

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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Tamil Nadu Ammonia Leak Death Toll Rises to 11

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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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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 P3

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.



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 P3

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, skill development, 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.

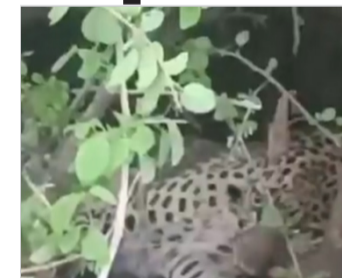
Lokesh noted that P3

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



Officials stated P3

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 P3

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 P3

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 Srihari 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



facility. A 24-hour ambulance service has also been arranged to handle emergency cases and ensure timely transport of patients to higher medical centres if required. Officials stated that the new facility will significantly improve the healthcare response system at Tirumala by ensuring immediate treatment for devotees facing health issues during their wait for darshan. The inauguration event was attended by Srivari

Temple Deputy EO Lokanatham, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kusumakumari, Senior Medical Officer Dr. Suhar Latha, Ashwini Hospital Superintendent Dr. Subba Reddy, Dr. Padmaja, along with paramedical staff. TTD officials said the initiative reflects their commitment to devotee safety and welfare, ensuring better medical preparedness in high-density queue areas of Tirumala.

Muddula Mamayya... Jai Balayya

Minister Nara Lokesh attended the muhurtham of MLA and film actor Nandamuri Balakrishna's 112th film, NBK 112, in Amaravati and performed the ceremonial clap. Calling Balakrishna his "beloved uncle," Lokesh expressed happiness over the occasion, marking a rare moment where the son-in-law formally launched his father-in-law's prestigious film project. (Main Copy in P12)

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.



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, Vannamei 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 Vannamei Prawns (100-count), prices fell from 270 to 235 per kg, resulting in losses P3



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 (Vedritim) 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 coalition



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

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

inputs.

Officials informed that the operation was carried out by a team led by RSI Muralidhar Reddy under the supervision of Task Force Superintendent of Police P. Srinivas. Additional SP Kulasekhar, Assistant Conservator of Forests J. Srinivas, Deputy Superintendent of Police V. Srinivas Reddy, Anantapur District Forest Officer Chakrapali, and SP Subbarayudu also played key roles in the enforcement operation.

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.

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.

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.



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 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 farm-

ers 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 Gooj" 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-



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 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.

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

regions.

The rescue operation also underscores the importance of protecting wildlife for maintaining ecological balance. Officials reiterated that such coordinated efforts between field staff and veterinary experts are crucial for conserving endangered and protected species.

The leopard is currently under observation at the zoological park, where veterinarians are monitoring its health and providing necessary treatment as part of the rehabilitation process.

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, shipbuilding, 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.



Commissioner Orders Swift Completion of Outfall Drains Ahead of Monsoon

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanachandra H has directed officials to expedite the construction of outfall drains across the city and take effective measures to prevent rain-water stagnation during the ongoing monsoon season.

During an inspection tour on Thursday, the Commissioner visited Gayatri Nagar, Pinnamani Polyclinic Road, and Patamata High School Road to review the progress of various civic development works. He assessed the status of drainage infrastructure and instructed officials to ensure the timely completion of pending works. Speaking during the inspection, Dhyanachandra said the corporation is taking proactive steps to address waterlogging issues and improve stormwater management. He specifically directed the concerned engineering officials to speed up the outfall drain construction works on Pinnamani Polyclinic Road and ensure the free flow of rainwater to avoid inconvenience to residents.

The Commissioner later inspected the Anna Canteen located on Patamata High School Road. He reviewed food quality, drinking water facilities, sanitation standards, and overall management of the canteen. Interacting with officials and staff, he stressed the need to maintain high standards of cleanliness and service. Dhyanachandra instructed that meals should be served strictly according to the prescribed schedule and that no disruption in services should be allowed. He also directed officials to conduct regular monitoring of the canteen to promptly address any issues and ensure that beneficiaries receive quality services without inconvenience.

The visit was attended by Executive Engineer Rama Rao, Assistant Medical and Health Officer Gopal Naik, along with other officials and staff members of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. The Commissioner emphasized that both drainage works and public welfare services should be given top priority to ensure better civic amenities and public satisfaction during the rainy season.

APSSDC to Conduct Recruitment Drive for 131 Vacancies at NEXA Showroom

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) will conduct a company-specific recruitment drive for unemployed youth at Santosh Automotives NEXA Showroom in Kanuru on June 27, offering employment opportunities across various departments.

District Skill Development Officer Dr. P. Naresh Kumar stated that the recruitment drive will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the NEXA Showroom located near V.R. Siddhartha Engineering College. The drive is being organized to connect eligible job seekers with employment opportunities in the automotive retail sector.

