



BUZZ POINTS



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# President Murmu Graces First Convocation of Central Tribal University

Vizianagaram, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Hon'ble President of India Droupadi Murmu attended the first convocation ceremony of the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh held in Vizianagaram on Monday, marking a significant milestone in the institution's journey. Addressing students, faculty, and dignitaries, she emphasized the university's role in empowering tribal communities and promoting inclusive development.

Droupadi Murmu said the Central Tribal Tribal University carries unique responsibilities and must evolve into a hub that builds self-confidence, leadership, and policy-making abilities among tribal youth. She stressed that institutions established with a focus on social justice must actively contribute at the grassroots level in education, healthcare, skill development, livelihoods, and protection of forest rights.

The President expressed confidence that the university would play a transformative role in the holistic development of marginalized and trib-



al communities. She highlighted the need for innovative approaches to improve livelihoods through sustainable activities such as forest produce utilization, handicrafts, millet cultivation, medicinal plants, eco-tourism, and local entrepreneurship.

Describing convocation as a defining moment in a student's life, she said it is both a celebration and a time for reflection.

Referring to institutional initiatives, she appreciated the establishment of a Science and Technology Hub aimed at empowering tribal communities in North Andhra Pradesh. She noted the university's focus on tribal welfare, public health, climate change, food and nutrition security, and energy conservation.

Reiterating the vision of Viksit Bharat

She advised graduates to focus on skill development, adapt to a changing global environment, and go beyond textbooks through experiential learning. Murmu also urged students to contribute to national progress while remaining rooted in their culture and traditions. She emphasized balancing heritage with scientific advancement for inclusive growth.

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## Pawan Kalyan, Fadnavis Discuss Tiger Conservation, Translocation Plan

Mumbai, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the Chief Minister's camp office in Mumbai on Tuesday and discussed measures for tiger conservation in the Eastern Ghats, including the transfer of two tigresses to Andhra Pradesh.

During the meeting, both leaders held detailed discussions on strengthening cooperation in wildlife conserva-



tion and biodiversity management. Pawan Kalyan expressed gratitude to the Maharashtra government for

agreeing to provide two female tigers to support conservation efforts in Andhra Pradesh. He noted that a

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## Youth Must Drive Nation-Building, Says Chhattisgarh Deputy CM Vijay Sharma

Vijayawada , June 30 | TPN Bureau

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma on Monday said the state has been made free of Maoist influence under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and called upon youth to play a decisive role in nation-building.

Addressing a seminar titled "Transformation in India Post-2014 – The Role of Youth" as chief guest, Vijay Sharma urged young people to dedicate their intellect, energy and time to society with a spirit of ser-



vice and national commitment. He said youth are a key force in building a strong and progressive India.

Highlighting examples from public life, he referred to Amit

Shah's early organisational work as a Vidyarthi Parishad activist, noting that success depends more on commitment and hard work than financial strength. He advised

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## Dharmendra Pradhan Hails AP Education Reforms at PM SHRI School Visit

Bhogapuram, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan praised Andhra Pradesh's education reforms during a visit to the PM SHRI AP Model School at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district along with HRD Minister Nara Lokesh on Tuesday.

The two leaders inspected classrooms, interacted with students and teachers, and reviewed the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020). Pradhan said the return of students from private schools to government schools reflects one of the core objectives of NEP and congrat-



ulated Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh for driving reforms in school education.

He said PM SHRI schools are transforming government education and enabling digital and

scientific learning outcomes. He noted that around 15,000 PM SHRI schools across the country are emerging as model institutions and contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.Pradhan

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## CM Calls for Mineral Mapping, Rare Earth Cluster

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to undertake comprehensive mineral mapping across Andhra Pradesh to identify valuable mineral deposits and formulate a strong policy focused on mineral value addi-

tion and long-term revenue generation.

