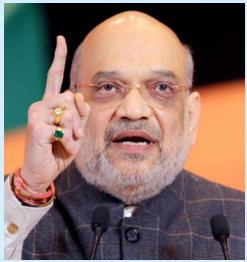




BUZZ POINTS



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Mallikarjun Kharge Reappointed Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

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BJP Eyes 2029 with Strategic Push

Opposition Raises Concerns Over Electoral Processes

Ravi Podili

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is making calculated preparations to retain power at the Centre in the 2029 general elections. Though still more than two-and-a-half years away, the party has begun groundwork for a fourth consecutive term under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After securing two successive mandates, the leadership is pursuing a focused strategy to consolidate political advantage. Despite earlier parliamentary hurdles over the Women's Reservation Bill, the BJP is pushing ahead with renewed legislative priorities, including delimitation and revisions to electoral rolls, which are seen as key to its electoral roadmap. According to political sources, the BJP is planning to pass both the Women's Reservation Bill and the Delimitation Bill in upcoming parliamentary sessions. The party is reportedly attempting to build broader consensus by reaching out to opposition MPs to ensure passage of these key legislations. Efforts are said to be underway to secure support from leaders across parties, including the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Shiv Sena, and Samajwadi Party. At the same time,



opposition parties allege that the BJP may use the System for Electoral Roll (SER) process to gain an advantage by influencing voter lists. The Congress has strongly criticised the move, calling it a potential route to voter manipulation. Leaders such as Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress MP Kapil Sibal have also raised objections, particularly over the reported exclusion of passports as valid identity proof in verification. Concerns over electoral roll revisions have been raised in several states. In Bihar, opposition leaders claimed that names of over 50 lakh vot-

ers were missing following the first phase of revision. Similar apprehensions were expressed in West Bengal, where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier approached the Supreme Court. The court advised that objections should be raised if irregularities were found. In Tamil Nadu, shifting political dynamics, including actor Vijay's political emergence, have drawn attention. Internal developments within the TMC have also raised questions about organisational stability. Further controversy arose after the Election Commission announced the Special Update/Revision (SUR)

exercise on October 27 last year. In Uttar Pradesh, reports suggested a significant drop in voter numbers, leading to allegations from opposition parties that large-scale deletions may have influenced electoral outcomes. Parties including the Samajwadi Party, Congress, TMC, and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) have alleged that such measures could disproportionately affect certain voter groups. Critics have also accused the BJP leadership of not directly addressing these concerns, while the Election Commission has maintained that the process follows established norms. Electoral roll revision is a routine and legally mandated process in India under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The Election Commission has the authority to update voter lists by adding eligible voters and removing ineligible entries. While such revisions have been conducted periodically since independence, the current exercise has triggered political debate. Opposition parties allege possible misuse, while supporters argue it helps eliminate fraudulent entries. As the 2029 elections approach, the issue is expected to remain a key political point nationwide.



CM Naidu Calls for Citizen-Friendly Services, Stronger Grievance System

Amaravati, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to make government services more accessible,

transparent, and citizen-friendly, while stressing the need to strengthen the public grievance redressal system across Andhra Pradesh. Reviewing the

P3

Amaravati Will Be Pride of AP and India Says CM Chandrababu Naidu

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday reviewed the progress of Amaravati capital construction works and preparations for the upcoming 31st CII Partnership Summit, stressing the need for speed, quality and global standards in both initiatives.

Chairing a meeting with contracting firms at the Secretari-



at, the Chief Minister said Amaravati is being developed as a capital city that

P3

Lokesh Meets Singapore Consul General

Undavalli, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh held a courtesy meeting with Singapore Consul General Edgar Pang Tze Chiang, based in Chennai, at his residence in Undavalli on Sunday. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral ties between Andhra Pradesh and Singapore, particularly in the areas of technology, trade, investment, and maritime cooperation.

During the discussions, Nara Lokesh briefed the Consul General on the state government's "Speed of Doing Business" initiative and highlighted the wide range of investment opportunities available in Andhra Pradesh. He



said the government is giving priority to ensuring the actual grounding of investments rather than just approvals.

He informed that 750 industrial projects are currently in various stages of implementation across the state, with progress being reviewed once every 15 days. He also highlighted the development of 22 industrial clusters and noted the presence of major global companies such as Google and ArceclorMittal in

P3

Lokesh Calls 'Shining Stars' Brand Ambassadors of AP Education Model

Tadepalli, June 29 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh said that "Shining Stars" of government schools are the brand ambassadors of the Andhra Pradesh education system and urged students to help build a model where the entire country speaks about the AP education framework.

Speaking at the 'Shining Stars' felicitation ceremony held at CSR Function Hall in Tadepalli under the School Education Department, Nara Lokesh said the government aims to transform government schools to the level of corporate institutions. He stated that next year two lakh students should shift from private schools to government schools, reflecting growing public trust. He added that the reforms were designed with a student-centric approach and expressed confidence that people would soon seek admission recommendations for government schools.

He felicitated 55 students who excelled in the 10th-grade examinations and 61 Intermediate students.



Each 10th-grade student received 30,000, a medal, and a certificate, while Intermediate students were given laptops and medals.

Addressing the gathering, Nara Lokesh said the success of students had strengthened both the education system and the morale of teachers. He said, "You have succeeded and made me win too," adding that their performance had restored the image of government schools. He announced a Mega PTM (Parent-Teach-

er Meeting) in July to further strengthen engagement between parents and schools.

He said education reforms are like agriculture, requiring continuous effort and patience. He noted that students' aspirations displayed on Dream Walls reflected their ambition to become doctors, engineers, and IAS officers, and encouraged them to also consider social transformation through public life. Nara Lokesh said 1.06 lakh students have

P3

Head Constables Surrender in Gade Saikrishna Death Case

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

A key development has taken place in the Gade Saikrishna death case, with two head constables of Krishnalanka Police Station, Ashok and Nani, surrendering at the Suryaraopet ACP office on Sunday. The duo, close associates of prime accused CI Nagaraju, were identified by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) as having played a supporting role in the events leading to Saikrishna's death. According to SIT findings, both officials went into hiding after Nagaraju's arrest. Investigators stated that Ashok and Nani were actively involved in assisting Nagaraju during critical phases of the case. Ashok reportedly handled matters related to bars, liquor shops, lodges, and other local establishments within the Krishnalanka police jurisdiction and is facing allegations of involvement in financial set-



tlements. Nani was assigned duties involving coordination with rowdy sheeters and habitual offenders and allegedly brought suspects to the police station for questioning.

Earlier, Nani faced disciplinary action, including being sent to Vacancy Reserve over allegations linked to spa centers and suspension during his posting at Gannavaram for extortion-related charges. SIT officials also found that both, along with private individual Suresh—already in custody—visited Vaddeswaram in Tadepalli mandal on April 29 to meet Saikrishna's family. The investigation is continuing.



Wishing Pawan Kalyan a speedy recovery

Mumbai: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan goes to Mumbai on Thursday to undergo medical examination at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital. He has been suffering from a rotator cuff injury and complete tears in the muscles of both shoulders for some time. He is accompanied by his wife, Anna Konidela. Further medical evaluation is scheduled.

పదవీ విరమణ శుభాకాంక్షలు

గా|| T. శివకుమారి గారు
Community health officer, గొట్టిపాలే

కర్తవ్యానికి విలువను...అనుబంధానికి అర్థాన్ని...

సేవకు సార్థకతను చేకూర్చిన
మీ సుదీర్ఘ ఉద్యోగ ప్రస్థానానికి
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అభినందనలు

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స్నేహసారభంజితమరింత వెలుగులు
నిలుపుకోవాలని ఆకాంక్షిస్తూ...

మీ

కుటుంబ సభ్యులు



Vijayawada Skater Kyvalya Wins First National Ice Skating Gold

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Kopparapu Kyvalya, 17, from Vijayawada, who has already won several international medals in roller skating, has extended his success to ice skating by securing a gold medal at the 21st National Ice Skating Championship-2026 held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, from June 25 to 30.

He competed in the Boys Level-8 category and delivered an outstanding performance, securing the highest score of 23.47 among participants from Kerala, Uttarakhand and Andhra Pradesh. This marks his first-ever gold medal in ice skating at the national level.

Kyvalya is currently pursu-

ing his second year at Modern Academy, Moghulrajapuram, Vijayawada. Despite academic commitments, he has been consistently training and competing in skating events, balancing both sports and studies.

His performance was appreciated by Ice Skating Association of India Secretary Jagraj Singh Sahney and President Amitabh Sharma, who praised his technical excellence and promising talent in winter sports. With this victory, Kyvalya has set his focus on the upcoming Open Asian Ice Skating Championship scheduled to be held in Indonesia in August 2026, where he aims to continue his winning streak and bring more laurels to the country.

Employees Thank CM for Welfare Decisions

Amaravati, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Employee unions expressed satisfaction over recent Cabinet decisions benefiting government staff and met Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the State Secretariat to convey their gratitude.

Key decisions include extending the Old Pension Scheme to employees appointed prior to September 2004 and increasing the retirement age to 62 years for employees of corporations and residential educational institutions, bringing them on par with regular government staff.

Representatives from various unions, led by former MLC Ramakrishna, said the alliance government has proven to be employee-friendly and assured continued support.



The Chief Minister urged employees to cooperate with the government, noting that it had stood by them through these decisions.

Representatives from APREI Society, welfare residential institutions and DSC 2003 Teachers' Forum attended. Gurukula JAC leaders Damacharla Madhusudana Rao, Prabhakar, Rammohan Rao and Ramesh, along with Mopidevi Siva Sankara Rao, Guru Brahman and Rajesh, were present.

K Venkata Krishna Gets Three-Year Extension as OSD

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has granted a three-year re-appointment to K Venkata Krishna as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

According to the Government Order, the appointment will come into effect from July 1, following his retirement on June 30. He will continue to serve in the Deputy Chief Minister's office for a tenure of

three years or until the end of Pawan Kalyan's term, whichever is earlier.

The order stated that Venkata Krishna's remuneration will be fixed by deducting the pension amount from his last drawn salary, as per rules.

It also clarified that the re-appointment will not affect promotional opportunities for serving employees in the department.

The decision ensures administrative continuity in the Deputy Chief Minister's office.

Thunderstorms Likely Across Coastal Andhra on Tuesday, Says APSDMA

Amaravati, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has forecast light to moderate rains accompanied by thunderstorms in several districts of the state on Tuesday due to a cyclonic circulation persisting over North Telangana and adjoining areas.

APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain said scattered thunderstorms with lightning are likely in the North Andhra districts, Kakinada, Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna and NTR districts. Light rainfall is expected at isolated places in the remaining districts.

Issuing a public advisory, the authority urged people to avoid taking shelter under trees or near large hoardings during thunderstorms and strong



winds. Residents were also advised to stay away from fallen or damaged electricity lines that may result from gusty weather conditions.

Prakhar Jain appealed to farmers, agricultural labourers and cattle grazers working in open fields to remain alert and move to safer locations immediately when the sky turns cloudy and thunder is heard, in order to minimise the risk from lightning strikes.

NHAI Holds First Aid Training to Improve Road Accident Response

Ongole, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) conducted a special First Aid and Trauma Awareness Training Programme at the Muppavaram Village Secretariat in Ongole on Monday to strengthen road safety awareness and emergency response capabilities among the public.

The programme was organised by NHAI's Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Ongole, under the guidance of R.K. Singh, IES, Chief General Manager (Technical) and Regional Officer, NHAI Vijayawada, with the support of Simhapuri Expressway Private Limited.

The training featured practical demonstrations on providing immediate assistance to road accident victims, administering first aid, performing car-



diopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), controlling bleeding, and following effective emergency response procedures. The initiative aimed to equip participants with essential life-saving skills and promote timely intervention during road emergencies. The programme witnessed the participation of officials from the Police Department, Project Head Jairam Amar Babu, Route Operations Manager Narasinga Rao, members of the Environment, Health and

Safety team, residents, and staff.

Participants appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of conducting similar awareness programmes in more locations. They noted that such training would help strengthen road safety awareness, improve emergency preparedness, and enable citizens to respond effectively during accidents, potentially saving lives before professional medical assistance arrives.

Anita Assures Full Support to Radha Gayathri's Family

Visakhapatnam, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Anita on Monday assured complete support to the family of techie Radha Gayathri, who died under suspicious circumstances in Mussoorie.

Radha Gayathri's parents, Sudhakar and Satyavati, met the Home Minister and raised doubts over their daughter's death and the behaviour of her husband, Sricharan. They sought assistance in ensuring a comprehensive investigation into the case.

Anita said the in-charge Joint



Commissioner of Police had already spoken with police officials in Uttarakhand and gathered details about the investigation. She assured the family that all possible assistance would be extended.

Atchannaidu Calls for Scientific Farming to Boost Farmers' Income

Amaravati/Guntur, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Monday said restoring confidence among farmers and revitalising the agriculture sector remain the key objectives of the NDA alliance government. He was speaking after inaugurating the Eruvaka Pournami celebrations at Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University in Guntur by ceremonially ploughing a field with bullocks.

The minister said nearly 66 per cent of the state's population depends on agriculture and allied sectors, making it a priority area for the administration.



He stated that the agriculture sector, which had suffered due to neglect during the previous YSRCP regime, was being revived through improved seed supply, fertiliser availability, technological support and market linkages.

Atchannaidu said farmers should adopt scientific cultiva-

tion practices and diversify crops based on market demand to ensure stable incomes. He urged growers to focus on horticulture and allied sectors to enhance earnings.

Stating that there was no shortage of fertilisers in the state, the minister said over 15 lakh fertiliser bags had been distributed through a dedicated app within 20 days, benefiting more than three lakh tenant farmers. He also highlighted support measures for tobacco and mango farmers and reiterated that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was committed to strengthening the farm sector and improving farmers' livelihoods.

Govt Moves to Protect Tobacco Farmers as Auction Concerns Mount

Addanki, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Sunday visited the Vellampalli Tobacco Auction Centre in Maddipadu and reviewed auction operations amid concerns raised by farmers over prices and procurement. He interacted with officials and sought details on the auction process.

He said issues faced by tobacco growers were brought to the notice of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who held an emergency meeting with tobacco purchasing companies. The minister stated that protecting farmers' interests is a



priority of the coalition government and urged companies to procure tobacco at an average price of 200 per kg. He called for fair participation of all companies in auctions and measures to prevent low bids.

Later, the minister inaugurated a 33/11 KV substation at Housing Board Colony in Ongole constructed by APCDCL at a cost of 3.80 crore, in the

presence of MLA Damacharla and Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari. He said a semi-indoor substation would be ready in two months.

He added that 25 substations are being built across the erstwhile Prakasam district to address low-voltage issues and a 220 KV substation is coming up at Yerragondapalem with 70 crore investment. Under RDSS, 240 towers are being constructed in Ongole.

Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government is strengthening power infrastructure, ensuring nine hours of daytime electricity for agriculture and supporting PM Surya Ghar beneficiaries with subsidies.

Kandula Durgesh Slams Attempts to Brand Pawan Kalyan Along Caste Lines

Amaravati, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Monday strongly criticised political analyst Telakapalli Ravi for what he described as a biased attempt to portray Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan through a caste lens.

In a statement, Durgesh said Pawan Kalyan is a leader who enjoys the support of people from all sections of society and should not be confined to the identity of a single community. He said the Deputy Chief Min-

ister has consistently worked towards social equality and the eradication of caste-based discrimination.

The minister accused Telakapalli Ravi of adopting a one-sided approach and urged intellectuals to analyse issues impartially rather than through political considerations. Referring to the Gade Sai Krishna case, Durgesh asserted that the government was allowing the law to take its course and that there was no caste angle involved in the matter.

He noted that a Special Investigation Team had been constituted and accused CI Nagaraju

had already been arrested and shifted to Rajamahendravaram Central Jail. Durgesh also alleged that leaders of the YSRCP were encouraging caste-based attacks against Pawan Kalyan and questioned why such actions were not being criticised by analysts.

The minister maintained that Jana Sena Party does not compromise its principles for political positions and said Pawan Kalyan's stature lends dignity to public office rather than the other way around. He urged commentators to avoid partisan narratives and present facts objectively.



First Convocation of Central Tribal University to Be Held Today

Visakhapatnam, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The first convocation of Central Tribal University will be held in Visakhapatnam today, marking a major milestone since its establishment. Chancellor Madan Lal Meena and Vice-Chancellor Professor T Srinivasan announced the details at a press conference held at a Hotel on Monday.

A total of 373 students who completed undergraduate and postgraduate courses between 2020 and 2025-26 will receive degrees. In addition, 13 meritorious students will be awarded gold medals by the President of India. Established in 2019 with headquarters in Vizianagaram, the university began classes in 2020 and currently offers eight postgraduate and five undergraduate courses under three schools—Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Management. Officials

said 200 students from Sciences, 82 from Humanities and Social Sciences, and 91 from Management will be awarded degrees. Among the 13 gold medallists, 11 are women. They include students from M.Sc Chemistry, Integrated M.Sc Chemistry, Master of Social Work, MBA, and M.Sc Biotechnology streams.

Chancellor Madan Lal Meena said convocation marks an important stage in students' lives and urged graduates to uphold ethical values and contribute to nation-building. Vice-Chancellor Professor T Srinivasan said the university is focusing on quality education, research, innovation, and skill development aligned with industry needs.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Governor Abdul Nazeer, Education Minister Nara Lokesh, and other dignitaries will attend the ceremony.

