



BUZZ POINTS



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322 Families Get Land Titles in After 60-Year Wait

Kuppam, July 4 | TPN Bureau

As many as 322 families of Kangundi village in Kuppam Assembly constituency received land ownership (DKT) pattas from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, ending a wait of over six decades. The beneficiaries, who had been cultivating the land for generations without legal ownership, were granted title deeds for 460.19 acres. The Chief Minister also unveiled a plaque marking the distribution.

Addressing a gathering, N Chandrababu Naidu said the 61-year-old issue was resolved after a detailed examination of land records and a multi-dimensional review. He explained that the State Cabinet approved the conversion of forest poramboke land into assigned waste dry land, making it possible to distribute the land legally. Calling the initiative a step towards social justice, he said providing owner-



ship rights to 322 families was a significant achievement. He also noted that the government had recently resolved the Shetipalli land issue, securing nearly 90 acres while ensuring justice to farmers, and settled a long-pending dispute in Vatticherukuru. He added that all land disputes in Andhra Pradesh would be resolved within a year.

Criticising the previous YSRC government, the Chief Minister alleged it created several land disputes and printed images of ruling party leaders on pattadar passbooks. He said the present government replaced them with passbooks carrying the State emblem. He also urged people to avoid family property disputes and respect the rights of parents and



sisters. "There is no place for rowdiness or goondaism in Andhra Pradesh," he asserted, adding that efforts are being made to attract investments and generate employment. He said Kuppam would be developed into a tourism hub to create job opportunities. The Chief Minister also called for adoption of solar energy and

promoted the "Clean Kuppam - Golden Kuppam" vision. He said women's empowerment is a priority, with nearly 1.5 lakh DWCRA women becoming entrepreneurs. Minister Mandipalli Ram Prasad Reddy, Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasada Rao, APSRTC Vice Chairman Munirathnam and others participated.



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Secondary Healthcare in State Undergoing Major Transformation

Sravani Badugu

Secondary healthcare services across Andhra Pradesh are undergoing a major transformation with the introduction of advanced diagnostic and surgical facilities in district, area, community, and maternal and child health hospitals. The initiative aims to ensure patients receive quality medical care closer to home, reducing the burden on tertiary hospitals and minimising referrals.

Over the past two years, equipment worth ₹72.81 crore has been added, improving the ability of hospitals to handle



routine and complex cases. Facilities now include CT scanners, teleradiology systems, TIFFA scanners, colour Doppler ultrasound machines, and laparoscopic equipment. Neonatal care has also been strengthened with baby warmers and phototherapy units.

Diagnostic services have increased significantly, with 4.48

crore laboratory tests conducted between April 2025 and March 2026, compared to 3.73 crore in the previous year. This reflects better access to testing and improved infrastructure.

Teleradiology services are being expanded across the state. Earlier available in 154 hospitals, the facility is now being extended to the remaining centres, with most already covered. Specialists can review X-rays remotely and provide quick reports, reducing delays in treatment. Plans are underway to

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AP Midwifery Model Gains Global Recognition at ICM Congress 2026

Harshitha Vipparla

The state government's midwifery initiative gained international attention at the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Congress 2026 in Lisbon, Portugal, showcasing efforts to transform maternal and newborn care through a structured, government-led model.

Andhra Pradesh, the first state in India to institutionalise professional midwifery through Government Orders, presented its integrated programme covering training, certification, deployment and independent practice of Nurse Practitioners in Midwifery (NPMs), aimed at promoting respectful maternity care and reducing unnecessary interventions.

Speaking on the achievement, the Commissioner of Health & Family Welfare, G Veerapandian, said the recognition reflects the state's long-term vision in maternal healthcare. "Andhra Pradesh has taken a bold step by placing midwifery at the centre of maternal care. This international acknowledgement validates our commitment to safe,



respectful and woman-centric childbirth services," the Commissioner said.

Director of Health KVN Chakradhar Babu said the state has set up SMTIs and trained 31 midwifery educators. Two batches of 60 Nurse Practitioner Midwives from Guntur and Tirupati were trained under the ICM competency-based curriculum and are now deployed in high-delivery public health facilities across the state.

Speaking to True Point K Mallika, a State Midwifery Educator from SMTI

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APCO at 50, Strengthening Handloom Legacy and Weaver Livelihoods

Sreeja Rachabattuni

The Andhra Pradesh Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society (APCO) is set to complete 50 years on July 6, marking a significant milestone in its journey of preserving handloom heritage and supporting thousands of weaver families across the State.

Established in 1976 through the merger of Hyco Fabrics, Raya Fabrics and Andhra Handlooms, APCO was founded to provide assured market support to primary handloom weavers' cooperative societies and ensure sustainable livelihoods. Over the decades, it has evolved into one of India's leading handloom marketing organisations, bridging the gap between traditional artisans and modern markets.

Currently, APCO procures handloom products from over



a thousand cooperative societies and markets them through nearly 80 showrooms across the country. In recent years, the organisation has expanded into digital platforms and e-commerce, helping Andhra Pradesh's handloom products reach wider markets while preserving their authenticity.

The organisation has played a crucial role in sustaining traditional weaves such as Dharmavaram silks, Venkatagiri sarees, Uppada Jamdani, Mangalagiri

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Naidu Directs Timely Completion of Jaladhara Jalaharathi Works

Kuppam, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to complete the "Jaladhara-Jalaharathi" works across the state within the stipulated timeframe. While on a tour of Kuppam, he held a video conference with District Collectors to review the progress of the initiative and instructed that all sanctioned works be completed within the 100-day deadline. He asked Collectors to personally monitor implementation.

Chandrababu Naidu stressed interlinking of water resource basins to ensure water security, suggesting transfer of water from surplus to deficit regions and strengthening storage capacity. He called for focus on

micro-basin connectivity and a scientific, data-driven approach for efficient water utilisation. The Water Resources Department was directed to study micro-basin interconnection methods.

He instructed Collectors to adopt best practices from other districts, document successful models and replicate them where feasible. He also emphasised cascade system restoration and appreciated efforts in Nandyal and Kurnool.

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu, senior officials and District Collectors participated in the video conference. The CM also sought a comprehensive post-review report covering works, expenditure, rainfall and groundwater improvements.

South Korea Invites Lokesh for Six-Day Visit

Amaravati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD , IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh has been invited by the Republic of Korea for a six-day official visit from July 5 to 11 aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and exploring investment opportunities.

The invitation was extended by Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Chennai Chang Nyun Kim, who said the visit would help enhance cooperation and deepen ties between the two sides. During the tour, Lokesh will hold official meetings with representatives of various Korean ministries and participate in discussions focused on expand-

ing bilateral collaboration.

On July 5, he will address members of the Indian diaspora and the Telugu community in Seoul. The minister is scheduled to participate in roundtable meetings with technology start-ups, industry associations and investors, besides holding talks with representatives of Hyosung, Seoul Semiconductor and LG Group.

Lokesh will also meet senior Korean officials, including Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Yui-Hye Cecilia Chung and Deputy Minister for Trade and Investments Kanchan Kang, besides attending investment roadshows to promote the CII Partnership Summit-2026.

Home Minister Anita Pays Tribute to Alluri Sitarama Raju

Nakkapalli, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita paid floral tributes to freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju on his birth anniversary at a commemorative programme organised at the MPDO office in Nakkapalli on Saturday. She garlanded the statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju and also paid homage to the statues of B.R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi on the premises before participating in a tree plantation drive.

Addressing the gathering, Anita described Alluri Sitarama Raju as a legendary freedom fighter who fought tirelessly for India's independence. She said he laid down his life at the age of 27 in the struggle for the nation's freedom and the rights of its people, calling him a revolutionary whose patriotism and courage continue to inspire the younger generation.



The minister said the state government, under the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, was observing Alluri Sitarama Raju's birth anniversary as a State festival. She added that his sacrifice, bravery and commitment to the nation would remain etched in the hearts of the Telugu people for generations.

Atchannaidu Orders Statewide Vigil Over 'White Gut' Disease in Shrimp

Amaravati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Fisheries Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu has directed fisheries officials across Andhra Pradesh to remain on high alert following reports of 'White Gut' disease symptoms in shrimp. The minister instructed officials to undertake extensive field-level monitoring and initiate immediate preventive measures to contain the disease.

Acting on the reports, fisheries officials inspected an affected shrimp pond belonging to farmer P. Manoj Varma at Mahadevipatnam in Undi mandal. Water, shrimp, feed and faecal samples were collected for detailed analysis. The shrimp and feed samples were sent to the Kaikaluru laboratory, while water quality samples were forwarded to the Bhimavaram laboratory for testing.

Atchannaidu also directed of-



officials to coordinate closely with the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), NASPAD and the Fisheries University. He instructed authorities to create awareness among shrimp farmers based on the latest Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and assured farmers that the state government would extend full support while taking all necessary steps to address the issue.



Durgesh alleges conspiracy behind social media campaign against coalition

Vijayawada, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Saturday alleged that actor Prakash Raj and social media commentator Joseph Ravan were part of a coordinated campaign to target the coalition government and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Addressing a press conference at his camp office near Benz Circle in Vijayawada, the minister claimed that audio recordings indicated links between the two and alleged the existence of a larger conspiracy.

Durgesh further alleged that forces operating from "Tadepalli Palace" were funding individuals to create caste and religious divisions and

disturb law and order in the state. He said the government would not tolerate misuse of freedom of expression to spread hatred or make defamatory remarks, warning that legal action would be taken against those found violating the law.

Questioning Prakash Raj's silence on incidents that occurred between 2019 and 2024, including the deaths of Dr. Sudhakar and V. Subrahmanyam and attacks on Hindu temples, the minister accused him of adopting double standards. He also praised Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's governance, particularly initiatives for rural and tribal development, and asserted that the law would identify and act against those behind any alleged conspiracy.

Narayana allocates ₹580 crore for Rajamahendravaram Pushkarams works

Amaravati/Eluru/Rajamahendravaram, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana announced that 580 crore has been allocated for development works in Rajamahendravaram as part of preparations for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram, while Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has sanctioned 1,500 crore for the event statewide. He said the government has finalised key infrastructure works and directed officials to begin execution immediately.

Reviewing arrangements with East Godavari district officials, Narayana said the first phase of works will be launched using available funds. He announced construction of sewage treatment plants to prevent discharge into the Godavari River and 140 crore worth of drainage canal projects. Plans also include road construction, widening, and improved street lighting. Road expansion will be taken up through TDR bonds, while additional funds will be allocated to curb river pollution in line with the directives of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. He added that modernisation and expansion of ghats



will be undertaken using Irrigation Department funds before Pushkarams.

The Minister reiterated that the government is moving systematically to transform towns across Andhra Pradesh into modern urban centres with better quality of life, focusing on drinking water, drainage, roads, and urban infrastructure along with Amaravati construction.

During a review in Eluru, attended by MLA Badeti Chanti, District Collector Vetriselvi, Public Health Engineer-in-Chief Prabhakar, and commissioners of 10 municipalities under ELUDA, Narayana said 57 crore has been allocated for infrastructure within Eluru Urban Development Authority limits. He reviewed ongoing works and inspected a 35-acre layout at Shanivarapupeta, noting that such developments would generate revenue.

AP JAC Amaravati Urges Government to Protect Employees' Rights

Vijayawada, July 4 | TPN Bureau

The AP JAC Amaravati has urged the Andhra Pradesh government to implement Presidential Order-2025 in a phased manner without compromising employees' rights, seniority, promotions and service benefits. AP JAC Amaravati State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and State General Secretary Paliseti Damodara Rao submitted a memorandum to Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad and Special Chief Secretary (GAD) S.S. Rawat, outlining several recommendations on

behalf of employees' associations.

The organisation demanded that all pending promotions across departments, including Revenue, Police, APSRTC, Municipal, Cooperative and Labour, be completed before implementing the Presidential Order. It said integrated seniority lists and updated promotion panels should be finalised first, especially in view of the reorganisation of districts, new zones and multi-zones.

The AP JAC also sought an extension of the existing promotion ban from July 5 to August 31, 2026, to ensure pending promotions are

completed. It urged the government to provide adequate time for objections to draft seniority and allocation lists and guarantee that no employee would suffer any loss in seniority, promotions, pay, increments or pension benefits. The association further sought humanitarian concessions for special categories of employees, including spouses working in government service, persons with disabilities, widows and those suffering from serious illnesses. It cautioned that a hurried implementation could trigger legal disputes and adversely affect thousands of employees.

APSACS Director Reviews HIV Services

Narasaraopeta, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS) Project Director Bachu Smaran Raj visited the Narasaraopeta Area Hospital to review the implementation of HIV diagnosis, treatment and prevention programmes. He inspected the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) and Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) Centre, examining inpatient and outpatient records, cross-referral registers, HIV testing procedures and patient flow. The Project Director also reviewed Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) services, including antenatal registration, HIV testing, management of positive cases, service delivery and patient load. He directed officials to achieve the annual targets for the Narasaraopeta centre within the stipulated timeframe.

Bachu Smaran Raj later held a review meeting with the Medical



Officer, Nodal Officer, counsellors and other staff on HIV testing, referrals, treatment enrolment, patient follow-up and service quality. He instructed officials to strengthen HIV screening, ensure immediate ART enrolment for all diagnosed patients and work towards achieving the National AIDS Control Organisation's 95-95-95 targets.

The Project Director also met Guntur District Collector and District Magistrate Dr. Kritika Shuk-

la to brief her on the HIV/AIDS programme and discussed the deployment of a Mobile ICTC vehicle to expand HIV testing across the district. Approval for the proposal was obtained during the meeting.

Joint Director (Basic Services Division) Srinivas Varma, District AIDS and Leprosy Control Officer Madhavi Latha, the DISHA team and other medical officials participated in the inspection.

Well-Marked Low Pressure to Bring Heavy Rain to Parts of AP

Amaravati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

A well-marked low-pressure area persists over the northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Odisha-West Bengal coasts, Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director Prakhkar Jain said on Saturday.

He said the system is expected to bring cloudy weather

across the state on Sunday, with heavy rainfall likely at one or two places. Light to moderate rain is forecast in parts of Alluri Sitarama Raju and Polavaram districts, while isolated light showers are expected in the remaining districts. Gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph are also likely along the coast.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea, while residents have been urged

to remain alert during adverse weather conditions.

According to APSDMA, the highest rainfall recorded by 4 p.m. on Saturday was 36.5 mm at Pappalalingalavalasa in Vizianagaram district, followed by 30.8 mm at Seethanagaram in Manyam district. The authority also advised people to avoid taking shelter under trees or near large hoardings during thunderstorms and to stay away from snapped electrical wires.

Pradesh into a debt trap in the name of Amaravati development. Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, he challenged the TDP coalition government to hold an open debate on the financial burden of Amaravati and YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy's proposed MAVIGUN development model covering Machilipatnam, Vijayawada and Guntur.

He alleged that farmers are being emotionally pressured while the state is burdened with large-scale loans. He



Health Minister Steps In to Aid Five-Year-Old Suffering From Rare Illness

Amaravati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has intervened in the case of a five-year-old girl from Rajiv Colony in Molakalacheruvu of Annamayya district who is suffering from an unexplained illness.

The minister directed Annamayya District Medical and Health Officer Lakshminarasayya to visit the child's residence and assess her medical condition in detail. Acting swiftly on the instructions, the

DM&HO reached the girl's home along with specialists in ophthalmology and paediatrics.

The medical team examined the child and gathered details about her health condition. Further treatment and medical interventions will be initiated based on the report submitted by the doctors.

The girl, Chandrika, is reportedly suffering from rare skin, eye and other related ailments, prompting the Health Department to closely monitor her condition and facilitate appropriate medical care.



MEPMA, GoMill Sign MoU to Promote Women-Led Millet Enterprises

Vijayawada, July 4 | TPN Bureau

The Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), under the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, has signed a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EBG Group Private Limited (GoMill) to promote women-led millet-based food enterprises across urban Andhra Pradesh.

The agreement was signed by MEPMA Mission Director Vakati Karuna and GoMill Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer D. Satya Sai Bhagavan Varma at Vijayawada on July 3. The initiative aims to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for Self-Help Group

(SHG) women through franchise-based millet food businesses.

Under the partnership, kiosk-based units and store re-branding models will be established with standardised infrastructure, skill training, entrepreneurship development, branding, marketing support and raw material supply. The programme is designed to strengthen women entrepreneurship while encouraging the expansion of millet-based food businesses in urban local bodies across the state.

Officials said the collaboration marks a significant step towards women's empowerment, sustainable livelihoods and the promotion of healthy millet-based food enterprises in Andhra Pradesh.

