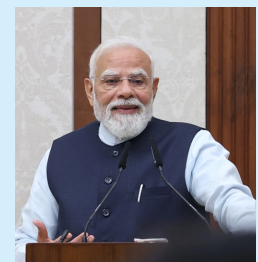




BUZZ POINTS



PM Modi Highlights Self-Reliance, Culture and Innovation in 135th Mann Ki Baat

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Shubhanshu Shukla Shares Journey in New Book

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Major Maoist Arms Dump Unearthed in Malkangiri

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Sabareesan Sends Defamation Notices to TVK Ministers

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Indian Agriculture Needs Support, Sustainable Income, Not Sympathy

BVS Kumar, Social Activist

With the onset of Yeruvaka Pournami, the traditional and auspicious festival that marks the beginning of the agricultural season, farming operations for the Kharif season commence today. India is widely recognized as an agricultural nation. Since the Green Revolution, the country has transformed itself from a food-deficient nation into one of the world's largest producers and exporters of food grains. This remarkable achievement is a tribute to the resilience of Indian farmers, the vision of policymakers, and the contributions of agricultural scientists. Yet, despite these accomplishments, the Indian farmer continues to live in uncertainty and financial stress.

Unlike professionals in most other sectors, a farmer begins every cropping season without any assurance of success. His livelihood depends almost entirely on factors beyond his control. A year's hard work by the farmer and his family can be wiped out overnight by an unexpected cyclone, hailstorm, drought, flood, pest attack, or unseasonal rainfall. Climate change has further intensified these uncertainties, making



agriculture an increasingly risky occupation.

The cost of cultivation has also risen sharply over the years. Prices of quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery, diesel, electricity, and irrigation have increased significantly. Labour costs have escalated due to shortages during peak agricultural seasons. Many farmers attribute this shortage to rural migration and the growing dependence on welfare schemes, forcing them to hire workers from distant states at much higher wages. Consequently, the cost of producing every quintal of crop continues to increase while farm incomes remain stagnant.

One of the greatest paradoxes in agriculture is pricing. In almost every industry, manufacturers determine the selling price of their products after considering production costs, transportation, marketing, and a reasonable profit margin. A car manufacturer, textile company, or pharmaceutical firm fixes the price of its products. However, in agriculture, the producer has almost no say in determining the price of what he grows. Instead, prices are often dictated by traders, market arrivals, demand-supply fluctuations, imports, exports, and global commodity markets.

This imbalance places farmers at a severe disadvantage.

After investing money, labour, and months of effort, they are often compelled to sell their produce immediately after harvest due to financial obligations and the absence of adequate storage facilities. The lack of scientific warehouses, cold chains, food processing units, and organized marketing infrastructure results in enormous post-harvest losses, particularly for fruits and vegetables. Every year, thousands of tonnes of valuable produce are wasted because farmers cannot store or market them at the right time.

Although the government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for several crops, many farmers feel that these prices do not adequately reflect the actual cost of cultivation. In several cases, procurement mechanisms are either limited or inaccessible, leaving farmers to sell in the open market at prices below the announced support price. The gap between production costs and market realization continues to widen.

Recognizing these challenges, the Government of India constituted the National Commission on Farmers under the chairmanship of the eminent agricultural



CM Naidu Advocates Joint Family System

Amaravati, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu emphasised the need to revive the traditional Indian joint family system and promote shared parenting responsibilities while participating in the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme at his camp office on Thursday.

After administering polio drops to children, the Chief Minister later interacted with parents and enquired about their children's health, vaccination status, and upbringing. He urged families

to maintain the joint family system, which is the backbone of Indian society. He stressed the importance of shared parenting and the role of grandparents in child-rearing. The Chief Minister also emphasized the need for parents to ensure their children receive proper nutrition and education. He concluded the session by wishing all children good health and a bright future. **P3**

Modi Conferred Seychelles' Top Environmental Honour

New Delhi, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon', the highest distinction of Seychelles for leadership in environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The award recognises Prime Minister Narendra Modi's consistent push for sustainable growth and his long-standing green vision at both national and global levels. It highlights



India's increasing role in climate action and **P3**

Venkaiah Naidu Calls for Political Decorum, Value-Based Leadership

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Former Vice President of India Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu said the time has come for political parties to introspect and review the conduct of their leaders, stressing the need to restore dignity and values in public life.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the launch of the book Venkaiah Nayakudu, authored by senior journalist Machavar- am Sarma known as Maa Sar- ma, at Sujana The Venue Con- vention Center in Vijayawada on Sunday. The book chroni- cles five decades of his politi- cal journey and public life.



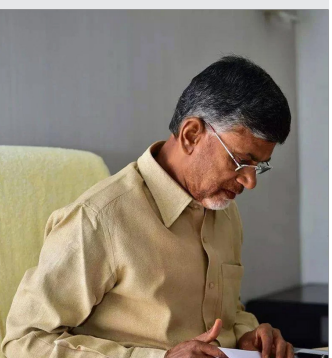
Addressing the gathering, Venkaiah Naidu expressed concern over the declining standards in

Naidu Seeks Centre's Support for Totapuri Mango Farmers

Amaravati, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has urged the Central Government to extend immediate support to Totapuri mango farmers in the state, who are facing a severe price crisis. In a letter to Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan, he requested the implementation of the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

Highlighting the gravity of



the situation, Chandrababu Naidu said **P3**

Lokesh Refutes Allegations on Smart Kitchens

Amaravati, June 28 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Thursday strongly refuted allegations regarding the proposed "Smart Kitchens" initiative, asserting that no mid-day meal workers would lose their jobs and that the programme would instead generate additional employment.

Responding to criticism by YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Lokesh said the initiative aims to provide hygienic, nutritious meals to students while expanding livelihood opportunities. "Why is Jagan unhappy when **P3**



Alleged Custodial Death Triggers Outrage, Focus on Dargappa Statement

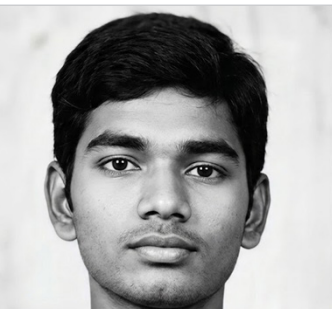


Shabolu Sudarshanam @ Kurnool

The alleged custodial death of Mala Gangamma has triggered widespread outrage in Kurnool district, intensifying concerns over custodial tor- **P3**



ture and police conduct. Gangamma, a resident of Badinehal village, had been seeking justice for her missing son, Virendra and had ap- proached the High Court, which ordered a Special Inves- **P3**



tigation Team (SIT) probe. A 13-member SIT led by Gun- tur Additional SP (Crimes) K. Supraja took Gangamma and Begari Dargappa into custody and found that Gangamma, along with her **P3**



CM Meets Sunil Mittal, Discusses Digital Push

Amaravati, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu met Bharti Enterprises Founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal in Amaravati to discuss strengthening Andhra Pradesh's digital infrastructure. Talks focused on expanding last-mile internet access, improving mobile tower connectivity, attracting investments in data centres, and establishing an undersea internet cable landing station. The need to enhance ease of doing business for telecom operators in the state was also highlighted.

Tribal Families Trek 2 km Daily for Drinking Water



Paltasingi Surya Rao @ Paderu

Residents of Thenelamamidi, a remote tribal hamlet in Mare- dumilli mandal of Polavaram district, continue to face severe hardships in accessing safe drinking water. For years, tribal families in the village have depended on a natural water source located deep inside a forest area, forcing them to travel long distances every day to meet their basic needs.

A Villager said they must cross a stream and walk nearly two kilometres through difficult terrain to collect drinking water from a

natural spring emerging between rocks in a hilly region. The water is collected from a makeshift pit dug around the spring and carried back to the village in pots and containers.

The problem worsens during the monsoon season when heavy rains cause the stream to over- flow, making the route inaccessible and leaving residents without a reliable source of drinking water. Villagers said they often face acute water shortages during such periods and are forced to endure considerable hardship.

Despite repeated appeals, the

village still lacks a permanent protected drinking water facility. Residents expressed concern that generations of tribal families have continued to depend on the same natural source without access to basic infrastructure.

The tribal community has urged the authorities to provide a safe and permanent drinking water supply system and ensure that essential amenities reach remote tribal habitations. They called for immediate government intervention to resolve the long-standing issue and improve living conditions in the village.



Energy Minister Says People Rejected YSRCP’s ‘Politics of Provocation’

Amaravati, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Sunday claimed that the resistance shown by residents of Amaravati to the visit of YSR Congress Party leaders reflected a clear rejection of what he termed the party’s “politics of provocation.”

In a statement, the Minister said women and farmers in Amaravati had opposed the YSRCP leaders’ visit, alleging that the party was attempting to create unrest and mislead the public through politically motivated actions. He said the incident demonstrated that people were no longer willing to tolerate what he described as politics based on conspiracy and disruption.

Ravi Kumar asserted that the State Government would not permit unlawful activities under the guise of political programs and stressed that maintaining law and order remained a top priority. According to him, the response from Amaravati residents reflected a broader public demand for accountability and responsible political conduct.

Criticising the previous YSR



RCP government, the Minister alleged that despite promoting the three-capital proposal during its tenure, it failed to make meaningful progress in developing any of the proposed capitals. Instead, he claimed, the administration hindered the development of Amaravati and affected the State’s growth prospects.

The Minister further alleged that after losing power, the YSRCP had resorted to creating confusion through shifting narratives and political theatrics. He warned that such an approach could further erode public confidence and reiterated the coalition government’s commitment to development, democratic values, and maintaining public order.



Minister Savita Launches Pulse Polio Drive in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare Minister S. Savita and Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao on Sunday launched the Pulse Polio immunisation programme at Madhura Nagar in Vijayawada, administering polio drops to children under five years of age.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Savita said the State Government is implementing the Pulse Polio programme on a large scale with the goal of building a polio-free Andhra Pradesh. She urged parents to ensure that every child below five years receives the life-saving vaccine, emphasizing that preventing polio is a collective responsibility. The Minister said the programme is being conducted across the State under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in line with Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi’s vision of securing a healthy future for the coming generations. She noted that around 6.5 crore has been allocated for the campaign, which is being carried out through secretariats, bus stations, railway stations and mobile polio booths. MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao said the NDA government remains committed to a polio-free India and has undertaken extensive awareness campaigns to educate parents about immunisation. He stated that state’s success in eradicating polio was the result of sustained efforts by successive governments and health authorities.

District Medical and Health Officer J. Indumathi, Dr Preeti Abhisha, District Immunisation Officer B. Sharath Babu, District Health Programme Officer P. Naveen Kumar, Rotary Club representatives and health department staff participated in the programme.



Minister Subash Urges Public Support for Pulse Polio Campaign

Ramachandrapuram, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subash on Sunday appealed to parents and citizens to actively participate in the statewide Pulse Polio programme and help achieve the goal of a polio-free society.

The Minister said the State Government has made extensive arrangements to ensure that every child below five years of age receives polio drops. He noted that nearly 49.20 lakh children are expected to be covered through 29,873 Pulse Polio centres established across Andhra Pradesh.

Emphasising that every

child’s health is a collective responsibility, Subash said complete eradication of polio can be achieved only if no eligible child is left out of the immunisation drive. He urged parents to take their children to the nearest polio booth and ensure they receive the vaccine.

The Minister also informed that health department teams will conduct door-to-door visits on June 29 and 30 to administer polio drops to children who missed the vaccination on the first day. He called upon the public to extend full cooperation to health workers and make the programme a grand success for the benefit of future generations.

AP–EESL Partnership Can Set National Example: S. Balasubramanyam

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN

Bureau

Andhra Pradesh’s partnership with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has the potential to emerge as a national benchmark in energy efficiency and sustainable development, according to S. Balasubramanyam, EO Secretary to the Government, GAD (SR) Department, Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking at a programme organised by EESL under the Ministry of Power, Balasubramanyam said energy efficiency is no longer an option but a national necessity to address climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and secure a sustainable future. He emphasized the importance of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), a global initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow, aimed at promoting environmentally responsible lifestyles.

Calling upon citizens, particularly youth, to actively par-

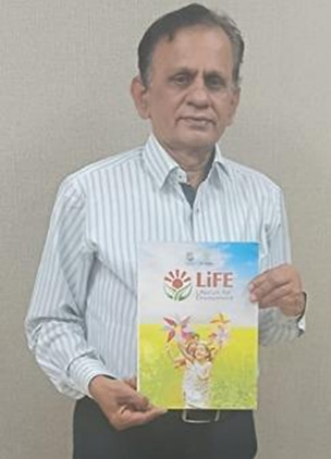


Photo caption: S. Balasubramanyam IAS(R) EO Secretary to Govt, GAD(SR) department, AP is unveiling a report on mission LiFE

ticipate in the National Energy Conservation Movement, he said collective efforts can transform environmental protection into a people’s movement. He noted that India’s traditional values of conservation and responsible resource use align closely with the philoso-

phy of Mission LiFE.

Balasubramanyam lauded the initiatives of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), EESL and State Designated Agencies, which have collectively achieved annual electricity savings of over 321 billion units, economic benefits exceeding 2 lakh crore and a reduction of more than 321 million tonnes of carbon emissions.

Highlighting Andhra Pradesh’s extensive collaboration with EESL across sectors such as industries, MSMEs, DISCOMs, urban development, rural development, tourism and public infrastructure, he said the State’s integrated approach could serve as a blueprint for others seeking to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability.

During the programme, Balasubramanyam unveiled a report on Mission LiFE and reiterated the need for stronger cooperation among governments, industry and citizens to accelerate India’s transition towards a low-carbon economy.

Light to Moderate Rain Likely Across AP

Amaravati, June 28 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has forecast light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms in parts of Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema over the next two days and advised residents to remain cautious during adverse weather conditions.

According to the weather outlook for Monday (June 29), isolated places in the Coastal Andhra districts are likely to receive light to moderate rain with lightning, while a few areas in Rayalaseema may experience light showers.



For Tuesday (June 30), light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms is expected at isolated places in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Polavaram, Kakinada, Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru and NTR districts. Other districts may witness light rain at a few locations.

Health Minister Announces 177 Mortuary Freezer Chambers for Govt Hospitals

Amaravati, June 28 | TPN Bureau

The state government is strengthening healthcare infrastructure by providing 177 new mortuary freezer chambers to secondary-level government hospitals across the State at a cost of 6.57 crore, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav announced on Sunday.

