respond to any hostile actions. While disagreements persist on several issues, both sides have indicated a willingness to continue discussions.

Analysts believe the breakthrough could mark the beginning of a new phase in U.S.-Iran relations, with energy cooperation, regional security, and diplomatic engagement expected to dominate future negotiations.

BRICS Security Meeting Focuses on Middle East, Emerging Threats

Top security officials from BRICS nations gathered in New Delhi on Monday for high-level discussions on global security challenges, with developments in the Middle East and emerging technological threats featuring prominently on the agenda. The meeting brought together representatives from major BRICS countries, including China, Russia, Brazil, South Africa, India, and Iran.

On the sidelines of the meeting, India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval held talks with Iranian official Ghadir Nezamipour. The discussions focused on the evolving situation in the Middle East and the broader strategic partnership between India and Iran.

The meeting comes at a crucial time as regional tensions continue to influence global energy markets and security dynamics. India, which relies heavily on imported energy resources, has been closely monitoring developments in the region, particularly following recent hostilities involving Iran and the United States. The discussions reflected New Delhi's efforts to safeguard its strategic



and economic interests while maintaining balanced diplomatic relations with all stakeholders.

Iranian officials also held separate talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. According to diplomatic sources, the discussions covered the implementation of recent peace understandings and regional stability. China reiterated its support for Iran's sovereignty and welcomed the continuation of diplomatic consultations between Tehran and Washington.

Wang emphasized Beijing's willingness to deepen cooperation with Iran through stronger political engagement and practical collaboration. The Chinese

side also expressed support for ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing tensions and promoting stability across the region.

The BRICS security meeting itself focused on what Indian officials described as "non-traditional security challenges." These include cyber threats, technological disruptions, artificial intelligence-driven risks, and other emerging concerns that increasingly affect national and international security frameworks. Officials discussed the rapidly changing nature of security threats in an interconnected world, highlighting the growing role of advanced technologies in shaping future

risks. The meeting also explored avenues for greater cooperation among BRICS nations in addressing these challenges through information sharing, capacity building, and coordinated responses.

The gathering underscores the increasing importance of BRICS as a platform for dialogue on global security issues beyond traditional military concerns. As geopolitical tensions continue to evolve, member nations are seeking greater coordination on issues ranging from regional conflicts and energy security to cyber resilience and technological governance.

The meeting also reflects improving engagement between India and China. Relations between the two Asian powers have gradually stabilized following years of tension after the deadly 2020 border clash in the Himalayas. Continued diplomatic interactions within multilateral forums such as BRICS are viewed as important steps toward maintaining regional stability and strengthening international cooperation on shared security concerns.

Netanyahu Vows Continued Military Presence in South Lebanon

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that Israeli troops will remain deployed in southern Lebanon for as long as necessary, emphasizing that Israel's security interests will remain a top priority amid ongoing regional tensions.

Speaking on Sunday, Netanyahu said Israeli forces would continue operating in what he described as a security zone in southern Lebanon to protect residents of northern Israel and ensure long-term security. He stressed that Israel's commitment to safeguarding its citizens would not change regardless of political developments in the region.

The Israeli leader also reiterated his government's determination to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. Netanyahu asserted that as long as he remains prime minister, Israel would not allow Tehran to develop a nuclear arsenal, describing such a possibility as an existential threat to

the Jewish state.

At a later public event, Netanyahu claimed that the recent conflict involving Israel, the United States and Iran had achieved one of its principal objectives by preventing Iran from advancing its nuclear ambitions. He argued that military actions taken against Iranian targets had removed a major security threat and significantly weakened Tehran's strategic capabilities.

According to Netanyahu, the joint Israeli-American campaign inflicted severe damage on Iran's powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. He suggested that the impact on the organization could be long-lasting and predicted that growing divisions between Iran's leadership and its population could eventually challenge the stability of the Iranian government.

The Prime Minister also addressed Israel's military operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon. He maintained that

Israeli forces were targeting Hezbollah fighters rather than civilians and claimed the military had taken extensive measures to minimize non-combatant casualties during operations.

Netanyahu argued that Israel's campaign was directed solely against Hezbollah, which he described as an Iranian proxy force operating in Lebanon. He expressed hope that once Hezbollah is dismantled and disarmed, a path toward lasting peace between Israel and Lebanon could emerge.

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah escalated earlier this year after the Lebanese militant group launched attacks on Israeli territory, citing developments in the wider Middle East conflict. Since then, cross-border hostilities have intensified, leading to significant casualties and displacement on both sides.

Lebanese authorities report that thousands of people have been killed and many more in-



jured in Israeli military operations since the escalation began. The casualties include civilians, emergency personnel, and Hezbollah fighters, highlighting the heavy humanitarian toll of the ongoing conflict.

Netanyahu's latest remarks underscore Israel's determination to maintain military pressure on both Hezbollah and Iran while pursuing what it views as long-term regional security objectives. However, the continued fighting and rising civilian casualties remain a source of international concern as diplomatic efforts to stabilize the region continue.

US-Iran Talks Show Progress Toward Lasting Peace: JD Vance

The first round of high-level talks between the United States and Iran in Switzerland has generated cautious optimism, with US Vice President JD Vance stating that the negotiations have laid a strong foundation for a potential long-term peace agreement aimed at ending tensions in the Middle East.

Speaking to reporters at the Burgenstock resort in Switzerland on Monday, Vance described the discussions as constructive and said both sides had made meaningful progress toward establishing a framework for future negotiations.

"We laid a very good foundation for a successful final deal," Vance said, emphasizing that while a comprehensive agreement has not yet been achieved, the initial discussions created the groundwork necessary for further diplomatic engagement. Comparing the process to building a house, he remarked, "The

final deal is the house. We haven't built the house, but we've laid a successful foundation to get to a good place for the American people."

The talks come amid heightened regional tensions and ongoing concerns about security, nuclear issues, and military confrontations that have affected stability across the Middle East. Diplomatic efforts in Switzerland are being viewed as a significant step toward reducing hostilities and opening channels for sustained dialogue between Washington and Tehran.

Officials familiar with the discussions indicated that the negotiations focused on key areas of mutual concern, including regional security, de-escalation measures, and mechanisms to prevent future conflicts. While neither side has disclosed specific details of the discussions, both have signalled a willingness to continue engagement in the coming

weeks.

The Switzerland talks mark one of the most important diplomatic contacts between the two countries in recent months. International observers have welcomed the development, noting that successful negotiations could help reduce geopolitical risks, improve regional stability, and ease concerns in global energy markets.

Analysts caution, however, that significant challenges remain before a comprehensive agreement can be reached. Long-standing disagreements over security policies, sanctions, and regional influence continue to complicate relations between the two nations.

Despite these hurdles, Vance's comments reflect growing confidence within the US administration that diplomacy can produce meaningful results. The Vice President stressed that the objective remains a durable and sustainable settlement



that serves the interests of both regional stability and international security.

With technical discussions and follow-up meetings expected in the coming days, attention will now focus on whether the positive momentum generated in Switzerland can be translated into concrete agreements. Diplomats on both sides hope the talks will eventually lead to a broader framework capable of ending years of confrontation and establishing a more stable future for the Middle East.

