



BUZZ POINTS



**Regional Parties Face Internal Turmoil Amid Political Realignments**

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**Jairam Ramesh Opposes Return of Congress Leaders Who Joined BJP**

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**Rising Crimes in the Name of Love Raise Concerns**

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# CM inaugurates Tungabhadra project gates with southern CMs

Hospet, June 25|TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has called for stronger inter-state cooperation for the welfare of farmers and stressed the need for efficient water resource management through river linking projects.

He made the remarks after inaugurating the Tungabhadra project's new crest gates along with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K.



Shivakumar and Union Minister C.R. Patil at Hospet , Vijaynagara District, Karnataka on Thursday.

Stating that all governments must work together for farmers' welfare, Naidu said that though states are different, the nation is one. He noted that the Tungabhadra Dam has played a crucial role in providing irrigation and drinking water to people across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka.

Recalling the incident in August 2024 when one of the dam gates was washed away, the Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka jointly undertook

## Modern Medical Centre Inaugurated at Vaikuntham Queue Complex-II

Tirumala, June 25 | TPN Bureau

A modern medical centre was inaugurated at Vaikuntham Queue Complex-II in Tirumala on Thursday to strengthen healthcare services for devotees arriving for Sri vari darshan.The centre has been established by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) with facilities including ECG equipment, oxygen support systems, advanced medical instruments, and other essential emergency care infrastructure. Officials said the centre is designed to provide quick and efficient medical assistance to devotees waiting in queue complexes.Four doctors and sixteen paramedical staff will be available to provide round-the-clock medical services at the

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## Declining Ground Reality Signals Challenge for NDA Govt in AP

Ravi Podili

Although the NDA alliance in Andhra Pradesh has marked over two years in office with large-scale victory celebrations across the state, emerging surveys and ground-level feedback suggest a growing gap between the government's claims of performance and public satisfaction. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and other senior leaders have highlighted governance achievements and welfare delivery, but political observers say the real test lies in public perception at the grassroots level.

At the surface level, there is no visible widespread unrest. However, multiple survey assessments indicate a gradual decline in public satisfaction as the government completes nearly half of its term. A survey by "Unicorn Political Strategy" reportedly places current satisfaction levels at around 59 %, a significant drop compared to the overwhelming mandate the alliance secured in the last elections. Analysts note that while welfare schemes and development programmes are being implemented, dissatisfaction is growing over unfulfilled election promises, including commitments under the "Super Six" agenda.

Key concerns highlighted in these assessments include the delay in implementing unemployment allowances, financial assistance schemes for women,



and proposed social security measures such as pensions for BC women from the age of 50. While the government continues to push its welfare narrative, these pending promises are becoming a source of political criticism across sections of society.

The surveys also point to administrative and coordination gaps within the coalition government. Issues such as uneven economic policy execution, concentration on Amaravati development, and delays in delivering decentralised benefits are being cited as structural weaknesses. While industrial initiatives are underway, analysts observe that their benefits will take time to reach the public, affecting short-term satisfaction levels.

Administrative feedback mechanisms, including grievance cells at district Collectorates and SP offices, reportedly

continue to receive similar complaints over several years, indicating persistent unresolved issues. This, according to observers, reflects systemic inefficiencies in addressing public grievances effectively.

On the political front, coordination challenges between senior and junior ministers are becoming visible. Despite attempts to promote younger leadership by allocating key portfolios, several district-level assessments suggest that junior ministers have yet to establish strong administrative control. Internal surveys reportedly commissioned by the Chief Minister are also said to reflect similar concerns.Regional disparities have also emerged as a concern. In the Vizianagaram district, even during critical situations such as public health outbreaks, questions have been raised over the limited integra-

tion of senior leaders' experience with the functioning of newer political faces. In Rayalaseema, ministers like Ramprasad Reddy and Savitha are reportedly facing challenges in consolidating political influence at the district level, raising concerns over organisational balance.

In Nellore district, issues such as disputes involving fishing communities, tensions over boat operations, and corporate influence in local politics are adding to administrative pressure. Critics also point to underutilisation of senior leaders' experience in resolving such issues effectively.

Additionally, internal concerns within the system include staff shortages in key investigative departments, delays in filling public prosecutor posts, and the continued reliance on retired officials, which is reportedly affecting promotional opportunities within departments. These factors, according to analysts, are contributing to bureaucratic stagnation.

While the coalition government maintains that it is functioning effectively through welfare-driven governance, survey agencies caution that without stronger grassroots coordination and improved administrative delivery—especially ahead of local body elections and the 2029 general elections—public satisfaction levels may continue to decline further, posing a political challenge for the alliance.

## Patna High Court Judge Inspects Rajamahendravaram Central Prison

Rajamahendravaram, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Patna High Court Judge Justice G. Anupama Chakravarty, along with family members, paid a surprise visit to Rajamahendravaram Central Prison on Thursday and inspected various facilities and reform programmes for inmates.

Prison officials accorded a warm welcome and briefed her on ongoing developmental and rehabilitation activities inside the prison. She inspected in-



mate barracks, medical services, sanitation systems, food distribution arrangements, security measures, and vocational training centres. The Judge also

## Pawan Kalyan Seeks Action Against Red Sanders Smuggling Masterminds

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment Pawan Kalyan has directed officials to take stringent measures to curb red sanders smuggling and ensure that masterminds behind such operations are brought to justice without delay.

He issued the directions after reviewing a recent anti-smuggling operation conducted by the task force near Bondalavada village in Narpala mandal of Anantapur district, where officials seized 109 red sanders logs worth about 2 crore. Officials informed him that Nallani Nandakumar, along with two others, had

been taken into custody for their alleged involvement in the smuggling network.

Pawan Kalyan instructed officials to trace the main masterminds behind the racket and take strict legal action. He emphasized that there should be no compromise in protecting forest wealth and strengthening enforcement measures.

He stated that red sanders smuggling has declined by nearly 70% over the past two years due to the initiatives of the alliance government. He further said that more than 90% of those arrested in such cases have been convicted, reflecting the government's strong enforcement approach.

The Deputy

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## Two-Year Wait Ends for Srilakshmi with GAD Posting, Days Before Retirement

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Senior officer Srilakshmi, who had been awaiting posting for the past two years, has finally been assigned a position by the Andhra Pradesh government just days before her retirement.

The government has appointed her as Special Chief Secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD). Chief Secretary Sai Prasad issued a Government Order (GO) on Thursday to this effect. She has been posted in the Administrative Reforms wing, relieving senior officer Shamsheer Singh Rawat, who was holding additional charge.



The 1988 batch officer is scheduled to retire on June 30, making the appointment notable as it comes just four days before her superannuation. The development has drawn attention in official circles, given the long gap in her posting.

Earlier, she served in key roles in the Municipal Administration Department during YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure as Chief Minister

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## Lokesh Drives Education Reforms Across Universities and Schools

1,06,000 students shifted from private to government schools, says Officials

Undavalli, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh has directed officials to ensure faculty recruitment in universities is conducted meticulously with strict transparency, quality, and consistency, alongside reforms in school education and skill development.

He held separate review meetings with higher education, and school education officials at his residence in Undavalli on Thursday. Lokesh reviewed recruitment for 1,523 faculty



posts across universities. Officials informed him that 1,89,316 applications have been received so far. He directed that every application must undergo a data-driven cross-verification.

Lokesh noted that

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## HANUMAN Rescues Injured Leopard

Ananthapuram, June 25 | TPN Bureau

A female leopard was safely rescued near Malapanagudi village in the Kalyandurg range of Ananthapuram division under the H.A.N.U.M.A.N Wildlife Rescue Initiative after being found weak and in need of urgent medical attention.

Acting on instructions from senior forest officials, teams of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department swiftly responded to the situation and secured the animal. The leopard was then transported in an RRRT vehi-



cle to the Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park in Tirupati for specialized veterinary examination, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Officials stated

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## Shrimp Farmers Allege Syndicate Control Behind Sharp Price

Ch Raju

A deepening crisis has gripped shrimp farmers across the undivided Krishna and Godavari districts, who allege that a powerful syndicate of traders is manipulating prices and pushing them into heavy losses during the peak harvest season. Farmers claim that despite rising cultivation costs and disease-related risks, they are being forced to sell their produce at artificially reduced rates.

Farmers say the aquaculture sector, which spans hundreds of thousands of acres



and includes around 1.5 lakh acres of shrimp farming in Krishna district alone, is increasingly controlled by a small group of traders. Though nearly 20 purchasing companies and processing units operate in the region, allegations suggest that about five major traders dominate



pricing decisions.

According to farmers, the price manipulation follows a repeated seasonal pattern. In January, prices are shown at higher levels to encourage investment. Farmers begin stocking shrimp seed during February and March, investing heavily in feed and main-

tenance. However, just before harvest, prices reportedly begin to fall sharply, with reductions of around 10 per kilogram per day as procurement starts.

For tiger prawns (20-count category), farmers say the price has dropped from 750 per kg in March to 670 now, a fall of 80. With an average yield of one tonne per acre, expected returns of 7.5 lakh have reduced to 6.7 lakh, resulting in losses of nearly 80,000 per acre.

Similarly, Vannamnei shrimp prices

P3

## Syndicate Pricing' Pushes Aqua Farmers Into Deep Crisis

Nakkapalli, June 25 | TPN Bureau

A predatory syndicate is playing havoc with the lives of shrimp farmers in the Bhimavaram and Godavari aquaculture belt, pushing the sector into an unprecedented crisis. After investing heavily and battling rising cultivation costs and crop diseases, farmers are now facing steep price cuts imposed by local purchasing companies, allegedly operating as a cartel under the pretext of international market fluctuations.

Aquaculture is spread across hundreds of thousands of acres in the undivided Krishna and Godavari districts, with shrimp farming alone covering nearly 1.5 lakh acres in the Krishna region. Though around 20 shrimp purchasing companies and processing units operate in the area, farmers allege that only a handful of major traders control the entire pricing system. Every year, farmers stock shrimp seed during February and March, while prices are reportedly shown at peak levels in January to en-

courage investment. However, as harvest approaches, traders begin steadily reducing prices, triggering heavy losses.

Farmers say prices are cut almost daily during peak harvest, creating a severe imbalance between expected and actual returns. For Tiger Prawns (20-count), the rate reportedly dropped from 750 per kg in March to 670, causing an estimated loss of 80,000 per acre. For Vannamnei Prawns (100-count), prices fell from 270 to 235 per kg, resulting in losses

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AP Unveils Roadmap to Position Tourism Sector on Global Stage

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Thursday said the state government is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to transform Andhra Pradesh into an internationally recognized tourism destination through both short-term and long-term initiatives.

The minister made the remarks after meeting a delegation from the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation at the Secretariat. The delegation submitted a memorandum containing key recommendations aimed at strengthening the tourism sector and attracting investments. Members of the federation lauded the government's recent initiatives, including the AP Tourism Policy 2024-29, tourism land allotment

policy, beach shack policy and the global "Holiday in AP/Visit AP" campaign.

Durgesh announced that a high-level meeting with tour operators and representatives of the federation would be convened shortly. He said a detailed study would be undertaken ahead of the Indian Association of Tour Operators meeting scheduled for September.

The federation proposed the creation of a Tourism Stakeholder Advisory Council, fast-track approvals for MSME tourism projects, promotion of homestays through a single-window system and development of major tourism circuits across the state. Durgesh responded positively, assuring faster clearances for pending proposals and greater collaboration with industry stakeholders to boost tourism growth.

Minister Savitha Announces New BC Study Circles Ahead of Mega DSC

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Backward Classes Welfare Minister Savitha on Thursday announced a series of initiatives aimed at supporting unemployed youth preparing for competitive examinations, including the upcoming Mega DSC recruitment drive.

The minister said the government will establish three new BC Study Circles in Visakhapatnam, Anantapur and Tirupati to expand access to quality coaching for aspirants preparing for Group-1, Group-2 and other competitive examinations. The centres will provide free coaching by experienced faculty, study material and library facilities.

Savitha also indicated that the state government is prepar-

ing to issue another Mega DSC notification for teacher recruitment in the near future. She said arrangements are being made to launch free coaching classes for eligible BC candidates immediately after the notification is released.

Highlighting the success of previous initiatives, the minister said around 280 BC candidates secured government teaching jobs last year with the support of government-sponsored coaching programmes.

She added that free training for the second batch of Civil Services aspirants is already underway. The government is also providing accommodation, food and other support facilities to ensure that economically disadvantaged candidates can effectively prepare for competitive examinations.

AP Agriculture Department Partners with India Post for Digital Tracking

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Department of Agriculture on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Posts to establish an end-to-end logistics system for transporting seed, fertilizer and pesticide samples collected under the state's quality control programme.

The agreement was signed by Director of Agriculture Manazir Jeelani Samoon and Vijayawada Region Postmaster General S. Shivaram in Amaravati. Additional Director of Agriculture Sridhar, Joint Director Padmaja and Inspector Inder Kumar were present on the occasion.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Samoon said the arrangement would enable the secure, traceable and time-bound movement of agricultural input samples from field locations to Regional Coding Centres and designated testing laboratories. During 2026-27,



the Agriculture Department plans to collect around 15,000 seed samples, 20,000 fertilizer samples and 11,000 pesticide samples for quality testing across the state.

Under the MoU, the Department of Posts will provide a standardized logistics mechanism featuring end-to-end digital tracking, secure and tamper-resistant transportation, and timely delivery of samples.

Officials said the initiative would strengthen the state's quality control system, help curb the circulation of sub-standard and spurious agricultural inputs, and safeguard farmers' interests while improving crop productivity.

₹25-Crore School Project Set to Strengthen Educational Infrastructure

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau

A major educational initiative is set to take shape with the establishment of a new school under the Amaravati Educational and Cultural Academy (AECA), aimed at providing quality education to students in the Capital Region.

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has allotted three acres of land at Abbarajupalem village for the project. The agreement for the school was completed on Thursday, with APCRDA Joint Director (EStates) Zubin Roy handing over the agreement documents to representatives of AECA.

The institution will be managed by DAV Chennai (Vedritam) and is expected to cater to the educational needs of children from the Capital

Region and surrounding areas. The school building will be constructed at an estimated cost of 25 crore, with the required funds being mobilised largely through contributions from Amaravati farmers.

According to the management, the project is expected to create more than 250 direct and indirect employment opportunities. While classes for the 2026-27 academic year have already begun in a rented building at Thullur, the institution plans to shift operations to the new campus from the 2027-28 academic year after completion of construction.

Officials said the project, expected to be completed within two years, will provide modern educational facilities and mark a significant step towards enhancing access to quality education in the Capital Region.

Amaravati Emerges as New Cinema Hub, Says Minister Durgesh

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Cinematography Kandula Durgesh on Thursday highlighted major initiatives to strengthen the Telugu film industry in Andhra Pradesh, citing the launch of Nandamuri Balakrishna's upcoming film NBK 112 in Amaravati as a significant step forward.

Speaking at the film's muhurtham ceremony, Durgesh said hosting a major project in the state capital would help lay a strong foundation for the growth and stabilization of the film industry.

He credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and actor Balakrishna for encouraging efforts to boost the sector, including the formation of the Film Development Corporation executive body.



The minister expressed confidence that NBK 112, directed by Koratala Siva and produced by Cherukuri Sudhakar and Mikkilineni Sudhakar, would achieve blockbuster success.

In a related development, Durgesh announced plans to organise a 'Creative Economy' workshop in July aimed at nurturing local talent and integrating modern technologies like AI into filmmaking. The initiative seeks to provide hands-on training across the 24 crafts of cinema, covering areas such as screenwriting, story development, and digital production.

Representatives of Jadex Innovation Private Limited, including founder Divya Konakalla and co-founder Sashikumar Peyyala, met the minister at the Secretariat and presented the proposal. Durgesh welcomed the initiative, stating that it would offer aspiring filmmakers and artists exposure to global standards.

He said the programme would empower youth and position Andhra Pradesh as a major film hub by promoting innovation, skill development, and creative excellence in cinema.

Lingamaneni Ramesh Takes Oath as Rajya Sabha MP, Meets Vice President

New Delhi, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Lingamaneni Ramesh, elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha as a candidate of the Jana Sena Party, took oath as a Member of Parliament in the Upper House on Thursday. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the presence of Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan.

With the formal oath-taking, Ramesh officially assumed his responsibilities in Parliament, representing the Jana Sena Party, which is part of the ruling coalition in Andhra Pradesh. His unanimous election is being seen as a significant development for the party, reflecting broad political support for his candidature.

Soon after assuming office, Lingamaneni Ramesh, along with his family members, paid a courtesy visit to Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan in New Delhi. During the meeting, he exchanged views with the Chairman and received his greetings on entering the Upper House.

Ramesh expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people and represent Andhra Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha. He reiterated his commitment to raising key issues concerning the state and contributing meaningfully to parliamentary debates and national



development.

The Vice President extended his best wishes for a successful tenure and encouraged him to actively participate in legislative proceedings.