Reviewing the performance of the Mines Department at the Camp Office, the Chief Minister said the state's vast mineral wealth offers significant opportunities for market capitalisation. He asked the Andhra Pradesh

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## CM Sets 100-Day Target for Expanding Mobile Tower Network

In a separate review meeting with telecom service providers, the Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to making Andhra Pradesh a model state in communication infrastructure with seamless digital connectivity across urban and rural regions.Naidu stressed last-mile connectivity and directed telecom companies to improve mobile coverage in remote areas through installation of additional cell towers and network upgrades. Officials informed that the state currently has 30,694 towers and requires 2,310 more for full coverage. IT and Communications Secretary Katamaneni Bhaskar briefed on the network status.The Chief Minister assured full government support and asked operators to explore completing the expan-

sion within 100 days. He also directed officials to identify uncovered regions and share details with service providers.

Naidu said Amaravati is being developed with a fibre-based communication network ensuring household connectivity without repeated road digging. The state currently has 1,69,638 kilometres of optical fibre network and 2.867 million broadband connections.

He urged telecom companies to support digital literacy initiatives linked to Mana Mitra WhatsApp Governance, Sanjeevani and other platforms, adding that citizens must be prepared for future AI-based services such as AI Agronomist, AI Doctor and AI Tutor. Kuppam constituency is being developed as a pilot project with full mobile network coverage.



## A Final Ride of Tribute and Service Legacy

Mangalagiri/Tenali, June 30 | TPN Bureau

In a deeply moving gesture on his retirement day, Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police M Pratap, currently serving as Chairman of the AP Road Safety Authority, undertook a bicycle ride from the DGP Headquarters in Man-

galagiri to the statue of martyred IPS officer Umesh Chandra in Tenali, where he dedicated the police uniform he had worn for over three decades of service.

Pratap and Umesh Chandra belonged to the same IPS batch and shared a close personal bond. Umesh

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## APL Final Draws Huge Crowd in Mangalagiri

Mangalagiri, June 30 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Cricket Association International Cricket Stadium in Mangalagiri witnessed a vibrant atmosphere as the Andhra Premier League final turned into a grand celebration of cricket on Tuesday. Thousands of fans gathered to watch the high-voltage clash between Simhadri Vizag Lions and Bhimavaram Bulls.Minister for IT, Human Resources and RTGS Nara Lokesh attended the match as chief guest and formally inaugurated the final by conducting the toss. Simhadri Vizag Lions won the toss and elected to bat first. Nara Lokesh conveyed his best wishes to both teams, expressing confidence that the players would perform with competitive spirit and uphold the values of sportsmanship.

Earlier, Nara Lokesh un-

veiled a plaque marking the modernisation of the ACA International Cricket Stadium at the ACA sports complex in Mangalagiri, highlighting the state government's focus on strengthening sports infrastructure.Andhra Cricket Association President Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), Secretary Sana Satish Babu, Vice-President Bandaru Narasimha Rao, Joint Secretary Boyalla Vijay Kumar, Treasurer Dandamudi Srinivas and Councillor Vishnu Dhanth were present at the event.Several public representatives, officials, sportspersons and cricket enthusiasts also attended, adding to the festive atmosphere at the stadium. The APL final showcased not only competitive cricket but also the growing popularity of the league and the state's commitment to promoting sports at all levels.

## Singapore Envoy Calls on YS Jagan

Tadepalli, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Singapore Consul General in Chennai Edgar Pang Tze Chiang met former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli on Tuesday.During the courtesy meeting, they discussed avenues for strengthening cooperation and engagement between Singapore and Andhra Pradesh, including potential collaboration in trade, investment and other areas of mutual interest.Edgar Pang's

visit is part of his interactions with key political leaders in Andhra Pradesh aimed at enhancing bilateral ties and exploring development opportunities.YS Jagan Mohan Reddy welcomed the Consul General and discussed the state's development priorities and prospects for future partnerships, according to party sources.

The meeting reflects continued diplomatic engagement between Singapore and Andhra Pradesh, focusing on economic cooperation and international outreach.

