

BUZZ POINTS



Udhayanidhi's Remarks on Vijay Spark Fresh Political Row

PAGE 07



CJP Launches 'Diaper Drive' in Protest Against NEET Leak Row

PAGE 07



Hormuz Traffic Hits Wartime High Despite Regional Tensions

PAGE 08

AP Cabinet Clears Over 80 Agenda Items, Approves ₹34,000 Crore Investments

Amaravati, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The state cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, approved a sweeping set of decisions covering industrial expansion, infrastructure development, energy transition, tourism promotion, governance reforms, and capital city works during its 1388th meeting held on Tuesday. Over 80 agenda items were cleared, reflecting a strong push toward attracting large-scale investments, generating employment, and strengthening long-term economic growth across the state.



The meeting also cleared governance reforms, such as retirement age enhancement for public sector employees and administrative restructuring in capital region institutions. Officials said the decisions are expected to accelerate both private and public investment cycles, strengthen investor confidence, and enhance employment generation across multiple sectors, including manufacturing, P3

Modi Meets National Security Officials Of BRICS

New Delhi, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met National Security Advisors and senior security officials of BRICS countries on Monday, highlighting the growing importance of the grouping in addressing contemporary global security challenges. During the meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed that BRICS has a crucial role in strengthening cooperation among member countries in a rapidly changing global landscape. He said deeper collaboration is needed to address shared concerns such as terrorism, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.

iterated India's commitment to promoting the priorities of the Global South and contributing to a safer, more secure, and inclusive world order.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that enhanced coordination among BRICS countries can help develop effective responses to evolving security threats and improve collective resilience.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said he was pleased to meet National Security Advisors and senior security officials of BRICS countries and emphasized the need for stronger engagement on key global issues.

He added that India's leadership of BRICS will aim to support meaningful cooperation across sectors, particularly in areas of security, technology, and global development priorities.

Lokesh Pushes Single-Portal Approvals to Drive 2 Million Jobs

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh has directed officials to design a unified single-portal system to grant approvals for all types of ventures—from small grocery stores to large data centers—emphasizing "speed of doing business" as a key priority.



Durgesh and TG Bharat, who joined virtually, participated in the meeting.

The directive was issued during a meeting of the ministerial committee chaired by Lokesh at his Undavalli residence to review progress toward the target of creating 2 million jobs. Ministers Kondapalli Srinivas, Kandula

Lokesh said around 750 major industries have come forward to invest in the state and are at various stages of development. He noted that their timely execution would generate large-scale P3

Second phase of Padma Awards 2026 held at Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi, June 23, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The second phase of the 2026 Padma Awards presentation ceremony was held in a grand manner on Monday at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The awards were presented by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, to distinguished personalities from various fields. The Government of India had announced a total of 131 Padma Awards for 2026, with the first phase of the ceremony conducted on May 25.



Affairs and Malayalam journalist P Narayanan for Literature and Education.

Padma Bhushan honours were presented to actor Mam-

mooty for Arts, singer Alka Yagnik for Arts, tennis legend Vijay Amritraj for Sports, and Indian-American oncologist Dr Nori Dattatreya for Med-

icine. The award also recognised the contribution of the late JMM founder Shibu Soren, with Rupi Soren receiving the honour on his behalf posthumously.

Among the recipients, recognised for contributions to literature, education, and Education and Social Service. From Andhra Pradesh, film actors Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad and Maganti Murali Mohan received the Padma Shri award from the President in recognition of their significant contributions to the field of arts. The ceremony highlighted achievements across disciplines, including public affairs, literature, medicine, sports, education, and the arts, reflecting the diverse contributions of Indian personalities to national development and cultural heritage.

Govt Pushes Gold Mining Growth Under Swarna Andhra Vision

ARN MAHESH

The state is fast emerging as a significant centre for gold exploration and production in India under the Swarna Andhra 2047 vision, with the state government accelerating development of mineral-rich blocks and private mining projects aimed at boosting investment and employment.



The government has highlighted the operational success of the Jonnagiri Gold Mine in Kurnool district, operated by Geomysore Services India Private Limited. It is India's first and only operational private-sector primary gold mine since Independence and the only active gold mining lease in Andhra Pradesh. Spread across 597.82 hectares in Tuggali Mandal, the project began commercial production in May 2026 after an investment of over 405 crore and currently employs more than 700 people, with a majority from the state.

The mine is projected to produce around 400 kilograms of gold in 2026-27, with annual output expected to rise to nearly one tonne thereafter. Future expansion could increase production to around two tonnes per year, while also generating substantial revenue through royalty payments and District Mineral Foundation contributions.

Alongside Jonnagiri has identified several promising gold-bearing blocks across Chittoor and Ananthapuram districts for future development. The Chigurunta-Bisanatham G

Cabinet Raises Retirement Age, Extends Old Pension Scheme

Amaravati, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The state cabinet has taken major decisions benefiting government employees, including raising the retirement age and extending pension benefits to a large section of staff across public sector undertakings, societies, and welfare institutions.

The Cabinet approved increasing the retirement age from 60 to 62 years for employees working in public sector undertakings, corporations, societies, and residential educational institutions (Gurukulas). The decision brings parity with regular state government employees and applies to staff in SC, ST, BC, and Minority welfare societies as well. The government stated that the revised retirement age will be implemented retrospectively from January 1, 2022.

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu had approved the proposal 15 days earlier, af-

ter it was reportedly rejected twice by the previous administration. The Cabinet also decided to re-engage retired employees based on operational requirements, which is expected to benefit over 15,000 employees across various institutions. In another significant move, the Cabinet approved the extension of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to employees recruited through notifications issued before September 2004. With this decision, around 11,000 employees will be shifted from the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) to OPS, ensuring improved post-retirement financial security. The government said these measures are aimed at strengthening employee welfare and addressing long-pending demands. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu reiterated that the coalition government remains committed to supporting employees and ensuring social security benefits

for their families.

Employee Unions Express Gratitude

Following the Cabinet decisions, employee unions from various departments met Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to express gratitude. The unions said the decisions bring major relief and resolve long-standing issues affecting employees across the state. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu advised union leaders to work in the interest of the state and its people and called for unity among all employee groups for Andhra Pradesh's development. Representatives from APNGO Association President Vidyasagar and Secretary Prasad, AP Secretariat Association President Ramakrishna and Secretary Napa Prasad, along with CPS, PSU, Gurukula, Society employees, and DSC-2003 Teachers' Association leaders participated in the meeting.

Naidu to Inaugurate Jonnagiri Gold Project Today

Kurnool, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate the gold mining and processing project at Jonnagiri in Tuggali Mandal of Kurnool district on Wednesday and lay the foundation stone for its second unit as part of expansion plans.

The plant is expected to produce 400 kilograms of gold in its first year, rising to 900 kilograms in the second year and eventually reaching an annual capacity of 2 tonnes. The project is also expected to generate employment for around 700 people. The State Government will receive a 4 per cent royalty on gold production, estimated at Rs 57 crore from 400 kilograms and Rs 144 crore from 900 kilograms. As per the schedule, the Chief Minister will arrive at Jonnagiri at 11:45 AM, inaugurate the plant at 12:20 PM, address a public meeting at 3:00 PM, and later interact with TDP leaders and party workers of Pattikonda constituency.

The project, developed with an investment of Rs 405 crore by Geo Mysore Services India Private Limited and Deccan Gold Mines Limited, has completed trial runs, with commercial production set to begin following the inauguration. The government has allotted 1,500 acres for the project, with mining currently underway on 600 acres in the first phase.



Naidu to Inaugurate Tungabhadra Gates

Amaravati, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The Tungabhadra Project, a lifeline for Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, has undergone a major safety upgrade with the completion of new spillway gates. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate the newly installed gates on June 25, along with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Telangana Chief

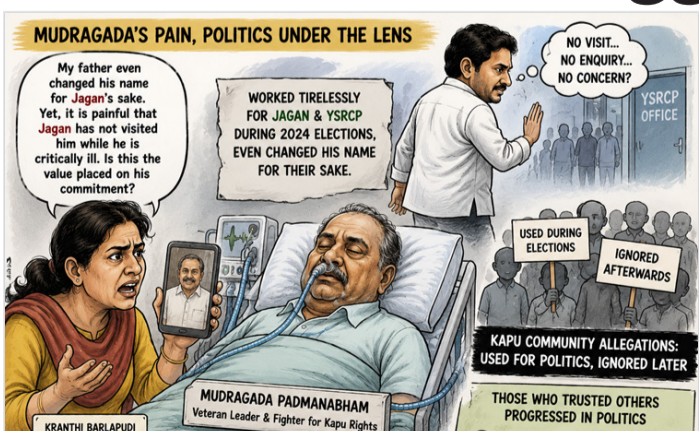
Minister A Revanth Reddy, and Union Minister C R Patil.

A total of 33 gates have been installed at a cost of 51 crore, with the work completed within six months based on the recommendations of an expert committee. The move follows the damage caused during the August 2024 floods, when Gate No. 19 was washed away, raising serious concerns P3

Mudragada Health Crisis Triggers Political Debate

Ravi Podili

Veteran leader Mudragada Padmanabham's critical health condition has sparked a fresh political debate in the state, bringing his recent political choices and alliances back into focus. As he remains on ventilator support for over ten days, reactions from his family and political circles have intensified discussions over loyalty, leadership, and accountability in public life.



during the 2024 elections, along with his decision to change his name, had drawn widespread attention and debate across the State. The current controversy was triggered by remarks

made by his daughter, Kranthi Barlapudi, on social media. Expressing anguish, she stated that despite her father's critical condition, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had not visited or

enquired about his health. "My father even changed his name for Jagan's sake. Yet, it is painful that he has not visited him while he is critically ill. Is this the value placed on his commitment?" she questioned. Her comments have led to renewed criticism of the YSRCP, with some political observers alleging that sections of the Kapu community are engaged primarily during elections but sidelined later. Analysts point to Mudragada's situation as an example being cited in ongoing political discussions, though they note that such interpretations vary across political lines. At the same time, comparisons are being drawn with leaders who aligned with Jana Sena Party chief and Deputy

Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, many of whom have gone on to secure electoral and political positions. Kranthi Barlapudi is currently associated with the Jana Sena Party, and there is growing public sentiment that she may seek support from Pawan Kalyan for her father's medical care.

Observers also feel that, beyond political affiliations, leaders, community representatives, and civil society should come forward to support Mudragada Padmanabham, given his decades-long public service. The episode underscores the broader message that political equations may change, but public memory and expectations of loyalty and support remain constant.

Pawan Kalyan Shares Nostalgic Memory of Telangana Movement-Era Discussions on Social Justice

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan shared a personal photograph on social media, recalling memories linked to the Telangana movement and discussions on social justice and "Samajika Telangana."

In his post, Pawan Kalyan said the photograph reminded him of a period when public debates strongly focused on the Telangana movement, Bahujan thought, and the political empowerment of marginalized communities. He said discussions at the time revolved around ensuring greater representation and social equity.

He recalled interacting with Telangana intellectuals, Bahujan activist Augustine, and revolutionary balladeer Gaddar, during conversations on the future of Telangana and broader issues of social transformation.

Pawan Kalyan noted that the



photograph dates back to the period before the formation of the Praja Rajyam Party. He said Augustine and Gaddar had visited his residence after the death of his father, Konidala Venkat Rao.

He added that the image holds deep significance not just because of the individuals in it, but because it represents an era when ideological discussions centred on equality, justice, and collective aspirations for social change.

The Deputy Chief Minister described it as a reminder of a time when conversations on society and politics were closely linked with the goal of translating social justice into meaningful political empowerment.

Two Workers Killed in Fire Accident at Pharma City Industry

Paravada (Anakapalli), June 23 | TPN Bureau

A massive fire broke out early Tuesday morning at Dakshina Energy industry located inside Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City in Paravada of Anakapalli district, resulting in the death of two workers and injuries to two others.

Preliminary reports suggest that the accident occurred following an explosion in a tank or reactor used for producing pyrolysis oil from plastic waste. The incident took place around 5:00 AM during the night shift, triggering a sudden blaze that spread rapidly within the facility.

Police identified the deceased as Veepada Venkatesh, an operator, and Srinath, a mechanical fitter, both residents of the Ach-



yutapuram area. Two other workers sustained serious injuries and were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Firefighters from Pharma City and Paravada stations rushed to the spot with three fire engines and managed to control the blaze after several hours of firefighting operations. Thick smoke and flames created panic in the surrounding industrial area.

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy

Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, BJP State President PVN Madhav, HRD Minister Nara Lokesh expressed shock over the incident and spoke with the District Collector and Superintendent of Police for updates. They directed officials to ensure the best medical treatment for the injured and provide assistance to the affected families.

Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha reviewed the situation with officials over the phone and instructed them to speed up relief measures. YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy also expressed condolences to the families of the deceased workers.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of the explosion.



Lokesh Participates in Electoral Roll Revision, Urges Public Cooperation

Amaravati, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics, Nara Lokesh participated in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process undertaken by the Election Commission of India on Monday. As part of the exercise, a Booth Level Officer (BLO) visited his residence in Undavalli, where Lokesh furnished the required information and documents for verification. The SIR process aims to update and ensure the accuracy of electoral rolls across the state. Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh

called upon citizens to actively take part in the revision process and help maintain error-free voter records. He advised people to approach the BLOs assigned to their respective wards in case of any doubts or clarifications. He also noted that Booth Level Agents representing the Telugu Desam Party would be available to assist citizens during the process. Emphasizing the importance of public participation, Lokesh said collective cooperation is essential for strengthening the electoral system and ensuring transparency in voter data.

Mukherjee's Sacrifice for National Unity Remains an Inspiration: Madhukar Ji

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Organisation General Secretary Madhukar Ji paid rich tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder president Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his martyrdom day, describing his sacrifice for the unity and integrity of the nation as a landmark chapter in India's political history. Speaking at a commemorative programme held at the BJP State Office in Vijayawada on Tuesday, Madhukar Ji said Dr. Mukherjee had strongly opposed the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir and championed the principle that there should not be "two Prime Ministers, two Constitutions, and two flags in one country." He said Mukherjee's sacrifice in pursuit of national unity continues to inspire generations of Indians. Madhukar Ji noted that Dr. Mukherjee had envisioned complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the

country. He said this objective was realised under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi through the abrogation of Article 370. He called upon party workers to uphold the ideals of patriotism, public service, and national integration. Several BJP leaders and functionaries participated in the programme. Leaders including NTR District BJP President Aduri Sriaram, TTD Trust Board Member Bhanu Prakash Reddy, BJP SC Morcha State President Panatala Suresh, BJP State Media In-Charge Kilaru Dileep, Minority Morcha State President Syed Basha, State Spokespersons Shaik Baji, Yamini Sharma and Ravichandra Reddy, State Secretary Boddur Nagalakshmi, and OBC Morcha leader Shivalalitha were present. Party leaders and workers offered floral tributes to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's portrait and recalled his contribution to national unity and public life.

Sahu and Narayana Offer Special Prayers at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu and Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana visited the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri on Tuesday and offered prayers to Goddess Sri Kanaka Durga.

The ministers were given a traditional welcome by Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna, Deputy Executive Officer Kishore Kumar, Assistant Executive Officer C C Reddy, and other officials. They later had darshan of the presiding deity and performed special rituals amid Vedic



chanting. Temple priests blessed the ministers, while officials presented them with silk cloth, prasadam, and a commemorative memento.

Tokhan Sahu said he prayed for the health and well-being of all citizens and described the visit as a spiritually fulfilling experience. Ponguru Narayana also participated in the rituals. Temple authorities coordinated arrangements and ensured smooth conduct of the visit.

APCRDA Organises Training Programme on Climate Change

Amaravati, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) conducted a training programme on "Climate Change with Respect to Amaravati Capital City" at its Project Office on Tuesday. The session was organised by the Environmental and Social Management Unit in collaboration with the Project Grievance Management Cell Capacity Building Team.

The programme was attended by environmental managers, social and labour managers from Project Management Consultants, contractor representatives, and APCRDA ESMU team members. The focus was on strengthening awareness of climate-resilient urban development practices in the capital region.

Dr D Prem Kumar, Environmental Manager at TYPASA PMC, was the resource person. He delivered a presentation on global climate change trends and their impact on



economies, highlighting the need for climate-resilient infrastructure. He also outlined initiatives taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for sustainable development in Amaravati and referred to the vision of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070.

Participants engaged in discussions on sustainable urban planning and climate adaptation strategies, emphasizing stakeholder participation in building a resilient capital city.

The programme concluded with a commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development in Amaravati under the guidance of APCRDA officials.

Kandula Durgesh Accuses YSRCP of Promoting Abusive Politics

Amaravati, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh launched a sharp attack on YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), stating that the party has no moral authority to speak on political values or public conduct. Addressing a media conference at the Secretariat in Velagapudi, Durgesh alleged that YSRCP had promoted an "abusive political culture" during its previous tenure and was now attempting to destabilize the coalition government.

Referring to remarks attributed to YSRCP president Jagan Mohan Reddy against former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Durgesh said such state-



ments reflected the party's political culture. He also criticized former ministers Ambati Rambabu and Dwarapudi Chandrasekhara Reddy for alleged derogatory remarks against Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's family.

On the Sai Krishna disappearance case, the minister said the coalition government

was acting with full transparency. He noted that CI Nagaraju was suspended and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed under the East Godavari District Superintendent of Police, with Nagaraju already taken into custody.

Durgesh accused YSRCP leaders of attempting caste-based divisions through meetings in Draksharamam and Kakinada, and warned against dragging Pawan Kalyan into caste narratives.

He also sought data on Kapu welfare allocations between 2019 and 2024, alleging rollback of earlier schemes. Durgesh asserted that the TDP-Janaseena-BJP coalition would remain strong and said people would reject divisive politics.

Kollu Ravindra Inspects Arrangements for Nara Lokesh Visit in Avanigadda

Avanigadda, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra on Monday inspected arrangements in Avanigadda ahead of the scheduled visit of IT Minister Nara Lokesh, along with local MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad. The inspection covered multiple venues identified for official and public programmes during the tour.

The leaders reviewed arrangements at a school building constructed with donor support at Kokkiligadda. Kollu Ravindra examined infrastructure readiness and directed officials to en-

sure proper facilities for inauguration and public participation without inconvenience.

He later inspected arrangements at Hotel Vihar, where a meeting with party workers is scheduled. He reviewed seating, logistics, and crowd management plans to ensure smooth conduct of the programme.