Party leaders and supporters welcomed Ramesh's entry into Parliament, expressing confidence that he would effectively represent public interests and play an active role in national policymaking.

Tenali DSP Records Statement of YSRCP Leader Jogi Ramesh

Guntur, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Tenali DSP Janardhan on Thursday recorded the statement of YSRCP leader and former minister Jogi Ramesh in connection with the Mamillapalli godown dispute case.

The development comes in the wake of a complaint recently submitted by the YSRCP to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), alleging improper treatment of affected individuals and raising concerns over the handling of the matter

by the police.

Acting on directions issued by the NHRC, the Tenali DSP initiated an inquiry into the allegations and recorded Jogi Ramesh's version of events as part of the investigation. Officials said the statement was taken to ascertain the facts surrounding the dispute and the concerns raised before the human rights body.

The Mamillapalli godown issue has drawn political attention in recent weeks, with the YSRCP alleging lapses in the

treatment of those affected by the controversy. The party subsequently approached the NHRC seeking intervention and an independent examination of the matter.

Police sources said the inquiry is being conducted in accordance with the NHRC's directions and that further statements may be recorded from other individuals connected to the case. A detailed report is expected to be prepared upon completion of the investigation.

Court Seeks Response on CCTV Footage in Gade Saikrishna Custodial Death Petition

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau



The Second Additional Metropolitan Court in Vijayawada on Thursday heard a petition filed by Vijayalakshmi, mother of Gade Saikrishna, seeking a judicial inquiry into alleged custodial death cases instead of an investigation by a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

During the hearing, the petitioner urged the court to order a judicial probe, contending that such an inquiry would ensure greater transparency and impartiality in examining the circumstances surrounding custodial deaths.

As part of the proceedings, the court issued notices to the district committee concerned, seeking details and access to CCTV footage considered relevant to the case. The footage is expected to play a crucial role in assessing the facts and circumstances raised in the

petition.

The matter relates to the death of Gade Saikrishna and the subsequent demand by family members for an independent and comprehensive investigation into the incident.

After hearing the submissions, the court adjourned the case for further hearing until June 29. Additional responses and records sought by the court are expected to be placed on record before the next hearing.

The case has drawn public attention, with the petitioner continuing to seek a judicial inquiry into the matter.

Agreement Signed with Amaravati Educational and Cultural Academy

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau



An agreement has been executed with the Amaravati Educational and Cultural Academy, marking a significant step towards promoting educational, cultural and community development initiatives in the region.

The agreement is expected to facilitate collaborative efforts in organizing educational programmes, cultural activities, skill development initiatives and awareness campaigns aimed at benefiting students, youth and the wider community. Officials said the partnership would help strengthen institutional cooperation and create new opportunities for knowledge-sharing and cultural exchange.

The Amaravati Educational and Cultural Academy has

been actively involved in promoting academic excellence and preserving cultural values through various programmes and events. With the execution of the agreement, both sides are expected to work closely on initiatives that contribute to social development and capacity building.

Officials expressed confi-

dence that the collaboration would support the growth of educational and cultural activities in Amaravati and provide a platform for encouraging talent, innovation and community participation. Further details regarding the implementation of joint programmes are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Governor Abdul Nazeer Extends Muharram Greetings

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau



Governor S. Abdul Nazeer extended greetings to the people on the occasion of Muharram, which will be observed on June 26, and highlighted the spiritual and humanitarian significance of the occasion.

In a message issued on Thursday, the Governor noted that Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar, occupies a special place among Muslims across the world. He said the observance commemorates the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, who sacrificed his life in defense of truth and faith.

Abdul Nazeer described Muharram as a period of deep reflection, remembrance and

spiritual devotion. He said the occasion symbolizes the values of goodness, sacrifice and unwavering commitment to principles.

The Governor called upon people to imbibe the spirit of Muharram and uphold the ideals of humanism, which he described as a core principle of Islam. He expressed hope that the observance would inspire harmony, compassion and mutual understanding among all sections of society.

Emergency: A Dark Chapter in Democracy, Say BJP Leaders

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau

BJP leaders Uppalapati Srinivasa Raju and Kilari Dileep on Thursday described the Emergency imposed in 1975 as one of the darkest phases in India's democratic history, alleging that it severely undermined democratic institutions and civil liberties.

Marking the 51st anniversary of the Emergency, Srinivasa Raju, AP Bar Council member and BJP State Office In-charge, said former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared the Emergency on June 25, 1975, to safeguard her political position after the Allahabad High Court invalidated her election over electoral malpractice. He noted that thousands of political leaders and activists were arrested, including Jayaprakash

Narayan, Morarji Desai, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, and Chandrashekhar, many of whom remained imprisoned for nearly 21 months.

BJP State Media In-charge Kilari Dileep termed the Emergency a direct assault on democracy, stating that fundamental rights were suspended and democratic voices silenced. He alleged that strict media censorship was imposed, restricting the free flow of information and preventing criticism of the government.

Both leaders said the period witnessed suppression of civil rights and immense pressure on democratic institutions. They urged the younger generation to study the history of the Emergency and remain vigilant in protecting constitutional freedoms and democratic values.

Ram Mohan Naidu Felicitates New Rajya Sabha Members

New Delhi, June 25 | TPN Bureau



Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday called for accelerating Andhra Pradesh's development by fully leveraging the advantages of the "double-engine government" at both the Centre and the State.

At his official residence on Akbar Road in New Delhi, the minister felicitated newly sworn-in Rajya Sabha members from Andhra Pradesh. Chintakayala Vijay, Sana Satish, Bhashyam Ramakrishna and Lingamaneni Ramesh took oath as Rajya Sabha members earlier in the day.

Congratulating the leaders, Ram Mohan Naidu said representing the state in the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Parliament, was a significant responsibility. He urged all coal-

tion leaders to work collectively towards fast-tracking development and securing greater benefits for Andhra Pradesh.

The newly elected members were honoured with shawls during the programme.

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, MPs Vallabhaneni Balashowry and Uday Srinivas, senior leader Pattipati Pullarao and other coalition leaders attended the event.

World Bank Praises APCRDA's Skill Development and Livelihood Programmes i

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau



The World Bank has expressed satisfaction with the skill development, self-employment and livelihood initiatives being implemented by the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for residents of villages in the Amaravati Capital Region.

Gerald Paul Oliver, Lead Transport Specialist for the Amaravati Integrated Urban Development Project (AIUDP), reviewed the programmes during a meeting with officials of APCRDA's Social Development and Strategy Divisions at the authority's headquarters in Rayapudi on Thursday.

During the meeting, Group Director (Social Development) V. Ramulu and Group Director (Strategy) Adusumilli Uma briefed Oliver on various free skill development programmes, self-employment initiatives and livelihood projects aimed at empowering youth and women in the capital region villages. Officials also presented details of job fairs being

organised to connect local residents with employment opportunities across different sectors.

The discussions focused on the progress of APCRDA's social and economic development initiatives and their impact on improving livelihoods and employment prospects in the region.

Oliver appreciated APCRDA's efforts to generate employment opportunities for youth and promote the economic empowerment of women. He expressed satisfaction with the ongoing programmes and acknowledged their contribution to strengthening the socio-economic well-being of communities in the Amaravati Capital Region.

## Pawan Kalyan Seeks Action Against Red Sanders Smuggling Masterminds

continued

Chief Minister said efforts are being intensified to prevent the illegal transport of red sanders across state borders and stressed the need for coordinated inter-state operations to dismantle smuggling networks completely.

He appreciated the task force for successfully tracking the movement of the smuggling gang in Anantapur district and preventing their activities based on credible intelligence

## Two-Year Wait Ends for Srilakshmi with GAD Posting, Days Before Retirement

continued

after her transfer from Telangana cadre following state bifurcation. However, after the change of government in the 2024 elections and subsequent administrative shifts, she remained without posting for nearly two years.Srilakshmi had earlier faced allegations related to the Obulapuram mining allocations during the tenure of YS Rajasekhara Reddy in the undivided state. She was also named in a Central Bureau of Investigation case linked to disproportionate assets allegations against former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mo-

han Reddy, which led to her arrest and imprisonment. She was later released on bail after her health deteriorated during custody.After state bifurcation, she continued in the Telangana cadre before moving to Andhra Pradesh. Her discharge petition seeking removal of her name from the case was dismissed by the Supreme Court in February this year.

Her latest appointment as Special Chief Secretary has revived discussions in administrative and political circles, marking a significant final posting ahead of her retirement.

## HANUMAN Rescues Injured Leopard

continued

that the coordinated operation was carried out with urgency to ensure the animal received timely and appropriate care. Forest staff and veterinary teams worked together to stabilize the leopard's condition during the rescue and transport process.

Authorities highlighted that the intervention reflects the department's commitment to scientific wildlife management, rapid response mechanisms, and humane treatment of injured animals in forest

## Lokesh Drives Education Reforms Across Universities and Schools

continued

the syllabus for the assistant professor written examination has been released. As recruitment is university-wise, he stressed clear guidelines for selection committees and asked officials to complete the process quickly.He also reviewed proposals for skill universities and emphasized strict industry linkages and sectoral tie-ups, stating the framework should become a national model. He directed officials to launch the skill portal in July and issue online skill cards to all registered youth.Officials informed that five clusters have been sanctioned under PM SETU, with ArcelorMittal coming forward for steel, ship-building, and petrochemicals. He suggested strengthening ITIs in renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, aquaculture, and Sri City hub, and setting up AI labs in government ITIs.They also said 1,30,422 jobs have been secured through job fairs. Lokesh directed quarterly job fairs at the constituency level and proposed a State Employment Operating System with a

KPI dashboard. OMKAP will facilitate overseas jobs for 146 candidates next month, including nurses and blue-collar workers.In school education, Lokesh directed focus on attendance and learning outcomes. Officials said 1,06,000 students shifted from private to government schools, while 3,515 upper primary schools reached full capacity. He noted that 159 schools were upgraded to Model Primary Schools.He also reviewed high private school fees and asked officials to study other states' regulatory models. An AI tutor for Mathematics and Science will begin on September 5 for Class 9 and 10 students in 175 LEAP schools.Key infrastructure projects, including Central Libraries in Amaravati and Visakhapatnam and a Skill Excellence Centre in Mangalagiri, were also reviewed. Officials said foundation works for the Amaravati Central Library will begin next month.Principal Secretary Shyamala Rao, School Education Director Tamim Ansari, and MD Deeven Reddy attended the meeting.

## No Jagan, But Sajjala Visits Ailing Mudragada

**Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy on Thursday visited senior Kapu leader and former minister Mudragada Padmanabha Reddy at Sindhu Hospital in Hyderabad, where he is undergoing treatment, and enquired about his health condition.

According to party sources, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy visited the hospital on behalf of YSRCP President and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, while the latter did not visit. During the visit, he interacted with the doctors treating Mudragada and reviewed his medical progress.

Sajjala also met Mudragada's

son, Mudragada Giribabu and other family members, and assured them of the party's full support during the treatment period.He conveyed the wishes of Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and expressed hope for Mudragada's speedy and complete recovery. He said the YSRCP leadership was closely monitoring his health and wished him strength and good health.He further expressed confidence that Mudragada Padmanabham would soon recover and return to active public life, continuing his service to the people with renewed energy. Family members thanked Sajjala and the party leadership for their concern and support during the senior leader's treatment.

## CM inaugurates Tungabhadra project gates with southern CMs

continued

restoration works and installed 33 new crest gates for Rs 51 crore. He said that after the 19th gate was damaged, a stop-lock gate was installed to prevent water wastage, and the subsequent restoration strengthened the project significantly. He appreciated the coordination between the two state governments in completing the works.

Highlighting the historical and spiritual importance of the Tungabhadra River, Naidu said it once served as a natural protective barrier for the Vijayanagara Empire and Hampi. He added that several important pilgrimage centres, including Jogulamba Temple,

Virupaksha Temple at Hampi, and Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt at Mantralayam, are located along its banks.

He underlined that river interlinking is essential for India's future water security. Referring to the Ken-Betwa river linking project in northern India, he said a similar Godavari-Cauvery river linking project would bring long-term benefits to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister also recalled an earlier decision taken in 1983 by the Prime Minister and four Chief Ministers to allocate water to southern states, including 5 TMC to Tamil Nadu and 15 TMC of drinking

water to Chennai, with the consent of the then undivided Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

With declining inflows into reservoirs due to El Niño impacts, Naidu stressed the need for prudent and efficient water use. He suggested that states should first complete intra-state river linking projects before moving towards inter-state linkages.

He reiterated that protecting farmers' interests remains the common objective of all governments and described the meeting of southern state leaders as a landmark moment in cooperative federalism and water resource management.



## Shrimp Farmers Allege Syndicate Control Behind Sharp Price

continue

have declined from 270 per kg to 235 per kg. Farmers estimate a loss of around 35,000 er acre, alleging that the difference is being absorbed by the trading syndicate.

Farmers are also facing rising input costs. Shrimp feed prices have reportedly increased by up to 12,000 per tonne, further worsening their financial burden. While the government is said to have issued directions to reduce prices by 4 per kg, farmers allege that these orders remain unimplemented on the ground.

The Government remains indifferent, farmers allege, as market manipulation continues unchecked. They claim that officials responsible for monitoring pricing and ensuring fair trade have failed to act against cartelisation in the sector.Serious allegations have also been raised against Fisheries Department officials, with farmers stating that the officers are not issuing proper



quality certification or ensuring fair grading of shrimp, which could help them secure better prices. Instead, they allege administrative silence has allowed traders to dictate terms.

Farmers further allege that some officials remain inactive due to suspected monthly payments from syndicate traders, creating a system where complaints are ignored and farmers

are left without institutional support.With procurement prices falling and production costs rising simultaneously, farmers warn that the aquaculture sector is heading towards a severe financial collapse unless immediate government intervention is taken to break the alleged syndicate control and restore fair pricing mechanisms in coastal Andhra Pradesh.

## Syndicate Pricing' Pushes Aqua Farmers Into Deep Crisis

continue

of about 35,000 per acre. At the same time, input costs are rising sharply, with shrimp feed prices reportedly increased by up to 12,000 per tonne. Although authorities reportedly issued directions to reduce prices by 4 per kg, farmers allege that these orders have not been implemented on the ground.

Farmers have also raised

concerns over the role of fisheries officials, alleging that they are failing to ensure fair pricing or curb syndicate control. They claim that quality certification mechanisms meant to secure better prices are being ignored, leaving them dependent on trader-dictated rates.Allegations have also surfaced that officials remain silent due to monthly payments from syndicate operators, though no formal con-

firmation has been made. With farmers unable to resist the pricing pressure for fear of rejection of their produce, they are forced to sell at distressed rates.Unless immediate intervention is taken by the government and higher authorities, farmers warn that the coastal aquaculture sector may face severe collapse, threatening the livelihoods of thousands dependent on shrimp farming in the region.

## Congress Targets Centre Over Exam Leaks

**Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

The Congress party on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Central Government over recurring examination paper leaks, alleging that the futures of crores of students have been jeopardized due to failures in the education system.Addressing a press conference at the Vijayawada Press Club, AICC spokesperson Ragini Nayak demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him morally responsible for the alleged NEET paper leak controversy. She also called for the abolition of the National Testing Agency (NTA), claiming that repeated examination irregularities have created uncertainty among students and parents across the country.

Ragini Nayak alleged that nearly 89 examination papers had been leaked over the past decade, affecting around 6.5 crore students. She said issues



such as paper leaks, examination cancellations, biometric errors, and admission-related problems were causing severe stress among aspirants.

Announcing the nationwide "Chhatron Ki Goonj" campaign, she said the movement would begin on June 30 in 28 major cities and continue for 40 days. The campaign will include student outreach programmes, meetings in universities and hostels, leaflet distribution, and awareness activities aimed at highlighting student concerns.

Former APCC president Gi-

dugu Rudra Raju also criticized the Centre, alleging that students were bearing the consequences of policy failures. He said the Congress would intensify its agitation under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi to seek accountability and reforms in the examination system.

A NEET aspirant who attended the event expressed concern over the uncertainty faced by students following examination controversies and delays, urging authorities to ensure a fair and transparent testing process.

## Patna High Court Judge Inspects Rajamahendravaram Central Prison

continued

interacted directly with inmates to understand their grievances, needs, and experiences. She reviewed welfare measures, including healthcare, education, skill development programmes, and rehabilitation initiatives.She expressed satisfaction over the overall management and environment of the prison, observing that prisons should function as centres for personality development, mental transformation, and social rehabilitation rather than only places of punishment.She advised inmates to utilise government-provided opportunities to develop skills, maintain discipline, and reintegrate into

society as responsible citizens. She appreciated educational programmes, library facilities, vocational training, agricultural and horticultural activities, and skill development initiatives.She also lauded cleanliness drives, greenery development, tree plantation, water conservation efforts, and environmental protection activities within the prison premises.The Judge commended the prison administration for its focus on welfare, safety, and rehabilitation of inmates and urged continued strengthening of such initiatives.Prison Superintendent N. Rahul and other officials and staff participated in the inspection programme.