Star Hotels Association Donates ₹50 Lakh to Anna Canteen

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Members of the Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association met Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat and presented a cheque for 50 lakh towards the Anna Canteen initiative.

The Chief Minister appreciated the association for its generous contribution.

The delegation included Association President and Hyatt Place Chairman R V Swamy, Vice President Pawan Karthik, Secretary C Murthy, Taj Vivan-



ta Chairman Malineni Rajayya, Murali Fortune Hotel Chairman Muttavarapu Murali and GRT Hotels head V Saran.

They expressed support for the government's welfare initiatives through their contribution.

Cyber Criminals Will Face Strict Action Says Anita

Visakhapatnam, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita on Monday said cybercrimes have increased significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic and asserted that stringent measures are being taken to curb such offences. Speaking at the Cyber Crimes Recovery Mela held at the Visakhapatnam Police Commissionerate, Anita said the NDA government has prioritised tackling cybercrime and is strengthening cyber policing by providing advanced tools to cybercrime police stations. Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi and other officials attended the event.

The Home Minister distributed recovered funds to victims and said nearly Rs 6 crore had been recovered and re-



turned to 310 cybercrime victims. She noted that even educated individuals are increasingly falling prey to online frauds.

Anita said technology is being extensively used in cybercrime investigations and announced that dedicated cybercrime police stations are being established in every district. She urged citizens to remain vigilant and immediately report incidents of cyber fraud to the police to improve chances of recovering lost money.

Rayalaseema Emerging as Industrial Growth Hub, says Janardhan Reddy

Mangalagiri, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Rayalaseema is transforming into a major industrial and horticulture hub under the coalition government, Minister BC Janardhan Reddy said on Monday. Addressing a press conference at the Telugu Desam Party central office in Mangalagiri, he said the government aims to turn the region into a centre for industry, agriculture and horticulture rather than one known for drought and migration.

The Minister said investments worth over Rs. 5.33 lakh crore had been committed to around 240 industries across Andhra Pradesh in the last 24 months, with nearly one-third of the total investments flowing to Rayalaseema. He highlighted key projects, including Royal Enfield's Rs. 2,508-crore manufacturing unit in Tirupati, the



DRDO-led AMCA fighter aircraft project worth Rs. 15,800 crore at Puttaparthi, and renewable energy projects by Reliance and Adani.

Janardhan Reddy alleged that industries had moved away during the YSRCP government due to poor policies and claimed the coalition government had restored investor confidence. He also said irrigation works, including the Handri-Neeva project, were being accelerated and reiterated the government's commitment to creating employment, strengthening horticulture and ensuring balanced regional development.

CM Naidu Calls for Citizen-Friendly Services, Stronger Grievance System

continued

performance of various departments at the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) Centre in the State Secretariat, the Chief Minister instructed officials to simplify and streamline service delivery mechanisms. He emphasised that procedures, especially in departments with frequent public interaction, must be made easier to ensure hassle-free access. Officials informed him that the government has already initiated a simplification process, beginning with 11 categories of services.

Focusing on grievance redressal, Chandrababu Naidu called for improved accessibility and responsiveness. He suggested enabling online complaint registration and integrating the 'Mana Mitra' WhatsApp platform for lodging grievances. He further directed that voice messages received through the platform should also be treated as formal complaints, ensuring greater convenience for citizens.

Addressing connectivity concerns, the Chief Minister noted that nearly 3,000 locations in the state are facing mobile network issues. He in-

structed officials to resolve these problems within three months and hold discussions with service providers to ensure seamless connectivity.

During the review, officials presented details of the "Nava-chethana" Early Childhood Development Screening programme being implemented by the Department of Women and Child Welfare. The initiative assesses children's physical and mental development. So far, 33,949 children have been screened through visits to Anganwadi centres and households. A pilot project is also being planned to ensure proper follow-up after screening.

Officials further stated that a circular has been issued mandating field visits by senior officers. As per the directive, Secretaries will spend three days, Heads of Departments six days, and District Collectors eight days every month on field visits. The Chief Minister instructed them to identify issues on the ground and ensure prompt resolution.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, IT Secretary Katamneni Bhaskar, and CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee, among others.

Amaravati Will Be Pride of AP and India Says CM Chandrababu Naidu

continued

will make Andhra Pradesh and the nation proud. He asserted that the city should surpass Hyderabad in infrastructure and quality, and urged contractors to treat the project as a prestigious opportunity. He directed them to accelerate work and adhere to timelines, adding that reviews would be conducted every two months.

Officials informed that projects worth 50,999 crore have been awarded, covering housing, trunk infrastructure, Land Pooling Scheme infrastructure and iconic structures including the Assembly, High Court and Secretariat towers. Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana said 26,924 works and over 5,140 heavy machinery units are currently engaged. Works on Kondaveeti Vagu and Palavagu are also in progress to ensure smooth water flow. The Chief Minister emphasised advance mobilisation of manpower and resources and maintaining top-quality standards. He alleged that the previous government had stalled Amaravati works for five years but said construction has regained momentum over the last two years. He cautioned against litigation hurdles and called on contractors to work in partnership. He also announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be

invited to inaugurate the capital upon completion. Representatives from L&T, Shapoorji Pallonji, Megha Engineering, NCC, BSR and KVM attended the meeting.

Plans Global Summit in Visakhapatnam

Later, Naidu reviewed preparations for the CII Partnership Summit scheduled in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13 under the theme "Navigating Change: Leadership, Technology, Trust, and Trade in a Transforming World."

Ministers T G Bharath, Konadapalli Srinivas, Ponguru Narayana, Kandula Durgesh and Gottipati Ravi Kumar, along with CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee, participated. The Chief Minister said the summit should go beyond business and focus on public policy, innovation and knowledge sharing. He suggested regional meetings in Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry or Kakinada, Amaravati, Anantapur and Tirupati, and directed officials to hold roadshows from July to September in major cities across India.

He stressed discussions on agriculture, natural farming, circular economy and emerging sectors, while calling for participation from global experts and universities. He reiterated plans to establish a CII Global Leadership Centre in Amaravati.

Lokesh Meets Singapore Consul General

continued

Andhra Pradesh. Lokesh further pointed to the increase in GST collections compared to the previous year, stating that the government is moving ahead with transparent policies after resolving issues left by the previous YSRCP regime. The minister also shared details of a recent study tour by Andhra Pradesh teachers to Singapore and explained ongoing reforms in the education sector. He also briefed the Con-

sul General about his recent visit to Russia.

Edgar Pang Tze Chiang appreciated Andhra Pradesh's efforts in attracting investments and said the state is emerging as a leading destination for growth. He referred to recent visits by the AP ministerial delegation and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to Singapore and expressed commitment to further strengthening the partnership with Andhra Pradesh.

YSRCP Alleges Deteriorating Law and Order in State

Rajahmundry, June 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leader and former MP Margani Bharat on Monday alleged that the law and order situation in Andhra Pradesh has deteriorated and condemned the recent attack on a committee visiting Penumaka in the Amaravati region. Addressing the media in Rajahmundry, Bharat claimed that the attack was pre-planned and carried out with precision. He alleged that the incident was politically motivated and stated that the YSRCP would continue to stand by farmers

and oppose what it described as forcible land acquisition in Amaravati. He maintained that land should be acquired only with the consent of farmers and warned against any coercive measures. Bharat also demanded the arrest of all those involved in the attack. The former MP further linked the incident to recent controversies, including the custodial death of Sai Krishna and the suicide of Kranthi Kumar, alleging that these cases reflected a breakdown in governance and public safety.

Sajjala Urges Vigilance to Protect Votes During SIR

Tadepalli, June 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy called upon party leaders, Booth Level Agents and grassroots workers to remain alert during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and ensure that not a single genuine vote is deleted.

Addressing a teleconference with district party presidents, he reviewed the party's strategy and directed leaders to intensify monitoring at every polling booth. Sajjala said several complaints have been received about attempts to target



YSRCP voters, alleging that enumeration forms are being marked as distributed without reaching voters and that pressure is being exerted on offi-

cials to delete votes.

He cautioned that 40 to 50 votes in each polling booth could be at risk and stressed the need for constant vigilance. He pointed out that migrant workers in cities such as Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai are particularly vulnerable to being marked "not available" and removed from the rolls.

Sajjala instructed leaders to report irregularities immediately, coordinate with the SIR task force, strengthen constituency war rooms, focus on urban areas and submit daily reports to the central war room in Tadepalli.

CPM Seeks Fertilizer Policy Rollback, Judicial Probe into Custodial Death

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] Andhra Pradesh State Committee has demanded the withdrawal of the app-based fertilizer distribution system and called for a comprehensive judicial inquiry into the custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously during the CPI(M) State Committee meeting held in Vijayawada on June 28 and 29. The meeting was attended by Politburo members B.V. Raghavulu and U. Vasuki, State Secretary V. Srinivasa Rao, and other senior leaders.

In its first resolution, the party alleged that the app-based fertilizer distribution system introduced by the Cen-



tre and the State government has created hardships for farmers and tenant farmers during the ongoing Kharif season. It said farmers are facing difficulties due to server failures, missing land records, and restrictions on fertilizer alloca-

YSRCP Alleges Harassment of Amaravati Farmers

Tadepalli, June 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP NTR District President Deveneni Avinash on Monday alleged that the coalition government was targeting farmers and party leaders after increasing numbers of Amaravati-region farmers met former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to express their grievances.

Addressing the media in Tadepalli, Avinash said members of the Farmers' Protection Committee were allegedly stopped, attacked, and prevented from visiting Penumaka village. He claimed that vehicles belonging to the committee

were damaged and that police later registered cases against YSRCP leaders instead of taking action against those responsible for the attack.

He alleged that farmers who had not parted with their lands were facing pressure and forced acquisition attempts. According to him, the incidents reflected a deterioration in law and order in the state.

Avinash accused the ruling coalition of being uncomfortable with farmers openly sharing their concerns with Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He also criticized sections of the media for allegedly portraying the incident inaccurately.

The YSRCP leader reiterated

that the party was not opposed to Amaravati as the state capital but had consistently opposed what it termed corruption and excessive expenditure in the name of capital development. He alleged that despite large-scale spending, development was not visible across the state.

Avinash asserted that YSRCP would continue to support affected farmers and oppose what it described as coercive land acquisition practices. He said the party would intensify its efforts to protect farmers' interests despite political attacks and legal cases.

Janasena to Explain 'Nirman Sarathulu' Information Collection Process

Mangalagiri, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Janasena Party on Monday announced that the coordinators of its "Janasena Nirman Sarathulu" initiative would address a press conference to explain the process of collecting information related to organizational leaders across the state. According to a statement issued by the Janasena Media Wing, the press conference is scheduled to be held at 5 p.m. at the party office located at MGM Capital, near NRI Hospi-

tal Cross Roads on the NH-16 Service Road in Mangalagiri.

Party leaders are expected to brief the media on the objectives of the "Janasena Nirman Sarathulu" programme and the methodology being adopted to gather information from party representatives and grassroots leaders. The initiative is aimed at strengthening the party's organizational structure and improving coordination between various levels of leadership. The media wing has invited representatives from newspapers, televi-

sion channels, and digital media platforms to attend the briefing. Reporters, photographers, and camerapersons have been requested to cover the event. Party sources said the interaction would provide clarity on the role of organizational leaders and the framework being developed to streamline party activities and communication. The Janasena leadership is expected to outline plans and address queries from media representatives during the press conference.

Ambati Rambabu Seeks Wider Probe in Sai Krishna Custodial Death Case

Tadepalli, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and YSRCP leader Ambati Rambabu has written a detailed letter to SIT Chief and Inspector General of Police M. Ravi Prakash, raising serious concerns over the investigation into the alleged custodial death of Sai Krishna. In his representation, Rambabu questioned why criminal liability had been confined to a Circle Inspector despite references in the remand report to the involvement of other police

personnel and units. He sought clarity on the handling of crucial CCTV footage, alleging negligence in securing evidence and preventing possible tampering or deletion. The former minister also questioned whether the SIT examined footage from the Vijayawada Command and Control Centre and the city's Matrix Surveillance System, which could help trace Sai Krishna's movements and establish the sequence of events. He expressed concern over the alleged failure to seize cloud-stored surveillance re-

cords within the available retention period.

Rambabu further asked why provisions relating to criminal conspiracy and common intention were not invoked despite indications of coordinated action by multiple officials. He also sought an explanation for the absence of an FIR on a complaint reportedly submitted by Sai Krishna's mother on May 28. The YSRCP leader urged the SIT to conduct a comprehensive and transparent investigation to ensure accountability and justice in the case.

Lokesh Calls 'Shining Stars' Brand Ambassadors of AP Education Model

continued

moved from private to government schools and credited "Shining Stars" for this shift. He said the AP Model of Education and LEEP Mission were introduced to strengthen learning outcomes, including the LEEP app, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Student Kit, and the Dokka Seethamma mid-day meal scheme. He said centralized kitchens, millet chikkis, and "Thalliki Vandanam" benefits were improving student welfare.

He added that 16,000 teacher posts were filled through Mega DSC, and initiatives like One Class One Teacher, No Bag Day, clicker-based learning, and upcoming AI tutors were transforming classrooms. He said the pass percentage in government schools improved from 72.8%

to 78.39%.

Nara Lokesh stressed value-based education and said Chaganti Koteswara Rao is guiding moral education reforms. He emphasized respect for women and urged students to reject derogatory language and behaviour. He reiterated that politics has been removed from schools and his photograph is not used in textbooks. Sharing his personal experience, he said setbacks should be seen as learning opportunities and encouraged students to stay resilient. He noted that the government spends nearly 1 lakh per student annually and urged students to honour the trust placed in them. School Education Director Tamim Ansariya, Intermediate Education Commissioner Ranjit Basha, and others attended the event.



Proud to Receive Shining Star Award

C Anusha, Intermediate Vocational Student, Government Vocational Junior College, Kuppam, Chittoor District, said she felt proud to receive the 'Shining Star' award from Education Minister Nara Lokesh after securing 988/1000 marks in Office Assistantship. She credited her parents, teachers Mr Jagadeesh and Ms Pramila, and government support systems including textbooks, notebooks, and mid-day meals for her achievement. She aims to pursue CA and support her parents.

Request for Support to Become a Doctor

Shaikh Chandini, Intermediate BiPC student from Government Junior College for Girls, Kadiri, Sri Sathya Sai District, who secured 991/1000 marks, said she was happy to receive the 'Shining Star' award from Nara Lokesh. She credited government schemes, teachers, and parents, especially her father's health condition, as her motivation. She requested long-term coaching support from the minister to help her achieve her goal of becoming a cardiologist.



Government Schools Enable Holistic Growth

Ch Ananyasree, Intermediate MPC student of AP Model School, OV Peta, Tekkali, Srikakulam District, who scored 990/1000 marks, said government schools provide holistic development opportunities. She thanked the 'Shining Star' initiative and credited schemes like Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal, Vidyarthi Mitra, and Sankalp Program. Coming from a family of government teachers, she aims to become a civil servant and serve society, inspired by her educational background.



Shining Stars Award Should Continue

N Chidvilas, 10th-grade student of Municipal High School, Mettekkivalasa, Amadalavalasa, Srikakulam District, who scored 593/600 marks, said he was happy to receive the 'Shining Star' award from Nara Lokesh. He urged continuation of the awards in future and thanked government initiatives like mid-day meals and Thalliki Vandanam. He credited teachers for their role in shaping students' academic progress and overall development.



Shining Stars Nurture Future Leaders

S Swathi, 10th-grade student of AP Model School, Shankhavaram, Kakinada District, who scored 594/600 marks, said her success belongs to teachers, parents, and government support systems. She thanked Nara Lokesh for strengthening government schools through quality education, uniforms, books, and mid-day meals. Aspiring to become an IAS officer, she said her participation in the AP Mock Assembly enhanced her leadership and communication skills, shaping her future goals.



Congress Trains Youth Leaders for 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' Campaign

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee on Sunday conducted a special training programme for Youth Congress and NSUI leaders at Andhra Ratna Bhavan in Vijayawada as part of its nationwide "Chhatron Ki Goonj" (Students' Roar) campaign.

Party leaders said the initiative aims to take the concerns of students and unemployed youth to the public and build awareness on issues affecting the education sector. They expressed concern over alleged irregularities in competitive examinations, including NEET-related controversies, paper leaks, cancellation of recruitment exams,

rising unemployment and the growing financial burden on students due to privatization. The speakers stated that the education system is facing serious challenges and called for a united effort to highlight student and youth issues across the state. They urged Youth Congress and NSUI leaders to actively participate in the campaign and transform the concerns of young people into a mass movement. Senior Congress leaders, including J.D. Seelam, Lakkaraju Ramarao, Nagamadhu Yadav, Kolunakonda Shivaji, Naraharasetti Narasimha Rao, Korivi Vinay Kumar, Shonti Nagaraju, Chilaka Vijay Kumar, and Ambati Ramakrishna Yadav, addressed the participants.

Farmers' Prosperity Will Ensure State's Growth Says Kollu Ravindra

Machilipatnam, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Mines, Geology and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra said the coalition government is committed to farmer welfare, asserting that a prosperous farming community is vital for a strong state.