The Minister said each freezer chamber has been procured at an estimated cost of 3.71 lakh and is equipped to preserve two bodies. The facilities will be installed in government hospitals to support the storage of bodies brought for post-mortem examinations, including victims of road accidents, suicides and unidentified persons.

Satya Kumar Yadav noted that many hospitals were fac-



ing difficulties due to outdated and inefficient mortuary freezers. To address these issues, the coalition government has initiated the supply of modern freezer chambers to 119 Community Health Centres, 49 Area Hospitals and eight District Hospitals.

The Minister stated that around 150 freezer chambers have already been dispatched to hospitals, while the remaining units will be supplied shortly.

In addition to the equipment, the government is also upgrading mortuary room infrastructure to ensure proper installation and functioning of the new systems.

Chakradhar Babu briefed the Minister on the transportation and installation process of the freezer chambers. The initiative is expected to significantly improve mortuary services and strengthen healthcare facilities across the State.

Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Launches Olympic Day Run

Vizianagaram, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Minister for MSMEs and Rural Poverty Alleviation Kondapalli Srinivas on Sunday called upon young athletes to excel in sports and bring greater recognition to Vizianagaram district.

Marking Olympic Day, the Minister formally launched the Olympic Run at the historic Fort area by releasing balloons with a child participant and lighting the sports torch. He later joined athletes and sports enthusiasts in the run, which covered key loca-

tions including Moodu Lantharu Junction, Clock Tower, Main Road, Market Centre and concluded at Rajiv Stadium.

Addressing the gathering, Srinivas said it was a matter of pride to participate in the Olympic Day Run and emphasized that sports not only provide enjoyment but also promote good health and discipline. He said the State Government is giving high priority to sports and is encouraging talented players from rural areas through various support measures and improved infrastructure.

During the programme, the Minister felicitated national and international sportspersons Valluri Srinivasa Rao, Bangaru Usha and Pallavi, along with coaches P. Satish, G. Narasinga Rao, Krishna Reddy, Shantha Rao and ex-serviceman Rama Rao for their contributions to sports.

He urged youth to balance education with sports and expressed confidence that athletes from the district would excel at State, national, international and Olympic-level competitions, bringing laurels to Andhra Pradesh and the nation.

CM to Begin Five-Day District Tour from July 1

Amaravati, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will undertake a series of official programmes and district tours from July 1 to July 5, covering Nellore, Tirupati, Kadapa and Chittoor districts, with overnight stays planned in the respective districts.

On July 1, he will participate in the ‘Service to the Poor’ initiative in Chillakuru Mandal of Nellore district, where pensions will be distributed. Later the same day, he will lay the foundation stone for Hero MotoCorp’s Global Parts Center at Sri City in Satyavedu constituency of Tirupati district, with an investment of around 750

crore. He will stay overnight in the district.

On July 2, Naidu will attend the launch of the VB-G-RAMG employment mission at Railway Koduru in Tirupati district, followed by a GSDP Capacity Building Workshop in Tirupati town, attended by NITI Aayog members and Economic Advisory Council representatives. He will stay in Tirupati that night.

On July 3, he will launch works of the Rayalaseema Steel Plant at Sunnapurallapalle in Kadapa district and later begin a three-day tour of Kuppam, where he will lay foundation stones and inaugurate multiple projects until July 5, before returning to Amaravati.



Minister Prays for AP’s Prosperity and Amaravati Development

Tirumala, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh on Sunday offered prayers at the Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Temple and sought divine blessings for the prosperity of the State, the successful completion of Amaravati’s development, and the welfare of its people.

The Minister visited the temple along with Jana Sena Party leaders from the Nidadavole constituency and had darshan of Lord Venkateswara in accordance with temple traditions. Speaking to the media after the visit, Durgesh said he prayed for Andhra Pradesh to achieve progress in all sectors under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

He also offered special

prayers for the successful completion of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan’s ongoing Chaturmasa Deeksha, expressing hope that the spiritual observance would continue without any obstacles. Durgesh said Pawan Kalyan’s dedication and efforts toward the State’s future and public welfare should bear fruitful results with the blessings of Lord Venkateswara.

The Minister further prayed for the speedy completion of Amaravati, describing it as the people’s capital and a symbol of public aspirations. He expressed confidence that the State capital project would overcome all hurdles and emerge as a world-class city. Durgesh said he hoped the blessings of Lord Venkateswara would continue to guide Andhra Pradesh toward prosperity, development and public welfare.



Anitha Highlights ₹600-Crore Development Works

Nakkapalli, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Sunday said the coalition government is giving top priority to development and welfare, with special focus on the fishing community. She was speaking after laying the foundation stone for two fish landing centres at Boyapadu and Dondavaka coastal areas in Nakkapalli mandal of Payakaraopeta constituency, along with Minister BC Janardhan Reddy.

Anitha said nearly 600 crore worth of development works had been undertaken in the constituency over the past two years. Highlighting her long association with fishermen, she recalled serving as a teacher in a fishing village and said the government was committed to improving the liveli-

hoods of fishing communities.

She noted that two of the three fish landing centres proposed in the State had been sanctioned for the Payakaraopeta constituency, which is home to around 9,000 fishing families. The Minister also announced that fishing villages would be developed comprehensively and said road infrastructure projects worth 100 crore had already been executed. She further promised a BC girls’ welfare hostel and a multi-speciality hospital for the constituency.

Minister BC Janardhan Reddy said the government was accelerating both development and welfare initiatives across the State. He praised Anitha’s commitment to constituency development and said her efforts had earned widespread public appreciation.



Collector Reviews Voter Revision, Urges Polio Participation

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Sunday reviewed the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and participated in the Pulse Polio programme, stressing the importance of accurate voter records and sustained public health efforts. Inspecting field-level activities in Vijayawada West Assembly constituency, he reviewed the distribution, collection, and digitisation of Enumeration Forms (EFs) by Booth Level Officers. He said the aim of the revision is to prepare a clean and error-free voter list by including all eligible voters and removing ineligible entries. Official data showed 16,27,555 enumeration forms (94.99%) have been distributed, while 2,48,289 forms have been digitised. Jaggayyapeta re-

corded the highest distribution at 96.73%, followed by Vijayawada East, Vijayawada West, Vijayawada Central, Tiruvuru, Nandigama and Mylavaram. Lakshmisha instructed officials to strictly follow Election Commission guidelines and ensure transparency and impartiality. He advised voters to use the toll-free 1950 helpline for services and grievances. He also announced that public representations will be received through the Meekosam grievance system on June 29, with access via the 1100 helpline and portal. Later, at Ayodhyanagar Primary Health Centre, he participated in the Pulse Polio drive, administering drops to children and urging parents to vaccinate all children below five years. The district campaign is being conducted through 966 centres with 4,274 vaccinators, 104 supervisors and 35 transit points.

RGUKT Hosts Special Pulse Polio Camp

Nuzvid, June 28 | TPN Bureau

A special Pulse Polio vaccination programme was conducted at the Health Centre of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) Nuzvid Campus on Sunday as part of the nationwide drive to sustain India's polio-free status. RGUKT Nuzvid Campus Director S.S.S.V. Gopala Raju participated in the programme and stressed the importance of administering polio drops to every child below five years of age. He said universal immunisation is essential for the complete eradication of polio and expressed confidence in the success of the ongoing campaign. He also appealed to parents and guardians to ensure timely vaccination of all eligible children. The programme was organised under the guidance of the Eluru District Medical and Health Department. Medical officers at the campus health centre actively took part in the vaccination drive.

APTPIEA Seeks Inspections of Engineering Colleges

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Technical and Professional Institutions Employees Association (APTPIEA) has urged the state government, affiliating universities, and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to conduct comprehensive inspections of engineering colleges before granting or renewing affiliations for the upcoming academic year. The association raised concerns over the availability of qualified faculty, faculty-student ratio, laboratory facilities, and infrastructure in certain institutions, and sought physical verification, record scrutiny, and interaction with faculty members.

550 Loyola Students Complete Placement Training

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

A total of 550 final-year degree students of Andhra Loyola College successfully completed the six-day Mahindra Pride-Naandi Foundation Placement Training Programme aimed at improving employability and campus placement readiness. The programme concluded with a valedictory session on Saturday. Six trainers sponsored by the Naandi Foundation provided intensive coaching in aptitude, communication, interview preparation, resume building, group discussions, project presentations, and other soft skills. Students also received aptitude training in key areas such as percentages, profit and loss, time and work, number systems, and speed mathematics.

College Correspondent Fr. Dr. Francis Xavier and Principal Fr. Dr. S. Melchior thanked the Naandi Foundation for its continued support in equipping students with industry-relevant skills. They appreciated the trainers for boosting students' confidence and career preparedness. The programme was coordinated by Placement Officer Dr. G. Sahaya Baskaran. During the valedictory function, 26 star performers were honoured with mementos and prizes. Vice Principals Fr. Vijaya Kumar, Dr. Balaji, and Fr. Arul Jothi attended the event. Students said the training significantly enhanced their confidence, communication abilities, and readiness for upcoming campus recruitment drives.

Jessy Raj Wins Silver at National Ice Skating Championship

Mangalagiri, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Mangalagiri skater Jessy Raj Mathrapu has brought pride to the state by winning a silver medal at the 21st National Ice Skating Championship held at Himadri Ice Rink, Dehradun, from June 27 to 29, 2026. Jessy Raj (19.56) lost the gold to Tanishi Krishna (24.23) of Himachal Pradesh. Competing in the Intermediate Novice Women (Juniors) category, Jessy delivered a strong performance against some of the country's top young skaters. She secured the silver medal with an impressive overall score, emerging as the best-performing female skater from Andhra Pradesh among five participants from the state.



Jessy Raj Mathrapu, who is studying Junior intermediate at Sri Durga Malleswara Siddhartha Mahila Kalasala, Vijayawada, an internationally recognised skater and Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardee, continues to maintain a strong presence in both roller skating and ice skating disciplines at national and international levels. Her achievement was widely appreciated by the Ice Skating

Alliance Marks Two Years with Development Meet

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

A grand public meeting titled "Two Years of Trust - Development and Welfare" was organized by Vijayawada West MLA Y. Sujana Chowdary on Sunday to mark the successful completion of two years of governance by the NDA alliance government. Held at Urmila Nagar Convention Center, the event was attended by leaders of the TDP, BJP and Jana Sena Party, who highlighted the welfare initiatives and development programs undertaken by the alliance government. Addressing the gathering, Sujana Chowdary said the West constituency is witnessing significant development with the support of the Central and State governments. He stated that priority has been



given to improving roads, drainage systems, and drinking water facilities while ensuring welfare benefits reach all sections of society. He also highlighted the activities of the Sujana Foundation, including free medical camps, mobile healthcare services, and employment-oriented job fairs for youth. NTR District TDP President Gadde Anuradha said the alliance government is rebuilding the state through transparent governance and development



Vijayawada witnesses heavy rain, Old Post Office Road submerged in Krishnalanka

Rotary Midtown Installs New Leadership

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Rotary International Director Raju Subramanian emphasized that Rotary Clubs remain at the forefront of community service and social welfare initiatives across the world. He urged the newly elected leadership of Rotary Vijayawada Midtown to undertake more impactful service activities and set an example for others. The installation ceremony of the new executive committee of Rotary Vijayawada Midtown was held at the A-Plus Convention Center on Bandar Road. During the event, Raju Subramanian administered the oath of office to the club's new President, Venkat Kethiboyina, and Secretary, Trinath Nanduri.



Addressing the gathering, he highlighted Rotary's global efforts in the eradication of polio, including the establishment of Pulse Polio centres and large-scale awareness campaigns. He noted that Rotary Clubs continue to support education, healthcare, and community development through various service projects. He also pointed to initiatives such as financial assis-

tance for underprivileged students and the distribution of sewing machines to promote women's empowerment. Speaking after assuming office, Venkat Kethiboyina and Trinath Nanduri expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and pledged to expand the club's outreach activities. They said their focus would be on implementing meaningful service programmes based on the suggestions and support of club members. The event was attended by Kalyan Chakravarthy, Guthikonda Sriram, club representatives, and members from various Rotary chapters. The gathering concluded with a renewed commitment to community service and social development.



Venkaiah Naidu Receives Book on Modi-Era Development

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

BJP State Media In-charge and author Kilaru Dileep presented his book Bharat Rising in the Modi Era to former Vice President Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu as a mark of respect. During the meeting, Dileep explained that the book highlights India's development journey under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focusing on administrative reforms, infrastructure growth, economic progress, governance initiatives, and India's global rise. Venkaiah Naidu appreciated the effort, noting that such

works help citizens understand the country's transformation and policy direction. He said documenting contemporary developments contributes to public awareness and informed debate on national progress. Dileep said the book aims to present factual insights into India's changes during the Modi era. He expressed happiness over receiving Venkaiah Naidu's encouragement and support. The interaction highlighted the importance of documenting political, economic, and social developments for future generations and promoting informed public discourse on India's growth trajectory.

VMC Intensifies Polio Drive, Electoral Roll Revision

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanachandra has appealed to citizens to actively participate in the National Pulse Polio Programme and the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. As part of the Pulse Polio campaign on Sunday, he visited a vaccination booth in Hanumanpet and administered polio drops to children. He stressed that every child below five years must be vaccinated and said public participation is vital for a polio-free society. Special teams have been deployed for door-to-door vaccination for children who cannot reach booths. He also reviewed the SIR of electoral rolls in Vijayawada, inspecting areas including Mallikarjunapeta, Chittinagar and Madhurvanagar. He reviewed the distribution, collec-



tion and digitisation of enumeration forms and instructed officials to speed up the process. According to data, Vijayawada East recorded 84.30% distribution of forms, Vijayawada Central 82.90%, and Vijayawada West 79.72%. He directed Booth Level Officers and election staff to conduct door-to-door verification, improve awareness and ensure timely digitisation. He also called for daily monitoring to meet deadlines. Officials from municipal administration, election departments and health teams participated in both programmes.

Indrakeeladri Witness Heavy Rush on Holiday Weekend

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Thousands of devotees thronged the hill shrine of Lord Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam on Sunday, taking advantage of the consecutive holidays to seek the blessings of Goddess Sri Kanaka Durga. Anticipating the heavy influx, temple authorities made special arrangements to ensure smooth darshan. To facilitate faster movement of general devotees, Antaralaya Darshan and all categories of VIP dar-

shan were temporarily suspended between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. A newly introduced mobile drinking water distribution system received an excellent response from devotees waiting in the queue lines. Free prasadam and annadanam were also provided continuously. Temple officials and trustees personally monitored arrangements, ensuring orderly darshan despite the massive crowd. Devotees expressed satisfaction with the facilities and crowd management measures implemented by the temple administration.