108 Ambulance Services on High Alert for Monsoon Emergencies



Amaravati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

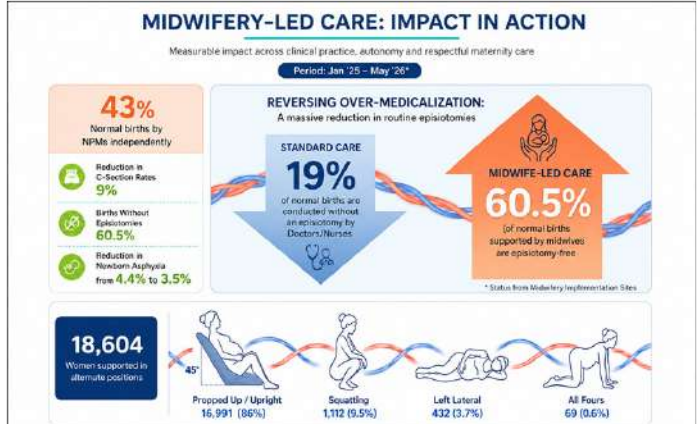
The 108 Emergency Ambulance Services have intensified monsoon preparedness across Andhra Pradesh to ensure rapid medical response during seasonal emergencies. Special arrangements have been made to tackle cases of viral fevers, snake and venomous insect bites, electrocution and drowning, particularly in rural, tribal and forest-fringe areas.

Every 108 ambulance has been equipped with essential medicines, oxygen support systems and life-saving medical equipment, while Emergency Medical Technicians and ambulance pilots have been issued special operational guidelines to provide timely treatment

during the critical "Golden Hour" before transporting patients to the nearest healthcare facility. Emergency operations are being monitored continuously across all districts.

According to Bavya Health Services, 108 ambulances responded to 28,933 fever-related emergencies, 14,353 animal and insect bite cases, 2,194 electrocution incidents, 718 drowning cases and 96 lightning-related emergencies between July 2025 and June 2026.

The organisation urged the public to avoid unscientific remedies, maintain hygiene during the monsoon, stay away from snapped power lines and immediately dial 108 in the event of any medical emergency, stating that timely intervention can save lives.



AP Midwifery Model Gains Global Recognition at ICM Congress 2026

Guntur involved in the programme, said the initiative has changed the way childbirth care is delivered. “We are not just training midwives; we are reshaping childbirth experiences. Women are now receiving continuous support, counselling and respectful care during delivery,” she said.

Since 2022, two batches comprising 120 staff nurses have completed 18-month training. The first batch, trained by August 2023, was posted in 13 high-workload facilities in September 2023. The second batch has been deployed in PHCs. Monthly virtual mentoring continues to support antenatal, intranatal and postnatal care.

The third batch, comprising 113 nurses, is focused on tribal areas and is undergoing training at four SMTIs in Srikakulam, Kurnool, Nellore and Kakinada. The programme is expected to be completed by December 2026.

V Ramanamma, GGH Rajamahendravaram, Nurse Practitioner in Midwifery, said the model has improved confidence among healthcare providers and mothers. “Earlier, we were assistants in the system. Now we are empowered to lead normal deliveries with evidence-based practices, ensuring safety and dignity for mothers,” she told True Point.

Sandhya Rani Demands Apology from Amarnath Over Remarks on Women

Vijayawada, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Minister Sandhya Rani has demanded that YSRCP leader Amarnath tender an apology to women, alleging that he made objectionable remarks. She addressed a press conference at the TDP central office, NTR Bhavan, and strongly criticized his statements made after appearing before the Women’s Commission for an inquiry. She said Amarnath has been continuing to make irresponsible comments despite the ongoing proceedings.

Sandhya Rani stated that the public has already given a fitting reply to those who made “reckless comments” about Amaravati. She alleged that the YSRCP has been changing its stand on the capital issue repeatedly, causing confusion



among people. “They say one thing one day and another the next. The YSRCP is trying to create chaos among the public,” she said. She further asserted that women’s dignity should not be compromised in political discourse and warned against such repeated remarks from opposition leaders.

Ambati Demands CBI Probe Sai Krishna Custodial Death Case

Vijayawada, July 4 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders on Saturday appeared before the magistrate conducting the inquiry into the custodial death of Sai Krishna and submitted a written representation listing their objections, concerns and demands. Addressing the media later, former minister Ambati Rambabu, along with former MLAs TJR Sudhakar Babu and Malladi Vishnu, demanded a judicial inquiry and a CBI investigation, stating that only an independent probe can ensure justice for the victim’s family. Ambati Rambabu alleged an attempt to project Circle Inspector Nagaraju as the sole accused while protecting others responsible. He said the custodial death had shocked the country and demanded collection of CCTV footage, mobile data and all evidence, insisting strict punishment for all guilty. TJR Sudhakar Babu sought securing CCTV footage from Markapuram to Vijayawada and disclosure of detention orders, expressing no confidence in SIT and magis-



trate inquiry. Malladi Vishnu called the ongoing probes an eyewash and reiterated that only a CBI investigation would uncover the truth. Ambati Rambabu also alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was resorting to personal attacks on YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to divert attention from governance failures, including deteriorating law and order and the custodial death case. He said Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan was spreading false narratives on the case, while attacks on police stations by ruling party supporters were going unchecked. He demanded focus on law and order instead of political diversion and reiterated demand for a CBI probe.

APCO at 50, Strengthening Handloom Legacy and Weaver Livelihoods

continued

fabrics, Chirala textiles, Bandar weaves and Ponduru Khadi. Beyond marketing, APCO has supported weavers through continuous yarn supply, assured procurement and government-backed welfare initiatives. Successive governments have contributed to APCO’s growth through schemes like Janatha Vastralu, financial assistance from the National Co-operative Development Corporation and procurement support from various departments. Even after the State bifurcation in

2014, APCO continued its operations seamlessly, maintaining its core commitment to weavers. Under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the State Government has renewed its focus on the handloom sector. Recent measures include revision of wages and production costs, providing financial relief to weavers amid rising input costs. Government procurement for uniforms, bedding and institutional supplies has also ensured continuous employment for cooperative societies. APCO has also modern-

ised its operations by introducing online billing systems, improving efficiency and transparency. The initiative earned the organisation the SKOCH Award 2025, recognising its digital transformation efforts. As APCO enters its sixth decade, it aims to strengthen cooperative networks, expand market access and preserve traditional weaving skills for future generations. The organisation continues to stand as a symbol of resilience, craftsmanship and collective progress in Andhra Pradesh’s handloom sector.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations on July 6

Amaravati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

APCO will celebrate its Golden Jubilee on July 6 with a grand event at 4 p.m. at APCO Chenetha Samudayam (APCO Thota), Yerrabalem, Mangalagiri.

Minister for IT, HRD, Electronics and Communications Nara Lokesh will attend as Special Chief Guest, while

Minister for BC Welfare, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles S Savitha will be the Chief Guest. Honorary Advisor for Handlooms and Handicrafts Development Suchitra Ella, Special Chief Secretary R P Sisodia, Commissioner for Handlooms and Textiles G Rekha Rani and Chairman of the Padmasali Welfare and Develop-

ment Corporation Nandam Abaddayya will participate.

APCO Vice Chairman and Managing Director K Kanababu has invited weavers, officials and the public to take part in the celebrations, which will highlight the organisation’s five-decade journey and its contributions to the handloom sector

Secondary Healthcare in State Undergoing Major Transformation

continued

install CT scanners in district hospitals at Tenali, Atmakur, Hindupur, and Tanuku under a public-private partnership model, with the tender process in progress.

Maternal and child healthcare has received a boost with TIFFA scan machines installed in eight hospitals, benefiting around 1,500 pregnant women each month. Additionally, 403 baby warmers, 200 fetal Dopplers, 221 examination tables, and 307 examination lights are being distributed.

Further, 13 public health laboratories are being set up at a cost of ₹7.49 crore under the National Health Mission.

Ultrasound machines have also been installed in several community health centres and area hospitals.

Related to these developments, Health and Medical Services Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said, “Providing key amenities in secondary hospitals ensures timely care, faster recovery, and reduces financial burden on families.” He added, “Improved infrastructure and equipment are increasing diagnostic capacity and gradually reducing referral cases.” Emphasising the impact, the Minister said, “Access to modern diagnostics and surgical care at the local level is transforming healthcare delivery and improving

patient outcomes.” In addition, BERA machines, audiometers, and soundproof rooms are being set up for ear-related services. Laparoscopic equipment worth ₹5.50 crore has been installed in 15 hospitals, enabling minimally invasive surgeries and quicker recovery.

Recently, 177 mortuary freezer chambers were dispatched to secondary hospitals. Director of Secondary Health Chakradhara Babu reviewed the progress and briefed the government on developments over the past two years. These measures are expected to significantly enhance healthcare access and quality at the secondary level across the state.

Botcha Alleges Coalition Government Failure on Poll Promises

Visakhapatnam, July 4 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP has reiterated that the coalition government has failed on multiple fronts and has not fulfilled its poll promises, alleging that it is adopting a vindictive approach. Speaking to the media on Saturday, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Botcha Sayanarayana said all election promises of the coalition gov-

ernment have “gone for a toss” and questioned the accountability of Rs 3 lakh crore loans.

He said there is nothing for the coalition government to boast about, alleging that promises made to women remain unfulfilled, education reforms have stalled, and distribution of school bags and kits has not taken place. He also said government hospitals are in a state of disarray. YSRCP objected to Chandrababu

Naidu not receiving President Droupadi Murmu during her recent visit, terming it disrespectful to the highest constitutional office. He also reiterated that “Mavigun” remains the party’s stand as stated by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, claiming it is a more viable and cost-effective option than Amaravati. He further alleged corruption in Amaravati works and questioned clarity on capital development and land allotments.

Kiran Royal Demands Action Against Ravan, Sravan and Prakash Raj

Tirupati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati Janasena in-charge Kiran Royal has demanded strict action against Ravan and Sravan, alleging that they are inciting religious hatred in Andhra Pradesh. He also called for action against film actor Prakash Raj, accusing him of acting as a covert operative for YSRCP. To support his claims, he released audio clips on Saturday, stating that they reveal their conduct and intentions.

Speaking to the media in Tirupati at Gandhi Road, Kiran Royal strongly criticized the YSRCP social media wing and what he referred to as “Paytm batches,” alleging that Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has become their primary target. He expressed anger over the circulation of obscene content directed against Pawan Kalyan and his family members on social media platforms. He further alleged that Prakash Raj’s criticisms of Pawan Kalyan are part of a larger conspiracy aimed at cre-



ating unrest in the state.

Kiran Royal also criticized former Chief Minister Jagan, accusing him of resorting to diversionary politics and staging a new drama called “Mavigun” to mislead the public. He alleged that attempts were being made to incite conflict between the Kapu community and other groups. He pointed to earlier incidents involving

attacks on Amaravati farmers and claimed there were efforts to shift blame onto specific communities.

He further stated that weak legal provisions in cases related to social media hate speech are allowing accused individuals to obtain bail easily and escape stringent punishment, calling for stronger enforcement measures.

PIN PONT

TTD cancels VIP break darshans on July 14 and 17

Tirumala, July 4 | TPN Bureau

TTD has announced cancellation of VIP break darshans at Tirumala on July 14 and 17. A statement said the decision was taken in view of Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam ritual scheduled on July 14 and Anivara Asthanam ceremony at Srivari temple on July 17. It clarified that recommendation letters for VIP break darshans will not be accepted for July 13 and 16. The board also announced cancellation of Kalyanotsavam, Oonjal Seva, Arjita Brahmotsavam and Sahasra Deepalankara Seva on July 17. Devotees are requested to cooperate with arrangements during the period of rituals and restrictions.

Gold, silver, cash stolen from house in Ongole

Ongole, July 4 | TPN Bureau

A major theft was reported in Ongole where miscreants allegedly decamped with gold, silver and cash from a house. According to police, Chandramouli, who resides behind an ashram, along with his family had gone on a trip on June 30. On returning on Saturday night, they found the house doors broken and valuables missing.

The stolen property includes around 700 grams of gold jewellery, 8 kilograms of silver articles, 50 kilograms of copper ingots and 7 lakh in cash, the family informed the police. Chandramouli’s son, Srinath, works at a jewellery shop on Gandhi Road.

Police have registered a case and taken up an investigation to trace the accused and recover the stolen property.

Flood Release from Duduma Reservoir

Koraput, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Floodwaters have surged into the Duduma (Didyam) reservoir, part of the Machkund Hydroelectric Project on the Andhra-Odisha border. Due to incessant rains, the reservoir level has reached a critical stage, rising to 2,587 feet against a maximum capacity of 2,590 feet. Consequently, 1,000 cusec of floodwater are being released through Gate No. 7 into the downstream Balimela reservoir. Officials stated that if the flood intensity does not subside, additional gates will be opened to release more water. Officials are closely monitoring inflows and downstream safety conditions in the region as a precautionary measure.

116-Year-Old Woman’s Tirumala Trek Goes Viral

Tirupati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

An 116-year-old woman has captured attention after walking up the Alipiri steps to visit Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala. A video showing her climbing the steps with the support of family members has gone viral on social media. The elderly devotee reportedly undertook the journey driven by devotion and determination, despite her advanced age. Pilgrims and devotees have widely praised her spirit and faith, calling it an inspiring moment from Tirumala. Officials noted that the Alipiri footpath remains one of the most challenging yet sacred pilgrimage routes. The video continues to circulate widely, drawing admiration from across the country for her remarkable feat. Her journey highlights unwavering devotion and inspires younger generations to embrace faith, endurance, and spiritual commitment across society today, said observers and devotees.



YSRCP Cannot Stop Amaravati Development: Devineni Uma

Vijayawada, July 04 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) State General Secretary Devineni Umamaheswara Rao on Saturday asserted that the YSR Congress Party’s attempts to obstruct Amaravati’s development would never succeed. Addressing a media conference at Gollapudi in Vijayawada, he alleged that the previous YSRCP government subjected Amaravati farmers and women to hardships during its tenure.

Uma described the Amaravati movement as one of the state’s biggest public agitations, stating that the people themselves had protected the capital city through sustained protests. He criticised YCP leaders for speaking about democracy despite allegedly targeting TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh during his Yuva Galam padayatra.

He accused the YSRCP of trying to prevent industries from investing in Andhra Pradesh and creating divisions among people based on caste, religion and region to stall Amaravati’s growth. Referring to ongoing construction works, he said development activities



in the capital city were progressing rapidly and no political force could halt them.

The TDP leader said the NDA government, under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, was committed to balanced regional development and transforming Rayalaseema into a horticulture and investment hub. He claimed that the state had attracted investments worth 24 lakh crore and created employment opportunities for 24 lakh people over the past two years.

Uma also criticised the YSRCP for frequently changing its stand on the capital issue, alleging that its inconsistent position had confused even its own party leaders.

District Collector Honored for Two Years of Service

Tirupati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

District officials and public representatives felicitated Collector S. Venkateswar on completing two years of service as Tirupati District Collector. Since taking charge on July 4, 2024, he has advanced the district through people-centric administration and welfare programs. S. Venkateswar has driven industrial progress by attracting investments and fast-tracking permits. In infrastructure, he initiated the expansion of new buildings and additional beds at Ruia Hospital and organized rural health camps. To boost government school attendance, he launched the 36-day "Badi Kemunda" campaign across 36 mandals, successfully increasing enrollment by over ten thousand students compared to last year while ensuring quality teaching and nutritious Dokka Seethamma midday meals. Furthermore, he directly addresses public grievances every Monday through the public problem resolution platform to ensure immediate department coordination. His administration continually focuses on youth employment generation, women's economic empowerment, and localized skill development. District officials, public representatives, and citizens congratulated him for establishing a transparent and highly accessible governance model.



MLA Pays Tribute to Vangaveeti Ranga

Tirupati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of Vangaveeti Mohanaranga's 79th birth anniversary, Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu, State Handicrafts Development Chairman Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad, and BJP District President Samanchi Srinivasulu attended the birth anniversary celebrations organized under the auspices of Arcot Krishna at the four-legged mandapam as chief guests. They garlanded the portrait of Vangaveeti Mohanaranga and paid tributes. On the occasion, slogans were raised on a large scale, saying "Johar Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga". They recalled the services rendered by Vangaveeti Ranga to the weaker sections of the society. Later, a cake was cut and a food distribution program was organized for the poor, and Ranga's fans participated in the program in large numbers.



Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga Ambitions Ideal for Today's Generation: Narendra Dandi

Srikalahasti, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Janasena Party leader Narendra Dandi stated that the services rendered by Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga are memorable and his ambitions serve as an ideal for today's generation. He attended the birth anniversary celebrations organized in Srikalahasti as the chief guest, following a special invitation extended by Radha Ranga Mitra Mandali District President Bokkissam Munisubbaiah. Speaking on the occasion, Narendra Dandi noted that Ranga fought relentlessly for the welfare of poor people, social justice, and the protection of the rights of downtrodden communities. He praised him as a rare public leader who remains immortalized in the hearts of Telugu people worldwide, transcending barriers of caste and religion. Narendra Dandi expressed his gratitude to all the party leaders, workers, and fans who attended the event to mark the occasion. Bokkissam Munisubbaiah, and Pagadala Sudhakar participated.



Alluri Sitaramaraju Jayanti Celebrated at Bhaskarpur Municipal High School

Srikalahasti, July 4 | TPN Bureau

The birth anniversary of Alluri Sitaramaraju was celebrated at Bhaskarpur Municipal High School under the auspices of the Bharat Scouts and Guides. Principal Gnanappa, Guide Incharge Nagajyoti, Rani, and APJ Abdul Kalam open troop scout master Sheikh Azharuddin paid floral tributes to the portrait of the freedom fighter. Speaking on the occasion, Gnanappa stated that Alluri Sitaramaraju was a great leader who played a special role in the Indian freedom struggle. He suggested that students should take the leader's patriotism and self-sacrifice as a lifelong example. He further called upon everyone to actively inculcate patriotism from childhood. Students belonging to the Bharat Scouts and Guides participated in large numbers to mark the event.



River Basins Should Be Kept Clean Municipal Commissioner Obules

Kurnool, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Commissioner Challa Obules ordered that river basins within the city limits must be kept clean and cleanliness awareness raised among surrounding residents. On Saturday, he inspected the Tungabhadra River at Sankalbagh, the Handri River at Raj Vihar, and the K.C. Canal tributary basins from Vinayak Ghat to Joharapuram. The Commissioner suggested focusing on making the basins pleasant for daily walkers. He instructed officials to stop public littering on river banks and immediately rectify any shortcomings in door-to-door garbage collection. Later, he inspected the Sankalbagh sewage treatment plant and conducted a surprise inspection at the Anna Canteen inside the government hospital premises. Anil Kumar, and Nageswara Rao participated.

Sri Kapileswara Swamy High School Students Felicitated by Alumni

Chandragiri, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Alumni of Sri Kapileswara Swamy High School in Venkatapati Nagar Tatitopu felicitated the best performing students of the 2025-26 academic year with cash prizes and silver dollars. Chiranjeevi P. Janani, who stood first in the school with 562 marks out of 600, was awarded Rs 25,000 and a 10-gram silver dollar. Chiranjeevi Vijaya Durga, who placed second with 545 marks, received Rs 10,000 and a 10-gram silver dollar. School Telugu Pandit Nagendra Nayak provided additional cash assistance to both students. Former student Namburi Reddy Dinesh highlighted education as a powerful tool to change lives and promised silver dollars to future students scoring above 540 marks. Former student Dorababu pledged ongoing support for high-performing students. School Principal K. Krishnamurthy appreciated the alumni and expressed gratitude to the TTD management for providing excellent school facilities.



Do Not Show Laxity in Digitalization District Collector Anand

Ananthapuram, July 4 | TPN Bureau

District Collector O. Anand stated that the Special Comprehensive Revision of the Voter List (SIR) process must be completed within the deadline, warning against laxity in field-level duties. Addressing representatives of recognized political parties at the collectorate mini conference hall on Saturday, the Collector urged cooperation from all party ranks to ensure a transparent process. Anand directed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to eliminate errors, treat all political parties



equally, and visit every house to distribute enrollment forms. He stated that if a voter is absent from the old list, their new address must be registered. He ordered BLOs to digitize collected returns immediately at the voter's location. He revealed that 8,16,981 out of 20,38,527

total voters have been digitally registered so far.

Warning of strict disciplinary action against non-performing staff, he added that government employees and teachers will conduct door-to-door visits tomorrow. Malola, and Kanaka Raju participated.

Kadapa Steel Plant Long-Awaited Dream of Seema People: MLA Puttha Krishnachaitanya Reddy

Kadapa, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Kamalapuram MLA Puttha Krishnachaitanya Reddy stated that the establishment of the Kadapa steel plant has been a long-awaited dream of the Rayalaseema people, marking the commencement of its construction as a historic day. He alleged that YSR previously allotted 11,000 acres to Gali Janardhan Reddy for a steel plant but failed to initiate actual work. Despite the absence of a feasibility report from the Centre under the Bifurcation Act, Chief



Minister Chandrababu Naidu advanced the project under the name Rayalaseema Steel Plant. Krishnachaitanya Reddy criticized the previous

Jagan government for failing to start construction despite holding land ceremonies twice. He added that the work has officially begun in line with the Mission Rayalaseema promise made during Yuvagalam, with a corporate commitment to finish the project within two years. He condemned YSRCP leaders for engaging in diversion politics, contrasting the development under Naidu's administration with the destruction seen under the former regime.

Alliance Accused of Credit Theft Over Steel Plant: MP Avinash Reddy

Kadapa, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Kadapa MP Avinash Reddy criticized the ruling alliance for credit theft, stating that the Kadapa steel plant foundation stone laying ceremony was a drama held to smear former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to the media on Saturday, he asserted that all necessary clearances, environmental permits, and industrialist partnerships were secured during Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure. Avinash Reddy explained that the former government convinced JSW to build the facto-



ry in 2019, issued the construction order in 2022, and acquired 1,100 acres for the project. He recalled that Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the

foundation stone in February 2023, prompting Sajjan Jindal to thank him. He described the current event as an election stunt and criticized Chandrababu Naidu and Adinarayana Reddy for their remarks. Furthermore, he noted that the government ignored the Sivaramakrishna Committee recommendations by spending Rs 2 lakh crore on Amaravati, which has become a capital for a specific group, whereas Jagan Mohan Reddy had proposed a balanced regional development model.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu Launches Development Programs in Kuppam

Kuppam, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu actively participated in various development programs organized across Kuppam. Chittoor Member of Parliament Daggu Prasad Rao accompanied the Chief Minister during these official visits to move the regional initiatives forward together. As part of the tour, Daggu Prasad Rao participated in the formal inauguration ceremony of the newly established Food Street-Entertainment Plaza in Kuppam. Furthermore, the Chittoor Member of Parliament attended the official inauguration ceremony of the newly built Kuppam



Area Development Authority Guest House, which was constructed at a cost of Rs 4.70 crores in Swarna Kuppam. Concluding the series of infrastructure developments, Daggu Prasad Rao vis-

ited the Mokshavanam Cemetery alongside Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, a project constructed with an investment of Rs 3 crores in the surrounding area of Kuppam.

Alluri's Patriotism and Spirit of Sacrifice an Example for Everyone: District SP Subbarayudu

Tirupati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

District Superintendent of Police L. Subbarayudu paid tribute to freedom fighter Alluri Seetharamaraju on his 129th birth anniversary by garlanding his portrait and offering floral tributes at the District Police Office. Speaking on the occasion, the District Superintendent of Police stated that Alluri Seetharamaraju is a



great man who remains immortal in the history of the Indian freedom struggle. He noted that his patriotism, sacrifice, and courage in organizing tribals against the oppres-

sion of British rulers to lead an armed struggle are highly inspiring for future generations. He added that his perseverance for freedom is a great example that every Indian should remember. Following his address, additional police officials and personnel from various departments of the District Police Office also paid their respects by offering garlands to the portrait.

TTD has cancelled VIP Break Darshans on

Tirumala, July 4 | TPN Bureau

The annual traditional accounting fete, Anivara Asthanam, will be celebrated in a grand manner at the Srivari Temple on July 17. In connection with this event, the traditional temple clean-

ing ritual, Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam, is scheduled to take place on July 14.

Following these two major religious events, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has cancelled VIP Break



Alluri Seetharama Raju's Spirit of Sacrifice Ideal for Youth: Collector Himanshu Shukla

Nellore, July 4 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Himanshu Shukla paid floral tributes to freedom fighter Alluri Seetharama Raju on his birth anniversary at the Thikkana premises of the Collectorate on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that the sacrifice and bravery demonstrated by Alluri Seetharama Raju for the independence of the country remain memorable. Shukla highlighted that the freedom fighter's relentless struggle to protect tribal rights and counter the oppression of British rulers is written in golden letters within the history of the Indian independence movement. He called upon the youth to inculcate core values such as patriotism, sacrifice, and service to contribute actively to societal progress. He further urged citizens to draw inspiration from the aspirations of Alluri Seetharama Raju and fulfill their responsibilities toward national development. Collectorate staff also attended the event to offer their respects. Himanshu Shukla, Pawan Teja, and Vijay Kumar participated.



MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy Visits RSR School

Nellore, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Nellore Member of Parliament Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy visited the RSR Municipal Corporation School in Nellore City constituency on Saturday. He personally inspected various ongoing development works being carried out with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds under his initiative. The MP ordered the concerned authorities to complete these development works as soon as possible to ensure all types of facilities are available to the students quickly. During the visit, Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy also accepted a request made by local walkers to develop the walkway located near the school premises. In addition to the walkway development, he assured that street lights would be installed around the route. This measure will ensure that people walking in the early morning and at night do not face any form of inconvenience.



Only 12 Days Left to Submit Enumeration Forms: Urgent Alert for Voters

Andhra Pradesh, July 4 | TPN Bureau

The process of Comprehensive Revision of Voters List (SIR) is currently underway in Andhra Pradesh. Voters must complete the enumeration forms they have received and submit them to their local Booth Level Officer (BLO) by the July 14 deadline. Out of the 4.16 crore voters in the state, only 1.56 crore voters, which constitutes 37.66%, have returned the filled forms so far. Failure to submit the required form by the specified deadline poses a serious risk, as individual names may not be included in the draft voters list scheduled to be released on July 21. This negligent omission risks the permanent loss of the citizen's right to vote.



Work with Integrity: District SP Ajitha

Nellore, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Nellore District Superintendent of Police Ajitha Vajendla advised newly promoted police officers to work with discipline, honesty, and a sense of service. Eighteen Assistant Sub Inspectors working in the district police department received promotions to Sub Inspectors. The promoted officers held a polite meeting with the District Superintendent of Police at the district police office on Saturday. Ajitha Vajendla congratulated the officers and instructed them to discharge their new responsibilities efficiently and with total commitment to provide better police services to the citizens. She highlighted that performing duties with integrity would elevate the prestige of the department. Following the meeting, the promoted Sub Inspectors also met politely with Additional Superintendent of Police Admin Soujanya.



MLA Arani Srinivasulu receives 54 petitions for Janavani

Tirupati, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena Party MLA Arani Srinivasulu received 54 petitions during a Janavani programme organised at the MLA's office on Saturday morning. Citizens attended this grievance redressal programme to bring their various issues directly to the attention of the MLA. As per the breakdown of the applications received, two petitions were received by the Municipal Corporation Commissioner, five by the Assistant Commissioner, 17 by the SE, four by the Planning Department, and 15 by the Health Officer. In addition, one petition each was received by the Horticulture Officer, Collector, DM&HO, DEO, SPDCL, Srikalahasti RDO, Bird Director, CMRF, and DCO, and three petitions were received by the Tehsildar. Arani Srinivasulu instructed the officials of the respective departments to resolve the issues raised by the people during the Janavani without any delay on the basis of priority. Jana Sena Party Joint District President Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad, City President Raja Reddy, Deputy Commissioner Amariah, Deputy Tahsildar Ramachandraiah, Health Officer Yuva Anvesh, several officials, key leaders and others participated in this program.



tion letters for VIP Break Darshans will not be accepted on July 13 and 16. The temple management has requested devotees to make note of these scheduling adjustments and extend their full cooperation. Additionally, several virtual and physical rituals including Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, Arjita Brahmotsavam, and Sahasra Deepalankara Seva will remain cancelled on July 17.

Editorial

Expecting More Like Vaibhav

The rise of Vaibhav Suryavanshi has become an inspiration for millions of young Indians. By earning a place in the Indian national cricket team at the remarkable age of just 15 years and 3 months, he has created history and proved that age is never a barrier when talent is combined with dedication and hard work. His fearless batting during the latest IPL season was nothing short of a tsunami. The way he attacked world-class bowlers with confidence and aggression won the admiration of cricket lovers across the country.

However, Vaibhav's success is not the result of overnight fame. It is the outcome of years of disciplined practice, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment from childhood. His journey reminds us that extraordinary talent exists in every corner of India. The real challenge lies in identifying, nurturing, and providing equal opportunities to such talent without prejudice or favoritism.

Unfortunately, many aspiring cricketers lose hope because of lobbying, favoritism, and politics at different levels of the game. While talent should be the only criterion for selection, many deserving youngsters often find themselves sidelined. As a result, countless gifted players either abandon their dream or shift to other careers despite possessing the potential to represent the country.

Indian cricket has reached great heights because exceptional players have been given opportunities to shine. To sustain this success, administrators, coaches, selectors, and sports associations must ensure that transparency and merit become the foundation of the selection process. Every talented child, irrespective of background or influence, deserves a fair chance to prove their ability.

India does not need just one Vaibhav Suryavanshi. The country needs hundreds of such young stars emerging from villages, towns, and cities alike. It is the collective responsibility of sports authorities, governments, educational institutions, and society to create an environment where genuine talent flourishes. When merit triumphs over politics, Indian cricket will continue to produce champions who make the nation proud.

Editor

The Cinema Temple: A Visual Chronicle of Suchitra Film Society

Varala Anand
Poet, Film Critic & Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Academi Award for Translation

Film societies emerged across India with a clear and noble objective to cultivate audiences capable of appreciating realistic, artistic, and meaningful cinema and to foster a vibrant culture of film appreciation. Among the many film societies that contributed significantly to the growth of cinematic culture in India, the Suchitra Film Society (SFS) of Bengaluru occupies a distinguished place.

The Cinema Temple, directed by H. N. Narahari Rao, is an ambitious documentary that simultaneously chronicles the five-decade journey of Suchitra Film Society, the history of India's Film Society Movement, and the evolution of a culture of cinematic awareness. Narahari Rao is not merely the director of this documentary; he is one of those rare individuals who dedicated an entire lifetime to the cause of film culture in India.

Watching a good film requires more than purchasing a ticket. It demands a perspective capable of understanding cinema. It requires mentors who can nurture that sensibility. It calls for an eye that can perceive the life, society, politics, philosophy, and art concealed behind the images projected on the screen. The Film Society Movement played a crucial role in cultivating such an eye. Among the institutions that inspired generations of viewers, Suchitra Film Society became a landmark in India's cinematic landscape.

As we watch this documentary, we are not merely observing a building called Suchitra. We are witnessing an era of meaningful cinema. We encounter the dreams of an entire generation. We meet people who, driven solely by their love for cinema and unconcerned with profit or loss, devoted themselves to bringing the finest works of world cinema to their communities.

The story of Suchitra began in Bengaluru in 1971. Yet its founding was more than the birth of an institution; it marked the rebirth

of a discerning audience. It was the collective initiative of a group of young people who believed that cinema was not merely entertainment but an art capable of making human beings more humane.

H. N. Narahari Rao became the founding secretary of Suchitra Film Society in 1971, while Raghavendra served as its treasurer. From that moment onward, Narahari Rao's journey became inseparable from the history of India's Film Society Movement. His contributions have been remarkable as President of the Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI), President of FIPRESCI India, and Artistic Director of the early editions of the Bengaluru International Film Festival.

He represented India and served on juries at some of the world's most prestigious film festivals, including Cannes, Berlin, Karlovy Vary, Busan, and Rome, helping to bridge the gap between global cinema and Indian audiences.

Through the efforts and dedication of countless individuals over many years, Suchitra achieved a historic distinction by becoming one of the first film societies in India to build its own auditorium equipped with modern facilities. The documentary captures this extraordinary journey spanning more than five decades while simultaneously documenting the broader history of India's Film Society Movement and the development of film literacy.

The Cinema Temple is far more than a conventional institutional documentary. It is a visual history of a cultural movement.

Drawing upon rare photographs, archival documents, vintage footage, and interviews with filmmakers, critics, and members, the documentary reconstructs the remarkable journey of Suchitra Film Society. It records the institution's achievements from its founding in 1971 to the creation of its own campus, from introducing world cinema



to audiences to nurturing film appreciation, from organizing film festivals to conducting educational programmes in cinema studies.



The director presents Suchitra not merely as a building but as a temple dedicated to the worship of cinema as art, culture, and a subject of serious study. Here, cinema is not entertainment alone it becomes an idea, an experience, a dialogue, and a collective cultural journey.