Participating in the Eruvaka programme at Buddalapalem in Machilipatnam Rural mandal on Sunday, he performed rituals dedicated to Bhudevi, ploughed fields with farmers, sowed seeds and distributed fertilisers and seed bags. He said 58,000 crore had been allocated to agriculture, describing it as a model budget. The government is promoting natural farming, offering free soil tests, subsidised seeds and fertilisers, and strengthening irrigation, he said.

Ravindra added that works on the Polavaram Project were being accelerated for early completion. He also highlighted welfare initiatives such as pensions, Talikli Vandanam and Annadata Sukhibhava, while noting that Bandar Port development and tourism pro-



motion would generate jobs.

Later, addressing a meeting at the R&B Guest House, Ravindra proposed organising Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations at Manginapudi Beach to boost tourism and highlight Machilipatnam's heritage. He announced plans for a 63-foot Vinayaka idol and replica temples of Tirumala, Srisailem, Kanipakam, Indrakeeladri, Simhachalam and Ayodhya.

He said temporary festival stalls would create employment for youth. A master plan for Manginapudi Beach is already in place, with facilities being developed. Ravindra urged public cooperation to make the festival a grand success.

VMC Chief Reviews Monsoon Preparedness

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanaachandra H on Monday emphasized employee solidarity and monsoon preparedness during two programmes held in the city.

At the VMC Command Control Room, he handed over financial assistance of 2,57,700 to the family of late Chinta Rajasekhara, Ward Data Processing Secretary of the 111th Ward Secretariat, who died of a heart attack on June 3. The amount was voluntarily contributed by ward secretariat employees across Vijayawada.

He appreciated the gesture, calling it a reflection of unity and compassion among staff, and assured that all eligible government benefits would be provided. Secretariat Employees' Federation representatives said employees contributed a portion of their salaries to support the bereaved family.



Later, the Commissioner inspected key locations including Errakatta, CVR Flyover, Milk Project, RTC Workshop Road, Kanaka Durga Flyover and Sitara Junction to review drainage and sanitation works ahead of the monsoon.

He directed officials to ensure uninterrupted desilting operations and prevent water stagnation during heavy rains. At Sitara Junction, he instructed preparation of proposals for a new drainage system and a comprehensive runoff management plan.

He also inspected Anna Canteen at RTC Workshop Road, directing officials to maintain food quality, sanitation and uninterrupted public services.

Collector Reviews EVM Security, Speeds Up Resolution of 22-A Land Cases

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshminisha has directed officials to maintain constant vigilance and ensure round-the-clock monitoring of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and VVPAT warehouse at Gollapudi, stating that stringent security arrangements are in place for safeguarding election equipment.

As part of the Election Commission of India's monthly inspection process, the Collector inspected the warehouse on Monday in the presence of representatives from recognised political parties. He reviewed CCTV surveillance systems, fire safety and electrical equipment, and verified monitoring registers before signing them. He instructed security personnel to maintain continuous surveillance and promptly address any technical or security issues. Dr Lakshminisha said inspections are being conducted regularly as per ECI guidelines and reports are submitted periodically, ensuring transparency through the participation of political party representatives. District Revenue Officer M Lakshminarasimham and representatives of TDP, YSRCP, Congress and Jana Sena participated in the inspection.



In a separate programme held at Sri A V S Reddy Hall in the Collectorate, the Collector said the administration is working towards making villages free from land disputes by expediting 22-A prohibited land cases. He, along with Joint Collector S Ilakkiya, distributed orders removing wrongly included private lands from the prohibited list.

He stated that 180 cases have already been resolved in the district through Revenue Sadassus and Revenue Clinics conducted as per government directions. Applications are being verified through record checks, field inspections and document scrutiny. Lands wrongly classified, including those not under the Endowments Department, are being cleared after due verification.

The Collector said weekly reviews are being held at the state level to ensure speedy disposal of petitions. Farmers who received relief expressed gratitude to the government and district administration.

Outsourcing Employees Demand Pending Wages

Tadepalli, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Outsourcing employees staged a protest in Tadepalli, demanding immediate payment of salaries pending for 6-7 months for security guards working in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukulam schools.

They also sought implementation of GO No. 134, payment of minimum wages, an inquiry into alleged EPF and ESI irregularities, and strict action against the security agencies. A memorandum was submitted to Joint Secretary Smt. Rajyalakshmi.

Atchannaidu Prays for Prosperous Kharif Season and Farmers' Welfare

Amaravati/Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Monday offered prayers at the Kanaka Durga temple in Vijayawada, seeking prosperity for the farming community and a successful agricultural season across the state. The minister prayed for abundant rainfall, higher crop yields and better returns for farmers. He also expressed hope that every farmer would prosper and every acre of farmland would remain green and productive. Atchannaidu is scheduled to inaugurate the Eruvaka celebrations at Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University in



Lam, Guntur. He said all arrangements for the ensuing Kharif season had been completed and assured farmers that adequate stocks of fertilisers and seeds were readily available. The minister stated that farmers need not have any concerns regarding the availability of agricultural inputs,

as the government has ensured sufficient supplies. Reiterating that farmers' welfare remains a top priority, Atchannaidu said the administration would provide all necessary assistance to cultivators and urged them to confidently face challenges posed by El Niño conditions.

MP Chinni Lays Foundation Stone for Gunadala ROB

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

In a major boost to Vijayawada's infrastructure, MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) on Monday laid the foundation stone for a Railway Over Bridge (ROB) at Gunadala, a project estimated to cost 98.68 crore and aimed at permanently resolving long-standing traffic congestion in the Gunadala-Nunna corridor.

Addressing the gathering, the MP said the project fulfils a key promise made to the people during the elections. He stated that development would continue uninterrupted and that every assurance given to the public would be honoured.

The proposed ROB is expected to significantly ease traffic movement and improve connectivity between Gunadala and Nunna. Officials said the Gunadala railway level crossing



currently handles nearly 170 train movements daily, forcing the gate to remain closed for 14 to 16 hours and causing severe inconvenience to commuters. Once completed, the bridge is expected to reduce waiting time from 15-20 minutes to about one minute.

The 920-metre-long ROB will feature 18 spans, service roads, crash barriers, a modern drainage system and other infrastructure facilities. The project is targeted for completion within 18 months. Kesineni Chinni said he had pursued the project through continuous

discussions with railway authorities and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh for their support.

Railway officials and local public representatives attended the foundation-laying ceremony. Residents welcomed the initiative, expressing hope that the project would mark a significant milestone in Vijayawada's urban development and traffic management efforts.

YSRCP Docs Demand Better Services at GGH

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The YSRCP NTR District Doctors Wing has urged Government General Hospital (GGH), Vijayawada, to improve outpatient, medicine distribution and diagnostic services for patients.

In a representation, District

Doctors Wing Chairman Dr Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav said patients are facing delays in OP services, shortage of essential medicines and limited access to diagnostics such as X-ray services, forcing many poor patients to approach private hospitals.

He demanded strict adherence to OP timings, uninterrupted

medicine supply, restoration of diagnostic services and greater transparency in healthcare delivery, including public display of service and stock details.

He warned that if immediate corrective measures are not taken, YSRCP would launch protests seeking better healthcare services for patients.

Eruvaka Pournami Celebrated with Devotion atop Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri celebrated Eruvaka Pournami with religious fervour and traditional grandeur on Sunday. The programme was conducted under the guidance of the Andhra Pradesh Endowments Department Commissioner to mark the commencement of the agricultural season. Temple authorities and priests welcomed farmers and devotees visiting the shrine and arranged special darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga. Devotees were offered Vedic blessings along with sacred theertham and prasadam. The celebrations were organized by the Hindu



Dharma Parirakshana Trust (HDPT) under the leadership of State Women's Coordinator Kari Ramasundari. As part of the event, women devotees chanted the holy name of Lord Rama and offered prayers seeking abundant rainfall, prosperity and bumper harvests for the farming community. Sanctified paddy grains, blessed through devotional chanting, were distributed to women farmers along with

turmeric, vermilion and traditional auspicious offerings. The programme highlighted the age-old tradition of worshipping Mother Earth, livestock and nature during Eruvaka Pournami, which signifies the beginning of sowing activities. Women participants also undertook a spiritual vow involving the recitation of sacred hymns such as Bhukta, Neela Sukta and Varuna Sukta, praying for agricultural prosperity and the welfare of farmers. Temple officials, priests, HDPT representatives and a large number of women farmers and devotees participated in the celebrations and sought the blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga for a successful agricultural season.

Eruvaka Pournami Celebrated with Traditional Farming Rituals

Challapalli, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Eruvaka Pournami was celebrated with traditional fervour in Yarlagadda village of Challapalli Mandal on Monday under the auspices of the Agriculture Department. Constituency youth leader Mandal Venkatram participated in the programme and expressed hope for timely and abundant rainfall during the current agricultural season.

As part of the celebrations, Venkatram performed special rituals for a pair of oxen, ceremonially ploughed a field and sowed paddy seeds, marking the beginning of farming activities for the season.

Speaking on the occasion, he wished for prosperity and happiness for farmers and said the al-



liance government was committed to strengthening the agricultural sector. He expressed hope that farmers would achieve good yields and financial stability, enabling Andhra Pradesh to continue its legacy as a major food-producing state.

Highlighting the significance of Eruvaka Pournami, he said the festival symbolizes the close bond between farmers, nature and agriculture and serves as an auspicious start to the cultiva-

tion season.

AMC Chairperson Thota Kanaka Durga, Challapalli PACS Chairman Bondalapati Veerababu, former sarpanches Paruchuri Suresh and Bobba Krishna Rao, Agriculture Officer K. Muralikrishna, senior farmers and Agriculture Department staff participated in the celebrations. The event concluded with prayers for a successful farming season and abundant harvests across the region.



National Statistics Day Celebrated at Andhra Loyola College

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Regional Office (Vijayawada) of the National Statistical Office (Field Operations Division) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation celebrated National Statistics Day on June 29, 2026, marking the 133rd birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, regarded as the father of modern statistical systems in India. The event was held at Andhra Loyola College with the theme "Unleashing the Power of Administrative Data." Essay writing and quiz competitions were organized for undergraduate statistics students, with participation from around six colleges in Vijayawada. The programme was presided over by D Satish, Deputy Director General, MoSPI, Regional Office, Vijayawada. Rajat, Joint Director, MoS-

PI, M Arul Jyothi, Vice-Principal of Andhra Loyola College, and Nunna Srinivasa Rao, Head of the Department of Statistics, attended as distinguished guests. The event began with floral tributes to P C Mahalanobis followed by the lighting of the lamp. Addressing the gathering, D Satish highlighted the importance of administrative data in strengthening official statistical systems and enabling evidence-based governance. Rajat spoke on career opportunities in statistics and encouraged students to contribute to national development. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the competitions. A total of 180 participants attended, including 68 officials and staff from the National Statistical Office and students and faculty from various colleges. V Ratna Kumar, Senior Statistical Officer and Head of Office, delivered the vote of thanks.

Suspended IPS Officer Sunil Kumar Retires; Proceedings to Continue

Amaravati, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Government has ordered that suspended IPS officer P.V. Sunil Kumar (RR:1993) be relieved from service upon attaining superannuation on June 30, 2026.

According to the Government Order, his retirement will not affect the disciplinary and criminal proceedings pending against him. Authorities clarified that these proceedings, initiated prior to retirement, will continue as per the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969.

The order stated that the case will also be governed by provisions of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958. Pensionary benefits due to the officer will be regulated under Rule 16 of the same rules and relevant Government of India guidelines. Officials emphasized that retirement does not grant immunity from ongoing investigations or disciplinary action. The Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, has been directed to take necessary follow-up action in accordance with the Government's instructions.

KL University Sees 1,534 Students Placed in TCS Drive

Vijayawada, June 30 | TPN Bureau

KL University has recorded an impressive milestone in campus placements, with 1,534 students securing job offers from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in a single recruitment drive for the 2027 graduating batch.

According to Vice-Chancellor Dr. Parthasaradhi Varma, 1,311 students from the Vijayawada campus and 223 from the Hyderabad campus were selected following a rigorous process that included written tests, coding assessments, and interviews conducted over the past week.

He said the university is taking focused steps to achieve 100% campus placements this year, with targeted training programmes designed to enhance students' employability. The Vice-Chancellor also highlighted that KL University has partnered with around 450 companies to provide placement training and internship opportunities. In addition to domestic placements, students are also securing job offers from international companies in countries such as Japan, Germany, and Dubai, reflecting the institution's growing global outreach.

AP Showcases 'Sanjeevani' Digital Health Model at National Health Forum; Gains Nationwide Attention

Amaravati, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh's flagship digital health initiative 'Sanjeevani' has drawn national attention at the National Health Forum, with several states seeking detailed information on the programme, which aims to transform healthcare delivery through preventive and technology-driven services.

State Health and Medical Education Minister Satya Kumar Yadav briefed health ministers from across the country during the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare meeting in New Delhi, highlighting the scope and impact of the scheme. He said 'Sanjeevani' represents a shift from reactive treatment to preventive healthcare, focusing on early detection and continuous monitoring. The initiative, developed under the vision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, seeks to bridge the gap between rural and urban healthcare through digital integration. Under the Citizen Health

Screening programme, 41 diagnostic tests are conducted at the doorstep using 904 Mobile Medical Units, with each unit covering around 20 individuals daily. The data generated is converted into digital health records, which are linked to 'Digital Nerve Centres' that provide alerts, telemedicine support, and doctor consultations. Officials said the system reduces the need for hospital visits and improves early intervention in disease management. Minister Yadav noted that 'Sanjeevani', first piloted in Kuppam and now operational in Chittoor district, will be expanded statewide in August. He also highlighted Andhra Pradesh's leadership in digital health, including over 11 crore electronic health records and widespread ABHA adoption.

At the forum, Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda also launched several digital health initiatives, including the Ayushman App and e-Sushrut Clinic, aimed at strengthening India's healthcare ecosystem.

SP Receives 62 Petitions at Public Grievance Redressal Programme

Eluru, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Eluru Superintendent of Police K. Pratap Shiva Kishore conducted the weekly public grievance redressal programme at the district police headquarters on Monday, reiterating that resolving people's issues remains the primary objective of the police department.

Along with Additional SP (Administration) Y. Prasad Rao, the SP personally received petitions from complainants who arrived from various parts of the district and interacted with them to understand their grievances.

The programme was conducted through a transparent paperless online system integrated with technology. A total of 62 complaints were received, mainly relating to land disputes, family issues and financial frauds.

Farmers' Welfare Remains Government's Priority Says Malakondaiah



Chirala, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Chirala MLA Madduluri Malakondaiah participated in Eruvaka Pournami celebrations on Monday and reiterated that the welfare of farmers and the development of the agriculture sector remain key priorities of the coalition government.

The MLA offered special prayers at a local temple before joining farmers in performing Bhoomi Puja and ceremonially ploughing the land to mark the beginning of the new agricultural season. He described Eruvaka Pournami as a cherished tradition symbolising the close bond between agriculture and livestock and expressed hope

PM SVANidhi Empowering Street Vendors Through Easy Credit Access

Eluru, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The PM SVANidhi scheme is emerging as a major source of financial support for street vendors by providing affordable credit and promoting sustainable livelihoods, Eluru District MEPMA Project Director M. Raja Babu said on Monday. Addressing the PM SVANidhi Mahotsav programme held at Gandhi Gnan Mandir in Eluru, Raja Babu said the initiative is being conducted statewide from June 1 to June 30 as part of the Urban Livelihood Mission 2.0 under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

He said the event featured loan distribution, success stories of beneficiaries, cultural programmes and awareness sessions on the scheme's benefits.

Making Farmers Prosperous Is CM's Vision Says Minister Swamy

Prakasam, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister Dola Sri Bala Veeranjaneva Swamy participated in Eruvaka celebrations at Ramayyapalem village in Marripudi mandal on Monday and reiterated the coalition government's commitment to strengthening the agriculture sector and improving farmers' livelihoods.

Joining farmers in traditional rituals, the minister ceremonially ploughed the land and extended Eruvaka greetings to the farming community. He described Eruvaka as a festival that reflects the spirit and culture of agriculture.

Addressing farmers, Dola Sri Bala Veeranjaneva Swamy said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision is to transform farmers into prosperous stakeholders in the state's development. He said the government is supporting cultivators at every stage, from seed distribution to marketing.



cial frauds. Pratap Shiva Kishore directed officials through video conference to conduct impartial inquiries into the complaints in accordance with the law and ensure speedy justice for victims by submitting reports on time.

The SP advised citizens to approach nearby sub-divisional or circle offices for lodging complaints and highlighted the availability of online grievance registration through the Mee Kosam portal. He also said people can track the status of their complaints through the toll-free number 1100.

for timely rains and a prosperous harvest.

Addressing farmers, Malakondaiah said the coalition government is committed to strengthening the farming community and has already credited the first instalment of PM-Kisan-Annadata Sukhibhava assistance into beneficiaries' accounts.