NTR District Swimmers Selected for Inter-District Meet

Vijayawada, June 28 | TPN Bureau

The NTR District Swimming Association conducted Sub-Junior and Junior District Selection Trials at the Sir Vizzy Municipal Corporation Swimming Pool in Gandhinagar, Vijayawada, on Sunday. Talented young swimmers from across the district participated in the trials to earn a place in the district team. Based on their performances, swimmers were selected to represent NTR District at the 11th Sub-Junior and Junior Inter-District Swimming Championship scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam on July 18 and 19. The selection event was attended by chief guest Dr. Kongara Ravikanth, Chairman, while Naveen, Swimming Pool



In-Charge, served as the event starter. The trials were conducted under the supervision of experienced coaches M. Malayadhi, Lakshman, Sk. Rafi, and R. Gowtham. Association officials expressed confidence that the selected swimmers would perform well at the state-level competition and bring laurels to the district. They also appreciated the efforts of coaches, parents, and organizers in encouraging young athletes to excel in the sport.



Pratibhaku Protsaham 2026 Celebrates Journalism, Education and Culture

Visakhapatnam, June 28 | TPN Bureau

A grand celebration of journalism, education and culture marked the "Pratibhaku Protsaham-2026" programme organised by Vizag Media Awards and School of Theatre Arts at the VMRDA Children's Arena in Siripuram on Sunday.

Former Rajya Sabha member and BJP national spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao and VMRDA Chairman Pranav Gopal attended as chief guests and praised journalists for their contribution to democracy and public welfare. They said journalists play a vital role in highlighting public issues and disseminating information on government

initiatives. During the event, 60 journalists were honoured with media awards for excellence, while scholarships were presented to 150 children of journalists for academic achievement. In addition, 35 artists from India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh received Kala Jeeva Awards. Visakhapatnam City Police Commissioner Dr. Shankhabrata Bagchi said journalists are regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy and urged them to maintain accuracy and integrity in reporting. The programme also featured vibrant cultural performances by national and international artists, drawing participation from over 650 journalists and their family members.

Pin Point



Ongole: State Social Welfare Minister Dola Sri Bala Veeranjana Swamy inaugurated the National Pulse Polio Programme at East Naidupalem village in Tangutur mandal on Sunday by administering polio drops to children below five years of age.

The minister urged parents to ensure all eligible children receive polio drops and called for collective efforts to maintain a polio-free society. He said health officials, ASHA workers, and Anganwadi staff are working to ensure that no child is left out of the immunisation drive.



Chirala: Bapatla District Joint Collector Bhavana Vasishta launched the Pulse Polio Programme at the Government Area Hospital in Chirala on Sunday by administering

polio drops to children. She urged parents to ensure that every child below five years receives polio drops, describing it as a shared responsibility to keep the country polio-free. Bhavana Vasishta directed officials to achieve 100 percent coverage and ensure that no eligible child is left out of the campaign.



Eluru: Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar participated in the National Pulse Polio Programme at the Primary Health Centre in Vijayarai village on Sunday and personally administered polio drops to children. He said the coalition government is committed to protecting children's health and ensuring a safe future for every child. Urging parents to vaccinate all children below five years, he called for collective efforts to achieve a polio-free society.



Eluru: Eluru MLA and TDP district president Badeti Chanti inaugurated the Pulse Polio Programme at a school in Powerpet on Sunday by administering polio drops to children. He said India had eradicated polio but emphasized the need for continued vigilance to prevent its return. Urging parents to ensure all children below five years receive polio drops, Chanti called for public participation to make the immunisation drive a success.



Eluru District Collector K. Vetri Selvi launched the Pulse Polio Programme on Sunday by administering polio drops to children at a vaccination centre in Shantinagar. She urged parents to ensure that all children below five years receive the vaccine. The Collector said the district aims to cover over 2 lakh children through 1,094 polio booths and special teams. Health workers will also conduct door-to-door visits to ensure no child is missed.



Chirala: Chirala MLA Maduluri Malakondaiah inaugurated a Pulse Polio camp at the Chirala bus stand on Sunday by administering polio drops to children. He urged parents to ensure that every child below five years receives polio drops and emphasized that children's health protection is a shared responsibility. The MLA said the coalition government is committed to strengthening healthcare services and directed health workers to ensure that no eligible child is left out of the immunisation campaign.

Vijay Kumar Defends Pawan, Targets YSRCP

Munagapaka, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Yelamanchili MLA Sundarapu Vijay Kumar launched a sharp attack on YSRCP leaders during a press conference held at the Jana Sena Party office in Munagapaka mandal of Anakapalli district on Saturday. He strongly defended Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and criticized YSRCP leaders for targeting him with what he termed "baseless and politically motivated remarks."

Vijay Kumar alleged that YSRCP leaders lacked an understanding of welfare governance and accused them of misleading the public. Referring to former minister Ambati Rambabu, he said welfare schemes are introduced to meet people's needs and not merely to secure votes. The MLA stated that the people had already rejected YSRCP leaders politically and advised them to exercise restraint in their public comments. He claimed that



significant development had taken place in the Yelamanchili constituency within a short period and challenged YSRCP leaders to compare the coalition government's performance with that of the previous administration. Vijay Kumar also criticized former MLA Karanam Dharmasri, accusing him of making statements without verifying facts. He warned YSRCP leaders

against making derogatory remarks against Pawan Kalyan and alleged that the previous YSRCP government had earned widespread public disapproval across the state. He asserted that the coalition government has been effectively implementing welfare and development initiatives for all sections of society and said much of the credit goes to Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar Holds Public Grievance Meet

Eluru, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar on Sunday conducted his regular Praja Darbar at the camp office in Duggirala, where he interacted with officials, public representatives and residents seeking solutions to various civic issues.

During the programme, D.V. Srinivasa Rao, recently appointed as the regular Deputy Executive Engineer (DEE) of the Panchayat Raj Department, Eluru Sub-Division, met the MLA and received his greetings. Prabhakar advised the official to work responsibly and serve the public in line with government objectives.

The MLA also participated in the birthday celebration of a TDP activist's son, cutting a



cake and extending wishes to the child and family members. Later, he welcomed a bridegroom and his family who visited the camp office as part of a traditional wedding procession in Duggirala village and conveyed his blessings to the couple.

During the public grievance

session, Prabhakar personally received petitions from residents of various villages and directed concerned officials to take immediate action for resolving issues raised by the public. He stressed the need for timely solutions to ensure people do not face unnecessary hardships.

AP Rythu Sangham Demands Better Prices for Dairy and Vegetable Farmers

Eluru, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham State Assistant Secretary K. Srinivas on Sunday demanded remunerative prices for milk, vegetables, lemons and Virginia tobacco, urging governments to take immediate measures to support farmers.

Addressing a farmers' seminar on agricultural issues and price support at Uddaraju Ramam Bhavan in Eluru, Srinivas said dairy farmers are facing severe losses due to rising fodder and production costs. He alleged that while private dairy companies are earning huge profits, dairy farmers are struggling to sustain their livelihoods.

He also opposed unrestricted



ed imports of milk and dairy products under any proposed free trade agreement, warning that such imports could seriously affect the domestic dairy sector. Srinivas demanded a fair procurement price for milk, 75% subsidy on cattle feed and loans for the purchase of dairy animals.

The farmers' leader further sought subsidies for vegetable growers, including support

for seeds and farm machinery, and called for action against alleged exploitation by wholesale trader syndicates. He also demanded support for lemon and Virginia tobacco farmers through better prices and assured procurement.

He urged farmers to participate in the AP Rythu Sangham's 23rd State Conference scheduled in Eluru from July 3 to 5.

NAFCUB Director Clarifies on MACS Act

Rajamahendravaram, June 28 | TPN Bureau

National Federation of Co-operative Urban Banks (NAFCUB) Director Chalasani Raghavendra Rao clarified that no bank brought under the Andhra Pradesh Mutually Aided Cooperative Credit Societies (MACS) Act, 1995, has suffered adverse consequences.

Speaking at the 108th Annual General Meeting of the Innespeta Cooperative Urban Bank in Rajamahendravaram on Sunday, he addressed concerns raised by some members regarding a proposal to shift the bank from the AP Cooperative Societies Act, 1964, to the MACS Act, 1995.

Raghavendra Rao said fears



that depositors would face problems under the MACS framework were unfounded and based on misconceptions. He pointed out that some banks operating under the 1964 Act had ceased to exist, while institutions functioning under the MACS Act continued to serve customers effectively. Bank Chairman Kolla Achyuta Rama Rao said expla-

nations regarding the proposed transition had already been submitted to the district cooperative authorities. He added that the bank would abide by any court ruling, as the matter is currently under judicial consideration.

The meeting was attended by CEO Palakodeti Ramana Kumar and members of the bank's governing body.

Three Women Killed in Truck-Auto Collision

Srikakulam, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Three women were killed and three others sustained serious injuries in a tragic road accident near Jamedaruputtuga in Kaviti mandal of Srikakulam district on Sunday morning.

According to police, the victims were travelling in a luggage auto carrying jackfruits purchased from the Kanchili area and were heading towards Berhampur in Odisha. A speeding truck coming from behind reportedly rammed into the auto, causing a devastating impact.

The force of the collision proved fatal for three women

seated at the rear of the vehicle, who died on the spot. Police identified one of the deceased as a resident of Meliaputtuga village, while the other two were from Rapakaputtuga village.

Three injured persons were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Upon receiving information, Kaviti police reached the accident site and launched rescue operations. With the assistance of local residents, the bodies were recovered and shifted to the Government Hospital in Ichchapuram for post-mortem examination.

Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident.



MLA Invites Devotees to Mahakumbhabhishekam

East Godavari, June 28 | TPN Bureau

A grand spiritual atmosphere has enveloped Shambhala Nagaram in Gadarada village as the five-day Mahakratuvam being conducted at the Om Shivashakti Peetham reaches its finale with the Mahakumbhabhishekam Mahotsavam scheduled for Monday, June 29.

The sacred event has drawn thousands of devotees from East Godavari and neighbouring districts over the past four days. Organisers said the final day rituals are expected to witness an even larger turnout as elaborate arrangements have been made for devotees.

One of the major attractions of the spiritual complex is its unique cluster of 36 divine temples dedicated to various deities. The temple premises

feature towering 36-foot statues of Subrahmanyeswara Swamy and Kalabhairava Swamy, along with shrines dedicated to Varahi Devi, Raja Shyamala Devi, Chandika Devi, Pratyangira Devi, Rajarajeshwari Devi, the Dashamahavidyas, Saptamatrikas, Radha-Krishna, and Brahma-Vishnu-Maheshwara.

Inviting devotees to participate in the historic event, Rajanagaram MLA Battula Balaramakrishna said the Mahakumbhabhishekam is a rare spiritual occasion for the region. He urged devotees to attend with their families, receive theertha prasadam and annaprasadam, and seek the blessings of the deities.

Continuous distribution of prasadam and free meals will be arranged for all devotees attending the ceremony.



Union Minister Urges BJP Cadre to Spread Mann Ki Baat Message

Narasapuram, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma on Sunday called upon BJP workers to take the messages of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme to the grassroots and create greater public awareness about national development initiatives.

The minister, along with party workers, watched the latest episode of Mann Ki Baat at the BJP Parliamentary Office in Narasapuram. Addressing party cadres afterwards, he said the Prime Minister's messages on national development, public participation, service, cleanliness, environmental protection and the role of youth were inspiring and

relevant to every citizen. Srinivasa Varma described Mann Ki Baat as more than a radio programme, saying it has evolved into a people's movement that motivates citizens to contribute to the nation's progress.

He urged BJP workers to actively promote the Prime Minister's ideas on social responsibility and community service at the grassroots level. The minister also called on party cadres to spread awareness about the Central Government's welfare schemes and development programmes, ensuring that government initiatives reach every household.

Public representatives, district leaders and BJP workers from various mandals participated in the programme.

The Seed of Innocence



The rock flaunts its hardness; the seed trusts only the dark.

The lock boasts of its strength; the door yields to the wind.

The river never reads a map; following its bends, it becomes the sea.

The butterfly knows nothing of the colors on its wings; that is why the flowers recognize it.

The sky never claims victory; each evening, it surrenders into the lap of the earth.

In the end, life endures like the smile of an infant for innocence alone is the wisdom that outlives time.

Dr. Perugu Ramakrishna India



Words Soaked in Experience: The Writings of Ravuri Bharadhwaja

Varala Anand



Poet, Film Critic & The Recipient of the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award

"A smile, a compassionate glance, a warm and heartfelt handshake, no award or accolade can equal their value"

Ravuri Bharadhwaja once made this observation in an interview. Few writers have expressed the essence of human relationships with such clarity and grace.

Among Telugu writers who closely observed, experienced, and documented the lives of ordinary people, Ravuri Bharadhwaja occupies a distinguished place. His stories are not merely products of imagination; they are living records of the people who move around us every day. Poverty, hunger, hardship, hope, and despair flow naturally through his writings. One could, in fact, say that Bharadhwaja's own life was a novel in itself.

Poverty became his school. Hunger became his teacher. The struggle for survival became his university, teaching him lessons that no formal education could offer. Ravuri Bharadhwaja was not a writer nurtured in a sophisticated literary environment. Long before he read books, he had read life. He understood the smell of sweat and the dignity of labour. That is why there is no artificiality in his writing. His sentences are soaked in the experiences of fellow human beings.

Declaring openly that "hunger inspired my writing," Ravuri Bharadhwaja was born in 1925 in Moguluru village of the Paritala Jagir in Krishna district. His first poem was about his parents, Mallikamba and Kotayya. His formal education ended with the seventh standard, but his real education had only begun.