## AP Tops Nation in Promoting Women Entrepreneurs



Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh has emerged as the top state in the country in supporting women entrepreneurs, driven by focused efforts to transform DW-CRA women into independent business owners. The state achieved 99.7 per cent of its target in disbursing individual enterprise loans during the 2025-26 financial year.

Against a target of 1,500 crore, loans worth 1,495.50 crore were extended to women entrepreneurs. Of the 1.50 lakh targeted beneficiaries, 1,47,840 women received individual industrial loans. Tamil Nadu followed distantly with 48,584 beneficiaries, while Bihar and West Bengal achieved only 15 per cent and 25 per cent of their targets respectively.

Recognising its performance, Andhra Pradesh has been assigned a higher target

for 2026-27, aiming to provide 1,670 crore in loans to 1.67 lakh women.The state also secured first place under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises scheme, benefiting 35,934 individuals and achieving 95 per cent of its target. Maharashtra followed with 35,210 beneficiaries.Central reports have commended Andhra Pradesh as a role model in women's economic empowerment and sustainable rural employment. Through SERP, women received training in business management, financial and digital literacy, and skill development.

With strong digital monitoring systems and bank support, Andhra Pradesh continues to lead in rural industrialisation, employment generation and advancing the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local.



# Shanghai to Host 10th World Telugu Literary Conference in October

Visakhapatnam, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Shanghai in China is set to host the 10th World Telugu Literary Conference on October 24 and 25 this year, bringing together eminent personalities from literature, arts, cinema and public life from across the globe. Announcing the details at a media conference held at Hindi Bhavan in Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, State Hindi Bhasha Sangham president Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad said the two-day event would be organised on a grand scale. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad stated that several distinguished personalities from the film, po-

litical, literary and cultural fields in India are expected to participate in the conference, and their names would be announced shortly. He said the conference would provide an important platform for Telugu writers, scholars and language enthusiasts living in China to present their literary works and share their views. Literary experts from countries including the United States, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia are also expected to attend the event. Participants will have to bear their own travel expenses, while the organisers will provide accommodation and food facilities locally, he added.

# AP Sends Skilled Youth to Italy Under Overseas Employment Initiative

Tadepalli, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Eight candidates selected for employment opportunities in Italy through the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and Overseas Manpower Company Andhra Pradesh Limited (OMCAP) visited the APSSDC headquarters in Vijayawada on Tuesday ahead of their departure. The candidates interacted with APSSDC Managing Director and CEO G Ganesh Kumar and APNRT Chairman and CEO Vemuri Ravi Kumar, thanking them for facilitating overseas employment and guidance during the recruitment process. As part of the initiative, OMCAP conducted Pre-Departure Orientation Training covering travel procedures, workplace

ethics, legal rights, cultural orientation, financial literacy, safety measures and adaptation to life in Italy. Under the Pravasa Bhima scheme, APNRT extended complimentary insurance coverage to all eight candidates, ensuring social security and financial protection for migrant workers. Ganesh Kumar and Vemuri Ravi Kumar congratulated the candidates and advised them to maintain professionalism and represent Andhra Pradesh and India with pride. They wished them a safe journey and successful careers abroad. The initiative reflects the state government's focus on transparent overseas employment opportunities through APSSDC, OMCAP and APNRT, combining skill development, placement support and migrant welfare services.

## PIN POINT

### Kanna Babu Assigned Additional Charge of Endowments

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has assigned additional responsibilities to senior IAS officer K Kanna Babu. According to an official order, K Kanna Babu, who is currently serving as Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Ex-Officio Secretary to Government, Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies Department, has been given full additional charge as Secretary to Government, Revenue (Endowments) Department. The order stated that he will hold the additional charge until further orders from the government. The decision is part of administrative arrangements to ensure continuity in the functioning of the Endowments Department.