Over 100 Migrant Workers in Singapore Allege Unpaid Wages

More than 100 migrant workers, mainly from India and Bangladesh, gathered at Singapore's Ministry of Manpower (MOM) on Monday, alleging that they have not received salaries for the past two months from their employer, KPA Engineering, an air-conditioning maintenance services company.

The workers claimed that despite repeatedly raising the issue with company management, their wages remained unpaid. Concerns intensified after reports emerged that the company had ceased operations, leaving employees uncertain about their future and financial security.

One of the affected workers, Sampath from India, said the workers had been struggling without salaries for two months. He explained that many employees were worried after learning that the company had reportedly shut down and were unsure where to seek help.

Following their visit, officials from the Ministry of Manpower met the workers and began gathering details regarding the complaints. The workers were identified as employees of KPA Engineering and were assured that the matter would be investigated.

Rajenderan Berthap, a



36-year-old air-conditioning and mechanical ventilation technician, said ministry officials listened to their concerns and informed them that appropriate action would be taken after examining the case.

The Tripartite Alliance for Dispute Management (TADM) and the Ministry of Manpower stated that assistance was being provided to the affected workers. Authorities said they were also reaching out to the employer to verify the claims and determine whether any employment laws had been violated.

According to officials, the immediate priority is ensuring that the workers have access to essential support, including accommodation and meals, while investigations continue. Authorities emphasized that enforcement action would be taken if the company is found guilty of breaching labour regulations.

Business records indicate that KPA Engineering has two foreign directors with registered addresses in Singapore's Hillview area. One of the directors, who holds Singapore permanent residency, is reportedly associated with several other companies involved in engineering, plumbing and air-conditioning services.

The incident has once again highlighted the challenges faced by migrant workers and the importance of timely wage payments. Labour rights advocates have called for swift intervention to ensure affected employees receive their outstanding salaries and necessary support while the investigation is underway.

Singapore authorities are expected to continue monitoring the situation closely as workers await clarity on their employment status and unpaid dues.

Meta Invests in CRED; Kunal Shah Set to Lead WhatsApp

Meta Platforms has announced a major strategic investment in Indian fintech startup CRED, committing \$900 million (approximately 8,550 crore) as part of the company's Series H funding round. The deal, which values CRED at around \$4.5 billion (43,239 crore) on a post-money basis, also marks a significant leadership transition, with CRED founder Kunal Shah set to take charge of WhatsApp globally.

Under the agreement, Meta will acquire an estimated 20 percent minority stake in CRED through a combination of primary and secondary share purchases. The investment reflects Meta's growing interest in India's rapidly expanding digital financial ecosystem and its confidence in CRED's long-term growth prospects.

As part of the leadership reshuffle, Kunal Shah will step down from his role as Chief Executive Officer of CRED and join Meta's global leadership team. He will succeed Will Cathcart, who has led WhatsApp for the past seven years and is now expected to focus on Meta's artificial intelligence initiatives.

Meta said Shah will oversee WhatsApp's next phase of expansion, with particular emphasis on strengthening monetisation through advertising, subscription-based services and the integration of AI-powered tools and digital assistants across the messaging platform.



Following Shah's departure from day-to-day operations, Miten Sampat, who has been responsible for strategy and finance at CRED since 2020, has been appointed interim CEO. The company stated that its board and senior leadership are working on a long-term management structure as it prepares for a potential public listing in the future.

Founded in 2018, CRED initially gained popularity by rewarding users for timely credit card bill payments. Over the years, it has transformed into a comprehensive financial services platform offering payments, lending, insurance, wealth management and lifestyle-related services.

According to the company, CRED currently serves around 1.7 crore monthly active users and facilitates more than 40 per-

cent of India's credit card bill payments. Its lending business has also expanded significantly, managing assets worth approximately 24,000 crore through partner financial institutions.

The company reported annual revenues of nearly 3,200 crore and stated that it has achieved profitability, a milestone that strengthens its position ahead of future expansion plans. The investment represents one of Meta's largest bets on India's fintech sector and highlights the increasing convergence of digital payments, financial services, artificial intelligence and communication technologies. Industry observers believe the partnership could accelerate innovation in both fintech and messaging platforms while creating new opportunities for growth across global markets.

India Pushes for Better Terms in US Trade Deal Talks



India is intensifying efforts to secure a favorable trade agreement with the United States, seeking tariff concessions that would provide its exporters with a competitive edge over other Asian economies. The renewed push comes ahead of a crucial two-day visit by U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, aimed at advancing negotiations and resolving key trade concerns between the two countries.

The discussions follow a recent meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, marking their first direct interaction in more than a year. The meeting is widely seen as an attempt to improve bilateral ties and inject momentum into the long-pending trade negotiations.

Indian officials are expected to press for lower tariffs on a range of exports while also seeking assurances that Washington will not impose additional duties after a trade agreement is finalized. New Delhi believes that predictable tariff policies are essential for long-term investment planning and export growth.

Trade talks have gained urgency as several Asian nations continue to negotiate preferential access to the American market. India is keen to ensure that any agreement places its products on a stronger footing than those of regional competitors.

However, the negotiations face several challenges. Uncertainty remains over an ongoing U.S. Section 301 investigation concerning allegations of industrial overcapacity and forced labour practices in glob-

al supply chains. The outcome of the probe could influence future trade measures and affect the scope of any agreement.

Diplomatic strains have also surfaced following the deaths of three Indian sailors in attacks on commercial vessels in the Gulf involving U.S. naval operations. The incident has added a sensitive dimension to the broader relationship at a time when both governments are attempting to deepen economic cooperation.

Despite these concerns, officials on both sides remain optimistic about reaching a mutually beneficial arrangement. The United States views India as a key strategic and economic partner in the Indo-Pacific region, while India sees stronger trade ties with Washington as critical to boosting exports, attracting investment, and accelerating economic growth.

The upcoming negotiations are expected to focus on market access, tariff reductions, supply-chain cooperation, and mechanisms to prevent future trade disputes. A successful outcome could strengthen one of the world's most important bilateral economic partnerships and provide greater stability for businesses operating across both markets.

Bulls Regain Control as Markets Rebound; Nifty Ends Above 24,100



Indian benchmark indices staged a strong recovery on Monday after the previous session's sell-off, with investors returning to equities amid easing crude oil prices and optimism surrounding progress in U.S.-Iran peace negotiations. Positive sentiment in heavyweight stocks, particularly Reliance Industries, further boosted market confidence.

The BSE Sensex climbed 291.17 points, or 0.38 percent, to close at 77,094.07, while the NSE Nifty gained 89.80

points, or 0.37 percent, ending the session at 24,102.90. The broader market also remained firm, with the Nifty Midcap index rising 0.3 percent and the Nifty Smallcap index advancing 0.6 percent.

Among the top gainers on the Nifty were Cipla, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, and Sun Pharma. On the losing side, Asian Paints, Titan Company, Nestle India, Trent, and Power Grid witnessed selling pressure.

Sector-wise, most indices

ended in positive territory. Media, IT, metal, pharma, auto, and energy stocks gained between 0.5 and 1 percent, while FMCG and consumer durables were the only sectors to close lower.