He started writing at the age of seventeen. In those difficult years, he often survived on a piece of fruit or a glass of water, quenching his hunger while feeding an even great-

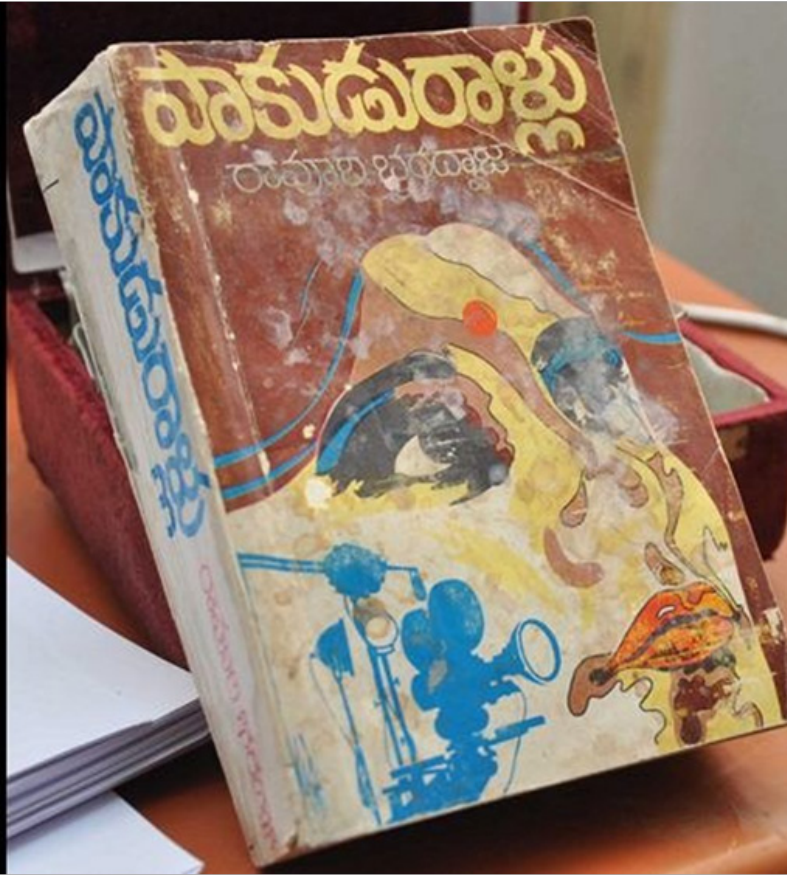
er hunger, the hunger for literature. Unable to afford even the three-rupee annual membership fee of a library, he worked at whatever jobs he could find and spent nights reading library books by the light of temple lamps. He studied everything he could lay his hands on, spending countless sleepless nights immersed in literature.

In 1950, he published Ragini. Later, Kotta Chigullu attracted the attention of Telugu readers with its distinctive style. Recognition gradually followed. He received the Andhra Pradesh Sahitya Akademi Award twice, in 1968 and 1983, as well as the Central Sahitya Akademi Award. Universities including Andhra, Nagarjuna, and JNTU conferred honorary doctorates upon him. He was also honoured with the Gopichand Award, the Soviet Land Nehru Award, the Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award, the Kala Ratna Award from the State Government, and numerous other distinctions.

The novel that ultimately brought him the Jnanpith Award, Pakuduralu, occupies a unique place in the history of Telugu fiction. It is not merely a novel set against the backdrop of the film industry; it is a social document exposing the harsh realities hidden behind the glittering world of cinema.

Bharadhwaja never viewed the film industry through the lens of glamour. Instead, he portrayed the loneliness of those who inhabit it, the relentless struggle for opportunities, and the collapse of dreams. Reading Pakuduralu does not feel like reading fiction, it feels like witnessing life itself.

In this novel, cinema is not merely a dazzling light. It is also a fire that slowly consumes those drawn towards it. Bharadhwaja vividly depicts how people chasing fame,



wealth, and opportunity gradually lose themselves. Through his female characters in particular, he reveals the inequalities, exploitation, and vulnerabilities faced by women in the film world with remarkable sensitivity and humanity.

One of the novel's greatest strengths is Bharadhwaja's style. Without exaggeration or rhetorical flourish, he conveys profound truths through simple language. Life speaks through the conversations of his characters. The cruelty of society becomes visible through their suffering.

At its core, Pakuduralu explores how human dreams become commodities. The title itself serves as a metaphor: countless lives are crushed like grinding stones beneath the machinery of illusion called cinema. Telugu literature has produced very few works that

portray the film industry with such honesty and depth. That is why Pakuduralu is not merely a novel it is a hidden history of darkness behind the dazzling lights.

In 1948, Ravuri Bharadhwaja married Kantham. Speaking of her, he once said with deep emotion:

"Though she came from a prosperous family, she patiently endured my poverty, lack of education, and unemployment. Just as an intelligent mother cares for an innocent child, that golden-hearted woman cared for me. That is why I called her 'Kanthamma'."

These were not merely words. The memoirs he wrote in her memory are filled with extraordinary tenderness and grief. More than three decades ago, when I read N l ni N vu (The You Within Me), every sentence seemed to fall like a drop of tears.

It left me wondering whether one



human being could truly love and cherish another so deeply. Bharadhwaja saw his companion as mother, beloved, and guardian all at once. In N l ni N vu, he transformed the pain of her absence into a stream of moving prose. One cannot fully understand its emotional power without reading it.

The sheer volume of Bharadhwaja's literary output is astonishing. He wrote thirtyseven short story collections, seventeen novels, six children's novellas, five collections of children's stories, three essay and autobiographical volumes, eight plays, and five radio dramas. He worked for publications such as Jameen Rythu and Deena Bandhu before joining All India Radio, where he served until his retirement.

Dr. Ravuri Bharadhwaja passed away on 18 October 2013.

Yet writers like him never truly die. They continue to live in the tears of their characters, in the struggles of ordinary people, and in the compassionate humanity that flows through their words. His writings remind us that literature is not born merely from imagination; it is born from life itself. And few Telugu writers transformed life into literature as truthfully and as movingly as Ravuri Bharadhwaja.

A Literary Pause in Life's Endless Race

Review on Soft Place in Life's Race

Dr. K. Sarojadevi



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Curated by Rupa and Carthy, the anthology Soft Place in Life's Race truly quenches the emotional thirst of readers who love poetry and prose. This compilation consists of versatile voices from multifaceted writers who have contributed their works.

To cite a few, the poem "The Midnight House," written by May Garner, shows how our lives are intertwined with the things in a house—its company. The Midnight House carries the disturbances of its inhabitants and the solace it has provided. It is beautifully articulated in the lines:

"Midnight doesn't comfort me, it recognises me. The same way ruins recognise those who stay."

Sharon Dorival clearly explicates what "Spark" reflects in her poem SPARK. The spark resembles a fire of justice, pride, compassion, and empathy for everyone's struggles and triumphs. It is truly a spark of hope, direction, and shelter.

The poem I Am Blue by Rupa manifests the conflict of a common man shackled by

the corporate race. The "life and death" thumb rule is presented in the lines: Second to none, Fool's paradise, Man eats man. Life becomes more of a fair fight, which is true for many of us as we run after careers, losing life in the process: "I have lost the life that I once claimed—mine." It ends with the harsh truth that life is a disguise.

The flow of life continues with the poem Caravan by Anupama Kadwad. In this poem, the poet says that life's journey is like a caravan, where we meet many people at different stations. We are all caught up in the mad race of survival, as per the dictum "Struggle for Existence and Survival of the Fittest."

Rooted by Joyce mentions the principle that we should all stay connected to our roots—our home, friends, kith and kin, and contentment. This poem is a token of gratitude for the blessings one has in life.

Dr. Balesh Jindal presents the kitchen as a safe place in this race of life in her short note. Truly, the kitchen stands as a stress-buster for women

in this never-ending race. They often find a positive aura in the kitchen amidst daily chores.

Catherine's Where Restless Wind Finds Rest takes the reader into a world where life is uncertain, unique, and eventually forgotten. Moreover, the poem suggests that one finds solace in nature, hills, and wind, irrespective of struggles.

Dr. Perugu's poem When the Fist Unclenched speaks about unexpected love when it is given freedom. The poem depicts that nothing and no one should be restricted; when nurtured properly, they bloom and share love with others.

The poem My Soft Place by Georgina reveals a man's conflict in seeking work-life balance and the difficulty of finding a soft place in this busy life. The poem has universal appeal, as everyone strives to find such a space; the quest often ends with the renewal of energy in the lap of nature.

On the whole, the anthology Soft Place in Life's Race is a compilation of innovative thoughts from acclaimed poets and writers, mainly focusing on man's endless march towards wealth, health, and happiness. Each work in this anthology is distinctive and unique. The expressive representation of life's race by the writers is exceptional.

Soft Place in Life's Race a collection of poetry and prose



Compiled by Rupa Rao and C.A. MacKenzie

The Silent Explosion



Yes, now Marching towards the light Is a hidden army! From the foundations of dark fortresses, A new flag is flying high!

Yes, indeed... we are the silent explosions Moving beneath your thrones! We are the blazing embers under your silk beds! Mocking this colorful world, We stood firm as syllables on digital screens! If you try to crush the fluttering of our wings, Out of that very silence, we will burst forth as volcanoes! We are the enduring forces of eternal consciousness! Even if the empires of dinosaurs collapsed, Yielding to no mighty plague of any century—we are the immortals!

We might have once waited for your leftovers, In the crevices of the walls! But what of it? Just because we are living beings crawling on the earth, Will you brand our foreheads as parasites? We may be the 'cockroaches' Seen in the drains to you... Oh Rulers! Who plays chess under the roofs of marble mansions! Remember... what remains in the end is not your fragrance, The breath of protest from these unemployed youth Shall rule the empires of tomorrow!



Original Telugu version: Wilson Rao Kommavarapu



Translated by: Dr T. Radha krishnamachayulu 98493 05871

PM Modi Highlights Self-Reliance, Culture and Innovation in 135th Mann Ki Baat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the nation in the 135th episode of Mann Ki Baat on June 28, 2026, spoke about India's progress in defence, aviation, space technology, public welfare initiatives, cultural heritage and environmental conservation.

He said the first half of 2026 had been marked by achievements that strengthened national security and self-reliance. He highlighted the induction of INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray into the Indian Navy, noting that these indigenous warships reflect India's growing defence manufacturing capabilities. He also mentioned the C-295 aircraft project, describing it as a major step in the Make in India initiative, with 40 aircraft being manufactured domestically, boosting M S M E growth and employment.

Modi also referred to the successful DRDO test of a long-range land-attack cruise missile, calling it a milestone in strengthening India's defence preparedness from seas to skies.

Turning to global engagement, he noted the widespread



participation in International Yoga Day across more than 2,500 locations worldwide. He also praised India's performance at the World Yogasana Championship in Ahmedabad, where the country won 114 medals, including 102 gold medals.

The Prime Minister urged citizens to continue supporting national initiatives during global uncertainty, recalling public participation in reducing gold purchases, promoting carpooling, and adopting chemical-free farming. He appreciated public cooperation and said such collective action

strengthens national resilience.

Highlighting social innovation, he mentioned a family from Nanded in Maharashtra that provided accidental insurance cover to 3,500 villagers during a wedding celebration. He also explained key government insurance schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, which together benefit crores of citizens. In the cultural and environmental segment, Modi spoke about efforts to protect the rare Hargila bird in As-

sam, led by biologist Purnima Devi Barman and women volunteers known as the Hargila Army. He also highlighted Meghalaya's living root bridges and India's application for UNESCO World Heritage status. Referring to grassroots innovation, he praised women in Biaora, Madhya Pradesh, who converted plastic waste into eco-bricks for public use.

In a significant cultural appeal, the Prime Minister urged citizens to use clay idols made by local artisans during Ganesh festivals and avoid Plaster of Paris idols, stressing environmental protection and Vocal for Local.

Highlighting Andhra Pradesh indirectly through national development themes, he noted India's growing digital and technological strength, including AI education initiatives and expanding university-level innovation platforms such as Nalanda University's revival of Shastrarth traditions.

He concluded by urging citizens to continue water conservation efforts under the Catch the Rain campaign, stressing that every drop must be saved for future generations.

Shubhanshu Shukla Shares Journey in New Book

India's astronaut and Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has revealed fascinating details about his journey to space and personal life in his newly released book, The Second Orbit, launched on June 25, marking one year since the historic Axiom-4 mission carried him to the International Space Station (ISS).

Speaking about the book, Shukla said he deliberately chose to complete important milestones before informing family members. He disclosed that he applied for astronaut selection without telling his wife and even appeared for the National Defence Academy entrance examination without informing his parents. According to him, it was often easier to accomplish a goal first and explain it later. The book chronicles not only the technical aspects of spaceflight but also the emotional experiences behind the mission. Shukla writes about his family's reactions, the challenges of staying away from loved ones for long periods, and his first experiences at NASA. He maintained detailed journals, written notes, and audio recordings throughout his training and mission, which later became valuable material for the



memoir.

Among the lighter moments described in the book is an incident during his journey aboard the Crew Dragon spacecraft. Feeling cold in the capsule, Shukla climbed into a large cloth bag used to store equipment and eventually fell asleep. In microgravity, he drifted into a corner of the spacecraft and became hidden from view. When the crew awoke, they briefly could not locate him inside the capsule, leading to a humorous search before he was finally pulled out. The memoir also reflects on lessons learned from childhood, military training, and space exploration. Shukla recalls a challenging 10-metre jump during his NDA days, describing it as an early lesson in overcoming fear and

uncertainty.

One of the most profound themes in the book is the "overview effect" experienced by astronauts viewing Earth from space. Shukla said seeing the planet from orbit reinforced the idea that humanity shares a common home beyond borders and national identities.

Looking ahead, he expressed optimism about India's future in space exploration. With the upcoming Gaganyaan programme, the planned Bharatiya Antariksha Station, and ambitions for a lunar mission by 2040, Shukla said future generations of Indians will not have to wait decades to see another compatriot travel to space. He expressed confidence that many more Indian astronauts will follow in the near future.

Major Maoist Arms Dump Unearthed in Malkangiri

Security forces have recovered a large cache of weapons, explosives and ammunition allegedly hidden by Maoists in the forests of Odisha's Malkangiri district, delivering another significant setback to the remaining Left-wing extremist network in the region.

The recovery was made during a search operation conducted by the District Voluntary Force (DVF) in the Guntabeda and Kadamguda forest areas under the Kalimela police station limits. The operation was launched following specific intelligence inputs and information gathered from surrendered Maoists during sustained interrogation by security agencies.

According to police, the concealed arms dump contained two Self-Loading Rifles (SLRs), two country-made pistols, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), a Claymore mine, under-barrel grenade launcher (BGL) launchers, grenades and 37 varieties of explosive materials. Security personnel also recovered several components sus-



pected to have been used in the manufacture of firearms and explosive devices.

Investigators believe the weapons and explosives had been buried underground in dense forest terrain and were intended for future attacks against security forces operating in the area. The discovery is expected to further weaken the operational strength of Maoist cadres still active in isolated pockets of the district.