The minister also visited Puligadda village, where an interaction with fishermen is planned. He said the meeting aims to understand the issues faced by the fishing community and explore solutions through government support and coordination.

Kollu Ravindra said the coal-

ition government is focused on development across the state, with special emphasis on education infrastructure and rural improvement. He added that the government is committed to strengthening school facilities and learning environments.

He further noted that fishermen communities are receiving special attention, and the interaction will help address their concerns through direct engagement and field-level feedback. Officials from the local administration also participated in the inspection and coordinated arrangements for the upcoming programmes.

AP Promotes Natural Farming Methods to Secure Fodder Supply Amid Low Rainfall Forecast

Amaravati, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The government has initiated a proactive plan to safeguard livestock and support farmers amid forecasts of low rainfall due to the expected El Niño impact in the upcoming agricultural season. The initiative focuses on ensuring fodder security and preventing green fodder shortages through sustainable agricultural practices.

Minister for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu on Tuesday released awareness pamphlets on "Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS)" at his office in Vijayawada. The

programme aims to promote the cultivation of fodder crops through natural farming methods as part of a broader strategy to strengthen livestock management during adverse weather conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu said climate change is affecting both agriculture and livestock sectors, making it essential for farmers and livestock rearers to adopt adaptive practices. He stated that even under low rainfall conditions, better fodder yields can be achieved through scientific natural farming techniques.

He added that the pamphlets provide information on green

fodder availability, storage, drinking water arrangements, and livestock protection measures. The government plans village-level awareness programmes through animal husbandry staff.

Animal Husbandry Director Dr T. Damodara Naidu said advance planning would help protect livestock effectively. He noted that materials are being distributed across the state to educate farmers and livestock rearers.

Former minister Peethala Sujatha and officials participated. The government reiterated its commitment to fodder security and livestock support under all weather conditions.

AP JAC Amaravati Prepares Statewide Agitation Over Pending Employee Issues

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The AP JAC Amaravati on Tuesday resolved to intensify its agitation programme over unresolved financial issues of government employees and called upon employees across the state to be ready for a sustained agitation if demands are not addressed.

A key meeting of departmental union leaders was held in Vijayawada under the chairmanship of AP JAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu. The

meeting, attended by leaders including Paliseti Damodar Rao, TV Phani Penchala Rao, and Timmisetti Nageswara Rao, discussed pending issues such as interim relief (IR), appointment of the 12th Pay Revision Commission, release of pending Dearness Allowances (DA), and clearance of arrears related to the 11th PRC.

The leaders said that despite repeated representations, there has been no adequate response from the government on key financial demands. They called for a structured and phased agitation plan to resolve employee grievances.

As part of the plan, state, district, and divisional-level union meetings will be completed by July 10, followed by preparatory meetings between June 25 and July 10 to mobilize employees.

The JAC also fixed agitation meetings in Srikakulam on July 12 and Anantapur on July 21, with further programmes in Eluru and Guntur. Leaders warned that a statewide agitation will follow if the government fails to respond after the preparatory phase.

Brahmin Community Sees New Hope as Corporation Returns to Endowments Department

Brahmin Corporation Shift to Endowments Dept Welcomed

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The decision to bring the Brahmin Corporation back under the Endowments Department from the BC Welfare Department has been welcomed by members of the Brahmin community, according to D V Bala Subrahmanyam, Chairman of Sri Veda Vignana Parishat, author, and social activist.

In a statement, he said the move, formalised through G.O. No. 63 dated June 9, 2026, was appreciated by the community and Sri Veda Vignana Parishat has already conveyed its gratitude to the state government.

He referred to the Brahmin Welfare Intellectuals Conference held in Vijayawada on June 7, noting that it received strong participation from educationists and intellectuals, leading to constructive recommendations to the government.

Bala Subrahmanyam said participants expressed concerns in a dignified manner across political lines and stressed the need for continued dialogue with the government.

He expressed confidence that Chief Minister and Endowments Minister would address pending community issues positively. He added that Sri Veda Vignana Parishat will soon submit a memorandum seeking further welfare measures in Andhra Pradesh.

Ramprasad Promises Action on Issues of Heavy Driving Training Centres

Tadepalli, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Heavy driving training centre owners from various districts met Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy at his camp office in Tadepalli on Tuesday and submitted a representation seeking withdrawal of restrictions imposed on their operations. The delegation informed the minister that the suspension of the heavy driving training process on the Parivahan portal has created difficulties for trainees in obtaining driving licences. They further stated that several training centres are facing the risk of closure due to the ongoing issues, affecting employment opportu-

nities for youth who depend on this sector.

The owners urged the minister to remove the restrictions, highlighting that heavy vehicle driving training plays a significant role in providing livelihood opportunities to many unemployed youth across the state. Responding to their concerns, Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy assured that the matter would be taken up with senior officials of the Transport Department. He said steps would be initiated to address the issues faced by training centres across the state and to find an early resolution to the problem.

Union Minister Offers Prayers at Durga Temple

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu and Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana offered special prayers at the sacred Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Temple on Tuesday. The ministers were accorded a traditional welcome by Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna, Deputy Executive Officer Kishore Kumar, AEO C.C. Reddy, and temple officials upon their arrival at Indrakeeladri.

After offering prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga and Lord Malleswara Swamy, the dignitaries received Vedic blessings from temple priests. Temple authorities presented them with sacred Seshavastram, Teertha Prasadam, and mementos as a mark of respect. Speaking on the occasion, Tokhan Sahu expressed happiness over visiting the renowned shrine and said he prayed for the health, prosperity, and well-being of people across the country. Several temple officials, staff members, and devotees were present during the visit.

Lokesh Pushes Single-Portal Approvals to Drive 2 Million Jobs

continued

employment for youth and asked officials from the Industries Department and Economic Development Board to closely monitor progress and ensure early grounding of projects. He also instructed that groundbreaking and inauguration ceremonies be conducted every month.

To accelerate investments, Lokesh called for large-scale domestic and international roadshows ahead of the Partnership Summit scheduled in November. Officials informed that 210 industries have advanced to the next stage in the past month, while 26 IT and electronics projects are progressing.

The Minister directed senior officials to review project implementation with District Collectors every 15 days and ensure coordination across departments for providing

power, water and infrastructure. In view of rising power demand, he ordered faster completion of renewable energy projects.

He also stressed integrating MSMEs into the industrial ecosystem and asked tourism officials to enhance hotel capacity in Visakhapatnam in anticipation of Bhogapuram Airport operations.

The meeting discussed attracting garment industries and offering employment-linked incentives. Lokesh also directed a study on establishing slurry pipelines to support upcoming steel units in Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts.

Officials, including M.T. Krishna Babu, N. Yuvaraj, Katamneni Bhaskar, Kanthilal Dande, Ajay Jain, Shanmohan, Ganesh Kumar and A.S. Dinesh Kumar, attended the meeting.

Govt Pushes Gold Mining Growth Under Swarna Andhra Vision

continued

old Block in Chittoor district, located in the extension of the historic Kolar Gold Fields belt, is estimated to contain over 2.2 million tonnes of ore with an average grade of 5.64 grams of gold per tonne and has been placed for auction on the Unified Mining Portal through MSTC. In Ananthapuram district, multiple blocks, including Boksampalli North and South, Ramagiri North and South, and six Javakula Gold Blocks, are under advanced exploration. These areas fall within the Ramagiri and Veligallu Greenstone Belts, considered geologically similar to major gold-producing

regions such as Kolar and Hutti.

Principal Secretary, Mines, Mukesh Kumar Meena, said Andhra Pradesh holds one of the most promising gold exploration portfolios in the country, and the government is committed to unlocking mineral wealth through transparent auctions, scientific exploration, and sustainable mining practices under the Swarna Andhra 2047 vision. Officials said the initiatives are expected to attract major private investments, generate employment, and strengthen the state's contribution to India's domestic gold production in the coming years.

Naidu to Inaugurate Tungabhadra Gates

continued

over the dam's safety. To prevent immediate water loss after the incident, a stop-log gate was installed under the supervision of Senior Engineer Kannayya Naidu, following the initiative of the Andhra Pradesh government and the direction of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Subsequently, the National Dam Safety Authority recommended the replacement of all spillway gates to ensure long-term structural stability.

The Tungabhadra Project, built 73 years ago, plays a crucial role in providing irrigation and drinking water across

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana. In Andhra Pradesh alone, it supports irrigation for about 1.46 lakh hectares, supplying water to Kurnool, Kadapa, and Anantapur districts through the right canal. Recognizing its importance, both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka treated the issue as a priority and expedited the works. The successful completion of the gate replacement is expected to significantly enhance the dam's safety and operational efficiency.

The leaders will also participate in a public meeting at Hosapete following the inauguration ceremony.

YSRCP Spreading Caste Politics Out of Fear: Durgesh

Amaravati, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Tuesday accused the YSR Congress Party of resorting to caste-based politics and attempting to create divisions in society for political gain. Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, the minister alleged that YSRCP leaders lacked the moral authority to speak about political values, claiming that the party had encouraged a culture of personal attacks and abusive political discourse during its tenure. Referring to the Sai Krishna disappearance case, Durgesh said the alliance government was handling the matter transparently and strictly according to law. He noted that accused CI Nagaraju had been suspended and that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been constituted to conduct a comprehensive probe. He added that the officer had already been taken into custody as part of the investigation. The minister criticized recent meetings organized by YSRCP leaders in the name of the Kapu community, alleging that attempts were being made to give the is-



sue a caste angle. He asserted that Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan represents all sections of society and cannot be confined to any single caste identity. Durgesh further alleged that YSRCP leaders were concerned about the growing strength of the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance and feared political irrelevance. Challenging the opposition, he demanded data on welfare measures implemented for the Kapu community during the YSRCP government between 2019 and 2024. He urged opposition leaders to avoid personal attacks and focus on public issues, warning that attempts to provoke caste-based tensions would be rejected by the people.

AP Cabinet Clears Over 80 Agenda Items, Approves ₹34,000 Crore Investments

continued

IT services, energy, tourism, and infrastructure development. The Cabinet concluded with a reaffirmation of its strategy to drive multi-sectoral growth through investment-led development, positioning Andhra Pradesh as a major hub for industry, innovation, and infrastructure in the coming years.



1. ₹34,000 Crore Investment Push Across Industries and Manufacturing

The Cabinet approved major industrial proposals under State Investment Promotion Board recommendations, clearing incentives for multiple large-scale projects across electronics, steel, chemicals, and energy sectors. Investments worth around ₹34,000 crore are expected to generate nearly 35,000 direct jobs. Key districts benefiting include Tirupati, Nellore, Prakasam, and Chittoor, strengthening the industrial ecosystem through cluster-based development and supply chain integration.

2. Mega Data Centres and Digital Infrastructure Expansion

A strong push was given to digital infrastructure with approvals for major data centre projects. CtrlS Data Centers will establish a 100 MW facility in Anakapalli, while Sify Infinet Spaces will develop a 500 MW mega data centre in Visakhapatnam with an investment of 15,266 crore. Additional IT campuses in Visakhapatnam and Tirupati were also cleared, strengthening the state's position as an emerging digital hub in India.

4. Industrial Clusters in Manufacturing, Defence and Electronics

Major manufacturing projects were approved under a cluster-based industrial policy. These include Royal Enfield's motorcycle plant, JSW Steel's beneficiation unit, Amber Enterprises air conditioner manufacturing, MCNEX's automotive camera modules, and Premier Energies solar expansion. Defence and aerospace projects were also cleared in Nellore and Anantapur, strengthening Andhra Pradesh's manufacturing base and boosting export-oriented industrial growth.

6. Port Development and Maritime Infrastructure Boost

Significant reforms were approved for Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam ports, including the rationalisation of port limits and the issuance of a Request for Proposal to appoint a port operator under the DBFOT model. Ramayapatnam Port alone is expected to attract 20,000 crore investment and generate around 25,000 jobs, strengthening maritime logistics and international trade connectivity.

7. Tourism, Urban Infrastructure and Judicial Academy Works

Tourism projects were cleared across Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Kurnool, and Amaravati, including five-star hotels and convention centres under global brands. The Cabinet also approved 426 crore infrastructure works in Undavalli and 139 crore for the Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy. These initiatives aim to boost tourism inflows, urban infrastructure, and institutional capacity in the capital region.

Veteran Congress Leader Gollu Krishna Passes Away

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Senior Congress leader and former PCC Vice-President Gollu Krishna passed away, leaving party leaders and workers in deep grief. Tributes poured in from across political circles, with leaders recalling his decades of dedicated service to the Congress party.

Expressing shock over his demise, former Member of Parliament KVP Ramachandra Rao described Gollu Krishna as a loyal and committed Congress worker who stood firmly with the party through both prosperous and challenging times.

In a condolence message, KVP said that Gollu Krishna had worked alongside him for more than three and a half decades and had efficiently discharged every responsibility entrusted to him. He noted that Krishna earned widespread respect within the party for his unwavering dedication and loyalty. KVP also recalled his close



personal association with the late leader, stating that their bond extended beyond politics as both hailed from the same village. He described Krishna's untimely death as a great loss to the Congress family and to all those who knew him personally.

Remembering his contributions to public life and party organization, KVP said Gollu Krishna played a significant role in strengthening the Con-

3. Amaravati Quantum Valley and Advanced Technology Ecosystem

The Cabinet approved fast-tracking of quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and deep-tech projects under Amaravati Quantum Valley. Eleven companies, including Qpi AI India, C-DOT, Atomionics India, and Frugal AI Hub, received approvals for research and innovation hubs. The initiative aims to position Amaravati as a national centre for quantum technology, cybersecurity, and advanced computing while generating high-skilled employment opportunities.

5. Renewable Energy Expansion and Green Fuel Projects

The Cabinet approved large-scale renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, and biogas units across Kadapa, Anantapur, and Kakinada. A major Sustainable Aviation Fuel project in Kakinada with an investment of 1,800 crore was also cleared. These initiatives aim to enhance clean energy capacity, attract green investments, and position the state as a leader in sustainable industrial development.

8. Governance Reforms, Retirement Age Hike and Capital Region Posts

The Cabinet approved raising the retirement age from 60 to 62 years for employees of public sector undertakings, corporations, and societies, ensuring continuity in skilled manpower. Additionally, 95 temporary posts were sanctioned for the Amaravati Land Pooling Scheme. Land allocations were also cleared for defence manufacturing, aerospace testing, and industrial expansion, improving administrative efficiency and project execution.



Kapu Meeting Was Political Drama, Not Community Concern: Sana Satish Babu

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

TDP Rajya Sabha member Sana Satish Babu on Tuesday alleged that the recent Kapu community meeting organized by YSR Congress Party leaders in Kakinada district was not a genuine gathering for community welfare but a platform for "politically unemployed leaders" to express their frustration.

Addressing a press conference at the State Secretariat, Sana Satish Babu accused YSRCP leaders of using the Kapu community for political purposes. He questioned why YSRCP leaders remained silent when former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy reportedly stated before elections that Kapus did not require reservations.

He also asked why Kapu leaders failed to oppose the withdrawal of the 5 percent EWS reservation for Kapus that had been introduced during the tenure of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He further pointed out that the previous TDP government had initiated the construction of 27 Kapu community halls across the state and completed nearly 80 percent

of the work, alleging that the YSRCP government later stalled the projects.

Sana Satish Babu accused YSRCP of practicing caste-based politics and attempting to derive political mileage even from tragic incidents. He alleged that the party had sought to exploit recent incidents, including custodial deaths, for caste-related political gains.

Referring to unrest in the Konaseema region during the previous government, he alleged that caste tensions were encouraged while many Kapu youth faced legal cases and arrests. He questioned the credibility of leaders who remained silent then but are now organizing meetings in the name of the Kapu community.

The TDP leader stated that people are closely observing the political reactions whenever Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan speaks on public issues and maintained that the public no longer supports divisive caste-based politics. He asserted that development and inclusive governance remain the priorities of the alliance government.

YSRCP Betrayed Kapus, Alleges Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu

Amaravati, June 23 | TPN Bureau

State Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu on Tuesday accused YSR Congress Party chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of betraying the Kapu community and attempting to create divisions for political gain. Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, Ramanaidu said the Telugu Desam Party had consistently worked for the welfare of Kapus. He claimed that former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu provided a 5 percent reservation for Kapus under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category, while the YSRCP government later revoked the benefit. The minister alleged that the YSRCP, after its defeat in the 2024 elections, was trying to gain political mileage by creating divisions among castes, regions and communities. He charged that Jagan Mohan Reddy had used Kapu leaders for politi-

cal purposes and later abandoned them.

Ramanaidu further stated that the TDP had provided significant opportunities to Kapu leaders, including nominations to the Legislative Council and appointments to key positions. He credited the party with promoting Kapu representation in public life and supporting the community's development.

The minister also defended the alliance government, stating that industrial growth, employment generation and initiatives such as the Quantum Valley project were creating opportunities for youth across the state, including members of the Kapu community. He alleged that the YSRCP lacked the moral authority to speak on Kapu welfare and accused the party of practicing divisive politics. Rajya Sabha member Sana Satish and other leaders were present at the press conference.



Congress Backs RTC JAC, Opposes 'Privatisation Moves'

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President Y.S. Sharmila Reddy on Tuesday alleged that the existence of APSRTC comes under threat whenever Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is in power.

In a statement issued in Vijayawada, Sharmila claimed that successive policies introduced by the government were

aimed at weakening the state-run transport corporation and promoting privatization. She alleged that from the earlier hired-bus policy to the present e-bus model, efforts have been made to hand over public transport services to private operators.

The APCC chief said the Congress party strongly opposes what it described as the coalition government's silent attempts to undermine APSRTC,

a vital transport service relied upon by economically weaker sections of society. She asserted that the party would not tolerate any move that threatens the corporation's existence and integrity.

Expressing solidarity with the ongoing agitation by the APSRTC Joint Action Committee (JAC), Sharmila extended full support to employees demanding protection of the corporation and its workforce.

She emphasized that environmental concerns and pollution-control measures should not be used as a pretext for privatization. According to her, modern electric buses should be procured and operated directly by APSRTC rather than being entrusted to private agencies.

Sharmila also demanded the immediate filling of nearly 10,000 vacant posts in APSRTC and urged the government to

stop any attempts to lease out the corporation's valuable lands and assets. She further called for the speedy resolution of wage revision issues and pending employee pay settlements. The Congress leader maintained that strengthening APSRTC and protecting public transport services should remain the government's priority, rather than encouraging greater private participation in the sector.