According to officials, a total of 131 vacancies will be filled in various departments of Santosh Automotives Pvt. Ltd. Candidates aged between 18 and 40 years with qualifications including SSC, Intermediate, ITI, Diploma, B.Tech (Mechanical), or any degree are eligible to participate.

Selected candidates will be offered salaries ranging from 12,000 to 80,000 per month, depending on their educational qualifications, skills, and work experience. Additional incentives and benefits will also be provided as per company norms. Recruitment will be conducted through interviews on the spot.

Interested candidates are required to register their details in advance through the official Naipunyam portal: "Naipunyam Portal"

Applicants must carry their resume or bio-data, Aadhaar card, Aadhaar-linked mobile number, PAN card, and photocopies of educational and other relevant certificates while attending the recruitment drive.

For further information, candidates may contact 96187 13243, 96767 08041, 91609 75555, or 87120 22208.

Dr. Naresh Kumar urged unemployed youth in the district to utilize the opportunity and participate in the recruitment drive to secure suitable employment.

MLA Kolikapudi Participates in Maremma Thalli Temple Ceremony

Tiruvuru, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Tiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao participated in the grand re-consecration ceremony of the Dhwaja Stambham (flagstaff) at the renowned Maremma Thalli Temple in Putrela village of Vissannapeta Mandal on Thursday.

The MLA received a traditional welcome from temple priests, officials, village elders, and devotees upon his arrival at the temple premises. He later took part in special religious rituals and offered prayers to the presiding deity.

Speaking on the occasion, Srinivasa Rao said that the Maremma Thalli Temple holds immense spiritual significance for the local community and serves as a center of faith and devotion. He emphasized that the development and preservation of temples play an important role in safeguarding India's rich cultural heritage, traditions, and spiritual values.

The MLA offered special prayers for the health, happi-



ness, prosperity, and well-being of the villagers and the people of the state. He assured devotees that he would extend all possible support for the continued development of the temple and its facilities.

He expressed confidence that the re-consecration of the Dhwaja Stambham would enhance the spiritual prominence of the temple and bring prosperity to the region.

Temple Chairman Terla Srinivasa Rao, TDP Vissannapeta Mandal President Rayala Subbarao, youth leaders, all-party representatives, public representatives, devotees, village elders, women, and local residents participated in the ceremony.

Collector Urges Compassionate Appointees to Serve with Dedication

Machilipatnam, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji advised candidates appointed under the compassionate appointment scheme to perform their duties with sincerity, commitment, and a sense of responsibility towards the public.

The Collector handed over appointment letters to four candidates during a programme held at the Collectorate on Thursday. Based on their educational qualifications and eligibility, the candidates were posted to various government offices across the district.

Addressing the appointees, D.K. Balaji said that government employment offers an opportunity to serve society and urged them to make the best use of the opportunity by carrying out their responsibilities efficiently and honestly. He emphasized the importance of dedication and discipline in public service.

Technology Integration Expands Career Prospects for Telugu Students

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Integrating Telugu language studies with modern technology can open up a wide range of employment opportunities at national and international levels, said noted litterateur Dr. G. Venkat Lal during a guest lecture organized by the Telugu Department of Kakaraparathi Bhanarayana College on Thursday.

Addressing students on the topic "Study of Telugu Language - Employment Opportunities," Dr. Venkat Lal highlighted the increasing demand for Telugu language experts in the digital era. He noted that global technology companies such as Google and Amazon are recruiting professionals with expertise in regional languages, creating opportunities in fields such as



language analysis, content writing, translation, digital media, and localization services.

He emphasized that the mother tongue plays a vital role in preserving a society's culture, traditions, and history, and encouraged students to explore emerging career avenues linked to language and technology.

Safety Concerns Mount After Death of Two Workers

Tiruvuru, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Serious concerns are being raised over alleged safety lapses in the Tiruvuru Electricity Department of NTR district following the deaths of two private linemen due to electrocution within a short span of time. Residents and local leaders have demanded an inquiry into the department's functioning and stricter enforcement of safety protocols.

Adding to public dissatisfaction are allegations that the Assistant Engineer of the Tiruvuru Electricity Department is not regularly available at the office, causing inconvenience to consumers seeking assistance with power supply issues, new connections, billing con-



ing, safety equipment, or protective measures, exposing them to significant risks while working on live electrical lines.

The recent deaths of two private linemen have intensified public concern, with residents questioning why corrective measures have not been implemented despite repeated accidents. They allege that discussions on safety emerge only after tragedies occur, while long-term preventive measures remain neglected.



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Awareness Drive for Profitable Farming

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau

MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) announced that special awareness camps will be conducted across all mandals to promote horticulture crops, crop rotation, and sustainable farming practices aimed at increasing farmers' incomes.