Addressing a press conference, Malkangiri Superintendent of Police Vinodh Patil H

said the latest seizure marked the third major Maoist arms dump recovered in the district during June.

He noted that earlier recoveries were made on June 9 and June 15. Based on fresh information obtained during the interrogation of surrendered Maoists, a DVF team was dispatched to the forested areas, resulting in the latest breakthrough.

The SP said that although the Odisha government had declared Malkangiri Maoist-free by the March 31 deadline, security forces continue to conduct

operations to trace hidden weapons stockpiles and dismantle any remaining extremist infrastructure.

Patil stated that sustained intelligence gathering and interrogation efforts have been instrumental in locating concealed caches. He congratulated the DVF personnel involved in the operation, describing the recovery as a major achievement in the ongoing anti-Maoist campaign.

Malkangiri, once considered one of the worst Maoist-affected districts in Odisha, has witnessed a significant decline in extremist activity in recent years due to continuous security operations, development initiatives and the surrender of several Maoist cadres.

Police officials said search operations would continue in remote forest areas in the coming days. Authorities remain committed to eliminating the remnants of Maoist influence, preventing extremist groups from regrouping and ensuring lasting peace and security in the district.

Girl Dies After Fall From 10th-Floor Balcony

A five-year-old girl lost her life after allegedly falling from the 10th-floor balcony of a residential apartment building in Delhi's Kalkaji Extension late on Saturday night, police said.

The tragic incident occurred at Asha Kiran Apartments, a 14-storey residential complex developed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). According to police, the child was living in the apartment with her family. Preliminary investigations suggest that she had gone to sleep earlier in the evening but woke up while her parents were occupied with household chores.

Unable to locate her mother, the girl reportedly walked towards the balcony. Investigators believe she may have leaned over the railing while looking down and accidentally slipped, resulting in the fatal fall. Family members immediately rushed the child to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead. The victim's father, Mithun Das, operates a fish shop in the locality.

Police teams and forensic ex-



perts visited the scene shortly after the incident. Authorities have launched a detailed investigation and are examining CCTV footage from the apartment complex to reconstruct the sequence of events. Statements of family members, neighbours and other residents are also being recorded.

The grieving family questioned the safety arrangements in the high-rise residential building. Relatives stated that protective grills or safety netting in balconies could have prevented the tragedy and called for stricter safety measures in residential towers where young children live.

A family member said the child had simply woken up and was searching for her mother when the incident occurred, adding that the loss had left the family devastated.

Police said all possible angles are being examined, though initial findings point to an accidental fall. Further investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the incident. The tragedy has once again highlighted concerns regarding child safety in high-rise residential buildings and the need for adequate protective measures to prevent such accidents.

Seven Arrested in Assam Government Job Scam

The Assam Crime Investigation Department (CID) has busted an alleged job recruitment scam involving fake appointments in the Water Resources Department and arrested seven people linked to the racket.

According to officials, the accused operated an organized network that targeted unemployed youth by promising government jobs in exchange for money. The victims were allegedly cheated of amounts ranging from thousands to several lakhs of rupees.

Investigators said the accused used forged appointment letters, fabricated government seals, and fake recruitment notifications purportedly issued by the Water Resources Department of the Assam government. Job seekers were led to believe that they had secured legitimate government employment and were asked to pay money to complete the re-



cruitment process.

Following complaints and preliminary inquiries, the CID registered a case at the CID Police Station under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The case has been booked under Sections 61(2), 318(4), 336(3), and 340(2), which relate to criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery, and the use of forged documents.

As part of a sustained investigation, CID teams conducted multiple operations across different locations and arrested seven individuals allegedly involved in the fraud. The latest arrest was made on June 27, when Gunamoni Baishya was apprehended from Nalbari district.

Officials stated that the accused are suspected of being part of a larger network that

exploited the aspirations of unemployed youth by offering fake government jobs. The CID is examining documents, financial transactions, and digital evidence to identify additional suspects and determine the full extent of the scam.

The investigation is also focused on tracing the money collected from victims and identifying others who may have assisted in preparing forged documents and conducting fraudulent recruitment activities.

Authorities have urged job seekers to verify recruitment notifications through official government channels and avoid dealing with unauthorized intermediaries. The CID has assured that strict action will be taken against all those involved in the racket.

Further investigation is underway, and officials have not ruled out additional arrests as the probe progresses.

Sabareesan Sends Defamation Notices to TVK Ministers

A fresh political controversy has erupted in Tamil Nadu after Sabareesan, son-in-law of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin, issued legal notices to two ministers of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), alleging that they made defamatory and baseless allegations against him.

The notices were served through legal counsel to TVK ministers Aadhav Arjuna and CTR Nirmal Kumar. Sabareesan has demanded that both leaders withdraw their statements and issue a public apology within 15 days. The notices warn that failure to comply will result in legal proceedings.

According to the notice sent to Aadhav Arjuna, the minister allegedly made corruption-related remarks against Sabareesan during a media interaction. The notice claims that Arjuna accused ministers of the previous DMK government of collecting money through corruption across multiple departments and distributing portions of those funds to Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and Sabareesan.

The legal notice further states that these remarks were widely broadcast by regional television channels and circulated across social media platforms, attracting substantial public attention and viewer-



ship. Sabareesan's counsel argues that the allegations were made without evidence and have damaged his reputation.

In a separate notice, CTR Nirmal Kumar was accused of making insinuations that Sabareesan benefited from electricity tariff hikes implemented during the DMK government's tenure. The notice refers to comments allegedly made by Kumar during a press briefing in which he questioned who had gained from increased power tariffs and rising borrowings in the electricity sector.

Sabareesan's legal team contends that such statements were intended to create a false impression of personal finan-

cial gain and were made without factual basis. The notices describe the remarks as defamatory and harmful to his public image.

The development has intensified political tensions between the ruling DMK and the opposition TVK. While the ministers have yet to publicly respond to the notices, the dispute is expected to trigger further political debate in the state.

If the demanded apology and retraction are not issued within the stipulated period, the matter could move to court, setting the stage for a high-profile legal and political battle ahead of future electoral contests in Tamil Nadu.

Hasina Vows Return Amid Political Turmoil

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has declared that she will return to her country this year despite facing a death sentence and the continued ban on her party, the Awami League.

In an exclusive interview, Hasina said her return was not driven by personal ambition but by what she described as a larger struggle for democracy, political rights, and the rule of law in Bangladesh. The veteran leader, who has been living in exile since being forced from office nearly two years ago, expressed confidence that her party would overcome the challenges it currently faces.

Referring to the legal proceedings against her, Hasina alleged that the verdict was politically motivated and part of an effort to eliminate the leadership of the Awami League. She maintained that the judicial process had been misused for political purposes and insisted that previous attempts to weaken her party had failed.

"My return is tied to the restoration of democracy and the rights of the people," she said, adding that her political mission remains centered on realizing the vision of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led Bangladesh's struggle for



independence.

The former prime minister emphasized that the Awami League is more than a political organization and described it as a force deeply connected to the country's history and identity. She argued that the party continues to enjoy significant public support despite restrictions imposed by authorities.

Hasina also voiced concern over the situation of minority communities in Bangladesh, stating that any attack on minorities should be viewed as an attack on the principles of the nation's independence. She stressed the need to protect the rights and security of all citizens regardless of religion or ethnicity.

Her remarks came days after the Awami League marked its 77th Foundation Day amid

heightened political tensions. The observance took place despite a nationwide ban on the party, and reports indicated that several activists were detained during security operations.

The political future of Bangladesh remains uncertain as the country continues to grapple with deep divisions between the ruling establishment and opposition groups. Hasina's announcement is likely to intensify political debate and speculation over whether she will attempt a return despite the legal and political obstacles facing her.

Her statement signals that she intends to remain an active figure in Bangladesh's political landscape and continue challenging the actions taken against her and her party.

Plane Crash Near French Airport Kills 11

A civilian aircraft crashed near an airport in the eastern French town of Tomblaine on Sunday, killing 11 people on board, according to preliminary reports from local authorities and media outlets. The tragic incident has triggered a major emergency response and an investigation into the cause of the crash.

The aircraft reportedly went down near the airport area shortly after takeoff or while conducting a flight operation. Initial reports indicated that the plane was carrying a group of skydivers and crew members. Emergency services rushed to the scene after receiving alerts about the crash.

Authorities quickly cordoned off the area surrounding the airport and urged residents to avoid the vicinity to allow rescue and investigation teams to operate without obstruction. Police issued public warnings requesting people to stay away from the crash site as emergency personnel worked to secure the area.

Local media reported that the aircraft was involved in a skydiving excursion, a popular



recreational activity in the region. Witnesses described hearing a loud noise before seeing smoke rising from the area where the plane came down. Rescue teams and firefighters were deployed in large numbers to deal with the aftermath of the accident.

Officials later confirmed that all 11 occupants of the aircraft were killed. No casualties on the ground were immediately reported, though authorities continued to assess the surrounding area for any damage.

French aviation authorities have launched an investigation to determine the circumstances that led to the crash. Investigators are expected to examine the aircraft's maintenance records, flight data, weather conditions, and communications with air traffic control. Technical experts from aviation safety agencies have also been dispatched to the site. The tragedy has shocked the local community and raised concerns about aviation safety in recreational flight operations. Messages of condolence have begun pouring

in from public officials and local residents, who expressed grief over the loss of life. The identities of the victims have not yet been officially released, pending notification of their families. Authorities said additional information would be provided as the investigation progresses.

The crash marks one of the deadliest civilian aviation incidents in the region in recent years and has prompted renewed scrutiny of safety procedures governing small aircraft and skydiving operations.

Modi, Seychelles President Hold Talks to Deepen Strategic Partnership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held delegation-level talks with Seychelles President Patrick Herminie at the State House in Victoria, reaffirming the strong and longstanding ties between India and the island nation. The discussions formed a key part of Modi's three-day State Visit to Seychelles and focused on expanding cooperation across strategic, economic, and maritime sectors.

The high-level meeting brought together senior representatives from both countries. The Indian delegation included S. Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit

Doval, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, and other senior officials. Seychelles was represented by Vice President Sebastien Pillay and several cabinet ministers responsible for foreign affairs, finance, fisheries, and economic planning.

Prior to the delegation-level talks, Prime Minister Modi and President Herminie held one-on-one discussions aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation. The leaders reviewed ongoing development projects and explored opportunities for greater collaboration in trade, security, capacity building, and sustainable development.



Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the State House, underscoring

the warm relations between the two countries. The visit

comes at a significant time as Seychelles prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its independence, with Modi attending the Golden Jubilee National Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour.

During his visit, the Prime Minister also handed over the India-built Fast Patrol Vessel PS Lespwar along with six ambulances, ten utility vehicles, and five laser-guided boats to Seychelles. The assistance is aimed at strengthening the country's maritime surveillance capabilities and enhancing patrol operations within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). India and Seychelles share close ties rooted in de-

velopment cooperation, defence collaboration, and people-to-people exchanges. Over the years, India has supported several infrastructure, health-care, and security initiatives in the island nation.

Officials said the latest discussions reflect a shared commitment to deepening the strategic partnership and promoting stability, security, and sustainable growth in the Indian Ocean Region. The visit is expected to further strengthen cooperation in maritime security, blue economy initiatives, and regional connectivity, reinforcing the role of both nations as key partners in the region.

Heatwave Claims 1,000 Lives in France

France has recorded approximately 1,000 excess deaths during a severe heatwave that gripped much of the country and western Europe over recent days, according to French public health authorities. The alarming figures highlight the growing human toll of extreme weather events, with elderly citizens bearing the brunt of the crisis.

In a statement released on Sunday, Public Health France said that since June 24, around 1,000 more deaths than normally expected had been recorded across the country. The agency noted that the figures remain preliminary and are likely to rise as data collection continues.

Health officials reported that regions placed under the highest-level red heat alert experienced the most significant impact. Nearly 85 % of the excess deaths involved people aged 65 years and older, underscoring the vulnerability of senior citizens during prolonged periods of extreme heat.

Authorities also observed a notable increase in deaths occurring at home rather than in hospitals or care facilities. The trend was especially pronounced in the Ile-de-France region, which includes Paris and its surrounding suburbs. Officials suggested that social isolation may have contributed



to the rising death toll, particularly among elderly residents living alone.

Public Health France emphasized the importance of community support during extreme weather conditions. The agency called for greater solidarity with isolated and vulnerable individuals, especially in densely populated urban areas where high temperatures can become particularly dangerous.

The heatwave pushed temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius in several parts of France, placing immense pressure on

health services and prompting emergency measures. Local authorities opened cooling centers, extended public health warnings, and urged residents to remain hydrated and avoid unnecessary outdoor activities during peak daytime hours.

Meteorologists described the event as one of the most intense heatwaves to affect France in recent years. Similar extreme conditions were reported across several western European countries, renewing concerns about the increasing frequency and severity of heat-related disasters linked to climate change.

Conditions began to improve on Sunday as temperatures gradually declined across much of the country. However, health experts warned that the effects of extreme heat can continue even after temperatures drop, particularly among vulnerable populations.

The latest figures serve as a stark reminder of the public health risks posed by prolonged heatwaves and the need for stronger preparedness measures to protect at-risk communities during future climate-related emergencies.

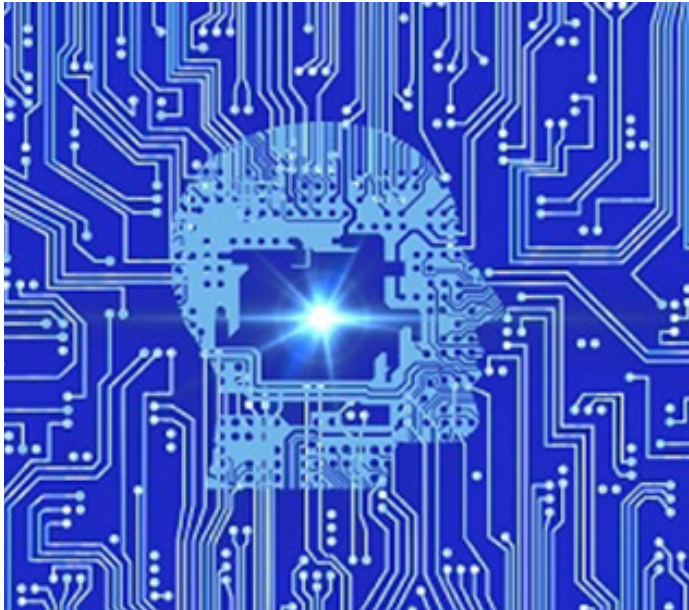
Chinese AI Narrows Cybersecurity Gap with US Rivals

Chinese artificial intelligence developers are rapidly advancing in the field of cybersecurity, with a new AI model from Zhipu AI reportedly reaching performance levels comparable to some leading American systems designed to detect software vulnerabilities.