### Dr. NTR UHS to Celebrate National Doctors' Day on July 1

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (Dr. NTR UHS) will celebrate National Doctors' Day on July 1 in a grand manner, marking the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Pulala Chandrasekhar said on Tuesday. Principal Secretary, Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department, S Suresh Kumar will attend as chief guest and unveil the statue of Dr B C Roy on the campus. Ten eminent doctors will be felicitated for their contributions to healthcare, medical education, research and community service. Dr Chandrasekhar said honouring doctors who serve humanity would inspire future generations. The event will be attended by Registrar Dr T Sai Sudheer, senior officials, faculty, students and alumni. Doctors from all systems of medicine will be honoured during the celebrations.

# Para Athletes Felicitated for Securing Teaching Jobs

Vijayawada, June 30 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Para Sports Association felicitated para athletes who secured government teaching jobs under the Mega DSC-2025 Sports Quota at a grand ceremony held at Tagore Library in Vijayawada

on Tuesday. Addressing the event, Gonuguntla Koteswara Rao said Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a leading state in para sports due to the achievements of differently-abled athletes at national and international levels. He said para athletes from the

# Panchayat Raj Must Be Grievance Powerhouse, Says Pawan Kalyan

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday called for transforming the Panchayat Raj system into a "powerhouse that resolves people's grievances" rather than merely forwarding petitions. He said past neglect and diversion of funds had weakened gram panchayats, but the present government is working to restore their strength.

Speaking at the retirement ceremony of Additional Secretary and OSD to the Deputy Chief Minister K Venkata Krishna, Pawan Kalyan said 4,200 crore had been directly transferred to gram panchayat accounts in the last two years. He praised Venkata Krishna's long service, calling him a key pillar in strengthening the system. "I learned many things from him like a student from a



teacher," he said, adding that transparency and reforms introduced under his guidance improved governance. He said employees play a crucial role in public service delivery and assured full support. "If you take one step for the people, I will take a hundred steps for you," he said, adding that promotions, transfers and training are now being done transparently. He noted that over 10,000 promotions were given in the Panchayat Raj department. Pawan Kalyan also highlighted reforms such as deputation op-

portunities in 24 departments and creation of DLDO offices to improve coordination. He stressed teamwork from CEO to village-level officers to ensure welfare schemes reach the poor. He warned that delays in resolving local issues reflect weak grassroots governance and cited a road issue in Nellore district's Gajalavaripalli, which required his intervention. He called for protection of encroached grazing lands, ponds and government assets through strict field-level action and regular inspections.

# Govt Targets Dumping Yard-Free Municipalities Across State

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

The state government is implementing a comprehensive action plan to transform all municipalities in the state into dumping yard-free urban bodies, Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana said on Tuesday.

Reviewing solid waste management initiatives with officials of the Swachh Andhra Corporation and municipal commissioners, Narayana directed authorities to ensure that all solid waste generated each day is collected, transported and scientifically processed on the same day. Swachh Andhra Corpora-



tion Managing Director Anil Kumar Reddy attended the meeting in person, while Director Sampath Kumar and municipal commissioners from across the state participated virtually. Officials informed the minister that waste from several municipalities is already being transported to waste-to-energy plants in Vi-

sakhapatnam and Guntur for scientific processing. The government is also taking steps to establish fresh waste processing plants in other municipalities to handle newly generated waste efficiently. Narayana instructed officials to complete the construction of these plants on a war footing and expedite land acquisition and power connectivity works. He also stressed the need to accelerate the procurement of vehicles required for timely transportation of waste.

The minister said the government aims to provide a permanent solution to solid waste management and make all municipalities in the state free from dumping yards.

# Health Minister Directs 85% Patient Satisfaction Target

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Tuesday directed officials to improve accountability among government medical staff, strengthen sanitation services and raise public satisfaction levels in government hospitals to 85 per cent.

During a three-hour virtual review meeting on eight key issues, the minister called for a revamp of the performance assessment system in government hospitals. He said evaluation must be based on targets fixed according to available manpower and expected services from doctors, nurses and technicians, rather than aggregate output alone. He also instructed that monthly reviews be conducted to identify gaps and improve performance. Expressing concern over sani-



tation deficiencies arising from technical issues in attendance systems, Satya Kumar Yadav warned that negligence in hospital cleanliness would not be tolerated and directed officials to ensure full deployment of sanitation staff.