Speaking at the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting held at the Collectorate on Thursday, the MP said the Employment Guarantee Scheme would be integrat-

ed with agriculture and allied sectors to provide farmers with year-round income opportunities. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, Jaggayyapeta MLA Sriram Rajagopal (Tataiah), and officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Reviewing the implementation of major Central and State government schemes, Sivanath noted that 80 percent of the 2,400 works sanctioned under the Jaladhara-Jalaharati programme have already been completed in the district. He also highlighted the benefits

provided to farmers under PM-Kisan and stressed the importance of skill development, employment generation, industrial growth, and infrastructure development.

The MP said special focus is being given to national highway and railway projects, while measures for a permanent solution to Budameru flooding issues are nearing completion. He emphasized that coordinated efforts by public representatives and officials would help make NTR district a model district in the state.

CPI Raises Concerns Over Voter Revision Process

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The Communist Party of India (CPI) has expressed concerns over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the process lacks transparency and could adversely affect democratic rights.

Speaking at an awareness meeting organized by the CPI City Committee at Dasari Bhavan on Thursday, CPI City Secretary G. Koteswara Rao criticized the voter list revision exercise and alleged that it could result in the exclusion of eligible voters from electoral rolls.

Prasad expressed concern over the requirement for voters to submit documents to establish eligibility and questioned the rationale behind certain aspects of the SIR process. He alleged that voter deletions reported in some states had raised doubts among various sections of society, particularly minorities, Dalits, Adivasis, women, and eco-

nominally weaker groups. The speakers emphasized that the right to vote is a cornerstone of democracy and cautioned against any process that could undermine public trust in electoral institutions. They called for greater clarity from election authorities regarding the objectives and implementation of the revision exercise.

CPI leaders reiterated the need for public awareness and participation to ensure that voter roll revisions are carried out fairly and transparently. CPI City Assistant Secretaries Lanka Durga Rao and Nakka Veerabhadra Rao were among those present at the meeting.



MSME Mahotsav to Inspire Young Entrepreneurs on International MSME Day

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha announced that MSME Mahotsav-2026 will be organized at RTIH, Enikepadu, on June 27 to mark International MSME Day and promote entrepreneurship among youth.

Addressing a media conference at the Collectorate's Sri AVS Reddy Hall on Thursday, the Collector said Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a crucial role in economic development, employment generation, and self-reliance. He noted that the event would bring aspiring entrepreneurs and experienced industrialists onto a common platform, creating opportunities for mentorship, innovation, and industrial growth.

Dr. Lakshmisha stated that the expo would showcase innovative products and ideas developed by young entrepre-

neurs, encouraging them to transform their concepts into successful business ventures. He emphasized that MSMEs significantly contribute to GDP growth by utilizing local resources and skills while generating employment in both rural and urban areas.

The Collector highlighted the successful implementation of the "One Family-One Entrepreneur" initiative in the district and informed that MSME parks are being developed in every constituency to strengthen industrial development.

He urged youth, entrepreneurs, industrialists, and the public to participate in the Mahotsav and support innovative ideas. Senior officials, industry representatives, and business leaders also attended the media conference and expressed confidence that the event would serve as a catalyst for entrepreneurship and economic growth in the district.

RGUKT Nuzvid to Hold 6th Convocation on June 27

Nuzvid, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), Andhra Pradesh, will conduct its 6th Convocation Ceremony at the Nuzvid campus on June 27. The event will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the SAC Auditorium.

Degrees will be conferred on students who successfully completed their B.Tech and M.Tech programmes during the aca-

demical years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

The university has invited representatives of print and electronic media to attend and cover the convocation proceedings from the designated media area in the auditorium. Arrangements have also been made for lunch following the ceremony, according to a statement issued by the Public Relations Officer of RGUKT, Nuzvid.

Free Mega Medical Camps to Be Held in West Constituency

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The Sujana Foundation will organize free mega medical camps on June 27 and 28 for residents of the Vijayawada West Assembly constituency. The camps will be conducted using mobile medical vans launched by MLA Yalamanchili Satyanarayana Chowdary (Sujana Chowdary).

The camps will be held at Baburi Grounds, Karakatta South, near Secretariat No. 121, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both days.

Medical services including

consultations for dental, eye, orthopedic, and general health issues will be provided. Facilities for ECG and X-ray examinations will also be available. Free medicines will be distributed to patients based on doctors' recommendations. Organizers have appealed to residents of the constituency to make use of the opportunity and undergo health check-ups. For further information, the public may contact 9032510777 or 9032520777.

The initiative aims to provide accessible healthcare services to local residents and promote preventive health awareness in the community.