He said the government is ensuring the timely supply of quality seeds and fertilisers, improving irrigation infrastructure, facilitating access to agricultural credit and working towards providing remunerative prices for farm produce. He assured farmers that sustained efforts would continue to enhance agricultural productivity and increase farm incomes.

ries of beneficiaries, cultural programmes and awareness sessions on the scheme's benefits. Under PM SVANidhi, eligible vendors can avail loans of 15,000 in the first phase, 25,000 in the second phase and 50,000 in the third phase at concessional interest rates.

Beneficiaries can also access an additional credit facility worth 30,000 and receive incentives for making digital transactions. Raja Babu said eligible vendors could also benefit from several Central welfare schemes through the socio-economic survey process. Bankers, MEPMA officials and representatives of street vendors participated in the programme.



bution to marketing. The minister highlighted that farmers are receiving 20,000 annually under the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme and that agricultural machinery and Kisan drones are being supplied on subsidy. He said initiatives such as Polam Pilustondi and Polam Badi are helping farmers adopt modern practices.

He further stated that the Integrated Horticulture Development Programme aims to develop the erstwhile Prakasam district into a horticulture hub and reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing the Veligonda project to make the region agriculturally prosperous.

Alleged Encroachment of Village Tank Sparks Farmers' Protest

Anakapalli, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Tension prevailed in Rebaka Panchayat of Anakapalli district after farmers alleged that a village irrigation tank had been illegally encroached upon through manipulation of revenue records, affecting the livelihood of cultivators dependent on the water body.

According to villagers, the Patruni Cheruvu located in Kapu Shettivani Palem village irrigates nearly 150 acres of farmland and serves as a vital water source for local farmers. They alleged that in 2016, Mamidi Chinnarao, who was then serving as Marturu village MP/TC, along with Poleti Apparao, illegally sold a portion of



the tank land measuring 13.75 acres to stone crusher brokers.

The villagers claimed that Survey No. 243, classified as tank land, was allegedly altered in the Web Land records at the MRO office using fake documents, enabling the land to be transferred. They said the irregularities went unnoticed for years as many of the affected farmers were illiterate and unaware of the changes

Employees Seek Release of DA Arrears and New PRC

Rajahmendravaram, June 29 | TPN Bureau

State Revenue Services Association president Bopparaju Venkateswarlu on Monday urged the Ap govt to immediately release five pending instalments of dearness allowance (DA), clear surrender leave arrears and constitute a new Pay Revision Commission (PRC).

Addressing a press conference at the Rajamahendravaram Collectorate, Venkateswarlu said government employees have been waiting for clarity on DA arrears pending for the past two years. He demanded that the government indicate



the exact amount due to employees in their pay slips and announce a clear schedule for payment.

He said rising prices of essential commodities and the absence of salary revisions were causing severe financial strain on employees. According to him, arrears exceeding 30,000 crore had accumulated during the previous government's tenure.

Spiritual Fervour Marks Consecration of 36 Temples at Shambala Nagaram

Gadarada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

A major spiritual milestone was marked in East Godavari district as the consecration ceremonies and Maha Kumbhabhishekam of 36 newly built temples concluded on a grand note at the Om Shivashakti Peetham-Shambala Nagaram in Gadarada village of Korukonda mandal on Monday.

The sprawling spiritual complex was established under the initiative of Rajanagaram MLA Battula Balaramakrishna and his wife Venkata Lakshmi, who personally oversaw the construction of the temples. The concluding day of the celebrations featured the Sap-



tadevata Kalyana Mahotsavam, drawing thousands of devotees from across the region.

Vedic scholars and priests conducted special homams, chants, poornahuti rituals and other ceremonies amid the chanting of Vedic hymns and traditional music. The grand celestial wedding of the seven deities, performed according

Collector Vijaya Sunitha's Timely Intervention Saves Injured Accident Victim

Markapuram, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Markapuram District Collector Vijaya Sunitha displayed compassion and promptness on Monday by extending immediate assistance to a road accident victim and ensuring timely medical care.

The incident occurred on the Markapuram-Tarlapadu road when two motorcycles collided, leaving one person injured and lying by the roadside. The Collector, who was travelling from the Collectorate towards Markapuram town, noticed the injured man and immediately halted her vehicle.



She directed officials to contact emergency services and personally supervised the rescue operation until an ambulance arrived at the spot. Vijaya Sunitha ensured that the injured person was safely shifted into the ambulance and sent to a hospital for treatment.

The Collector's swift response and humanitarian approach drew appreciation from local residents and passersby, who lauded her concern for public welfare and her timely intervention in assisting the accident victim.

EG to Observe Cooperative Week from June 29 to July 6

East Godavari, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The East Godavari district administration has launched week-long Cooperative Week celebrations from June 29 to July 6 under the theme "Sahakar Se Samridhhi" to mark five years of the Union Ministry of Cooperation. The celebrations are being held in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Cooperation and the Andhra Pradesh Commissioner and Registrar of Cooperation, District Cooperative Officer M. Venkata Ramana said on Monday.

The week-long programme features a series of activities aimed at promoting the cooperative movement, financial literacy, environmental protection



and sustainable development. The schedule includes cooperative awareness meetings, fisheries cooperative programmes, free medical camps at 18 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, dairy cooperative activities, plastic-free society awareness campaigns, essay competitions for students, an International Cooperative Day rally, CSC service demonstrations and webinars on organic farming and millet cultivation.

APMC Registrar Recommendation Sparks Row Over Council Resolution

Vijayawada, June 29 | TPN Bureau

A recommendation for the appointment of the Registrar of the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council (APMC) triggered sharp differences during the Council's General Body meeting held in Vijayawada on Monday, with several members alleging that the decision undermined the institution's democratic functioning.

The controversy centered on the recommendation of Dr. Sharmishta for the Registrar's post. Several Council members objected to the proposal, pointing out that disciplinary proceedings initiated by the Government against the candidate are still pending. They argued that the Council could have extended the tenure of the existing Registrar or made interim arrangements in accordance with established rules instead of rushing the appointment.

According to dissenting members, 10 of the 21 Council members opposed the proposal. However, the resolution was passed by a narrow one-vote majority, reportedly due to the numerical strength of nominated members. They contended that overriding the views of elected representatives on such a significant appointment

weakens the Council's autonomy and democratic principles.

The meeting also discussed several policy initiatives, including simplifying the Continuing Medical Education (CME) process, granting CME credit points to doctors attending government training programmes, conducting a transparent financial audit of the Council, rationalising registration fees, and establishing district-level Anti-Quackery Committees.

The Council further recommended amendments to G.O. Ms. No. 81, proposing mandatory APMC registration for doctors registered in other states before practising in Andhra Pradesh. It also suggested making the registration process fully online by granting provisional registration immediately upon application, followed by permanent registration after internal verification, without insisting on a No Objection Certificate (NOC).

The dissenting members maintained that all appointments and policy decisions should be guided by transparency, accountability, merit, ethical standards, and democratic values rather than numerical dominance.



Collector Vetri Selvi Launches Eruvaka Pournami Celebrations

Eluru, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Eluru District Collector K. Vetri Selvi on Monday inaugurated the Eruvaka Pournami celebrations at Chodimella village in Eluru Rural mandal along with Eluru MLA Badeti Radhakrishnayya (Chanti), highlighting the state's commitment to farmers' welfare.

Participating in traditional agricultural rituals with farmers, the Collector described Eruvaka Pournami as a festival symbolising India's agrarian culture and traditions. She said agriculture remains the backbone of the country and urged farmers to blend modern technology with traditional practices. Vetri Selvi noted

that the government has implemented several welfare initiatives for farmers, including soil health testing, mechanisation and direct procurement. She said 31,000 soil health cards have been distributed and paddy worth 681 crore was procured from farmers over the last two years, with payments credited promptly. MLA Badeti Radhakrishnayya said Eruvaka Pournami marks the beginning of the agricultural season and reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting farmers through financial assistance, subsidies, crop insurance and assured procurement at remunerative prices.



Farmers' Welfare Is Government's Top Priority Says Kamineni Srinivas

Kaikaluru, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Kaikaluru MLA Kamineni Srinivas participated in the Eruvaka Pournami celebrations held at Bomminampadu village in Mudinepalli mandal on Monday, reaffirming the coalition government's commitment to the welfare of farmers and the agricultural sector.

As part of the traditional observance marking the beginning of the agricultural season, the MLA actively joined local cultivators in performing customary rituals. In a symbolic gesture reflecting agrarian traditions, he ceremonially ploughed the field using a traditional plough and sowed nine varieties of seeds, signifying hopes for a fruitful and prosperous farming season ahead. On the occasion, Srinivas also extended heartfelt Eruvaka

Pournami greetings to the farming community.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA stated that the welfare of farmers remains the foremost priority of the coalition government. He emphasized that the overall prosperity of the state is directly linked to the well-being of its farming community. He further assured that the government is committed to extending continuous support to farmers at every stage of agricultural activity, from sowing to harvesting.

The celebrations reflected the deep-rooted agrarian heritage associated with Eruvaka Pournami, a festival traditionally observed by farmers to invoke timely rainfall, abundant harvests, and a successful cultivation season, reinforcing the cultural and economic importance of agriculture in rural life.

BJP's Strategy for 2029... Where is Congress Headed?

Chennu Peddiraju
Senior Journalist

Although the next Lok Sabha elections are still three years away, Indian politics has already begun revolving around the 2029 general elections. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appears to be moving with a well-defined long-term strategy, the principal opposition party, the Congress, seems to be on a journey without a clear destination.

Over the past three decades, national parties have gradually lost ground in Indian politics. According to the Election Commission of India, only six political parties currently enjoy national party status. Among them, the BJP, the Congress, and the CPI(M) are the most prominent, while the other three—the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and the National People's Party (NPP)—remain largely confined to specific regions. Consequently, regional parties have emerged as decisive players in India's political landscape. However, many of these regional parties are now facing internal crises, splits, or organisational decline, significantly altering the country's political equations. There is little doubt that the BJP has been able to capitalise on these changing dynamics more effectively than any other political party.

The BJP's vision of a "Devel-

oped India by 2047" extends beyond economic aspirations. Politically, the party appears determined to establish long-term dominance. Whether its objective is to expand Hindutva politics, strengthen its ideological base, or remain in power until 2047, weakening its political rivals seems to be an integral part of its broader strategy. Political observers believe that this explains the BJP's increasing focus on regional parties such as the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Maharashtra, the Janata Dal (United) in Bihar, and several other influential regional forces. The underlying assumption appears to be that any weakening of regional parties would ultimately benefit the BJP, directly or indirectly. The party also seems to be viewing issues such as the Women's Reservation Bill and the proposed delimitation of parliamentary constituencies through the lens of long-term electoral gains. The political outcomes witnessed in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir following delimitation are often cited as examples of this strategy, with analysts suggesting that similar approaches may be considered elsewhere.

The Congress, on the other hand, faces challenges that go



far beyond electoral defeats. Out of more than 4,000 Assembly seats across the country, the party now holds only a few hundred. In several states, its presence has become almost negligible. Its weak position in politically crucial states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, and Odisha raises serious questions about its long-term prospects. More importantly,

the Congress appears to have made opposition to the BJP—and particularly to Prime Minister Narendra Modi—its primary political agenda. While the party is attempting to attract young voters and expand its presence on social media, its efforts to rebuild the organisation from the grassroots have fallen short of expectations. Critics argue that in-

stead of conducting serious introspection into the reasons behind repeated electoral defeats, the party continues to focus mainly on criticising the Union Government.

The fragmentation of regional parties is not a new phenomenon. Similar developments occurred even when the Congress was in power. The experience of the Praja Rajy-

am Party remains a reminder that leadership rivalries, personal ambitions, dynastic politics, and the pursuit of power have often been the principal causes behind political splits.

The internal challenges confronting the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) in Telangana, the developments within the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra,

growing signs of dissatisfaction within the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, and the changing political equations in Tamil Nadu all point towards a new phase in Indian politics. In Tamil Nadu, 25 AIADMK legislators reportedly revolted against the party leadership and extended support to Vijay's TVK government after it assumed office. In West Bengal, following the Assembly elections, more than 50 Trinamool Congress legislators and senior leaders reportedly rebelled against Mamata Banerjee, claiming to represent the "real" party and even passing a resolution to remove her as party president. In Telangana, after the BRS lost power, ten MLAs and six MLCs crossed over to the Congress, while the party president's daughter floated a separate political outfit. Political analysts attribute the weakening of the BRS largely to internal family conflicts.

Meanwhile, parties such as the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Jharkhand, the BRS in Telangana, and the DMK in Tamil Nadu appear to be reassessing their future political strategies. They face important questions: Should they align with the NDA, continue within the INDIA alliance, or pursue an independent political course? Looking at these developments, the 2029 electoral battle may not simply be a contest between the BJP and the Congress—it could increasingly become a contest between the BJP and the broader opposition.

Social Media is a Double-Edged Sword: Be Careful, Netizen

Prof: Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
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Social media is the order of the day. It connects and informs billions of people around the globe. Thanks to the digital revolution for transforming this world into a global village. From a just-born Alpha Generation baby to the Silent and Baby Boomers, all are enjoying the taste of social media through pictures and videos. Reconnecting with classmates, peer groups, past associates, friends, relatives, physically unknown online friends, and others is a valuable part of social media. Family members spread across the globe have made social media a meeting place for sharing their thoughts and news. From connecting friends and family across distances to transforming marketing and commerce, social media has reshaped how we interact. No longer just for sending messages and connecting people, social media is now a primary marketplace where consumers can search for their existing needs and discover new products.

World Social Media Day-2026:

World Social Media Day is observed annually on 30 June to bring awareness about the impact of social media on society in both positive and negative ways. Social media has been redefining how people interact, communicate, and share with friends, family members, and the global population. Established in 2010 by Mashable, this annual event celebrates the impact of digital platforms on global communication, community building, and cultural changes. Approximately 5.79 billion people are actively using social media platforms globally, spending an average of 2 hours and 27 minutes daily on these networks. Gen Z youth spend over 54 percent more time than the average consumer per day on social

media platforms watching user-generated content, and 26 percent less time watching TV and movies. Social media users now make up a "supermajority," with over five billion users out of the world's population of over eight billion. The 2026 World Social Media Day marks the 17th global celebration recognizing how social media has influenced society, both poor and rich.

Theme of World Social Media Day-2026:

The theme of World Social Media Day-2026 is "Uniting the Digital World," focusing on highlighting how digital platforms connect people, cultures, and communities across the globe. This day matters because it gives professionals, creators, and ordinary users a moment to celebrate what social media has made possible while encouraging better, healthier, and more honest use of platforms. Social Media Day is celebrated in many ways, such as thanking creators, reconnecting with old friends, trying a new platform, sharing your own story or positive messages, engaging in online discussions, promoting a small business or charity, taking a partial break, talking to young people, spreading awareness about the benefits and adverse effects of these platforms, educating yourself and others, and auditing your feedback.

Important Social Media Platforms:

The most important partners and brands for Social Media Day are Meta, Hootsuite, Sprout Social, TikTok, LinkedIn, X (Twitter), Mashable, etc. SixDegrees is considered the first social media site launched in 1997. Mark Zuckerberg, the co-founder of Facebook in 2004, is considered a key figure in the rise of social media. The first modern social media plat-



form was Friendster in 2002. LinkedIn was launched in 2003 and MySpace in 2004, the same year as Facebook. YouTube launched its video-sharing platform in 2005, followed by Twitter in 2006. Instagram was launched in 2010. Social media has become a huge source of news, shopping, finding influencers for businesses, and general entertainment. The 17th Social Media Day celebration comes in an era defined by AI, creators, and social commerce. Monthly Facebook users exceed 3 billion, Instagram has over 2 billion users, WhatsApp has 2 billion users, TikTok has 1.5 billion users, and WeChat has 1.3 billion users. China alone accounts for more than one billion social media users, India has 870 million users, the US has 313 million, and Europe has 731 million.

Social Media Etiquettes:

There are a few etiquettes to be followed as responsible netizens at every stage of life. Be yourself when you interact online. We must like, comment on, and share content to build connections, but not spread destructive news. Always use a

polite personal or professional tone when communicating online. Give proper credit to the source when sharing content. Use hashtags to expand your reach or that of the content source. Create valuable content to grow your audience organically. Refrain from engaging in negative online arguments or cyberbullying. To ensure social media acts as a positive tool rather than a curse, take control of your digital habits by setting time boundaries, curating your feed, checking the authenticity of information, and taking breaks through scheduled digital detoxes to reconnect with the physical world.

Social Media: Is it a Boon or Bane?

Social media is a double-edged sword. It can be a boon if used for connection, education, and business. It can be a bane when it leads to addiction, cyberbullying, viewing objectionable content, or spreading misinformation. The advantages of social media include connectivity, collaboration, branding, job opportunities, reforming education, and erasing distances. Ul-

timately, its impact depends entirely on an individual's usage, self-discipline, and digital literacy. It is a boon by empowering global connectivity, sharing knowledge and information, providing economic opportunities, and ensuring freedom of expression. It becomes a bane if used negatively. Social media addiction may lead to fear of missing out, anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Fake news spreads faster, manipulating public opinion and creating polarizing "echo chambers." The dopamine loop of "likes" and algorithmic scrolling is highly addictive, directly reducing productivity and focus. It may also lead to cyberbullying and invade privacy. The dark side of social media includes its impact on physical and mental health, privacy concerns, the spread of fake news, addiction, and lower cognitive skills. No matter what a person thinks about social media or its influence on society, it is a fact that social media has had one of the biggest influences of any technology developed over the past century.