Ramamohan Stresses Coordination for Error-Free Voter List Revision

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Ramamohan has stressed that the success of the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls depends on effective coordination among voters, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), political party leaders and Booth Level Agents (BLAs).

On Tuesday morning, the MLA visited High School Road and Narayana Tea-Store Road in the 11th Division of the East Constituency and reviewed the progress of the voter list revision process being carried out in the area.

Speaking to officials and party representatives, Ramamohan said the SSR programme provides an important opportunity to correct long-pending errors in electoral rolls and ensure accurate voter records. He pointed out that the names of individuals who passed away decades ago still appear on voter lists and noted that the revision exercise would help eliminate such discrepancies.

The MLA urged officials to allocate dedicated time slots for BLOs to focus exclusively on SSR-related duties and said



he had already brought the challenges faced by field-level staff to the notice of higher authorities. He called upon BLOs to carry out their responsibilities with complete commitment and efficiency.

Ramamohan explained that BLOs would visit households in their respective areas three times to collect and verify voter information. He added that BLAs appointed by political parties would act as a bridge between the public and election officials, helping to ensure transparency and accuracy in the process.

BLO Sekhar Acharya and several party leaders, including Nadella Rajesh, Mummaneni Prasad, Koneru Rajesh, Bangaru Murali and others, participated in the inspection programme. Officials expressed confidence that co-ordinated efforts would help achieve a comprehensive and error-free electoral roll revision.

AP JAC Gears Up for Agitation Over Pending Employee Issues

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (AP JAC Amaravati) has called upon government employees across the state to prepare for an agitation to press for the resolution of long-pending financial and service-related issues.

A key meeting of AP JAC Amaravati was held in Vijayawada on Tuesday under the chairmanship of AP JAC Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu. The meeting was attended by state presidents and general secretaries of various departmental employee associations affiliated with the JAC.

Addressing the gathering, Bopparaju Venkateswarlu said employees' demands, including the immediate announcement of Interim Relief (IR), appointment of the 12th Pay Revision Commission (PRC) Chairman, release of pending Dearness Allowance (DA), and settlement of PRC and DA arrears, remain unresolved despite repeated representations to the government.

The JAC resolved to strengthen its organizational structure at the state, district, and divisional levels and prepare employees for a statewide agitation. It was decided that all affiliated associations should conduct their state executive meetings between June 25 and July 10, while divisional-level meetings will also be held during the same period to



mobilize employees and submit representations to Revenue Divisional Officers and MLAs.

The committee unanimously resolved to appoint state-level leaders as district in-charges based on the undivided district structure and to intensify awareness campaigns regarding employee demands.

As part of the agitation preparedness program, large-scale employee conventions will be organized in Srikakulam on July 12 and Anantapur on July 21, followed by similar meetings in Eluru and Guntur.

JAC leaders warned that if the government fails to address employees' issues, particularly financial demands, they are ready to launch a united statewide movement. They also announced that a state-level action committee would formulate a direct agitation plan if necessary.

Secretary General Paliseti Damodara Rao, Struggle Committee Chairman T.V. Phani Pearraju, Treasurer Thimmarathi Nageswara Rao, and other employee leaders participated in the meeting.

78 Cataract Surgeries Conducted Free Under P4 Programme



Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

A total of 78 underprivileged people underwent free cataract surgeries under the P4 programme organized by the Indian Red Cross Society, NTR District Branch, in association with Sankara Nethralaya, Hyderabad.

Speaking at the valedictory programme held in Vijayawada, Principal Secretary Kanthi Lal Dande, IAS, praised the humanitarian services of the Red Cross and lauded the generous support extended by NRI couple Dr. Aparna and Dr. Madhav Durbha, who funded the entire programme.

The eye care camp, conducted from June 15 to June 22 at SRR & CVR Government College, screened 645 people for various eye ailments. Of them, 78 beneficiaries were identified for cataract surgeries and received treatment free of cost. Spectacles and medicines were also distributed to the beneficiaries.

Kanthi Lal Dande felicitated the NRI couple and appreciated the efforts of doctors, volunteers, and organizers for making the initiative a success.

Indian Red Cross Society NTR District Chairman Dr. G. Samaram, Vice Chairman Dr. Velaga Joshi, District Secretary E. Chittibabu, and other members attended the programme.

ECI Deputy Commissioner Welcomed at Gannavaram Airport

Gannavaram, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Election Commissioner of India (ECI), Bhanu Prakash Eturu, along with ECI Secretary Naveen, arrived at Vijayawada International Airport in Gannavaram on Tuesday morning as part of an official visit to Andhra Pradesh.

Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji extended a warm welcome to the senior election officials upon their arrival. As a gesture of hospitality and to showcase the state's rich cultural heritage, the Collector presented them with traditional Kalamkari products.

The visit assumes significance amid ongoing electoral activities and administrative reviews being conducted across the state. Officials said the Election Commission delegation is expected to hold meetings and review various election-related matters during their visit.

Several district and airport officials were present to receive the delegation at the airport.

Those who accompanied the Collector included Gudivada Revenue Divisional Officer G.



Balasubrahmanyam, Airport Chief Security Officer K. Dharmendra, Gannavaram Tahsildar Sivayya, and other senior officials.

Following the reception at the airport, the Election Commission officials proceeded to Vijayawada by road for their scheduled engagements.

The district administration made elaborate arrangements to ensure a smooth arrival and transit for the visiting dignitaries.

Officials stated that the visit

reflects the Election Commission's continued focus on strengthening electoral administration and reviewing key election-related processes in the state.

The arrival of the senior ECI officials has drawn attention from administrative circles, with officials expected to interact with state election machinery and review ongoing preparations related to electoral management and voter-related initiatives during their stay in Andhra Pradesh.

TDP Focuses on Grassroots Outreach, Voter Revision Drive

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has intensified efforts to strengthen its organizational structure and expand its outreach through the "Intintiki Telugu Desam" program and the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Addressing the NTR District Executive Committee meeting held at the party office in Autonagar on Tuesday, District President Gadde Anuradha said the primary objective is to strengthen the party at the grassroots level while identifying and resolving public grievances.

She stated that issues raised at the village, mandal, and constituency levels would be addressed through district-level coordination, while unresolved matters would be taken up with the state leadership.

Anuradha emphasized that the "Intintiki Telugu Desam" campaign would enable party workers to visit households, inform citizens about development initiatives undertaken over the past two years, and gather feedback on local issues.

She also called for coordinated efforts from party leaders and workers to ensure the success of both the outreach program and the SIR process.

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivvanath described the campaign as a key initiative for the coming months, aimed at connecting with people directly and understanding their concerns.

He urged party cadres to document public issues and convey them to the leadership for prompt action.

TDP Zonal Coordinator



Mantena Venkata Satyanarayana Raju announced the formation of cluster-level coordination committees to monitor the implementation of the program and ensure adherence to party directives.

Several MLAs, corporation chairpersons, district office-bearers, and executive committee members participated in the meeting, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening the party and expanding public engagement across the district.

KGH Reforms Sought Over Alleged Irregularities

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

A delegation led by Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav, Chairman of the YSRCP NTR District Doctors' Wing, met Director of Medical Education (DME) Dr. Vishnu Vardan in Vijayawada on Tuesday and submitted a representation seeking urgent administrative and academic reforms at King George Hospital (KGH), Visakhapatnam.

The delegation raised concerns over alleged irregularities in the Department of General Surgery, including claims of financial exploitation of students, professional misconduct, and violations of National Medical Commission (NMC) norms regarding duty hours for post-graduate trainees.

According to the representation, postgraduate students were allegedly subjected to continuous 32-hour shifts and work schedules exceeding the NMC-prescribed weekly limit. The delegation also sought action against alleged academic and financial exploitation and demanded the establishment of a protected grievance redressal mechanism for trainees.

The members urged the DME to conduct a transparent inquiry into the allegations and implement NMC Task Force recommendations across the state. They also called for strict enforcement of duty-hour regulations, mandatory rest periods, and improved welfare infrastructure for medical trainees.

Responding to the representation, DME Dr. Vishnu Vardan assured the delegation that the



concerns raised would be examined on priority and that appropriate action would be taken to uphold standards in medical education.

The delegation included YSRCP NTR District Commerce Wing President Tanubuddi Chandrashekhara Reddy, State Joint Secretary Gundu Sundar Paul, and District Active Secretary Subba Reddy. They stressed the need for immediate reforms to safeguard trainee welfare and ensure quality patient care.

MEPMA, Mobile Crèches Join Hands for Childcare Centres

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

In a significant step towards women's empowerment and child welfare, the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mobile Crèches to establish childcare centres in four major cities of Andhra Pradesh.

The agreement was signed in Vijayawada by MEPMA Mission Director and Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Smt. Vakati Karuna, IAS. Under the partnership, 15 crèche centres will be established in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, and Guntur to provide safe childcare facilities for children aged between six months and six years.

The initiative aims to support urban women Self-Help Group (SHG) members by enabling them to pursue employment and entrepreneurial opportunities while ensuring their children receive quality care, nutrition, health services, and early childhood education.



As part of the programme, 375 children will benefit from the facilities during the 2026-27 financial year. Additionally, 45 SHG women will be trained as crèche workers, while 15 master trainers will be certified to strengthen institutional capacity. Officials said Telugu-language caregiving resources and a dedicated Management Information System (MIS) will also be developed to improve monitoring and programme implementation.

The partnership seeks to reduce the burden of childcare on families, particularly the "sibling care trap," which often

forces adolescent girls to discontinue their education to care for younger siblings. The project will also promote convergence with government services such as ICDS, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).

MEPMA officials stated that the initiative aligns with the vision of Swarna Andhra@2047 and is expected to create a sustainable and replicable model for urban childcare across the state, contributing to inclusive development, women's economic participation, and improved child well-being.

Free Hospitality Training to Provide Employment Opportunities for Youth

Machilipatnam, June 23 | TPN Bureau

In a major initiative aimed at enhancing employability among unemployed youth, Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji has announced a free hospitality training programme for the post of Guest Service Associate (Food & Beverage Service). The programme is being jointly organized by The Art of Living, IHCL (Taj Hotels), and Tata STRIVE.

District Skill Development Officer Dr. P. Naresh Kumar stated that the training is designed to equip aspiring candidates with industry-relevant skills and create employment opportunities in the growing hospitality sector. The programme will commence on July 1, 2026, at The Art of Living International Center in Bengaluru.

Eligible candidates include young men and women aged between 18 and 35 years who have completed at least the 10th standard. The three-month course consists of two months of classroom and practical

training, followed by one month of on-the-job training (OJT) or apprenticeship.

Officials said the programme offers several benefits, including free food and accommodation, hands-on training aligned with industry requirements, exposure to professional hospitality practices, and 100 percent placement assistance with leading hospitality organizations.

Interested candidates must submit their Aadhaar card, educational certificates proving 10th-class qualification or above, and a passport-size photograph. As the number of seats is limited, eligible youth have been urged to register at the earliest.

For further information and registration, candidates may contact Vinayakantha (9676708041) or Manoj (8885159008).

District officials expressed confidence that the initiative would help many young people secure rewarding careers in the hospitality industry while improving their skills and employment prospects.

Generic Medicines Key to Affordable Healthcare: Bonda Uma

Vijayawada, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Central Constituency MLA Bonda Uma stated that generic medicines play a vital role in providing quality healthcare at affordable prices, particularly benefiting poor and middle-class families who struggle with rising medical expenses.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Genivis Remedies Model Franchise and Vijayawada Regional Office at the NRH Generic Medicine Store on Eluru Road in the 25th Division of Vijayawada on Tuesday. Following the inauguration, the MLA inspected the medicines available at the store and interacted with the organizers regarding their manufacturing standards.

Addressing the gathering, Bonda Uma said both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu have been encouraging the widespread use of generic medicines to make healthcare accessible to all sections of society. He emphasized that generic medicines meet the same quality standards as branded drugs while costing 80 to 90 percent less, making them an effective solution for reducing healthcare expenditure.



Genivis Remedies Founder and CEO Santosh Shedge and State Head Perumalla Shivakumar explained that the initiative aims to provide affordable medicines to the public with discounts ranging from 20 to 80 percent. They noted that medicines for chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension are available at significantly reduced prices.

The representatives stated that all medicines sold through the stores are WHO and GMP certified, ensuring quality and safety. They also highlighted business opportunities for unemployed youth, noting that franchise units can be established with an investment of 6 lakh, while qualified pharmacists will supervise operations.

Regional Head Lakshmi Ganesh, District Head Abdul Khader, Yashasvi, and others attended the programme.

Teachers Felicitated for Historic 100% SSC Pass Result



Guntur, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Teachers of the Zilla Parishad High School, Ankireddypalem, in Guntur Rural Mandal were grandly felicitated on Tuesday after the school achieved a historic 100 percent pass rate in the Class 10 examinations. The felicitation programme was organized by the Ankireddypalem Development Committee on the school premises.

Headmaster Ramachandra Rao said all 47 students who appeared for the March and supplementary SSC examinations passed successfully, marking the first-ever 100 percent result since the school's establishment. He attributed the achievement to systematic planning, dedicated teaching, and the implementation of government educational targets while providing quality education comparable to corporate institutions.

MEO-2 (Guntur West) Nagendramma, who attended as the chief guest, praised the commitment of government school teachers and lauded

their efforts in producing outstanding academic results. Retired teacher Sanjeeva Reddy said the achievement had dispelled long-standing doubts about whether government schools could attain a perfect pass percentage.

Ankireddypalem Development Committee General Secretary Kurri Sambhi Reddy emphasized the importance of setting ambitious goals for students and guiding them toward success. Retired teacher Gangadhara Reddy highlighted that determination, discipline, and hard work are the keys to achieving excellence in life.

During the programme, teachers who played a crucial role in securing the remarkable result were honoured by parents, students, and community members. Prominent personalities, including Kurri Pullareddy and Vajrala Venkateswara Reddy, participated in the event and congratulated the teaching staff for bringing recognition to the school and the village through their exceptional performance.



Coalition Government Committed to Safe Drinking Water for Every Household

Eluru, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Denduluru MLA Chintamani Prabhakar said the coalition government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Rural Development Minister Pawan Kalyan, is committed to ensuring safe and quality drinking water for every household in rural areas. He stated that providing protected drinking water remains a top priority of the government to safeguard public health and improve living standards in villages.

Speaking at his camp office in Duggirala on Tuesday, the MLA said several drinking water projects have been taken up across villages in the Denduluru constituency under the Rural Water Supply (RWS) Department and the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Earlier in the day, coalition leaders, public representatives, officials, and residents met him and submitted invitations and petitions. Prabhakar directed the concerned officials to resolve public grievances at the earliest.

Highlighting the progress made over the last two years,

the MLA said more than 10 crore has been allocated through the Jal Jeevan Mission to address drinking water issues permanently in the constituency. With these funds, 43 drinking water works, including the construction of overhead reservoirs and related infrastructure, were launched in various villages. He noted that 34 projects have already been completed and made available for public use, while the remaining works are progressing rapidly. Officials have been instructed to complete the pending projects at the earliest and prepare them for inauguration. Prabhakar further assured that additional funds would be secured under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the coming years to expand drinking water infrastructure. He said the government aims to provide protected drinking water to every household through tap connections, thereby eliminating the hardships faced by women in fetching water and ensuring reliable access to safe drinking water across all villages in the constituency.



Munikoodali to Be Developed with ₹7 Crore Eco-Tourism Plan

East Godavari, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram MLA Battula Balaramakrishna said Munikoodali village in Sitanagar mandal is set for major transformation as the government has approved a comprehensive development plan to develop it as a model Pushkar Panchayat. The project, backed by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, has secured about 7 crore through coordinated departmental funding.

The initiative aims to develop Munikoodali on the Godavari

riverbank as a model spiritual and eco-tourism destination under the theme "Clean Godavari - Sacred Pushkaras." Plans include modern Pushkar ghats, CC roads, underground drainage, sanitation systems, and tourism facilities to improve the pilgrim experience.

A key feature is the upgradation of Saptarishi Ghat with eco-friendly infrastructure. Works worth 1.78 crore will be taken up, along with 20 lakh for lighting and beautification. Shower facilities, changing rooms, and pinda pradhana sheds will also be constructed

for pilgrims. Munikoodali is also set to become Andhra Pradesh's first Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) panchayat. A 3.4 km drainage system will ensure no sewage enters the Godavari, supported by recharge pits to improve groundwater levels.

Temple renovation works, electricity upgrades, drinking water supply, sanitation improvements, and "waste to wealth" initiatives are also included. Officials said the integrated plan will transform Munikoodali into a major spiritual and eco-tourism hub in the state.

₹1.69 Crore Worth Ganja Seized, Four Arrested



Payakaraopeta, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Police foiled a major ganja smuggling operation near Vempadu Toll Plaza in Nakkapalli mandal of Anakapalli district and seized 264 kilograms of ganja valued at approximately 1.32 crore. Acting on credible information provided by the Eagle Team, police conducted special vehicle checks and intercepted a suspicious Innova and Ertiga car near the toll plaza.

During the inspection, officers discovered 264 kilograms of ganja concealed in the vehicles. Addressing the media at Nakkapalli Police Station, Narsipatnam DSP Pothireddy Srinivasa Rao and Nakkapalli Circle Inspector Murali disclosed the details of the case and present-

ed the accused before reporters. The arrested persons were identified as Somesh, Kavati Sai Teja, Sachin Gehlot, and Rajababu. Police said the total value of the seized property, including the ganja, two cars, and five mobile phones, is estimated at 1.69 crore.

Investigations revealed that Malasala Mohan alias Venkat alias Paramesh, a resident of Rolugunta, played a key role in the smuggling network. Police also found that the contraband was being transported to buyers in Kerala and Mangaluru.

A case has been registered under the NDPS Act, and efforts are underway to trace and apprehend other members of the smuggling racket. SI Sannibabu, SI Anju, and other police personnel participated in the operation.

Tiger Crosses Into Eluru District; Forest Department on High Alert

Eluru, June 23 | TPN Bureau

A tiger that has been under the close watch of forest officials for the past several weeks has crossed the river from Polavaram district and entered the jurisdiction of Eluru district, according to District Forest Officer Sandeep Reddy. The animal has currently been traced to the Sirivaka area, where forest personnel are continuously monitoring its movements.

Sandeep Reddy said that forest officials and staff have been stationed overnight at Koruturu to keep a constant watch on the tiger and assess the situation on the ground. Multiple teams have been deployed along the riverbank, and necessary cages, logistical support, and veterinary teams have been kept ready to facilitate a safe capture operation if required.