CPM Demands Focus on Public Issues

Vijayawada, June 25 | TPN Bureau

CPM State Secretary V. Srinivasa Rao urged the Andhra Pradesh government to prioritize public issues affecting farmers, workers, and employees instead of focusing on corporate interests. Addressing a press conference at Balotsav Bhavan in Vijayawada on Thursday, he raised concerns over electricity tariffs, fertilizer supply, and the plight of farmers.

Srinivasa Rao alleged that the government was imposing heavy financial burdens on consumers through electricity policies while failing to disclose the full implications of power purchase agreements. He demanded transparency regarding power costs and future tariff

revisions. The CPM leader also expressed concern over the falling prices of tobacco in Prakasam district, stating that farmers were suffering heavy losses despite assurances of support prices. He urged the government to intervene and protect growers from market exploitation.

Highlighting the problems faced by tenant farmers, he said many were unable to access urea due to restrictions in the distribution system and were forced to buy fertilizer in the black market. He called for wider issuance of eligibility cards and immediate measures to ensure fertilizer availability. He also reiterated CPM's support for public movements and demanded a judicial inquiry into the Sai Krishna case.

Remand Prisoner Traced After Brief Disappearance at Sub-Jail

Kakinada, June 25 | TPN Bureau

A brief scare unfolded at the Peddapuram Sub-Jail in Kakinada district after a remand prisoner was reported missing, triggering an intensive search operation and raising questions about security arrangements inside the facility. The prisoner, identified as Pothula Sundaram, was in judicial remand in connection with a motorcycle theft case. Jail authorities noticed his absence and immediately alerted the police, prompting a search operation. Police later traced Sundaram in Payakaraopeta of Anakapalli district and took him into

custody. The incident led to speculation over whether the prisoner had escaped with the assistance of jail personnel. However, officials maintained that the prisoner had been hiding within the jail canteen premises and denied any lapse involving staff members. Authorities are examining CCTV footage from the jail to establish the sequence of events and verify how the prisoner allegedly moved out of the facility. An inquiry has been initiated, and officials said a detailed investigation is underway to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident and identify any security shortcomings.



Kolleru Contour Must Be Reduced from 5 to 3 for a Permanent Solution

Eluru, June 25 | TPN Bureau

AP Rythu Sangham former State President and Associate President of the organisation's State Conference, B. Balaram, has urged the government to reduce the Kolleru contour limit from 5 to 3 to provide a permanent solution to the problems faced by people living around Kolleru Lake. Addressing a press conference at Anne Bhavan in Powerpet, Eluru, on Thursday, Balaram said the issues of Kolleru residents, farmers, ryots, societies and D-form patta holders would be a key agenda during the 23rd State Conference of Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham to be

held in Eluru from July 3 to 5. He said residents suffered severe hardships following the Kolleru operation and demanded implementation of the Assembly resolution seeking reduction of the contour limit. Balaram also called for the exclusion of 20,000 acres from the lake area, measures to curb pollution and flooding, expansion of Upputeru, removal of embankments within the lake and improved infrastructure facilities. Former Agricultural Workers Union leader Manthana Sitaran, District Secretary K. Srinivas and CITU District President R. Lingaraju attended the programme.



Sports Infrastructure Needed to Nurture Talent: GV Ramachandra Rao

Visakhapatnam, June 25 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State Secretary and former Film Censor Board member G.V. Ramachandra Rao has said that the government should establish more sports grounds to encourage and support budding athletes in Visakhapatnam district. He was speaking as the chief guest at the valedictory ceremony of a summer football coaching camp held at the Indira Priyadarshini Municipal Stadium in Visakhapatnam. On the occasion, he distributed certificates to players who completed the training programme. Addressing the gathering, Ramachandra Rao noted that

several football players from Visakhapatnam have showcased outstanding talent at both state and national levels. He said that with greater support and encouragement from the government, these athletes have the potential to excel at the international level as well. He stressed the need for improved sports infrastructure and suggested that the state government construct a dedicated football stadium in the city to benefit aspiring players and strengthen the sport's development. Football Head Coach M. Sheshu Mohan, coaches V. Mohan Kumar, S. Ganesh and K. Krishna, along with others, participated in the programme.

President's Visakhapatnam Visit Prompts High-Level Preparations

Visakhapatnam, June 25 | TPN Bureau

District Collector M. Abhishikt Kishore has directed all departments to make foolproof arrangements for the visit of the President of India to Visakhapatnam on June 30. Reviewing preparations with district officials and representatives of the Central Tribal University, the Collector stressed the need for strict adherence to the protocol guidelines issued by the President's Office. The President is scheduled to attend the first convocation ceremony of the Central Tribal University, which will be held at V-Convention, Novotel

in Visakhapatnam. Abhishikt Kishore instructed officials to ensure seamless coordination among all departments to facilitate the smooth conduct of the event. He called for special attention to security arrangements, transportation, traffic management, medical services, sanitation, power supply and drinking water facilities. The Collector also directed officials to complete all infrastructure and logistical preparations at the venue well in advance. Emphasising timely execution, he said every arrangement must be completed in accordance with the programme schedule approved by the President's Office.