Reliance Industries attracted attention after its telecom subsidiary, Jio Platforms, filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for its proposed initial public offering. Other notable movers included Goodluck India, which rose 4.4 percent after securing a

255-crore defence order, and Power Mech Projects, which gained following a 1,008.9-crore contract win from JSW Thermal Energy.

More than 200 stocks touched their 52-week highs on the BSE, reflecting broad market strength. These included Kirloskar Oil, Aegis Logistics, New India Assurance, HFCL, Aditya Birla Capital, Bharat Forge, Nykaa, Polycab India, and RBL Bank. Market analysts noted that the Nifty traded within a narrow range and formed a Doji candle on the daily chart, indicating indecision among investors. However, the index continues to remain above key moving averages, suggesting that the broader trend remains positive.

Going forward, the 24,200-24,230 zone is expected to act as immediate resistance. A decisive breakout above this range could trigger a rally toward 24,400 and beyond. On the downside, support is seen around the 24,000 level, with stronger support emerging near 23,950. Analysts expect volatility to remain elevated ahead of the weekly expiry session, although the market's overall outlook remains cautiously optimistic.

Reliance Rally Gains Momentum on AI, Jio

Reliance Industries shares advanced following the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM), as investors responded positively to its long-term growth strategy centered on artificial intelligence, digital services, and clean energy initiatives. The stock outperformed the broader market amid renewed optimism over the conglomerate's future expansion plans.

The AGM marked what analysts described as a new phase of growth for the company, with management outlining ambitious plans across multiple high-potential sectors. A key highlight was Reliance's increased focus on artificial intelligence infrastructure, which is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening its digital ecosystem and supporting future technological innovations.

Global brokerage CLSA maintained its "Outperform" rating on the stock and set a target price of 1,800, indicating substantial upside potential from current levels. The brokerage noted that Reliance's investments in AI infrastructure and compute capacity could position the company as a significant player in India's evolving digital economy.

CLSA also highlighted growth opportunities across several business segments, including fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), advanced materials, exports, and clean ener-



gy. These businesses are expected to complement the company's traditional strengths in telecommunications, retail, and energy.

Another major catalyst identified by analysts is the potential initial public offering (IPO) of Jio Platforms. Brokerage firm Nomura retained its "Buy" rating on Reliance and stated that a future listing of Jio Platforms could unlock significant value for shareholders. According to analysts, the IPO would provide greater transparency regarding the valuation of Reliance's telecom and digital services businesses while attracting fresh investor interest.

Reliance's new energy initiatives also remain a major focus area. The company has been investing heavily in renewable energy projects, green manufacturing facilities, and clean technology solutions as part of its long-term sustainability strategy. Market experts believe these investments could become important growth drivers as India accelerates its

transition toward cleaner energy sources.

Beyond AI and renewable energy, analysts continue to see strong opportunities in Reliance's retail and telecommunications businesses, both of which remain key contributors to the company's revenue and profitability.

Investor sentiment remained upbeat after the AGM, with market participants viewing the company's diversified growth strategy as a strong foundation for future expansion. The positive response from leading brokerages further reinforced confidence in Reliance's ability to capitalize on emerging opportunities across technology, energy transition, and consumer-driven sectors.

With multiple growth engines in place, Reliance Industries appears well-positioned to strengthen its leadership across several industries while pursuing its vision of becoming a major force in India's digital and sustainable economy.

Aditya Birla Capital Crosses ₹1 Lakh Crore Market Cap Milestone

Shares of Aditya Birla Capital surged more than 4 percent on Monday, helping the financial services major achieve a significant milestone as its market capitalization crossed the 1 lakh crore mark for the first time. The strong rally reflected growing investor confidence in the company's growth strategy, capital strengthening plans, and robust financial performance.

The stock climbed to 392.15 during trading, registering a gain of over 4 percent and emerging as one of the notable gainers in the financial sector. Market participants attributed the rally to the company's recent capital-raising initiative and its consistent earnings growth across businesses.

Investor sentiment has remained positive since the company announced plans to raise 4,000 crore through a preferential allotment aimed at strengthening its capital base and supporting future expansion. The board ap-

proved a preferential issue worth 2,880 crore to promoter Grasim Industries, 200 crore to Suryaja Investment Pte Ltd, and 920 crore to International Finance Corporation (IFC).

According to the company, the proceeds from the fundraising exercise will be utilized to meet growth objectives, strengthen the balance sheet, support lending operations, and address general corporate requirements. The fresh capital is expected to provide greater financial flexibility as the company expands its presence across lending, insurance, asset management, and wealth management businesses.

The rally has also been supported by strong operational performance. During the January-March quarter, Aditya Birla Capital reported a consolidated net profit of 1,124 crore, representing a robust 30 percent year-on-year increase. The earnings growth highlighted the resilience of the company's diversified financial services portfolio de-



spite a challenging economic environment.

Analysts believe the company's diversified business model, combined with rising demand for financial products and services, positions it well for sustained growth. The participation of promoter entities and global institutional investors in the preferential issue has further strengthened market confidence regarding the company's long-term prospects.

The achievement of a 1 lakh crore market capitalization places Aditya Birla Capital

among India's leading financial services firms and underscores its growing significance in the country's financial sector. Investors will now closely watch how the company deploys the fresh capital to accelerate growth, expand lending operations, and enhance shareholder value in the coming years.

With strong earnings momentum, a strengthened capital base, and continued expansion across key business segments, Aditya Birla Capital appears well-positioned for its next phase of growth.

Defence Stocks Gain on Prospects of UAE Missile Deal



Shares of defence public sector companies surged on Monday after reports indicated that India is in discussions with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the potential export of advanced defence systems, including the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile and the Akasheer air defence control system. The development boosted investor sentiment and lifted key defence stocks during the trading session.

Shares of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) rose more than 2 percent to 1,401.70 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), while Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) gained over 1 percent to 431.70 per share, recovering from losses recorded in the previous session.

Market participants viewed the reported negotiations as a positive sign for India's growing defence exports and the expanding global acceptance of in-

digenous military technology. If finalized, the proposed deal could further strengthen defence cooperation between India and the UAE while enhancing the international profile of India's defence manufacturing sector.

The BrahMos missile, jointly developed by India and Russia, is regarded as one of the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missiles. The missile system can be launched from land, sea, and air platforms, making it a versatile weapon for modern military operations. Its speed, precision, and operational flexibility have made it a key component of India's strategic defence capabilities.

Operating under the Ministry of Defence, Bharat Dynamics Limited serves as the primary manufacturer and integrator of the BrahMos missile system. Any large-scale export order involving

BrahMos is expected to provide significant business opportunities for the company and strengthen its order book.

Meanwhile, Akasheer has emerged as one of India's notable indigenous defence technologies. Developed by Bharat Electronics in collaboration with the Indian Army, the automated air defence control and reporting system is designed to integrate and coordinate air defence operations in real time. The platform enhances battlefield awareness and improves the efficiency of air defence responses against aerial threats. The prospect of exporting sophisticated systems such as BrahMos and Akasheer reflects India's increasing emphasis on becoming a major defence exporter. The government has been actively promoting domestic defence production and encouraging public and private sector participation in global markets under its self-reliance initiative.