Officials are also examining the possibility of tranquilising the tiger should it move closer to accessible areas. However, the Forest Depart-



ment clarified that the tiger is presently within the Papikonda National Park limits and that there are no human habitations in the area where it is roaming. Authorities urged residents not to panic, emphasizing that there is no immediate threat to the public.

Sandeep Reddy stated that, following directions from the Deputy Chief Minister and senior Forest Department officials, district and mandal-level machinery has been

placed on high alert. Villagers have been advised not to enter riverbank areas for fishing or cattle grazing.

As a precautionary measure, the Forest Department has written to the Tourism Department seeking restrictions on tourism activities up to the Perantapalli Shiva Temple for the next three days. Officials said the situation is being reviewed round the clock in coordination with all concerned departments.



APSRTC Employees Launch Statewide Protest, Demand Filling of Vacancies and Release of Pending Dues

Ongole, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Employees of the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) staged protests across the state on Tuesday under the banner of the APSRTC Joint Action Committee (JAC), pressing for the resolution of long-pending service and financial issues. As part of the statewide agitation, employees reported for duty wearing red badges and organized demonstrations in front of bus depots to draw the government's attention to their demands. In Prakasam district, APSRTC employees held a protest outside the Ongole bus de-

pot. Staff members wearing red badges participated in a dharna and raised slogans highlighting their concerns. The protest remained peaceful but underscored growing dissatisfaction among employees over issues they say have remained unresolved for a prolonged period. A major demand raised during the agitation was the opposition to the privatization of APSRTC bus services. Employees expressed concern that any move toward privatization could adversely affect the corporation, its workforce, and the quality of public transport services provided to

APSCPCR Calls for Inter-Departmental Coordination to Safeguard Children's Rights

Ongole, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (APSCPCR) Chairman Vetukuri A.V.S. Surya Narayana Raju has called for stronger coordination among government departments to ensure the protection, welfare, and safety of children across the state. He made the remarks during a district-level review meeting held in Prakasam district, which was also attended by APSCPCR Member Vundavalli Gandhi Babu.

The meeting, organized by the Department of Women Development, Child Welfare and Empowerment, brought together officials from various departments, including Women and Child Welfare, Labour, Education, Police, Health, Rural Development, BC Welfare, Tribal Welfare, and Social Welfare.

The Commission reviewed key child protection issues such as child labour, child marriages, bonded labour, POCSO cases, child trafficking, and school dropouts. Officials were directed to furnish details on



rehabilitation measures, government assistance provided to rescued children, FIRs registered, re-enrolment of girls in schools, and follow-up actions taken by departments.

Special attention was given to POCSO investigations, victim rehabilitation, and challenges in issuing birth certificates to children born from POCSO-related cases. The Commission also reviewed complaints involving violations of children's rights in private and corporate educational

institutions.

The Chairman emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to improve hostel facilities, sanitation, safe drinking water, and healthcare for children. He said the Commission would submit recommendations to the Andhra Pradesh government based on findings from district visits. Gandhi Babu reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to strengthening child protection systems and ensuring the welfare of every child in the state.

Officials Asked to Ensure Successful Conduct of Disha Meeting

Eluru, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Eluru Joint Collector Dr. M.J. Abhishek Gowda has directed officials across all departments to ensure seamless coordination and thorough preparedness for the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (Disha) meeting scheduled to be held on June 24 at the Godavari Conference Hall in the District Collectorate.

Chairing a preparatory review meeting at the Joint Collector's conference hall on Tuesday, Abhishek Gowda reviewed department-wise progress on issues discussed during previous Disha meetings, the action taken on decisions made earlier, and agenda items proposed for the upcoming session. He instructed officials to compile complete and updated information on all development activities and submit comprehensive reports by Tuesday evening.

The Joint Collector emphasized that officials must be ready to present clear and detailed updates to public representatives on various development projects being implemented in the district with funds from the Central and State governments. He noted that accurate reporting and effective coordination among departments are essential for meaningful discussions and timely decision-making during the meeting.



Abhishek Gowda said the review meeting was convened to assess the preparedness of departments and ensure that all pending issues, action-taken reports, and newly proposed development initiatives are properly documented and presented. He instructed officials to attend the Disha meeting with detailed reports and supporting data.

The District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (Disha) meeting will be chaired by Member of Parliament Putta Mahesh Kumar. District Collector K. Vetri Selvi, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Ghanta Padmasri, Members of the Legislative Council, MLAs, and senior district officials are expected to participate.

In-charge DRO L. Devaki Devi, Zilla Parishad CEO P. Jagadamba, RDO K. Lakshmi Prasanna, and officials from various departments attended the preparatory review meeting.

APSCPCR Chairman Praises Ram Mohan's Service to Child Welfare



Ongole, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (APSCPCR) Chairman Vetukuri A.V.S. Surya Narayana Raju and Commission Member V. Gandhi Babu visited the HELP office (Society for Help Entire Lower & Rural People) on Tuesday and expressed condolences over the demise of Prameela, wife of child rights activist Nimmaraju Ram Mohan.

They met Ram Mohan, Founder Secretary of HELP and National Award recipient for Child Protection, and conveyed sympathies to the be-

reaved family. Prameela died of cardiac arrest recently. The officials prayed for strength for the family.

Surya Narayana Raju appreciated Ram Mohan's three decades of service in child protection, prevention of child trafficking, and elimination of child marriages. Gandhi Babu also praised HELP's contribution to safeguarding the rights of marginalized children.

HELP Project Director B.V. Sagar, District Child Welfare Committee Member Neelima, District Child Protection Officer P. Dinesh Kumar, child rights activists, and staff members were present during the visit.

1,500 Athletes Participate in Grand Olympic Day Run



Kurnool, June 23 | TPN Bureau

More than 1,500 athletes and students participated in the Olympic Day Run organized by the Kurnool District Olympic Association on Tuesday, celebrating the values of unity, fitness, and sportsmanship. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, sports personalities, and representatives of various sports associations across the city.

The run was flagged off at the historic Konda Reddy Fort after the ceremonial lighting of the sports torch by District School Games Federation Secretary Krishna, Rotary Club President Prasad Gupta, RSI Naga Swamy, Rayalaseema University Sports Coordinator Dr. Shiva Kishore, District Olympic Association Secretary Srinivasulu, and association leaders Dr. Rudra Reddy, Avinash Shetty, Eshwar Naidu, Suresh Goud, Srinivasulu and Sunil Kumar.

The rally passed through key city landmarks before concluding at the Kurnool Outdoor Stadium. Addressing the gathering, DSP Mahaboob Basha encouraged young athletes to dedicate time daily to sports training with discipline and determination. He urged parents to support children in pursuing sports alongside academics, noting that athletes receive global recognition.

Speaking on the occasion, District Olympic Association Executive President Nagarathnamayya said competitions in 28 sporting disciplines had been conducted to encourage budding talent. He also announced plans to plant 2,036 saplings across Kurnool in line with the directions of Indian Olympic Association President Usha.

Prizes were distributed to winners of inter-school competitions, while cultural performances by children added colour to the celebrations. TDP leader Gautham Reddy, sports association representatives, physical education teachers, and sports enthusiasts attended the programme.

Editorial

Breaking Caste Equations Requires Balance, Not Rhetoric

Caste and politics in Andhra Pradesh have been intertwined for decades. Whether one likes it or not, electoral politics in the state has largely revolved around caste equations, with different communities traditionally supporting different political parties and leaders. Against this backdrop, the recent remarks made by Pawan Kalyan on linking caste identities to a rowdy-sheeter and a police officer have triggered a wider debate.

At one level, Mr. Pawan Kalyan's criticism of associating every individual with a caste identity is valid. In a modern democratic society, a person's actions should be judged on their own merit rather than through the prism of caste. However, public leaders must also exercise caution while addressing such sensitive issues. His use of the term "Kula Daridram" has been viewed by some as harsh and capable of creating unintended negative perceptions.

The reality of Andhra Pradesh politics cannot be ignored. The rise of leaders and political movements has often been influenced by community support. It is equally true that a significant section of the Kapu community has stood behind the Mega family, first supporting Chiranjeevi during the Praja Rajyam era and later extending support to Janasena under Pawan Kalyan's leadership. Political observers have long acknowledged the role this support played in shaping electoral outcomes.

This does not mean leaders should encourage caste-based politics. On the contrary, if Pawan Kalyan genuinely seeks to weaken caste barriers in public life, he has an opportunity to do so through consistent actions, inclusive leadership, and careful messaging. Transforming political culture is a gradual process that requires patience and credibility.

Breaking caste equations is a worthy objective. But achieving it demands balance, logic, and constructive engagement rather than emotionally charged rhetoric. Political leaders must lead this change thoughtfully if they wish to create a more inclusive political future.

Editor

Beyond the Law: Can Andhra Pradesh End Child Marriage?

Rammohan Nimmaraaju



Former Chairman, Child Welfare Committee, Prakasam District



Despite decades of legal reforms, awareness campaigns, and government interventions, child marriage continues to cast a long shadow over India's development journey. The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6, 2023-24) offers a mixed picture: while the prevalence of child marriage is steadily declining, millions of girls remain vulnerable to early marriage, interrupted education, poor health outcomes, and diminished life opportunities.

The encouraging news is that India has made measurable progress. According to NFHS-6, the proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married before the age of 18 has fallen from 23.3 per cent in NFHS-5 to 20.1%. Telangana has emerged as a notable success story, reducing child marriage from 23.5% to 17.9%, while Andhra Pradesh has also improved, bringing the figure down from 29.3% to 25.1%. Yet the numbers reveal an uncomfortable truth: in Andhra Pradesh, one out of every four young women was still married before reaching adulthood, leaving the state above the national average despite recent gains.

These statistics demonstrate that legislation alone cannot eliminate a deeply rooted social practice. Child marriage has historically been intertwined with poverty, gender inequality, social customs, and economic

insecurity. In some instances, adolescents themselves choose to marry early, influenced by family pressures or social expectations. Such situations require counselling, education, and community engagement rather than a purely punitive response. Criminalisation has its place in protecting children, but lasting change depends on addressing the conditions that encourage early marriage in the first place.

Across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, numerous civil society organisations have played a vital role in preventing child marriages through grassroots interventions, community mobilisation, and coordination with local authorities. For many years, the CHILDLINE 1098 emergency response mechanism enabled NGOs and government agencies to work together effectively, allowing rapid intervention from the village level to district administrations whenever children were at risk. Many practitioners believe that this collaborative model helped avert thousands of child marriages and strengthened local child protection systems.

However, after the operational responsibility for CHILDLINE was shifted from voluntary organisations to state governments under Mission Vatsalya during 2020-21, several stakeholders have voiced concerns that response systems

have become less agile and community-driven. While government ownership has the potential to improve institutional accountability, many field organisations argue that implementation gaps, staffing constraints, and coordination challenges have reduced the effectiveness of frontline interventions in some districts.

Recognising the urgency of the issue, the Government of Andhra Pradesh adopted an ambitious vision through G.O.Ms. No. 39 of 15 September 2023, aiming to make the state "Child Marriage Free Andhra Pradesh." The policy framework calls for identification of vulnerable hotspots, awareness campaigns, vigilance during mass marriage seasons, enrolment of adolescents into education programmes, skill development initiatives, regular review meetings, and capacity building for Child Marriage Prohibition Officers. It also emphasises collaboration with religious leaders, marriage hall operators, event organisers, Self-Help Groups, schools, and community institutions. Complementing this framework, the Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Child Marriages Rules, 2023 establish responsibilities for officials from the district level down to villages and wards, supported

by Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committees intended to function as the first line of defence against underage marriages.

Yet the existence of institutional mechanisms does not automatically translate into effective implementation. Many observers point out that Village Level Child Protection Committees and similar community structures have often struggled to achieve their intended impact, much like Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees in many parts of the country. Questions persist about whether monitoring committees meet regularly, whether quarterly reviews are consistently conducted, and whether data-driven oversight exists to ensure accountability from village secretariats to district headquarters.

Another challenge lies in public investment. Child protection has traditionally received only a modest share of government spending, and within already limited child-focused budgets, preventive services often receive even less attention. Consequently, children from marginalised communities—who are disproportionately affected by poverty, social exclusion, and educational disadvantage—frequently remain invisible within the system. Their voices are rarely heard until a crisis emerges.

Nevertheless, there is reason for optimism. The downward trend in child marriage demonstrates that sustained interventions can produce meaningful results. Telangana's experience shows that coordinated action involving education, community awareness, social protec-

tion, and administrative commitment can significantly reduce early marriages. Andhra Pradesh has also made progress, but accelerating that momentum will require stronger implementation rather than additional legislation alone.

The path forward is clear. Village and Ward Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committees must become active, visible, and accountable. Quarterly reviews should be institutionalised, supported by robust digital monitoring systems that track interventions in real time. Frontline workers—including Anganwadi staff, teachers, police personnel, health workers, Panchayat representatives, NGOs, and youth groups—must receive continuous training and support. At the same time, investments in girls' education, vocational opportunities, adolescent empowerment, and family support programmes should be expanded so that delaying marriage becomes a realistic and attractive choice for vulnerable households.

India's progress against child marriage deserves recognition, but complacency would be misplaced. Every percentage point in the statistics represents thousands of girls whose futures depend on collective action. With stronger community engagement, better coordination, and genuine accountability at every level of governance, Andhra Pradesh can move closer to its aspiration of becoming a child-marriage-free state, while contributing to a future in which every girl is free to learn, grow, and choose her own path in life.

The "Heart Vaccine" for India: A National Mission to Eradicate 7,800 Daily Deaths

Ram Kamal



Social Engineer

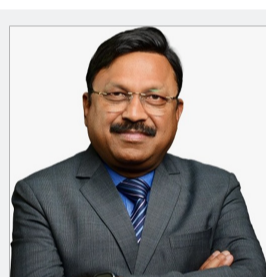
Every 24 hours, India faces a silent catastrophe. According to the World Health Organization and Global Burden of Disease studies, cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) account for nearly 27% of all deaths in the country, claiming roughly 28.6 lakh lives annually—a staggering average of 7,800 deaths every single day.

In response to this escalating crisis, the Punyaa Heart Foundation, a social endeavour of the SAAOL (Science and Art of Living) community of over 700,000 families, inspired by ace noninterventional cardiologist Dr Bimal Chhajer, an ex AIIMS consultant, has launched a nationwide movement titled NPPEHA (National Program for Prevention and Eradication of

Heart Attack) to provide what they call the "Heart Vaccine".

Beyond the Clinic: The "Heart Vaccine" Concept

Heart Vaccine is not a traditional medical vaccine. Instead, the Foundation defines it as an "Edu Vaccine"—a profound shift in lifestyle and health education. While the traditional education system covers many subjects, it often fails to teach citizens how to optimize their health through an understanding of body functions, nutrition, mind management, and exercise. SAAOL, over its 3 decades of operation, has confirmed reversal of heart diseases through lifestyle modification with its over 7 Lakh patients and their families.



Dr. Bimal Chhajer,

India's leading non-invasive Cardiologist and Lifestyle expert for reversing CVD

The program aims to replace the outdated "an apple a day" adage with a comprehensive lifestyle approach that can save people from becoming patients of this Non-Communicable Disease (NCD).

The stakes are not just physical, but economic. "Vikasit Bharath is a Healthy Bharath," the Foundation notes, pointing out that every chronic health trauma can send a family spiralling back into debt and pov-



erty. This is especially critical in India, where an estimated 5.5 to 6 crore people are already living with established CVDs, and over 3.5 crore have experienced a heart attack or undergone procedures like angioplasty.

The Fourteen Pillars of Risk The core of the "Heart Vaccine" is educating the public on 14 major risk factors that drive heart attacks. These include metabolic factors like Hypertension (High Blood Pressure), which damages arterial lin-

ings, and Elevated LDL Cholesterol, which deposits fatty plaques. Lifestyle choices such as Tobacco Use, Sedentary Lifestyles, and Unhealthy Diets high in trans-fats are also primary drivers and pointers to Diabetes.

The campaign further addresses modern psychological and systemic triggers, including Chronic Stress and Anxiety, Sleep Deprivation, and Systemic Chronic Inflammation. Alarming, the Foundation identifies a massive segment

of the population as "Walking Time Bombs"—individuals who have adopted the fusion of "Westernized" lifestyles but never conduct routine medical tests, often only discovering their condition during a fatal cardiac event. When NPPEHA was started in 2018, the daily death rate due to heart attack was 900, and age was 45 and above. Now in 2026, it is 18 years of age and over 7800 deaths per day. It is an 8-fold reality.

Digital Tools for a Healthier Bharath

With 85.5% of Indian households now possessing at least one smartphone, the program is leveraging technology to reach the masses. The operational plan for NPPEHA utilizes viral branding through the media penetration, "Mr Heart" cartoon series and educational games to penetrate the "Indian psyche".

The outreach includes:

- AI-driven, insightful social

- media intrusion
- Multilingual YouTube Web Series and global webcasts.
- Door-to-Door Campaigns and 100 pilot health camps.
- Film Screenings in rural villages followed by medical lectures.
- An Epistemology Survey to gather big data on public health knowledge for future policymaking.

A Targeted Rollout - You're the Cure

By targeting both urban spaces and "fast-infected" villages that lack critical care medical facilities, the program seeks to empower individuals to take responsibility for their own longevity with a slogan 'You're the Cure'. As India moves toward its goal of becoming a developed nation, the Punyaa Heart Foundation reminds us that national growth is built on the health of its families. Prevention, they argue, is the only way to safeguard the country's economic and physical future.

AI: What Is the Goal of the Telugu States?

Chennu Peddiraju



Sr Journalist

The Government of Andhra Pradesh aims to develop Amaravati into a world-class "Quantum Valley." Through this initiative, the state seeks to bring together research institutions, industries, and startups working in quantum computing, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and deep technologies under one ecosystem. A key focus is on youth development. The state plans to introduce Quantum Technology and AI courses at school and college levels. It is also preparing to provide specialized quantum-skills training to more than 50,000 technology students. Partnerships with institutions such as IIT Madras, IIT Tirupati, and IBM are expected to offer guidance and support to aspiring professionals. Efforts have also begun to promote AI awareness programs in regional languages, including Telugu. To create employment opportuni-

ties, the state has recently signed seven key Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in the AI and Quantum sectors. The government's objectives include equipping youth with future-ready skills, increasing the use of AI in public services, and strengthening the research ecosystem. According to the government, Amaravati Quantum Valley could attract world-class research centers, startup incubators, and training institutions, leading to the creation of high-paying jobs. Meanwhile, Telangana has launched several initiatives with the ambition of becoming India's leading state in the AI sector. As part of this effort, the Telangana Government launched "AIKAM," a dedicated AI innovation entity, during a World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting. Its objective is to position Telangana among the world's top 20 AI innova-

tion hubs. For young people, Telangana is focusing on large-scale AI upskilling programs, funding and mentoring AI-based startups, strengthening partnerships between universities and industries, and establishing AI academies and research centers. The Telangana Skill Development Mission has been established to prepare youth for future-oriented sectors such as AI, robotics, aerospace, and life sciences. The state is also developing an AI-powered job-matching portal. What Is the Difference Between the Two Telugu States?