Artistically, the documentary's greatest strength lies in its simplicity. Free from exaggeration and dramatic embellishment, it constructs its narrative through archival material, memories, experiences, and reflections. Its pace is calm and contemplative. Rather than seeking to excite the

viewer, it encourages reflection, a quality that lies at the very heart of the Film Society Movement itself.

One of the documentary's greatest achievements is its role as a historical record. Documentaries on India's Film Society Movement are exceedingly rare. Earlier, Varala Anand directed 'KAFISO - A Saga of Film Lovers', a documentary on the Karimnagar Film Society. In that sense, The Cinema Temple becomes an important addition to the visual documentation of India's film culture and film society movement.

Beyond film screenings, Suchitra also became a valuable academic resource for students of Film Studies, Media Studies, and Cultural Studies. The documentary serves as a tribute to the hundreds of volunteers and activists who sustained cinematic culture beyond considerations of profit and commerce. It preserves memories that might otherwise disappear into the passage of time and passes them on to future generations.

Significantly, the film celebrates not the greatness of individuals but the greatness of an idea.

It gently reminds us of a profound truth: "Without good audiences, good cinema cannot exist"

In an age when streaming platforms and algorithms increas-

ingly shape audience preferences, the documentary reaffirms that cinema remains a collective intellectual and cultural experience.

It also reminds us of the historic importance of the Film Society Movement, which introduced Indian audiences to world masters such as Satyajit Ray, Ingmar Bergman, Akira Kurosawa, Federico Fellini, Andrei Tarkovsky, Mrinal Sen, and Adoor Gopalakrishnan.

At the same time, the documentary evokes a certain melancholy. The generation that built and sustained institutions like these is gradually receding into history. The film reminds us that great cinema requires more than great filmmakers; it also requires audiences capable of understanding, loving, discussing, and preserving it.

For anyone who regards cinema as an art form, a cultural practice, and a force of social consciousness, The Cinema Temple is essential viewing.

The present team of office bearers and executive committee members are H. N. Narahari Rao as President, Anand Varadaraj Vice-President, Harish Mallaya Secretary, and N. Shashidhara, Gururaja Murthy, Kusuma Krishna, Nikhil Bharadwaj, Anand Kumar, Sampath Kumar, Naveen Dwarakanath, P. V. Subramanya, and Vidyaranya B. S. as members of the committee.

Cooperation is the Real Strength Behind Social Development

Chitikena Kiran Kumar
Poet, Writer and Noted Editorial Columnist

Member, International Benevolent Research Forum

When we look at world history, it becomes clear that no civilization has grown through individual effort alone. Every society that has progressed has been built on cooperation, shared responsibility and collective participation. This is the very message once again highlighted by the International Day of Cooperatives, observed every year on the first Saturday of July. Development does not simply mean accumulation of wealth; it means building systems where the benefits of progress reach every section of society.

The cooperative movement did not emerge suddenly. After the Industrial Revolution, workers, small traders and ordinary consumers in Europe faced severe economic hardships, which forced them to search for alternative systems. In this process, in 1844, 28 mill workers in Rochdale, England came together and formed the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers, a consumer cooperative society. There was no single founder; it was a collective initiative driven by shared purpose. Principles such as "one member - one vote", democratic decision-making, transpar-

ency, limited profit and member participation became the foundation of the global cooperative movement and continue to guide it even today.

As the movement expanded, its scope also widened significantly. What began as a system to provide essential goods at fair prices gradually extended into agriculture, dairy, banking, insurance, housing, education and healthcare. The dairy cooperatives of New Zealand became globally competitive models. In Spain, worker cooperatives emerged as strong examples of shared ownership and employment security. In many European countries, housing cooperatives provided affordable homes for middle-class families. These examples clearly show that even in a highly competitive market, cooperatives remain relevant when the focus is on social welfare.

In India, the cooperative movement is deeply linked with rural life. To reduce farmers' debt burden and middlemen exploitation, the Cooperative Credit Societies Act was introduced in 1904 during British rule. This marked the beginning of the modern cooperative movement in India. Later, in 1912, the Act was ex-



panded, enabling the formation of cooperatives in various sectors. The movement in India did not have a single founder; it evolved through legal reforms and people's participation.

Over time, cooperatives played a major role in strengthening India's rural economy. The Amul model in Gujarat became a globally recognized example by bringing small milk producers onto a single platform, ensuring fair prices, assured markets and technical support. Similarly, sugar factories, agricultural credit societies, consumer cooperatives, fishermen cooperatives and housing societies have silently contributed to India's

development.

However, not all has been ideal in this journey. In several places, cooperatives have faced issues such as political interference, lack of transparency, irregular elections and weak member participation. In some cases, cooperatives exist only in name without truly functioning as member-driven institutions. The difference between "a cooperative in name" and "cooperative in spirit" is crucial for their survival.

Telangana has also made significant contributions in this regard. Cooperatives have played an important role in agriculture, dairy, weaving and women's self-help groups. In the handloom sector especially,

cooperative societies have provided livelihood, market access and financial stability to thousands of families. Regions like Pochampally, Gadwal, Narayanpet and Sircilla are not only weaving centres but also examples of socio-economic cooperation in action. Collective procurement of raw materials and joint marketing helped weavers reduce dependence on middlemen and improve their income.

In the history of Telangana handlooms, the name of Konda Laxman Babuji holds a special place. He deeply understood the struggles of handloom workers and believed that a weaver is not just a producer of cloth but a carrier of rural cul-

ture, creativity and local economy. He consistently advocated strengthening handloom cooperatives by ensuring raw material supply, credit facilities, marketing support and government protection. His vision of giving dignity to the handloom profession continues to remain relevant even today.

In the present context, the cooperative sector is facing new challenges. With globalization and the expansion of large corporate systems, small producers and traditional artisans are finding it difficult to compete in the market. Consumer preferences are changing rapidly, and digital marketplaces are expanding. In such a situation, cooperatives must adapt to technology. Only by adopting e-marketing, digital payments and online sales platforms can small producers find sustainable opportunities.

At the same time, declining member participation is another concern. In some places, cooperatives are controlled by a few individuals instead of functioning as true member-based organizations. Democratic elections, transparency in accounts, leadership opportunities for youth and greater participation of women are essential to strengthen the system. Cooperation should not mean dependence on the government; it should mean members taking ownership of their institutions.

Today, although economic growth is widely discussed, the question remains whether its

benefits are reaching all sections of society equally. In this context, the relevance of cooperatives becomes even stronger. Unlike profit-driven models, cooperatives place human needs at the centre of development and promote more equitable distribution of benefits. That is why the United Nations and several international organisations recognize cooperatives as key partners in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

The International Day of Cooperatives is not just a calendar event. It is a reminder of the direction in which society is moving, how democratic participation can be strengthened, and how development can be made more inclusive. Cooperation is not merely an economic concept; it is a value system based on trust, equality, responsibility and participation. When these values are strengthened, society becomes stronger.

For the future, cooperatives must evolve with a balanced approach—government support, member awareness, transparent governance, use of modern technology, youth participation and local planning must go hand in hand. The cooperative light lit by 28 workers in Rochdale continues to guide the world even today because it carries a timeless message: collective well-being is greater than individual success, and cooperation is the true foundation of a civilized society.

Congress' Seat-Sharing Demand Puts SP Under Pressure

The Congress has intensified political speculation in Uttar Pradesh by seeking an "equal partnership" with the Samajwadi Party (SP) ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, a move that could reshape opposition politics in the state. With less than a year remaining before the polls, the demand is being viewed as an attempt to strengthen the Congress' bargaining position while keeping alternative political options open.

The debate gained momentum after the Congress appointed Rajendra Pal Gautam as its new Uttar Pradesh in-charge. Besides demanding a larger share of seats in a possible alliance with the SP, Gautam also praised Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, fuelling speculation that the Congress is willing to explore other political equations if negotiations with the SP fail.

According to political sources, the Congress is expected to



seek around 150 seats in any alliance with the SP. However, Akhilesh Yadav's party is reportedly prepared to offer only 70 to 80 seats, making seat-sharing talks increasingly challenging.

Congress leaders argue that their demand is justified by past alliance arrangements. During the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the party contested over 100 seats as part of its alliance with the SP. They also point to the improved per-

formance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, where the Congress won six of the 17 seats it contested in Uttar Pradesh, recording an impressive strike rate and contributing significantly to the INDIA bloc's success.

The history of the Congress-SP relationship has seen several ups and downs. The two parties fought the 2017 Assembly elections together under the "Two Boys of UP" campaign but suffered a heavy defeat. They parted ways in the 2019 Lok

Sabha and 2022 Assembly elections, with the Congress performing poorly and winning only two Assembly seats in 2022.

The political landscape changed in 2024 when both parties reunited under the INDIA alliance. The SP emerged as the largest opposition force in the state with 37 Lok Sabha seats, while the Congress won six seats, helping the opposition significantly improve its performance.

Political observers believe the current seat-sharing negotiations will test the strength of opposition unity. While the Congress hopes to convert its revived electoral performance into greater political space, the SP remains the dominant opposition party with a stronger grassroots organisation. The outcome of these negotiations is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the opposition's strategy for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Navy Airlifts Injured Seafarer From Oil Tanker Off Mumbai

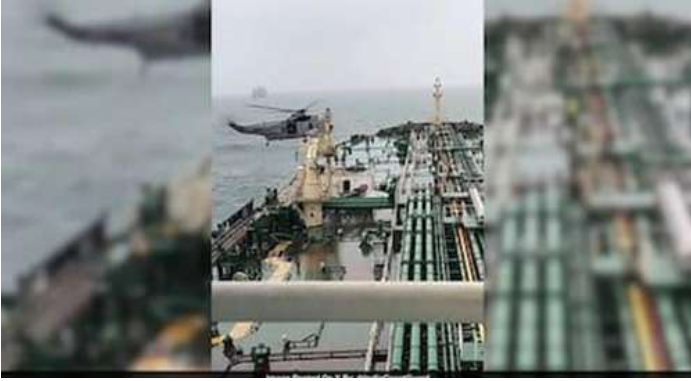
The Indian Navy carried out a swift and challenging medical evacuation operation on Saturday, rescuing an injured seafarer from the crude oil tanker MT Desh Shakti off the Mumbai coast despite adverse weather conditions caused by heavy monsoon rains.

According to the Indian Navy, a Sea King helicopter from INS Shikra was deployed after an emergency request was received for the evacuation of a crew member who had sustained serious injuries while onboard the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) tanker.

The rescue mission was conducted under extremely difficult conditions. Authorities said the region was under a "red alert" due to incessant rainfall, poor visibility and rough sea conditions, making the operation particularly challenging for the helicopter crew.

Despite the hazardous weather, the Sea King helicopter successfully reached the tanker and carried out the evacuation using a rescue basket. The highly trained naval aircrew carefully hoisted the injured seafarer from the vessel before providing immediate medical attention onboard the helicopter.

After stabilising the patient during the flight, the helicopter transported the injured crew member safely to shore, where he was handed over to medical



authorities for urgent treatment at a hospital. The Navy did not disclose the identity of the seafarer or the nature of the injuries sustained.

The operation highlighted the Indian Navy's capability to respond rapidly to emergencies at sea, even under severe weather conditions. Rescue missions during the monsoon season often involve additional risks due to strong winds, heavy rainfall and turbulent waters, requiring exceptional flying skills and precise coordination between the ship and helicopter crew.

The successful evacuation once again demonstrated the operational readiness of the Navy's aviation units, particularly the Sea King helicopters, which continue to play a crucial role in maritime surveillance, search-and-rescue missions, anti-submarine warfare and humanitarian assistance.

In an official statement, the Indian Navy said the mission reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding lives at sea and reflected its role as a dependable first responder in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The Navy regularly undertakes rescue operations involving merchant ships, fishing vessels and other maritime emergencies within India's area of responsibility. Such missions form an integral part of its humanitarian and disaster response efforts, ensuring timely assistance to seafarers in distress.

The successful evacuation of the injured crew member from MT Desh Shakti stands as another example of the Indian Navy's professionalism, operational excellence and unwavering dedication to protecting lives, regardless of the challenges posed by nature.

PM Modi Inaugurates Gujarat Semiconductor Facility

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Gujarat, describing it as a major milestone in India's journey towards becoming a global semiconductor manufacturing hub and achieving the vision of a developed nation under "Viksit Bharat."

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said India is steadily building a complete electronics value chain—from manufacturing finished products and electronic components to producing advanced semiconductor chips. He termed the development the next major phase of the "Make in India" initiative.

"The expansion of the semiconductor industry in India did not happen overnight. It is the next step in the electronics revolution that has taken place in the country over the past decade," Modi said.

During the inauguration, the Prime Minister was presented with the first semiconductor chips manufactured at the facility, which are scheduled to



be exported to Japan. Calling it a proud moment for the country, he said the achievement demonstrates India's growing technological capabilities and its emergence as a trusted partner in the global semiconductor supply chain.

Highlighting the government's long-term vision, Modi said India is working towards creating a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem that includes chip design, fabrication, assembly, packaging and testing. He noted that the Semicon India programme is progressing rapidly and laying a strong foundation for the country's future in advanced electronics

manufacturing.

"First products, then components, and now semiconductors. India is building the entire electronics value chain. This is the roadmap to Viksit Bharat," the Prime Minister remarked.

Modi also underlined the importance of semiconductors in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, automation, electric vehicles and advanced computing. He expressed confidence that Indian youth would play a leading role in driving the next technological revolution with chips manufactured in India.

"India's youth will power the

AI, robotics and next-generation technology revolution with Made in India chips," he said. The Prime Minister emphasized that strengthening domestic semiconductor manufacturing will reduce dependence on imports, enhance technological self-reliance and create thousands of high-skilled employment opportunities for engineers, researchers and technicians.

The inauguration of the Gujarat OSAT facility is expected to significantly boost India's semiconductor ambitions and strengthen its position in the global electronics manufacturing ecosystem. The project is also seen as an important step towards attracting further investments in high-technology sectors while supporting the country's goal of becoming a major global manufacturing destination.

With semiconductor demand rising worldwide, the new facility marks another significant milestone in India's efforts to establish itself as a competitive player in the rapidly evolving global chip industry.

Seethakka Urges Special Financial Relief for Tribal Panchayats



Telangana Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka has urged the 16th Finance Commission to provide special exemptions and financial support for tribal, hill, scheduled and backward gram panchayats, arguing that uniform performance criteria would disadvantage remote and economically weaker regions.

Addressing the National Workshop of State Panchayati Raj Ministers in New Delhi, chaired by Union Panchayat Raj Minister Rajeev Ranjan Singh, Seethakka called for a more inclusive approach while framing recommendations for local bodies. Senior ministers and officials from various states participated in the deliberations.

The minister welcomed the proposal for performance-based grants to gram panchayats but stressed that assessments should not be based solely on tax collection or own-source revenue. Instead, she suggested that equal weight be given to parameters such as sanitation, transparency, digital governance, quality of pub-

lic services and citizen participation.

Seethakka pointed out that many gram panchayats located in tribal and scheduled areas have small populations and limited economic activity, making it difficult for them to generate substantial local revenue. She urged the Finance Commission to grant special exemptions to such panchayats and relax eligibility norms for performance grants in regions with large tribal, hill and Scheduled Caste populations.

The minister also highlighted the issue of 62 gram panchayats in Telangana where elections have been delayed due to pending court cases. She said withholding central development funds from these local bodies was unfair to the residents and appealed for provisions allowing financial assistance to continue in exceptional circumstances where elections are postponed by judicial orders. Emphasising the importance of local decision-making, Seethakka requested the continuation of untied basic grants, enabling gram sabhas to address village-specific pri-

orities without restrictive funding conditions.

She also welcomed digital governance initiatives such as e-Gram Swaraj and the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), but urged the Centre to strengthen internet connectivity, technical infrastructure, staffing and capacity-building programmes to ensure effective implementation in remote villages. The minister further sought greater financial weightage for scheduled areas, backward districts and geographically challenging regions, noting that delivering public services in such areas involves significantly higher costs.

Concluding her address, Seethakka said empowered gram panchayats are essential for building a stronger nation. She stressed that states require adequate financial resources to strengthen rural local bodies and urged the 16th Finance Commission to recommend a balanced framework that promotes cooperative federalism while ensuring equitable development for India's most vulnerable rural communities.

Chandrima Bhattacharya Quits as Bengal TMC Chief Amid Deepening Party Rift

The political turmoil within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) intensified on Saturday after West Bengal state president Chandrima Bhattacharya resigned from her post, barely a month after taking charge of the organisation. Her resignation marks another major setback for the Mamata Banerjee-led faction as the party continues to grapple with internal divisions following its defeat in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections.