Analysts believe successful defence export agreements could provide long-term growth opportunities for companies such as Bharat Dynamics and Bharat Electronics, while also strengthening India's position as an emerging supplier of advanced military technology. The positive market reaction underscores investor confidence in the sector's growth potential and expanding international footprint.

Asian Energy Shares Jump on ₹188-Crore Gujarat Power Project

Shares of Asian Energy Services climbed nearly 5 percent on Monday after the company announced the award of a major engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract worth 187.62 crore from Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited (GSECL).

The stock gained as much as 4.72 percent during intraday trading following the announcement before trimming some of its gains. By the afternoon session, shares were trading at 376.90, up 2.63 percent, reflecting continued investor optimism over the company's growth prospects and expanding project portfolio.

According to a regulatory filing, the contract involves the enhancement of the Stage-II Coal Handling Plant at the Ukai Thermal Power Station in Gujarat. The project will be executed on a lump-sum EPC basis and includes comprehensive responsibilities covering engineering, procurement, construction, testing and commissioning.

The company stated that the

project is expected to be completed over the next two to three years, providing sustained revenue visibility during the execution period. Market participants viewed the order as a significant boost to the company's infrastructure and engineering business.

A key aspect of the contract is its strategic importance for Asian Energy Services. The order marks the company's first major project outside the network of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries and associates. Analysts believe this diversification reduces the company's dependence on a single customer group and opens new opportunities in the broader power and infrastructure sectors.

Commenting on the development, Managing Director Kapil Garg said the project represents an important milestone in the company's growth journey. He noted that the contract strengthens the firm's order book within the mineral infrastructure segment and enhances revenue visibility for the



coming years.

The project also highlights Asian Energy Services' ability to secure business from new clients in the competitive EPC market. Winning a contract from GSECL demonstrates the company's technical capabilities and growing reputation in handling large-scale industrial infrastructure projects.

Investors responded positively to the announcement, viewing it as evidence of the company's successful expansion strategy. Market experts believe the addition of new

customers and sectors could support long-term growth while reducing concentration risks.

The latest contract is expected to contribute significantly to the company's future earnings and reinforce its position in India's energy and industrial infrastructure landscape. With a stronger order pipeline and broader customer base, Asian Energy Services appears well-positioned to capitalize on upcoming opportunities in the country's power and mining sectors.

General Motors Replaces 1,000 Workers with 50 Robots

The growing influence of artificial intelligence and robotics on employment has once again come under the spotlight after American automobile giant General Motors (GM) reportedly replaced more than 1,000 workers with around 50 collaborative robots, commonly known as "cobots." The move has triggered widespread debate about automation and its impact on the workforce.

GM has introduced the robotic units at its facilities in Michigan as part of its broader strategy to modernize manufacturing operations and improve efficiency. Unlike traditional industrial robots that work in isolated environments, cobots are designed to work alongside human employees on vehicle assembly lines, performing repetitive and physically demanding tasks.

According to company officials, the adoption of advanced robotics is aimed at increasing productivity, maintaining competitiveness in the rapidly evolving automotive industry, and ensuring consistent manufacturing quality. The company maintains that automation is essential to meet future production demands and technological advancements in the sector.

However, the decision has drawn criticism from labor organizations and employee unions, which argue that technological progress should not



come at the cost of workers' livelihoods. Union representatives have expressed concerns that the replacement of a large number of employees with a relatively small number of robotic units could set a worrying precedent for industries worldwide.

The development has reignited a broader conversation about the balance between innovation and employment. Experts note that while automation can create new opportunities in robotics maintenance, software development, and technical operations, it can also eliminate traditional manufacturing jobs, particularly those involving repetitive tasks.

Industry analysts believe the trend is likely to accelerate in the coming years as companies seek to reduce operational costs and improve efficiency through automation and AI-driven systems. Sectors such

as automotive manufacturing, logistics, warehousing, and electronics production are expected to witness increasing deployment of robotic technologies.

For workers, the shift underscores the growing importance of acquiring new skills and adapting to emerging technologies. Governments, educational institutions, and corporations may need to invest more heavily in reskilling and workforce development programs to help employees transition into new roles created by technological change.

As businesses continue to embrace automation, the debate over whether robots are enhancing productivity or replacing human livelihoods is expected to intensify. The General Motors case has become a prominent example of the challenges and opportunities that accompany the next phase of industrial transformation.

Techie Says AI Is Making Developers Forget How to Code

The rapid adoption of artificial intelligence in the workplace is transforming industries across the world, but not everyone is celebrating the change. A software developer has sparked a widespread discussion online after sharing concerns that heavy reliance on AI tools is reducing critical thinking skills and taking the joy out of coding.

In a viral social media post, the tech professional revealed feeling increasingly demotivated and directionless since AI-powered coding assistants became a major part of daily work. According to the developer, tasks that once required deep analysis, research, and problem-solving are now completed through simple prompts, with AI generating much of the required code.

The employee explained that their company recently provided access to advanced AI coding tools. While these technologies have significantly improved speed and productivity, they have also changed the way software development is carried out. Instead of carefully designing and writing code, many developers now spend their time instructing AI systems, reviewing generated output, and submitting the results.

What worries the developer most is the growing pressure to work faster. The post claimed that taking extra time to thoroughly review AI-generated code is often viewed



negatively because it can delay project schedules. As a result, teams may end up producing large volumes of software without fully understanding the logic behind it.

The techie also admitted that after relying heavily on AI for several weeks, writing code independently had become unexpectedly difficult. They revealed that they had recently attempted to write code without assistance and found themselves struggling with tasks that previously felt natural. This experience led them to question whether constant dependence on AI could weaken essential reasoning and learning abilities over time.

The post resonated with many professionals and students in the technology sector. Several users commented that they shared similar concerns, saying the excitement of solving complex programming challenges had diminished because AI could provide answers almost instantly. Others feared that younger develop-

ers might miss out on valuable learning opportunities if they become overly dependent on AI from the beginning of their careers.

However, not everyone agreed with the concerns. Some users argued that AI should be treated as a productivity tool rather than a replacement for human skills. They believe developers can still learn and grow by understanding, testing, and improving AI-generated solutions instead of accepting them blindly.

The discussion reflects a growing debate within the technology industry about the balance between efficiency and expertise. While artificial intelligence is helping teams work faster than ever before, many professionals believe it is equally important to preserve creativity, problem-solving abilities, and technical understanding. As AI continues to reshape software development, finding that balance may become one of the industry's biggest challenges.

Fresh Graduate Loses Hope as Tough IT Job Market Fuels Career Anxiety

The challenging job market has become a source of growing anxiety for many young professionals, and one recent computer science graduate has captured that frustration in a social media post that resonated with thousands of people online. The student, who completed a B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering this year, expressed concerns about whether securing a software job is still a realistic goal in the current hiring environment.

According to the graduate, months of preparation and effort have yet to result in a job offer. Despite completing two internships, building multiple projects, maintaining a professional portfolio, and

consistently practising data structures, algorithms, and interview questions, she remains unemployed after graduation.