Andhra Pradesh is primarily focused on building a Quantum Technology + AI + Research-driven ecosystem. Telangana, on the other hand, is leveraging its existing IT strengths to promote AI-driven industries, startups, and employment generation. While Telangana is currently advancing rapidly through practical AI implementation and industry integration, Andhra Pradesh is pursuing long-term technological leadership through its Quantum Technology initiatives. If the efforts of both states succeed, the Telugu states could emerge over the

next decade as major global centers for AI and Quantum Technologies—not only within India but on the world stage.

Employment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh

Through the Amaravati Quantum Valley Project, the Andhra Pradesh government aims to create more than 100,000 high-skilled jobs. The state also has plans to promote over 50 unicorn startups. With the participation of companies such as IBM, TCS, and L&T, the government believes that employment opportunities will increase in sectors such as Quantum Computing, AI, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Chip Design, and Cloud Computing. Preparations are currently underway to build the necessary ecosystem to achieve these objectives. The government believes that over the next five to ten years, there will be significant opportunities for employment in the Telugu states in fields such as AI Engineering, Data Science, Machine Learning, Cyber Security Analysis, Quantum Software Development, Quantum Research, Cloud Architecture, Robotics Engi-

neering, AI Ethics Consulting, and Semiconductor Design Engineering. Experts say that many of these jobs are likely to offer higher salaries than the existing IT jobs.

How Real are Employees' Fears About AI?

Across the world, there is growing concern among employees about the impact of AI. Jobs involving repetitive tasks such as data entry, customer support, basic programming, back-office operations, and accounting are likely to be affected by automation. However, the view that is increasingly gaining acceptance is not that AI will completely eliminate jobs, but that it will transform the nature of jobs. Industry experts say that employees who can effectively use AI will become even more valuable resources in the future.

The Situation in Telangana

Telangana is already one of India's leading IT hubs. Global technology giants such as Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, Deloitte, and Accenture operate major facilities in Hyderabad. The government is now attempt-

ing to establish leadership in the AI sector as well. As part of this effort, it has launched a dedicated platform called AIKAM (AI Innovation and Advancement Mission). Through this initiative, the government has set several key objectives: transforming Telangana into one of the world's top 20 AI innovation hubs; providing funding and mentorship to AI-based startups; training millions of young people in AI skills; creating stronger linkages between universities, research institutions, and industries; expanding the use of AI in healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance; and ensuring ethical standards and responsible practices in the deployment of AI technologies.

The Real Difference Between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

A closer look at the approaches of the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments reveals a significant difference. While Andhra Pradesh is focusing on building a future-oriented ecosystem centered on Quantum Computing, AI, research, and deep technologies, Telangana is



leveraging its existing IT strength to accelerate the growth of AI-driven industries, startups, products, and services. Overall, although the strategies of the two states differ, their objective is the same — creating jobs of the future.

However, success will not be determined by buildings, agreements, or technological infrastructure. The real test lies in how effectively the states can equip people—from rural youth to engineering students—with future-ready skills in AI, Quantum Technologies, Cybersecurity, and related domains. If they succeed in this mission, the Telugu states have the potential to emerge not merely as IT hubs but as globally recognized centers of technological innovation.

CJP Launches 'Diaper Drive' in Protest Against NEET Leak Row

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Tuesday intensified its agitation over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination by launching a unique "Diaper A Day Keeps Leaks Away" campaign, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The protest, being held at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, entered its fourth consecutive day as students, activists, and members of various student organizations continued their demonstration against alleged paper leaks and examination-related controversies.

Announcing the campaign through social media, the CJP appealed to supporters to bring diapers to the protest venue and write messages demanding the minister's resignation. The party said the symbolic campaign was aimed at highlighting what it described as repeated failures in safeguarding the



integrity of national examinations.

"Bring a diaper, write your demand for his resignation on it, and we'll make sure it reaches the education minister," the party said in its appeal.

Meanwhile, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke alleged that Delhi Police attempted to reduce the space allotted for the protest late Monday night by shifting barricades and restricting the demonstration area. There was no immediate response from the police regarding the

allegation.

The party has maintained that its protest will continue until accountability is fixed for the alleged examination irregularities and the education minister steps down.

On Monday evening, protesters lit candles in memory of students who allegedly died by suicide following controversies surrounding examination leaks and recruitment irregularities. Addressing the gathering, Dipke criticized authorities for what he termed a

failure to act against those responsible for leaks while students continued to suffer the consequences. The agitation has drawn participation from a wide range of student groups, including the Students' Federation of India (SFI), All India Students' Association (AISA), and the All India Students' Federation (AISF). As part of the movement, AISF has also established a free library at the protest site under its "Fight for Education with Education" initiative.

Organizers said the campaign aims to keep public attention focused on issues of transparency, accountability, and fairness in India's examination system. With growing participation from students and youth organizations, the protest is emerging as one of the most visible demonstrations against alleged examination malpractice in recent months.

Udhayanidhi's Remarks on Vijay Spark Fresh Political Row



A fresh political controversy has erupted in Tamil Nadu after Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Vijay, drawing criticism for bringing personal issues into the political arena.

The exchange began after Vijay, while addressing the Assembly, delivered a strongly worded speech targeting the opposition DMK. He accused the previous government of corruption and asserted that his administration would recover public funds allegedly misused in the name of party fund collections. His remarks triggered protests from DMK legislators, who objected to the allegations and demanded evidence.

During the debate, Vijay reportedly used a "missing man" story as a political metaphor, which was widely interpreted as a veiled criticism of DMK leadership. The speech led to heated reactions from opposition members, with sev-

eral legislators staging a walk-out from the House.

Responding later, Udhayanidhi Stalin intensified the political confrontation by comparing the Assembly proceedings to a movie set. He accused Vijay of "acting" inside the House and suggested that the Assembly was being turned into a cinema hall. Using film-related analogies, Udhayanidhi remarked that the Speaker appeared to be calling "action" and "cut" while Vijay continued his performance.

The controversy escalated further when Udhayanidhi referred to reports concerning Vijay's ongoing family court proceedings, making comments that many observers viewed as personal rather than political. His remarks immediately sparked reactions across political circles and social media, with supporters of TVK condemning the statements as inappropriate and unnecessary.

Meanwhile, Vijay's supporters defended the Chief Minister's Assembly speech, arguing that he was highlighting issues of governance and accountability. They accused the DMK leadership of diverting attention from political criticism by resorting to personal attacks. Political analysts believe the exchange reflects the growing rivalry between the ruling TVK and the DMK ahead of upcoming electoral battles in the state. The sharp war of words has further intensified the political atmosphere, with both parties seeking to consolidate support among voters.

As the debate continues, the incident has once again highlighted the increasingly confrontational nature of Tamil Nadu politics, where Assembly proceedings and public statements are becoming major battlegrounds for political messaging and public perception.

Japan PM's Assam Visit Cancelled



The proposed visit of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to Assam next month has been cancelled, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Tuesday, ending anticipation surrounding what would have been the first official visit by a Japanese Prime Minister to the northeastern state.

Addressing reporters in Guwahati, Sarma said the Ministry of External Affairs had informed the state govern-

ment that the planned India-Japan summit in Assam would not take place as scheduled. He added that the proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the state in connection with the summit had also been cancelled.

The chief minister said he was not aware of the specific reasons behind the decision but clarified that the Government of India had assured the state that the proposed investors' engagement and related

activities would be organized on a later date.

Prime Minister Takaichi was expected to visit India from July 1 to July 3 for the annual India-Japan summit. While Guwahati had initially been identified as the venue, the summit is now expected to be held in New Delhi.

Earlier, officials from the Japanese Embassy in India had indicated that the visit had not yet received formal confirmation, even as reports emerged suggesting that the trip might be called off due to a combination of undisclosed factors.

The visit was expected to carry significant diplomatic and economic importance. A delegation of more than 50 leading Japanese business executives was likely to accompany the Prime Minister, with discussions planned on strengthening bilateral supply chains, semiconductor cooperation, renewable energy pro-

jects, and industrial development in India's Northeast.

Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Takaichi were also expected to hold bilateral talks aimed at deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries.

In preparation for the high-profile event, Guwahati had witnessed extensive beautification efforts in recent weeks. Authorities undertook road repairs, plantation drives, cleaning of public spaces, and repainting of infrastructure across key parts of the city to present a welcoming image for the visiting dignitaries.

Despite the cancellation, officials expressed optimism that future engagements between India and Japan would continue to strengthen economic cooperation and investment opportunities, particularly in the northeastern region, which has emerged as a key focus area in New Delhi's Act East policy.

Jaipur Cracks Down on Coaching Centres After Deadly Lucknow Fire

In the wake of the devastating fire at a coaching centre in Lucknow that claimed 15 lives, the Jaipur administration on Tuesday launched a massive inspection drive against coaching institutes and libraries, sealing 14 establishments and issuing notices to more than 24 others for violating fire safety norms.

Joint teams from the municipal corporation and police conducted inspections across various parts of the city to assess compliance with fire safety regulations. Officials examined the availability and functionality of firefighting equipment, emergency exits, evacuation arrangements, and mandatory fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

Chief Fire Officer Devendra Meena said that authorities have intensified enforcement measures to ensure student safety. He revealed that since June 4, nearly 600 establishments in Jaipur's Heritage area have been served notices regarding fire safety compliance. These include around 150 coaching institutes and librar-



ies that were found lacking in one or more safety requirements.

According to officials, 14 coaching centres and educational facilities were immediately sealed after inspectors found serious deficiencies in safety infrastructure. More than two dozen institutions received notices directing them to rectify shortcomings within a stipulated timeframe.

The crackdown follows growing concerns about safety standards in educational institutions, particularly in cities such as Jaipur that host thousands of students preparing for competitive examinations.

Authorities stressed that adherence to fire safety norms is crucial given the large number of students who occupy coaching centres and libraries daily.

During the inspections, teams checked whether fire extinguishers and firefighting systems were operational, whether emergency exits remained unobstructed, and whether safety equipment had crossed its validity period. Officials also scrutinized documentation related to fire clearances and building safety certifications.

The Lucknow tragedy has triggered nationwide concern

over safety standards in educational institutions. Many states have begun reviewing fire preparedness measures to prevent similar incidents. Jaipur officials said the current drive is part of a broader effort to ensure that coaching centres and libraries comply with prescribed safety guidelines and are adequately equipped to handle emergencies.

Authorities warned that institutions failing to address safety violations could face stricter action, including closure and legal proceedings. They also urged managements to prioritize student safety over operational convenience.

Officials confirmed that inspections will continue in the coming days across Jaipur, with additional teams deployed to cover more educational hubs. The administration has reiterated its commitment to ensuring that students study in safe and secure environments and that no compromise is made on fire and emergency preparedness standards.

Missing CMO Reports Trigger High-Level Probe

The investigation into the disappearance of two crucial inquiry reports from the Odisha Chief Minister's Office (CMO) intensified on Tuesday, with police conducting another round of searches at the General Administration (GA) Department in Lok Seva Bhawan, the state secretariat.

Investigating officers examined records maintained by the offices of the Chief Secretary and the General Administration Department as part of efforts to trace the missing documents. The latest inspection follows an earlier search conducted on June 20 after a First Information Report (FIR) was registered at Capital Police Station regarding the disappearance of the reports.

According to official records, all files were returned from the CMO to the Home Department on June 4, 2024. However, two significant inquiry reports were later found missing. One pertains to the murder of Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, while the other concerns the tragic SUM Hospital fire incident in Bhubaneswar.

Authorities suspect that the reports may have been deliberately removed rather than misplaced during routine administrative procedures. Police are scrutinizing file movement registers, official



records, and internal administrative processes to determine how the documents disappeared and who may be responsible.

The FIR was lodged on June 10 by Home Department Joint Secretary Sarat Chandra Marandi. The complaint alleged that key documents, including the Justice A.S. Naidu Commission report on the 2008 Laxmanananda Saraswati murder case and the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) inquiry report into the 2016 SUM Hospital fire tragedy, had gone missing.

Police have registered a case under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), reflecting the seriousness of the matter.

The issue has also sparked political controversy. Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari re-

cently suggested that the reports may have been intentionally stolen and indicated that even former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik could be questioned if required during the investigation.

The missing reports relate to two major incidents in Odisha's history. Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati and four associates were killed in Kandhamal district in August 2008, triggering widespread communal unrest. The second report concerns the devastating fire at SUM Hospital in October 2016, which claimed more than 20 lives and exposed serious shortcomings in fire safety measures. Police investigations are continuing to uncover the circumstances behind the disappearance of the sensitive documents.

Tilak Varma's Surprise Appearance in Maharashtra Assembly Draws Attention

Young Indian cricketer Tilak Varma created a buzz on Tuesday after making a special appearance at the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly during the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected MLC Vikram Kakade.

Tilak Varma's presence at the Assembly surprised many political leaders, legislators, and visitors, quickly becoming one of the highlights of the event. The Hyderabad-born cricketer attended the ceremony to support his close friend Vikram Kakade, who officially took oath

as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC).

Speaking on the occasion, Tilak described Vikram Kakade as being "like a brother" to him and expressed happiness at witnessing his friend begin a new chapter in public life. He extended his best wishes and hoped that Kakade would serve the people effectively in his new role.

Tilak noted that Vikram Kakade had been actively involved in several social service initiatives over the years and

had consistently worked for community welfare. He said these experiences would help Kakade perform his responsibilities successfully as a legislator.

The cricketer's remarks received appreciation from those present at the ceremony. Several attendees welcomed the support shown by a prominent sportsperson towards a public representative committed to social causes.

Vikram Kakade's induction into the Maharashtra Legisla-

tive Council is being viewed as an important milestone in his public service journey. Supporters expressed confidence that he would continue his developmental and welfare-oriented activities while representing the interests of the people in the Upper House.

Tilak Varma's participation added a unique sporting dimension to the political event. The young batting star, who has represented India in international cricket and earned recognition through his performances in do-

mestic and franchise cricket, drew considerable attention from media personnel and visitors gathered at the Assembly premises.

As Vikram Kakade embarked on his new political innings, Tilak Varma's heartfelt message of friendship and encouragement emerged as one of the memorable moments of the ceremony, reflecting the strong bond shared between the two and highlighting the intersection of sports, public service, and community engagement.



Trump Says Iran Agrees to Nuclear Inspections

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday claimed that Iran has agreed to permit the highest level of international nuclear inspections, describing the development as a major breakthrough in ongoing negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

In a statement posted on his Truth Social platform, Trump said Iran had "fully and completely agreed" to allow extensive nuclear inspections for the foreseeable future. He asserted that the arrangement would ensure what he termed "nuclear honesty" and help strengthen confidence in Iran's nuclear activities.

The announcement comes

amid continuing diplomatic efforts aimed at easing tensions in the Middle East following months of regional instability and concerns over Iran's nuclear programme.

According to Trump, the reported agreement on inspections was accompanied by several other concessions from Tehran during recent negotiations. He stated that, in response to these developments, the United States would not proceed with any naval blockade of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz.

"Based on this and other major concessions being made by Iran, I have agreed to allow the Hormuz Strait to remain open,

with no further naval blockade," Trump said.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints, serving as a key route for global oil and gas shipments. Any disruption to navigation through the narrow waterway has the potential to impact international energy markets and global trade.

Trump also indicated that discussions between the United States and Iran were progressing positively, though he did not disclose specific details about the broader framework of the negotiations or the mechanisms through which the proposed inspections would be carried out.

The remarks come at a time when diplomatic engagement between the two countries has intensified following recent efforts by international mediators to reduce regional tensions. Observers view enhanced nuclear monitoring as a significant confidence-building measure that could contribute to long-term stability.

However, neither Iranian authorities nor international nuclear monitoring agencies immediately provided detailed confirmation regarding the scope or duration of the inspections referenced by Trump. Analysts note that the implementation of any inspection regime would likely involve coordina-

tion with international bodies responsible for nuclear oversight. The developments are being closely watched by governments across the Middle East and beyond, given their potential implications for regional security, global energy supplies, and future relations between Washington and Tehran.

If formally implemented, the reported inspection agreement could mark one of the most significant diplomatic steps in recent years toward reducing tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear programme and ensuring uninterrupted maritime trade through the Strait of Hormuz.



Netanyahu Pushes for Greater Military Independence from US



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has once again called for Israel to reduce its dependence on American military assistance and strengthen its domestic defence manufacturing capabilities, according to a statement released by his office on Tuesday.

Addressing reserve officers attending a training programme in the occupied West Bank, Netanyahu emphasized the need for Israel to develop a self-reliant military-industrial base capable of meeting the country's long-term security requirements.

"I deeply appreciate the support we have received from our American friends, but we need to break free from dependency and build our own independent armaments network," Netanyahu said.

The remarks were made on June 18, a day after the United States and Iran reached a preliminary agreement aimed at

ending the recent Middle East conflict. Israel has expressed reservations about aspects of the diplomatic engagement between Washington and Tehran, particularly regarding Iran's future role in the region.

Netanyahu argued that Israel must invest heavily in domestic weapons production and technological innovation to ensure strategic independence. "We need our own independent armaments network. We must manufacture our own armaments," he said.

Since its establishment in 1948, Israel has been one of the largest recipients of American economic and military aid. According to data from the Council on Foreign Relations, the country has received more than \$300 billion in US assistance, adjusted for inflation. Under a ten-year defence assistance agreement signed in 2016 and implemented in 2019, Israel receives approximately

\$3.8 billion annually in military aid from Washington. The agreement remains in force until 2028.

The aid package accounts for roughly 15 percent of Israel's defence budget and supports the acquisition of advanced weapons systems and military equipment from the United States.

Netanyahu has repeatedly advocated reducing Israel's reliance on foreign assistance. Earlier this year, he stated that he hoped Israel could end its dependence on US military aid within a decade. In another interview, he suggested that future American financial support should eventually decline to zero.