In her resignation letter addressed to party chief Mamata Banerjee, Bhattacharya stepped down not only as state president but also relinquished all other organisational responsibilities within the party. She further withdrew herself as the authorised signatory for the party's bank accounts and as the representative handling TMC matters before the Election Commission.

Bhattacharya, a long-time associate of Mamata Banerjee and former minister who handled important portfolios including



Finance and Health, had been appointed state president on June 3, replacing veteran leader Subrata Bakshi.

Speaking to reporters after submitting her resignation, Bhattacharya revealed that her decision was prompted by a telephone conversation with Mamata Banerjee. She claimed the TMC chief blamed her for allowing the Ritabrata Banerjee-led rebel faction to take control of Trinamool Bhavan, the party's operational headquarters in Kolkata.

The rebel faction had entered the party office on Friday, held a meeting inside the premises, changed the locks and declared

that it would operate from the headquarters. Although Bhattacharya was present in the office when the rebels arrived, she left shortly afterwards.

"I was deeply hurt when my loyalty and trustworthiness were questioned. Once that foundation is shaken, there is no reason for me to continue," Bhattacharya told reporters.

While she declined to confirm whether she would formally join the rebel camp, she later attended a meeting with dissident leaders, including Leader of Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee, at the West Bengal Assembly. She stated that she was yet to decide her future political course.

Bhattacharya's resignation comes shortly after her son, former Kolkata Municipal Corporation councillor Sourav Basu, joined the rebel faction.

The development reflects the widening split within the Trinamool Congress following its electoral setback earlier this year. Several senior leaders, including former Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim, veteran MLA Jawed Khan and Golam Rabbani, have already aligned with the dissident camp. Additionally, a significant number of the party's Lok Sabha members have reportedly joined a breakaway bloc that has extended support to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The rebellion has now evolved into a full-scale organisational crisis, with both factions staking claim to the party headquarters, symbol and financial assets. The Election Commission has initiated proceedings to examine the dispute, while the future leadership and organisational control of the Trinamool Congress remain uncertain.

Farmers' Body Backs Students' Protest, Plans Jantar Mantar Visit

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), which spearheaded the nationwide farmers' protest against the now-repealed farm laws in 2020-21, has announced that a delegation will visit Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Sunday to express solidarity with students protesting over alleged examination irregularities.

According to a statement issued by the SKM, the delegation will reach the protest site at 11 a.m. and extend support to the

students participating in the agitation. The farmers' body said it also stood in solidarity with climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has reportedly been participating in the protest demanding accountability in the education system.

In a letter addressed to the organisers of the demonstration, the SKM expressed support for what it described as a peaceful democratic movement and conveyed sympathy to students and

families allegedly affected by repeated examination-related issues, including paper leaks and irregularities.

The organisation stated that every student has the right to a transparent, fair and credible examination system and asserted that ensuring such standards is the responsibility of the government.

The SKM recalled that its National Council had earlier adopted a resolution supporting stu-

dents demanding greater accountability in the conduct of competitive examinations and opposing what it termed growing irregularities in the education sector.

Highlighting the connection between farmers and students, the farmers' body said that the youth represent the future of the country and that many students come from farming families. It maintained that the struggles of students and youth are closely

linked with those of farmers and that democratic organisations have a moral responsibility to support young people seeking justice.

The organisation expressed hope that its visit to the protest site would strengthen the movement and encourage constructive dialogue between the protesters and the government. It also called for measures to restore public confidence in the examination system through greater transpar-

ency and accountability.

In its appeal, the SKM urged students, youth, farmers, workers and citizens from different sections of society to participate peacefully in the demonstration and support demands for reforms in the education and examination process.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha is a coalition of several farmers' organisations, primarily from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. It gained national prominence

after leading the year-long agitation against the three central farm laws introduced by the Union government. Following prolonged protests, the Centre repealed the three laws in November 2021.

The latest announcement signals the SKM's decision to extend its support beyond agrarian issues by expressing solidarity with student movements raising concerns over examination governance and accountability.

India Sends High-Level Delegation to Ayatollah Khamenei's Funeral

India was represented by Union Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita and Bihar Governor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain at the funeral ceremony of Iran's former Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, held in Tehran. The two leaders paid their respects on behalf of the Government and the people of India, reaffirming the long-standing civilizational ties between the two nations.

Following the ceremony, Pabitra Margherita shared on social media that the Indian delegation had conveyed condolences and respect to the Iranian leadership and people. Bihar Raj Bhavan also confirmed Governor Hasnain's participation, stating that he expressed sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives during the recent conflict in West Asia.

The Embassy of Iran in India acknowledged the presence of the Indian delegation by



sharing visuals of the tribute ceremony. In a separate post, the embassy also highlighted the participation of a delegation of Indian religious leaders who paid homage to the late Iranian leader.

According to official sources, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian had extended an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the funeral. However, the Indian government nominated Minister of State Pabitra Margherita and Governor Syed Ata Hasnain as its official representatives.

Former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid attended the ceremony on behalf of the Congress party.

Responding to media queries during a weekly briefing, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed that the Indian delegation represented the Government of India at the funeral. He noted that the high-level participation reflected the importance India attaches to its historic relationship with Iran.

The Ministry of External Affairs earlier stated that the representation underscores the deep-rooted civilizational links, strong people-to-people contacts, and enduring political and economic engagement between the two countries. India and Iran have maintained close cooperation in areas including trade, connectivity, energy, and regional security over the years.

The funeral ceremonies are being conducted in phases across Iran. While the official mourning ceremony was held in Tehran, the main public funeral procession is scheduled for July 6. Additional memorial events will take place in the holy city of Qom on July 7, with the final burial ceremony planned in Mashhad, the late leader's hometown, on July 9.

India's participation in the funeral reflects its continued commitment to maintaining constructive diplomatic engagement with Iran and honouring the longstanding friendship between the two nations.

India-Israel Investment Pact Comes into Force



The Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) between India and Israel officially came into force on July 4, 2026, marking a significant milestone in the economic relationship between the two countries. The agreement is expected to strengthen investor confidence, promote cross-border investments, and deepen long-term economic cooperation between India and Israel.

The agreement was signed on September 8, 2025, in New Delhi by the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel. Its implementation follows the completion of all required legal and procedural formalities by both countries.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the BIA establishes a transparent and predictable legal framework for investments, providing stronger protection to investors and their investments while preserving the sovereign right of both governments to regulate in the public interest.

The agreement has been designed in line with India's modern investment treaty framework. It balances investor protection with the government's ability to pursue legitimate public policy objectives, including measures related to public health, environmental

protection, national security, and financial stability. The treaty reflects evolving international investment law and contemporary global standards governing bilateral investment agreements.

Officials said the BIA is expected to encourage greater investment flows between India and Israel by reducing uncertainty and enhancing legal certainty for businesses operating across both markets. The agreement provides confidence to investors by laying down clear rules regarding investment protection, fair treatment, dispute resolution, and other investment-related obligations.

India and Israel have steadily expanded their strategic partnership over the past three decades, with cooperation spanning defence, agriculture, water management, innovation, cybersecurity, renewable energy, healthcare, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing. Bilateral trade has also witnessed consistent growth, supported by increasing business collaborations and technology partnerships.

The new investment agreement is expected to provide additional momentum to this relationship by facilitating long-term investments in key sectors such as infrastructure, technology, clean energy, re-

search and development, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, digital innovation, and manufacturing.

Government officials believe the treaty will also strengthen business confidence among companies seeking to establish or expand operations in either country. By offering a stable and rules-based investment environment, the BIA aims to attract fresh capital while supporting sustainable economic growth and employment generation.

The agreement also reflects the commitment of both governments to fostering closer economic integration and creating a business-friendly environment for investors.

The India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement 2026 has been made available on the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance website, enabling investors, businesses, and other stakeholders to access the complete provisions of the treaty.

With the agreement now in force, India and Israel are expected to witness stronger investment cooperation, enhanced commercial engagement, and deeper economic ties in the years ahead, further reinforcing their comprehensive strategic partnership.

Trump Hails Founding Fathers Ahead of America's 250th Anniversary

South Dakota, July 5: US President Donald Trump paid glowing tributes to four of America's most influential founding leaders during a patriotic address at Mount Rushmore, as the United States marked the eve of its 250th Independence Day celebrations.

Addressing a large gathering, Trump praised George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt, describing them as "American giants" whose leadership shaped the nation's destiny.

He said the four leaders embodied courage, intelligence, ambition, and determination, adding that their achievements continue to inspire generations of Americans. According to Trump, the monument serves as a lasting reminder of the values that built the United States



and the ideals that continue to define the country's identity.

Calling them "men of action" and "great men of history," Trump said they declared, secured, defended, and preserved American freedom. He urged citizens to rededicate themselves to building a nation that reflects the same boldness and greatness demonstrated by these historic leaders.

The President also highlighted America's contributions to global progress, describing the

country as the birthplace of numerous technological, scientific, and cultural innovations. He credited the United States with pioneering inventions such as the light bulb, telephone, airplane, assembly line, personal computer, internet, GPS, and smartphone. He also pointed to achievements including mapping the human genome, harnessing nuclear energy, and landing astronauts on the Moon.

Trump further praised the

country's influence in entertainment, sports, and research, noting that Americans have earned the highest number of Nobel Prizes, Olympic medals, patents, and world records. He also cited the nation's role in developing globally popular sports such as baseball, basketball, football, volleyball, NASCAR, and rodeo.

Describing the United States as "the greatest civilization in human history," Trump said the country's pioneers forged a unique national character built on freedom, resilience, and innovation.

Concluding his address, the President vowed to safeguard the legacy of America's founders, declaring that no one would be allowed to diminish the nation's heritage or achievements as it enters its 250th year of independence.

5.5-Magnitude Earthquake Jolts Central Chile Coast

A moderate earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale struck off the coast of central Chile on Friday, according to the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ). The tremor occurred at a shallow depth of 10 kilometres beneath the Earth's surface, a factor that can increase the intensity of ground shaking in nearby areas.

The GFZ reported that the earthquake's epicentre was located near Chile's central coastline, a region that frequently experiences seismic activity due to its position along the Pacific Ring of Fire. No immediate reports of casualties, injuries, or significant property damage were available following the quake.

Authorities are continuing to assess the impact of the earthquake while monitoring the affected areas for any aftershocks. Emergency response agencies have advised residents to remain alert and follow official safety instructions



as inspections of infrastructure and public utilities continue.

Chile is one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries because it lies on the boundary where the Nazca tectonic plate subducts beneath the South American plate. This ongoing geological process generates frequent earthquakes of varying magnitudes, ranging from minor tremors to powerful seismic events capable of causing widespread destruction.

The country has developed

one of the world's most advanced earthquake preparedness and response systems. Strict building regulations, regular disaster preparedness drills, and efficient emergency management have significantly reduced the impact of many earthquakes over the years.

Although Friday's 5.5-magnitude quake is classified as moderate, experts note that shallow earthquakes can be strongly felt over a wide area. Residents in coastal communities reported noticeable shaking, prompting many people to briefly

evacuate buildings as a precaution. Seismologists continue to monitor the region for aftershocks, which commonly follow earthquakes as the Earth's crust adjusts after the initial release of energy. Most aftershocks are smaller than the main event, though some can still be strong enough to cause additional damage to already weakened structures.

At the time of reporting, there were no tsunami warnings issued by the relevant authorities, indicating that the earthquake was not expected to generate dangerous sea waves.

Officials have urged the public to remain calm while staying informed through official government and emergency management channels. Citizens have also been reminded to keep emergency kits ready and review earthquake safety procedures, as Chile's geographical location makes seismic events an ongoing natural hazard requiring constant preparedness.

Massive US Fireworks Display Sparks Health and Environmental Concerns

Washington is preparing to host what organizers describe as the world's largest fireworks display as part of the United States' 250th Independence anniversary celebrations, but the ambitious spectacle has also sparked widespread concern among health experts, environmentalists and animal welfare advocates.

The "Freedom250" initiative, backed by the Trump administration, plans to launch more than 850,000 fireworks from 10 locations around the Lincoln Memorial and the Potomac River. The 40-minute display is expected to surpass the current Guinness World Record for the largest fireworks show, set in the Philippines in 2016.

Organizers have promoted the event as a once-in-a-generation celebration featuring aerial displays, military flyovers, cultural performances and large public gatherings. However, the total cost of the event has not been disclosed.

Scientists have warned that the massive fireworks display could



significantly deteriorate air quality. Atmospheric chemistry experts say fireworks release large amounts of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which can penetrate deep into the lungs, enter the bloodstream and increase the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular problems.

Professor Russell Dickerson of the University of Maryland cautioned that launching such an enormous number of fireworks during hot weather and already polluted conditions could expose thousands of spectators to unhealthy levels of airborne pollutants. Experts noted that smoke

may linger longer because of the ongoing heat wave affecting the eastern United States.

Air quality specialists also highlighted that fireworks emit trace metals and volatile organic compounds that contribute to pollution. According to environmental monitoring data, Washington experienced hazardous spikes in PM2.5 levels during last year's Independence Day celebrations, with pollution reaching levels comparable to some of the world's most polluted cities.

Animal welfare groups have also voiced concern over the impact of the loud explosions. Veteri-

narians say fireworks often cause severe stress in pets, particularly dogs, leading to panic, trembling and attempts to flee. Wildlife experts warn that birds and other animals can also suffer long-term disturbances to their natural habitats. Environmental researchers further pointed to studies showing that chemicals used in fireworks, including perchlorate, can contaminate groundwater and surface water after large displays.

Despite the concerns, supporters argue that fireworks remain an important part of American tradition and national celebrations. Public health experts acknowledge the cultural significance of Independence Day but encourage authorities to balance patriotic festivities with environmental protection and public health considerations.

The record-breaking display is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of spectators as the United States marks its historic 250th anniversary.

India Names 23 Terror Operatives Under Security Crackdown



India has intensified its counter-terrorism efforts by identifying and pursuing several individuals allegedly linked to Pakistan-based terrorist organisations, including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), Al-Qaeda, and ISIS. The latest list includes operatives accused of involvement in terror financing, recruitment, logistics, cross-border infiltration, drone-based arms smuggling, and conspiracy to carry out attacks in India.

Among those named is Mohammad Yaqoob, also known as Abu Sumama, who is alleged to serve as an operational commander of LeT from Islamabad. Investigators claim he coordinated financial and logistical support for militants operating in the Kashmir Valley, and a case has been registered against him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Another individual, Maulana Yusuf Taibi, has been identified as a senior JuD and LeT functionary associated with the organisations'

religious outreach and administrative activities. Authorities allege he has held leadership positions within institutions linked to the network.

Indian national Owais Farooz has also been named. According to investigators, he travelled to Pakistan in 2018 and allegedly joined LeT. Officials say a proclamation order has been issued against him by a National Investigation Agency (NIA) court after he failed to appear before investigators.

The list further includes Qari Yaqub Sheikh, who has been accused of raising funds internationally for LeT and JuD and has previously been designated a global terrorist by the United States. Rana Iftikhar, described as a close associate of LeT leadership, is alleged to have managed finances for the group's Kashmir operations and welfare activities for families of imprisoned or deceased militants. Security agencies have also identified Wasim Noor Jat, also known as Qari Wasim, as a JeM operative allegedly involved in coordinating

drone-based delivery of weapons and ammunition into Indian territory during 2021 and 2022. One of the most significant names on the list is Mohammad Shahid Faisal, who investigators allege has maintained links with LeT, Al-Qaeda, and ISIS while operating from Pakistan. Authorities accuse him of acting as a handler in multiple terrorism-related investigations, including cases involving the 2024 Rameswaram Cafe blast, the Mangaluru cooker blast, and alleged ISIS recruitment networks. He is also accused of using encrypted messaging platforms and social media channels to radicalise and recruit individuals.

Indian security agencies say the action is part of broader efforts to dismantle cross-border terror networks, disrupt financing channels, and prevent recruitment and infiltration. Authorities continue to pursue legal action under anti-terror laws while coordinating with international partners in cases involving designated global terrorists and transnational extremist networks.