## SHG Women Suffer Due to Broken Promises, Alleges Jagan

**Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has alleged that the TDP-JSP alliance government failed to fulfill its election promise of enhancing interest subvention benefits for Self-Help Group (SHG) women, resulting in financial distress and a decline in rural economic activity.

In a social media post on Thursday, Jagan stated that credit growth to SHGs is the lifeblood of the rural economy, as it enables productive investments and income generation. He claimed that the decline in SHG credit growth reflects reduced investments, lower incomes, and weakening consumption patterns across rural areas.

According to Jagan, the previous YSRCP government provided 4,969 crore towards interest subvention between 2019 and 2024 and supported women through schemes such as Aasara and Cheyutha. He not-

ed that the alliance government had promised in its election manifesto to increase the loan limit eligible for interest subvention from 3 lakh to 10 lakh but had allegedly failed to implement the commitment after coming to power.

Jagan further alleged that no funds were released under the interest subvention programme during 2024-25 and that only 100 crore was budgeted for subsequent years without any actual disbursement. He claimed that SHG women were deprived of nearly 6,000 crore in benefits over the past two years due to the non-implementation of the promise.

The former Chief Minister also stated that SHG credit growth declined from 49,696 crore in 2023-24 to 41,623 crore in 2024-25 and further to 41,105 crore in 2025-26. He urged the government led by N. Chandrababu Naidu to clarify its stand on SHG welfare and fulfill commitments made to women during the elections.

## YSRCP Alleges TDP Betrayed BC Community

**East Godavari, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

East Godavari YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President and former minister Chelluboyina Venugopala Krishna launched a sharp attack on Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that the Backward Classes (BCs) were used merely as a vote bank and denied their due rights after elections.

Addressing a press conference at the party office on Thursday, Venugopala Krishna claimed that the BC declarations announced by Chandrababu Naidu during the elections remained largely unfulfilled. He alleged that promises relating to pensions, the BC Protection Act, BC Sub-Plan allocations, artisan welfare, and reservations in local bodies were not implemented. He further accused the government of neglecting traditional occupations and failing to support communities such as weavers, toddy tappers, fishermen, goldsmiths, and livestock rearers.

The YCP leader said the coalition government had reduced welfare support to BC communities and weakened BC corporations through inadequate funding. He alleged that several election promises had remained confined to paper even after two years in power.

Highlighting the previous YSRCP government's initiatives, Venugopala Krishna de-



scribed former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy as a leader who transformed BCs into a "backbone of the state." He said the YSRCP government enacted legislation reserving 50 percent of nominated posts and contracts for SCs, STs, BCs, and minorities while establishing corporations and welfare institutions for various BC communities.

He also pointed to welfare schemes such as Geetha Karmika Bharosa and Nethanna Nestham, claiming that BC communities received substantial benefits through various Direct Benefit Transfer and welfare programmes during Jagan's tenure.

Venugopala Krishna asserted that while Chandrababu Naidu made promises to BCs, Jagan Mohan Reddy implemented policies that ensured political representation, social justice, and welfare support. He urged BC communities to assess the performance of both governments and support leaders committed to their empowerment and development.

# Modi and Chandrababu Essential for Complete State Progress

**Dharmavaram, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Health Minister Satyakumar asserted that the comprehensive development of Andhra Pradesh is possible only with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Center and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu leading the state. Speaking at a victory ceremony marking 12 years of Modi's central rule and two years of the state coalition government, Satyakumar highlighted India's rapid transition into the world's largest economy. He credited the Prime Minister with uplifting 25 crore citizens out of poverty and boosting the national economic growth rate from 19 to 65 percent based on global reports.



Satyakumar strongly criticized the previous YSRCP regime, comparing its 2019 ascent to a virus that brought widespread lawlessness, land grabbing, and atrocities against weaker sections. He slammed YSRCP leaders for practicing caste politics over

missing rowdy sheeters while defending individuals facing rape and murder allegations. Rebutting opposition claims regarding the Aarogyasri healthcare scheme, the Minister stated that while YSRCP spent Rs 9,000 crore over five years for 41 lakh ben-

eficiaries, the coalition government has already spent Rs 7,000 crore in just two years, treating 29 lakh people. He added that Rs 1,600 crore has been utilized for welfare and infrastructure in Dharmavaram, which includes establishing rural

roads and bringing a prestigious handloom cluster to the region.

Dharmavaram Telugu Desam Party constituency in-charge Paritala Sriram stated that the coalition administration treats development and welfare like two parallel courses. He emphasized that the government has eliminated systemic corruption to directly benefit the lower classes while securing massive investments for youth employment. Jana Sena leader Chilakam Madhusudhan Reddy also addressed the massive gathering of alliance party cadres. Satyakumar, Paritala Sriram, and Chilakam Madhusudhan Reddy participated in this program.

## Inauguration of New Tungabhadra Gates Marks Historic Step for Farmers



**Anantapur, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

The joint initiative of the Chief Ministers of three states has marked a significant beginning in protecting the interests of regional farmers, stated Anantapur Urban MLA Daggubati Prasad. Speaking at the inauguration of the newly installed gates of the Tungabhadra project in Hospet, Karnataka, Prasad welcomed Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and termed the event a historic milestone that will benefit the people of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana.

The high-profile infrastructure program witnessed the participation of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar,

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and Union Minister for Water Resources CR Patil. During the event, Prasad congratulated engineer Kanhaiya Naidu, who played a pivotal role in constructing the dam gates. He also met with Andhra Pradesh State Ministers Payyavula Keshav and Nimmala Ramanaidu. Following a joint inspection of the modernized reservoir and the newly installed dam gates alongside fellow public representatives, Prasad emphasized that the project will strengthen future irrigation needs and deliver long-term benefits to the farming community. Daggubati Prasad, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and Kanhaiya Naidu participated in this program.

# TTD Warns Devotees Against Darshan, Accommodation Fraud

**Tirumala, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has once again urged devotees not to fall prey to middlemen who falsely promise Srivari darshan or accommodation in Tirumala in exchange for money. In a public advisory issued on

Thursday, TTD said it is taking stringent action against brokers who mislead devotees and illegally collect money by claiming to arrange special darshan or accommodation facilities. The temple administration appealed to pilgrims to remain vigilant and immediately report any such fraudulent approaches.

Devotees have been requested to lodge complaints through the TTD toll-free helpline number 155257 if anyone contacts them offering darshan or accommodation services on payment. TTD warned that strict legal action would be initiated against individuals exploiting the faith and devotion of

pilgrims visiting the shrine of Lord Venkateswara. The temple body also clarified that misleading posts circulating on social media regarding senior citizen darshan are completely false. It stated that an online quota of 1,000 tickets for senior citizens and differently-abled devotees is released daily, three months

in advance.

According to TTD, the Senior Citizen and PHC darshan facility near the Tirumala Nambi Temple operates every day from 3 pm.

Devotees have been advised to rely only on official TTD platforms for authentic information regarding darshan and accommodation services.

## Task Force Busts Major Red Sandalwood Network and Seizes Logs Worth Rs 2 Crore

**Anantapur, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

The Red Sandalwood Anti-Smuggling Task Force exposed a massive interstate smuggling network after seizing 109 red sandalwood logs and a car valued at approximately Rs 2 crore. Acting on precise intelligence, a joint team of task force personnel and forest staff raided a hidden dump located on the outskirts of Bondalavada village in Narpala mandal. The authorities arrested three local smugglers identified as Nallani Nanda Kumar, Nallani Jaya Ramaiah, and Bottu Raghavendra. Investigations revealed that the accused formed a syndicate to harvest premium timber from the Seshachalam reserve forests using hired laborers. The logs were concealed near a rake shed in a field belonging to Jaya Ramaiah along the Bondalavada-Bommalatapalli dirt road before being black-marketed to major kingpins across Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. The operation was guided by Task Force Head Y Subba Rayudu, SP L Subba Rayudu, SP P Srinivas, and



Additional SP J Kulasekhar, who constituted special teams to track down the fleeing interstate buyers. Y Subba

Rayudu congratulated the tracking team and announced special rewards for their successful enforcement action.

## Chittoor Police Launch Massive Student Rally to Eradicate Drug Abuse

**Chittoor, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Chittoor District Police Department organized a massive awareness rally under the slogan "DRUGS VODHU BRO" to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Led by District SP Tushar Dudi, the rally commenced at Gandhi Square and proceeded via MSR Junction, drawing participation from Eagle Team members, government officials, and nearly 1,500 students. SP Tushar Dudi stated that the campaign aims to transform the region into a "Drug Free Chittoor" district. He warned that drug use destroys memory, causes physical disabilities, and darkens the future of the youth. To curb the illegal transit of contraband in this border district, the police have deployed dedicated



check posts, monitored suspects, and invoked the PD Act against ganja and drug dealers. Additionally, awareness posters will be displayed in academic institutions, autos, and buses. Dudi urged citizens to report illicit sales using emergency helplines. Following the

address, Excise Additional SP Venkatesh administered an anti-drug pledge to the students. Additional SP Operations S Shanu, AR Additional SP Devadas, and Excise Additional SP Venkatesh participated in this program.

## ZPHS KVB Puram Students Fly to Delhi Under Wings of Dreams Initiative

**Srikalahasti, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

An innovative encouragement program titled "Wings of Dreams" was launched by Principal Kunati Suresh for top-performing class ten students at the Zilla Parishad High School in KVB Puram mandal. Under this initiative, three outstanding students, Dikshitha, ElinaLithiyal, and Venkatalakshmi, were selected for an educational flight tour to the national capital. Renowned donor Karapareddy Kandaswamy provided complete financial sponsorship for the travel program. During their educational tour in Delhi, the students visited prominent historical and cultural landmarks including the Red Fort, QutubMinar, Lotus Temple, Akshardham, RashtrapatiBhavan, Parliament House, JantarMantar, and India Gate. School Telugu teacher Vasundhara Devi accompanied the children to manage their safety and supervision throughout the journey. Parents, teachers, and villagers



gathered to bid them a warm farewell, praising the initiative for inspiring rural students to achieve higher aca-

demic milestones. Kunati Suresh, Karapareddy Kandaswamy, and Vasundhara Devi participated in this program.

## Muthialaraju Revu Offers Prayers at SrikalahastiSwamy Temple

**Srikalahasti, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Andhra Pradesh Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Training Institute Commissioner Muthialaraju Revu visited the historic SrikalahastiSwamy Temple on Thursday to offer prayers. Temple Executive Officer BK Venkatesulu and Protocol AEO LokeshBabu formally welcomed the visiting dignitary in accordance with temple traditions and supervised the special darshan arrangements. Following the main darshan, temple officials presented a portrait of the deity and traditional theertha prasadam at the Sri Mrityunjaya Lingam premises. Muthialaraju Revu toured the historic Rajagopuram and other ancient mandapams within the complex. Speaking after his visit, he appreciated the structured



religious and spiritual programs organized by the temple administration and praised the quality of services extended to the visiting pilgrims. Temple AEO Vidyasagar Reddy, Supervisors Nagabhushanam Yadav,

Tahsildar Subramaniam, Temple Inspector R Subramaniam, and APRO Ravi were present during the visit. BK Venkatesulu, LokeshBabu, and Vidyasagar Reddy participated in this program.

## Three CMs' Joint Initiative Will Go Down in History: Daggupati

**Hosapete, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Anantapur Urban MLA Daggupati Prasad said the coming together of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka for the inauguration of the new gates at the Tungabhadra Project would remain a historic moment and mark a new chapter in safeguarding the interests of farmers across the three states.

Daggupati participated in the inauguration ceremony of the newly installed gates at the Tungabhadra Dam in Hosapete, Karnataka, on Thursday. He welcomed

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the event and described the commissioning of the new gates as a landmark achievement that would significantly benefit farmers and people in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka.

The MLA said he felt honoured to be part of the historic occasion, which reflects the commitment of the three states to strengthening irrigation infrastructure and ensuring better water management. He noted that the initiative would help protect the interests of lakhs of farmers dependent on



Tungabhadra waters. The event was attended by Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, Telangana Chief Minister A.

Revanth Reddy, Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil, public representatives, and senior officials. Daggupati also congratulated

engineer Kannaiah Naidu for his key role in the construction and installation of the dam gates. He later met Andhra Pradesh ministers Payyavula Keshav and Nimmala Ramanaidu.

Inspecting the reservoir and the newly installed gates along with fellow legislators and officials, Daggupati said the modernization project would strengthen irrigation capabilities, improve water security, and provide long-term benefits to farmers. He described the inauguration as a major milestone in the modernization of the Tungabhadra Project.

## SwachhSwarnamukhi Public Movement Launched for River Revival

**Srikalahasti, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Tejobharat founder president and Srikalahasteeshwara Swamy Devasthanam board member Kola Visali announced the launch of a public movement named 'SwachhSwarnamukhi' to clean, preserve, and revive the polluted Swarnamukhi river. On Thursday, Visali submitted a petition seeking institutional support and guidance from SrikalahastiMukkanti Temple EO BK Venkatesulu



and Board of Trustees Chairman Kotte Saiprasad. Visali highlighted that the famous temple and the world-renowned Kalankari art developed on the banks of this historic river, which now faces severe pollution and encroachment challenges. Inspired by national projects like Namami Gange, Sabarmati Riverfront, and the Godavari protection initiatives, the SwachhSwarnamukhi campaign will focus on documenting heavily polluted zones, organizing regu-

lar sanitation drives, planting native species, and establishing waste classification systems. The movement will also conduct widespread awareness seminars in educational institutes and build a volunteer network under the slogan "Nature Seva - SamajSeva." Additionally, as part of the World Environment Day initiatives on behalf of the BJP leadership, Visali presented an EkPedMaaKeNaam sapling to EO BK Venkatesulu for the temple premises.

## Bhupesh Reddy Slams YSRCP MLC Rama Subba Reddy Over Jammalamadugu Development

**Jammalamadugu, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Telugu Desam Party Kadapa District President Chadipiralla Bhupesh Reddy strongly criticized YSRCP MLC Rama Subba Reddy for questioning the ongoing developmental and welfare activities in Jammalamadugu constituency. Addressing a press conference at the local party office on Thursday, Bhupesh Reddy stated that it is shameful for a senior leader with a 30-year political history to remain



blind to the extensive progress achieved under the two-year rule of the coalition

government. Bhupesh Reddy highlighted that sand prices have drasti-

cally dropped from Rs 3,000-4,000 during the YSRCP regime to Rs 800-1,000 under the current administration, facilitating hassle-free house construction. He detailed the comprehensive reach of welfare schemes including the Taliki Vandanam initiative, Anna Canteen operations, free bus transit for women, free gas cylinder distribution, NTR pensions, and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. In terms of infrastructure and economic growth, he noted the establishment of

solar plants that generated thousands of youth employment opportunities, rapid progress on the National Highway network, and upcoming steel plant construction. He also criticized the MLC for completely ignoring crucial public issues in the past, such as the broken Pennanadi river pillars that stranded ten villages.

Ponnathota Srinivasulu, Nageshwar Reddy, and Mallikarjuna participated in this program.

## Illegal construction should be stopped in CSI High School premises

**Kadapa, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

CSI Rayalaseema Diocese Retired Divisional Chairman KD Aikata Rao, along with church members Bandi Ravikumar, Daniel Pradeep and Pastor Deva, demanded immediate intervention of the District Collector and Municipal authorities to stop the illegal construction going on in the CSI High School premises. Speaking at a press conference organized at Krupa Church on

Thursday, they alleged that CSI Rayalaseema Diocese Bishop Peyyala Isaac Varaprasad illegally occupied CSITA properties and leased them out in a corrupt manner, committing irregularities worth Rs. 22 crore. The members questioned how the Kadapa Urban Development Corporation had given construction permission to a person named BadekarVenkatesh, who had no legal connection with the school land. Isaac



Varaprasad had taken Rs. They alleged that Rs 55 lakhs were spent on personal birthday celebrations and that local pastors were being harassed with false cases. They urged the district authorities to immediately stop the unauthorized constructions and protect the church properties from illegal encroachments.KD Aikatha Rao, BandiRavikumar and Daniel Pradeep participated in the event.

## Obulesu Orders Coordinated Efforts for Successful SIR Campaign

**Kurnool, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Kurnool Assembly Constituency Electoral Registration Officer and Municipal Corporation Commissioner Challa Obulesu directed ward office employees to work collectively to ensure the successful execution of the Special Intensive Revision voter list program. Conducting a teleconference on Thursday with administrative, planning, amenities, sanitation, wel-

fare secretaries, and auxiliary nurse midwives, Obulesu reviewed the performance of Booth Level Officers recording low productivity metrics.

Obulesu emphasized that non-Booth Level Officers must actively participate in the process to assist voters and designated field staff. He instructed Booth Level Officers to efficiently address voter queries during field operations, distribute enumeration forms, and sup-

ply necessary details without causing public inconvenience. The administration has accelerated voter list verification, form distribution, and subsequent data digitalization processes. Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Additional Commissioner RGV Krishna, Deputy Commissioner Satish Kumar Reddy, Tahsildar Ravi Kumar, Deputy Tahsildar Dhanunjaya, and Election Superintendent Subbanna also joined the review.