Despite being close allies, the United States and Israel have experienced policy differences in recent years, particularly regarding military operations in Gaza, Lebanon, and broader regional security issues. Relations have also faced occasional strains over diplomatic efforts involving Iran.

Analysts view Netanyahu's latest comments as part of a broader strategy to strengthen Israel's defence self-sufficiency amid changing geopolitical dynamics. While US support remains a cornerstone of Israel's security framework, the Prime Minister's remarks signal a long-term vision aimed at enhancing domestic production capabilities and reducing strategic dependence on external partners.

Hormuz Traffic Hits Wartime High Despite Regional Tensions

The strategically vital Strait of Hormuz witnessed its highest level of commodity carrier traffic since the outbreak of the Middle East conflict in late February, highlighting the resilience of global energy supply routes despite ongoing regional instability.

According to maritime tracking firm Kpler, at least 35 commodity-carrying vessels transited the narrow waterway on Monday, marking the busiest single day recorded since hostilities escalated across the region. Analysts expect the figure to rise further as additional vessel movements are confirmed through maritime monitoring systems.

The surge in traffic comes amid heightened concerns over the security of one of the world's most important shipping corridors. The Strait of Hormuz serves as a critical gateway connecting the Persian Gulf to international markets and handles roughly one-fifth of global oil and natural gas exports.

Although the 35 vessel crossings represent only about one-third of the normal peacetime average of approximately 120 daily transits, the figure is significant given the security risks and uncertainty that have dominated maritime operations in recent months.

Shipping companies and energy traders have been closely monitoring developments in the region following military confrontations, diplomatic tensions, and concerns about possible disruptions to commercial navigation. The waterway



has long been regarded as a geopolitical flashpoint, with any threat to shipping capable of triggering sharp movements in global energy prices.

Industry experts believe the increase in vessel movements reflects growing confidence among shipping operators following recent diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing tensions in the region. Several governments and international organizations have emphasized the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation through the strait to prevent disruptions to global trade and energy supplies.

The rise in traffic is also seen as a positive signal for international energy markets, which have remained sensitive to developments in the Middle East. Stable operations through the Strait of Hormuz are crucial for major oil-producing nations in the Gulf, whose exports depend heavily on uninterrupted access to the maritime route.

Despite the encouraging increase in shipping activity, analysts caution that risks remain elevated. Insurance costs for vessels operating in the region continue to be higher than normal, while shipping companies remain vigilant regarding potential security threats.

Global energy markets are expected to continue monitoring traffic patterns through the strait in the coming weeks as diplomatic negotiations and regional security developments unfold. Any sustained increase in vessel movements could help ease concerns over supply disruptions and contribute to greater stability in international oil and gas markets.

For now, the record wartime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz underscores the waterway's enduring importance to global commerce and the determination of shipping operators to keep trade flowing despite ongoing geopolitical challenges.

EU-Taliban Talks on Deportations Spark Human Rights Concerns

A delegation from Afghanistan's Taliban administration arrived in Brussels on Tuesday for rare closed-door discussions with European Union officials, with deportation policies expected to dominate the agenda. The meeting comes amid growing pressure from several EU member states to increase the return of Afghan nationals whose asylum applications have been rejected or who are convicted of crimes in Europe.

The five-member Taliban delegation includes Abdul Qahar Balkhi, a senior spokesperson for the Taliban's foreign ministry. While no EU country officially recognizes the Taliban government, the talks mark an unusual diplomatic engagement between the two sides.

EU officials have emphasized that the meeting does not amount to formal recognition of the Taliban administration. Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prevoet clarified that Belgium granted visas only in accordance with its obligations as host of EU institutions and that the move should not be in-



terpreted as conferring legitimacy on the Taliban.

The discussions are taking place outside official EU premises, reflecting the bloc's continued refusal to formally recognize Taliban rule since the group returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021 following the withdrawal of US-led forces.

The talks follow requests from a majority of EU member states seeking stronger migration controls and improved mechanisms for deporting individuals considered security

risks. According to EU officials, only a small percentage of Afghans ordered to leave Europe have actually returned to their home country.

Human rights organizations have strongly criticized the engagement. Groups including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International warned that increased cooperation on deportations could place vulnerable Afghans at risk.

Rights advocates argue that Afghanistan remains unsafe, particularly for women, girls, journalists, activists, and former government employees. Since regaining power, the Taliban have imposed sweeping restrictions on women's education, employment, and public participation, drawing widespread international condemnation.

The meeting also comes as Afghanistan faces a worsening humanitarian crisis. Millions of Afghans have returned from neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Iran over the past year, adding pressure to an economy already struggling with sanctions, unemployment, and food shortages.

For the Taliban, engagement with European officials offers an opportunity to reduce diplomatic isolation and secure continued humanitarian assistance. For the EU, the talks reflect a difficult balancing act between migration management, security concerns, and commitments to human rights.

The outcome of the discussions is expected to influence future EU policies toward Afghanistan and the broader debate over migration and deportation across Europe.

Iran, US Agree on Four Working Groups After Switzerland Talks

Technical negotiations between Iran and the United States concluded in Switzerland on Tuesday with both sides agreeing to establish four specialized working groups aimed at advancing discussions on key bilateral and regional issues.

According to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency, the talks resulted in a framework for continued engagement through dedicated teams focusing on sanctions relief, nuclear affairs, economic development, and implementation mechanisms.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said the negotiators had reached an understanding to create four separate working groups: Sanctions Termination, Nuclear Affairs, Reconstruction and Economic Development, and Monitoring and Implementation.

The development marks another step in the ongoing diplomatic efforts between Tehran and Washington following recent high-level discussions aimed at reducing tensions in the Middle East and addressing long-standing disputes over Iran's nuclear programme and economic sanctions.

The sanctions-focused working group is expected to examine pathways for easing restrictions imposed on Iran's economy, particularly in sectors such as energy, banking, and international trade. The nuclear affairs team will concentrate on technical and policy issues related to Iran's nuclear activities, monitoring requirements, and future



commitments.

Meanwhile, the Reconstruction and Economic Development group is expected to explore opportunities for economic cooperation and support mechanisms that could contribute to Iran's economic recovery and regional stability. The Monitoring and Implementation team will oversee compliance and ensure that any future agreements are effectively carried out by both sides.

The conclusion of the technical talks follows recent diplomatic engagement between Iranian and American officials in Switzerland, which both sides have described as con-

structive. Observers view the creation of the working groups as a sign that negotiations are moving from broad political discussions to more detailed technical deliberations.

The talks come amid efforts to stabilize the region following months of conflict and heightened tensions. International stakeholders have closely watched the negotiations, hoping that progress between Tehran and Washington could contribute to broader peace and security in the Middle East. While significant differences remain between the two countries on several issues, the establishment of the working groups provides a structured

mechanism for addressing complex matters through sustained dialogue. Analysts believe that progress within these groups could lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive agreement in the future.

Neither side has announced a specific timeline for the completion of the working groups' tasks, but officials indicated that consultations will continue in the coming weeks. The outcome of these discussions is expected to play a crucial role in shaping future relations between Iran and the United States and influencing the broader geopolitical landscape of the region.

Anubhav Plast IPO Receives 2.1 Times Subscription



The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Anubhav Plast, an ERW steel pipes and tubes manufacturer, concluded with a healthy response from investors, garnering an overall subscription of 2.1 times on the final day of bidding. The three-day public issue, which closed on June 23, attracted strong participation from retail and other investor categories, reflecting confidence in the company's growth prospects.

The company aims to raise 24 crore through a fresh issue of 30 lakh equity shares. The shares were offered in a price band of 77 to 80 per share, with the issue priced at the upper end of the band. The IPO consists entirely of a fresh issue, and the proceeds will be

utilized for business expansion, working capital requirements, and other corporate purposes.

Ahead of the public offering, Anubhav Plast successfully raised 6.78 crore from anchor investors. A total of 8.48 lakh shares were allotted through the anchor book on June 18. The anchor round witnessed participation from two institutional investors—Craft Emerging Market Fund and Longthrive Capital—providing an early boost to investor sentiment.

According to subscription data, investors placed bids for 44.97 lakh shares against the offer size of 21.52 lakh shares available for public subscription. The issue received 910 applications during the bidding

period, resulting in an overall subscription of 2.1 times.

Market participants noted that the oversubscription indicates moderate investor interest in the company, despite ongoing volatility in broader equity markets. The response also reflects confidence in the manufacturing and infrastructure-linked sectors, which continue to benefit from increasing industrial activity and government-led development initiatives.

With the subscription process now completed, investors are awaiting the share allotment. The basis of allotment is expected to be finalized later this week, after which successful applicants will receive shares in their demat accounts. Refunds for unsuccessful bidders are likely to be processed shortly thereafter. The company is expected to make its stock market debut on the NSE SME platform in the coming days following the completion of allotment formalities. Market analysts will closely watch the listing performance, as SME IPOs have witnessed mixed responses in recent months amid fluctuating market conditions.

Anubhav Plast's successful subscription marks another notable SME public issue this year, highlighting continued investor appetite for emerging companies seeking growth capital through the stock market.

Markets Tumble as Global Uncertainty Weighs on Investor Sentiment



Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp sell-off on Monday, with benchmark indices ending significantly lower as weak global cues and uncertainty surrounding ongoing US-Iran peace negotiations dampened investor confidence. Broad-based selling across sectors dragged the indices down, although pharmaceutical and healthcare stocks provided some support.

The benchmark Sensex plunged 893.39 points, or 1.16 percent, to close at 76,200.68, while the Nifty declined 278.80 points, or 1.16 percent, to settle below the crucial 23,850 mark at 23,824.10. After a volatile start to the trading session, markets slipped further in the second half, with the Nifty touching an intraday low of 23,784.95.

Market participants remained cautious amid geopolitical concerns and global market weakness, leading to profit-booking across major sectors. Broader markets also ended in negative territory, with the Nifty Midcap index falling 1 percent and the Small-cap index declining 0.5 percent.

Information Technology stocks emerged as the biggest drag on the market. Heavyweights such as Infosys, TCS and Wipro witnessed notable losses, reflecting concerns over global economic growth and technology spending. Other major laggards included Adani Enterprises and JSW

Steel.

Sector-wise, all major indices ended lower except pharma and healthcare. Information Technology, Metals, Telecom, PSU Banks and Realty sectors recorded losses ranging between 1 and 3 percent. Defensive buying in pharmaceutical counters helped limit broader market losses. Stocks such as Cipla, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Sun Pharma emerged among the top gainers on the Nifty, while Power Grid Corporation and Axis Bank also ended in positive territory.

Despite the market decline,

several stocks touched fresh 52-week highs, indicating selective investor interest in fundamentally strong counters. Notable companies reaching new highs included Kirloskar Oil Engines, Syrma SGS Technology, Sai Life Sciences, AIA Engineering, Laurus Labs, Emcure Pharmaceuticals, GE Vernova T&D India, Apar Industries, Bharat Forge, Pidilite Industries, Nykaa, KEI Industries, Adani Enterprises, Navin Fluorine International, Aditya Birla Capital, Radico Khaitan and Adani Green Energy.

Analysts said investors are closely monitoring global developments, particularly geopolitical tensions and international diplomatic efforts, which continue to influence market direction. They added that volatility may persist in the near term as traders assess evolving global risks and upcoming economic indicators.

While the overall sentiment remained weak, the resilience shown by healthcare and pharmaceutical stocks highlighted continued investor preference for defensive sectors during periods of uncertainty.

Cordelia Cruises IPO Sees Tepid Response on Day One



The initial public offering (IPO) of Waterways Leisure Tourism Limited, the operator of the popular Cordelia Cruises brand, witnessed a muted response from investors on the opening day of subscription, with the issue receiving bids for only 19 percent of the shares on offer.

According to data available on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the 585-crore public issue attracted bids for approximately 8.03 lakh shares against the 41.84 lakh shares offered for subscription. The IPO consists entirely of a fresh issue of shares and aims to raise funds for the company's expansion and operational requirements.

Retail investors showed the strongest interest in the issue, with their reserved portion receiving nearly 99 percent subscription on the first day itself.

However, participation from Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs) remained subdued, with the category garnering only 4 percent subscription. Institutional investor participation is expected to pick up closer to the closing date.

The weak opening-day response was also reflected in the grey market, where the premium for Cordelia Cruises shares declined further. Market observers tracking unofficial trading activity reported a drop in the Grey Market Premium (GMP), indicating cautious investor sentiment ahead of listing.

According to Investorgain, the GMP slipped to around 1.24 percent, down from nearly 3 percent a week earlier. Another market tracker, IPO Watch, estimated the premium at 1.49 percent, compared with 3.22 percent recorded the previous

day. A declining GMP is often viewed as a sign that investors expect limited listing gains.

Investors can bid for a minimum of 18 equity shares and in multiples of 18 shares thereafter. The company has positioned itself as a leading cruise tourism operator in India, seeking to tap into the growing demand for domestic and international cruise vacations. Market analysts believe the IPO's performance over the remaining subscription period will depend on institutional participation and broader market sentiment. Recent volatility in equity markets, coupled with geopolitical uncertainties and cautious investor behaviour, has affected demand for several new public issues. Despite the slow start, analysts note that retail interest remains encouraging. The final subscription figures over the next few days will provide a clearer indication of investor confidence in the company's growth prospects and India's expanding cruise tourism sector.

The IPO will remain open for subscription as investors evaluate the company's financials, business model, and long-term growth potential before making investment decisions.

ED Raids Rajesh Exports After SEBI Flags Financial Irregularities

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday carried out searches at multiple premises linked to gold jewellery giant Rajesh Exports Limited in Bengaluru, intensifying regulatory scrutiny over the company following serious allegations raised by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

According to sources, the searches began early in the day and covered several locations associated with the company, its promoters, and related entities. The operation was ongoing at the time of reporting.

The ED action comes shortly after SEBI issued an interim order against Rajesh Exports, its Chairman Rajesh Mehta, and certain associated entities, alleging major irregularities in financial reporting and fund movements. The market regulator's findings have triggered concerns over transparency and corporate governance within one of India's largest gold exporters and jew-



ellery manufacturers.

SEBI, in its order, alleged that the company engaged in a complex web of transactions involving related parties. These transactions, according to the regulator, created multiple layers that obscured the actual flow of funds and made it difficult to trace the ultimate source and destination of the money. The regulator expressed concern that such arrangements may have distorted the company's financial statements and misrepresented its financial position.

Sources familiar with the

matter indicated that the ED is examining whether any violations under anti-money laundering laws may have occurred. Investigators are reportedly scrutinizing documents, financial records, and transaction trails as part of the probe.

The case has attracted significant attention due to the scale of the alleged financial discrepancies. Reports suggest that the regulator's findings relate to suspected financial misstatements amounting to nearly 15.15 lakh crore in transaction values, although

investigations are still underway and no final conclusions have been reached.

Rajesh Exports has been under heightened scrutiny since SEBI's interim findings became public. The company has not accepted the allegations and is expected to pursue legal remedies available under securities laws. No official statement from the company was immediately available regarding the ED searches.

Market observers note that the developments could have broader implications for investor confidence and corporate governance standards in the listed company space. Regulatory authorities are expected to continue their investigations to determine the extent of any wrongdoing and whether further enforcement action is warranted.

The outcome of the SEBI and ED investigations will be closely watched by investors, regulators, and the broader financial community in the coming months.

Ola Electric Secures BIS Nod for Indigenous Battery Cell, Shares Rise



Mumbai, June 23: Shares of electric vehicle manufacturer Ola Electric Mobility gained nearly 3 percent on Tuesday after the company announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, Ola Cell Technologies, received Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for its indigenously developed LFP 46100 cylindrical battery cell.

The stock was trading at 43.77 in afternoon trade, up 2.94 percent from its previous close, reflecting positive investor sentiment following the development.

According to the company, the certification under IS 16046 (Part 2):2018 and IEC 62133-2:2017 makes Ola Electric the

first Indian company to secure BIS approval for a locally developed battery cell in the 46100 format. The achievement is seen as a significant milestone in India's efforts to strengthen domestic battery manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports. To obtain the certification, the battery cell underwent extensive testing at a National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)-accredited facility. The tests assessed safety, reliability and performance under various operating conditions.

The company also stated that the LFP 46100 cell has qualified under IS 16893 Parts 2 and 3, along with the internationally

recognized UN 38.3 standards. These certifications confirm compliance with stringent electrical, mechanical, environmental, reliability, abuse and transportation safety requirements.

Industry observers view the development as a major step toward achieving greater self-reliance in advanced battery technology, a critical component of India's rapidly growing electric mobility sector.

Ola Electric has been investing heavily in battery research, manufacturing infrastructure and cell technology development as part of its long-term strategy to build an integrated EV ecosystem. The company believes indigenous cell production will help improve supply-chain security, reduce costs and accelerate EV adoption across the country.

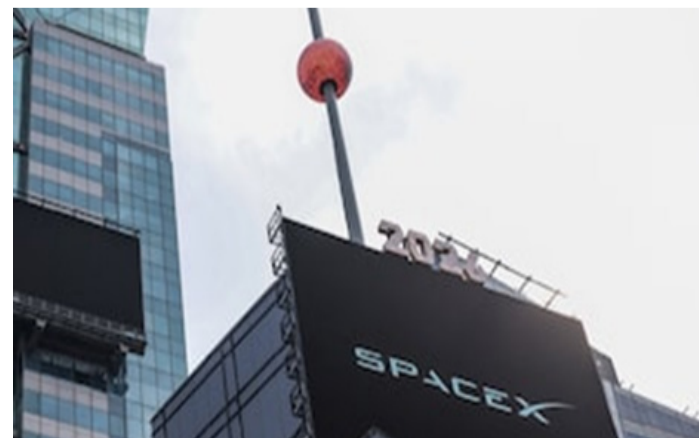
The BIS certification is expected to support Ola Electric's broader plans for large-scale battery manufacturing and strengthen its position in the competitive electric vehicle market. Investors responded positively to the announcement, driving the stock higher during the trading session.

SpaceX Shares Slide Below Listing Price Amid Ongoing Market Sell-Off

Shares of SpaceX extended their losses in pre-market trading on Tuesday, falling nearly 5 percent and slipping below their listing price, as investor concerns over technology stocks and the company's aggressive funding plans continued to weigh on sentiment.

The stock dropped to around \$147 per share, below its debut opening price of \$150, raising concerns that the Elon Musk-led aerospace and technology giant could see its market capitalization fall below the \$2 trillion mark. The decline comes amid a broader sell-off in technology stocks that has pressured major market indices and reduced investor appetite for high-growth companies.