Happy Steels to Launch ₹25-Crore IPO on July 9

Punjab-based precision automotive components manufacturer Happy Steels is set to launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO) on July 9, aiming to raise nearly 25 crore through a fresh issue of equity shares. The company plans to utilize the proceeds to strengthen its business operations and support future growth initiatives. The IPO consists entirely of a fresh issue of 37.88 lakh equity shares, with no offer-for-sale (OFS) component. This means the entire amount raised from the issue will flow directly to the company, enabling it to fund its expansion plans rather than providing an exit route for existing shareholders. The company has fixed the price band at 62 to 66 per equity share, valuing Happy Steels at approximately 94 crore at the upper end of the price band. At the maximum issue price, the company expects to mobilize around 25 crore from the public offering. Ahead of the public subscription, the anchor investor portion of the issue will open for a single day on July 8. The IPO will then remain open for public subscription from July 9 to July 11, giving investors three days to bid for shares. Happy Steels manufactures precision automotive components that cater to the automobile industry, supplying prod-



ucts designed to meet stringent quality and engineering standards. The company has built its business around manufacturing specialized components for automotive applications and aims to leverage increasing demand from the sector to expand its operations. The IPO comes at a time when investor interest in small and medium enterprise (SME) public issues remains robust. Several manufacturing companies have tapped the capital markets in recent months to fund capacity expansion, technology upgrades, working capital requirements, and business development. By opting for a fresh issue, Happy Steels intends to strengthen its financial position and create additional production capabilities to meet growing customer demand. The company is also expected to focus on improving operational efficiency and en-

hancing its manufacturing infrastructure. The automobile component industry continues to benefit from rising vehicle production, increasing localization of manufacturing, and the growing shift toward advanced engineering solutions. Companies operating in the sector are also exploring opportunities arising from the expansion of electric vehicles and exports. Market participants will closely watch the subscription response to Happy Steels' IPO, as investor appetite for manufacturing and auto ancillary businesses has remained encouraging. The company's listing is expected to provide it with greater visibility, improved access to capital, and a stronger platform for long-term growth while offering investors an opportunity to participate in its future expansion journey.

Temasek Arm Sells 2.2% Stake in PB Fintech for ₹1,633 Crore

Singapore-based investment giant Temasek Holdings, through its indirect wholly owned subsidiary Macritchie Investments Pte Ltd, has sold a 2.2 percent stake in PB Fintech Ltd, the parent company of Policybazaar and Paisabazaar, in a major block deal worth 1,632.98 crore. According to bulk deal data released by the stock exchanges, Macritchie Investments of-floated 1.01 crore equity shares through open market transactions on July 3. The shares were sold at an average price of 1,604.12 per share. Following the large stake sale, PB Fintech's stock witnessed heavy selling pressure on Friday. The shares opened with a sharp gap-down and ended the trading session 5.4 percent lower at 1,591.20 on the National Stock Exchange amid significantly higher trading volumes. As per the company's March 2026 shareholding pattern, Macritchie Investments held a



6.47 percent stake in PB Fintech before the transaction. After selling 2.2 percent equity, the Temasek subsidiary continues to remain a significant shareholder in the company. PB Fintech operates two of India's leading digital financial platforms—Policybazaar, an online insurance marketplace, and Paisabazaar, a digital lending and credit platform. The company has emerged as one of the country's largest fintech players, offering insurance comparison, policy purchases, loan products, and other finan-

cial services. Large institutional investors periodically trim their holdings as part of portfolio rebalancing or investment strategy adjustments. Such stake sales do not necessarily indicate any change in the company's business fundamentals but often influence short-term market sentiment due to the increased supply of shares. The sharp fall in PB Fintech's share price reflected investor caution following the sizeable transaction, even though the sale was executed through the open market. Market participants will now monitor future shareholding disclosures and institutional activity to assess the impact of the transaction on the stock. PB Fintech has remained in focus in recent quarters on the back of improving financial performance, growing insurance penetration, and expanding digital financial services, making it one of the closely tracked fintech stocks in the Indian equity market.

SEBI Revamps Rules for Unpaid Client Securities

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a revamped framework for handling unpaid client securities, bringing in an investor-friendly system that strengthens shareholder protection while allowing stock brokers to recover legitimate dues. The new regulations introduce an automatic pledge and automatic release mechanism, replacing the earlier framework introduced in 2019 and amended in 2022. The revised norms come in response to representations made by the Brokers' Industry Standards Forum (ISF), which highlighted operational challenges under the existing system and recommended changes to better align with the current market structure, where securities are credited directly to investors' demat accounts. Under the new framework, shares purchased by a client but remaining unpaid will continue to be credited directly into the client's demat account. However, these securities will automatically be pledged in favour of a separate Client Unpaid Securities Pledgee Account (CUS-PA) maintained by the broker. This mechanism enables brokers to secure their financial exposure without taking owner-



ship or custody of the client's shares. A key feature of the revised framework is the introduction of a strict timeline for brokers to act. SEBI has capped the period during which brokers can retain the pledge over unpaid securities. If the broker does not invoke the pledge or initiate recovery proceedings within five trading days, the pledge will be automatically released, restoring complete control of the securities to the investor. The regulator has also prohibited brokers from using unpaid client securities to raise funds or obtain financing for their own business purposes. This restriction aims to prevent the misuse of client assets and further strengthen investor confidence in the securities market. SEBI stated that the revised framework strikes a balance be-

tween safeguarding investors' rights and enabling brokers to recover outstanding payments efficiently. By introducing an automated process, the regulator expects to reduce disputes, improve transparency, and eliminate delays associated with manual intervention. The changes are expected to simplify operational procedures for market participants while ensuring greater accountability among stock brokers. Investors will continue to receive securities directly into their demat accounts, reinforcing the principle that ownership remains with the client even when payment obligations are pending. Market experts believe the new framework will enhance trust in India's capital markets by providing a more transparent and secure system for handling unpaid securities. The automated pledge and release mechanism is also expected to reduce compliance burdens, improve settlement efficiency, and strengthen overall investor protection. With these reforms, SEBI continues its efforts to modernise market infrastructure and create a regulatory environment that protects investors while ensuring the smooth functioning of the securities market.

SEBI Clears Waaree Promoter Trust Transfer Without Open Offer

India's capital markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has granted an exemption to Waaree Energies Limited's promoter family from making a mandatory open offer as part of a succession planning exercise. The regulator ruled that the proposed transfer of promoter shareholding to a family trust is an internal restructuring measure that does not alter the company's control structure or adversely affect public shareholders. The exemption allows the CT Doshi Family Trust to acquire a direct 44.88 percent stake in Waaree Energies from promoter Chimanlal Tribhuvandas Doshi. In addition, the trust will gain an indirect 18.34 percent stake through the acquisition of nearly 100 percent of Waaree Sustainable Finance Pvt. Ltd., a promoter group entity. Under normal circumstances, such a large acquisition would have triggered the provisions of the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011,



commonly known as the Takeover Code. These rules require an acquirer crossing 25 percent voting rights or obtaining control of a listed company to make an open offer to public shareholders. Similar requirements also apply to indirect acquisitions through holding companies or trusts. However, after examining the proposal, SEBI concluded that the transaction is a non-commercial, family succession arrangement aimed solely at ensuring continuity of ownership and governance within the promoter family. Since there is no change in the ulti-

mate control or management of Waaree Energies, the regulator found that the interests of minority shareholders would remain unaffected. The regulator observed that the restructuring is intended to facilitate an orderly transfer of wealth and management across generations rather than to acquire control for commercial purposes. As a result, the exemption from the mandatory open offer requirement was considered appropriate. Succession planning through family trusts has increasingly become a preferred mechanism for promoter fami-

lies of listed companies to ensure smooth ownership transitions while maintaining long-term stability. Such trusts help preserve business continuity, simplify estate planning, and reduce the risk of ownership disputes among future generations. SEBI has, in the past, granted similar exemptions in cases where transfers were purely inter-generational and did not involve any change in the controlling shareholders or governance framework. The latest decision reinforces the regulator's approach of distinguishing genuine succession planning from acquisitions intended to alter corporate control. Waaree Energies, one of India's leading solar energy companies, will continue to remain under the control of the existing promoter family following the transfer. The exemption enables the restructuring to proceed without requiring an open offer, while ensuring that the rights and interests of public shareholders remain protected.

Artha Bharat Launches India's First Physical Gold Fund for IIBX

Artha Bharat Investment Managers has launched India's first physical gold fund authorised by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), marking a significant milestone in the country's bullion investment ecosystem. The new fund is expected to boost institutional participation in the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) and strengthen India's position as a global bullion trading hub. The fund has been designed to provide institutional investors with direct exposure to physical gold through a regulated investment structure. By enabling investments backed by physical bullion, the initiative aims to offer greater transparency, security, and efficiency while encouraging wider participation in the international bullion market operating from Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Artha Bharat said the launch aligns with India's broader vision of establishing the IIBX as a globally competitive bullion exchange. Increased institutional participation is expected to improve



market liquidity, enhance price discovery, and facilitate more efficient gold trading within the country's financial ecosystem. The India International Bullion Exchange, inaugurated in 2022 at GIFT City, serves as India's first international bullion exchange, allowing qualified jewellers, banks, bullion dealers, and institutional participants to directly import and trade gold and silver. The platform was established to reduce India's dependence on overseas bullion exchanges and make domestic pricing more competitive. The newly launched physical gold fund is expected to attract domestic and interna-

tional institutional investors seeking regulated access to physical gold without the operational complexities associated with direct bullion ownership. Investors can gain exposure to gold through professionally managed investments while benefiting from a regulated framework overseen by the IFSCA. Market experts believe the fund could play an important role in broadening the investor base of the IIBX, particularly among pension funds, family offices, alternative investment funds, and other institutional entities looking to diversify their portfolios with physical gold assets. Gold continues to be regard-

ed as a preferred safe-haven investment, especially during periods of market volatility, inflationary pressures, and geopolitical uncertainty. India's position as one of the world's largest consumers of gold further enhances the importance of developing sophisticated investment products linked to the precious metal. The launch also reflects the growing maturity of India's financial markets, where innovative investment vehicles are being introduced to meet evolving investor preferences. By combining physical gold ownership with a regulated fund structure, Artha Bharat aims to create a credible investment avenue that supports both wealth preservation and long-term portfolio diversification. With the introduction of this pioneering fund, Artha Bharat expects to contribute to the growth of India's bullion ecosystem while supporting the government's efforts to position GIFT City and the India International Bullion Exchange as globally recognised centres for precious metals trading and investment.

Markets Extend Four-Week Rally Despite Rupee Weakness

Indian equity markets extended their winning streak to a fourth consecutive week, with benchmark indices closing at their highest levels in nearly two months. Positive global cues, easing crude oil prices, renewed optimism over a possible India-US trade agreement, and the revival of the southwest monsoon boosted investor sentiment, even as the Indian rupee weakened sharply against the US dollar. For the week, the BSE Sensex advanced 663.44 points (0.86%) to settle at 77,763.91, while the Nifty 50 gained 214.85 points (0.89%) to close at 24,270.85. Softer crude prices, driven by improving prospects for a US-Iran peace arrangement and easing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, also supported the rally. Sectoral performance remained broadly positive. The Nifty Realty Index emerged as the biggest gainer, surging nearly 8 percent, followed by the Nifty Pharma and Nifty Healthcare indices, which rose around 3 percent each. The Nifty Capital Market and Nifty Defence indices also posted gains of nearly 2 percent. However, banking stocks underperformed, with the Nifty



PSU Bank Index falling 2.6 percent, while the Nifty Energy Index slipped 1 percent. The Nifty Bank and Nifty Private Bank indices also ended the week marginally lower. In the broader market, the Nifty Midcap 100 Index rose 0.6 percent, led by gains in Oberoi Realty, L&T Finance, One 97 Communications (Paytm), Godrej Properties, Phoenix Mills, and Prestige Estates Projects. Among the notable losers were KPIT Technologies, Tata Elxsi, Waaree Energies, Bharat Heavy Electricals, JSW Energy, and Indian Bank. The Nifty Smallcap 100 Index outperformed with a 2 percent

gain, supported by strong buying in Aegis Logistics, Zensar Technologies, Ather Energy, Five-Star Business Finance, Inventurus Knowledge Solutions, Delhivery, and City Union Bank. Stocks such as Tata Chemicals, Tata Technologies, NBCC (India), and Indraprastha Gas ended the week in negative territory. The rally added nearly 5 lakh crore to the total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies. Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Eternal, and Bajaj Finserv were among the biggest contributors to the increase in market value, while Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries, and Kotak Mahindra Bank witnessed the largest ero-

sion in market capitalisation. Institutional investment trends remained mixed. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers, offloading equities worth around 4,000 crore during the week. In contrast, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) provided strong support by investing 12,633.54 crore, helping offset foreign outflows and sustaining the market's upward momentum. Despite the gains in equities, the Indian rupee weakened considerably. The domestic currency ended the week at 95.22 per US dollar, compared with 94.40 in the previous week, marking a depreciation of 82 paise. During the week, the rupee traded in a range of 94.24 to 95.39, reflecting continued volatility amid global trade concerns and external market pressures. With benchmark indices maintaining their upward trajectory and domestic institutional support remaining strong, market participants will now closely monitor global developments, corporate earnings, inflation trends, and policy announcements for further direction in the coming weeks.

America@250: Grand Celebrations Light Up Skies

The United States has begun marking a historic milestone as celebrations for the 250th anniversary of American independence unfolded with dazzling displays, military pageantry and patriotic events across the country.

Ahead of the official Independence Day observance on July 4, cities across America witnessed spectacular aerial performances, drone shows and fireworks, symbolising two and a half centuries of freedom and nationhood. The commemorative events, organised under the "America 250" initiative, showcased the country's

history, achievements and cultural legacy.

In Texas, vibrant pyrotechnic displays illuminated the night sky, featuring iconic American imagery including the bald eagle and Uncle Sam. Thousands gathered to witness the celebrations as fireworks created colourful patterns, reflecting the spirit of national pride.

One of the major attractions was held in North Richland Hills, Texas, where an impressive drone show involving nearly 2,500 drones captivated audiences. The drones formed giant images of a rocket, a

soaring bald eagle and the likeness of George Washington, America's first president, offering a blend of technology and patriotism.

The celebrations also extended to the nation's capital, Washington DC, where the Great American State Fair hosted several commemorative events. Military flypasts added grandeur to the occasion as elite parachute teams descended into the National Mall carrying a massive American flag. Spectators were treated to thrilling aerial demonstrations by fighter jets and precision flying teams, highlighting the coun-

try's military traditions.

Elsewhere, patriotic visuals transformed some of America's most recognisable landmarks. The Sphere in Las Vegas displayed striking images celebrating the nation's journey, while the Washington Monument was illuminated with visuals depicting significant moments in American history. The festivities were not limited to the United States alone. The 250th anniversary celebrations resonated internationally, with landmarks in Tokyo, Japan, joining in the commemorations. Tokyo Tower, Rainbow Bridge and the To-

kyo Aqua Symphony were illuminated in red, white and blue, symbolising friendship and longstanding ties between the two nations.

The United States Embassy in Tokyo encouraged residents and visitors to participate in the celebrations by sharing photographs and experiences, reflecting the global reach of the commemorative events.

As America celebrates 250 years since declaring its independence, the nationwide festivities represent not only a tribute to its past but also a reflection on its future aspirations. Through fireworks,



drone technology, military displays and international participation, the anniversary celebrations have become a powerful symbol of unity, resilience and national identity.

AI Exposes Festival Ticketing Flaw



Artificial intelligence has once again highlighted its growing influence in cybersecurity after helping a researcher uncover a significant vulnerability in a ticketing platform used by some of the largest music festivals in the United States.

The issue was discovered by independent cybersecurity researcher Ian Carroll, who used an advanced AI model developed by Anthropic to identify a weakness in the systems operated by Front Gate Tickets. The company manages ticket sales and event access for several prominent festivals, including Lollapalooza, Bonnaroo, South by Southwest and Austin City Limits.

According to Carroll, the vulnerability had the potential to expose millions of customer and staff records and could have allowed unauthorised users to generate event tickets, including high-value VIP passes. He stated that the artificial intelligence system assisted in identifying a method to bypass security protections designed to prevent a known category of cyberattacks.

Carroll explained that the AI tool suggested techniques and pathways that he had not initially considered, ultimately helping him gain access to administrative controls within the ticketing infrastructure. Despite obtaining access

to sensitive areas of the system, he stressed that no tickets were created, altered or misused. Instead, the findings were immediately reported to the company through responsible disclosure practices.

Front Gate Tickets responded swiftly after receiving the report and confirmed that the vulnerability was resolved within 24 hours. The company said there was no evidence indicating that customer information had been compromised or that malicious actors had exploited the flaw before it was fixed.

Company officials clarified that the weakness affected an internal platform used by event entry scanners rather

than customer-facing ticket purchasing systems. They also noted that several premium access categories rely on physical RFID wristbands, which could not have been generated through the identified vulnerability.