## MLA Sridhar Reddy Inaugurates Boat Shikar Ahead of Nellore Roti Festival



**Nellore, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy officially inaugurated the new boat shikar facility at the Barashahid Dargah boating club on Thursday evening. The facility aims to enhance amenities for visitors ahead of the regional celebrations.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, the MLA explained that a massive influx of devotees from various parts of the country and abroad is expected to arrive in Nellore to participate in the upcoming Roti festival. Sridhar Reddy detailed the distinct cultural and spiritual features of the event, assuring that the administration has prepared all necessary items and arrangements to ensure a comfortable experience for the pilgrims. Several coalition leaders and political activists also participated in the inaugural program to oversee the site preparations.

## Sarvepalli Hosts Massive Victory Ceremony Marking Two Years of Coalition Rule



**Sarvepalli, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Thousands of people, including a massive gathering of women, flocked to the victory ceremony held at the SridsKalyana Mandapam in Chemudugunta of Venkatachalam mandal. The grand event, celebrating the completion of two years of the coalition government's rule, was chaired by MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy and witnessed united lineups from all the coalition parties. A major highlight of the assembly premises was the array of exhibition stalls set up by various government departments, attracting significant public interest. During the event, a detailed PowerPoint presentation showcased extensive infrastructure and development works undertaken across the constituency with an estimated budget of Rs 1,000 crore. The celebrations featured several prominent figures who joined as guests to address the public on the administration's progress. Rajya Sabha member Beeda Mastan Rao, Tirupati TDP Parliament President Panabaka Lakshmi, and Nuda Chairman Kotamreddy Srinivasulu Reddy, Activists participated in this program.

## Srikalahasti Police Bust Interstate Theft Gang and Recover Stolen Property



**Srikalahasti, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Srikalahasti Two Town Police successfully resolved multiple house burglary cases by arresting two interstate thieves and seizing stolen property valued at Rs 2 lakh. Following directives from Tirupati District SP L Subbarayudu, four special police teams were constituted under the supervision of Additional SP Admin A Srinivas and Srikalahasti DSP Narasimhamurthy to conduct extensive security checks. During an operation on June 24, a police team led by Srikalahasti Two Town Police Station SI Y Jyoti intercepted two suspects moving suspiciously on the Srikalahasti-Pichchaturu road. Upon detailed interrogation, the suspects confessed to committing several house break-ins across Srikalahasti, Gangadhara Nellore, and Tiruchanur. The first accused was identified as auto driver Pulli Naresh, a repeat offender with approximately 28 theft cases registered against him across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The second accused was identified as railway employee KalluriJagdish Kumar, also known as Jagadish, a resident of Anjmedu village in Erpedumandal. Srikalahasti Two Town Police Inspector confirmed in a press note that the authorities recovered gold and silver jewelry worth Rs 2 lakh and impounded the auto rickshaw utilized to execute the crimes.

## Foreign Tourists Experience Spiritual Peace at Thondamanadu Temple

**Srikalahasti, June 25 | TPN Bureau**

Foreign tourists visited the historic Venkateswara Swamy temple located in Thondamanadu to experience the regional heritage. The visiting group included Chen from China, Lu from Kenya, and Ashok Reddy Lu from Kenya, who toured the traditional temple premises together. Speaking during their visit, the international tourists shared that they were deeply impressed by the profound spirituality of India. They noted that the serene atmosphere and tranquility preserved inside the temple complex provided them with great mental peace. Following their darshan, local villagers from Raju lakandriga, Maniraju and Kishore, formally welcomed the visitors and offered them the traditional temple Tirtha Prasad.



Editorial

Climate Extremes Are the New Normal Across Continents

Heatwaves that break records, floods that drown entire cities in hours, and erratic rainfall patterns are no longer isolated warnings of climate change—they are becoming the lived reality across continents. From Europe's scorching summers to Asia's flash floods and North America's wildfire seasons, the planet is entering a phase where extreme weather is routine rather than rare.

According to global climate assessments, the past decade (2015–2024) has been the warmest on record, with average global temperatures already about 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels. The frequency of extreme heat events has increased by nearly 200% compared to the 1960s, while intense rainfall events have risen by around 30–40% in several regions due to higher atmospheric moisture.

The economic and human costs are escalating sharply. The World Meteorological Organization estimates that climate-related disasters have increased fivefold over the last 50 years, with over 90% of disasters now linked to weather extremes. In 2024 alone, global losses from floods, storms, and heatwaves crossed \$300 billion, affecting millions of livelihoods.

Infrastructure is struggling to keep pace. Nearly 70% of cities worldwide are not fully climate-resilient, according to urban risk studies. In developing countries, this vulnerability is even more severe, where rapid urbanisation has outpaced drainage systems, housing safety standards, and disaster preparedness frameworks.

India reflects this global pattern sharply. States across the country are witnessing simultaneous extremes—heatwaves above 45°C in summer, followed by cloudbursts and urban flooding during monsoon months. Experts warn that by 2030, extreme heat days in India could increase by twice the current average if emissions continue on the present trajectory.

The challenge is no longer just environmental—it is economic, social, and political. Climate resilience must move from policy documents into real infrastructure: heat-resistant cities, flood-smart drainage systems, climate-adaptive agriculture, and early warning technologies.

The planet is not just warming—it is destabilising. And unless adaptation matches acceleration, extremes will no longer be exceptions. They will define the new global normal.

Editor

From Classroom to Career: Reimagining the Path to Inclusive Education

Ram Kamal Social Engineer



Stop for a moment and feel the weight of this silence. You are living through the final years of humanity as it has always existed. We stand at a precipice—not of extinction, but of a transformation so unimaginable that by 2030, which started in 2020, just four short years from now, the world will be unrecognizable. Children born today will enter a fundamentally altered reality where the concept of being "alone with your thoughts" or "not knowing" a piece of information will be over. We are the last generation of "pure humans," witnessing the imminent dawn of the posthuman era.

From our origins as peasant gatherers relying on knowledge passed down through one-to-one connections, we are now accelerating into the artificial intelligence, synthetic reality, and neurobiological connectivity revolutions. This unprecedented acceleration guarantees a massive disruption within the global education industry. None of our present-day curricula, traditional pedagogical methods, or standardized testing models will survive this dramatic transition. Reflect on Andhra Pradesh and Telangana's Bhavitha Special Schools for inclusive education. I predict an impending reality: up to eighty per cent of children born in the coming years will be neurodi-

verse. Currently, one in sixty-four children is recognized as neurodiverse; lacking an understanding of this evolutionary shift, society simply labels them "Gen Z." But it is much more than this; our comprehension.

In response to this impending shift, Andhra Pradesh is pioneering transformative change. For the first time in India, the state is launching 125 specialized Autism and Neurodiversity Support Centres within government schools to support varied neural connections. This urgency was the focal point of a recent two-day Round Table Conference in Vijayawada, aimed at making inclusive education a reality from early childhood to university. Hosted by the Sri Aurobindo Society at Andhra Loyola College, the event was chaired by Sundarappu Vijaya Sreekumar, Chairman of the Andhra Legislative Welfare Committee for Children with Special Needs (CwSN). While the absence of the Department of Collegiate Education highlighted distinct systemic gaps, active participation from Women and Child Welfare—crucial for early identification through Anganwadi play schools—along with Samagra Shiksha Andhra Pradesh and the Intermediate Board was deeply encouraging, as they voiced collaborative solutions.

The primary outcome of the roundtable was a unified consensus: true inclusion is never achieved through isolated interventions. It requires a highly coordinated system seamlessly connecting basic schools, higher education institutions, health systems, and social welfare departments. To successfully move beyond mere policy aspirations, our entire education system must undergo a fundamental shift in mindset, infrastructure, and coordination to meet new generational demands. Practitioners thoroughly discussed the urgent need for tailored curricula, modernized examination practices, teacher capacity building, resource centres acting as vital bridges, and technology's role in easing the critical transition from high school to university.

Vijaya Sreekumar affirmed the government's resolute determination to make inclusive education a reality, citing the 125 new Autism Support Centres opening this year as a prime example. He firmly promised to leave no stone unturned to provide equitable, high-quality education to these children, explicitly calling for interdepartmental handholding alongside vital Ministry of Health support. The event gathered diverse leaders, including state educators, Roja Rani from Women and Child Welfare, UN agencies, special educators, and the team from Wadhvani AI. Concluding the impactful event, the Sri Aurobindo Society reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to supporting the state far beyond the highly successful Bhavitha Centres in Tirupati—which currently offer world-class support to children and their families, backed by Malladi Pharmaceuticals—and honoured ITC for their dedicated ongoing support for children with special needs.

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People are surrounded by contacts but starved of connection. Loneliness is not the absence of people—it is the absence of meaningful human connection. A young professional scrolling endlessly through social media at midnight. An elderly parent waiting for a phone call that never comes. A student surrounded by classmates yet feeling completely alone. Different lives. One common experience: loneliness.

Humanity has achieved extraordinary progress. We can communicate instantly across continents, participate in virtual meetings from our homes, and maintain connections with hundreds or even thousands of people through social media platforms. Yet, paradoxically, many people today feel more alone than ever before. In an age of unprecedented digital connectivity, loneliness has emerged as one of the most serious yet least discussed challenges confronting humanity. Unlike many illnesses, it leaves no visible scars. Yet its impact can be profound, affecting mental health, physical well-being, productivity, relationships, and even longevity. Never before in human history have people been so connected digitally and yet so disconnected emotionally.

Loneliness is often misunderstood. Many assume that it affects only elderly people living alone. The reality is far more complex. A person can be surrounded by colleagues, neighbours, friends, or even family members and still experience deep loneliness. At its core, loneliness is not the absence of people; it is the absence of meaningful human connection. It

is the painful gap between the relationships people desire and the relationships they actually experience.

The scale of the problem is alarming. Health experts across the world increasingly view loneliness as a major public health concern. Various international studies and global health experts increasingly recognise loneliness as a major public-health concern affecting hundreds of millions of people worldwide. If even one-fourth of the world's population experiences serious loneliness, the number could approach two billion people—roughly equivalent to the combined populations of India and the United States.

Contrary to popular belief, loneliness affects people across all age groups. Many young people today spend hours online every day and remain connected to social media around the clock. Yet surveys frequently reveal that young adults report some of the highest levels of loneliness. The digital age has made communication easier than ever before, but it has not necessarily made relationships deeper. Having hundreds of online contacts does not guarantee the presence of a trusted friend who will listen during difficult times. Many people have extensive networks but limited emotional support.

The consequences of chronic loneliness extend far beyond emotional discomfort. Research has consistently linked prolonged loneliness with increased risks of depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances, cardiovascular problems, cognitive decline, and reduced overall well-being. Some researchers have even suggested that the



health impact of chronic loneliness may be comparable to other significant health risk factors. The effects are not limited to individuals alone. Families, workplaces, communities, and healthcare systems all bear the indirect costs of growing social isolation.

India has traditionally been known for strong family bonds, close-knit communities, and vibrant social relationships. For generations, people found emotional support through joint families, neighbourhood interactions, cultural activities, and community gatherings. However, rapid urbanisation, migration, demanding work schedules, changing lifestyles, and increasing dependence on digital communication are gradually transforming the social landscape. Many elderly parents now live separately from their children. Young professionals relocate frequently in search of career opportunities. Students move away from home for education. While these developments bring many advantages, they can also weaken traditional support systems that once protected people

from loneliness. The rise of nuclear families, migration for employment, and increasing dependence on smartphones have gradually altered traditional patterns of social interaction.

Technology undoubtedly offers remarkable benefits. It enables communication across vast distances and helps maintain relationships that might otherwise fade. However, technology cannot completely replace human presence. A video call cannot always substitute for a warm embrace. A social media reaction cannot fully replace genuine concern. An emoji cannot communicate empathy in the same way as a heartfelt conversation. Human beings are fundamentally social creatures who thrive on trust, belonging, affection, understanding, and shared experiences.

Addressing loneliness requires collective effort. Families must consciously create opportunities for meaningful interaction. Educational institutions should place greater emphasis on emotional intelligence, empathy, and interpersonal skills. Workplaces must rec-

ognise that employee well-being involves more than financial compensation. Communities should encourage participation, volunteering, and social engagement. Individuals, too, must invest time and effort in nurturing relationships, listening actively, and reaching out to those who may be struggling in silence.

Perhaps the most important step is to revive the forgotten art of listening. In a fast-paced world where everyone is eager to speak, genuine listeners have become rare. Yet many people do not need immediate solutions to their problems. They simply need someone willing to listen without judgment and understand without interruption. Sometimes the greatest gift one human being can offer another is not advice, but attention.

The greatest paradox of our age is that humanity has never been more connected technologically, yet so many people feel disconnected emotionally. Loneliness may be silent, but its consequences are loud. It affects mental health, physical well-being, family life, workplace productivity, and social harmony. As the world continues to invest heavily in artificial intelligence, space exploration, and technological innovation, it must not neglect one of the most fundamental human needs—the need to belong. People do not merely need information; they need understanding. They do not merely need communication; they need connection. They do not merely need company; they need companionship. The greatest wealth a person can possess is not a larger network, but a deeper human connection. In the race to connect our devices, let us not forget to connect our hearts.

(The Author is a Consultant Psychologist, Rehabilitation Professional (RCI), Academic & Research Mentor, and Guinness, Asia, Limca and India Book Records Holder.)

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking–2026 Theme

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The “International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” or “World Drug Day” is marked on 26 June annually since 1988 to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. This day calls for investment in prevention, including justice, education, healthcare, and alternative livelihoods—the building blocks of sustainable resilience. It serves as a call to action for governments, organisations, and individuals to strengthen efforts to combat drug abuse, prevent substance use disorders, and disrupt networks involved in the illicit trafficking of drugs. It also addresses the health, social, and economic consequences of drug abuse. The theme of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking–2026 is “World Drug Problem: Persisting Issues, New Challenges, Innovative Responses” to focus on innovative and collaborative efforts of communities, governments, and civil societies to reduce the demand and supply of illicit drugs.

**Issues of Drug Abuse in India:**

Drug abuse in India is a growing crisis, driven by geographical vulnerability, increasing availability, and early-age initiation. The rising cases of drug abuse, geographic risk, substance use statistics, regional variations, and their impacts are becoming threats to Indian youth. Government initiatives include *Nasha Muk*

Bharat Abhiyan, NAPDDR, drug de-addiction programmes, NCB, legal frameworks, capacity building, and regional cooperation.

**Consequences of Drug Abuse:**

The physical and mental health consequences of drug abuse lead to heart diseases, stroke, lung cancer, respiratory damage, risk of HIV and Hepatitis, nasal damage, liver and kidney diseases, oral cancer, gum problems, fatal overdose, weight loss, depression, memory issues, insomnia, sleep disorders, aggressive behaviour, delusions, brain dysfunction, anxiety, confusion, tuberculosis, and addiction.

The main goals of this day are to spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, educate people on how to prevent drug use, support those who are addicted, encourage countries to cooperate and share solutions, and promote stronger laws and better treatment options.



| Overall Crime & Trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ Total cognisable crimes: 58.85 lakh (6% from 2023)<br>■ Crime rate: 418.9 per lakh population (lowest since 2019)<br>■ Cybercrime surged by 17%, emerging as the fastest-growing category<br>Emerging Threats<br>■ Over 1 lakh cybercrime cases reported<br>■ Fraud accounts for 70%+ of cyber offences<br>■ Rise of “digital arrest” scams and AI-enabled frauds<br>Drug Abuse & Related Data<br>■ Drug overdose deaths increased by 50% in 2024 | ■ Around 978 overdose deaths were reported<br>■ Tamil Nadu recorded the highest overdose deaths<br>Vulnerable Groups<br>■ Crimes against children: ₹5.9%<br>■ Crimes against senior citizens: ₹16.9%<br>■ Juvenile crime: ₹11.2%<br>State-wise Highlights<br>■ Telangana: Among the highest crime rates (per lakh population)<br>■ Uttar Pradesh: High per capita crime indicators<br>■ Nagaland: Lowest crime rate in India<br>■ Kerala: Highest charge-sheeting rate (94.5%) |

| Global / International Data (UN & Global Trends)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Drug Problem Overview<br>■ Around 296 million people used drugs globally (UNODC estimate)<br>■ Drug use increased by 23% over the last decade<br>■ Cannabis remains the most widely used drug worldwide<br>Health Impact<br>■ Over 39 million people suffer from drug use disorders globally<br>■ Millions lack access to treatment and rehabilitation services<br>■ Drug use linked to:<br>■ HIV infections | ■ Hepatitis<br>■ Mental health disorders<br>Trafficking & Crime<br>■ Drug trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar global illegal industry<br>Strong links with:<br>■ Organised crime networks<br>■ Terror financing<br>■ Human trafficking<br>Emerging Challenges<br>■ Rise of synthetic drugs (meth, fentanyl)<br>■ Increasing online drug trade (dark web)<br>■ Youth are becoming more vulnerable globally<br><br>(Note: IN India (NCRB Latest Data – 2024/2026 Insights) |

# Regional Parties Face Internal Turmoil Amid Political Realignments

Sreeja Rachabatu

The political landscape across several Indian states is witnessing significant shifts as regional parties that once dominated state politics face internal dissent, defections, and organizational challenges. These developments have sparked renewed debates about the future of regional political formations and their role in national politics.