(On the occasion of "World Social Media Day" on June 30)

When Bookstores Fade, Reading Culture Follows

K Murali Krishnamraju
Sr Journalist

The quiet decline of bookstores is more than a business story—it is a cultural warning. Once vibrant spaces filled with curious students, passionate readers, and thoughtful conversations, bookstores are now struggling to stay afloat. The pressures are mounting: rising operational costs, the complexities of GST, and relentless competition from online platforms have pushed many traditional booksellers to the brink.

At their core, bookstores are not mere retail outlets. They are intellectual hubs that nurture curiosity, support education, and sustain a community's reading culture. For generations, they have ensured that students, especially in smaller towns and rural areas, have access to textbooks, exam materials, and literature. Their decline risks creating a gap that digital convenience alone cannot fully bridge.

The challenges they face are both structural and immediate. Increasing rents, wages, and utility costs have made survival difficult. At the same time, online retailers, with deep discounts and doorstep delivery, have transformed consumer habits. While digi-

tal platforms offer convenience, they often do so at the cost of local economies and personalized service that bookstores uniquely provide.

The impact extends beyond shop owners. Thousands of families depend on this ecosystem, including publishers, distributors, and transport workers. A weakening bookstore network threatens this entire chain, potentially leading to widespread economic and cultural consequences.

What is needed now is timely and thoughtful intervention. Policy support, fair taxation, and measures to regulate predatory pricing practices can help restore balance. Encouraging institutions to source books locally and offering targeted financial relief can provide immediate respite. Ultimately, saving bookstores is about preserving access to knowledge and safeguarding a culture of reading. In an age of rapid digital consumption, the tactile experience of books and the community around them remain irreplaceable. If bookstores disappear, society risks losing not just shops, but spaces that shape minds and inspire generations.





Centre Assures Support to Assam and Arunachal Amid Flood Crisis: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday assured the governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh of all possible assistance from the Centre as both northeastern states continue to battle severe floods triggered by heavy rainfall. Shah said the Central government is closely monitoring the situation and remains committed to providing every necessary resource for relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Speaking to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu over the phone, Shah reviewed the flood situation and enquired about the ongoing rescue and relief operations. He assured both leaders that the Narendra Modi-led government stands firmly with the affected states during this difficult time.

In a post on social media platform X, the Home Minister said he had spoken to the two chief ministers and reiterated the Centre's commitment to extending all required support. He also prayed for the safety and well-being of the people affected by the floods.

Continuous heavy rainfall over the past several days has caused rivers in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to overflow, inundating vast areas and disrupting normal life. Thousands of people have been affected as floodwaters entered residential areas, damaged

roads, bridges and agricultural land, and forced many families to move to safer locations.

State disaster response teams, along with personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and other agencies, have been carrying out rescue operations in the worst-hit districts. Relief camps have been set up to provide shelter, food, drinking water and medical assistance to displaced families.

The Assam government has intensified relief measures while continuously monitoring river levels and weather forecasts. In Arunachal Pradesh, authorities are working to restore road connectivity in several areas where landslides and flash floods have disrupted transport and communication.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast continued rainfall in parts of the Northeast, prompting authorities to remain on high alert. Residents living in low-lying and flood-prone areas have been advised to follow official advisories and take necessary precautions.

The Centre has assured that all necessary assistance, including financial support and deployment of additional rescue teams if required, will be provided to help the two states manage the crisis and speed up relief and rehabilitation efforts.



Stalin Urges DMK Cadre to Stay Election-Ready

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin has asked party workers to remain fully prepared for elections, saying polls could be announced at any time. Addressing party functionaries at a district-level meeting, Stalin urged the cadre to strengthen the party at the grassroots and maintain constant contact with the public.

His remarks come amid increasing political activity in the state ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections and the emergence of actor Vijay's Tamilaaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) as a new political force. Without naming any party directly, Stalin said the DMK should not underestimate its rivals and must remain vigilant and united.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the party's focus should be on taking the government's welfare schemes and achievements to every household. He called upon workers to intensify public outreach programmes and en-

sure that people are aware of the government's development initiatives.

Stalin also reminded party members that elections can be announced unexpectedly, making organisational preparedness essential. He stressed the importance of discipline, unity and hard work to ensure the DMK remains electorally strong.

The statement is being viewed as an effort to energise the party organisation amid changing political dynamics in Tamil Nadu, where the entry of Vijay's TVK has generated significant public interest. Political observers believe the DMK leadership is keen to consolidate its support base well ahead of the Assembly elections.

With political parties gradually shifting into campaign mode, Stalin's message signals the DMK's intent to remain prepared for any electoral challenge while reinforcing its organisational strength across the state.

National Study on Low Gram Sabha Participation to Be Released Today

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will release the National Study Report on "Low Participation in Gram Sabha across States and Union Territories" on June 30, 2026, in New Delhi. The report will be unveiled by Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member, NITI Aayog, in the presence of Shri Vivek Bhadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, along with senior government officials, representatives from the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), academicians, researchers, and other stakeholders associated with Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Prepared by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the report is based on an extensive field study conducted across 26 States and Union Territories. The survey covered around 7,790 respondents from nearly 400 Gram Panchayats, including PESA (Pan-

chayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) and women-led Gram Panchayats, making it one of the most comprehensive studies on Gram Sabha participation in the country.

The study examines the key factors influencing public participation in Gram Sabha meetings. These include awareness among citizens, communication and information-sharing mechanisms, inclusiveness, institutional responsiveness, governance practices, availability of infrastructure, and people's perceptions regarding the functioning of Gram Sabhas. The objective is to identify the reasons behind low participation and suggest practical measures to encourage greater citizen involvement in local governance.

The report aims to provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers to strengthen Gram Sabhas and improve the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions. It

is expected to serve as an important reference for developing policies that promote transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making at the grassroots level.

Gram Sabha, established under Article 243A of the Constitution, is regarded as the foundation of participatory democracy in rural India. It provides a platform where all registered voters of a village can directly participate in planning, decision-making, and monitoring of local development activities.

By identifying the challenges that limit public participation and recommending actionable solutions, the National Study Report seeks to make Gram Sabhas more vibrant, inclusive, and responsive. The findings are expected to contribute significantly to strengthening grassroots democracy and empowering rural communities through more effective and participatory local self-governance.

UDF Changes Stand on Kerala Labour Cooperative After Corruption Allegations



The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala has come under political scrutiny after praising the work of the Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (ULCCS), a cooperative it had earlier accused of corruption while in the Opposition.

Speaking in the Kerala Assembly, Public Works Minister P.K. Basheer said ULCCS has consistently delivered quality work, leading to an increase in projects awarded to the cooperative. He also stated that the government had found no irregularities in contracts awarded to ULCCS or in project cost estimates over the past decade.

The remarks mark a significant departure from the UDF's earlier position. During the 2026 Assembly election campaign, senior Congress leaders, including K.C. Venugopal, had alleged that ULCCS was at the centre of corruption under the

previous CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government and had promised a detailed investigation if voted to power. Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan, while Leader of the Opposition, had also accused the LDF of favouring the cooperative.

The ruling LDF welcomed Basheer's statement, saying it vindicates ULCCS's reputation. CPI(M) leader and former Co-operation Minister V.N. Vasavan said the cooperative had

always maintained high standards despite repeated allegations from the Congress.

Established over a century ago, ULCCS is one of Kerala's largest cooperative construction agencies, executing highways, bridges and other major infrastructure projects. The UDF government's latest endorsement is expected to trigger fresh political debate over its changed stance on the cooperative.

Reliable Data Key to Achieving Viksit Bharat: Dr. P.K. Mishra

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. P.K. Mishra on Monday emphasised the importance of reliable data in driving India's development while addressing the 20th Statistics Day 2026 celebrations. He said the vision of Viksit Bharat, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, can be achieved only through data-driven governance and evidence-based policymaking.

Dr. Mishra said the government is updating the base years for key macroeconomic indicators, including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP), to better reflect the country's evolving economy. These revisions, he noted, will improve the accuracy of official statistics and strengthen policy formulation. Highlighting the role of quality data, he stressed that credible, timely and transparent



statistics are essential for effective governance, efficient public service delivery and optimal use of resources. He also recalled the government's efforts to establish robust institutional frameworks that ensure high standards of data quality, privacy, transparency and independence. Dr. Mishra described India's rapidly expanding digital administrative data as a strategic national asset, saying its effective use can significantly enhance governance, planning

and policy decisions. He also called for greater adoption of technology, innovation and advanced analytics to strengthen the country's statistical system.

Statistics Day is observed every year on June 29 to mark the birth anniversary of renowned statistician Professor P.C. Mahalanobis, recognising his contributions to India's statistical framework and promoting the role of data in national development.

Yasin Malik Named Mastermind in 1989 Murder of Kashmiri Pandit

A Jammu court has named jailed separatist leader Yasin Malik as the alleged mastermind in the 1989 murder of Sarla Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit nurse, nearly 36 years after the crime. The court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to further investigate Malik's alleged role in the case and submit a detailed report.

Sarla Bhat, a nurse at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, was abducted from her residence on April 13, 1989, by militants. She was allegedly gang-raped and later murdered, in one of the earliest targeted attacks on members of the Kashmiri Pandit community before the mass exodus from the Valley.

The court observed that material placed before it indicated Malik's alleged involvement in planning the crime



and said a deeper investigation was necessary to establish the full conspiracy. The CBI has been asked to examine all evidence, identify other accused if any, and take appropriate legal action.

Malik, chief of the banned Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), is currently serving a life sentence in Delhi's Tihar Jail after being convicted in a terror funding case by the National In-



vestigation Agency (NIA) in 2022.

The fresh development has brought renewed attention to one of the most brutal crimes committed during the early years of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. The court's direction is expected to reopen investigations into the decades-old case and could lead to further legal proceedings based on the CBI's findings.



Mallikarjun Kharge Reappointed Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was formally reappointed as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha on Monday after taking oath as a re-elected member of the Upper House. The recognition came from Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, restoring Kharge to the post with effect from June 26.

Kharge's earlier term as a Rajya Sabha member ended on June 25, following which he automatically ceased to hold the position of Leader of the Opposition. After being re-elected to the Upper House from Karnataka, he was once again recognised as the LoP under the provisions of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat issued an official bulletin confirming his reappointment.

The oath of office was administered by Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan in his chamber at Parliament House. Several senior Congress leaders, including Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were present during the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, Kharge expressed gratitude for the opportunity to contin-

ue serving in the Upper House. In a post on social media platform X, he described taking oath again as a "matter of immense pride and responsibility." He thanked the Congress leadership, especially Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, fellow party MPs, workers and supporters for their continued faith in him throughout his political career.

Kharge also acknowledged the support extended by the Rajya Sabha Chairman and Deputy Chairman Harivansh in ensuring the smooth functioning of the House. He thanked leaders of various opposition parties, particularly members of the INDIA bloc, for their cooperation and expressed confidence that they would continue working together to hold the government accountable during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

A veteran parliamentarian and senior Congress leader, Kharge has been serving as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha since 2021. His reappointment ensures continuity in the Congress party's leadership in the Upper House and is expected to strengthen coordination among opposition parties as Parliament prepares to debate several key legislative and policy issues during the forthcoming session.



Maharashtra Plans India's First Offshore Airport

Maharashtra is set to build India's first offshore airport near Kore Beach in Palghar district, marking a major step in the state's aviation and infrastructure development. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed officials to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and examine extending the Uttan-Virar Sea Link to provide direct connectivity to the proposed airport.

Unlike conventional airports built on land, an offshore airport is constructed on reclaimed land or artificial islands in the sea. Countries such as Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea have successfully adopted this model to overcome land shortages and expand aviation capacity.

The proposed airport is designed to handle around 90 million passengers annually and is expected to complement major infrastructure projects such as the Vadhaven Port, new road networks and high-speed rail connectivity. Together, these projects are ex-

pected to transform the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and create a new economic growth corridor in northern Maharashtra.

The project is also expected to boost industrial growth, logistics, tourism and real estate development in Palghar and neighbouring regions. According to experts, improved connectivity and the upcoming Vadhaven Port could generate significant employment opportunities and attract large-scale investments. The airport is expected to ease pressure on Mumbai's existing airports while supporting the region's growing air travel demand.

The state government believes the offshore airport will play a crucial role in strengthening Maharashtra's economy and enhancing its position as a global business and logistics hub. Once the DPR is completed and necessary approvals are obtained, the project is expected to become one of India's most ambitious aviation infrastructure initiatives.

Five Killed in Germany Shooting; Police Detain Suspect

At least five people were killed in a shooting in the northern German town of Stade on Monday, triggering a large-scale police operation and leaving residents in shock. Authorities confirmed that a male suspect has been taken into custody, while investigators continue to probe the motive behind the deadly attack.

The incident occurred in the town of Stade, located in Lower Saxony, where emergency services and heavily armed police rushed to the scene following reports of gunfire. Officials cordoned off the affected area and urged residents to avoid the vicinity while security personnel carried out their operation.

Police later confirmed that five people had lost their lives in the shooting. Although the suspect was apprehended without further violence, authorities have not yet disclosed the identities of the victims or clarified whether they had any connection to the accused. The



circumstances leading to the attack are still under investigation.

Law enforcement agencies stated that there is currently no indication of an ongoing threat to the public. However, investigators are examining all possible angles, including the suspect's background, personal relationships and any potential motive. Officials have appealed to witnesses and anyone with relevant information to assist the investigation.

The shooting prompted a significant emergency response,

with police, paramedics and forensic teams deployed to the scene. Roads surrounding the area were sealed off as officers gathered evidence and conducted searches. Residents were advised to stay indoors and follow official instructions until the situation was fully secured.

German authorities have not classified the incident as an act of terrorism at this stage. They stressed that it is too early to speculate about the motive and urged the public to rely on verified information rather than

rumours circulating on social media. The tragedy has once again drawn attention to incidents of gun violence in Germany, where such attacks are relatively rare due to the country's strict firearm regulations. Nevertheless, isolated shootings have periodically raised concerns over public safety and mental health issues.

Political leaders and local officials expressed condolences to the families of the victims and thanked emergency responders for their swift action. Support services have also been made available for witnesses and those affected by the incident.

As investigators continue their work, authorities are expected to release further details about the victims, the suspect and the circumstances surrounding the attack once the initial inquiry progresses. For now, the focus remains on supporting the victims' families and establishing the events that led to the fatal shooting.

Europe Heatwave Turns Deadly as France Reports 1,000 Excess Deaths



A relentless heatwave sweeping across Europe has turned increasingly deadly, with France reporting around 1,000 excess deaths in just a few days as record-breaking temperatures continue to grip the continent. Health officials warned that the death toll could rise further as more data becomes available from hospitals, care homes and private residences.

According to French public health authorities, the majority of the victims were elderly people aged 65 and above, many of whom were living alone or suffered from pre-existing health conditions. Most of the deaths occurred in homes rather than hospitals, highlighting the vulnerability of isolated and ageing populations during prolonged periods of extreme heat.

The intense heat has pushed temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius in several parts of Europe, shattering long-standing records in countries including Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Meteorologists have described the current episode as one of the most severe heatwaves ever experienced in Europe, driven in part by climate change, which has increased the frequency and intensity of such extreme weather events.

The scorching conditions

have placed enormous pressure on healthcare systems and public infrastructure. Hospitals have reported a surge in patients suffering from heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heatstroke and respiratory complications. In Paris, mortuaries have struggled to cope with the sudden rise in deaths, forcing authorities to arrange additional storage facilities for bodies.

The heatwave has also disrupted transport and energy networks across Europe. Rail services have been delayed due to buckled tracks, while low river levels have affected power generation and agriculture in several countries. Emergency services have responded to numerous incidents, including wildfires and drownings as people sought relief from the extreme temperatures.

The World Health Organization has warned that Europe is warming at roughly twice the global average, making heatwaves an increasingly serious public health emergency. Experts have urged governments to strengthen climate adaptation measures, improve early warning systems and better protect vulnerable populations from extreme weather.

Although cooler conditions have begun returning to parts of Western Europe following thunderstorms, forecasters say high temperatures are expected to persist in several central and eastern European countries. Authorities continue to advise people to remain hydrated, avoid unnecessary outdoor activities during peak afternoon hours and regularly check on elderly relatives and neighbours until the heat subsides.

Article 5 at Heart of Renewed US-Iran Tensions Over Strait of Hormuz

A key provision in the recently signed US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has emerged as the main flashpoint behind renewed tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, threatening to derail a fragile peace agreement reached after months of conflict. Article 5 of the agreement, which outlines the reopening and management of the strategic waterway, is now being interpreted differently by Washington and Tehran, leading to fresh military confrontations.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important maritime routes, carrying nearly 20 per cent of global oil shipments during normal times. Shipping through the narrow passage was severely disrupted after Iran imposed a blockade following the outbreak of the US-Iran conflict earlier this year. The June 17 MoU sought to restore commercial navigation while creating a framework for long-term management of the waterway.



Article 5 specifically calls for the immediate reopening of the Strait to commercial shipping and states that Iran will hold consultations with Oman and other Gulf nations to determine the future administration and maritime services of the waterway in accordance with international law. However, the agreement does not clearly define how ships should operate during the transition period or who should oversee navigation until a permanent arrangement is established.