The student's post reflected the emotional strain that many fresh graduates experience when entering a highly competitive job market. While she believed she had taken the right steps to improve her employability, the lack of positive responses from employers left her questioning her future in the technology industry.

Adding to her worries was the feeling of falling behind her peers. She revealed that seeing friends and acquaintances move forward with their careers and higher edu-

cation plans had intensified her self-doubt. In particular, she mentioned comparing herself to her boyfriend, who recently secured admission to a prestigious management institute, leading her to wonder whether she was making the right career choices.

As uncertainty grew, the graduate began considering alternative paths. She admitted that she had started preparing for competitive entrance examinations as a backup plan. However, she later questioned whether that decision was driven by logic or simply a reaction to frustration and comparison with others.

Her story quickly attracted attention online, with many

An Indian woman living in France has sparked a conversation on women's safety after sharing a video of herself walking home alone at 4:30 in the morning. The video, posted on social media by Shubhangi Vyas, has attracted widespread attention for highlighting the sense of security and freedom she experienced while returning home after a college celebration.

According to Shubhangi, the day marked an important milestone in her life as she attended her convocation ceremony. Following the graduation event, her college organized a party for students. After the celebrations ended in the early hours of the morning, she began walking home alone through the streets of France.

What made the experience memorable for her was not the celebration itself but the feeling of safety she enjoyed while walking. In the video, she is seen strolling barefoot on quiet streets at around 4:30 a.m.



She explained that no one bothered her, questioned her presence, or made her feel uncomfortable despite the late hour. Shubhangi expressed her surprise and appreciation for the environment around her. She described the experience as one of complete freedom, noting that she could walk alone without fear or anxiety. Her comments resonated with many social media users, particularly women, who often face concerns about personal safety when traveling alone at

night.

The video quickly gained traction online, with viewers discussing the differences in public safety experiences across countries. Many users praised the sense of security that allowed her to move freely during the early morning hours. Others pointed out that such experiences highlight the importance of creating safer public spaces for women everywhere. The discussion also touched on broader issues such as urban planning, law

enforcement, community awareness, and social attitudes toward women in public spaces. For many, Shubhangi's experience represented more than a personal story—it became a reminder of how safety and freedom are closely linked.

Women around the world frequently modify their routines, transportation choices, and travel plans based on concerns about harassment or crime. As a result, stories that showcase environments where women feel secure often attract significant public interest.

Shubhangi's video has become a powerful example of how a simple walk home can symbolize something much larger. Her experience has reignited conversations about the need for safer cities and greater freedom of movement for women. While opinions may vary, the video has undoubtedly highlighted a universal aspiration: the ability to step outside at any hour and feel completely safe.

Man's South Korea Experience Highlights a Culture of Trust and Safety

A social media post describing everyday life in South Korea has gone viral after a man shared how living there changed his understanding of public safety and trust. His observations about people leaving personal belongings unattended without fear of theft have sparked widespread discussion online about what makes a society feel secure.

The man, who has been living in South Korea with his wife and daughter for the past month, recounted several experiences that he said would be difficult to imagine in many parts of the world. According to him, one of the first things that surprised him was how comfortable people were leaving valuable items unattended in public spaces.

He explained that whenever his family visits a shop, restaurant, or public place, they often leave their baby stroller outside without any lock or security measure. What initially seemed risky soon became normal after he realized that no one attempted to take

it. Another incident involved a friend who rode a bicycle to meet him for lunch. The bicycle was left in an alley without being locked. After spending nearly two hours at lunch, they returned to find it exactly where it had been left. The experience reinforced his impression that theft is extremely uncommon in everyday situations.

Perhaps the most surprising story involved a friend who accidentally left an iPhone on a park bench. Several hours later, when the owner returned to search for it, the phone was still lying in the same spot untouched. For many social media users, this example became a powerful illustration of the level of trust that exists in certain communities.

The man also described seeing visitors at a K-pop concert leave their luggage outside a subway station without locks or supervision. Curious about the practice, he asked local residents whether they were concerned about theft. Their



response was simple: Why would anyone take something that belongs to someone else?

His experiences quickly generated reactions across social media. Many users praised the culture of responsibility and respect that appears to exist in parts of South Korea. Others shared similar stories from small towns and close-knit communities in different countries, where public trust remains high.

Experts often point out that strong social norms, effective law enforcement, community accountability, and mutual re-

spect contribute to creating high-trust societies. In such environments, people are less likely to commit theft because social expectations strongly discourage such behavior.

The viral post has sparked a broader conversation about safety, trust, and civic responsibility. While every society faces its own challenges, the stories from South Korea have inspired many people to imagine what daily life could be like in a world where leaving belongings unattended is not considered a risk but simply a normal part of life.

AI Startup Employee Earns Extra Income Through Dog Sitting

Rising living costs are pushing many professionals to look for additional sources of income, and a New York-based product manager has become an example of how side hustles can provide both financial support and personal fulfillment. Jennifer Martinez, who works at an artificial intelligence startup, has revealed how she earns nearly 90,000 a month outside her regular job through a combination of dog sitting, ceramics, and social media content creation.

Despite working in a growing technology sector, Jennifer felt that her salary was no longer enough to keep up with inflation and achieve important life goals such as buying a home and travelling more frequently. Seeking greater financial stability, she decided to explore opportunities beyond her traditional nine-to-five role.

Two years ago, Jennifer started offering dog-sitting services in her neighbourhood.

Although she initially had concerns about caring for unfamiliar pets, the venture soon turned into a successful and enjoyable side business. She now hosts dogs in her home for around 20 to 25 days every month and charges approximately \$65 per night. The service generates more than \$1,000 in monthly income, providing a significant boost to her finances.

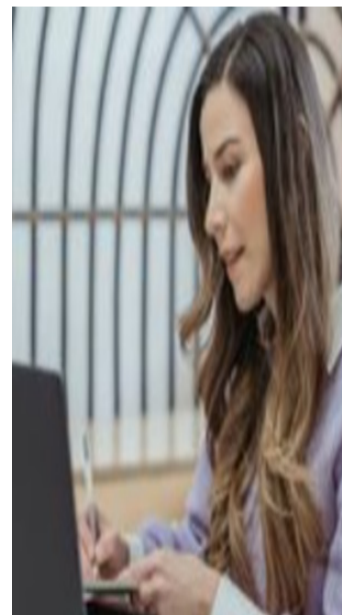
However, the benefits extend far beyond money. Jennifer says caring for dogs has helped her become more connected to her local community. Through regular interactions with pet owners and neighbours, she has built new relationships and expanded her social circle. Since she works remotely, the daily walks and companionship provided by the dogs have also helped reduce feelings of isolation and encouraged a healthier lifestyle.

In addition to pet care, Jennifer has transformed a crea-

tive hobby into another income stream. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she developed an interest in making ceramic plates and later enrolled in specialized training to improve her skills. She now sells her handmade creations online. While sales remain modest, the venture has allowed her to monetize a passion that she genuinely enjoys.