The minister reviewed the impact of the new zonal system introduced under Presidential Order-2025 and discussed proposals related to staffing, transfers and promotions in the public health sector. He instructed officials to

respond to representations from his office within 30 days.

He also called for a comprehensive three-year plan to fill vacancies in the health sector, noting that nearly 12,000 appointments, including over 3,000 doctors, have been made in the last two years.

With the monsoon season underway, the minister directed officials to intensify surveillance and preventive measures against seasonal diseases such as malaria, dengue and chikungunya. District Medical and Health Officers were asked to conduct weekly reviews and ensure timely response.

Health Secretary S Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary and AYUSH Director Ronanki Gopalakrishna, APSACS Project Director Smaran Das, DME Vishnuvardhan, DH Padmavathi and other senior officials attended the review meeting.

# Minister Narayana Inspects Anna Canteen

Visakhapatnam, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana and Visakhapatnam North MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao conducted a surprise inspection of the Anna Canteen at Vambay Colony in Madhurawada on Tuesday to assess the quality of services being provided to beneficiaries.

During the visit, the minister and the MLA inspected the facilities available at the canteen and reviewed the arrangements made for visitors and regular beneficiaries. They examined various aspects of the canteen's functioning, including hygiene standards, seating arrangements and the overall management of the facility. Narayana interacted with beneficiaries availing meals at



the canteen and sought their feedback on the quality, taste and quantity of food being served. He also enquired whether the services were being provided efficiently and if any improvements were required to enhance the dining experience.

The minister emphasised the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and ensuring that nutritious food is served consistently to the

public under the Anna Canteen scheme. He said the initiative plays a vital role in providing affordable meals to economically weaker sections.

Later, Narayana and Ganta Srinivasa Rao joined the beneficiaries for lunch, reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening welfare programmes aimed at ensuring food security and supporting vulnerable sections of society.



# Judicial Officers Seek District Reorganisation

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

The AP Judicial Officers Association met Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the Camp Office on Monday and urged him to address issues arising from the reorganisation of districts and to take up reorganisation of judicial districts along with establishment of new courts.

Association representatives explained various administrative and service-related concerns before the Chief Minister. They requested resolution of technical issues following district reorganisation and called for expedited steps to set up new courts across the state to improve judicial efficiency.

They also sought allocation of land for construction of an association building. In addition,

they raised welfare-related demands, including cashless medical treatment facilities for families of judicial officers, enhancement of soft loan limits, and allocation of housing plots.

Responding to the representations, the Chief Minister enquired into the issues related to the establishment of new courts and judicial district reorganisation. He assured the delegation that the government would examine all the issues and take necessary measures in a phased manner.

AP Judicial Officers Association President G Chakrapani, Vice-President J Srinivasa Rao, K Sailaja, General Secretary N Ramesh Naidu, Joint Secretary A Krishna Prasad, and Executive Committee members Venela and Radharani were present during the meeting.

# VB-GRAMG to Transform Rural Employment in AP

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

The Viksit Bharat Rozgar and Aajeevika Guarantee Mission (Grameen) (VB-GRAMG), scheduled for launch on July 1, is expected to transform rural employment and asset creation in Andhra Pradesh, according to Twenty Point Programme (Viksit Bharat-Swarna Andhra) Implementation Chairman Lanka Dinakar.

In a statement issued on Monday, Lanka Dinakar said the initiative is a major step towards achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat and Swarna Andhra. The programme was launched at Mukkavariipalle village in Tirupati district by Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in

the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.

Andhra Pradesh has secured 7,700 crore in Central assistance, the second-highest in the country, with an additional 5,500 crore from the state, taking total investment beyond 13,000 crore for rural asset creation this year.