ACB Conducts Simultaneous Raids on Homes of 11 Town Planning Officials

Ongole, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday conducted simultaneous searches at the residences of 11 employees of the Town Planning Department of the Ongole Municipal Corporation in Prakasam district as part of an investigation into alleged irregularities. The raids were reportedly based on findings from earlier inspections carried out by ACB officials at the Town Planning office. Sources said a detailed

report was submitted to the state government, leading to further action. Special ACB teams searched multiple locations linked to the employees and examined cash holdings, property documents, bank records and other financial documents. Investigators are verifying whether the employees possess assets disproportionate to their known sources of income and whether there is evidence of corrupt practices. The searches continued throughout the day, with offi-



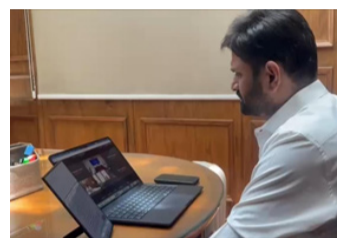
cial yet to disclose details of any seizures. Further action is expected after scrutiny of the collected records and documents.

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Seeks Higher Tobacco Production Quota

Delhi/Eluru, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has urged the Tobacco Board to take a positive decision on the issues facing tobacco farmers, particularly regarding low market prices and production limits. Participating virtually from Delhi in the Tobacco Board meeting held in Guntur on Thursday, the MP highlighted concerns raised by tobacco farmers during a meeting in Eluru on Wednesday. Farmers expressed anxiety over the decline in tobacco purchase prices at auction yards and

warned that they would incur heavy losses if the minimum market price does not reach 300 per kg. Addressing the Board, Putta Mahesh Kumar pointed out that the production quota for each tobacco barn has been fixed at 35 quintals, which is not viable for farmers in view of rising cultivation costs and reduced yields. He said farmers are strongly demanding that the quota be increased to 40 quintals, similar to the limit allowed last year, to safeguard the interests of NLS tobacco growers in the state. Responding to the MP's appeal,



Tobacco Board Chairman Yashwanth Kumar assured that the request would be considered. He acknowledged that tobacco prices fluctuate depending on international market conditions and said discussions would be held with buyers to address farmers' concerns.

Eluru Aims to Become Accident-Free District, Says Collector

Eluru, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Eluru Collector K. Vetri Selvi has directed officials to intensify road safety awareness campaigns and strictly enforce traffic regulations, along with coordinated efforts to curb drug abuse across the district. Chairing the District Road Safety Committee meeting at the Collectorate's Gautami Conference Hall on Thursday along with SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore, she reviewed measures to reduce road accidents. She stressed that no life should be lost due to road mishaps and noted that most accidents occur due to human error. She instructed officials to promote mandatory helmet and seat belt use, identify acci-



dent-prone black spots, install warning signboards, streetlights and speed breakers, and take strict action against over-speeding, overloading of school autos, and illegal dazzling lights on heavy vehicles. In a separate Anti-Narcotics Committee meeting, the Collector called for intensified awareness programmes to protect youth from drug abuse, warning that ganja and narcot-

ics could ruin young lives. She stressed sustained campaigns in schools and colleges. She directed awareness posters in educational institutions, RTC buses and public places, inspections of medical shops, and strict legal action against those involved in drugs. SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore urged parents to closely monitor children and asked the public to report drug-related activities through helplines 14446 and 1972. The Collector said both road safety and anti-narcotics enforcement require coordinated action from all departments, focusing on prevention, awareness and strict implementation of laws to reduce avoidable deaths in the district.

Dismissed CI Chinna Mallayya Taken for Potency Test in Rape Case Probe

Vinukonda, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Dismissed Circle Inspector Chinna Mallayya was reportedly taken for a potency test as part of the ongoing investigation into a rape case registered against him in Vinukonda. Official confirmation and detailed information regarding the medical examination are awaited. The case stems from a complaint lodged by a woman, Dhanalakshmi, from Brahmamapalli village in Vinukonda mandal on April 29, alleging that Chinna Mallayya had sexually assaulted her. Following

the allegations, he was initially suspended from service. Subsequently, departmental action was initiated after he remained absent from duty for around 40 days without providing any information to authorities. Senior police officials later dismissed him from service. Chinna Mallayya had approached both the High Court and the Supreme Court seeking anticipatory bail in the case. However, both courts rejected his petitions. Following the denial of anticipatory bail, he surrendered before Vinukonda Police. Sources said investigators have now subjected him to



a potency test to aid the probe and establish facts related to the allegations. Further details are expected after official authorities release additional information.