According to security researchers, Zhipu AI's latest model, GLM-5.2, has demonstrated the ability to identify software bugs and security weaknesses, a capability increasingly viewed as critical in the global race to develop advanced AI-powered cybersecurity tools. Experts note that while the model still trails top-tier AI systems from companies such as Anthropic and OpenAI in several broader applications, the performance gap is steadily narrowing.

The development comes amid growing competition between China and the United States in artificial intelligence research and deployment. Researchers say China's AI industry has made significant progress over the past year, particularly in specialized domains such as cybersecurity, software analysis and automated vulnerability detection.

One of the key concerns surrounding these powerful models is their dual-use nature. While they can help security professionals discover and patch vulnerabilities before they are exploited, the same technology can also be used by malicious actors to identify weaknesses and launch more sophisticated cyberattacks. Security experts have warned



that the rapid advancement of AI-driven vulnerability discovery could create a scenario in which software flaws are found faster than organizations can fix them.

Anthropic's Mythos model, unveiled earlier this year, was specifically designed to identify software vulnerabilities and strengthen cyber defence. However, concerns over potential misuse led US authorities to place restrictions on the export of a less capable variant, citing national security considerations.

Zhipu AI's GLM-5.2 differs from many proprietary Western systems because it is an open-weight model. This allows users to download, run and modify the software on their own hardware. Supporters argue that open models encourage innovation and wider adoption, while critics warn

that they may also provide cybercriminals with powerful tools that operate beyond regulatory oversight.

The launch of GLM-5.2 is part of a broader wave of AI innovation emerging from China. Cybersecurity company 360 Security Technology recently introduced two AI-powered security tools under its "Yitian Tulong" platform. One tool focuses on automatically identifying software vulnerabilities, while another is designed for cyber defence and incident response.

Industry observers believe the increasing sophistication of Chinese AI models is likely to intensify global competition in cybersecurity technology, while also raising new questions about regulation, digital security and the responsible use of advanced artificial intelligence systems.

Markets Eye Geopolitics, Crude and Monsoon Trends

Investor sentiment on Dalal Street is expected to be shaped by a mix of global and domestic factors in the coming week, with renewed tensions between the United States and Iran emerging as the key concern. Market participants will closely monitor developments in West Asia and their impact on crude oil prices, which remain crucial for India's economy.

The latest exchange of military strikes between the US and Iran has heightened geopolitical uncertainty. Iran's reported drone and missile attacks on regional targets following US airstrikes have raised fears of further escalation. Investors are particularly focused on the security of shipping routes in and around the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global oil supplies.

Crude oil prices, which had recently retreated to pre-conflict levels, will remain under close watch. Brent crude ended the previous week around \$72.7 per barrel, offering relief to



oil-importing countries such as India. Stable or declining oil prices could help ease inflationary pressures and improve the country's external balance.

Another major factor influencing market sentiment will be the progress of the south-west monsoon. A normal monsoon is expected to boost agricultural output, support rural incomes and strengthen demand in sectors such as fast-

moving consumer goods (FMCG), automobiles and consumer durables.

Foreign portfolio investor (FPI) activity will also remain a key market driver. Selling pressure from overseas investors has moderated in recent weeks, with FPIs turning net buyers on several trading sessions during the second half of June. Market experts believe the prolonged phase of aggressive foreign selling may be

nearing an end, although sustained inflows could take time to materialize.

The movement of the Indian rupee against the US dollar is another important indicator. After touching a low of 96.96 in May, the rupee has shown signs of stability and is currently trading near the 94.40 level, supported by easing oil prices and improved investor confidence.

Apart from these factors, investors will monitor upcoming domestic macroeconomic data releases, corporate developments and global market trends. Analysts believe that while volatility may persist due to geopolitical concerns, easing crude prices, a favourable monsoon outlook and improving foreign investor sentiment could provide support to Indian equities in the near term.

Overall, the week ahead is expected to test market resilience as investors balance geopolitical risks against improving domestic fundamentals.

Caliber Mining Raises ₹100 Crore Ahead of IPO



through an Offer for Sale (OFS).

As part of the fresh issue component, the company had proposed a pre-IPO placement of up to 100 crore. The final tranche was completed on June 27, 2026, when the company allotted 9.43 lakh shares worth nearly 40 crore to four investors. This followed an earlier round that had already secured the remaining amount, enabling the company to achieve its 100-crore pre-IPO fundraising target.

The successful fundraising reflects strong investor confidence in the company's growth prospects and business model. The participation of well-

known institutional investors is expected to strengthen market sentiment ahead of the IPO launch.

Backed by investor Sunil Singhania through the Abakus platform, Caliber Mining operates in the mining and logistics sector, providing services to mining companies across India.

With regulatory approval already in place and pre-IPO funding successfully completed, the company is now expected to move closer to launching its much-awaited public issue, which will be closely watched by investors looking for opportunities in the infrastructure and mining services space.

Midcaps Drag as Profit Booking Hits Broader Market

India's broader equity markets underperformed benchmark indices during the holiday-shortened trading week, with profit booking in several high-beta stocks weighing on investor sentiment. While frontline indices managed modest gains, midcap and smallcap stocks struggled to maintain momentum after two consecutive weeks of advances.

The benchmark BSE Sensex rose 297.57 points, or 0.38 per cent, to close the week at 77,100.47. The Nifty 50 gained 42.9 points, or 0.17 per cent, ending at 24,056 and touching its highest level in more than a month during the week.

In contrast, broader market indices lagged. The Nifty Midcap 100 declined nearly 1 per cent, snapping its recent winning streak, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 remained largely unchanged. Market analysts attributed the weakness to profit booking in stocks that had witnessed strong rallies in recent weeks, as investors



turned cautious amid elevated valuations.

Despite the benchmark indices remaining resilient, market participation was largely stock-specific, with investors selectively shifting towards sectors perceived as relatively defensive or fundamentally strong. Among sectoral performers, the Nifty Pharma Index emerged as the top gainer, rising about 2 per cent during the week. The Nifty Realty Index advanced 1.7 per cent, supported by optimism surrounding housing demand and

infrastructure activity. Banking and automobile stocks also attracted buying interest, with the Nifty Private Bank and Nifty Auto indices gaining 1.5 per cent each.

On the downside, metal stocks faced significant pressure. The Nifty Metal Index was the week's worst-performing sector, falling 4.4 per cent amid concerns over global demand and commodity price volatility. The Nifty Consumer Durables Index declined 2.4 per cent, while the Nifty Capital Market and Nifty Energy

indices lost 2.2 per cent each.

Market experts noted that the Nifty's inability to decisively cross the crucial 24,200 resistance level may lead to further consolidation in the near term. Technical analysts believe the broader trend remains positive, but a sustained breakout above resistance levels is needed to trigger fresh upside momentum.

Investors are expected to closely monitor developments in global markets, crude oil prices, foreign institutional investor activity, and domestic economic indicators in the coming week. With valuations in several broader market segments remaining stretched, analysts expect stock-specific movements and periodic profit booking to continue.

Overall, while benchmark indices ended the week in positive territory, weakness in midcap and smallcap stocks highlighted a cautious undertone among investors as markets entered a consolidation phase.

A combination of favourable tax reforms and supportive policy measures is expected to keep domestic money flowing into Indian equities, according to a recent report by J.P. Morgan. The global brokerage believes these structural changes have significantly enhanced the attractiveness of equity investments compared to other financial instruments.

The report noted that recent tax policy changes have strengthened the case for investing in stocks. Equity investments are currently subject to a long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax of 12.5 per cent, while changes such as the removal of indexation benefits, taxation of certain insurance policy proceeds, and slab-rate taxation for debt mutual funds have reduced the relative attractiveness of competing investment avenues.

According to JP Morgan, these measures have shifted the risk-reward balance in favour of equities and encouraged households to allocate a larger share of their savings to financial assets. The trend has been further reinforced by the growing popularity of Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs), which continue to attract consistent monthly contributions from retail investors.

The report highlighted that domestic investors have remained resilient despite peri-



ods of market volatility and foreign portfolio investor (FPI) selling. During FY25 and FY26, foreign investors reduced exposure to Indian equities amid global uncertainties and shifting investment preferences. However, steady domestic participation helped cushion the impact of these outflows and provided stability to the markets.

JP Morgan observed that retail investors have increasingly emerged as a key pillar of the Indian stock market. Through mutual funds and SIPs, domestic investors have maintained regular investments even during phases of muted market returns over the past two years.

The brokerage believes this sustained flow of domestic capital has transformed the structure of Indian equity markets. Unlike earlier periods when foreign fund move-

ments largely dictated market direction, domestic investors now play a much greater role in supporting valuations and reducing volatility.

The report also pointed to the broader shift in household savings patterns, with more investors moving away from traditional physical assets and fixed-income products toward market-linked financial instruments. This transition, combined with policy support and expanding financial awareness, is expected to continue driving equity participation.

JP Morgan concluded that the long-term outlook for domestic equity inflows remains positive. With favourable tax treatment, rising retail participation, and increasing confidence in financial markets, Indian equities are likely to benefit from a strong and steady domestic investment base in the years ahead.

Nifty Eyes 24,728 as Analysts See Bullish Breakout Potential



Such patterns typically indicate indecision among market participants, reflecting a balance between buying and selling pressure. However, when they appear after an upward move, they often signal a period of consolidation before the next major trend develops.

Kyal believes the broader market structure remains constructive despite the recent hesitation. He noted that banking and financial stocks are likely to outperform the benchmark in the coming weeks. The Nifty Bank index, he said, is showing relative strength and could advance toward the 60,000 mark in the near term. On the downside,

strong support is seen around 57,000.

While maintaining a positive view on the overall market, the analyst advised caution in certain overheated stocks. He specifically highlighted Aegis Logistics, which has surged more than 50 per cent since the beginning of June. According to Kyal, the stock now appears stretched from both a valuation and technical perspective.

He cautioned investors against chasing the rally at current levels, stating that the risk-reward ratio has become unfavourable after the sharp run-up. Profit booking and consolidation could emerge in the stock after its recent gains.

Market participants will now closely watch whether the Nifty can overcome the 24,200 resistance level. A successful breakout could strengthen bullish sentiment and trigger fresh buying, while failure to cross the barrier may result in continued consolidation before the next major move unfolds.

Falling Oil Prices Set Stage for Sector-Specific Gains in India

A sustained decline in crude oil prices, coupled with easing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, could provide a significant boost to several sectors of the Indian economy, according to market experts. As India imports more than 88 per cent of its crude oil requirements, lower oil prices have a direct and far-reaching impact on inflation, corporate profitability, and economic growth.

Analysts estimate that every one-dollar decline in Brent crude prices reduces India's annual import bill by approximately 10,000-13,000 crore. This not only helps narrow the current account deficit but also supports the rupee, eases inflationary pressures, and provides greater policy flexibility to the Reserve Bank of India and the government.

Among all sectors, aviation is considered the biggest beneficiary of lower crude prices. Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), derived from crude oil, accounts for nearly 40 per cent of airline operating expenses. A decline in fuel costs directly improves profit margins for carriers such as InterGlobe Aviation, Air India and Spice-



Jet. Lower fuel costs also allow airlines to reduce fares, stimulate passenger demand, and expand capacity.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are another major beneficiary. Lower crude prices improve inventory management, reduce working capital requirements, and can enhance marketing margins for companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum.

The paints and tyre industries also stand to gain because crude oil derivatives are key raw materials in their manufacturing processes. Companies in these sectors often witness margin expansion when input costs decline. Similarly, automobile manufacturers benefit through lower logistics expenses and stronger consumer demand, as reduced fuel costs increase household disposable income.

The logistics and transpor-

tation sectors are expected to see operational savings as diesel prices ease. Freight operators, trucking firms, and supply-chain businesses can improve profitability through lower fuel expenditure.

Financial institutions may also receive indirect benefits. Lower inflation resulting from cheaper oil can create room for interest rate reductions, supporting credit growth and boosting sectors sensitive to borrowing costs, including banking, housing finance, and consumer lending.

Market experts believe that selective exposure to aviation, oil marketing, paints, tyres, automobiles, logistics, and rate-sensitive financial stocks offers investors an opportunity to benefit from India's structural growth story if crude prices remain subdued and geopolitical risks continue to ease.

While falling oil prices do not guarantee gains across all sectors, history suggests that industries with high fuel or crude-linked costs tend to emerge as the strongest winners during such periods.

‘Darta Kaun Hai?’: Grandfather’s 18,000-Foot Skydive Wins Hearts

Age proved to be just a number when an elderly Indian man fearlessly leaped from an altitude of 18,000 feet in Australia, leaving social media users inspired by his courage and enthusiasm. The thrilling adventure, shared online by his grandson Ankit, has quickly gone viral, drawing admiration from people across the globe.

According to Ankit, this was not his grandfather's first skydiving experience. The adventurous senior citizen had earlier completed a jump from 15,000 feet, but this time the family decided to take the excitement to an entirely new level by opting for an 18,000-foot skydive.

Before boarding the aircraft, Ankit jokingly asked his grandfather if

he was feeling nervous. The elderly man's response instantly stole the spotlight. With confidence and a smile, he replied, "Darta Kaun Hai Main?" meaning, "Who is scared? Me?" His spirited answer perfectly captured his fearless attitude and soon became the most talked-about moment from the video. The excitement only intensified once the jump began. During the breathtaking freefall, the grandfather enthusiastically shouted patriotic slogans, including "Jai Hind," "Jai Bharat," and "Jai Haryana," adding a deeply emotional and inspiring touch to the adventure. His infectious energy and zest for life resonated strongly with viewers, many of whom praised his adventurous spirit.

The video was captioned by Ankit as "Dada Ji skydiving, 18,000 feet in Australia," and has since attracted widespread attention online. Social media users flooded the comments section with messages celebrating the grandfather's courage, positivity, and determination to embrace life without fear.