The scheme increases guaranteed employment from 100 to 125 days per rural household and includes provisions for unemployment allowance and flexible work scheduling during peak agricultural seasons. It focuses on durable rural assets, water conservation, irrigation and roads, supported by biometric, GIS and digital monitoring systems for transparency and efficiency.

# Singapore Delegation Explores Investment Opportunities

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

A delegation from Singapore concluded a two-day visit to Amaravati on Tuesday, during which members were briefed on the capital city's development plans, infrastructure projects and investment opportunities. On the first day of the visit, officials of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) explained the Amaravati project, master plan and other key initiatives at the APCRDA office in Rayapudi.

On Tuesday, the delegation visited Shakhamuru Park, trunk infrastructure roads, towers and bungalows being developed under the Amaravati Government Complex, and the MLA and MLC Towers. APCRDA officials outlined the progress of these projects and highlighted the investment potential avail-



able in the capital region. The Singapore delegation comprised Yeo Sye Hiep, Joe Yimin, L. Darshan and Jayesh Kumar from the National University of Singapore, Francis Chang from Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Tai Lian Chu from SCE and Ananth Shankar from the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The visit is expected to strengthen ties between Amaravati and Singapore institutions while exploring avenues for future collaboration and investment in the capital city's development.

# Govt Extends Scholarships to SC, ST Students in Deemed Universities

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

The state government has extended Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS-RTF) benefits to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students pursuing undergraduate courses in deemed universities across the state, providing a major boost to higher education opportunities for disadvantaged sections.

Under the revised policy, students enrolled in undergraduate programmes in deemed universities in Andhra Pradesh will now be eligible for scholarship assistance. The Centre will bear 60 per cent of the scholarship cost for SC students and 75 per cent for ST

students.

The state's share of funding—40 % for SC students and 25 % for ST students—will be mobilised through the P4 (Public-Private-People Partnership) model with support from donors, industrialists, high-net-worth individuals and institutions.

Sponsors adopting students under the initiative will be required to continue supporting the state component of the scholarship until the completion of the beneficiary's course. Scholarship amounts for SC students will be credited directly into Aadhaar-linked bank accounts, while funds for ST students will be transferred directly to the accounts of their respective colleges.



## Pawan Kalyan, Fadnavis Discuss Tiger Conservation, Translocation Plan

continued

decline in the female tiger population in the Eastern Ghats had led to genetic challenges, affecting long-term sustainability. The introduction of tigresses from Maharashtra would help address inbreeding issues, improve genetic diversity and support the develop-

ment of a stable tiger population.

Pawan Kalyan described the initiative as a significant step in the history of tiger conservation in the Eastern Ghats and said it would contribute to creating a healthy and self-sustaining habitat. He also thanked Union Minister for

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav for his guidance in advancing the initiative.

Both states agreed to enhance coordination in future on matters of mutual interest, with a focus on scientific and sustainable approaches to wildlife conservation.

## Youth Must Drive Nation-Building, Says Chhattisgarh Deputy CM Vijay Sharma

continued

youth to engage directly with society instead of relying solely on Artificial Intelligence and digital tools, stressing that politics is a responsibility of every citizen and should be driven by service. He also paid tribute to Syama Prasad Mukherjee on the

Bharatiya Jana Sangh's 75th anniversary. Additional Solicitor General Channa Dhananjay, Bar Council member Uppalapati Srinivasaraj, SRK College Chairman Krishna and senior leader Piyush Desai attended the event. Later, Vijay Sharma visited the Indrakeeladri hill shrine in Vijayawada along with his

family and offered prayers to Goddess Sri Kanaka Durga. Temple officials and priests welcomed him on arrival. Deputy Chief Priest Shankar Sandilya and Trust Board member Avuru Srinivasa Rao presented him with Shesha Vastram and Teertha Prasadam and offered Vedic blessings.