These ambiguities have become the source of a major dispute. The United States argues

that commercial vessels should be allowed to resume pre-war navigation practices and transit freely through internationally recognised shipping lanes without being subject to unilateral control. Washington has also proposed routing ships closer to Oman's waters, describing it as a safer alternative while regional security remains uncertain.

Iran, on the other hand, insists that the agreement recognises its authority over operations in the Strait during the ongoing clearance process. Tehran has directed vessels to use the northern shipping cor-

ridor within Iranian territorial waters and maintains that it will oversee maritime traffic for the next 30 days while normal operations are gradually restored.

The differing interpretations have already triggered fresh hostilities. A commercial vessel was struck while transiting the Strait, prompting US military strikes on Iranian targets. Iran denied responsibility for the attack but accused Washington of violating the peace agreement. Both sides have since agreed to temporarily halt military action and resume talks in Doha, Qatar, in an effort to prevent further escalation.

Analysts warn that unless both countries reach a common understanding of Article 5, the Strait of Hormuz will remain a potential flashpoint. With global energy markets closely watching developments, the outcome of upcoming negotiations could prove crucial for regional stability and uninterrupted international trade.

Venezuela Earthquake Death Toll Climbs as Thousands Remain Missing



The death toll from the devastating earthquakes that struck Venezuela has continued to rise as rescue teams race against time to locate thousands of people still feared trapped beneath collapsed buildings. Authorities say the disaster has claimed nearly 1,500 lives, while more than 3,000 people have been injured and tens of thousands remain unaccounted for, making it one of the country's worst natural disasters in decades.

Two powerful earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude, struck Venezuela's northern coastal region within seconds of each other, causing widespread destruction in La Guaira state and parts of the capital, Caracas. Hundreds of residential buildings, schools, hospitals and commercial establishments were either destroyed or severely damaged, leaving thousands of families homeless.

Rescue operations are continuing around the clock despite difficult conditions. Emergency workers, military personnel and volunteers from several countries are searching through mountains of debris, often using heavy machinery as well as manual tools to reach survivors. More than 2,600 international rescue personnel have joined local teams

in the massive humanitarian effort.

Officials estimate that around 50,000 people remain missing, although authorities caution that some may be displaced or unable to communicate because of damaged infrastructure. Rescue teams have managed to pull several survivors from the rubble, including children, providing moments of hope amid the tragedy. However, hundreds of aftershocks have complicated search efforts and increased the risk for rescue workers. The earthquakes have also severely disrupted essential services across affected regions. Electricity, water supply and telecommunications remain partially restored, while hospitals are struggling to treat the large number of injured. Temporary shelters have been established for thousands of displaced residents, and relief agencies are distributing food, drinking wa-

ter and medical supplies.

The disaster has drawn an international response, with several countries sending search-and-rescue teams, medical personnel and humanitarian aid. Relief agencies have warned that the coming days will be critical, as the chances of finding survivors decrease with time. Meanwhile, authorities have urged residents to remain alert because aftershocks continue to shake the affected areas.

As Venezuela mourns the lives lost, investigators and emergency officials continue to assess the full extent of the destruction. The government has pledged to intensify rescue operations and provide support to affected communities, while the international community has called for sustained humanitarian assistance to help the country recover from the catastrophic disaster.

China Rejects India's Concerns Over Teesta Project

China has dismissed India's concerns over its growing co-operation with Bangladesh on the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project (TRCMRP), insisting that the initiative is purely aimed at improving livelihoods and restoring the river ecosystem. Beijing stressed that its partnership with Dhaka is not directed against any third country and should remain free from external interference.

Responding to questions about India's objections, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said China-Bangladesh cooperation is based on mutual development goals and respects Bangladesh's sovereign right to choose its development partners. "China-Bangladesh cooperation does not target any third party and should be free from third-party influence," he said during a media briefing in Beijing.

The Teesta River flows through the Indian state of Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh, making it a strategically and economically important transboundary river. The proposed restoration project includes river



dredging, embankment construction, erosion control, irrigation improvements and flood management measures aimed at improving water resources and agricultural productivity in northern Bangladesh.

India has expressed reservations because the Teesta basin is located close to its sensitive northeastern region. Officials in New Delhi are reportedly concerned that increased Chinese involvement in infrastructure projects near the border could have long-term strategic implications. The is-

sue has gained prominence following recent agreements between Bangladesh and China to deepen cooperation on water management and other infrastructure initiatives.

Defending the project, China described the Teesta restoration programme as an important livelihood initiative for Bangladesh. Guo said Beijing is prepared to provide technical and developmental support to help improve river management and strengthen cooperation in areas such as water conservancy, trade and public welfare. He added that China is

willing to align its development strategies with Bangladesh to promote mutually beneficial projects.

The remarks come days after Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman met Chinese leaders in Beijing, where both sides agreed to expand cooperation on the Teesta project and other infrastructure initiatives. The visit resulted in several agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, including discussions on river management, economic cooperation and connectivity projects.

The Teesta project has become a key issue in the evolving geopolitical dynamics of South Asia, where Bangladesh is seeking to balance its relations with both India and China. While Dhaka maintains that its partnerships are driven by development priorities, India continues to monitor Chinese involvement in strategically significant projects near its borders. Analysts believe the Teesta initiative will remain an important diplomatic issue as regional powers compete for influence while Bangladesh pursues infrastructure development and economic growth.

Biden Calls Trump 'A Loser', Accuses Him of Corruption and Incompetence



Former US President Joe Biden launched one of his sharpest attacks yet on President Donald Trump, calling him "a loser" and accusing him of corruption, incompetence and putting personal ambition above the interests of the American people. The remarks came during a keynote speech at the Maryland Democratic Party's annual gala in Hanover, where Biden urged party workers to intensify efforts ahead of the upcoming midterm elections.

During his 10-minute address, the 83-year-old former president criticised several of Trump's high-profile projects in Washington, DC. Biden mocked the demolition of the White House's East Wing to make way for a ballroom, attempts to rename the John F. Kennedy Center, plans for a triumphal arch and the costly renovation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which was later plagued by an algae bloom. Referring to these initiatives, Biden remarked, "What a loser," drawing applause from the audience.

Biden argued that these projects reflected a broader pattern of poor governance rather than isolated decisions. He accused the Trump administration of unprecedented corruption, alleging that a no-bid federal contract linked to a Trump donor

was awarded for the Reflecting Pool renovation. "It's the corruption — the brazen, blatant corruption. Corruption on a scale never seen before in American history," Biden said, claiming that public resources had been used to benefit political allies.

The former president also criticised Trump's foreign policy, saying it had weakened America's global standing and undermined the NATO alliance. He questioned Trump's approach towards Russian President Vladimir Putin and argued that US leadership on the world stage had suffered significantly under the current administration. "He's diminished our standing in the world more than any president in history," Biden told the gathering.

Biden further criticised proposals to compensate individuals convicted

over the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot, saying taxpayers' money should not be used for such purposes. He insisted that those responsible for the attack should face legal consequences rather than receive financial support.

The speech marked exactly two years since Biden's widely criticised debate performance against Trump in June 2024, which ultimately led him to withdraw from the presidential race. Trump later returned to the White House after defeating then Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 election. Despite stepping away from elected office, Biden has recently re-emerged on the campaign trail, encouraging Democratic supporters to remain politically active and work towards regaining control of Congress in the midterm elections.

Markets End Lower as Nifty Slips Below 24,000, Snapping Two-Day Winning Run

Indian equity benchmarks ended lower on Monday, bringing an end to their two-session winning streak as profit booking and weak global cues weighed on investor sentiment. The NSE Nifty 50 closed below the crucial 24,000 mark, while the BSE Sensex also finished in the red after a volatile trading session.

Selling pressure was visible across several key sectors, with the automobile index emerging as the biggest laggard, declining nearly 2 percent. PSU Banks, Media, Information Technology, and Oil & Gas stocks also witnessed losses of around 1 percent each. In contrast, the Metal, Pharma, and Healthcare sectors bucked the broader trend, posting modest gains and limiting the overall market decline.

Among the Nifty stocks, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki, Adani Enterprises, and InterGlobe Aviation featured among the top losers. On the gaining side, Max Healthcare, Coal India, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Eternal, and Trent managed to end the day with positive returns despite the weak market sentiment.

The broader market delivered a mixed performance. While several mid- and small-cap stocks continued to attract investor interest, the benchmark indices remained under pressure due to selling in heavy-weight stocks. Market participants preferred to book profits after the recent rally while closely monitoring global developments and upcoming domestic economic triggers.



Analysts believe the decline was primarily driven by caution among investors amid uncertainty in global markets. Rising geopolitical concerns and fluctuating commodity prices have prompted traders to adopt a wait-and-watch approach, resulting in increased volatility during the session. Despite Monday's decline, market experts maintain that the broader trend remains constructive. They note that the Nifty continues to hold above important medium-term support levels, suggesting that the current weakness may be a temporary correction rather than the beginning of a sustained downtrend. Investors are expected to closely watch foreign institutional investor activity, corporate earnings updates,

and macroeconomic data for further direction. Technical analysts indicate that the 24,000 level remains a key psychological barrier for the Nifty. A sustained move above this mark could revive bullish momentum, while failure to reclaim it may lead to additional short-term consolidation. Support is expected around lower technical levels, where buying interest could re-emerge.

With market volatility likely to continue in the coming sessions, investors are advised to remain selective in their stock choices and focus on fundamentally strong companies. The coming days are expected to provide greater clarity on market direction as domestic and global factors continue to influence investor sentiment.

Persistent's Mega Nagarro Acquisition Raises Investor Concerns Despite Strategic Benefits

Persistent Systems' decision to acquire German IT services company Nagarro in a 1.27 billion deal has sparked mixed reactions in the market. While analysts acknowledge the strategic value of the acquisition, investors remain cautious about the challenges associated with integrating the two companies and the potential impact on profitability.

The acquisition is one of the largest undertaken by an Indian mid-tier IT company in recent years. Once completed, the combined entity is expected to become India's seventh-largest IT services company by revenue, strengthening Persistent's position in the rapidly evolving global technology services market.

The deal significantly expands Persistent's presence in Europe while enhancing its capabilities in artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital engineering. Industry experts believe the acquisition aligns with the growing trend of consolidation in the IT sector, where companies are pursuing scale and advanced technology expertise to meet rising enterprise demand.



Despite the long-term strategic advantages, the announcement triggered a sharp decline in Persistent Systems' share price. Investors expressed concerns over the premium paid for Nagarro and the possibility of near-term pressure on earnings. Market participants are also closely watching how effectively Persistent manages the integration process, which is considered critical to the success of the transaction.

Another factor weighing on investor sentiment is the difference in operating margins between the two companies.

Nagarro's profitability is lower than Persistent's, leading analysts to expect some margin dilution in the short term. In addition, the acquisition will require significant financing, increasing the company's debt burden and reducing financial flexibility during the integration phase.

Brokerage firms have highlighted that although the valuation appears expensive, the transaction could deliver meaningful benefits if Persistent successfully leverages cross-selling opportunities, expands its client base and improves Nagarro's operational

efficiency over time. Achieving these synergies will be essential to justify the acquisition cost. The deal also reflects a broader trend within the Indian IT industry, where companies are increasingly relying on mergers and acquisitions to strengthen AI capabilities, expand geographically and compete with larger global rivals. Similar strategic acquisitions by other mid-sized IT firms indicate that consolidation is becoming a key growth strategy across the sector.

For Persistent Systems, the acquisition represents both a significant opportunity and a substantial challenge. While the expanded global footprint and enhanced technology portfolio could drive long-term growth, investors will closely monitor execution, cost management and profitability in the coming quarters.

The company's ability to integrate Nagarro smoothly, retain key talent and improve margins will ultimately determine whether this landmark acquisition becomes a transformational success or a costly gamble.

Bajaj Auto Buyback Opens July 1; Stock Falls Over 2% Despite Premium Offer

Shares of Bajaj Auto ended lower after the company announced that its 5,632.8 crore share buyback will open for eligible shareholders on July 1. The stock declined more than 2% during Monday's trading session as investors reacted to the latest development, even though the buyback price offers a significant premium over the prevailing market value.

The company has fixed the buyback price at 12,000 per share, well above the stock's recent trading levels. The tender offer will remain open from July 1 to July 7, allowing eligible shareholders to tender their shares during the five-working-day window.

Bajaj Auto plans to repurchase up to 46.94 lakh equity shares, representing around 1.68% of its total paid-up equity capital. The total value of the buyback stands at approximately 5,632.8 crore, making it the largest buyback programme in the company's history.

The record date to determine shareholder eligibility was June 24. Investors who held Bajaj Auto shares before the record date will be eligible to participate in the buyback. The company has also clarified that its promoters and promoter group entities do not intend to participate in the offer, which could improve the acceptance ratio for public shareholders.

Despite the attractive buyback premium, the stock came under selling pressure during the session. Analysts believe the decline reflects profit booking as well as broader market weakness rather than concerns over the company's fundamentals. Investors also continue to assess recent developments, including the company's disclosure of a ransomware attack that affected certain IT systems, though Bajaj Auto has stated that it acted swiftly to contain the incident.

The automaker remains fundamentally strong after delivering robust financial results in the previous quarter. Growth in domestic sales, exports and its electric vehicle



business contributed to higher revenue and profitability, reinforcing confidence in the company's long-term prospects.

Market experts note that buyback offers generally provide shareholders with an opportunity to exit at a premium. However, the final benefit depends on the acceptance ratio, which is determined by the number of shares tendered relative to the total shares the company plans to repurchase.

With the buyback window set to open on July 1, eligible investors will now evaluate whether to participate based on market prices, expected acceptance ratios and their long-term investment outlook. The programme is expected to remain a key focus for Bajaj Auto shareholders over the coming weeks.

Netweb Technologies Shares Tumble 11% Ahead of Board Meeting on Fund-Raising Proposal

Shares of Netweb Technologies witnessed heavy selling pressure on Monday, recording their steepest single-day decline since January 2025, after the company announced a board meeting to consider raising fresh capital. The stock fell as much as 11% during the session before closing significantly lower, making it one of the biggest losers in the broader market.

The company's board is scheduled to meet on July 1 to evaluate various fund-raising options. According to the company, it may consider raising capital through equity shares, preference shares, convertible or non-convertible debentures, warrants, or other equity-linked securities. The proposal could involve one or more of these instruments, depending on the board's final decision.

While companies often raise funds to support expansion plans, strategic investments or working capital requirements, the announcement appeared to trigger caution among investors. Market participants were concerned about the possibility of equity dilution if the company opts for issuing fresh shares. The uncertainty surrounding the size, pricing and structure of the proposed fund raise also contributed to the sharp decline in the stock.

Apart from the fundraising announcement, the broader weakness in technology and



artificial intelligence-related stocks added to the selling pressure. Netweb Technologies, which specializes in high-performance computing, AI infrastructure and data centre solutions, has been one of the standout performers in the AI segment over the past year. However, its premium valuation has made the stock vulnerable to profit booking whenever investor sentiment weakens.

Despite Monday's correction, analysts believe the company's long-term growth prospects remain intact. Netweb continues to benefit from in-

creasing demand for AI servers, high-performance computing systems and enterprise data centre infrastructure. The rapid adoption of artificial intelligence across industries has created significant opportunities for companies operating in this segment.

Investors will now closely monitor the outcome of the July 1 board meeting for clarity on the company's capital-raising plans. The method of fundraising, the amount proposed and the intended use of proceeds are expected to play a crucial role in determining future investor sentiment.

Market experts note that fundraising announcements often lead to short-term volatility, particularly when details remain limited. Once the company discloses the final structure of the proposed capital raise, the market is likely to reassess the stock based on its impact on earnings, shareholder value and future growth.

For now, Netweb Technologies remains in focus as investors await further announcements that could shape the company's next phase of expansion in India's rapidly growing AI and digital infrastructure ecosystem.

Jefferies Turns Bullish on Liquor Stocks, Picks Radico Khaitan and Allied Blenders as Top Bets

Global brokerage firm Jefferies has initiated coverage on India's alcoholic beverages sector with a positive outlook, recommending 'Buy' ratings for Radico Khaitan and Allied Blenders & Distillers. The brokerage believes the industry's long-term growth will be driven by premiumisation, improving consumer affordability and favourable demographic trends.

Jefferies has set a target price of 4,500 for Radico Khaitan and 780 for Allied Blenders & Distillers. It assigned a 'Hold' rating to United Spirits with a target price of 1,560. Among the three companies, Radico Khaitan has emerged as Jefferies' top pick due to its strong premium portfolio and consistent execution.

According to the brokerage, India's alcoholic beverage market remains one of the fastest-growing globally. A rising population of legal drinking-age consumers, increasing disposable incomes and a growing preference for premium spirits are expected to support sustained industry expansion over the coming years. Jefferies also noted that the India-UK Free Trade Agreement could become an additional catalyst for growth by benefiting premium liquor



manufacturers.

The brokerage highlighted the impressive performance of Radico Khaitan and Allied Blenders over the past few years. Between FY22 and FY26, both companies recorded strong growth in their Prestige and Above (P&A) product segments, significantly outperforming larger competitors in terms of premium volume growth. Their continued focus on innovation and premium brand launches is expected to strengthen their market position further.