Many viewers described the clip as motivating and uplifting, noting that it challenges conventional perceptions about age and adventure. Others admired the grandfather's patriotism and joyful outlook, saying his enthusiasm during the jump was truly heartwarming. One user commented that the video showcased the true meaning of living life to the fullest, while another

said the patriotic chants during the skydive gave them goosebumps. Several users also hailed the grandfather as an inspiration for younger generations, proving that passion, confidence, and curiosity need not fade with age. The viral video serves as a powerful reminder that adventure has no age limit. Whether it is trying something new, pursuing a dream, or overcoming fear, the elderly man's daring leap demonstrates that enthusiasm and courage can keep the spirit young regardless of the years one has lived.

For many, his message was simple yet profound: life is meant to be experienced boldly, and fear should never stand in the way of creating unforgettable memories.



Bus Driver's Honesty Restores Indian Woman's Faith in Humanity



A simple act of honesty by a bus driver and the kindness of a stranger have touched thousands online after an Indian woman living in New Zealand shared her experience on social media. The heartwarming incident has become a reminder that integrity and compassion still thrive in everyday life.

Shreeya Gupte recounted the incident in a video that has since gone viral, saying it completely restored her faith in humanity. She explained that she had parked her car near her university in the morning and returned later in the evening expecting an ordinary end to her day. Instead, she discovered a note tucked beneath her windshield wiper.

At first glance, the message seemed alarming. It began with the words, "Sorry, I hit your car," prompting Gupte to fear that she had become a victim of a hit-and-run accident. However, as she continued reading, she realized that the situation was far from what she had imagined.

The note revealed that a bus driver had accidentally damaged her parked vehicle but had chosen to take full responsibility for the incident. He left his name, phone number, and requested that she contact the bus depot to address the repairs. His willingness to admit the mistake and provide his details impressed Gupte and changed her initial disappointment into gratitude.

What moved her even more was the unexpected gesture from a stranger. A passerby who had witnessed the incident took the time to find a piece of cardboard and a marker to leave another note. The person explained what had happened, confirmed that the bus driver had provided his information, and even offered witness details to ensure Gupte would not have to deal with the repair costs alone.

Sharing the story online, Gupte said she had initially expected the worst but was pleasantly surprised by the honesty and kindness displayed by people she had never met. She described the experience as one of the most positive moments she had encountered since moving

to New Zealand.

The video quickly resonated with social media users, many of whom praised both the bus driver and the anonymous witness for their integrity. Several commenters noted that such gestures demonstrate the importance of accountability and community spirit, while others described the incident as an inspiring example of how small acts of decency can leave a lasting impact.

For Gupte, what could have been a frustrating and stressful day ultimately became a memorable experience, proving that honesty and kindness can transform even an unfortunate situation into a powerful reminder of humanity at its best.

Dog Pulled Alive From Quake Rubble Inspires Hope in Venezuela

Amid the widespread destruction caused by the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, a heartwarming rescue operation has emerged as a symbol of resilience, compassion, and hope. Firefighters from the Caracas Fire Department successfully rescued a dog trapped beneath the rubble of a collapsed building, an emotional moment that has touched millions across social media.

The dramatic rescue took place in the aftermath of two powerful earthquakes measuring 7.5 and 7.2 in magnitude that struck northern Venezuela on June 24. The twin tremors, occurring less than a minute apart, left a trail of destruction, damaging hundreds of buildings, claiming numerous lives, and injuring thousands of people.

According to rescue officials, a search-and-rescue team had already completed operations at a collapsed residence and was preparing to leave the site when they heard faint barking coming from underneath the debris. Realizing that an animal was still alive beneath the wreckage, firefighters immediately resumed their efforts.

Rescuers carefully removed concrete slabs, twisted metal, and other debris by hand to avoid causing further harm to the trapped dog. One of the most touching moments captured on video showed firefighters lowering a bottle of water through a narrow opening to hydrate the frightened animal while rescue efforts continued. The compassionate gesture highlighted the determination of emergency

workers to save every life possible, regardless of species.

After an intense operation, the dog was finally pulled to safety, visibly shaken but alive. Another widely circulated video also showed a puppy being rescued from beneath the debris, further uplifting spirits amid the tragedy.

The Caracas Fire Department described the rescue as a beacon of hope for those affected by the disaster. Officials stated that such extraordinary moments provide strength and encouragement to rescue teams and survivors alike during difficult times.

Emergency personnel continue to work tirelessly across affected areas, searching for survivors and assisting displaced families. With infrastructure severely damaged

and access to heavy machinery limited, many rescuers have relied on manual labour and basic tools to carry out their operations.

Despite the immense challenges posed by one of Venezuela's deadliest natural disasters in recent history, stories like these have reminded people around the world of the importance of compassion and perseverance. The successful rescue of the trapped dog has become a powerful symbol that even in the darkest moments, hope can still be found beneath the rubble.

As rescue operations continue, the bravery and dedication displayed by firefighters and volunteers serve as an inspiring example of humanity's unwavering commitment to protecting life in all its forms.



Europe Swelters as Deadly Heatwave Shatters Temperature Records

A severe heatwave sweeping across Europe continues to intensify, exposing millions of people to dangerous temperatures and putting increasing pressure on health systems. After affecting western Europe, the scorching weather has now shifted eastward, with several countries issuing red alerts and warning residents to take precautionary measures.

Meteorological agencies estimate that nearly 200 million people experienced temperatures exceeding 35 degrees Celsius over the weekend, making it one of the most intense heat events witnessed in recent years. The prolonged spell of extreme weather has already resulted in record-breaking temperatures in several countries, while authorities fear the human toll could continue to rise.

France has reported an unusually high number of heat-

related deaths, prompting concerns among health officials. French Health Minister Stephanie Rist indicated that mortality figures are expected to surpass those recorded during the same period last year. Hospitals in Paris have also reported a sharp increase in emergency room visits, reflecting the growing strain on health-care services.

Spain has linked more than 200 deaths over a four-day period to the ongoing heatwave, highlighting the severity of the situation. Emergency services in Austria's capital Vienna have similarly experienced a significant increase in demand, forcing authorities to deploy additional personnel to cope with the surge in cases related to heat exhaustion and dehydration.

The extreme temperatures have disrupted public life across several European nations. Authorities in France,



Germany, and the Netherlands have cancelled outdoor events, street celebrations, and music festivals due to safety concerns. However, some large gatherings have continued despite warnings, with organisers implementing measures to protect participants from the intense heat.

Germany has emerged as one of the worst-affected countries, with the German Weather Service issuing red alerts across much of the nation. Meteorologists recorded a temperature of 41.5 degrees Celsius in eastern Germany, marking the highest temperature ever observed in the country. Forecasters have cautioned that temperatures may climb even higher, potentially reaching 42 degrees Celsius and setting another national record.

Denmark has also witnessed unprecedented weather conditions, with its meteorological department confirming a new

national temperature record. Remarkably, the newly established benchmark lasted only an hour before being surpassed by another reading of 37 degrees Celsius near Aarhus.

Climate experts continue to warn that extreme heat events are becoming more frequent and intense, raising concerns about their impact on public health, infrastructure, and ecosystems. As the heatwave progresses eastward, governments across Europe remain on high alert, urging citizens to stay hydrated, avoid prolonged exposure to the sun, and look after vulnerable groups such as the elderly and children.

With forecasts suggesting that unusually high temperatures may persist for several more days, Europe faces another challenging chapter in its struggle against increasingly severe climate extremes.



India Bond Over Special Dinner in Belfast Ahead of Crucial 2nd T20

The India national cricket team enjoyed a warm and memorable evening in Belfast ahead of their second T20 international against Ireland national cricket team, as players attended a special dinner hosted by the Indian diplomatic mission.

The event, held in Belfast, was organized under the guidance of India's Consulate General and brought together players, officials, and members of the Indian diaspora living in Ireland. The gathering created a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere, offering the team a refreshing break from the intense competitive schedule of the ongoing series.

The dinner came at a crucial moment in the tour, with the two-match T20 series finely poised. Ireland had already created history by securing a victory in the opening match, putting India under early pressure in the short series. As a result, the second T20 has now become a must-win encounter for the visitors, who are determined to level the series and regain momentum.

During the evening, Indian players interacted freely with fans and members of the diaspora, posing for photographs and engaging in conversations. The event highlighted the strong emotional connection between the team and overseas

Indian supporters, who turned up in large numbers to show encouragement.

The gathering also reflected the cultural role cricket plays beyond the boundary ropes. More than just a sport, it continues to act as a bridge between communities and countries. The presence of local guests and Indian expatriates made the occasion a celebration of shared identity and sporting spirit.

Players appeared relaxed and in good spirits, using the opportunity to unwind before the high-pressure clash. The team management views such engagements as important for morale, especially during tightly scheduled tours where mental freshness becomes as crucial as physical preparation.

With the second T20 approaching, India will look to convert this positive off-field energy into on-field performance. The team is expected to make tactical adjustments after the first-match setback, focusing on sharper execution in both batting and bowling departments.

As anticipation builds in Belfast, the upcoming match carries added significance for India's campaign. A win would not only level the series but also restore confidence ahead of future fixtures on the tour.

Srikanth Storms Into US Open Final



Indian badminton star Kidambi Srikanth produced a determined performance to secure a place in the men's singles final of the US Open Super 300 tournament, overcoming Japan's Yudai Okimoto in a gripping three-game encounter in Fullerton.

The former world number one battled hard for 72 minutes before sealing a hard-fought 22-20, 15-21, 21-19 victory over the world number 33 Japanese shuttler. The win marks Srikanth's first final appearance of the 2026 season and signals a welcome return to form for the experienced Indian player.

A silver medalist at the 2021 World Championships, Srikanth showed immense composure and fighting spirit throughout the semifinal. He made an impressive start to the contest, taking an early advantage and building a commanding 17-10 lead in the opening game. However, Okimoto staged a remarkable comeback, winning ten of the next

twelve points to earn a game point.

Just when the momentum appeared to be shifting decisively in the Japanese player's favour, Srikanth regained control. The Indian shuttler responded with three consecutive points to snatch the first game 22-20 and gain a crucial advantage in the match.

Okimoto came back strongly in the second game, dictating the pace of rallies and maintaining his lead for most of the set. After taking a narrow advantage at the mid-game interval, the Japanese player steadily extended his lead to claim the second game 21-15, forcing the contest into a deciding set.

The final game turned into another intense battle. Srikanth initially looked comfortable with a 10-5 lead, but Okimoto once again fought back to edge ahead at 13-12. Displaying his experience, the Indian star responded brilliantly by winning six points in succession to move within touching distance

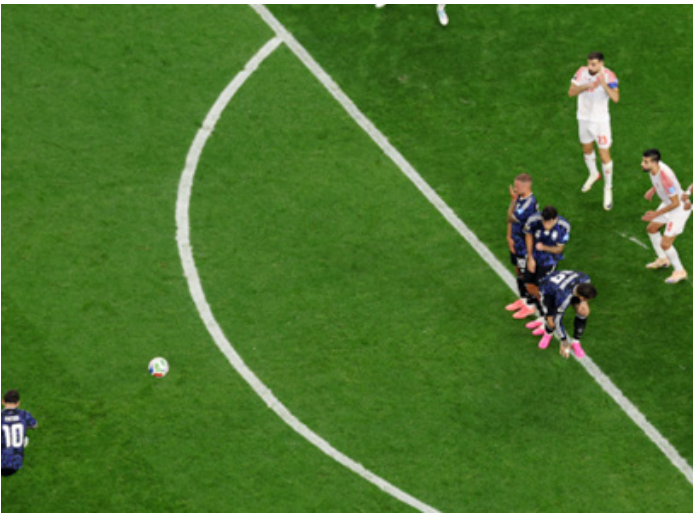
of victory at 18-13.

However, the drama was far from over as Okimoto mounted another comeback and levelled the scores at 18-18. With the pressure mounting, Srikanth kept his nerves intact and delivered at the crucial moments to close out the match 21-19 and book his place in the title clash.

The 33-year-old Indian will now face Chinese Taipei's Su Li Yang, currently ranked 46th in the world, in the championship match. Su Li Yang reached the final after defeating India's young sensation Rounak Chouhan in straight games.

Meanwhile, India's campaign in the women's singles ended in the semifinals, with sixth seed Devika Sihag going down to Denmark's Line Christophersen in a three-game contest.

Srikanth will now aim to cap off his impressive run by capturing his first title of the year and adding another significant achievement to his decorated badminton career.



Messi Magic Seals Argentina's 3-1 Win Over Jordan

At the FIFA World Cup 2026, Lionel Messi once again proved decisive as Argentina national football team secured a confident 3-1 victory over Jordan national football team in their final Group J match.

Even with qualification already confirmed, Argentina showed no signs of slowing down. The team started brightly, controlling possession and dictating the tempo from midfield. Giovanni Lo Celso opened the scoring with a well-placed finish after a smooth attacking move, giving Argentina an early advantage. Lautaro Martinez soon added a second goal, capitalizing on a defensive lapse to extend the lead before halftime.

Jordan responded with determination and managed to pull one goal back through a quick counterattack, briefly unsettling Argentina's defense. However, the South American side quickly regained control and continued to dominate proceedings with structured passing and high pressing.

The biggest highlight came in the second half when Lionel Messi was introduced from the bench. Despite limited time on

the pitch, his presence immediately changed the rhythm of the game. In the 80th minute, Argentina won a free-kick in a dangerous position just outside the penalty area. Messi stepped up and delivered a trademark low, curling strike that slipped past the wall and left the goalkeeper frozen, sealing the match in style.

The goal once again highlighted Messi's unmatched precision and ability to deliver in crucial moments, even in the later stages of his career. At 39, his influence continues to remain vital for Argentina as they progress deeper into the tournament.

With this victory, Argentina completed a perfect group-stage campaign and strengthened their momentum heading into the knockout rounds. The team's blend of experienced leaders and young talent has made them one of the strongest contenders for the title.

As the tournament moves forward, Argentina will look to maintain their form, with Messi's leadership and moments of brilliance expected to remain central to their World Cup ambitions.



Vaibhav Suryavanshi in Focus After Ireland Loss

The pressure is mounting on the India national cricket team management to consider giving young talent Vaibhav Suryavanshi a chance after a disappointing batting performance in the first T20 against the Ireland national cricket team.

India, who entered the series with high expectations, were stunned by Ireland's strong all-round performance in the opening match. Apart from a few individual contributions at the top, most of the batting order struggled to build momentum or convert starts into meaningful scores.

Key batters, including Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan, failed to make an impact, while even experienced players in the middle order could not stabilize the innings. The overall lack of partnerships and consistency exposed weaknesses in India's batting approach under pressure conditions.