Tight Security Measures Reviewed Ahead of Chief Minister's Markapuram Visit

Markapuram, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Markapuram District Superintendent of Police V. Harshavardhan Raju and Joint Collector P. Srinivasulu on Thursday reviewed security and logistical arrangements ahead of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Krishnam Settupalli village in Giddalur mandal on June 27. The Chief Minister is scheduled to inaugurate the Sanjeevini Digital Nerve Centre at the Primary Health Centre in the village. As part of the preparations, the officials, along with SSG DSP K. Siva Pothuraju and representatives from various departments, inspected the proposed helipad site and reviewed security measures along the convoy route. The SP directed officials to ensure foolproof security arrangements at the helipad and



public meeting venue while maintaining seamless coordination among all departments. Separate parking facilities for officials, public representatives and visitors have also been planned to avoid traffic congestion. Harshavardhan Raju instructed officials to execute their assigned responsibilities efficiently and take all neces-

sary precautionary measures to ensure the Chief Minister's visit proceeds smoothly and without any security lapses. Markapuram DSP U. Nagaraju, Kandukur DSP Balasubramanyam, ARDSP K. Srinivasa Rao, SB Inspector M. Srinivasa Rao, and other police and departmental officials participated in the review.

District Authorities Launch Probe into Private School Fee Practices

Anakapalli, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The Anakapalli District Education Department has launched a formal inquiry into alleged overcharging by private unaided schools following complaints from parents about excessive fee collection and the forced purchase of educational materials through designated vendors. The action comes in response to a representation submitted by The Parents Association of Andhra Pradesh (PAAP), which alleged that several schools were imposing financial burdens on families by charging fees beyond approved limits and compelling parents to buy textbooks, notebooks, uniforms, school bags and other materials at inflated prices. Acting on the complaints, the District Educational Officer issued orders constituting a

three-member committee comprising Mandal Educational Officers, a Nodal Headmaster and a Senior Grade-II Headmaster. The panel has been tasked with inspecting schools across the district and verifying compliance with fee regulations, the Right to Education Act, 2009, and other applicable norms. The committee will also examine whether institutions possess valid recognition, have permission to run pre-primary classes and are publicly displaying approved fee structures. Parents and PAAP leaders welcomed the move, describing it as a significant step towards transparency and accountability. The committee has been directed to submit its findings to the District Educational Officer, following which notices and further action may be initiated against schools found violating regulations.

Teachers' Association Welcomes Cabinet Decision to Restore OPS for 2003 DSC Recruits

Amaravati, June 25 | TPN Bureau

MEO-1 Association of Andhra Pradesh State President and AP SC/ST Teachers' Association founder president Samala Simhachalam has welcomed the state government's decision to extend the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to teachers selected through the 2003 DSC recruitment process. In a statement issued on Thursday, Simhachalam said the decision would benefit nearly 11,000 teachers who were selected in the 2003 DSC but joined service after September 2004 due to unavoidable

delays, resulting in their inclusion under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS). He noted that teachers' associations, employee unions and CPS organizations had been fighting for justice for these teachers for nearly two decades, arguing that delays beyond their control should not deprive them of OPS benefits. Simhachalam thanked the state Cabinet led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and acknowledged the efforts of Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan, BJP State President P. V. N. Madhav and Education Minister Nara Lokesh in facilitating the decision.

People-Centric Governance Our Priority, MLA Chanti

Eluru, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MLA and District Telugu Desam Party President Badeti Chanti said the government is committed to implementing people-friendly decisions and delivering quality services with a focus on public welfare. Speaking during a free medical camp held at his camp office in Powerpet, Eluru, on Thursday, Chanti said the initiative reflects the party's commitment to bringing quality healthcare and education closer to those in need. The weekly medical camp, conceived under his guidance, has been providing free healthcare services to residents of Eluru and surrounding areas every Thursday. During the camp, doctors conducted free blood tests, examined patients and distributed medicines at no cost. Chanti personally reviewed the arrangements and instructed medical personnel to ensure quality treatment for



all beneficiaries. He also distributed medicines to several patients and interacted with them. The MLA said that, following the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, efforts are being made to expand public services and remain accessible to people. He added that support from donors has helped strengthen healthcare and educational initiatives across the Eluru Assembly constituency. EDA Chairman Peddiboyina Siva Prasad, TDP City President Chode Venkata Ratnam, senior leaders Bellapakonda Kishore and Lankapalli Manikyara Rao, along with corporators, cluster in-charges and division in-charges, participated in the programme.