In West Bengal, the ruling Trinamool Congress has reportedly been confronted with growing internal discontent following recent political developments. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who has remained one of the most influential regional leaders in the country for nearly two decades, is facing challenges from within her own party ranks. Reports of legislators and senior leaders expressing dissatisfaction have fueled speculation about the party's internal stability.

A similar situation appears to be unfolding in Telangana. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), led by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekh



Rao (KCR), has witnessed a series of defections since its electoral setback. Several legislators and party leaders have moved to rival political formations, raising concerns about the party's ability to retain its political influence. Internal disagreements and leadership-related issues have further added to the uncertainty surrounding the party's future.

Tamil Nadu has also witnessed political turbulence. As preparations for future electoral contests intensify, reports of dissatisfaction and factionalism within major regional parties have emerged.

Political observers note that changing voter preferences, leadership transitions, and emerging political forces are contributing to the evolving dynamics in the state.

Maharashtra's political scenario has likewise been marked by divisions within regional parties. The fragmentation of established political organizations has altered alliances and reshaped electoral calculations, reflecting broader changes taking place across the country.

While critics often attribute the weakening of regional parties to the growing influence of the Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP), analysts point out that internal factors have also played a major role. Dynastic politics, inadequate leadership succession planning, weakening grassroots structures, factional rivalries, and the pursuit of power have all contributed to organizational instability in several regional parties.

The developments have also posed challenges for the INDIA alliance, as many of its constituent regional parties grapple with internal crises. Political commentators argue that maintaining unity and strengthening organizational structures will be crucial for opposition parties seeking to present a credible challenge in future elections.

As India moves toward another electoral cycle, the struggles of regional parties underscore the importance of strong internal democracy, transparent leadership, and cohesive political organization. The coming years will determine whether these parties can overcome their challenges and reclaim their influence in the nation's evolving political landscape.

# Jairam Ramesh Opposes Return of Congress Leaders Who Joined BJP



Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday strongly opposed the idea of welcoming back former party members who left the Congress to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), particularly younger leaders who rose through the party ranks before switching allegiance.

Speaking in an interview with PTI Videos, Ramesh said it would be inappropriate for the Congress to consider reinducting leaders who benefited from positions of power and responsibility within the party but later chose to leave.

Clarifying that he was expressing a personal view, Ramesh stated that many of those who departed had enjoyed significant opportunities and recognition in the Congress before aligning themselves with a political party whose ideology, he argued, is fundamentally different from that of the Congress.

His remarks came in response to a question regarding several prominent Congress leaders who joined the BJP over the past decade, including Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasad, Milind Deora and RPN Singh. These leaders were once considered part of the Congress's next generation of leadership and were seen as close associates of senior party leader Rahul Gandhi.

Ramesh noted that the past

12 years had tested the commitment of party members, emphasizing that those who remain in the Congress today have stayed despite the party not being in power at the Centre. According to him, this demonstrates ideological commitment and loyalty to the organization.

He expressed disappointment over the departure of younger leaders who had been entrusted with key responsibilities within the party structure and had occupied important public positions. Ramesh argued that their decision to join a party with contrasting ideological principles raised questions about their long-term commitment to the values they once represented.

While maintaining that his

opinion was personal and not an official party position, Ramesh reiterated that such leaders should not be brought back into the Congress fold.

Several former Congress leaders who joined the BJP have since praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and have been critical of their former party. Their exits over the years have been viewed as significant setbacks for the Congress, which has been striving to strengthen its organizational base and rebuild its political fortunes.

Ramesh's comments are likely to reignite discussions within political circles about party loyalty, ideological commitment, and the challenges faced by opposition parties in retaining influential leaders.

# First Commercial Sea Shipment of Banganapalle Mangoes Reaches Singapore

India has achieved a significant milestone in agricultural exports with the successful completion of the first commercial sea shipment of premium Banganapalle mangoes to Singapore. The initiative was facilitated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow.

The consignment, comprising five metric tonnes of Banganapalle mangoes, was exported by Osum Food Solutions LLP on June 11 and reached Singapore on June 24. The successful delivery demonstrates the growing potential of sea freight as a cost-effective and sustainable transportation option for India's horticultural exports. The mangoes were sourced from Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)-certified or

chards in Andhra Pradesh and were processed and packed at an APEDA-recognized packhouse in Karnataka. The entire export process adhered to the stringent quality and phytosanitary standards required by Singapore, ensuring the produce met international import regulations.

Upon arrival, the importer, EC-Links Pte Ltd, expressed satisfaction with the quality of the fruit. The mangoes were praised for their sweetness, uniform ripening, excellent shelf life, and compliance with phytosanitary requirements. The successful shipment highlighted the effectiveness of scientific post-harvest management practices and efficient cold-chain logistics in preserving fruit quality during sea transportation.

The export also delivered substantial economic benefits to farmers. While Banganapalle mangoes fetched between 25 and 26 per kilogram in do



mestic markets, the export consignment realized nearly 50 per kilogram. This nearly doubled farm-gate returns, providing growers with significantly higher income and demonstrating the value of access to international markets.

Industry experts view the achievement as a major step toward expanding India's agricultural exports through sustainable logistics solutions. Compared to air freight, sea transport offers lower costs, greater scalability, and a re

duced environmental footprint, making it an attractive option for exporters of fresh fruits and vegetables. Banganapalle mangoes, renowned for their golden-yellow colour, rich sweetness, pleasant aroma, and fibreless pulp, enjoy strong demand in international markets. The successful shipment is expected to open new opportunities for expanding exports of the variety to destinations across Asia and beyond. APEDA has been actively promoting sea freight for fresh produce through infrastructure development, market expansion initiatives, and exporter training programs. Officials believe the success of this shipment will encourage wider adoption of maritime transport for horticultural exports, strengthen India's position in global agricultural markets, and contribute to the government's objective of enhancing farmers' incomes through increased export opportunities.

# Fuel Prices Remain Unchanged Despite Sharp Decline in Global Crude Oil Rates

Retail petrol and diesel prices across India remained unchanged on Thursday despite a significant decline in international crude oil prices, prompting expectations that consumers could eventually benefit if the downward trend in global markets continues.

Global oil benchmarks have fallen sharply in recent weeks, reversing much of the surge triggered by geopolitical tensions earlier this year. Brent crude is currently trading around \$72-73 per barrel, while US crude prices have slipped below \$70 per barrel. These levels are close to those seen before the escalation of tensions in the Middle East, which had briefly pushed crude prices toward \$120 per barrel.

Despite the decline, state-owned fuel retailers have not reduced retail fuel prices. Petrol and diesel prices had earlier been increased by about 7.50

per litre each during the period of elevated global oil prices. Industry sources indicate that oil marketing companies are closely monitoring price trends before making any adjustments.

Officials from state-run fuel companies noted that petrol sales are presently generating healthy marketing margins, while diesel continues to yield modest losses. They also pointed out that retail fuel prices are generally not revised based on daily fluctuations in crude oil markets. Instead, pricing decisions are typically influenced by average international oil prices over a fortnight or a month.

As a result, any benefit arising from the recent decline in crude oil prices may take time to reach consumers, particularly if global prices remain stable at lower levels for an extended period.

The fall in crude oil prices is

being viewed as a positive development for the Indian economy. As the world's third-largest importer of crude oil, India depends on imports for more than 88 percent of its oil requirements. Lower crude prices help reduce the country's import bill, narrow the current account deficit, and ease inflationary pressures.

Economic analysts believe that sustained lower fuel costs could support consumer spending and provide relief to households and businesses. Reduced transportation and logistics expenses may also contribute to lower prices for goods and services across various sectors.

The recent correction in oil prices has been attributed in part to the normalization of tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global shipping route through which nearly one-fifth of the world's oil supplies pass. Ship



ping flows have reportedly returned to near pre-conflict levels, helping ease concerns about supply disruptions.

With global crude prices now significantly below their recent peaks, market observers expect pressure to build on fuel retailers and policymakers to pass on some of the benefits to consumers if current trends continue. However, any decision on retail fuel price reductions is likely to depend on the sustainability of lower international oil prices in the coming weeks.

# Tamil Nadu Ammonia Leak Death Toll Rises to 11

The death toll in the ammonia gas leak incident at a private seafood processing facility in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district has risen to 11, while dozens of workers continue to receive medical treatment. The tragedy has sparked serious concerns over industrial safety standards after a high-level government probe uncovered multiple lapses in emergency preparedness and worker welfare.

The incident occurred on June 21 at St Peter & Paul Seafoods Exports Private Limited near Periyapalayam. According to the Tamil Nadu government, 83 workers were affected by the leak, with 67 individuals still un

dergoing treatment at various hospitals across Chennai and surrounding areas.

A high-level committee comprising senior officials from the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), and the Public Health Department submitted its findings to the Chief Secretary. The report revealed that the factory's emergency alarm system failed to function during the gas leak, delaying evacuation efforts and exposing workers to greater risk.

Investigators also found that many employees lacked basic emergency response training, raising questions about safety

compliance at the facility. The report further highlighted poor living conditions in worker dormitories located within the factory premises. The accommodations, primarily occupied by young women migrant workers, were described as cramped and unhygienic.

The deceased include nine workers from Odisha and two from Assam. Authorities have coordinated with the respective state governments to transport the bodies of the victims to their native places. Several bodies have already been airlifted, while arrangements are underway for the remaining victims after completion of legal

formalities.

Health officials reported that among the 67 workers still under medical care, 16 remain on ventilator support, 21 are receiving oxygen assistance, and 30 are in stable condition. Five workers have been discharged following treatment. The affected workers belong to Odisha, Assam, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal.

Following the incident, workers experienced symptoms including breathlessness, eye irritation, respiratory distress, persistent coughing, and chest discomfort. Medical teams continue to monitor patients closely.

The findings have prompted the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to consider stricter regulations for hazardous industries. Proposed measures include mandating worker accommodation outside factory premises and establishing safety buffer zones around industrial units handling dangerous chemicals.

The tragedy has renewed calls for stronger enforcement of industrial safety norms and better protection for migrant workers. Authorities have assured that further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation to prevent similar incidents in the future.



## PM Modi to Visit Seychelles for Golden Jubilee National Day Celebrations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a three-day state visit to Seychelles from June 27 to 29, during which he will participate as the Guest of Honour at the country's Golden Jubilee National Day celebrations and hold high-level talks aimed at strengthening bilateral ties.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the visit comes at the invitation of Seychelles President Patrick Herminie and is expected to reinforce the longstanding friendship between the two nations. The visit marks Prime Minister Modi's first trip to Seychelles since 2015 and highlights the strategic importance New Delhi places on its partnership with the Indian Ocean island nation.

During the visit, Prime Minister Modi will hold bilateral discussions with President Herminie to review the entire spectrum of India-Seychelles cooperation. The talks are expected to cover areas such as maritime security, economic collaboration, development partnerships, capacity building, climate resilience, and regional issues of mutual interest.

A special highlight of the visit will be Modi's participation in Seychelles' 50th National Day celebrations. An Indian Armed Forces contingent, along with two Indian Navy ships, will take part in the com-



memorative events, underscoring the close defence and security cooperation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to address the National Assembly of Seychelles and interact with members of the Indian community residing in the country. These engagements are expected to further strengthen people-to-people ties, which have long formed a key pillar of bilateral relations.

India and Seychelles share deep historical and cultural links, supported by a vibrant Indian diaspora and decades of developmental cooperation. India has been a key partner in sectors such as healthcare, education, infrastructure development, maritime surveillance, and disaster management.

The MEA noted that Seychelles occupies a special place in India's Vision MAHASA-GAR (Mutual and Holistic Ad-

vancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), which emphasizes cooperation, security, and sustainable development across the Indian Ocean region. The island nation is also considered an important partner in India's broader engagement with countries of the Global South.

Diplomatic observers view the visit as an opportunity to deepen strategic cooperation in the Indian Ocean amid evolving geopolitical dynamics. The discussions are expected to further enhance collaboration in maritime security and regional stability while opening new avenues for economic and developmental partnerships between the two friendly nations.

The visit is expected to reaffirm the enduring partnership and shared commitment of India and Seychelles to advancing mutual growth, security, and prosperity.

## Powerful Twin Earthquakes Devastate Venezuela, Death Toll Rises to 164

Venezuela is grappling with one of the deadliest natural disasters in its recent history after two powerful earthquakes struck the country, leaving at least 164 people dead and 971 others injured. Rescue operations are continuing as authorities fear the casualty count could rise further, particularly in the hardest-hit coastal regions.

The earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 on the Richter scale, struck within minutes of each other on Wednesday evening. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the epicentres were located near the Caribbean coast west of Caracas, with relatively shallow depths that intensified the impact on populated areas.

The disaster caused widespread destruction across several states, with La Guaira emerging as the worst-affected region. Acting President Delcy Rodriguez declared a nationwide state of emergency and described parts of La Guaira as a "disaster zone." Dozens of



buildings collapsed, trapping residents under rubble and prompting large-scale rescue efforts.

Television footage showed emergency workers and volunteers searching through debris in a race against time to save survivors. In one dramatic rescue, three children were pulled alive from the remains of a collapsed structure. Authorities said many roads were blocked by debris, while damaged power lines and disrupted communications complicated relief operations.

The tremors were felt across much of northern South America. Buildings were evacuated in Brazil's Amazon region, more than 1,700 kilometres from Caracas, while residents in parts of Colombia also reported strong shaking. In the Venezuelan capital, frightened residents rushed out of swaying buildings as walls crumbled and clouds of dust filled the air.

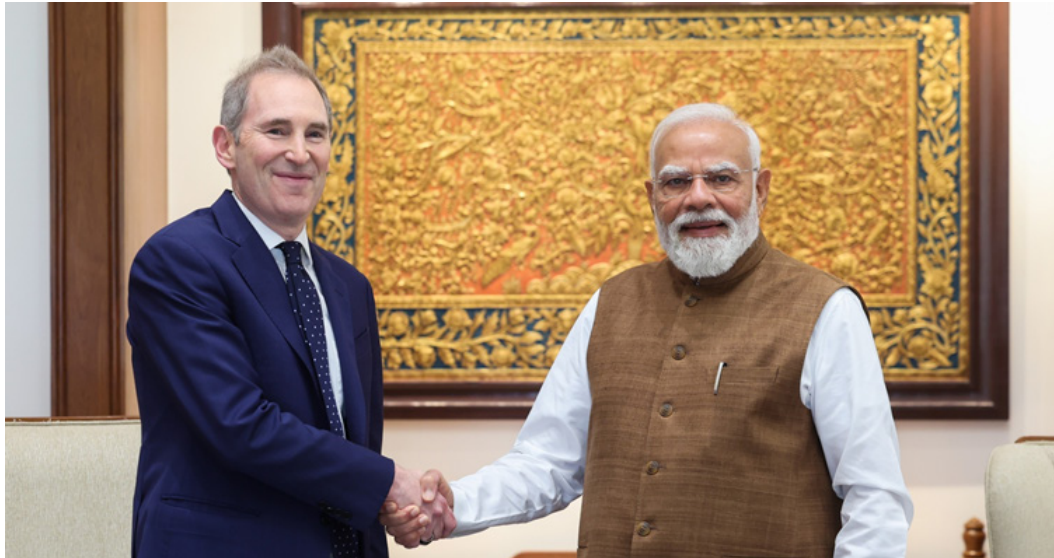
The earthquakes also caused major disruptions to public services. Parts of Caracas experienced power outages and mobile network failures. Subway opera-

tions were suspended, natural gas supplies were shut off as a precaution, and classes were cancelled for several days. Some schools are being converted into temporary shelters and relief centers for displaced families.

International support began arriving soon after the disaster. Several countries offered humanitarian assistance, rescue teams, and medical aid. The United States announced the deployment of emergency response personnel, while Ecuador, Qatar, Mexico, and El Salvador pledged support for ongoing rescue and recovery efforts. Although Venezuela lies near several geological fault lines, earthquakes of this magnitude are rare in the country. Seismologists described the twin quakes as among the strongest to strike Venezuela in more than a century.

As rescue teams continue searching for survivors, authorities have urged residents to remain alert for aftershocks and follow safety instructions issued by emergency services.

## Amazon Announces \$48 Billion Investment in India After CEO Meets PM Modi



US e-commerce and technology giant Amazon has announced plans to invest \$48 billion in India between 2026 and 2030, reinforcing its long-term commitment to one of its fastest-growing global markets. The announcement came after Amazon Chief Executive Officer Andy Jassy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday.