The incident has renewed discussions about the expanding role of artificial intelligence in cybersecurity. While AI-powered systems are increasingly being used to strengthen digital defences and identify weaknesses before attackers can exploit them, experts caution that the same technology can accelerate the discovery of vulnerabilities in complex software systems.

Anthropic stated that its Cyber Verification Program enables authorised security researchers to use advanced AI tools in a controlled and responsible manner to improve online safety. The company emphasised that it has safeguards in place to detect and prevent attempts to misuse its technology for illegal hacking activities.

Cybersecurity specialists believe the episode serves as a reminder that organisations must continuously upgrade their security practices as artificial intelligence becomes more capable, sophisticated and widely available. The growing adoption of AI is expected to transform cybersecurity, presenting both powerful opportunities for defence and new challenges in protecting critical digital infrastructure.

Promise Fulfilled, Mother Soars High



A heartwarming video capturing a son's effort to fulfil a childhood promise to his mother has touched millions of people on social media, turning an emotional family moment into an inspiring story of love, gratitude and perseverance.

Instagram influencer Yogesh Rawat shared a video documenting his mother's first-ever helicopter ride, a dream he had promised to make come true when he was a young boy. The touching journey unfolded in the picturesque hill town of Munsyari, where Rawat finally fulfilled the promise he had cherished for years.

In the video, Rawat recalls telling his mother during his childhood that once he became successful, he would take her on a helicopter ride. Years later, he was able to honour that commitment, making the experience a deeply emotional milestone for both mother and son.

While his mother initially appeared excited about the adventure, her enthusiasm soon turned into nervousness as she came face-to-face with the heli-

copter. Overcome with fear, she hesitated to board the aircraft and held onto her son's leg, expressing concerns about the journey ahead.

Rawat patiently comforted and reassured her, telling her that she had nothing to fear because he would be by her side throughout the ride. His words gradually eased her anxiety, allowing her to gather the confidence to step aboard.

As the helicopter ascended into the sky, her apprehension slowly faded away and was replaced by amazement and joy. The video shows her becoming increasingly comfortable, taking in the breathtaking aerial views and enjoying the unique experience. At one point, she even wore her son's sunglasses and enthusiastically gestured with excitement, fully embracing the adventure.

The stunning landscapes visible from above added to the emotional significance of the moment. Rawat shared panoramic views of his village and surrounding mountains, describing their beauty as compa-

able to some of the most scenic destinations in the world.

Reflecting on the experience, Rawat said that although he was the one taking his mother on the journey, it was the child within him who felt the greatest happiness. Fulfilling a promise made many years ago brought him immense satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment beyond material success.

When asked about her experience after the ride, his mother simply smiled and described it as "very nice," a response that resonated deeply with viewers.

The video has since gone viral, garnering millions of views and thousands of heartfelt reactions. Social media users praised the bond between the mother and son, with many describing the gesture as a true measure of success. Others said the clip reminded them of the importance of creating memorable experiences for parents and cherishing the sacrifices they make throughout life.

Man Opens Up About Feeling Isolated While Working From Home

A young professional's candid reflections on working from home have resonated widely online, sparking conversations about isolation, human connection and the changing nature of modern workplaces.

Naman, who recently completed his first month of remote work, shared a video describing how his perception of working from home evolved over time. What initially seemed like an ideal arrangement offering flexibility and freedom eventually left him feeling disconnected from people and trapped in a monotonous routine.

In the video, he admitted that he had always viewed commuting as an unnecessary burden and believed that remote work would provide him with more personal time and a better quality of life. However, after experiencing the reality of working from home, he realised that the extra hours saved each day did not necessarily translate into greater happiness.

According to Naman, the absence of casual interactions with colleagues and the lack of everyday social engagement created a sense of emptiness. He said that while he had succeeded in reclaiming time that would otherwise have been spent travelling, he found himself missing spontaneous conversations, shared experiences and the human connections that are often taken for granted



in office environments.

Reflecting on the experience, he questioned whether saving time alone was enough if it resulted in feelings of loneliness and isolation. He described remote work as a repetitive cycle in which days blended together, making life feel less dynamic and engaging.

Naman also used the opportunity to discuss a broader aspect of life and ambition. He observed that people often spend much of their lives pursuing the next milestone, believing that achieving a particular goal will finally bring satisfaction. Before securing a job, he said, employment seemed like the ultimate aspiration. Once employed, however, new frustrations

emerged, leading him to seek greater freedom and independence.

His reflections highlighted what he believes is a common human tendency to constantly look ahead rather than appreciating present circumstances. He suggested that complete contentment often remains elusive because aspirations continue to evolve with every achievement.

Concluding his message, Naman encouraged people to focus less on outcomes and more on embracing the journey itself. He advised individuals to make the most of their current situations, strive to do their best and learn to find joy in everyday experiences rather than becoming consumed by

expectations about the future.

The video quickly gained attention on social media, with many users saying they related closely to his experiences. Several professionals shared similar feelings about the challenges of prolonged remote work, particularly the loss of workplace camaraderie and social interaction.

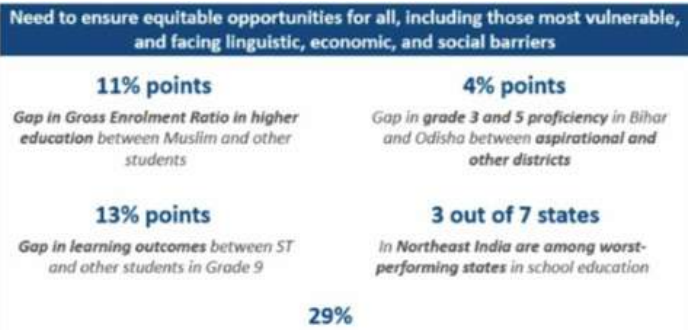
Others approached the discussion with humour, highlighting the ongoing debate between office-based work and remote employment. The conversation reflects a growing recognition that while working from home offers convenience and flexibility, maintaining social connections and a healthy work-life balance remains equally important.

AI Roadmap Charts Future of Education in India

India's education sector is poised for a transformative shift as a new report by Wadhvani AI, developed in collaboration with The Bridgespan Group and supported by Google.org, lays out a comprehensive roadmap for integrating responsible artificial intelligence into the country's public education system.

Titled "Harnessing AI in Education for Future Readiness: Bold Bets for Every Learner," the report presents a vision for leveraging AI to improve learning outcomes, strengthen educational delivery and prepare millions of students for a rapidly evolving digital economy. It highlights India's unique position to adopt AI-enabled education at scale, supported by progressive policy frameworks and expanding digital infrastructure. With more than 250 million students enrolled across nearly 1.5 million schools, of which close to 60 per cent are government and aided institutions, India possesses one of the world's largest education ecosystems. According to the report, this vast network presents an unprecedented opportunity to use artificial intelligence to address challenges related to access, quality, equity and efficiency.

The report points to the enabling environment created by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and digital platforms such as DIKSHA and the National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR). These ini-



tiatives have laid the foundation for scalable technology adoption, making it possible to introduce AI-driven interventions across diverse educational settings.

Shekar Sivasubramanian, Head of Wadhvani AI, emphasised that technology alone cannot transform education. He stressed the need for AI solutions to be embedded within strong systems supported by teachers, reliable data and effective safeguards. According to him, the real measure of success will be the ability to deliver meaningful learning experiences that can be sustained and expanded within public education systems. The report estimates that AI-enabled education could contribute as much as \$2.6 trillion to India's Gross Domestic Product by 2047, aligning with the nation's ambitious Viksit Bharat vision. This economic potential underscores the importance of investing in innovative educational models that equip learners with future-ready skills.

Marija Ralic, Head of APAC Grantmaking at Google.org, highlighted the role of quality education as the foundation for future growth, noting that artificial intelligence can help unlock opportunities for continuous learning and skill development at scale.

The study identifies seven strategic "Bold Bets," including personalised learning pathways, AI-powered teacher support systems, multilingual learning access and adaptive assessments. Together, these interventions have the potential to positively impact up to 350 million learners across the country.

Importantly, early deployments of AI-based assessments and adaptive learning tools in several states are already demonstrating encouraging results. As India moves toward a knowledge-driven economy, the report suggests that responsible and inclusive adoption of AI could play a decisive role in shaping the future of education for generations to come.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Enters High-Stakes Round of 16

The FIFA World Cup 2026 has reached one of its most thrilling phases as the Round of 16 begins, bringing together the world's top footballing nations in a battle for a place in the quarterfinals. After weeks of intense competition featuring 48 teams, only 16 remain in contention for the most coveted trophy in world football.

The expanded tournament format has delivered several memorable moments, surprise performances, and dramatic exits. Teams that successfully navigated the group stage and knockout encounters have now entered a stage where every match becomes a do-or-die contest. A single mistake can end a nation's dream, while one inspired performance can create history.

Among the biggest talking points of the tournament has been the emergence of underdog teams that exceeded expectations. Cape Verde captured global attention with its remarkable run before eventually bowing out against Argentina in the Round of 32. Their journey has been hailed as one of the standout stories of the competition, proving once again that the World Cup is capable of producing unforgettable surprises.

Traditional powerhouses



such as Argentina, Brazil, France, England, Spain, and Portugal continue to be among the favourites, but the competition remains fiercely unpredictable. Nations like Morocco, Norway, Colombia, Belgium, and Egypt have also shown impressive form and are eager to challenge the established hierarchy.

The Round of 16 promises several fascinating encounters. Canada faces Morocco in a clash between two teams looking to continue their dream run, while France takes on Paraguay in what is expected to be a highly competitive fixture. Brazil will battle Norway, and England will meet Mexico in another eagerly anticipated contest. One of the standout matches of the round will see Iberian

rivals Portugal and Spain renew their historic rivalry on football's biggest stage. Meanwhile, the United States will lock horns with Belgium, Argentina will face Egypt, and Switzerland will take on Colombia in what could be another closely fought encounter.

The winners from these matches will advance to the quarterfinals scheduled from July 10 to 12, followed by the semifinals on July 15 and 16. The third-place playoff is set for July 19, while the grand finale will take place on July 20.

With the stakes higher than ever, fans across the globe are eagerly awaiting another chapter of drama, passion, and brilliance as the FIFA World Cup 2026 moves closer to crowning its next champion.

Abrar Ahmed Faces Tough Choice Between National Duty and Franchise Commitment

Pakistan's mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed finds himself at the center of a challenging decision as he weighs national responsibility against a lucrative franchise opportunity. With Pakistan preparing for an important Test series against the West Indies and The Hundred set to begin around the same time, the leg-spinner must decide which path to take.

Abrar was signed by Sunrisers Leeds in The Hundred for a reported fee of 190,000 pounds, making him one of the notable overseas acquisitions for the competition. The franchise is owned by Kavya Maran, who also co-owns Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League ecosystem. The substantial contract presents a significant professional opportunity for the spinner.

However, Pakistan's selectors are reportedly keen on including Abrar in the squad for the upcoming two-match Test series in the Caribbean. The national side views him as a valuable asset, especially given his ability to trouble batters with his variations and mystery spin. If selected, Abrar would



likely have to prioritize international duty over franchise cricket.

The scheduling overlap has complicated matters considerably. The Hundred is scheduled to commence on July 21, while Pakistan's first Test against the West Indies is set to begin on July 25. Participating in both competitions may not be possible, forcing the spinner to make a difficult choice.

Abrar's participation in The Hundred has also drawn attention because of the broader sporting context between India and Pakistan. Since Pakistani players do not participate in the IPL, his signing by a franchise linked to Indian ownership gen-

erated considerable discussion among cricket followers. Nevertheless, The Hundred operates under regulations established by the England and Wales Cricket Board, which promotes equal opportunities for players from all cricketing nations.

For Abrar, the dilemma goes beyond finances. Representing Pakistan in Test cricket remains a prestigious honour for any player, while franchise leagues provide substantial earnings and global exposure. Balancing these two aspects has become a common challenge for modern cricketers as international calendars continue to clash with expanding league competitions.

The final decision could depend on Pakistan's squad announcement and whether the Pakistan Cricket Board grants the necessary permissions for participation in overseas leagues. Until then, Abrar remains caught between two attractive opportunities—one offering the pride of wearing national colours and the other promising a rewarding franchise experience on an international stage.

Djokovic Equals Federer's Wimbledon Milestone with 105th Career Victory

Novak Djokovic continued to strengthen his legacy at Wimbledon by registering his 105th career singles victory at the prestigious All England Club, equalling Roger Federer's longstanding record for the most men's singles match wins at the tournament. The Serbian legend achieved the milestone after overcoming France's Arthur Rinderknech in four sets, 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4), in an intense third-round encounter.

At 39 years of age, Djokovic once again demonstrated his resilience and ability to perform under pressure. Although he dominated the opening two sets, the 24-time Grand Slam champion experienced a brief lapse in the third set, which he lost rapidly. However, he regrouped strongly in the fourth set and produced his trademark composure in the tie-break to secure victory. The decisive moment came in dramatic fashion when Rinderknech slipped near the net while attempting a volley. Sensing an opportunity, Djokovic rushed forward and executed a brilliant backhand volley winner to seal the contest. Reflecting on the moment, Djokovic admitted that he hoped his opponent would remain down just long enough for



him to finish the point.

The Serbian star acknowledged the significance of matching Federer's Wimbledon achievement, describing it as a great honour and privilege. He even joked about wanting a symbolic match against Federer to determine who would claim the 106th victory. Djokovic is also pursuing another major milestone, as he seeks to equal Federer's record of eight Wimbledon men's singles titles.

Djokovic admitted that he felt more pressure than usual heading into the match, recognising the challenge posed by Rinderk-

nech. Nevertheless, his experience and mental toughness helped him navigate difficult moments and emerge victorious.

With the win, Djokovic advanced to the fourth round, where he will take on Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin. The Russian reached this stage after producing an impressive straight-sets victory over Brazilian youngster João Fonseca.

Meanwhile, defending champion Jannik Sinner also progressed comfortably into the fourth round with a straight-sets victory over Jenson Brooksby. Sinner appears to be gradually rediscovering his rhythm after recent setbacks and believes his movement and return game are steadily improving. In the women's draw, top seed Aryna Sabalenka and four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka set up a blockbuster fourth-round clash. Osaka reached the last sixteen at Wimbledon for the first time in her career, while Sabalenka expressed confidence ahead of their highly anticipated encounter.

As Wimbledon enters its decisive stages, Djokovic's pursuit of another title and further records promises to remain one of the tournament's biggest storylines.

England Turn to Altitude Strategy Ahead of Crucial Mexico Clash

As the FIFA World Cup 2026 enters the Round of 16 stage, England's preparations for their highly anticipated encounter against Mexico have taken an unusual turn. Reports indicate that England's players have been granted permission to use Viagra as part of their strategy to cope with the challenging high-altitude conditions in Mexico City.

The knockout fixture is scheduled to be played at the iconic Estadio Azteca on July 6. Situated approximately 7,350 feet above sea level, the stadium presents a significant physical challenge for visiting teams. Reduced oxygen levels at such elevations can lead to quicker fatigue, decreased endurance, and difficulty in maintaining peak performance levels throughout the match.

Medical experts have long studied the potential benefits of sildenafil, commonly known by its brand name Viagra, in high-altitude environments.



Beyond its conventional medical use, the drug is believed to improve blood circulation and help the body utilize oxygen more efficiently, making it a subject of interest in sports science for athletes competing at elevated venues.

England's coaching staff reportedly sought approval from the relevant governing authorities to use the medication strictly for physiological adaptation purposes. Since such substances fall under regulated medical guidelines in pro-

fessional sport, clearance from football and anti-doping authorities is essential before players can use them in a competitive setting.

The decision highlights the importance of marginal gains in modern football, where teams explore every legal avenue to maximize performance. England enters the match as one of the favourites to lift the trophy, but facing Mexico at the Azteca Stadium is expected to be a stern test.

Mexico has enjoyed an im-

pressive campaign so far and remains unbeaten in the tournament. The home side also boasts a formidable record at the Azteca, where passionate supporters and familiar conditions often provide a considerable advantage. Historically, visiting teams have found it difficult to secure victories at the venue, making England's task even more challenging.

While tactics, skill, and experience will ultimately determine the outcome, managing environmental factors has become an increasingly important aspect of elite sport. England's approach reflects the growing influence of sports medicine and scientific preparation in international football.

With a place in the quarterfinals at stake, all eyes will now be on whether England's meticulous planning can help them overcome both Mexico and the demanding conditions of one of football's most iconic stadiums.