Jennifer is also active on social media, where she creates content focused on wellness, preventing burnout, healthy habits, and balancing multiple sources of income. By sharing her experiences, she hopes to inspire others who are looking for practical ways to improve their financial situations.

Although her side hustles have provided an additional financial cushion, Jennifer admits they have also prompted her to rethink her long-term career goals. She hopes that one day one of these ventures could grow into a full-time pro-



fession. Her story highlights how creativity, determination, and a willingness to explore new opportunities can open doors to both financial independence and personal growth.

ICC Introduces New Maternity Policy to Support Women Cricketers



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has taken a significant step forward in supporting women cricketers by introducing comprehensive guidelines that will help players return to competitive cricket after childbirth. The new policy aims to ensure that motherhood does not become a barrier to a professional sporting career and encourages athletes to balance family responsibilities with their cricketing ambitions.

As part of the new framework, the ICC has introduced a "6-R" model that outlines six key stages in the return-to-play process. These include readiness, review, recovery, reconditioning, return, and refinement. The structured approach is designed to help players recover physically and mentally after childbirth before gradually regaining their fitness and returning to competitive cricket.

According to members of the ICC Medical Advisory Committee, the primary objective of these guidelines is to reassure female athletes that giving birth does not mark the end of their sporting careers. With proper planning, medical support, and

a tailored recovery process, players can successfully return to the highest level of the game. The guidelines have been developed in a flexible manner, allowing cricket boards across different countries to adapt them according to their specific needs and resources.

The ICC has also recommended appointing a dedicated case manager for every pregnant cricketer. This role will typically be handled by a doctor or physiotherapist who will oversee the player's journey from pregnancy through to her return to the field. The case manager will coordinate support and ensure that the athlete receives the necessary care throughout the process.

In addition, the guidelines emphasize the importance of a multidisciplinary support team consisting of medical professionals, physiotherapists, psychologists, nutritionists, coaches, and family members. Such a support network is expected to play a crucial role in helping players navigate both the physical and emotional challenges associated with pregnancy and motherhood.

Player privacy has also been

given significant importance under the new policy. The ICC has made it clear that the decision on when to disclose a pregnancy rests entirely with the athlete. Member boards have been instructed not to enforce mandatory pregnancy testing. While physical activity and training during pregnancy are encouraged, participation in training and competition should always be guided by medical advice.

The guidelines further include practical measures such as childcare support, breastfeeding facilities, family-friendly travel arrangements, and dedicated spaces for mothers and infants during tours and training camps. These initiatives are aimed at creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for women in cricket.

As women's cricket continues to grow globally, the ICC believes that providing better support systems for female athletes is essential. The new maternity policy is expected to offer greater confidence to women cricketers and serve as an important milestone in making the sport more inclusive and sustainable for future generations.

Hardik Pandya-Yashasvi Jaiswal Trade Rumours Create IPL Buzz

Even before preparations for IPL 2027 have begun, speculation surrounding a blockbuster trade deal between Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals has become a major talking point in cricket circles. Reports suggest that discussions are underway involving two of Indian cricket's biggest names — Hardik Pandya and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Hardik Pandya's future with Mumbai Indians has remained a subject of debate ever since the conclusion of the IPL 2026 season. Several reports have hinted that the star all-rounder could leave the franchise through a trade arrangement, although neither Hardik nor Mumbai Indians have officially commented on the matter.

According to the latest reports, Mumbai Indians are exploring the possibility of acquiring young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal from Rajasthan Royals. In return, Hardik Pandya could move to the Jaipur-based franchise. While the discussions are still at a preliminary stage, the potential swap has already generated significant interest among fans. Yashasvi Jaiswal has emerged as one of India's most promising young batters over the last few seasons. Many expected him to eventually take on a leadership role



at Rajasthan Royals after Sanju Samson. However, the franchise handed captaincy responsibilities to Riyan Parag, leading to fresh speculation about Jaiswal's long-term future with the team.

The rise of young sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi has also intensified competition within the Rajasthan setup. Some cricket experts believe a move to Mumbai Indians could provide Jaiswal with a fresh challenge and a more prominent role in the franchise's future plans. For Mumbai Indians, the move would align with their strategy of strengthening the Indian core of the bat-

ting lineup. While veterans Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav remain important figures, the franchise is reportedly looking to build a team around young Indian stars capable of leading the side in the coming years.

Currently, Tilak Varma is regarded as one of Mumbai's most dependable young batters. Bringing in Jaiswal would significantly boost the team's top order and provide a long-term opening option. Reports also suggest that if Rohit Sharma does not feature in a future season, Jaiswal could be considered as a permanent opener and even a potential

captaincy candidate. Despite the excitement surrounding the rumours, there has been no official confirmation from either franchise. Trade talks during the IPL off-season are common, and many discussions do not ultimately materialize.

For now, the proposed Hardik Pandya-Yashasvi Jaiswal swap remains speculation. However, if such a deal were to happen, it would undoubtedly rank among the biggest and most impactful trades in IPL history, reshaping the plans of both the Mumbai Indians and the Rajasthan Royals.

Nalgonda Knights Post Big Total, Set 190-Run Target for Rangareddy Risers

The second match of the TG20 League 2026 season is turning into an exciting contest as Rangareddy Risers take on Nalgonda Knights in Hyderabad. After winning the toss, Nalgonda Knights elected to bat first and posted an impressive 189 for 8 in their allotted 20 overs, setting a challenging target of 190 runs for their opponents.

Nalgonda got off to a shaky start, losing opener Gaurav Reddy for a duck. Fellow opener Pranav Suryadevara managed only 7 runs before returning to the pavilion. Arfan Ahmed also departed for 7, leaving the team under pressure in the early stages of the innings.

Captain Rahul Buddhi then steadied the innings with a valuable knock of 30 runs. He found support from Varun Goud, who contributed 26 runs, while Patkuri Nitish Reddy chipped in with 20. Their efforts helped rebuild the innings and kept the scoreboard moving.

The real momentum, however, came from the lower middle order. Batting at number six, Divesh Singh played a crucial innings of 48 runs off just



27 balls. His aggressive knock included five boundaries and a six. Although he narrowly missed a half-century by just two runs, his contribution proved vital in pushing Nalgonda toward a competitive total.

In the final overs, Harshvardhan Singh provided the finishing touches with a blistering unbeaten 40 off just 20 deliveries. His innings featured five fours and a six, helping Nalgonda maximize their scoring opportunities in the death overs. Thanks to the late flourish, the team reached a formidable total of 189 runs.

For Rangareddy Risers, Punnaiah was the standout bowler,

claiming three wickets. Nithin Sai Yadav and Aryan Chariappa picked up two wickets each, while Thanay Thyagarajan accounted for one dismissal. Despite their efforts, they were unable to prevent Nalgonda from posting a strong score.

With a target of 190 runs now in front of them, all eyes will be on the Rangareddy batting lineup. Chasing such a total in a T20 contest will require a strong start and consistent partnerships throughout the innings. Whether the Risers can successfully hunt down the target or the Knights can defend their total remains to be seen in what promises to be an exciting finish to the match.