A significant portion of the planned investment will be directed toward expanding artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud infrastructure across the country. Amazon revealed that it will invest an additional \$13 billion in AI and cloud technologies by 2030, taking its total planned investment in these sectors to more than \$21 billion over the next five years.

The company said the investment would strengthen the capabilities of Amazon Web Services (AWS) in India through the expansion of data centre infrastructure in Mumbai and Hyderabad. The enhanced facilities are expected to provide startups, businesses, developers, and government organiza-

tions with access to advanced cloud computing services, AI tools, custom AI chips, and secure digital infrastructure.

Speaking after the meeting, Andy Jassy highlighted India's growing importance in Amazon's global strategy. He noted that the company has witnessed strong growth across its e-commerce, cloud computing, and AI businesses in the country over the past decade.

Jassy stated that the planned investments align with India's development goals and would help accelerate digital transformation, innovation, and economic growth. He also expressed support for Prime Minister Modi's vision of a developed and self-reliant India, emphasizing Amazon's commitment to being a long-term partner in the country's progress.

According to the company, Amazon's cumulative investments in India from 2010 through 2030 will exceed \$88 billion. Over the years, the company has played a major role in supporting India's digital economy by helping millions of

small businesses expand their reach through online platforms.

Amazon reported that it has digitized more than 12 million small businesses in India, enabled over \$20 billion in cumulative e-commerce exports, and supported approximately 2.8 million jobs. Additionally, the company has trained over 10 million individuals in cloud-related skills to prepare them for opportunities in the digital economy.

Looking ahead, Amazon has set ambitious targets for the Indian market. The company plans to support 3.8 million jobs, facilitate \$80 billion in cumulative exports, extend AI-driven benefits to 15 million small businesses, and provide AI education to four million government school students.

Industry experts view the announcement as one of the largest foreign investment commitments in India's technology sector, underscoring the country's growing role as a global hub for digital innovation, cloud services, and artificial intelligence.

India's newly appointed High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, officially assumed office on Thursday and announced the resumption of travel visas for Bangladeshi nationals, marking a significant step toward improving bilateral engagement between the two neighbouring countries.

Trivedi, a senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Union minister, presented his credentials to Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban presidential palace in Dhaka. With the formal presentation of diplomatic papers, he began his tenure as India's envoy to Bangladesh, becoming the first politician to hold the position.

A ceremonial guard of honour was accorded to the new High Commissioner by the President Guard Regiment before the official proceedings. Shortly after the ceremony, Trivedi visited the Indian Visa



Centre in Dhaka, where he made his first major announcement regarding the restoration of travel visas.

Speaking to officials and members of the public, Trivedi said that visa applications for general travel purposes would be accepted from June 28. He noted that visa services would be available through all five Indian visa centres located in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Sylhet, and Khulna.

The decision is expected to benefit thousands of Bangladeshi citizens seeking to travel

to India for tourism, family visits, education, and business purposes. Trivedi also confirmed that urgent medical visas would continue to be processed on humanitarian grounds.

Travel visas for Bangladeshi nationals had been suspended nearly two years ago amid heightened security concerns and strained diplomatic relations during the tenure of the interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus. The resumption of services is being viewed as a positive develop-

## US Pursues Iran Deal While Reassuring Gulf Allies on Regional Security

The United States has reiterated its commitment to pursuing a diplomatic agreement with Iran while making it clear that any deal will not come at the expense of the security and stability of its Gulf allies. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio delivered the message during a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Bahrain on Thursday as negotiations between Washington and Tehran continue following a preliminary agreement to end months of conflict.

Rubio emphasized that the United States seeks a lasting and meaningful agreement but would not accept terms that compromise the interests of its regional partners. He assured Gulf nations that Washington remains committed to preserving peace, prosperity, and security throughout the region.

The ongoing negotiations follow a major conflict that began in February with a large-scale US-Israeli military campaign against Iran. A preliminary understanding reached between Washington and Tehran has

halted active hostilities and opened the door to discussions on key issues, including Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions relief, and the future of energy shipments through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz.

One of the most sensitive issues under discussion is navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy corridor through which a significant portion of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supplies pass. During the conflict, Iran imposed restrictions on traffic through the waterway and later proposed introducing maritime service fees for commercial vessels.

Rubio firmly rejected the idea of tolls or fees, stating that international waterways must remain open and accessible to all nations. He stressed that freedom of navigation is a fundamental principle of international law and essential for global economic stability.

The situation has prompted regional diplomatic efforts. Oman recently announced a



temporary shipping route near its coastline to facilitate safe maritime movement, while Gulf countries have initiated discussions with Iran regarding the future management of the strait. Reports suggest Gulf nations are advocating unrestricted navigation, while Iran may seek compensation through environmental and security-related service charges.

Despite tensions, diplomatic engagement between the United States and Iran is expected to continue. Technical-level talks are likely to resume in the coming days, with mediators working to bridge differences on key

issues. Meanwhile, Iran has projected confidence following the conflict, describing the preliminary agreement as a strategic victory. At the same time, NATO's support for the United States during the conflict has drawn criticism from Tehran, which has accused the alliance of involvement in what it calls an unlawful war.

Observers believe the coming weeks will be crucial in determining whether negotiations can evolve into a comprehensive agreement capable of reducing regional tensions and ensuring long-term stability in the Gulf.

## Meloni Recalls Warm India Welcome, Highlights Personal Diplomacy in New Book

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has shared fond memories of her visits to India in 2023, recalling the enthusiastic reception she received in New Delhi and revealing how personal connections often play a key role in international diplomacy. The reflections appear in her newly released book, Giorgia's Vision, based on conversations with journalist Alessandro Sallusti.

In the book, Meloni recounts how roads in New Delhi were lined with posters carrying her photograph and messages welcoming her to India during her

visit for the Raisina Dialogue in March 2023. Similar posters thanking her for the visit were displayed when she departed the country.

Describing the experience, Meloni said the overwhelming public display prompted Italy's Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani, who accompanied her on the trip, to joke that she would secure "a million votes" if she contested an election from a New Delhi constituency.

The Italian leader visited India twice in 2023—first for the Raisina Dialogue and later for the G20 Summit. During these

visits, she developed a warm rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leading social media users to popularize the term "Melodi" to describe their friendly interactions.

In her book, Meloni argues that successful diplomacy often extends beyond formal meetings and official protocols. She writes that finding a personal connection through shared interests, stories, or informal conversations can significantly strengthen relationships between world leaders.

The Prime Minister illustrates this philosophy through

a series of anecdotes involving international leaders. She recalls how a simple cigarette break helped establish a strong working relationship with Tunisian President Kais Saied. During a lengthy bilateral meeting, an informal conversation over coffee and cigarettes transformed the atmosphere and laid the foundation for future engagement.

Meloni also speaks warmly of Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, whom she describes as one of the most spontaneous leaders she has met. She notes that Rama frequently exchange-

es messages with her on current affairs and maintains a close friendship.

Other personal moments highlighted in the book include receiving orange roses from Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on her birthday, a large Hello Kitty doll for her daughter from former Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and a special Uzbek translation of her memoir gifted by Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Published by Rupa Publications, Giorgia's Vision explores themes such as leadership, family values, national identity,



meritocracy, faith, and the future of Western civilization. The book's foreword has been written by US Vice President J.D. Vance.

Through personal stories and diplomatic experiences, Meloni

presents a portrait of modern leadership that emphasizes human relationships alongside traditional statecraft, offering readers a glimpse into the personal side of international diplomacy.

# Leveraged ETFs Intensify Volatility in Samsung and SK Hynix Shares

South Korea's leading semiconductor companies, Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, have experienced significant share price fluctuations in recent days as investors reassess their positions in the rapidly evolving artificial intelligence (AI) sector. Market analysts say the growing popularity of leveraged exchange-traded funds (ETFs) linked to these stocks has played a major role in amplifying the volatility.

Leveraged ETFs are financial products designed to deliver two or three times the daily performance of an underlying

stock or index. These funds have become increasingly popular among retail investors seeking higher returns from short-term market movements. However, their structure can also magnify losses and contribute to larger swings in the prices of the stocks they track.

Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, both major beneficiaries of the global AI boom due to their dominance in memory chip manufacturing, have attracted substantial investor attention over the past year. As sentiment around AI-related stocks shifts, leveraged ETFs

tied to these companies have intensified buying and selling activity in the market.

According to market data, investors have poured billions of dollars into leveraged ETF products worldwide. Globally, leveraged ETFs now manage more than \$290 billion in assets, with approximately \$45 billion coming from Asian markets. Among the largest single-stock leveraged funds is the CSOP SK Hynix 2x ETF, whose assets have surged dramatically, reaching \$16.8 billion as of this week.

These funds achieve ampli-

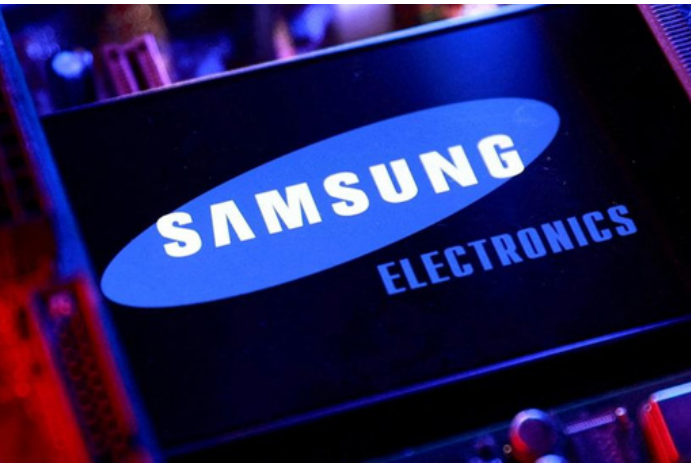
fied returns through complex financial instruments such as swaps, derivatives, and hedging strategies. For example, if a stock gains 2 percent in a single trading session, a 2x leveraged ETF tracking that stock aims to generate a 4 percent return for the same day. Conversely, losses are also magnified when stock prices decline.

A key feature of leveraged ETFs is their daily rebalancing process. Fund managers adjust holdings at the end of each trading session to maintain the targeted leverage ratio. This often results in additional buying

when markets rise and additional selling when markets fall, creating a feedback loop that can further increase market volatility.

Analysts note that trading activity in these products is largely driven by the objective of matching daily performance targets rather than evaluating company fundamentals. As a result, substantial inflows and outflows can influence share prices regardless of long-term business prospects.

With AI-related stocks continuing to attract global attention, market participants are



closely monitoring the impact of leveraged ETFs on trading patterns, liquidity, and broader market stability, particularly within South Korea's benchmark KOSPI index.

# Staying Invested Beats Market Timing, Says WhiteOak Study on SIP Performance

A comprehensive study by WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund has reinforced a key principle of investing: long-term discipline often delivers better results than attempting to time the market. Based on nearly 28 years of historical data, the study found that investors who consistently remained invested through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) significantly improved their chances of earning positive returns.

The analysis examined SIP investments in the BSE Sensex Total Return Index (TRI) from August 1996 to May 2026. According to the findings, SIPs generated positive returns in 100 percent of observations for investment periods of eight years or longer. The study highlighted that long-term investing helped investors navigate market volatility and benefit from the power of compounding.

For 10-year SIP investment horizons, annualized returns ranged between 4.57 percent and 29.8 percent, with an average return of 15.55 percent. These figures demonstrate the potential of disciplined investing even during periods marked by economic uncertainty, market corrections, and global financial crises.

The report also challenged the widely held belief that investors should wait for market downturns before beginning their investment journey.



While many investors attempt to identify the perfect entry point, the study found that delaying investments in anticipation of lower market levels can often result in missed opportunities.

To illustrate this point, the report compared two hypothetical investors. One investor started a monthly SIP of 10,000 in January 2008, close to a major market peak before the global financial crisis. Despite entering the market at a seemingly unfavorable time, this investor accumulated a corpus of 71.63 lakh by May 2026 through total investments of 22.10 lakh.

In contrast, another investor waited until March 2009, when markets had fallen sharply and were near their bottom. Although this investor entered at a lower valuation and invested 20.70 lakh in total, the accu-

mulated corpus reached 61.48 lakh by May 2026—significantly lower than that of the investor who started earlier. The findings highlight the importance of time in the market rather than timing the market. Financial experts often emphasize that regular investments through SIPs help investors average out purchase costs across market cycles while reducing the emotional impact of short-term volatility.

The study concludes that patience, consistency, and a long-term perspective remain critical ingredients for wealth creation. As market fluctuations continue to influence investor sentiment, the report serves as a reminder that disciplined investing and staying committed to financial goals can often prove more rewarding than trying to predict market highs and lows.

# Auto Stocks Drive Market Higher as Sensex, Nifty End Volatile Session in Green



Indian equity benchmark indices extended their gains for a second consecutive session on Thursday, supported by strong buying in automobile, FMCG, and realty stocks. However, profit booking in the latter half of the trading day erased a significant portion of the intraday gains, resulting in a subdued close.

The BSE Sensex ended 109.25 points, or 0.14 %, higher at 77,100.47, while the NSE Nifty 50 gained 34.35 points, or 0.14 %, to settle at 24,056. During the session, the Nifty touched an intraday high of 24,261.60, its highest level in more than a month, before retreating amid late selling pressure.

Market sentiment remained positive for most of the day, aided by easing crude oil prices and optimism in select domestic sectors. Auto stocks emerged as the standout performers, with the Nifty Auto index surging more than 2 %. FMCG shares also attracted investor interest, with the sectoral index rising 0.7%, while the Realty in-

dex added 0.3 %.

On the other hand, metal, information technology, energy, media, and oil & gas stocks weighed on the broader market. The Nifty Metal index remained under pressure due to weakness in global commodity prices, while IT stocks faced profit booking after recent gains.

Among the top gainers on the Nifty were InterGlobe Aviation, Mahindra & Mahindra, Max Healthcare, Maruti Suzuki, and Tata Consumer Products. Major losers included ONGC, Power Grid Corporation, Hindalco Industries, Bharat Electronics, and Tech Mahindra.

Broader markets underperformed the benchmark indices, with both the Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices declining around 0.5 %. Despite this weakness, market breadth remained active, with nearly 150 stocks touching their 52-week highs on the BSE. Notable names included Emcure Pharmaceuticals, Belrise Industries, Minda Corporation, Pidilite In-

dustries, Adani Enterprises, Federal Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, and ACME Solar Holdings.

In stock-specific developments, Lodha Developers gained about 1 % following a major block deal involving nearly 1.98 crore shares. Emcure Pharmaceuticals also advanced over 2 % after a large block transaction involving approximately 19.39 lakh shares.

ICICI Bank rose nearly 1 % after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India to increase its stake in ICICI Prudential Life Insurance. Meanwhile, shares of Life Insurance Corporation fell more than 3 % following the resignation of its Chief Financial Officer, Sunil Agrawal.

The Indian rupee strengthened for a second straight session, appreciating 25 paise to close at 94.40 against the US dollar. Markets will remain closed on Friday on account of Muharram, ending the week with modest gains in both the Sensex and Nifty.

# Metal Stocks Extend Losses as Global Commodity Prices Slide

Metal stocks continued their downward trend for the third consecutive trading session on Thursday, reflecting weakness in global commodity markets. Shares of major metal producers, including Vedanta, National Aluminium Company (NALCO), and Hindustan Zinc, came under selling pressure as investors reacted to a sharp decline in base metal prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME).

The Nifty Metal index extended its losses, with several heavyweight stocks witnessing profit booking after a strong rally in recent months. NALCO, Hindustan Zinc, and Vedanta were among the biggest losers, declining by as much as 3.5 percent during the session.

Market experts attributed the weakness primarily to falling international metal prices. Base metals on the LME witnessed a broad-based correction amid easing concerns over supply disruptions, a strengthening US dollar, and growing expectations that the US Federal Reserve may maintain a tighter monetary policy stance.

Higher US interest rates generally strengthen the dollar and increase borrowing costs across global markets. Since most industrial metals are priced in US dollars, a stronger greenback makes commodities more expensive for buyers using other currencies. This often reduces demand and exerts downward pressure on metal prices.

According to market data, aluminium prices on the LME declined more than 3 percent, while zinc and copper also recorded losses of around 2 percent each. The weakness in global prices has directly impacted investor sentiment toward metal-producing companies, which are highly sensitive to fluctuations in commodity markets.

Analysts noted that the recent decline also reflects profit booking by investors after the strong gains witnessed by metal stocks earlier this year. Many companies in the sector had benefited from expectations of robust industrial demand, infrastructure spend-



ing, and a recovery in global manufacturing activity.

Despite the current correction, market participants remain divided on the medium-term outlook for the sector. Some analysts believe that continued investments in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and infrastructure projects could support long-term demand for industrial metals. Others caution that uncertainty surrounding global economic growth and monetary policy may keep commodity prices volatile in the near term.