Chintamaneni Assures Fast-Track Action for New Oil Palm Plant

Eluru, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar on Thursday assured that the coalition government would take concrete steps to expedite the construction of an additional plant at the Oil Palm Research Factory in Pedavegi. The assurance came after leaders of the IFTU and various labour unions, led by Eluru Jana Sena constituency in-charge and Vijayawada RTC Zonal Chairman Reddy Appala Naidu, submitted a representation to the MLA at his camp office in Duggirala. Union leaders said the proposed plant would generate

employment for more than 700 local youth and workers while also benefiting oil palm farmers through improved produce quality and better price determination. Responding positively, Prabhakar said the government would work towards ensuring benefits for both workers and farmers. Later, the MLA unveiled the National Pulse Polio campaign poster along with Reddy Appala Naidu and health officials. He urged parents to ensure that all children below five years receive polio drops on June 28 and directed officials to conduct extensive awareness and vaccination drives across the constituency.

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.

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 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.

Infrastructure is struggling to keep pace. Nearly 70% of cities worldwide are not fully climate-resilient, according to urban risk studies.

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.

The challenge is no longer just environmental—it is economic, social, and political. Climate resilience must move from policy documents into real infrastructure.

The planet is not just warming—it is destabilising. And unless adaptation matches acceleration, extremes will no longer be exceptions.

Editor

The Silent Epidemic: Why Loneliness Is Becoming Humanity's Greatest Challenge

Dr Vangeepuram Sreenatha Chary



Consultant Psychologist 9848023090

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.

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.

Loneliness is often misunderstood. Many assume that it affects only elderly people living alone. The reality is far more complex.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



health impact of chronic loneliness may be comparable to other significant health risk factors. The effects are not limited to individuals alone.

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.

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.

ognise that employee well-being involves more than financial compensation. Communities should encourage participation, volunteering, and social engagement.

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.

The greatest paradox of our age is that humanity has never been more connected technologically, yet so many people feel disconnected emotionally.

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.

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

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.

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.

Currently, one in sixty-four children is recognized as neurodiverse; lacking an understanding of this evolutionary shift, society simply labels them "Gen Z."

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.

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.

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.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking-2026 Theme

Prof. Madhusudha Reddy Burra



Education expert 9949700037

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.

Issues of Drug Abuse in India:

Drug abuse in India is a growing crisis, driven by geographical vulnerability, increasing availability, and early-age initiation.

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)
Crime rate: 418.9 per lakh population (lowest since 2019)
Cybercrime surged by 17%, emerging as the fastest-growing category
Emerging Threats
Over 1 lakh cybercrime cases reported
Fraud accounts for 70%+ of cyber offences
Rise of "digital arrest" scams and AI-enabled frauds
Drug Abuse & Related Data
Drug overdose deaths increased by 50% in 2024

- Around 978 overdose deaths were reported
Tamil Nadu recorded the highest overdose deaths
Vulnerable Groups
Crimes against children: 15.9%
Crimes against senior citizens: 116.9%
Juvenile crime: 11.2%
State-wise Highlights
Telangana: Among the highest crime rates (per lakh population)
Uttar Pradesh: High per capita crime indicators
Nagaland: Lowest crime rate in India
Kerala: Highest charge-sheeting rate (94.5%)

Global / International Data (UN & Global Trends)

- Drug Problem Overview
Around 296 million people used drugs globally (UNODC estimate)
Drug use increased by 23% over the last decade
Cannabis remains the most widely used drug worldwide
Health Impact
Over 39 million people suffer from drug use disorders globally
Millions lack access to treatment and rehabilitation services
Drug use linked to: HIV infections

- Hepatitis
Mental health disorders
Trafficking & Crime
Drug trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar global illegal industry
Strong links with: Organised crime networks
Terror financing
Human trafficking
Emerging Challenges
Rise of synthetic drugs (meth, fentanyl)
Increasing online drug trade (dark web)
Youth are becoming more vulnerable globally

(Note: IN India (NCRB Latest Data - 2024/2026 Insights)

Regional Parties Face Internal Turmoil Amid Political Realignment

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. Chandrashekhara



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 re-inducting 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.

Rising Crimes in the Name of Love Raise Concerns

A series of shocking crimes linked to romantic relationships has sparked a wider debate on changing social values, family relationships, and the growing need for mental health awareness in society. Recent incidents across the country have raised concerns among parents, educators, psychologists, and law enforcement agencies about the consequences of obsessive relationships and unchecked emotional instability.

The latest case, involving a young woman accused of killing members of her own family over a relationship dispute, has sent shockwaves through the public. The incident has reignited discussions about the thin line between genuine love and destructive obsession. While society increasingly recognizes an individual's right to choose a life partner, experts argue that personal freedom should never come at the cost of violence or the loss of innocent lives.

Observers point out that many modern relationships are being shaped by intense emotional dependency, possessiveness, and an inability to cope with rejection. In several recent cases reported from different states, disputes involving romantic partners have resulted in murders, suicides, and family breakdowns, leaving lasting trauma for relatives and communities.