FIFA Faces Tough Choice as Hydration Breaks Spark World Cup Debate

The FIFA World Cup currently being held in North America has witnessed an unexpected controversy surrounding mandatory hydration breaks introduced to protect players from extreme weather conditions. While FIFA insists the measure is necessary for player welfare, coaches, players, and experts remain divided over its impact on the game.

Under the current rule, every match includes two mandatory three-minute hydration breaks, one in each half, regardless of weather conditions. FIFA introduced the policy to ensure consistent player protection across all venues and climates, drawing lessons from previous tournaments held in hot conditions. The organization believes that a standardized approach is the best way to safeguard athletes from heat-related health risks.

However, the decision has drawn criticism from several prominent figures in football. Critics argue that the breaks disrupt the natural rhythm and flow of the game. Football has traditionally been valued for its continuous action, and many believe these interruptions alter the sport's unique character.

Among the strongest critics are leading coaches who feel the breaks divide what should be a two-half contest into four separate segments. They argue that the pauses reduce the intensity of competition and change the tactical dynamics of matches. Some players have also expressed concerns, suggesting that hydration breaks should be introduced only



when weather conditions genuinely demand them rather than being made compulsory for every game.

On the other hand, sports scientists and medical experts have defended FIFA's decision. They point out that even when temperatures appear manageable, players can lose significant amounts of fluid through sweat during high-intensity matches. Dehydration can affect concentration, decision-making, reaction times, and overall physical performance. According to experts, hydration breaks serve as an important preventive measure that reduces the risk of heat-related illnesses and helps athletes

maintain safe performance levels.

Interestingly, while many experts support the concept, some question whether three minutes is sufficient for players to properly cool down and recover. Researchers note that hydration alone may not fully counter the effects of rising body temperatures during intense competition. In particularly hot conditions, they suggest extending the duration of the breaks to provide better protection for players.

The debate has placed FIFA in a difficult position. On one side are coaches and players who want the sport's traditional flow preserved. On the other

are medical professionals who emphasize the growing importance of player welfare in an era of rising global temperatures. Both sides acknowledge the need for safety, but differ on how it should be implemented.

As climate conditions continue to become more challenging worldwide, football authorities may increasingly face decisions that balance tradition with athlete welfare. The ongoing discussion over hydration breaks highlights the broader challenge of adapting the world's most popular sport to changing environmental realities while preserving its essence.

BCCI Begins Master Plan for 2027 World Cup Under Gill's Leadership

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has already set its sights on the 2027 ICC ODI World Cup, determined to erase the painful memories of the 2023 final defeat. Despite an unbeaten run throughout the tournament on home soil, India fell short in the summit clash, leaving fans heartbroken. Now, the board is laying the foundation for a fresh World Cup campaign with a long-term strategy aimed at building a stronger and more balanced team.

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia has revealed that the board has started preparing a comprehensive roadmap for the 2027 World Cup, scheduled to be held in October and November 2027. The focus is on ensuring that the Indian team gets enough ODI

cricket over the next year and a half, allowing selectors and coaches to assess players thoroughly and identify the best combinations for the mega event. As part of this plan, the upcoming three-match ODI series against England is being viewed as a crucial testing ground. Scheduled from July 14 to July 19, the series will provide an opportunity for the team management to evaluate players, experiment with combinations, and fine-tune strategies. The board sees this series as an important step in the new World Cup cycle.

A key aspect of the preparation is the close coordination between chief selector Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir. According to BCCI officials, the selection committee,



coaching staff, and team management are all working toward a common goal. Their focus is not only on immediate results but also on building a squad capable of competing successfully in the 2027 World Cup.

The selectors have already announced a 15-member squad for the England series. Senior stars Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah have retained their places, while young pacer Harshit Rana has also earned another opportunity. However, a few players who featured in recent assignments, including Yashasvi Jaiswal, Harsh Dubey, and Prince Yadav, have missed out this time, sparking discussions about the team's future direction and selection priorities.

The journey toward the 2027 World Cup also marks the beginning of a new era in Indian cricket. Following the post-2023 transition, Shubman Gill has taken over leadership responsibilities from Rohit Sharma and has already enjoyed a successful start, guiding India to a 3-0 clean sweep over Afghanistan.

With a blend of experienced campaigners and emerging talents, the BCCI is aiming to create a balanced squad capable of delivering on the biggest stage. Every ODI series from now until the World Cup is expected to play a significant role in shaping India's future, as the team embarks on a carefully planned mission to reclaim cricket's most prestigious trophy in 2027.



Sleekha Roy

RISING STAR

Theatre Gave Me My First Real Opportunity Says Vijay Deverakonda

Popular Tollywood actor Vijay Deverakonda has spoken about the role theatre played in shaping his career and helping him discover his passion for acting. Reflecting on his early days in the industry, the actor said theatre provided him with the opportunities he needed to develop his skills and gain valuable experience.

Vijay revealed that when he started his journey, he was not focused on choosing specific projects or platforms. Instead, his primary goal was to find any opportunity that would allow him to improve as an actor and showcase his talent.

According to the actor, those initial years were driven by a desire to learn and grow rather than by personal preferences. He explained that every platform and every role mattered because they helped him sharpen his craft and gain visibility in the entertainment industry.

The 'Arjun Reddy' star emphasized that theatre had a

profound impact on both his professional and personal life. He credited stage performances with helping him channel his energy positively and discover his true passion at a young age. Vijay believes that his theatre experience laid the foundation for the successful career he enjoys today.

Speaking about the transformative nature of theatre, Vijay said it allows individuals to break free from limitations and express themselves more openly. He described theatre as an experience that "unshackles" a person and gives them a sense of freedom, helping them grow both creatively and emotionally. The actor's comments have resonated with many aspiring performers, as they highlight the importance of grassroots artistic experiences in building confidence and talent. Theatre, he suggested, offers a unique environment where actors can experiment, learn, and evolve without restrictions.

On the professional front, Vi-



jay Deverakonda is gearing up for several exciting projects. He is set to share screen space with Rashmika Mandanna in the upcoming period drama Ranabaali. The film has generated considerable buzz, especially as it marks their first on-screen collaboration as a married couple after previously starring together in Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade. Reports suggest that Ranabaali is inspired by real incidents from the 1850s that were

allegedly overlooked or misrepresented in historical records. The film is expected to bring those stories to audiences through a compelling narrative.

Apart from Ranabaali, Vijay also has an impressive lineup that includes Janardhana and VDX Shoryu. With multiple projects in hand and a growing fan base, the actor continues to be one of the most sought-after stars in the Telugu film industry.

The Red Bag Teaser Wins Praise at Launch Event

The teaser of The Red Bag, produced by Harikrishna Somisetty under the Memory Makers banner and directed by Ravi Kumar Seerapu, was launched on Sunday by Andhra Pradesh Minister TG Bharath. The film stars Kabir Singh, Prasad Behara, Raadya, Monika, Sneha Singh, Akanksha, Eshan Shankar, Avinash Badal, Bhargavi, Raasi and others in key roles.

Speaking at the event, Minister TG Bharath praised the teaser and expressed confidence in the film's success. He said the teaser looked outstanding and hoped the movie would create a nationwide buzz. Bharath noted that most of the film was shot in Kurnool and appreciated how visually rich it appeared on screen. He extended his best wishes to producer Harikrishna Somisetty and the entire team.