For investors, experts recommend maintaining a selective

# Vijaya Diagnostic Shares Rally as Emkay Reaffirms 'Buy' Rating

Shares of Vijaya Diagnostic Centre gained more than 3 percent on Thursday after brokerage firm Emkay Global Financial Services reaffirmed its positive outlook on the healthcare diagnostics company and maintained a target price of 1,400 per share.

The stock emerged as one of the top performers on the Nifty 500 index during the session. Vijaya Diagnostic shares climbed as much as 5 percent to an intraday high of 1,375.30 before trading at 1,358.80 in afternoon trade, reflecting strong investor interest following the brokerage's bullish assessment.

Emkay reiterated its "buy" recommendation after hosting the company's senior management team during a non-deal roadshow in Singapore. Following interactions with management, the brokerage stated that it had gained greater confidence in the company's future growth prospects, citing strong demand trends, expanding volumes, and improving operational efficiencies.

According to the brokerage, Vijaya Diagnostic's business fundamentals remain robust across key markets. Emkay noted that the company's core market of Hyderabad continues to deliver strong double-digit growth, supported by increasing market share and expansion into newer clusters across the city. The brokerage believes that the Hyderabad market will remain a significant growth driver for the company over the next three to four years.

The report also highlighted the company's ongoing network expansion strategy, which is expected to strengthen its presence in existing markets while creating opportunities in new regions. Analysts believe the company's focus on diagnostic services, preventive healthcare, and customer accessibility is helping it maintain a competitive edge in a rapidly growing healthcare sector. Emkay projected a healthy growth trajectory for the company over the coming years. The brokerage estimates



that Vijaya Diagnostic's revenue and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) will grow at compound annual growth rates (CAGR) of 19 percent and 21 percent, respectively. Such growth expectations are underpinned by rising test volumes, improved utilization of diagnostic centers, and operational leverage.

Market participants also view the diagnostics sector favorably due to increasing healthcare awareness, higher spending on preventive health check-ups, and growing demand for quality diagnostic

services across urban and semi-urban areas. The positive commentary from Emkay has reinforced investor confidence in Vijaya Diagnostic's long-term growth story. Analysts believe the company is well-positioned to benefit from expanding healthcare demand while maintaining healthy profitability margins.

With strong performance in its core markets and continued expansion initiatives, Vijaya Diagnostic remains a closely watched healthcare stock among investors seeking exposure to India's growing diagnostics industry.

# CSM Technologies IPO Gains Momentum on Day 2

The initial public offering (IPO) of CSM Technologies witnessed increased investor interest on the second day of bidding, with subscription levels improving across several categories. By 3:42 pm on June 25, the issue had been subscribed 0.59 times, reflecting growing participation from retail investors, high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), and institutional buyers.

According to data available on the NSE, the IPO received bids for approximately 65.97 lakh shares against the 1.11 crore shares offered. The overall demand showed a marked improvement compared to the first day, indicating rising confidence among investors ahead of the final subscription day.

The non-institutional investor (NII) category emerged as the strongest segment, achieving full subscription at 1.04 times. Within this category, the portion reserved for high-value investors applying for more than 10 lakh worth of shares witnessed particularly strong demand and was subscribed 1.37 times. However, the segment reserved for investors

bidding between 2 lakh and 10 lakh was subscribed 0.31 times.

Retail investor participation also picked up pace during the session. The retail individual investor (RII) category was subscribed 0.71 times, showing steady interest from small investors. Meanwhile, the employee reservation portion was subscribed 0.86 times, indicating healthy participation from eligible employees.

Another notable development on the second day was the entry of qualified institutional buyers (QIBs). The QIB portion was subscribed 0.29 times, marking the beginning of institutional participation in the issue. Market experts note that institutional investors often place large bids on the final day of an IPO, making early interest from this category a positive sign for the offering.

The improving subscription figures suggest that investors are gradually warming to the issue as they assess the company's business prospects and growth potential. Strong participation from high-value investors is often viewed as a



sign of confidence in the company's future performance and market positioning.

Market analysts believe the final day of subscription will be crucial in determining the overall response to the IPO. Historically, many public issues witness a significant surge in bids during the closing hours, particularly from institutional investors and retail participants seeking to

capitalize on potential listing gains.

With one day of bidding remaining, market participants will closely watch subscription trends across all investor categories. The response from QIBs, in particular, is expected to play a key role in shaping overall sentiment toward the issue and determining the final subscription numbers for the CSM Technologies IPO.

# Ancient Bathing Ghat Unearthed Near Nalanda Points to Gupta-Era Urban Design

A significant archaeological discovery near the ancient Nalanda University site has brought fresh attention to the region's historical and cultural legacy. A well-structured bathing ghat, estimated to be around 1,600 years old, has been unearthed during desilting operations at Pansokhar Pokhar in Surajpur village, located close to the Hiuen Tsang Memorial, northwest of the

Nalanda ruins. The excavation, carried out by the district administration using earthmovers, revealed a carefully constructed ghat made of burnt bricks and lime plaster—materials commonly associated with advanced construction techniques of the Gupta period. Officials said the structure's design indicates planned civic infrastructure, suggesting the water body may

have served both ritualistic and utilitarian purposes. Pansokhar Pokhar, a large reservoir measuring about 850 metres in length and 175 metres in width, is believed to have historical significance linked to the ancient Nalanda settlement. Along with the ghat, several artefacts were recovered from the site, including pottery fragments, a copper coin suspected to belong to the

Gupta era, and a metal alloy coil measuring approximately 25 millimetres in diameter. Preliminary assessments by local authorities and historians suggest that the site may have been part of a larger water management or community bathing system associated with the ancient university or nearby settlements. Experts note that the use of lime plaster points to efforts to ensure wa-

ter resistance and durability, indicating a sophisticated understanding of engineering and urban planning. The discovery has prompted calls for a detailed archaeological survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to scientifically document and preserve the findings. Officials have indicated that further excavation and analysis will be required to determine the ex-



act age, purpose and extent of the structure. Historians believe such findings reinforce Nalanda's status not only as a global centre of learning but also as a hub of advanced infrastructure and civic planning in ancient India. The unearthed ghat and associ-

ated artefacts are expected to provide valuable insights into the daily life, cultural practices and technological capabilities of the Gupta period. Authorities are now considering measures to protect the site and explore its potential as a heritage attraction.

## Rising Travel Costs Push Tourists to Look Beyond Domestic Destinations

A recent online discussion has reignited concerns over the rising cost of domestic tourism in India, with travellers comparing expenses in popular destinations like Rishikesh to international options such as Sri Lanka. The debate began after a social media post highlighted how high hotel and travel prices within India are prompting some tourists to reconsider their plans and opt for overseas trips that appear more affordable and better organized.



According to the post, travellers planning a trip to Rishikesh reportedly found mid-range hotel stays priced between 9,000 and 15,000 per night. When combined with flight fares, especially from major cities like Mumbai to Delhi, the total cost of a domestic holiday quickly escalates. In contrast, similar budgets were shown to stretch much further in Sri Lanka, where premium sea-facing accommodations were available at significantly lower

nightly rates. This price difference has sparked conversations about whether domestic tourism is becoming less value-for-money. Many users participating in the discussion expressed frustration over the increasing cost of travel within India. Beyond accommodation and transport, several pointed to issues such as inconsistent service quality, overcrowding, and lack of cleanliness in popular tourist

spots. These concerns, they argue, further reduce the appeal of domestic travel, especially when comparable or better experiences are available abroad at similar or even lower costs. Some travellers also highlighted structural issues in the tourism ecosystem, including inflated pricing during peak seasons and a lack of regulation in certain areas. Complaints about unreliable transport services and uneven

hospitality standards were also commonly mentioned, with some describing these challenges as major deterrents for repeat visits. However, others suggested that India still holds strong tourism potential if infrastructure and service quality improve. They emphasized that destinations like Rishikesh, known for their natural beauty and spiritual significance, could attract more visitors if pricing becomes more reasonable and tourist experiences are enhanced through better management and cleanliness. The ongoing debate reflects a broader concern about balancing affordability and quality in India's tourism sector. While domestic destinations continue to attract millions of visitors each year, rising costs and uneven service standards may gradually influence traveller preferences, especially among younger and budget-conscious tourists seeking better value globally.

## Mumbai Teen Excels from Robotics to Securing CA Rank 3

A Mumbai-based student, Tirth Jain, has drawn nationwide attention after securing All India Rank 3 in the Chartered Accountancy Intermediate examinations, proving that academic excellence can go hand in hand with diverse interests and real-world experience.



In the May 2026 CA Intermediate exams, he scored 519 out of 600 marks, achieving an impressive 86.5 % in one of the most competitive professional tests in the country. With only a small fraction of candidates clearing both groups, his achievement stands out as a remarkable feat of consistency and dedication. What makes his success story unique is not just the rank, but the wide range of skills he developed alongside his academic journey. From an early age, he showed a strong interest in technology and innovation. He participated in robotics competitions during school and later taught himself programming languages such as Java. This curiosity led him to develop an Android applica-

tion while still in his teenage years. Along with Java, he also built proficiency in Python, data visualization tools, advanced spreadsheets, and accounting software. This blend of technical and commerce-oriented skills helped him bridge two very different worlds—technology and finance—seamlessly. His academic record has been equally strong throughout his schooling. He scored 99 percent in his Class 10 ICSE

examinations and later achieved over 96 percent in junior college, ranking among the top students. He also secured a national rank in the CA Foundation examination, setting the stage for his later success in the Intermediate level. Beyond academics, he gained valuable professional exposure by working with a business content platform during his junior college years. There, he contributed to content research, social media strategy, and audience engagement, gaining real-world experience in digital media operations at an early age. Leadership has also been a defining part of his journey. As the president of his college's Insight Club, he managed a team of over 60 students and played a key role in organizing inter-collegiate events. He also actively participated in debates, public speaking, and academic competitions, earning several awards. His talents extend into sports as well. He represented his school in skating at the district level and earned medals in athletics and skating competitions, even receiving an "Athlete of the Year" recognition. Tirth Jain's journey highlights how combining discipline with curiosity across multiple fields can lead to extraordinary achievements. His story stands as an example of how modern students can balance academics, technology, leadership, and creativity to reach top national ranks while building a versatile skill set for the future.

## Kai Trump White House Vlog Sparks Debate

A recent social media vlog by Kai Trump, the 17-year-old granddaughter of US President Donald Trump, has triggered widespread discussion online after it offered an unusually personal look inside the White House's private residential spaces.



The video reportedly showcased areas of the historic residence that are not typically accessible to the public, including recreational and private facilities such as a bowling alley, a gym, a golf simulator room, and personal living quarters. Kai also mentioned staying in the Lincoln Bedroom, a space known for its historical significance and limited access. However, the video also faced significant criticism. Some viewers questioned whether it was appropriate for a teenager with no official public role to share extensive access to sensitive and high-profile areas of the White House. Critics argued that such visibility raises concerns about privilege, boundaries, and the blending of personal influence with institutional spaces. The debate has since expanded beyond the vlog itself,

touching on broader questions about how social media is changing public perception of political institutions. Observers note that platforms like Instagram and YouTube are increasingly shaping how historic and government spaces are presented, often through informal, influencer-style content rather than official communication channels. While some see this as a positive shift toward transparency and engagement, others worry it risks blurring the line

between public heritage and private access. The discussion also highlights ongoing tensions around celebrity influence, political families, and the role of digital media in shaping narratives around power and privilege. As the video continues to circulate online, it remains a focal point in conversations about modern storytelling, access, and the evolving relationship between public institutions and social media culture.

## “Sushila Didi” Turns Cleaning Job into a Creative Branding Lesson

A unique and humorous resume created by a domestic worker known as “Sushila Didi” has gone viral on social media, surprising users with its corporate-style presentation and creative storytelling. The resume, which is being widely shared on platforms like Instagram and LinkedIn, has sparked discussions about personal branding, creativity, and how skills can be presented in unconventional ways. In the viral document, Sushila Didi introduces herself in a playful yet confident tone, even referring to herself as a “SAF-AI agent,” blending the Hindi word for cleanliness with the concept of artificial intelligence. The resume highlights her daily work in a structured format, describing household tasks such as cleaning floors, utensils, and clothes as part of her “3Cs” service model. What caught the attention of netizens was the way she re-framed routine work into measurable achievements. Instead of listing responsibilities traditionally, the resume presents impact-based statements, humorously claiming service across thousands of households and helping clients manage their busy lives more smoothly. The creative tone,



combined with corporate-style language, made the resume stand out as both entertaining and clever. The document also highlights customer satisfaction in an exaggerated but humorous format, mentioning thousands of “five-star ratings” and positioning her as a highly trusted service provider. This blend of satire and professionalism has been widely appreciated online, with many users praising the idea of presenting everyday work with confidence and creativity. Reports suggest that the viral resume is part of a marketing initiative linked to a service platform, where printed versions were distributed along with customer deliver-

ies. The campaign appears to aim at showing how even traditional household services can be reimagined through branding and storytelling. While the resume is lighthearted in tone, it has sparked a broader conversation about how individuals in any profession can showcase their skills more effectively. Career observers note that the example demonstrates the importance of communication, self-presentation, and thinking beyond conventional formats when highlighting one's work. The “Sushila Didi” resume continues to trend online, not just for its humour, but also for its creative take on professional identity in the modern digital age.

## Nepal’s Hills Grow the Secret Ingredient Behind Japan’s Currency Notes



A fascinating cross-border agricultural partnership between Nepal and Japan has drawn global attention, where a special plant grown in the Himalayan hills plays a key role in producing Japanese currency notes. The plant, locally known as “Argeli” and called “Mitsumata” in Japan, is scientifically identified as Edgeworthia chrysantha. Its bark fiber is considered essential for producing high-quality traditional Japanese paper, known as “washi,” which is also used in printing currency notes due to its durability and unique texture. Although Japan has used this plant for centuries, domestic production has sharply declined in recent years due to an ageing farming population and reduced agricultural workforce. To address this shortage, Japan turned to Nepal, where the plant grows naturally in suitable Himalayan climatic conditions. Over time, Nepal has be-

come a major supplier of Mitsumata, with organized cultivation projects expanding across rural regions. What started as small-scale experimental farming in the 1990s has now developed into a structured supply chain supported by Japanese and Nepali cooperation. Training programs introduced scientific harvesting and processing methods, improving both quality and output. A major boost came in 2016 when the Japan International Cooperation Agency supported the initiative, helping streamline regulations, improve farming practices, and expand local participation. As a result, annual production reportedly increased from around 30 tons to over 100 tons, ensuring a steady supply of raw material for Japan's printing requirements, including advanced security-feature banknotes introduced in recent years. Beyond its industrial importance, the project has had a

strong social impact in Nepal. The cultivation and processing work requires basic skills and is well-suited for rural households, especially women. Many families have found a stable source of income through this activity, which has helped support children's education and reduce migration in search of employment. Experts note that the initiative represents a successful model of international cooperation, where one country's natural resources complement another's technological needs. With Japan preparing to mark major milestones in its diplomatic relations with Nepal, the Mitsumata project stands as an example of how sustainable partnerships can benefit both economies while empowering local communities. The story of “currency growing in the hills” continues to attract interest for its unusual yet impactful blend of nature, industry, and global collaboration.

# Vaibhav 's Entry Sparks Selection Puzzle Rangareddy Risers Collapse After Double Blow in One Over

The upcoming two-match T20I series against Ireland has already created significant buzz, largely due to the expected international debut of 15-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi. His rapid rise through domestic cricket and the IPL has placed him firmly in contention for a spot in the playing XI, but his inclusion has also triggered a complex selection headache for Team India management.

Vaibhav is widely expected to open the innings if he makes his debut, a role he has consistently fulfilled at both domestic and franchise levels. His aggressive batting style and ability to dominate the powerplay make him a strong candidate for the top order. However, his entry creates immediate competition for existing openers, particularly Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson, both of whom have established themselves in recent matches.

Abhishek Sharma has been in exceptional form and is currently regarded as one of the most explosive batters in T20 cricket, maintaining an impressive strike rate and consistent scoring ability. On the other hand, Sanju Samson has cemented his place as a reliable top-order batter with multiple match-winning performances, including centuries in the format. Both players bring significant value, making the decision of who partners Vaibhav extremely challenging.

The middle-order scenario adds another layer of complexity. With players like Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan, and Tilak



Varma already occupying key positions, fitting Vaibhav into the lineup without disturbing the balance becomes a tactical challenge. Ishan Kishan's versatility allows him to bat in multiple positions, while Shreyas Iyer is expected to anchor the middle order. Tilak Varma continues to be a crucial link between the top and lower order, further tightening the available slots. The all-rounder combination is equally competitive, with Axar Patel, Shivam Dube, and emerging players like Suryansh

Shedge vying for limited spots. Their inclusion depends heavily on team balance, pitch conditions, and the overall combination strategy adopted by the management. In the bowling department, selections appear relatively more stable, with specialist spinner Ravi Bishnoi almost certain to feature alongside pacers such as Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana.