SpaceX has now recorded losses for three consecutive trading sessions. During this period, the company has re-



portedly lost more than \$600 billion in market value, including a dramatic \$400 billion decline in a single session on Monday, marking one of the largest one-day value erasures in market history.

The latest slide follows a steep 16 percent drop in the company's share price, which pushed the stock to its lowest

level since it began trading. Market analysts attribute the downturn to a combination of profit booking, broader weakness in technology shares, and investor caution regarding the company's financing strategy.

Adding to market concerns, SpaceX is currently raising funds through the sale of in-

vestment-grade bonds as part of a larger borrowing program aimed at supporting its expanding ambitions in artificial intelligence, satellite communications, and next-generation space technologies. Investors are closely monitoring how the company manages its debt while continuing to invest heavily in future growth initiatives. Despite the recent correction, analysts note that SpaceX remains one of the world's most valuable technology and aerospace companies, with significant interests in rocket launches, satellite internet services, and AI-driven innovation.

Market participants will be watching upcoming corporate updates and broader technology sector trends to assess whether the stock can stabilize after one of the sharpest declines in its trading history.

Gen Z Intern's Simple Invitation Changes CEO's Perspective on Workplace Hierarchy

A casual question from a young employee has sparked a broader conversation about workplace culture, hierarchy, and how younger generations view professional relationships. The incident, shared by Noida-based entrepreneur Nitin Verma, has resonated widely on social media and prompted discussions about the evolving dynamics of modern workplaces.

Verma revealed that one of his Gen Z interns casually invited him to join the team for a drink after work. While the invitation itself seemed harmless, the reaction from other employees caught his attention. According to the CEO, several team members appeared shocked, as though the intern had crossed an unspoken professional boundary.

Although Verma declined the invitation at the time, he admitted that the moment stayed with him and led him to reflect on the changing nature of workplace relationships. He observed that the intern did not see him primarily as a CEO or a corporate authority figure but rather as a person who could be approached casually and comfortably.

The incident highlighted a clear contrast between generations. Verma explained that



older generations were often taught to maintain a formal distance from senior colleagues and authority figures. Respect was commonly expressed through hierarchy, careful language, and strict professional boundaries.

However, he believes Gen Z approaches workplace relationships differently. According to Verma, younger employees tend to value authenticity

and approachability over titles and designations. Rather than respecting someone solely because of their position, they respect individuals based on how they treat others and how accessible they are.

Reflecting on the experience, Verma acknowledged that there was a time when he might have considered such behavior unprofessional. Today, however, he sees it as a

genuine form of respect. In his view, the invitation reflected comfort, trust, and openness rather than a lack of professionalism.

He further noted that respect built through genuine human connection can sometimes be more meaningful than respect rooted in fear or hierarchy. The reactions of other employees, he said, demonstrated how organizational structures can create distance between people, while the intern's gesture suggested that such barriers are not always necessary. The entrepreneur concluded that the encounter offered valuable insight into the mindset of the younger workforce. While he declined the invitation on that particular day, he admitted that he might accept a similar invitation in the future.

The story has struck a chord online, with many users praising the intern's confidence and Verma's willingness to reconsider traditional workplace norms. As companies increasingly adapt to changing workforce expectations, the episode serves as a reminder that respect, professionalism, and leadership are being redefined by a new generation that values connection as much as authority.

76-Year-Old Retiree Spends Her Pension Feeding Hundreds of Monkeys

A heartwarming story from Madurai has captured the attention of people across the country, as a 76-year-old woman continues to dedicate a significant portion of her pension to feeding hundreds of monkeys every week.

For more than a decade, Malathi has been carrying out her unique act of compassion, using her retirement income to care for monkeys living around Tirupparankundram. Despite advancing age and health-related challenges, she remains committed to the routine she began years ago, earning admiration both online and offline.

Every Saturday, Malathi visits several locations in the Tirupparankundram area, carrying food for the animals. According to reports, nearly 350 to 400 monkeys gather whenever she calls out to them, a remarkable bond built through years of consistent care and affection. The sight of hundreds of monkeys responding to her voice has become a symbol of the trust she has developed with the animals.

Malathi's life has been marked by service long before she became known for her dedication to animal welfare. She served as Director of Physical Education at



Gandhigram University, worked at an international school in Kodaikanal, and spent 33 years associated with the Tamil Nadu Police Department before retiring in 2010. Rather than slowing down after retirement, she chose to devote her time and resources to caring for animals. What began as a simple act of kindness gradually evolved into a decade-long mission that now touches the lives of hundreds of monkeys every week. Her story has resonated strongly on social media, where users have praised her selflessness, compassion, and commitment. Many have described her efforts as a reminder that meaningful change often comes from small but consistent acts of kindness. Others have applauded her willingness to continue serving living beings despite per-

sonal challenges and advancing age.

Animal lovers and social media users alike have hailed Malathi as an inspiration, noting that her dedication reflects a deep sense of responsibility toward nature and wildlife. Her actions demonstrate how compassion can extend beyond people to include animals that share our environment.

As her story continues to spread online, Malathi's unwavering commitment serves as a powerful example of empathy in action. Through her weekly routine and years of dedication, she has shown that retirement need not mark the end of service—it can also become the beginning of a new purpose dedicated to caring for others, including the voiceless creatures that depend on human kindness.

₹56 Crore NRI Plans Return to India After 23 Years in US

A successful Non-Resident Indian (NRI) with assets worth nearly 56 crore has sparked a widespread discussion online after revealing plans to return to India following more than two decades in the United States. Despite achieving financial success and building a comfortable life abroad, the individual says the decision is being driven not by money, but by a desire for belonging and emotional security.

In a social media post that quickly gained attention, the NRI shared his journey of spending 23 years in the US. Like many immigrants, he initially arrived with excitement and ambition, viewing America as a land of opportunity. He described how the country's infrastructure, lifestyle, and career prospects seemed far more advanced compared to what he had experienced while growing up in India.

Over the years, he built significant wealth through a combination of salary, equity compensation, and long-term investments in American technology stocks. Today, his investment portfolio alone is reportedly worth around \$6 million (approximately 56 crore), excluding other assets accumulated during his stay in the US.

However, despite professional accomplishments and financial stability, he admitted to experiencing a lingering sense of being an outsider. Accord-



ing to him, there remains a subtle but persistent emotional distance that is difficult to explain. He noted that no matter how much success an immigrant achieves, there are moments when it feels as though they are not completely part of the society around them. The NRI also said that thoughts about aging have increasingly influenced his outlook. Questions regarding family connections, community support, emotional well-being, and long-term security have prompted him to reconsider where he wants to spend the next phase of his life. While he appreciates every-

thing the US has offered, he wonders whether the comfort and sense of belonging he seeks can be found more naturally in India. The post triggered a lively debate on social media. Many users encouraged him to spend several months in India before making a permanent move, pointing out that the country has changed significantly over the past two decades. Others supported his decision, arguing that strong family ties, friendships, and community connections often become more valuable than wealth later in life. Several commenters emphasized that true happiness de-

pends less on geography and more on meaningful relationships. Whether in India or abroad, they said, having people to rely on during both successes and struggles is what ultimately creates a sense of home. The story has resonated with many immigrants around the world, highlighting a reality often overlooked in discussions about overseas success—that financial prosperity does not always guarantee a feeling of belonging. For many expatriates, the search for home remains an emotional journey that continues long after professional goals have been achieved.

Bengaluru Auto Driver Accused of Extorting ₹2,400 From First-Time Visitors

A social media post alleging that two teenage boys were extorted by an auto-rickshaw driver in Bengaluru has triggered widespread outrage online and renewed concerns about the safety of first-time visitors in the city.

According to the viral post, the two teenagers, believed to be between 16 and 18 years old, had recently arrived in Bengaluru from a village in search of work opportunities. After reaching Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, they reportedly hired an auto-rickshaw to travel toward Attibele so they could catch a bus to Hosur.

The incident was brought to light by a Bengaluru-based tech professional named Sanu, who claimed the driver initially agreed to charge 50 per passenger for the journey. However, upon reaching the destination, the driver allegedly demanded an exorbitant 3,000 for the ride.

The unexpected demand reportedly left the teenagers frightened and confused. According to the post, the boys contacted Sanu for help, but the situation allegedly escalated when the driver snatched their mobile phone, preventing them from seeking further assistance.

The techie claimed that the driver then took the boys to an isolated location and pressured them into making a payment. After pleading with the driver, the teenagers eventually managed to retrieve their phone but were allegedly forced to transfer 2,400



through UPI before being allowed to leave.

Although the boys were unable to note the auto-rickshaw registration number, the payment was reportedly made digitally. Sanu later shared a screenshot of the UPI transaction on social media and tagged Bengaluru City Police, urging authorities to identify and take action against the driver using the available payment details.

The post quickly gained traction online, with many users expressing anger over the alleged exploitation of young newcomers unfamiliar with the city. Several social media users called for stricter action against such incidents, arguing that they damage Bengaluru's reputation as a welcoming destination for students, job

seekers, and migrants from across the country.

The allegations have also reignited discussions about overcharging by some auto-rickshaw drivers and the need for stronger enforcement against fraudulent practices. Many users urged visitors to rely on app-based transport services or insist on fare transparency before beginning a journey.

As of now, the claims remain allegations shared on social media, and official confirmation regarding the incident or any action taken by authorities has not been publicly disclosed. However, the viral post has once again highlighted concerns about passenger safety and fair transportation practices in one of India's largest metropolitan cities.

Bumble Date Turns Into Stalking Scare as Woman Tracks Down Man's Home

What began as a seemingly ordinary first date through a dating app reportedly turned into a disturbing experience for a 28-year-old man, who claims he was subjected to repeated calls and unexpected visits after declining a second date.

According to the man, he met a 30-year-old woman named Ruth through the dating platform Bumble. The two initially appeared to have a pleasant outing, spending time together over coffee and a workout session. After the date, the man dropped her off and later sent a polite message thanking her for the time spent together.

However, he also made it clear that he did not feel a ro-

mantic connection and did not wish to pursue the relationship further. While the woman initially acknowledged his message, the situation soon escalated.

The man alleged that she began repeatedly texting and calling him, demanding to know why he had decided not to continue seeing her. Despite explaining his decision and requesting that she stop contacting him, the calls reportedly continued throughout the evening.

According to his account, he received around ten phone calls in a single night. After blocking her number, he claims the woman began calling him from multiple different phone numbers the following day. In

total, he said he received nearly 20 missed calls and several voicemail messages asking him to return her calls.

The situation took a more alarming turn when the woman allegedly managed to locate his home address. The man stated that she arrived unannounced at his residence and attempted to speak with him. At the time, his mother answered the door and informed the visitor that he was not at home.

Before leaving, the woman reportedly wrote a letter and left it at the doorstep. The unexpected visit left the man feeling uneasy and concerned about his privacy and safety.

Sharing his experience online, he described the incident

as one of the most unsettling situations he had ever encountered. He also revealed that he had considered contacting law enforcement authorities or seeking a restraining order but was unsure about the appropriate course of action.

The story has sparked widespread discussion on social media, with many users expressing concern over personal boundaries in modern dating. Others advised the man to document all communications and seek legal assistance if the behaviour continued.

The incident serves as a reminder that while online dating can create meaningful connections, respecting personal boundaries remains essential for both parties.



Capitals Reclaim Their Star as Pant-Kuldeep Swap Stuns IPL Fans

In one of the biggest player trades in Indian Premier League history, Rishabh Pant has completed a sensational return to Delhi Capitals, while star spinner Kuldeep Yadav has moved to Lucknow Super Giants. The blockbuster swap deal was officially confirmed by the IPL on Monday, creating major excitement ahead of the next season.

Pant, who was bought by Lucknow Super Giants for a record-breaking Rs 27 crore ahead of the 2025 season, has agreed to a substantial pay cut to reunite with the franchise where he built his IPL legacy. Under the new deal, the wicketkeeper-batter will earn Rs 15 crore per season with Delhi Capitals.

The move marks a homecoming for Pant, who started his IPL journey with Delhi in 2016 and went on to become one of the franchise's most influential players. During his first stint with the Capitals, he played 111 matches, the highest by any



player in the team's history. He also captained the side in 43 matches between 2021 and 2024 and became the face of the franchise for nearly a decade.

Pant's two-year stay with Lucknow Super Giants, however, did not go according to expectations. Appointed captain ahead of the 2025 season, he struggled to deliver consistent perfor-

mances with the bat. He scored 269 runs in the 2025 season and followed it up with 312 runs in 2026. Despite being used in different batting positions, from opener to finisher, he failed to justify his record price tag.

Meanwhile, Kuldeep Yadav's move to Lucknow Super Giants comes after an impressive spell with Delhi Capitals. Since join-

ing the franchise in 2022, the left-arm wrist spinner established himself as one of the league's most reliable wicket-takers. Over five seasons with Delhi, Kuldeep claimed 72 wickets in 65 matches and played a crucial role in the team's bowling attack.

Lucknow Super Giants have retained Kuldeep at a salary of Rs 13.50 crore, slightly higher than his previous contract value. The franchise will hope that his experience and wicket-taking ability strengthen their bowling department in the coming seasons.

The trade represents a major strategic shift for both teams. Delhi Capitals regain their former captain and one of the most popular players in the league, while Lucknow Super Giants secure a proven match-winning spinner. With both players switching franchises, the IPL landscape has received a significant shake-up ahead of the new season.

Hyderabad E-Champions Outclass Palamuru Strikers in TG20 League

Hyderabad E Champions began their TG20 League 2026 campaign emphatically, registering a convincing seven-wicket victory over Palamuru Strikers. Delivering an all-round performance, Hyderabad first restricted their opponents to a modest total before comfortably chasing down the target with more than four overs to spare.

Batting first, Palamuru Strikers struggled to build momentum and were bowled out for 141 runs in 19.4 overs. Despite a promising start from Rohith Rayudu, who top-scored with 35 runs off 22 balls, the batting lineup failed to capitalize on key partnerships. Prateek Pawar and Vignesh Reddy contributed 30 runs each, but the remaining batters were unable to make significant contributions as wickets fell at regular intervals.

The Hyderabad bowling attack was led brilliantly by Ajay Dev Goud, who produced a match-winning spell of 4 wickets for 21 runs. He received excellent support from Yashveer Goud and Pranav Varma, who claimed two wickets each. Sriniket also chipped in with a wicket as Hyderabad maintained pressure throughout the innings and prevented Pal-



amuru from posting a challenging total.

In reply, Hyderabad E Champions approached the chase aggressively. After losing an early wicket, captain Abhirath Reddy turned the game in his team's favor with a breathtaking knock of 35 runs from just 13 deliveries. His innings included five boundaries and two sixes, providing Hyderabad with a flying start and putting immediate pressure on the opposition bowlers.

Although Hyderabad lost a couple of wickets during the powerplay, Anvith Reddy and Gadugu Ganesh steadied the innings with a match-defining unbeaten partnership. The duo combined caution with aggression, ensuring there were no further setbacks in the chase.

Anvith Reddy anchored the innings superbly, remaining unbeaten on 53 runs from 42 balls, which included four fours and two sixes. At the other end, Gadugu Ganesh played an equally important role, scoring an unbeaten 50 from 30 deliveries with five boundaries and two maximums. Their partnership guided Hyderabad to the target in just 15.4 overs, finishing at 142 for 3.

For his composed and match-winning half-century, Anvith Reddy was named Player of the Match. The comprehensive victory gives Hyderabad E Champions an ideal start to their TG20 League campaign, while Palamuru Strikers will look to regroup and bounce back strongly in their upcoming matches.

Nitish Kumar Reddy Injured, Suryansh Shegde Gets India Call-Up



Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed that Nitish will miss both the Ireland and England T20 assignments. The injury occurred during India's recent ODI series against Afghanistan. Initially believed to be a minor issue, medical examinations and MRI scans later revealed damage to his hamstring muscles.

According to medical experts, Nitish is expected to require at least four weeks to recover fully. Even after completing rehabilitation, he will need additional time to regain match fitness and satisfy the team's fitness requirements. As a result, the selectors decided not to risk the talented all-rounder and removed him from the squad for the upcoming tour.

Nitish's absence is a significant loss for Team India, considering his growing importance as a batting all-rounder.

His ability to contribute with both bat and ball has made him a valuable option in the shortest format of the game. The injury also continues a worrying trend for the Indian team, which has already seen players struggle with fitness issues ahead of an important international schedule.

To fill the vacancy, the selectors have handed an opportunity to promising youngster Suryansh Shegde. The middle-order batter impressed in recent domestic and developmental tournaments, earning recognition for his consistent performances.

Suryansh recently showcased his talent during the triangular series involving India A and Sri Lanka A teams, where he scored 147 runs in five matches. Apart from his batting contributions, he also delivered useful performances with the ball, highlighting his

versatility.

The youngster had earlier caught the attention of selectors during the 2024-25 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. Representing Mumbai, he scored 131 runs and displayed the temperament needed for high-pressure situations. His strong domestic record and recent form ultimately convinced the selectors to include him in the national squad. India will begin their white-ball campaign with a two-match T20 series against Ireland from June 26 to June 28. Following that, the team will travel to England for a five-match T20 series scheduled between July 1 and July 11.

For Suryansh Shegde, the call-up represents a golden opportunity to make an impact on the international stage, while Team India will hope Nitish Kumar Reddy recovers quickly and returns stronger for future assignments.

Telugu Spinner Sricharani Climbs to World No. 1

Indian spinner and Telugu cricketer Sricharani has achieved a remarkable milestone by becoming the No. 1 ranked bowler in women's T20 International cricket. The young spinner rose to the top of the latest ICC rankings, surpassing England's Lindsey Smith and marking a historic moment in her rapidly growing career.

Sricharani's rise to the summit has been fueled by a series of outstanding performances in recent months. She played a crucial role in India's campaign at the latest Women's T20 World Cup, where she emerged as one of the tournament's standout bowlers. In just three matches, she claimed an impressive 10 wickets, showcasing her ability to trouble batters consistently with her accuracy, variations, and composure under pressure.

The achievement is particularly significant considering the relatively short span of her international career. Sricharani made her T20 International debut for India on June 28 last year in a match against England. Since then, she has quickly established herself as a key member of India's bowling attack. Her ability to deliver breakthroughs at crucial moments and maintain control during pressure situations has earned praise from teammates, coaches, and cricket experts alike.