Jefferies believes premiumisation will remain the key driver of profitability for the sector. As consumers increasingly shift toward premium spirits, companies are likely to benefit from higher margins and stronger earnings growth. The brokerage expects this trend to continue, supported by expanding product portfolios and favourable

regulatory developments in several states.

While Radico Khaitan is viewed as the sector's strongest growth story, Allied Blenders has also received positive attention for its ongoing turnaround. Jefferies believes the company has considerable upside potential if it continues to execute its premiumisation strategy successfully and improves operational performance.

Overall, the brokerage remains optimistic about the Indian spirits industry, citing strong structural growth drivers and attractive long-term opportunities. With premium products expected to account for an increasing share of sales, companies focused on brand building and innovation are likely to remain well-positioned to benefit from evolving consumer preferences and deliver sustained earnings growth.

Astrology Prediction Keeps 28-Year-Old Techie Away From the Driver’s Seat, Sparks Online Debate

A 28-year-old software engineer has become the centre of an intense social media discussion after it emerged that his family has never allowed him to drive because of an alarming prediction made in his birth chart, or kundli. The unusual story has reignited conversations about the influence of astrology on personal decisions in modern India.

The incident came to light after entrepreneur Pritesh Lakhani shared the story on social media. According to him, the IT professional, despite being married and the father of a toddler, has never learned to ride a bicycle or drive any vehicle. The reason,

he claimed, is that an astrologer had predicted in the man’s kundli that he could one day be responsible for someone’s death while driving.

As a result, the man’s family reportedly decided years ago that he should never operate a vehicle. Even today, his father drops him at work every day, a routine that has continued into adulthood. The engineer has accepted the family’s decision and has never attempted to learn driving.

Lakhani described the experience as surprising and remarked that fear created by horoscope predictions can significantly shape a person’s



life. In a light-hearted comment, he joked that he was tempted to ask the man’s father what the kundli had to say about artificial intelligence.

The post quickly gained traction online, with users expressing a wide range of opinions. Many questioned whether major life decisions should be based solely on astrological forecasts, especially when they restrict an individual’s independence. Others defended the family’s choice, saying that personal beliefs and traditions deserve respect, even if they appear unusual to outsiders.

The discussion also high-

lighted the enduring role of astrology in many Indian households. While some people view kundlis as a source of guidance rather than certainty, others believe such predictions should not determine important aspects of life without rational consideration.

The story has once again drawn attention to the delicate balance between faith, family traditions and scientific thinking. Whether one believes in astrology or not, the incident illustrates how deeply personal beliefs can influence everyday choices, shaping lives in ways that extend far beyond the stars.

Mother Leaves Daughter Behind After Passport Blunder, Internet Divided Over ‘Tough Love’



A US mother's decision to continue with an international vacation after her 21-year-old daughter forgot her passport has sparked a heated debate online, with many calling it an example of "tough love" while others questioned whether the choice was too harsh.

The incident was shared by Cheryl Maguire, who had planned a nostalgic trip to the Turks and Caicos Islands with her daughter. The pair intended to revisit a favourite holiday destination and recreate cherished family photographs during a special resort reopening event. However, their plans took an unexpected turn when the daughter realised she had left her passport behind at her

apartment in New York City.

The two were scheduled to depart from Boston, and despite trying to find a way to retrieve the passport before the flight, time ran out. Since the vacation coincided with a once-in-a-lifetime event that could not be rescheduled, Maguire made the difficult decision to travel alone while her daughter stayed behind.

Although she admitted feeling guilty, the mother explained that her daughter had a long history of forgetting important items. Over the years, she had often stepped in to rescue her daughter by bringing forgotten belongings such as school supplies and sports equipment. This time, however, she believed allowing her daughter

to face the consequences would be an important life lesson. During the trip, Maguire initially struggled with disappointment but gradually embraced the experience. She met fellow travellers, enjoyed activities that were not originally part of their shared plans, and discovered that many people had similar stories of forgotten or expired passports disrupting vacations. By the end of the trip, she felt the experience had reinforced the importance of personal responsibility.

After returning home, the mother helped her daughter develop strategies to avoid similar mistakes in the future. She advised keeping passports in a fixed location,

checking expiry dates regularly and setting reminders well before travelling. The daughter, though upset by the incident, reportedly accepted the lesson and is already looking forward to planning another trip—this time with her passport safely packed.

The story quickly went viral, drawing mixed reactions on social media. While many users applauded the mother’s decision as a valuable lesson in accountability, others argued that family vacations are about spending time together and should have been postponed. The incident has since become a talking point on parenting styles, responsibility and the fine balance between compassion and discipline.

‘₹2 Crore for a 2BHK’: Delhi Couple’s Viral Post Highlights Housing Affordability Crisis

A Delhi couple earning a combined monthly salary of around 2 lakh has sparked a widespread online discussion after revealing that buying a modest two-bedroom apartment in the national capital still feels financially impossible. Their post has resonated with thousands of working professionals who say soaring property prices are pushing homeownership beyond the reach of the middle class.

The couple shared their concerns on Reddit, explaining that they had been searching for a 2BHK apartment in neighbourhoods that are safe, well-connected and close to parks. However, they found that flats in areas such as Dwarka and Pitampura were priced between 2 crore and 2.5 crore—well beyond the amount they could comfortably finance through a home loan. Without financial support from parents or inherited wealth, they admitted that owning a home in Delhi now seems like an unattainable dream.

Their post quickly went viral, prompting a flood of responses from people facing similar challenges. Many users argued that even households with above-average salaries are struggling to purchase homes in major metropolitan cities due to the rapid rise in real estate prices.



Several commenters blamed developers for aggressively marketing projects as “luxury” residences, while others pointed to speculative investments and stagnant salary growth as key reasons behind the widening affordability gap.

Some social media users suggested that renting may currently be a more practical financial choice than purchasing a property. They noted that the monthly EMI on a 2 crore home loan could consume a significant portion of household income, leaving little room for

savings or other expenses. Others recommended looking at emerging suburbs or Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, where property prices remain comparatively affordable and offer better value for money.

One commenter, who had recently purchased a home worth nearly 3 crore after including registration and renovation costs, said that despite earning 4.5 lakh per month, loan repayments still account for more than a third of the family’s income. The user advised prospective buyers to rent for as long as

possible unless they are financially prepared for the long-term commitment of homeownership.

The viral discussion has once again highlighted the growing disconnect between rising property prices and salaried incomes in India’s biggest cities. For many aspiring homeowners, the dream of owning a home is increasingly being replaced by difficult financial calculations, raising important questions about housing affordability and the future of urban living.

Fitness Coach Reveals 3 Simple Habits That Helped Him Shed 25 Kg Without Crash Diets

A fitness coach has inspired thousands online after revealing how he transformed his health by losing an impressive 25 kilograms in just 24 weeks. Instead of relying on fad diets, extreme workouts or weight-loss supplements, he credits his success to three simple lifestyle habits that anyone can follow consistently.

The coach, who reduced his weight from 101 kg to 76 kg, shared his journey on Instagram, explaining that sustainable changes—not shortcuts—made all the difference. His transformation has resonated with fitness enthusiasts looking for realistic and long-term weight-loss strategies.

The first habit he prioritised was getting enough sleep and staying well-hydrated. According to him, quality sleep plays a vital role in recovery, hormone balance and controlling food cravings, while proper hydration supports metabolism and overall health. He stressed that many people underestimate the importance of these two basic habits when trying to lose weight.

The second rule was sticking to a consistent daily routine. Rather than making drastic changes every few weeks, he maintained regular meal timings, workout schedules and



sleeping hours. This consistency helped him develop healthy habits that became part of his lifestyle instead of feeling like temporary sacrifices. He believes discipline and routine are more effective than chasing quick results through restrictive diets.

The third and perhaps most important habit was ensuring adequate protein intake. Protein helped him stay full for longer, reduced unnecessary snacking and preserved muscle mass while losing fat. By including sufficient protein in every meal, he found it easier to maintain his calorie deficit without constantly feeling hungry.

The coach emphasised that his transformation was not achieved through starvation, detox plans or expensive supplements. Instead, it was the

result of making practical, repeatable choices every day. He encouraged people to focus on building sustainable habits rather than seeking overnight success.

His story has struck a chord on social media, where many users praised his realistic approach to fitness. Several people commented that the advice was refreshing because it focused on long-term health instead of unrealistic promises.

Health experts also agree that lasting weight loss is best achieved through balanced nutrition, regular physical activity, adequate sleep and consistency. While every individual’s fitness journey is different, the coach’s experience serves as a reminder that simple habits, followed consistently, can lead to remarkable and lasting results.

From Salon Employee to Successful Entrepreneur: Dubai Nail Artist Now Earns ₹10 Lakh a Month

A 32-year-old Vietnamese entrepreneur has become an inspiration for aspiring professionals after transforming her passion for nail art into a thriving business in Dubai. Nguyen Phuong Anh, popularly known as “Fullah”, now earns up to 10 lakh a month and owns her own beauty salon, proving that skill, determination and consistent hard work can pave the way to financial success.

Fullah moved to Dubai six years ago in search of better career opportunities. She began her journey as a salaried nail technician at a small salon, earning around Dh3,500 (approximately 80,000) per month. While the salary provided stability, she believed she could achieve more by building her own clientele and establishing a personal brand.

After gaining experience and confidence, she switched to freelancing—a move that significantly changed her career. Through long working

hours, social media promotion and exceptional customer service, she steadily built a loyal customer base. At the peak of her freelance career, she was earning between Dh30,000 and Dh40,000 (around 7 lakh to 10 lakh) every month, making her one of the successful independent professionals in Dubai’s beauty industry.

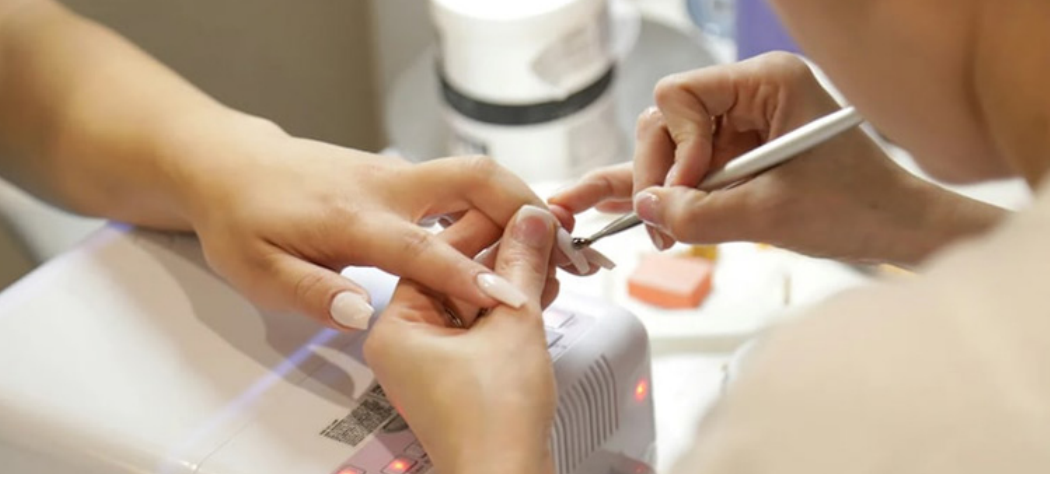
Encouraged by her success, Fullah recently fulfilled another dream by launching her own salon, Beauty by Fullah, in Dubai’s Jumeirah Village Circle. Although she currently draws no personal salary, she is reinvesting her earnings into expanding the business, improving services and creating a premium experience for her clients. She believes this strategy will help build a stronger and more sustainable brand in the long run.

Despite her impressive income, Fullah remains focused on careful financial planning. She revealed that her ultimate

ambition is not simply to earn more money but to achieve financial independence. Her long-term goal is to retire within the next 20 years and spend her later years living peacefully on a farm surrounded by animals and homegrown vegetables.

Her inspiring journey has attracted widespread attention on social media, with many praising her perseverance and entrepreneurial mindset. Users admired how she turned a specialised skill into a profitable business while remaining grounded and focused on the future.

Fullah’s story highlights the growing opportunities within the beauty industry, where talent, dedication and smart business decisions can create remarkable success. Her journey serves as a reminder that with persistence and a clear vision, even a modest beginning can lead to extraordinary achievements.



Gambhir Faces Fresh Criticism After India's Shock Defeat to Ireland

India's unexpected defeat to Ireland has triggered sharp criticism of head coach Gautam Gambhir, with former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar questioning the team's recent performances and decision-making. The loss has intensified scrutiny over India's approach, particularly after a series of inconsistent displays that have raised concerns among fans and experts alike.

Ireland produced a disciplined performance, making the most of crucial moments to outplay the visitors. Their bowlers kept India's batting



lineup under constant pressure, while the batters showed composure during the chase, capitalizing on scoring opportunities to complete a memorable victory.

Following the defeat, Manjrekar expressed disappointment over India's inability to respond under pressure. He pointed out that a team with India's depth and experience should not be losing matches against lower-ranked opponents, regardless of the conditions. According to him, the result reflected broader issues that need immediate attention

rather than being dismissed as an isolated setback.

The former cricketer also stressed that the coaching staff and team management must take responsibility for the repeated shortcomings. He suggested that tactical decisions, player selections, and execution on the field should all come under review as India prepares for future assignments.

Gautam Gambhir, who has been leading the team's transition after taking over as head coach, has faced increasing scrutiny in recent months. While he has backed young

players and emphasized building a balanced squad, critics believe the team has struggled to maintain consistency against both strong and emerging opponents.

Ireland, meanwhile, received widespread praise for their spirited display. Their bowlers executed their plans effectively, while the batters remained calm in a pressure situation, underlining the steady progress the team has made in international cricket. The victory was seen as another significant milestone for Irish cricket and highlighted their growing abil-

ity to compete with established nations.

The defeat serves as a timely warning for India, with expectations remaining high ahead of upcoming international commitments. The team management is likely to reassess its strategies and combinations to address weaknesses exposed during the match. While one loss does not define a team's future, the result has reignited debate over India's direction under Gambhir and the improvements required to regain consistency on the international stage.

India's Ireland Defeat Sparks Debate Over Selection Strategy and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Absence

India's disappointing T20I series defeat to Ireland has reignited the debate over team selection, with many questioning whether the decision to delay teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's international debut exposed deeper issues within the squad.

The Indian team management opted to retain its experienced top-order batters despite growing calls to hand the 15-year-old prodigy an opportunity. The move was intended to avoid placing excessive pressure on a young player, but the batting unit failed to justify the

faith shown in them. India's top order struggled to adapt to the challenging Irish conditions, where seam movement and swing troubled the batters throughout the series.

The experienced trio found it difficult to replicate the aggressive approach that had brought success on flatter subcontinent pitches. Instead of adjusting their game to suit overseas conditions, the batters continued with an attacking mindset, resulting in frequent dismissals and an inability to build meaningful partnerships. The defeats highlighted the impor-

tance of technique and adaptability in unfamiliar conditions.

The absence of Sooryavanshi became one of the biggest talking points after the series. Although several former cricketers and fans believed the youngster deserved a chance, the coaching staff maintained that introducing him immediately would have been unfair to players who had already earned their places in the side. The management reiterated that his development would be handled carefully rather than being accelerated because of



public demand.

However, the disappointing performances of the established batters have intensified scrutiny of India's selection policy. Critics argue that if senior players fail to deliver consistently, the team must be willing to introduce fresh talent capable of changing the game's momentum. Others believe protecting a promising youngster from early pressure remains the wiser long-term strategy.

Ireland, meanwhile, deserved full credit for their disciplined performances. Their

bowlers exploited local conditions effectively, while their batters displayed composure during crucial phases to secure a memorable series victory.

For India, the series serves as an important lesson ahead of tougher assignments. Beyond the debate surrounding Sooryavanshi's debut, the defeats exposed concerns over adaptability, team balance and tactical planning. Addressing those shortcomings will be essential if India hopes to bounce back quickly and maintain its status as one of the world's leading T20 sides.

Ashwin's '24-Carat Pitch' Remark Highlights India's Batting Woes After Ireland Whitewash

India's shocking 2-0 T20I series defeat to Ireland has sparked intense debate over the team's batting approach, with veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin offering a blunt assessment of the reasons behind the collapse. The former India all-rounder suggested that many Indian batters have become too accustomed to the batting-friendly surfaces of the Indian Premier League (IPL), making it difficult for them to adjust to more demanding overseas conditions.

India endured one of its most disappointing T20I series

in recent years, losing the opening match by 34 runs before suffering a heartbreaking one-run defeat in the second game. Despite chasing manageable totals in both matches, the visitors failed to build substantial partnerships and repeatedly lost wickets at crucial stages.

Reacting to the series, Ashwin remarked that the "24-carat batting pitches" commonly seen in the IPL were absent in Ireland. He explained that while the IPL has helped improve India's aggressive batting style, international cricket often presents different

challenges, especially on pitches offering seam movement and assistance to bowlers. According to Ashwin, players must prove themselves on such surfaces to establish their true value at the highest level.

Several of India's attacking batters, including Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan, found it difficult to cope with the conditions. Although Abhishek played an explosive knock in the opening match, he failed to make an impact in the second game, reflecting the inconsistency that plagued India's batting throughout the series.