The defeat has triggered widespread discussion among fans and analysts, with growing calls to include Vaibhav

Suryavanshi in the playing XI. Supporters argue that the young batter has been in strong demand and represents a fresh attacking option that could inject energy into the lineup.

Team selection decisions have also come under scrutiny, especially regarding the balance of the XI and the role of all-rounders. Some feel that the team's current combination lacks clarity, particularly in the middle order, where stability was expected but not delivered.

As discussions intensify, there is speculation over possible changes for the second T20. The team management may consider reshuffling the batting order or introducing new faces to address recent shortcomings and improve overall performance.

With the series still open, the next match becomes crucial for India to bounce back. Whether Vaibhav Suryavanshi gets his long-awaited opportunity remains one of the key talking points ahead of the team selection.

DR Congo Create History with First World Cup Win

At the FIFA World Cup 2026, the DR Congo national football team produced a landmark performance by defeating the Uzbekistan national football team 3-1 to register their first-ever World Cup victory and secure a place in the Round of 32.

The African side showed great resilience after conceding an early goal. Uzbekistan struck first through Eldor Shomurodov in the 10th minute, putting DR Congo under pressure in the opening phase of the match. However, Congo gradually settled into a rhythm and began controlling key areas of the pitch.

The comeback started in the second half when Yoane Wissa converted a penalty in the 68th

minute to level the score at 1-1. The equalizer shifted momentum, with DR Congo growing in confidence and pushing forward with greater intensity.

Just ten minutes later, substitute Fiston Mayele made an immediate impact by scoring a crucial second goal in the 78th minute, giving DR Congo a 2-1 lead. Uzbekistan attempted to respond but struggled to break down a well-organised Congolese defence.

In stoppage time, Wissa struck again to seal the victory, completing his brace and confirming a historic 3-1 result. The win ensured DR Congo advanced as one of the best third-placed teams in the group stage.

This victory marks a major milestone for Congolese football, ending a long wait for success on the World Cup stage. The team had previously appeared in the tournament in 1974 under the name Zaire but failed to win a match at that time.

With this result, DR Congo now moves into the knockout stage, where they will face a tough challenge against the England national football team in the Round of 32.

The win is being celebrated as one of the standout stories of the tournament, highlighting DR Congo's determination, teamwork, and historic breakthrough on football's biggest stage.



Last-Minute Drama Ends Iran's World Cup Dream

Seattle, June 28 | TPN Bureau

Iran's hopes of reaching the knockout stage of the FIFA World Cup for the first time ended in heartbreak after a dramatic turn of events in Group G. Despite remaining unbeaten in the group stage, Amir Ghalenoei's side failed to secure a place among the best third-placed teams.

Iran concluded their campaign with a 1-1 draw against Egypt on Friday, finishing with three points from three matches. The team was then forced to wait for results from other group matches to determine their fate. For a brief moment, qualification seemed within reach when Algeria took a 3-2 lead against Austria in stoppage time.

However, Austria struck back almost immediately, scoring a last-gasp equaliser to seal a 3-3 draw. The result ensured progression for both Austria and Algeria, leaving Iran just outside the top eight third-placed teams and out of the tournament.

Iran's campaign was marked

by narrow margins. A stoppage-time goal against Egypt by Shoja Khalilzadeh was ruled out following a VAR review for offside, denying the team a crucial victory. Captain Mehdi Taremi also missed key opportunities, including a penalty and a header that struck the crossbar.

Off the field, the team faced significant logistical challenges. Due to geopolitical tensions, including the US-Israel war on Iran, the squad had to travel from their base in Mexico to the United States for each match under strict time restrictions imposed by US authorities.

Speaking after the Egypt match, Mehdi Taremi described the situation as a "disaster," questioning the fairness of the conditions. Coach Amir Ghalenoei also expressed concern, stating that the team felt "oppressed."

Despite the setbacks, Iran exits the tournament unbeaten, having drawn with Belgium, New Zealand and Egypt, but their long wait for a historic knockout berth continues.





Idupu Kayitam Debate Highlights Telangana Dialect and Cultural Identity

Ravi Podili

The ongoing discussion around the term “Idupu Kayitam” has triggered a wider debate on linguistic sensitivity, regional identity, and the cultural significance of dialects in Telugu-speaking states. The term, now widely discussed in public discourse, refers to a mutual agreement document prepared through mediation by village elders when a married couple decides to separate. It reflects a traditional social resolution practice once prevalent in Telangana villages during a time when formal legal access was limited.

The concept is not new, but its recent reference in public conversations has drawn mixed reactions. While some view it as part of Telangana’s cultural and linguistic heritage, others have questioned its usage and interpretation, leading to a broader conversation on dialect representation.

Language experts and cultural commentators note that language is not merely a communication tool but a reflection of history, tradition, and lived experience. Any form of ridicule directed at a dialect, they argue, is often perceived as an affront to regional identity and dignity. Concerns have been raised that the Telangana dialect has historically faced stereotyping in cinema, media, and public platforms, where it was sometimes used for comic or negative portrayals.

Following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and the formation of Telangana state, there has been a renewed emphasis on linguistic pride and cultural assertion. However, occasional controversies continue to emerge, reigniting de-

bates on perceived linguistic bias and regional sensitivities.

Observers point out that Telugu itself is a diverse language with multiple dialects, including Telangana, Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra, Godavari regions, and North Andhra, each with distinct expressions and cultural tones. Cinema, too, has increasingly showcased these variations, with films representing different dialects gaining recognition and acceptance among audiences.

The recent discussion around “Idupu Kayitam” has also opened up comparisons with how dialect-based films are treated across industries. While regional language films often retain their original linguistic identity, questions have been raised about selective objections when it comes to Telangana dialect representation.

Some commentators argue that such debates risk reviving unnecessary regional tensions, while others maintain that constructive criticism is part of democratic discourse, provided it does not translate into cultural disrespect.

At its core, the discussion highlights a larger issue of linguistic respect and inclusivity. Advocates of cultural harmony emphasize that no dialect should be seen as inferior, and every linguistic form carries equal dignity within India’s diverse cultural fabric.

The evolving debate around “Idupu Kayitam” thus underscores the need for greater sensitivity towards regional expressions, reinforcing the idea that respecting language diversity is integral to preserving unity in a multilingual society.

Ram Turns Director with Ambitious Psychological Thriller

Energetic star Ram Pothineni is all set to embark on a significant new journey in his career by stepping behind the camera for the first time. The actor, who has established himself as one of Telugu cinema’s most dynamic performers, is now gearing up to showcase his creative vision as a director with his upcoming project, tentatively titled RAP023.

The film is scheduled to be officially launched on June 29 with a grand pooja ceremony, marking the beginning of an exciting chapter for Ram. What makes this project even more special is that he is not only directing the film but also playing the lead role and penning the story himself. This multifaceted involvement reflects his passion and confidence in presenting a unique cinematic experience to audiences.

The upcoming movie is being described as a psychological action thriller, a genre that has gained immense popularity among moviegoers in recent years. Combining intense storytelling with action-packed sequences and psychological depth, the film is expected to offer something fresh and engaging for audiences.

Backing the project is Ram’s brother Krishna Pothineni under the banner of Rapo Cinematics. The production house is expected to provide strong support in bringing Ram’s vision to life on the big screen. Adding further strength to the technical team is renowned

cinematographer Thiru, whose work in several successful films has earned him a reputation for delivering visually compelling narratives.

Fans are eagerly awaiting more details about the project, especially since it marks Ram’s debut as a filmmaker. Over the years, he has impressed audiences with his energetic screen presence, versatility, and dedication to his craft. Now, expectations are high to see how he translates his creativity and storytelling instincts into direction.

Industry circles are also keenly observing the development of the film, considering the growing trend of actors taking up responsibilities beyond acting. Ram’s decision to direct his own film demonstrates his willingness to explore new dimensions of cinema and challenge himself artistically.

Preparations are already underway to commence regular shooting immediately after the launch event. With a promising genre, an experienced technical team, and Ram’s enthusiasm driving the project, RAP023 has generated considerable curiosity among fans and film enthusiasts alike.

As Ram Pothineni takes on the triple role of actor, writer, and director, all eyes are now on whether he can create a memorable cinematic experience and add another milestone to his successful career.



Venkatesh’s ‘AK47’ Targets October Release

Veteran actor Venkatesh is riding high on the success of his recent films and is now gearing up to entertain audiences with another promising project titled Adarsha Kutumbam House No:47, popularly referred to as AK47. The film has already generated considerable excitement among movie lovers, and the makers have now officially announced its release date.

The family entertainer is slated to hit theatres worldwide on October 2, aiming to capitalize on the festive season and attract audiences looking for wholesome entertainment. The announcement was made through a special poster unveiled by music director Thaman, who is composing the soundtrack for the film.

Directed by Trivikram, the movie marks an exciting collaboration between the celebrated filmmaker and Venkatesh. Known for his ability to blend emotional storytelling, family values, and entertaining dialogues, Trivikram is expected to bring his trademark style to the project. The



film is anticipated to offer a mix of humor, drama, and heartfelt moments that resonate with audiences across age groups.

Actress Srinidhi Shetty plays the female lead opposite Venkatesh. Her pairing with the senior star has created curiosity among fans, who are eager to witness the chemistry between the two on screen. The film is being produced by S. Radhakrishna under a pres-

tigious banner, further raising expectations surrounding the project.

Venkatesh has enjoyed an impressive phase in his career, delivering back-to-back successful films that have reinforced his popularity among family audiences. With AK47, the actor appears ready to continue his winning streak by presenting another engaging entertainer.

The title itself has sparked

interest among movie enthusiasts, as it combines the idea of an ideal family with an intriguing subtitle, suggesting a narrative that could offer both emotional depth and entertaining twists. While the makers have remained tight-lipped about the storyline, industry circles believe the film will carry strong family values wrapped in an engaging commercial format.

Music has always been a major strength in Trivikram’s films, and with Thaman on board, expectations for the soundtrack are naturally high. Fans are already looking forward to updates regarding the songs, teaser, and trailer in the coming months.

With a successful actor, an accomplished director, and a talented technical team coming together, Adarsha Kutumbam House No:47 is shaping up to be one of the notable Telugu releases of the year. As the October release date approaches, anticipation is expected to grow further among audiences eager to see Venkatesh return with yet another entertaining family drama.



‘Gurtukosthunnayi’ Carries Allu Arjun’s Encouragement

The upcoming web series Gurtukosthunnayi is gearing up for its digital premiere with a strong blend of emotions, humor, and relatable life experiences. Ahead of its release, the makers unveiled the trailer at a grand event attended by several prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry.

Directed by Vinod Gali and produced by Sarath Chandra Naidu, the series features Viraj Ashwin in the lead role and is set to stream on ETV Win from July 3. The trailer launch witnessed the presence of director Boyapati Srinu, actor Satyadev, filmmaker Karunakaran, producers Y. Ravishankar, Bunny Vas, SKN, Dheeraj Mogilineni, and Vamsi Nandipati.

Speaking at the event, Boyapati Srinu highlighted the growing importance of compelling storytelling in today’s entertainment landscape. He observed that audiences are increasingly embracing content-driven projects irrespective of their scale and pointed to the recent success of several films and series as evidence of this changing trend. He expressed confidence that Gurtukosthunnayi would continue the momentum of quality storytelling and appreciated ETV Win and



Geetha Arts for consistently backing engaging narratives.

Actor Satyadev emphasized that the distinction between films and web series has gradually diminished, with audiences prioritizing strong stories above all else. He praised the content emerging from ETV Win and hoped that Gurtukosthunnayi would join the list of memorable productions from the platform.

Lead actor Viraj Ashwin described the series as an emotional journey inspired by various moments in life. He noted that while emotions form the heart of the narrative, humor also plays a significant role, making the series appealing to a wide spectrum of viewers.

One of the highlights of the event came from producer Sarath Chandra Naidu, who credited actor Allu Arjun for moti-

vating him throughout his professional journey. He revealed that he initially worked handling the star’s social media activities before taking on greater responsibilities in the industry. According to him, the encouragement and support extended by Allu Arjun gave him the confidence to evolve into a producer and bring a meaningful project like Gurtukosthunnayi to audiences.

ETV Win Business Head Sai Krishna announced that viewers would be able to watch the first episode free of cost, expressing confidence that the series would leave a lasting impression, much like its title suggests. With an emotional narrative, relatable characters, and a talented creative team, Gurtukosthunnayi is expected to resonate strongly with viewers upon its release.

Keerthy Suresh Reveals How Rejection Led to ‘Bujji’ in Kalki

Actress Keerthy Suresh has opened up about an interesting phase in her career, revealing how a rejection eventually paved the way for one of her most memorable roles in Kalki 2898 AD. As the blockbuster film completes two years since its theatrical release, the actress reflected on her journey and the unexpected turn of events that led her to become the voice behind the beloved character Bujji.

Speaking about the experience, Keerthy shared that she had initially hoped to appear physically in the film. However, circumstances did not work out as planned, and she could not become part of the project in the manner she had envisioned. Despite the disappointment, director Nag Ashwin later approached her with a unique opportunity—to lend her voice to Bujji, the futuristic AI-powered vehicle that eventually became one of the film’s most popular characters.

Keerthy admitted that she was initially surprised by the offer but quickly realized the significance of the role. The character’s quirky personality, witty dialogues, and emotional connection with the audience made Bujji a standout element in the film. Her voice performance received widespread appreciation from viewers and critics alike, proving that even unconventional roles can leave a lasting impact.

Kalki 2898 AD, headlined by Prabhas, emerged as a global



phenomenon upon its release, captivating audiences with its blend of mythology, science fiction, and grand visual storytelling. Among the many highlights of the film, Bujji developed a dedicated fan following and became an integral part of the narrative.

Keerthy believes that what initially seemed like a missed opportunity eventually transformed into a rewarding experience. She described the journey as a reminder that setbacks often open doors to unexpected possibilities. By embracing the chance to portray Bujji through voice acting, she was able to contribute meaningfully to one of Indian cinema’s

most ambitious projects.

Over the years, Keerthy Suresh has built a reputation for taking up diverse and challenging roles across languages. Her involvement in Kalki 2898 AD further showcased her versatility and willingness to experiment with different forms of performance.

As the film celebrates two successful years, memories associated with Bujji continue to resonate with audiences. Keerthy’s candid revelation about rejection leading her to the iconic character serves as an inspiring example of how unexpected opportunities can sometimes become career-defining moments.