Becoming the world's No. 1 T20 bowler is a testament to Sricharani's dedication, discipline, and relentless hard work. Her success story has inspired aspiring cricketers, especially young girls from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, who now see her as a symbol of what can be achieved through determination and perseverance.

The achievement also drew appreciation from Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Loke-



sh, who congratulated the young spinner on her historic feat. Recalling a conversation he had with Sricharani last year, Lokes said he still remembered her sharing the struggles and challenges she faced during her early cricketing journey. He noted that her success is proof that talent combined with hard work and persistence ultimately leads to recognition and achievement.

In a message shared on social media, he expressed pride on behalf of the entire state and wished her continued suc-

cess in the years ahead. He also encouraged her to achieve even greater milestones and bring more glory to Indian cricket.

Sricharani's rise to the top of the world rankings represents not only a personal triumph but also a proud moment for Indian cricket. As she continues her international journey, fans and cricket followers will be eager to see her build on this success and further strengthen her reputation as one of the finest bowlers in women's T20 cricket.

Anvith Reddy, Ganesh Star as Hyderabad E Champions Crush Palamuru Strikers



tenders in the tournament.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, Palamuru Strikers struggled to build substantial partnerships and were eventually bowled out for 141 runs in 19.4 overs. Rohith Rayudu emerged as the top scorer with 35 runs from 22 balls, striking three boundaries and two sixes. Prateek Pawar and Vignesh Reddy contributed 30 runs each, but the rest of the batting lineup failed to capitalize on their starts.

Hyderabad's bowlers maintained pressure throughout the innings. Ajay Dev Goud was the standout performer, producing a match-winning spell of 4 wickets for 21 runs. Yashveer Goud and Pranav Varma provided excellent support, claiming two wickets apiece, while Sriniket chipped in with one wicket. Their collective effort ensured Palamu-

ru could not post a challenging total.

Chasing 142, Hyderabad began aggressively despite losing an early wicket. Captain Abhirath Reddy played a sensational cameo, smashing 35 runs off just 13 deliveries. His innings featured five fours and two sixes, giving Hyderabad valuable momentum during the powerplay.

However, after a couple of quick wickets, Hyderabad found themselves needing a steady partnership. Anvith Reddy and Gadugu Ganesh rose to the occasion with an unbeaten match-winning stand that completely shifted the game in Hyderabad's favor.

Anvith anchored the innings brilliantly, remaining unbeaten on 53 from 42 balls. His composed knock included four boundaries and two sixes. At

the other end, Gadugu Ganesh complemented him perfectly with a fluent unbeaten 50 from 30 deliveries, striking five fours and two sixes.

The duo accelerated at the right moments, punishing loose deliveries and rotating the strike effectively. Their partnership ensured Hyderabad reached the target comfortably in just 15.4 overs, finishing at 142 for 3 and securing a comprehensive victory.

For his match-winning half-century and calm presence during the chase, Anvith Reddy was named Player of the Match.

The emphatic win gives Hyderabad E Champions a dream start to their TG20 League 2026 journey, while Palamuru Strikers will aim to address their batting shortcomings and bounce back stronger in their upcoming fixtures.



Young Team India Sets Off for Ireland and England Challenge

Fresh from their triumphant T20 World Cup campaign, Team India has embarked on an important overseas tour to Ireland and England. Led by captain Shreyas Iyer in the T20 format, the Indian squad departed from Chennai International Airport on Tuesday for a tour that marks the beginning of a new phase in the country's white-ball cricket journey.

The tour will begin with a two-match T20 series against Ireland in Dublin on June 26 and June 28. This will be India's first T20 assignment since lifting the T20 World Cup trophy and is expected

to provide valuable opportunities for young players as the team starts preparations for future global events, including the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and the next T20 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

One of the biggest attractions of the squad is 15-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi. At just 15 years and 71 days old, he has become the youngest player ever selected for the Indian men's cricket team, surpassing a long-standing record set by Sachin Tendulkar more than three decades ago. Cricket fans will be ea-

ger to see how the teenage sensation performs on the international stage.

Another notable inclusion is uncapped fast bowler Prince Yadav, who earned his maiden national call-up after an impressive showing in the IPL. His selection highlights the team's focus on nurturing emerging talent and building a strong player pool for the future.

The squad has also witnessed a few changes due to injuries and fitness concerns. Senior pacer Mohammed Siraj, who was initially named in the squad, has

been replaced by Prasidh Krishna. Seam-bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi have returned after recovering from injuries and re-gaining fitness.

Following the Ireland series, the same T20 squad will travel to England for a five-match T20 series scheduled from July 1 to July 11. The series is expected to test India's depth and adaptability against strong opposition in challenging conditions.

After the T20 leg, attention will shift to the ODI format. India will play a three-match ODI series

against England from July 14 to July 19. Shubman Gill will captain the ODI side, while Shreyas Iyer will serve as vice-captain. Star batter Virat Kohli is set to return to the squad after recovering from a thigh injury that ruled him out of the Afghanistan ODI series earlier this year. However, his participation will depend on clearing the final fitness assessments.

With a blend of experienced stars and exciting young talent, Team India will be aiming for a successful tour and a strong start to the next chapter of its international journey.

“Vasudheva Sutham” Trailer Unveiled: A Mythical Action Spectacle

The makers of “Vasudheva Sutham” have unveiled the film’s much-awaited trailer, offering audiences a visually stunning glimpse into an epic battle between divine forces and evil powers. Produced by Dhanalaxmi Badarla under the Rainbow Cinemas banner and directed by Vykunt Bonu, the film stars Master Mahendran and Ambikavani in the lead roles. Scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on July 10, the film has already generated considerable buzz through its posters, glimpses, and teaser. The trailer introduces viewers to a fascinating story centered around a revered temple in Odisha dedicated to Lord Vasudeva. Hidden within the temple is the mysterious “Brahma Padartham,” a divine essence believed to possess immense power. When dark forces attempt to capture this sacred object and use its energy to dominate the universe, a fierce battle unfolds between righteousness and evil.



Master Mahendran appears in a powerful role as a courageous warrior determined to protect Dharma and safeguard the divine artefact. The trailer blends action, fantasy, and mythology seamlessly, creating a gripping cinematic experience. Stunning visuals, large-scale action sequences, mystical elements, and a strong mythological backdrop add depth to the narrative. Powerful dialogues and an impressive background score further elevate the trailer, while the striking Garuda sequence in the final moments leaves a lasting impact. Speaking at the trailer launch event, Mahendran expressed his happiness about being part of the project. He praised

the producers for their unwavering belief in the story and their commitment to making the film on a grand scale. Calling the movie a content-rich entertainer inspired by Lord Krishna, he said he considers himself fortunate to have landed such a significant role. He also appreciated director Vykunt Bonu’s vision, Ambikavani’s performance, and highlighted the cinematography by Jijuu Sunny and music by Mani Sharma as major strengths of the film. Director Vykunt Bonu revealed that the idea for the film emerged after he developed a story set against the backdrop of a famous temple in Odisha. He said the producer immediately ap-

proved the concept and encouraged him to proceed. According to the director, Mahendran accepted the project instantly after hearing the story, while legendary composer Mani Sharma also showed great enthusiasm after listening to the script. Vykunt stated that the final 45 minutes of the film will be one of its biggest highlights, promising audiences a thrilling and emotionally satisfying experience. He also expressed confidence in the film’s dialogues, visual effects, songs, and background score. Producer Trinadh Keshav described “Vasudheva Sutham” as a special debut venture and thanked the entire team for their dedication. Lead actress Ambikavani expressed gratitude for the opportunity and praised the support she received despite language barriers. With its unique blend of mythology, action, fantasy, and spiritual themes, “Vasudheva Sutham” is gearing up to deliver a grand cinematic spectacle when it hits theatres on July 10.



Arshin Mehata



RISING STAR

Chiranjeevi’s Praise for ‘Maa Inti Bangaram’ Sparks Buzz Over Samantha’s ‘New Chapter’



A congratulatory message from megastar Chiranjeevi for the upcoming film Maa Inti Bangaram has triggered widespread discussion on social media, with fans speculating about a possible personal revelation involving actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

Taking to social media, Chiranjeevi showered praise on Maa Inti Bangaram, which features Samantha in the lead role. The veteran actor said the film impressed him greatly and commended director Nan-

dini Reddy for blending family emotions and action elements into an entertaining narrative. He particularly appreciated Samantha’s action sequences performed while wearing a saree, describing them as highly effective and impactful. However, it was a remark at the end of his message that grabbed the attention of netizens. Chiranjeevi extended his wishes to “Samantha and Raj” for what he described as a “new chapter” in their lives. The phrase immediately sparked speculation online, with several social media users linking it to ongoing rumors about Samantha’s personal life. Some online discussions interpreted the “new chapter” comment as a possible reference to pregnancy, leading to claims that

the megastar may have indirectly confirmed the circulating rumors. However, neither Samantha nor her representatives have publicly confirmed any such reports, and the speculation remains unverified.

Responding to Chiranjeevi’s appreciation, Samantha expressed heartfelt gratitude. She said receiving praise from a legendary figure like Chiranjeevi felt like a dream come true and thanked him sincerely for his encouraging words. The actress also shared her happiness that he enjoyed the film.

The episode has once again highlighted how comments made by prominent film personalities can quickly become the subject of intense public scrutiny. In recent months,

Chiranjeevi has occasionally revealed interesting details related to films and industry developments before official announcements, leading fans to closely analyze his statements. While the appreciation for Maa Inti Bangaram has generated positive attention for the film, the conversation online has largely shifted toward the meaning behind Chiranjeevi’s “new chapter” remark. Until an official statement is made by Samantha or those close to her, the discussions surrounding the comment remain purely speculative.

For now, the focus remains on the positive reception of Maa Inti Bangaram and the praise Samantha has received from one of Telugu cinema’s most respected stars.

“Na Gurinchi Neeku Teliyali” Launched with Grand Ceremony

The upcoming romantic entertainer “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teliyali” was launched grandly amid the presence of film industry personalities and well-wishers. Presented by Gnanamma Kalivela and produced under the banner of Sanjana Movie Makers, the film introduces Venkatesh Kalivela as director. The movie features Vishva, Aishwarya, and Anusha in the lead roles and promises a blend of romance, emotions, and entertainment. The launch ceremony was held with traditional rituals and enthusiasm. The muhuratam shot featuring the lead actors was formally clapped by actor Amit Tiwari, while Kumari Sanjana switched on the camera. Director Venkatesh Kalivela directed the first shot, marking the official beginning of the project. Speaking at the event, director Venkatesh Kalivela revealed that the film revolves around a captivating triangular love story. He said the screenplay has been designed to entertain audiences with a perfect mix of romance, emotions, action, and drama. According to him, the film will feature four songs and four action sequences. He also highlighted that a flashback episode, centered around the dialogue “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teli-



yali,” will be one of the major attractions of the movie.

Producer Sanjana Kalivela expressed confidence in the project and stated that the regular shooting schedule will commence by the end of this month. She informed that the entire film is planned to be completed within 34 days in a single schedule. Major portions of the shoot will take place in and around Bhimavaram, Narsapuram, and Antarvedi, which are expected to provide a beautiful visual backdrop for the story. Lead actor Vishva said he feels fortunate to begin his film career with a role that offers significant scope for performance. He expressed gratitude to the director and producer for giving him such an opportunity. Actress Aishwarya shared that she will be

seen as a glamorous and relatable girl-next-door character, while actress Anusha stated that her role has been designed in a way that audiences of all age groups will appreciate. Music director Vardhan revealed that all four songs for the film have already been recorded. He added that the story provides excellent scope for a powerful background score, which will further enhance the emotional depth of the movie. The film also features Amit Tiwari, Shubhalekha Sudhakar, Shiva Prasad, Prasanna Kumar, Jayaraj, and Latha Reddy in important roles. With an experienced technical team and an interesting storyline, “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teliyali” is gearing up to offer an engaging cinematic experience for audiences.

Mammootty Honoured with Padma Bhushan



Veteran Malayalam superstar Mammootty has been conferred with the prestigious Padma Bhushan, one of India’s highest civilian honours, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema and society. The award was presented by Droupadi Murmu during the second investiture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 23.

actor on the special occasion was his son, actor Dulquer Salmaan, making the moment even more memorable for the family.

With a remarkable career spanning more than five decades, Mammootty has established himself as one of Indian cinema’s most respected and versatile performers. Over the years, he has appeared in more than 400 films across Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada, and English languages, earning critical acclaim as well as immense popularity among audiences.

Beyond his achievements on screen, Mammootty is also widely recognized for his contributions to various social and charitable causes. His work in education, healthcare initiatives, and community welfare programs has earned him admira-

tion beyond the film industry.

Reacting to the honour, Mammootty expressed immense happiness and gratitude. Speaking about the recognition, he described it as one of the greatest moments of his life and said there could be no honour greater than receiving recognition from the nation itself. His heartfelt response reflected the emotional significance of the award after decades of dedication to cinema and public service.

The Padma Bhushan is India’s third-highest civilian award and is bestowed upon individuals for distinguished service of a high order in various fields. Mammootty’s recognition is being celebrated by film personalities, political leaders, and millions of fans across the country, particularly in Kerala, where he re-

mains one of the most beloved cultural icons.

This year, the Government of India approved 131 Padma Awards, including five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri honours. The awards recognize exceptional contributions in fields such as art, literature, education, social work, science, sports, medicine, public affairs, and civil service.

The honour marks another milestone in Mammootty’s illustrious journey and serves as a fitting tribute to an actor whose influence has extended far beyond the silver screen. As tributes continue to pour in from across the nation, the Padma Bhushan stands as a recognition of his enduring legacy in Indian cinema and his contributions to society.

Ram Charan Calls for Lower Popcorn and Soft Drink Prices in Theatres

Global star Ram Charan has voiced concerns over the rising cost of food and beverages in movie theatres, stating that high prices for popcorn and soft drinks are discouraging many families from visiting cinemas.

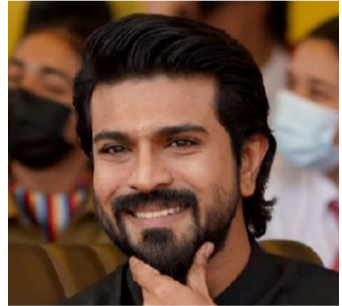
The actor made the remarks while participating in the prestigious Summit 2026 organized by Republic TV in New Delhi. Appearing as a special guest in a session hosted by journalist Arnab Goswami, Ram Charan discussed not only cinema but also issues affecting the movie-going experience for audiences across the country.

The appearance came amid the strong theatrical run of his pan-India sports drama Peddi, which has been generating significant attention at the box office.

During the discussion, Ram Charan highlighted the challenges faced by middle-class families when planning a trip to the movies. He pointed out that cinema continues to be one of the most affordable forms of entertainment in India, but said the steep prices of snacks and beverages sold in multiplexes have become a major concern for audiences.

According to the actor, moviegoers are increasingly frustrated by the cost of items such as popcorn and cold drinks, which often add significantly to the overall expense of a theatre visit. He noted that many people are hesitant to watch films on the big screen because of these additional costs.

Ram Charan suggested that reducing food and beverage prices would make the cinema experience more accessible and



enjoyable for families. He emphasized that lowering these costs could encourage more people to return to theatres and help strengthen the theatrical exhibition business. His comments have resonated with many movie fans, as debates over multiplex pricing have been ongoing for several years. Audiences frequently express concerns that refreshments often cost nearly as much as, or even more than, movie tickets themselves.

The actor’s observations have sparked fresh discussions on social media, with many users agreeing that more affordable pricing could improve footfalls in theatres and make movie outings more budget-friendly.

As one of the country’s biggest stars, Ram Charan’s remarks have brought renewed attention to an issue that affects millions of cinema lovers. Whether theatre chains respond to such concerns remains to be seen, but his comments have certainly added momentum to the conversation about making the theatrical experience more affordable for the average moviegoer.

‘Baahubali: The Eternal War’ Takes Prabhas Back to the Global Spotlight

Pan-India star Prabhas has delighted fans with an exciting update related to the iconic Baahubali franchise. The upcoming animated feature Baahubali: The Eternal War has been officially selected for the prestigious Anecy International Animation Film Festival in France, marking another major international milestone for the Baahubali universe.

Sharing the news on social media, Prabhas unveiled a brand-new poster from the animated project and expressed his excitement over the film’s recognition on a global platform. The actor revealed that Baahubali: The Eternal War has been chosen for the highly regarded “Work in Progress” section of the Anecy Festival, a segment that showcases promising animation projects from around the world.

Expressing his happiness, Prabhas praised the efforts of the creative team behind the film and described the project as something truly special. He stated that the makers are crafting an extraordinary cinematic experience and said he is eager for audiences across the globe to witness the film upon its release.

The selection is a significant achievement for the animated venture, as the Anecy International Animation Film Festival is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious events in the global animation industry. Being featured in its “Work

in Progress” category provides international exposure and recognition even before the film’s completion and release.

Baahubali: The Eternal War expands the world of the blockbuster Baahubali franchise, which became a cultural phenomenon and earned worldwide acclaim. The animated adaptation is expected to further explore the rich mythology, characters, and epic storytelling that made the franchise a global success.

The announcement has generated immense excitement among Prabhas fans and followers of the Baahubali series. Social media platforms were flooded with congratulatory messages as fans celebrated yet another international achievement associated with the beloved franchise.

The project’s selection at Anecy highlights the growing global appeal of Indian animation and storytelling. It also reinforces the enduring popularity of the Baahubali brand, which continues to attract attention years after the release of the original films.

With international recognition already coming its way before release, Baahubali: The Eternal War is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated animated films from India. Fans are now eagerly awaiting further updates on the project as it prepares to introduce the legendary Baahubali universe to animation audiences around the world.



CAMBRIDGE MONTESSORI
(UNDER THE AEGIS OF JALSA VENTURES)
PRE SCHOOL | DAY CARE | MINDLAB

ADMISSIONS OPEN

ENROLL NOW



Our Facilities:

- Child Centric Curriculum
- CCTV Surveillance
- Wonderful Play Area
- Friendly Environment
- Well Trained Staff
- International Standard of Montessori Education

OUR PROGRAMS:

Little Heart

(1-2 yrs)

Tender Heart

(2-3 yrs)

Nursery

(3-4 yrs)

L.K.G

(4-5 yrs)

U.K.G

(5-6 yrs)

Day Care

Call: 8340966888/8340966777 ; Email ID: cmps.tadepalli@gmail.com
Address: Plot no:7, Radiostation Venture, Near Axis bank, Tadepalli, 522501