A Father's Bold Decision That Changed Sanju Samson's Cricket Journey

Indian wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson has opened up about a defining moment in his life, revealing how a courageous decision made by his father transformed his cricketing career forever. Speaking about his early struggles, Samson shared that his journey to professional cricket was shaped not just by talent and hard work, but by the unwavering faith and determination of his family.

Growing up in Delhi, Samson developed a passion for sports at a very young age. His father, Vishwanathan, was associated with the Delhi Police football team, and the family lived in police quarters where sports played an important role in daily life. Surrounded by young athletes and inspired by friends representing Delhi in cricket, Samson dreamt of wearing the Delhi state jersey one day.

With that ambition in mind, he attended trials, participated in state camps, and consistently performed well. However, despite his efforts, he was unable to secure a place in the Delhi state cricket team. The intense competition and limited opportunities proved to be a major setback for the young cricketer.

Samson recalled the day when the final squad list was



announced and his name was missing. It was a disappointing moment for the family. Yet, instead of accepting defeat, his father took an extraordinary decision that would alter the

course of Samson's future. He decided that the family should relocate to Kerala immediately so that his son could pursue better opportunities in cricket. The decision surprised eve-

ryone at home. Samson's mother initially felt that the children were too young and suggested waiting until they completed their schooling. But his father was determined. Within days, the family packed their belongings and moved to Kerala, believing that a fresh start could open new doors.

That move eventually proved to be a turning point in Samson's career. In Kerala, he found the platform he needed to showcase his abilities and began representing the state in domestic cricket. Over the years, his performances earned him recognition at the national level, paving the way for his entry into the Indian team.

Samson also credited his father for identifying his cricketing potential early. Although his father was a football player, he never forced his children into the same sport. Instead, he encouraged Samson and his brother to pursue cricket after recognizing their natural talent.

Looking back, Samson believes that his father's courage, vision, and belief in his abilities laid the foundation for everything he has achieved. What seemed like a risky decision at the time ultimately became the defining chapter of an inspiring cricketing journey.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Becomes India's Youngest International Cricketer, Breaks Sachin's Record

Manchester, July 4 | TPN Bureau

Indian cricket entered a new era with teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi creating history by becoming the youngest player ever to represent India in international cricket. The 15-year-old made his debut in the second T20 International against England at Old Trafford in Manchester, breaking a record that had stood for more than three decades.

Suryavanshi stepped onto the field at the age of just 15 years and 99 days, surpassing the previous benchmark set by legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar, who made his international debut for India at 16 years and 205 days in 1989. The achievement marks a remarkable milestone in Indian cricket and highlights the emergence of one of the country's brightest young talents.

India captain Shreyas Iyer won the toss and elected to bat first, announcing a single change to the playing XI. Suryavanshi was handed his maiden international opportunity, replacing wicketkeep-



er-batter Sanju Samson in the side. The memorable occasion became even more special as Tilak Varma presented the young cricketer with his Team India cap ahead of the match, symbolising the beginning of his journey at the highest level.

Speaking about the teenager's inclusion, Iyer described Suryavanshi as a fearless and highly talented cricketer who

has consistently impressed the team management over the last few months. The Indian skipper noted that the youngster earned his place in the squad through exceptional performances during training sessions, particularly while facing some of India's most experienced bowlers in the nets. According to Iyer, Suryavanshi displayed remarkable confidence and ma-

turity despite his young age, showing the temperament needed to succeed in international cricket. His impressive performances behind the scenes convinced the team management that he was ready for the challenge of competing against one of the world's strongest sides. England captain Harry Brook also acknowledged the excitement surrounding Suryavanshi's debut, revealing that his team had prepared for the possibility of the teenager featuring in the match. Brook confirmed the return of fast bowlers Jofra Archer and Josh Tongue to England's playing XI, indicating that the hosts were fully aware of the significance of the occasion.

Suryavanshi's debut is being viewed as a landmark moment for Indian cricket, reflecting the growing confidence in nurturing young talent and providing opportunities to exceptional players at an early stage of their careers. As he begins his international journey, cricket fans across the world will be eager to witness the progress of India's newest prodigy.



Minister Kandula Durgesh Launches ‘Hoyila’ Song

The fourth single, “Hoyila,” from the upcoming Telugu romantic drama Chennai Love Story was unveiled on Saturday at Raj Yuvraj Theatre in Vijayawada by Andhra Pradesh Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh and Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju. The event brought together the film’s cast, crew and cinema enthusiasts ahead of the film’s worldwide release on July 24.

Produced under the banners of Mass Movie Makers and Amrutha Productions by *S.K.N.* and *Sai Rajesh*, the film is directed by debutant **Ravi Namburi* and stars Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead roles. The soundtrack has been composed by Mani Sharma, whose melodies have already generated positive buzz among audiences.

Speaking at the event, Minister Kandula Durgesh congratulated the filmmakers for showcasing Andhra Pradesh’s scenic beauty on the silver screen. He noted that much of the film was shot across picturesque locations including *Chirala, **Bapatla, and **Suryalanka Beach*, highlighting the state’s tourism potential through cinema.

The minister reiterated the Andhra Pradesh government’s commitment to supporting the film industry under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. He said the govern-

ment has streamlined shooting permissions through a single-window clearance system, making Andhra Pradesh an attractive destination for filmmakers.

Durgesh also called upon industry stakeholders to invest in film infrastructure across the state, including modern studios and post-production facilities. He assured producers and filmmakers of the government’s full cooperation in creating a vibrant filmmaking ecosystem that would strengthen the Telugu film industry and encourage more productions to choose Andhra Pradesh as a shooting destination.

The film’s team expressed gratitude to the state government for extending prompt support during production. The producers said that every permission required for the shoot was granted swiftly through the single-window mechanism, allowing filming to proceed without delays.

According to the makers, Chennai Love Story presents a refreshing and realistic take on romance, built around the idea that while first love is unforgettable, it does not necessarily define one’s entire life. They added that the teaser, glimpse and the first three songs have already received an encouraging response, raising expectations for the film.

Guests at the event watched the newly released “Hoyila” song and wished the film grand success upon its worldwide theatrical release on July 24.

Regina Cassandra Set to Lead Lokesh Kanagaraj's First Production Venture

Actor-director Lokesh Kanagaraj is reportedly preparing to expand his creative journey by stepping into film production, with a female-centric project expected to mark his debut as a producer. According to industry buzz, actress Regina Cassandra has been chosen to headline the upcoming film, which is likely to be directed by Vishal Venkat.

Lokesh Kanagaraj has established himself as one of the most successful filmmakers in Tamil cinema through blockbuster projects such as Kaithi, Vikram, Leo and Coolie. Having built a strong reputation for delivering high-octane entertainers, the filmmaker now appears keen to explore new avenues beyond direction.

Sources suggest that the proposed venture will be a woman-oriented film with Regina Cassandra playing the central character. The actress, known for her versatility across Tamil, Telugu and Hindi cinema, is said to have impressed the makers with her screen presence and ability to carry performance-driven roles.

The script work for the project is reportedly complete, and preparations are underway to begin filming in the coming months. While an official announcement is yet to be made, the development has already generated considerable interest among movie enthusiasts and industry observers.

For Regina Cassandra, the film could prove to be another significant milestone in her career. The actress has consistently experimented with diverse roles, balancing commercial entertainers with content-driven stories. A female-led project backed by Lokesh Kanagaraj is expected



to provide her with a platform to showcase a different dimension of her acting abilities.

Meanwhile, Lokesh Kanagaraj continues to remain occupied with several commitments, including promotional activities for his forthcoming projects. His decision to venture into production reflects a broader ambition to support unique stories and fresh talent within the industry.

The filmmaker’s move also aligns with the growing trend of established directors launching production houses to nurture innovative narratives and encourage unconventional storytelling. Female-centric films, in particular, have witnessed increasing acceptance from audiences in recent years, creating opportunities for actresses to headline commercially viable projects.

If the reports materialise, the collaboration between Lokesh Kanagaraj, Vishal Venkat and Regina Cassandra could emerge as an exciting addition to the evolving landscape of South Indian cinema. Fans are now eagerly awaiting an official confirmation regarding the cast, title and production schedule of what promises to be an intriguing cinematic venture.

Female Stars Redefine Action Cinema

Action films were once considered the stronghold of male superstars, with larger-than-life heroes dominating screens through high-voltage stunts, intense fight sequences and thrilling chases. However, 2026 has witnessed a remarkable shift in cinematic trends, as female-led action films continue to gain popularity and establish a strong presence at the box office.

Over the last three months, a series of women-centric action entertainers have demonstrated that audiences are increasingly embracing stories driven by powerful female characters. Combining emotion, drama and adrenaline-pumping action, these films have successfully challenged conventional notions about the genre.

The trend gathered momentum in May with the release of Blast, featuring Priety Mukundan, Abhirami and Arjun in prominent roles. The film stood out for blending emotional storytelling with action-packed sequences, giving its female leads an opportunity to showcase both strength and vulnerability. Their impressive combat scenes and gripping confrontations with



the antagonist earned appreciation from audiences, helping the film emerge as a commercial success.

June witnessed the arrival of Maa Inti Bangaram, which marked Samantha Ruth Prabhu’s much-awaited return after a significant break from cinema. The actress delivered a memorable performance, seamlessly balancing humour, emotion and action. Her portrayal of a strong female character resonated with viewers, while her energetic chase sequences and stylish fight scenes became major highlights of the film.

The success of Maa Inti Bangaram once again underlined the growing acceptance of female-led narratives in mainstream cinema. The film proved that strong storytelling and engaging content can attract audiences regardless of whether a film is centred around a male or female protagonist.

Although Alpha, starring Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Wagh, did not receive the expected response from audiences, the actresses were appreciated for their spirited performances and action-oriented roles. Their efforts further reinforced the idea that female ac-

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tors are increasingly taking on challenging characters traditionally associated with male stars.

The momentum behind women-centric action films is expected to continue in the coming months with several high-profile projects in the pipeline. Rashmika Mandanna is preparing to appear in a full-fledged action role for the first time in Maisaa, a film that has already generated considerable anticipation among movie enthusiasts.

Nayanthara’s Rakkayi is also creating buzz with a female-oriented action drama, while Priyanka Chopra is set to showcase intense action sequences in Varanasi, a project being mounted on an ambitious scale. Deepika Padukone’s Raka and Taapsee Pannu’s Gandhari are also expected to strengthen the growing trend of women leading action-packed narratives.

With a string of successful releases and several promising projects on the horizon, female stars are steadily reshaping the action genre, proving that audiences are ready to celebrate women as powerful and compelling action heroes.

Celina Jaitley Returns With Sister Nivedita Biopic

Bollywood actress Celina Jaitley is set to make a much-awaited return to the big screen after a gap of 15 years, taking on the lead role in a biographical film based on the life of Sister Nivedita, one of the most revered disciples of Swami Vivekananda.

Celina was last seen in a full-fledged lead role in the 2011 Kannada film Shrimati, opposite actor Upen-dra. Her comeback project has already generated interest among cinema lovers, particularly because of its spiritual and historical significance. The biopic will be directed by filmmaker Ram Kamal Mukherjee, who received a National Award for his acclaimed short film Ek Dua.

Expressing her excitement about the project, Celina described portraying Sister Nivedita as one of the most meaningful opportunities of her career. She said the role holds deep personal significance, as she was introduced to the life and contributions of Sister Nivedita by her mother during her childhood. Bringing such an inspiring personality to life on screen, she noted, is both an honour and an unforgettable experience.

The actress also reflected on her own journey over the past decade and a half. Having spent nearly 15 years in Europe, Celina said she eventually returned to India seeking a stronger connection with her roots and cultural heritage. She revealed that reconnecting with Sanatan Dharma played an important role in her personal transformation, making the opportunity to portray Sister



Nivedita even more special.

Sister Nivedita remains one of the most influential figures associated with India’s spiritual and educational history. Born in Ireland in 1867 as Margaret Elizabeth Noble, she was deeply inspired by the teachings of Swami Vivekananda after meeting him in the late nineteenth century. Drawn by his philosophy and vision, she travelled to India and embraced his ideals wholeheartedly. In 1898, she formally became a disciple of Swami Vivekananda and was given the name Sister Nivedita, meaning “the dedicated one.” She devoted her life to education, social service, literature and the upliftment of women, leaving

behind a lasting legacy that continues to inspire generations. Beyond her contributions to spirituality, Sister Nivedita played a significant role in India’s intellectual and cultural awakening during the freedom movement era. Her work as an educator, writer and reformer earned her immense respect across the country.

She passed away in 1911 at the age of 43, but her influence remains deeply embedded in India’s social and spiritual history. With Celina Jaitley stepping into the role, the forthcoming biopic aims to introduce contemporary audiences to the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Sister Nivedita.

Bandla Ganesh Vows Supreme Court Battle Over Property Auction Dispute

Producer and actor Bandla Ganesh has broken his silence on the controversy surrounding the auction of his property, alleging that the sale was carried out unfairly and at a price far below its actual market value. The filmmaker has announced his intention to challenge the matter in the Supreme Court, expressing confidence that he will ultimately receive justice.

In a statement shared on social media, Bandla Ganesh claimed that the bank disposed of his property through an auction process that he believes was conducted improperly. He alleged that the property was sold at a significantly lower valuation and described the transaction as unjust.

According to Ganesh, he had first approached the courts in 2022 to contest the sale. He stated that the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) had initially ruled in his favour, providing relief in the matter. However, the legal battle took a different turn when the High Court recently overturned the earlier decision and upheld the validity of the auction process.



Despite the setback, Ganesh remains optimistic about the judicial process. He reiterated his faith in the Indian legal system and asserted that he would continue pursuing legal remedies by approaching the Supreme Court. He maintained that his fight is aimed at securing what he believes are his legitimate rights.

The dispute revolves around real estate assets located in Hyderabad’s upscale Jubilee Hills locality. The properties, owned by Bandla Ganesh and his family members, were reportedly auctioned by Union Bank as part of a loan recovery exercise. The bank initiated pro-

ceedings to recover outstanding dues, leading to the sale of the assets through a public auction.

Earlier, the DRT had directed that the auction be cancelled and that the amount generated from the sale be returned to the property owners. Challenging this order, Union Bank moved the High Court, arguing that the auction had been conducted in accordance with legal procedures.

After reviewing the matter, the High Court ruled in favour of the bank, holding that the auction process was valid and legally justified. This decision has prompted Bandla Ganesh to seek further legal recourse at the country’s highest court.

The case has attracted attention not only because of Ganesh’s prominence in the Telugu film industry but also due to the larger questions it raises regarding property valuations, loan recovery mechanisms and the rights of borrowers. With the producer now preparing to move the Supreme Court, the legal proceedings are expected to continue in the coming months.

Ram Charan's 'Peddi' Locks OTT Release Date

Ram Charan’s rural sports drama Peddi is all set to make its digital debut, with Netflix officially announcing its streaming date. After enjoying a successful theatrical run and receiving positive responses from audiences, the film will begin streaming on the platform from July 9.

The makers had remained tight-lipped about the OTT release despite speculation circulating for several weeks. Netflix has now confirmed that Peddi will be available not only in Telugu but also in Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, allowing the film to reach a wider audience across South India.

Directed by Buchi Babu, Peddi blends sports, emotion and social themes against the backdrop of a remote village in Vizianagaram district. The film revolves around a community that remains neglected and unrecognised in official records despite being home to hundreds of families. This sense of exclusion forms the emotional foundation of the story.

Ram Charan essays the role of Peddi, a daily wage labourer who possesses extraordinary cricketing talent. Known locally as an “athletic worker,” Peddi earns admiration for his ability to dominate the cricket field, with competing teams eager to recruit him for tournaments. However, unexpected circumstances force him to step away from cricket and embrace wrestling, setting the stage for an inspiring journey of resilience and self-discovery. The narrative also introduces Janhvi Kapoor as Achamma, a character who plays a pivotal role in Ped-



di’s life and mission. As the story unfolds, the protagonist’s personal struggles become intertwined with his determination to uplift his village and secure recognition for its people.

During its theatrical release, Peddi received appreciation for its emotionally driven storytelling, strong performances and sports-centric backdrop. Ram Charan’s portrayal of a grounded and determined village youth was widely praised, while the film’s blend of entertainment and social commentary resonated with viewers.

With its arrival on Netflix, Peddi is expected to attract a fresh wave of audiences who may have missed it in theatres. The film’s combination of rural drama, sports action and inspirational themes could help it find renewed popularity in the digital space. As streaming platforms continue to extend the life cycle of successful theatrical releases, Peddi now has the opportunity to reach viewers beyond traditional cinema halls, further strengthening its appeal among family audiences and sports drama enthusiasts alike.