Selectors may also face a final choice between additional pace options, with only one among Prince Yadav or Prasidh Krish-

na likely to make the cut depending on conditions and form.

Overall, while Vaibhav Suryavanshi's potential debut is an exciting development for Indian cricket, it has also created a selection puzzle that forces the management to rethink batting positions and team composition. The Ireland series could therefore play a crucial role in shaping India's lineup not just for this tour, but also for upcoming high-profile assignments.

In a thrilling TG20 League encounter, the Rangareddy Risers suffered a dramatic collapse after losing two crucial wickets in a single over, allowing Hyderabad E Champions to seize full control of the match. What began as a dominant batting performance by Rangareddy quickly turned into a struggle in the death overs, as Hyderabad's disciplined bowling and sharp fielding changed the course of the game.

After being asked to bat first, Rangareddy Risers made a confident start. Their openers, Aaron Varghese and Avaneesh, provided early momentum by rotating strike well and punishing loose deliveries. The pair built a strong foundation, taking the score close to 40 runs without loss in the early overs. Avaneesh looked particularly in fine form, timing the ball cleanly and finding boundaries with ease, while Aaron played the supporting role effectively.

The partnership continued to grow steadily, with the team crossing the 70-run mark for the first wicket. Avaneesh soon reached a well-deserved half-century, displaying a mix of aggression and control. However, Hyderabad E Champions found their breakthrough when spinner Shanmukh Ashwin struck at a crucial moment. Avaneesh attempted an ambitious shot but mistimed it, resulting in a catch near the



boundary, ending a dangerous opening stand.

Despite the setback, Rangareddy maintained their attacking intent. Captain Tanay Thyagarajan joined Aditya Jawwaji at the crease, and the duo worked together to rebuild the innings. Aditya played a particularly explosive knock, targeting the bowlers with aggressive stroke play and accelerating the scoring rate. The pair pushed the team past the 100-run mark and looked set for a strong finish.

However, the momentum shifted dramatically in the final phase of the innings. Hyderabad's bowlers tightened their lines and executed their plans effectively under pressure. The turning point of the match came in a single over, where Rangareddy lost two key wickets in quick succession. First, Captain Tanay attempted a big shot but was caught at

the boundary. Moments later, Aditya, who was in excellent form, also fell while attempting another aggressive stroke, handing Hyderabad a crucial double breakthrough.

This double blow completely disrupted Rangareddy's rhythm. The remaining overs saw Hyderabad E Champions maintaining strict control over the scoring rate. Their fielders backed up the bowlers with sharp stops and well-judged catches, ensuring that no further momentum was regained by the opposition.

Rangareddy, who once looked set for a powerful total, were eventually restricted to a below-par finish after the late collapse. The match clearly highlighted how quickly momentum can shift in T20 cricket, with one decisive over proving to be the turning point in favour of Hyderabad E Champions.

## Team India Pacer Akash Deep Marries Akshita Raj



Indian cricket team pacer Akash Deep entered a new phase of life as he tied the knot with his long-time friend Akshita Raj in a grand wedding ceremony held in Varanasi. The wedding, which took place at a luxury hotel in the city, was celebrated with traditional rituals and attended by close family members and a few friends from the cricket and entertainment circles.

The celebrations reportedly began several days before the main ceremony, with pre-wedding rituals held at the groom's ancestral village. These traditional customs reflected the cultural roots of the family and set the tone for the grand wedding festivities that followed in Varanasi.

The main wedding ceremony was conducted in a private setting, ensuring that only close relatives and invited guests

were present. The event maintained a blend of traditional customs and modern arrangements, making it a memorable occasion for both families. The bride, Akshita Raj, originally hails from Rohtas district in Bihar. She is academically accomplished, having completed her BCA and MCA from a reputed institution.

The wedding was attended by a few notable personalities, including Bhojpuri singer Pawan Singh and cricketer Mukesh Kumar, who joined the celebrations to bless the couple. Their presence added a touch of glamour to the otherwise intimate ceremony.

Akash Deep, known for his pace bowling skills and contributions to the Indian cricket team, has been steadily rising in international cricket. His wedding marks a significant personal milestone, drawing at-

tention from fans and cricket followers across the country.

While the ceremony was largely private, visuals and reports from the event quickly gained traction on social media, with fans and well-wishers extending their congratulations to the newly married couple. The couple's wedding reflects a balance of tradition, simplicity, and celebration, rooted in cultural values.

With this new beginning, Akash Deep joins the list of Indian cricketers who have recently celebrated important personal milestones, even as they continue to focus on their professional commitments on the field.

Overall, the wedding in Varanasi stood out as a graceful and culturally rich celebration, marking a memorable chapter in the life of the Indian fast bowler.

## Shubman Gill Climbs to No.2 in ICC ODI Rankings



Indian captain Shubman Gill has made a significant rise in the latest ICC ODI batting rankings, moving up to the second position after a series of outstanding performances in recent matches. The young opener's consistent run-scoring form has further strengthened his reputation as one of the most reliable batters in international cricket today.

Gill's jump of three places in

the rankings comes on the back of his impressive performance in the recent series against Afghanistan, where he played two exceptional innings. He scored an unbeaten 84 in one match and followed it up with a brilliant 154-run knock in the next. These performances not only helped India dominate the series but also boosted his individual rating significantly, pushing him closer to the top spot.

Despite Gill's rise, New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell continues to hold the number one position in the ODI rankings. However, the gap between the top two has narrowed, setting up an interesting competition in the coming matches. Gill's current form suggests that he could soon challenge for the top position if he maintains consistency in the upcoming series.

The rankings also reflect the

strong presence of Indian batters in the global ODI circuit. Former captain Virat Kohli remains steady at third place, while Rohit Sharma continues to hold the fourth position. This highlights India's dominance in the batting department, with three of its top players featuring among the top four in the world.

Gill's rise is particularly significant as he is also leading the Indian side, adding responsibility alongside performance. His ability to convert starts into big scores and maintain a high strike rate has made him a key figure in India's ODI setup. Cricket experts believe his maturity and leadership qualities are evolving rapidly, making him a long-term asset for Indian cricket.

In the bowling rankings as well, India continues to maintain a strong presence. Jasprit Bumrah remains at the top of the Test bowling rankings with an impressive rating, while New Zealand's Matt Henry shares the top spot, reflecting intense competition at the highest level of the game.

Overall, Shubman Gill's rise to the second position in the ICC ODI rankings underlines his growing stature in world cricket. With several important series ahead, he now has a strong opportunity to push for the coveted number one ranking and further cement his place among the elite batters of the modern era.

## England Held to Shock Goalless Draw by Ghana in FIFA World Cup Clash

In a surprising FIFA World Cup Group match, England were held to a 0-0 draw by Ghana, a result that shocked many given the significant gap in world rankings between the two teams. Despite dominating possession and creating numerous chances, England failed to convert their superiority into goals, while Ghana executed a disciplined defensive performance to secure a valuable point.

England, ranked among the top teams in world football and considered a strong contender for the title, controlled the game for large stretches. They maintained nearly 72 % possession and constantly pressed Ghana's defensive line. How-

ever, their finishing let them down at crucial moments. Several scoring opportunities were wasted, including a major chance in the closing stages when Harry Kane missed from close range after a rebound inside the penalty area.

Ghana, on the other hand, focused heavily on defensive organization and counter-pressure tactics. Their strategy was clear from the start: disrupt England's rhythm, stay compact at the back, and frustrate their opponents. The plan worked effectively, as England struggled to break through despite sustained pressure and multiple set-piece opportunities.

A major talking point of the



match was a controversial refereeing decision in the second half. Ghana appealed for a penalty after a challenge inside the

box, but the referee waved play on and the VAR system did not intervene. This incident sparked strong reactions from

Ghana's players and coaching staff, who believed they were denied a clear penalty opportunity. The controversy added

tension to an already intense encounter and became a key discussion point after the match.

England's midfielders admitted frustration after the game, acknowledging that despite controlling possession and territory, they could not find a way past Ghana's defensive setup. The result meant England had to settle for a point, though they remain in a strong position in the group standings with qualification to the knockout stage within reach.

Elsewhere in the group, Croatia kept their qualification hopes alive with a narrow 1-0 victory over Panama, thanks to a second-half goal that proved decisive. Panama's early exit

from the tournament was confirmed after a second consecutive defeat.

In another group fixture, Colombia continued their strong run with a 1-0 win over DR Congo, securing their place in the knockout stage. A late goal and disciplined defensive performance helped them maintain a perfect record in the group so far.

Overall, the match between England and Ghana stood out for its tactical discipline, missed opportunities, and refereeing controversy, highlighting how even dominant teams can struggle against well-organised defensive opponents in high-stakes tournament football.

# NTR and Allu Arjun Fans React Strongly to Chiranjeevi's Remarks



Megastar Chiranjeevi has found himself at the center of a fresh controversy in Tollywood following comments he made at the success meet of Peddi, starring Ram Charan. His remarks have sparked intense debate on social media, with fans of N. T. Rama Rao Jr. and Allu Arjun expressed their displeasure.

Speaking at the event, Chiranjeevi said, "Whether Charan gets an award or not is not a big issue. There are many ways for awards to come." These comments have particularly upset Allu Arjun's fans, who believe the statement indirectly referred to the actor's National Award win for his performance in Pushpa: The Rise.

Following the speech, social media platforms were flooded with reactions from fans questioning the intent behind Chiranjeevi's remarks. Many argued that the comments appeared to undermine the credibility of prestigious awards. Some Allu Arjun supporters asked, "Does this mean that everyone who has won a National Award

achieved it through other means?" while criticizing the veteran actor online. Meanwhile, fans of NTR also joined the discussion, claiming that the comments had unnecessarily triggered controversy among fan groups. Several hashtags related to Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun, NTR, and Peddi began trending as the debate intensified across social media. On the other hand, supporters of Chiranjeevi have defended the actor, arguing that his statement was taken out of context. According to them, he was merely expressing confidence in Ram Charan's talent and emphasizing that awards are not the sole measure of an actor's success. As the controversy continues to gain attention, many are waiting to see whether Chiranjeevi or his team will issue a clarification regarding the remarks. For now, the comments have become one of the most talked-about topics in Tollywood circles.



## Lokesh Leads Grand Launch of Balakrishna's NBK 112 in Amaravati

A grand film launch ceremony for Nandamuri Balakrishna's 112th film, NBK 112, was held in the people's capital, Amaravati, on Thursday, with Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh attending as the chief guest and performing the ceremonial clap. The event, held at the BITS Pilani grounds in Velagapudi, marked the first major film launch in Amaravati. Nara Lokesh participated in traditional rituals and officially launched the project, while Balakrishna's daughter Tejaswini switched on the camera. Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh said it was his first time attending a film launch and thanked his "beloved un-

cle" Balakrishna for the opportunity, raising the slogan "Jai Balayya." He said the government aims to promote the film industry and the broader "creator economy" in Amaravati, in line with the vision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He described Amaravati as a "sacred land" and expressed hope that more film projects would be launched from the capital in the future. Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh, who also attended the event, termed the launch a strong foundation for establishing the Telugu film industry in Andhra Pradesh. He said the government is focusing on building key infrastructure, including film studios,

recording and re-recording theatres, and dubbing facilities. Durgesh noted that the Film Development Corporation executive body, led by Chairman Bharat Bhushan, was recently constituted with the support of Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Balakrishna. He expressed confidence that NBK 112, directed by Koratala Siva and produced by Cherukuri Sudhakar and Mikkilineni Sudhakar, would achieve major success. Prominent personalities, including Daggubati Suresh, MLAs Tenali Sravan Kumar and MS Raju, and several film industry members attended the ceremony.

# Samantha Advises Think Twice Before Choosing a Partner

Popular actress Samantha, who had stayed away from Telugu cinema for nearly three years, has finally made a strong comeback with her latest film Maa Inti Bangaram. Directed by Nandini Reddy, the family entertainer was released on June 19 and has received an overwhelming response from audiences. With Samantha's powerful performance and the film's emotional family elements striking a chord with viewers, Maa Inti Bangaram reportedly crossed the 50 crore mark within its first week, emerging as a major box-office success.

To celebrate the film's impressive performance, the makers organized a grand success celebration event in Hyderabad. The event was attended by Samantha, director Nandini Reddy, Raj Nidimoru, Sreemukhi, Himank Duvvuru, and other members of the film's team. While the celebrations highlighted the movie's success, it was Samantha's comments on relationships that became the biggest talking point of the evening. During an interaction at the event, the anchor remarked that there is often a woman behind every successful man and noted that Samantha had achieved a major success after a significant person entered her life. The anchor then asked what ad-



vice she would give to young women who often struggle when choosing a life partner in today's generation. Responding thoughtfully, Samantha said that people should think very carefully before entering a relationship. She explained that career decisions are largely within an individual's control, and even if mistakes happen, they can often be corrected through hard work and determination. However, relationships are different because they involve another person, emotions, trust, and long-term commitment.

Samantha emphasized that selecting the right partner is one of the most important decisions in life and should never be made in haste. She advised young women to take sufficient time to understand a person's character, values, and intentions before making a commitment. According to her, patience and clarity are essential in building a healthy and lasting relationship. Her candid remarks resonated with many attendees and quickly went viral across social media platforms. Fans praised Samantha for speaking honestly about a subject

that affects many young people today. Several users appreciated her mature perspective, saying her words reflected lessons learned through personal experiences and professional growth. With Maa Inti Bangaram enjoying a successful run at the box office and Samantha's inspiring comments attracting widespread attention, the actress has once again found herself in the spotlight. Both her comeback film and her thoughtful relationship advice have become major topics of discussion among fans and industry observers alike.



# Re-Releases Take Centre Stage Amid Box Office Lull

With no major fresh releases hitting theatres in the last week of June, re-releases are stepping in to keep cinema halls active. The postponement of anticipated films has created a temporary lull, prompting filmmakers to bring back popular titles to attract audiences. Currently, Samantha's Maa Inti Bangaram continues its strong run at the box office, emerging as one of the biggest performers in recent weeks. The film has not only sustained momentum but is also inching towards the 50 crore mark, surprising trade analysts with its consistency. Amid this, several re-releases are lining up to fill the gap. Mahesh Babu's cult classic Okkadu is returning to theatres yet again, proving its enduring appeal. Despite multiple re-runs over the years, the film continues to draw crowds, especially among nostalgic fans. Joining the list is Raj Tarun's Cinema Chupistha Mawa, which had enjoyed a successful theatrical run earlier. Meanwhile, Manchu Vishnu's Kannappa is also set for a re-release, with the team banking on audience curiosity, particularly due to Prabhas' cameo. Adding to the mix, the 3D version of HanuMan is hitting screens, of-



fering an enhanced visual experience. With improved technology, the makers are hopeful of recreating the original film's success. Interestingly, the planned re-release of Gabbar Singh has been postponed to avoid clashing with upcoming releases. With limited new content, the coming weekend will test whether nostalgia and upgraded formats can successfully pull audiences back to theatres



## Idupu Kayitham Heroine's 15 Rules Create Buzz

The upcoming Telugu film "Idupu Kayitham" has officially begun its journey with a traditional pooja ceremony, drawing attention for its unique title and interesting behind-the-scenes revelations. The film, which features actor Priyadarshi in the lead role and introduces folk singer Naga Durga as the female lead, is being produced under the presentation of Sukumar Writings and produced by Bunny Vasu. The film is directed by Vamsi Reddy Dondapati. The launch event was held recently, marking the formal beginning of the project. The title "Idupu Kayitham" has already created curiosity among audiences, as it is a colloquial Telangana term meaning "divorce document." The makers suggest that the story revolves around relatable family issues that exist in many households, making it a subject that will emotionally connect with a wide range of viewers. Producer Bunny Vasu, speaking at the event, shared several interesting insights about the film. He stated that good stories have no boundaries and can appeal to audiences across regions. Accord-



ing to him, "Idupu Kayitham" is designed as a global-level story that will resonate with audiences even if released outside Telugu states. He added that every family has common relationship challenges, and this film presents those realities in an entertaining yet emotional manner. One of the most talked-about highlights of his speech was the revelation about the film's female lead, Naga Durga. Bunny Vasu mentioned that when she was approached for the role, she reportedly placed 15 conditions before agreeing to act in the film. Rather than being discour-

aged, the team was impressed by her clarity and confidence. He appreciated her professionalism, saying it reflects the mindset of a determined young woman who knows exactly what she wants. The producer further emphasized that audiences will strongly connect with the story, especially couples and families. He humorously remarked that if a wife takes her husband to watch this film, both may leave the theatre with a better understanding of relationships. This statement added more curiosity and buzz around the project. Sukumar's wife Thabitha also expressed confidence in the film, stating that projects coming from Sukumar Writings always carry strong storytelling value. She believes "Idupu Kayitham" will stand as another milestone in their banner's journey. With its unique title, strong emotional theme, and intriguing casting choices, "Idupu Kayitham" has already started generating discussion even before going on floors. The team is confident that the film will strike a chord with audiences when it reaches the big screen.