Director Nageshwar Reddy lauded the teaser, saying innovative films like The Red Bag deserve success. He said he was impressed after watching the teaser and felt the film would stand out with its unique concept. He also hoped the film would encourage the producer to back more distinctive projects in the future.



Director Ravi Kumar Seerapu described The Red Bag as a film that would leave a lasting impression on audiences. He said viewers would instantly recall the movie whenever they see a red bag after watching the film. Ravi Kumar revealed that the project came to him after a 16-year wait and thanked producer Harikrishna Somisetty for believing in the story. He added that the film's story itself is the hero and that extensive location scouting was carried out in Kurnool before completing the shoot.

Producer Harikrishna Somisetty thanked everyone who supported the project and said the film had shaped up well. He expressed confidence that audiences would enjoy the teaser and support the movie upon its release. Actresses Raadya, Akank-

sha and Monika also shared their experiences, thanking the producer and director for the opportunity and praising the team's collective effort. They expressed hope that audiences would connect with the film and support it after release.

Director Ahishor, actor Prasad Behara, lyricist Tirupati and writer Hari Prasad also spoke at the event, highlighting the film's strong storyline and emotional depth. Prasad Behara noted that the film is not just about a bag but carries a compelling emotional narrative and engaging drama.

With its intriguing concept and positive response to the teaser, The Red Bag is gearing up for release soon, aiming to capture the attention of moviegoers with its unique storyline and emotional appeal.

Sai Durga Tej Promises Quality Cinema Despite Delay In Sambarala Etigattu



Mega hero Sai Durga Tej has finally addressed the delay surrounding his much-awaited pan-India film Sambarala Etigattu. The actor clarified that the project is progressing steadily and assured fans that the team is focused on delivering a high-quality cinematic experience rather than rushing the release.

Directed by Rohit KP, Sambarala Etigattu is produced by Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy. The film stars Aishwarya Lakshmi as the female lead, while Jagapathi Babu, Sai Kumar, and Srikanth play key roles. Set against the backdrop of Rayalaseema in the 1980s, the period action drama revolves around a powerful tribal leader named Bali who fights for the rights of oppressed tribal communities.

With only a glimpse released so far, the absence of regular updates had sparked speculation about possible delays and issues surrounding the project. Responding to these rumors at a recent event, Sai Durga Tej explained that evolving audience expectations have influenced the way filmmakers approach storytelling today.

The actor pointed out that the rise of OTT platforms has exposed viewers to a wide variety of films and web series from across the world. As a result, audiences have become more knowledgeable about filmmaking techniques, storytelling styles, and content quality. According to Tej, this shift has made it essential for filmmakers to be more careful in selecting and crafting stories. He emphasized that viewers are no longer satisfied with routine and predictable narratives. To meet their expectations, filmmakers must focus on creating fresh and engaging content that offers something unique. Tej stated that he is taking extra care with his projects to ensure they deliver a memorable theatrical experience.

Addressing concerns about

the film's timeline, the actor made it clear that he prefers taking additional time if it means presenting a stronger and more impactful film. He assured fans that Sambarala Etigattu will arrive with solid content and a fresh cinematic experience.

The film's music is composed by Ajaneesh Loknath, known for his work in several successful pan-Indian films. With its unique rural backdrop, strong cast, and ambitious storyline, Sambarala Etigattu continues to generate curiosity among movie lovers.

Sai Durga Tej's comments have reassured fans that the delay is part of a larger effort to maintain quality and deliver a film that stands out in today's highly competitive entertainment landscape.

Cocktail 2 Crosses Rs 50 Crore Mark in Opening Weekend

Bollywood romantic drama Cocktail 2, starring Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, and Kriti Sanon, has made a strong impact at the box office by crossing the Rs 50 crore mark within its first weekend. Directed by Homi Adajania, the film was released on June 19 and has received an enthusiastic response, particularly from younger audiences.

The movie benefited from a relatively clear release window, with no major Hindi films hitting theatres during the same weekend. This helped Cocktail 2 attract large crowds, especially in metro cities and urban centres, where the film's modern storyline, music, and star cast resonated strongly with moviegoers. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh highlighted the film's impressive



performance, noting that only a handful of Hindi films released in 2026 have managed to cross Rs 50 crore during their opening weekend. According to the reported figures, Cocktail 2 earned Rs 14.10 crore on Friday, followed by a significant jump to Rs 17.15 crore on Saturday. The momentum contin-

ued on Sunday with collections of Rs 18.85 crore, taking the total first-weekend earnings beyond Rs 50 crore.

Industry experts believe the film's success can be attributed to its youthful appeal, engaging performances, and strong word-of-mouth publicity. Shahid Kapoor's

charismatic screen presence, combined with the popularity of Rashmika Mandanna and Kriti Sanon, has helped draw audiences across multiple regions. The film's opening weekend collections have positioned it among the biggest Bollywood performers of the year so far. With positive audience feedback and limited competition in the coming days, trade circles expect the movie to maintain a steady run at the box office during its first week.

As the film continues to attract viewers, all eyes are now on whether Cocktail 2 can sustain its momentum and emerge as one of the highest-grossing Hindi films of 2026. The strong opening has certainly given the makers plenty of reasons to celebrate and has reaffirmed the box-office pull of its star-studded cast.

Meher Ramesh Invites Pawan Kalyan to His Daughter's Wedding

Director Meher Ramesh recently met Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and actor Pawan Kalyan in Vijayawada and personally invited him to his daughter's upcoming wedding. The meeting has attracted attention among fans, with photographs from the occasion going viral on social media.

Sharing the pictures online, Meher Ramesh spoke about his long-standing relationship with Pawan Kalyan and described their bond as one that has remained strong over the years. Recalling a memorable moment from the past, the director said that Pawan Kalyan had attended his wedding in Vijayawada several years ago and blessed the couple.

Now, as his daughter prepares to begin a new chapter in

life, Meher Ramesh feels honoured to personally invite Pawan Kalyan to the wedding celebrations. He expressed happiness over meeting the Deputy Chief Minister and emphasized that despite the passage of time and changing generations, their brotherly relationship has remained unchanged.

"Years ago, Pawan Kalyan attended my wedding and blessed me. Today, I had the privilege of inviting him to my daughter's wedding. Times may change, and generations may move forward, but our bond remains eternal," Meher Ramesh said while sharing the photographs.

The meeting comes shortly after the Andhra Pradesh government appointed Meher Ramesh as the Vice Chairman

of the AP State Film, TV and Theatre Development Corporation. Following his appointment, the director had also met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the film industry through the corporation.

Pawan Kalyan, who is balancing his responsibilities as Deputy Chief Minister and leader of the Jana Sena Party, continues to maintain close ties with many personalities from the Telugu film industry. His meeting with Meher Ramesh reflected a personal relationship that has endured beyond professional and political developments.

The photographs from the interaction have been widely shared by fans, who appreciated the warmth and mutual



respect between the two. As preparations for the wedding continue, the meeting has become a talking point among both political observers and cinema enthusiasts, highlighting the strong bond between the director and the actor-politician.

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