Captain Shreyas Iyer also admitted that Ireland deserved full credit for the victory. He praised the hosts for understanding the conditions better and executing their plans with discipline. Iyer acknowledged that India's bowlers performed well enough to keep the team in the contest, but the batting unit failed to assess the nature of the pitch and missed opportunities by not rotating the strike effectively.

For Ireland, the historic series triumph marked another significant milestone in their rise as a competitive international side. Their disciplined

bowling, sharp fielding and composed batting under pressure exposed weaknesses in India's approach and underlined the importance of adapting quickly to unfamiliar conditions.

As India prepares for its upcoming T20I assignments, the series has served as a timely reminder that success in franchise cricket does not automatically translate to international dominance. Ashwin's comments have reinforced the need for greater adaptability if India hopes to regain consistency on challenging overseas pitches.



Michael Vaughan Questions Ben Stokes' Retirement Timing After Shock England Announcement

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has questioned the timing of Ben Stokes' surprise decision to retire from international cricket, saying the announcement has overshadowed England's ongoing Test against New Zealand and left the cricketing world searching for answers.

Stokes, one of England's most influential all-rounders and Test captains, revealed that he would bring the curtain down on his international career immediately after the conclusion of the third Test at Trent Bridge. The unexpected announcement came while the

match was still in progress, catching teammates, fans and former players by surprise.

Reacting to the development, Vaughan acknowledged Stokes' immense contribution to English cricket but admitted he was puzzled by the timing of the announcement. He wondered why the decision had been made public during an active Test match instead of waiting until the series had concluded. According to Vaughan, the focus should have remained on the contest against New Zealand rather than shifting to retirement discussions.

Despite raising questions about the timing, Vaughan praised Stokes for transforming England's fortunes since taking over as captain. Under his leadership, England adopted an aggressive and fearless brand of Test cricket, popularly known as "Bazball", alongside head coach Brendon McCullum. The approach revived the team's performances and made England one of the most entertaining sides in world cricket.

Stokes leaves behind a remarkable international career spanning 15 years. He played pivotal roles in England's tri-



umphs at the 2019 ODI World Cup and the 2022 T20 World Cup, while his unforgettable innings at Headingley during the 2019 Ashes remains one of the greatest knocks in Test history. His ability to deliver in high-pressure situations earned him a reputation as one of England's finest all-rounders. Explaining his decision, Stokes admitted that the physical and emotional demands of international cricket had taken a significant toll. He said he no longer had the energy required to continue competing at the highest level and believed stepping away was the

right choice for both himself and the team. Stokes added that he intends to continue playing domestic cricket for Durham while focusing on his well-being.

Although Vaughan's comments have sparked debate, there is little disagreement over Stokes' legacy. His leadership, match-winning performances and fearless attitude have left a lasting impact on English cricket, ensuring he will be remembered as one of the country's modern-day greats, regardless of the circumstances surrounding his retirement announcement.

Ambati Rayudu Backs India's Decision to Delay Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's T20I Debut

Former India batter Ambati Rayudu has defended the Indian team management's decision to not hand teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi his T20I debut during the recently concluded series against Ireland, insisting that patience will benefit the youngster in the long run despite India's disappointing 0-2 defeat.

The decision to keep the 15-year-old on the bench sparked widespread debate after India suffered a historic series loss to Ireland. Several fans and former cricketers questioned why one of the country's brightest young talents was not given an opportunity, especially as the batting unit struggled for consistency



across both matches.

Rayudu, however, believes the team management made

the correct call. Speaking during a virtual media interaction, the former middle-order

batter said that simply being part of the Indian dressing room is a valuable learning

experience for a young cricketer. He argued that observing senior players, understanding the team's culture and preparing mentally for international cricket would help Sooryavanshi become better equipped when his opportunity eventually arrives.

According to Rayudu, the current players deserved the management's backing because many of them played key roles in India's recent T20 World Cup success. He stressed that established performers should be given enough opportunities before changes are made, while talented youngsters like Sooryavanshi can continue developing without the burden of immediate expecta-

tions. India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate had earlier echoed a similar view, stating that although Sooryavanshi possesses the ability to compete at the highest level, the team follows a structured process before introducing new players into international cricket. The management believes gradual exposure will aid the teenager's long-term growth rather than rushing him into the spotlight. Rayudu also addressed criticism surrounding head coach Gautam Gambhir's preference for selecting multiple all-rounders and part-time bowling options. He explained that bilateral series often serve as opportunities to assess different combinations ahead of major

ICC tournaments. Rather than treating such selections as experiments, Rayudu described them as part of a broader strategy to identify the most balanced squad for future global events.

While India's defeat to Ireland has intensified calls for fresh faces in the playing XI, Rayudu believes the bigger picture should remain the priority. In his view, Sooryavanshi's time will come soon, and the experience gained from training alongside established internationals could prove invaluable when he finally earns his India cap. For now, he feels patience—not haste—is the best path for one of Indian cricket's most exciting young prospects.

Chiranjeevi, Balakrishna Set for Another High-Profile Sankranti Box Office Battle

Tollywood could be gearing up for yet another blockbuster Sankranti showdown, with Megastar Chiranjeevi and Nandamuri Balakrishna reportedly targeting the festive season for the release of their upcoming films. If the current plans materialise, fans can expect another exciting box-office clash between two of Telugu cinema's biggest icons.

According to industry buzz, Chiranjeevi's much-awaited fantasy entertainer Vishwambhara is being lined up for a Sankranti 2027 release. The film has generated significant anticipation ever since its announcement, with fans eager to see the Megastar return in a visually rich fantasy adventure. Although the makers are yet to officially confirm the release date, the festive window is reportedly being considered as the ideal launch pad.

On the other hand, Nandamuri Balakrishna's upcoming collaboration with director

Gopichand Malineni is also expected to arrive during the same festival season. The project marks the actor's reunion with the director after the commercial success of Veera Simha Reddy, raising expectations among Balakrishna's fans. Trade circles believe the makers are keen to capitalize on the lucrative Sankranti holiday period.

A clash between Chiranjeevi and Balakrishna is nothing new for Telugu cinema. Over the decades, the two superstars have faced each other at the box office on several occasions, especially during the Sankranti festival, creating memorable battles that have thrilled audiences and generated huge revenues for the industry. Their previous festive releases have often turned into major talking points among moviegoers and trade analysts alike.

Interestingly, Sankranti 2027 could become even more competitive. Earlier reports sug-



gested that films featuring Nagarjuna, Venkatesh and a few other leading stars are also eyeing the same festive window, setting the stage for one of the biggest holiday release line-ups in recent years. However, official release dates for

several of these projects are still awaited. While fans are already excited about the possibility of another Chiranjeevi-Balakrishna face-off, the final release schedules will depend on the progress of production and post-production work. For

now, the prospect of two veteran superstars competing during Tollywood's biggest festival season has added to the buzz surrounding Sankranti 2027, promising an entertaining battle both on the big screen and at the box office.



Ravi Teja's 'Irumudi Kattu' Song Strikes a Chord with Devotional Appeal

The makers of Ravi Teja's upcoming emotional drama Irumudi have unveiled the film's first single, "Irumudi Kattu," and the devotional track has received an enthusiastic response from music lovers. Dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, the song offers a spiritual start to the film's soundtrack while showcasing a different side of the Mass Maharaja ahead of the movie's theatrical release on August 21, 2026.

Composed by G.V. Prakash Kumar, the song blends traditional devotional elements with an emotionally rich musical arrangement. The composer had earlier revealed that the film would feature two songs dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, and "Irumudi Kattu" serves as the first offering from the album. Its soothing melody and spiritual essence have resonated well with listeners, creating positive buzz around the film.

Ravi Teja appears in the song as a devoted Ayyappa follower, stepping away from his trademark mass-action image. His restrained yet impactful screen presence has been appreciated by fans, with many praising the actor for embracing a role rooted in faith and emotion. The visuals capture the spirit of the Ayyappa pilgrimage, adding authenticity to the devotional number.

Singer Ananthu lends his voice to the track, delivering a

soulful rendition that complements the devotional mood. The lyrics, penned by director Shiva Nirvana along with Kalyan Chakravarthy, beautifully reflect the emotions and devotion associated with Lord Ayyappa, making the song both meaningful and memorable.

Directed by Shiva Nirvana, Irumudi marks a departure from Ravi Teja's recent commercial entertainers, presenting him in an emotional family drama with a spiritual backdrop. Actress Priya Bhavani Shankar plays the female lead, while Baby Nakshatra essays the role of Ravi Teja's daughter. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film has generated considerable curiosity ever since its first glimpse was released.

The positive reception to "Irumudi Kattu" has further strengthened expectations for the film's music album and overall theatrical release. With its devotional theme, heartfelt lyrics and melodious composition, the first single has successfully connected with audiences and set the tone for what promises to be an emotionally engaging cinematic experience. As the promotional campaign gathers momentum in the coming weeks, fans will be eagerly waiting to see what the makers unveil next from one of Ravi Teja's most distinctive projects in recent years.

'My Dream of Becoming a Director Has Come True': Vishal at 'Nachchaake Vachera' Song Launch

Actor Vishal turned emotional at the launch of "Nachchaake Vachera," the second single from his upcoming film Makutam, saying that directing a film had been his lifelong dream. Produced by the late RB Choudary under the prestigious Super Good Films banner as its 99th production, the film features Anjali and Dushara Vijayan in lead roles alongside Vishal.

Addressing the media, Vishal said he was thrilled to present Makutam to Telugu audiences, not only as an actor but also as a director. He revealed that the dream of directing a film began after watching Shiva and expressed happiness that it had finally become a reality.

The actor paid tribute to late producer RB Choudary, saying he deeply missed him on the occasion. Vishal shared that Choudary had entrusted him with the responsibility of directing the banner's 99th production. He added that unforeseen circumstances led him to take charge of the project as director and hoped he had justified the confidence placed in him. Speaking about the making of the film, Vishal revealed that he dedicated an entire year solely to Makutam, setting aside his personal life. He also thanked actress Sai Dhanshika for standing by him throughout the journey. Recalling the success of the first single, The Rise of Linga, he jokingly credited music director GV Prakash Kumar for taking a "risk" by making him sing the track. He was equally confident that the newly released Nachchaake Vachera, sung by Prabha, would also become a major hit.

Vishal said every filmmaker



he had worked with over the past two decades had influenced his approach to direction. Rather than speaking about the film himself, he said he wanted audiences to judge his work after watching Makutam in theatres. He also thanked his father, GK Reddy, for encouraging the Telugu release of Pandem Kodi, a decision that strengthened his bond with Telugu audiences.

Actress Anjali praised Vishal's dedication, saying he had worked tirelessly to bring the project to life. She expressed confidence that Makutam would bring him success both as an actor and as a first-time director, while also appreciating the music composed by GV Prakash Kumar.

Jithan Ramesh described Vishal as family and expressed confidence that Makutam would become another memorable success for Super Good Films. Actor Ajay praised Vishal's clarity as a director, while actress Jhansi said her role in the film was unlike anything she had done before. Singer Prabha expressed gratitude for receiving her first feature-film singing opportunity through Makutam. With positive buzz surrounding its teaser and songs, Makutam is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases from Super Good Films, carrying high expectations as Vishal embarks on a new journey as a filmmaker.

Ram Pothineni Begins Shooting for RAP023, Takes Charge as Director

Actor Ram Pothineni has officially commenced work on his ambitious new project, tentatively titled RAP023, marking a significant milestone in his career. Apart from playing the lead role, Ram is making his directorial debut with the film and has also penned the original story, showcasing his creative abilities beyond acting.

The project is being described as a psychological action thriller set against a neo-noir backdrop. With its dark theme and intense narrative, the film promises to present Ram in a completely different avatar from his previous commercial entertainers. The actor's decision to direct the film himself has generated considerable excitement among fans and industry circles alike.

The regular shoot began with

a formal launch ceremony, where the cast and crew came together to kick-start production. The makers shared pictures from the event on social media, offering fans a glimpse of the team's enthusiasm as filming got underway.

RAP023 is being produced under the newly established Rapo Cinematics banner by Krishna Pothineni. The film is expected to be mounted on a grand scale, with reports suggesting that it will be one of the most expensive ventures in Ram's career. The makers are aiming to deliver a visually striking action thriller that blends style with emotional depth.

Earlier this year, Ram surprised fans by announcing his directorial debut on his birthday. The announcement was ac-



companied by a striking pre-look poster introducing his character, Veera, described as "The Story of a Lone Wolf." The first look hinted at a gritty, intense narrative, sparking curiosity about the film's storyline and Ram's transformation for the

role.

Ram has been steadily expanding his creative horizons in recent years. After making his debut as a lyricist and singer, he has now taken on the responsibilities of writer and director. His latest venture reflects his de-

sire to explore different aspects of filmmaking while continuing to entertain audiences as a leading actor.

While the makers have kept details about the supporting cast and technical crew under wraps, more announcements are expected in the coming weeks as production progresses. The film is expected to feature high production values, stylish action sequences and a gripping screenplay.

With shooting now underway, expectations surrounding RAP023 continue to rise. Fans are eager to see how Ram Pothineni fares in his first outing as a director, while also delivering a powerful performance in what is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious projects of his career.

Major Update on Jr NTR's 'God of War' to Be Unveiled Soon

The long wait for an official update on God of War, starring Jr NTR and directed by Trivikram Srinivas, is finally coming to an end. After months of speculation and anticipation, the makers have confirmed that a major announcement related to the highly awaited project will be unveiled soon, sending fans into a frenzy.

Producer Naga Vamsi built excitement by teasing the update on social media, revealing that Jr NTR himself will make the big announcement. The move has sparked widespread curiosity, with fans eagerly counting down to what is expected to be the film's first major reveal since its announcement.

The project has remained one of the most talked-about films in Telugu cinema despite the absence of regular updates. Earlier, many expected the makers to unveil the title or first look on Jr NTR's birthday. However, no an-

nouncement was made, leaving fans disappointed and giving rise to numerous rumors regarding the film's progress.

The latest confirmation has now put those speculations to rest. While the makers have not disclosed the exact nature of the announcement, industry insiders believe it could involve the official title, a first-look poster, or a glimpse introducing Jr NTR's character. Any of these reveals would significantly boost excitement surrounding the project.

Directed by Trivikram Srinivas, God of War is expected to be a grand-scale action drama with mythological elements. The film is reportedly being mounted with a massive budget and is designed to showcase Jr NTR in a powerful, never-before-seen avatar. The collaboration marks the actor's reunion with Trivikram after years, making it one of the most anticipated combinations in Tollywood.

The project is being pro-

duced by Haarika & Hassine Creations in association with Sithara Entertainments. The makers have remained tight-lipped about the storyline and supporting cast, choosing to reveal details gradually as production moves forward.

Fans have been eagerly waiting for concrete information ever since the film was officially announced. The prolonged silence only increased expectations, making every teaser from the production team a trending topic across social media platforms.

With Jr NTR now set to personally unveil the next big update, anticipation has reached a new high. Whether it is the official title, a first-look poster or another major reveal, the announcement is expected to dominate conversations among movie lovers and further elevate the buzz surrounding one of Telugu cinema's biggest upcoming projects.



'ENE Repeat' Locks Release Date, Vishwak Sen and Tharun Bhascker Reunite for Cult Sequel

Fans of the cult Telugu film Ee Nagarani Emaindi have a reason to celebrate as the makers of its much-awaited sequel, ENE Repeat, have officially announced the film's theatrical release date. The highly anticipated buddy comedy is set to hit cinemas on November 19, 2026, marking the return of the beloved gang that won audiences over with their friendship and quirky adventures.

The release date was unveiled on the eighth anniversary of the original film, making the announcement even more special for fans. Along with the date reveal, the makers released a new promotional glimpse that has further heightened excitement surrounding the sequel. The teaser retains the signature humor and carefree vibe that made the first film a cult favorite among Telugu movie lovers.

Directed by Tharun Bhascker, ENE Repeat brings back Vishwak Sen, Abhinav Gomatam, Venkatesh Kakumanu and Srinath Maganti, who reprise the core group of friends. Their chemistry was one of the biggest strengths of the original film, and fans are eager to see the gang reunite for another entertaining journey filled with laughter, emotions and unexpected twists.

The sequel also features actresses Anisha Ambrose and Shivathmika Rajashekar in key roles. Music composer Vivek Sa-

gar returns to score the soundtrack, raising expectations for another memorable album after the success of the original film's music. Reports also suggest that director Anudeep KV will make a special cameo appearance, adding another exciting element to the project.

Released in 2018, Ee Nagarani Emaindi gradually earned cult status despite a modest start at the box office. The coming-of-age comedy resonated strongly with young audiences through its relatable portrayal of friendship, aspirations and life's unexpected turns. Over the years, the film has built a loyal fan base, making the announcement of a sequel one of the most awaited developments in Telugu cinema. The makers are aiming to preserve the essence of the original while introducing a fresh storyline that reflects the characters' lives after several years. While plot details remain under wraps, the promotional material hints at another fun-filled adventure packed with humor, nostalgia and heartfelt moments.

With the release date now confirmed, anticipation for ENE Repeat is expected to grow steadily in the coming months. The reunion of Tharun Bhascker and Vishwak Sen, coupled with the return of the original cast and crew, has already created significant buzz, setting the stage for one of the most eagerly awaited Telugu releases of the year.