Social analysts emphasize that the issue goes beyond economic status or educational background. Tragic incidents have occurred in both affluent and middle-class families, suggesting that financial prosper-



ity alone cannot ensure emotional maturity or ethical decision-making. They argue that qualities such as empathy, self-control, respect for others, and conflict resolution must be nurtured from an early age.

The changing structure of families has also become a topic of discussion. Many experts believe that increasing work pressures, reduced family interaction, and excessive dependence on digital communication have weakened emotional bonds between parents and children. As a result, young people may struggle to discuss personal challenges openly or seek guidance during difficult phases of life.

Mental health professionals stress the importance of teaching children how to handle disappointment, rejection, and emotional stress. They note that obsession, uncon-

trolled anger, jealousy, and a desire to dominate others can sometimes escalate into dangerous behavior if left unaddressed. The role of media and entertainment has also come under scrutiny. Critics argue that the sensational coverage of violent crimes and repeated dramatization of criminal acts may contribute to unhealthy fascination rather than encouraging reflection and prevention.

Experts are calling for greater collaboration between families, schools, counselors, and community organizations to promote emotional well-being and responsible decision-making. They believe that strengthening family communication, encouraging mental health support, and fostering respect for human life are essential steps toward preventing such tragedies and building a healthier society.

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 commemorative 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 MAHAsAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement 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.

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 organizations 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.

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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.

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 operations 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.

India Resumes Travel Visas for Bangladesh

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 development in efforts to normalize people-to-people exchanges.

A day before assuming office, the Government of India conferred upon Trivedi the status of a Union minister for ceremonial functions through an official memorandum issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Trivedi succeeds career diplomat Pranay Kumar Verma, whose four-year tenure witnessed major political changes in Bangladesh, including the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's government during a student-led uprising in 2024 and the subsequent deterioration in India-Bangladesh relations.

Bangladesh later held national elections, resulting in the formation of a new government under Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Political observers believe Trivedi's appointment and the restoration of visa services signal a renewed effort to strengthen bilateral ties and promote cooperation between the two countries in the coming years.



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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

visits to 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

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-

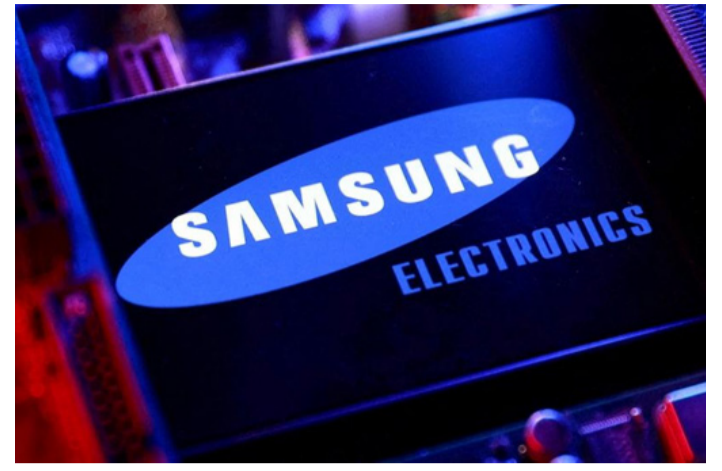
fied returns through complex financial instruments such as swaps, derivatives, and hedging strategies. For example, if a stock gains 2 percent in a single trading session, a 2x leveraged ETF tracking that stock aims to generate a 4 percent return for the same day. Conversely, losses are also magnified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

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

approach rather than reacting to short-term market swings. Companies with strong balance sheets, low production costs, and diversified revenue streams may be better positioned to withstand periods of commodity price weakness.

As global markets continue to monitor economic data and central bank decisions, metal stocks are expected to remain sensitive to developments in international commodity prices and currency movements. Investors will be watching closely for signs of stabilization in both metal prices and global demand trends.

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 percent, higher at 77,100.47, while the NSE Nifty 50 gained 34.35 points, or 0.14 percent, 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 percent. FMCG shares also attracted investor interest, with the sectoral index rising 0.7 percent, while the Realty in-

dex added 0.3 percent.

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 percent. 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 percent following a major block deal involving nearly 1.98 crore shares. Emcure Pharmaceuticals also advanced over 2 percent after a large block transaction involving approximately 19.39 lakh shares.

ICICI Bank rose nearly 1 percent 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 percent 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.

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.

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.

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.

While still in his teenage years, 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.

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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 reframed 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 deliveries. 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.

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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.

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.

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-

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

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Vaibhav's Entry Sparks Selection Puzzle as India Faces Tough Batting Order

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 Prasadh 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.

Rangareddy Risers Collapse After Double Blow in One Over

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-organized 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 Duvuru, 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.



Isha Malhotra

RISING STAR

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.