## Dharmendra Pradhan Hails AP Education Reforms at PM SHRI School Visit

continued

appreciated Andhra Pradesh's use of technology in education, including ICT labs, Atal Tinkering Labs and skill development systems. He highlighted initiatives supporting students from foundational literacy and numeracy to entrepreneurship and digital literacy. He also praised the clicker-based interactive assessment system, calling it an effective model for real-time

learning evaluation.

The Minister expressed satisfaction that student enrollment at the school increased from 497 to 767 after its inclusion under the PM SHRI initiative. He noted that 63 per cent of students are pursuing technical courses in fields such as IT, automotive technology and retail.

He also commended infrastructure facilities including RO water, sanitary pad vending machines, PM POSHAN

implementation, nutrition gardens, and inclusive features for differently-abled students.

MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, District Collector S Ramsunder Reddy, Samagra Shiksha SPD B Srinivasa Rao, RJD B Vijay Bhaskar, SCERT Director M V Krishna Reddy, AP Model Schools Joint Director Tahera Sultana, MP Kalishetti Appalanaidu, Vizianagaram MLA Pusapati Aditi Vijayalakshmi and others participated.

## CM Calls for Mineral Mapping, Rare Earth Cluster

continued

Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) to explore better utilisation and monetisation of mineral assets and conduct a detailed study with expert support.

Naidu underlined that significant revenue can be generated through value addition in minerals such as beach sand, rare earth minerals, iron ore, manganese and alumina. He said several states have strengthened their finances through mineral-based industries and stressed the need for a comprehensive policy ensuring that processing and value addition take place within Andhra Pradesh to boost employment and economic growth. He also proposed establishing a cluster for rare earth minerals across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala, and directed officials to assess reserves of titanium, ilmenite and monazite, which are critical for electronics, magnets, nuclear energy and national security applications.

Highlighting gold mining potential, Naidu referred to reserves at Jonnagiri and Chigurunta in Chittoor district and instructed officials to study remaining mineral blocks for future exploration. Officials informed him that 126 mineral-rich locations have already been identified and mining revenue has increased by 18 per cent due to improved operations.

The Chief Minister also ordered strict regulation of mining activities and advanced monitoring of sand extraction using CCTV cameras, satellite imagery and GPS tracking of transport vehicles. He noted that the government has foregone nearly Rs 1,000 crore annually by supplying sand free of cost and directed transparent implementation of the policy to prevent misuse.

Minister for Mines Kollu Ravindra, Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad, Principal Secretaries Mukesh Kumar Meena (Mines) and Piyush Kumar (Finance), and senior officials attended the review meeting.

## A Final Ride of Tribute and Service Legacy

continued

Chandra is remembered as one of Andhra Pradesh's bravest police officers, who laid down his life while fighting terrorism and organised crime. His courage, sacrifice and commitment to public safety continue to inspire police personnel across the state. Several officers and staff members joined Pratap in the tribute ride.

Born into a humble farming family, Pratap rose from assisting his mother in delivering milk during childhood to becoming the state's top police officer. Known for integrity, discipline and humility, he also visited his former teachers before retirement to seek their

blessings.

During his 35-year career, Pratap held several key positions, including Superintendent of Police, Greyhounds Commander, Additional Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office, CEO of AP Investment, DGP of AP Special Protection Force, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of AP-SRTC, Director General of Fire Services and Disaster Response, and Chairman of the AP Road Safety Authority.

His symbolic dedication of the uniform to Umesh Chandra stood as a tribute to friendship, sacrifice and the enduring values of the Indian Police Service.

## Atchannaidu Defends Government's Support to Mango Farmers

Amaravati, June 30 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Monday accused the YSR Congress Party of misleading mango farmers and attempting to tarnish the image of the coalition government through what he termed "political theatrics."

Responding to YSRCP protests over Totapuri mango prices, Atchannaidu said the previous government had failed to support farmers when prices crashed during its tenure. He challenged YSRCP leaders to explain why no substantial relief was provided when mango prices reportedly fell to as low as 2 per kilogram. The minister stated that the coalition government had extended significant assistance to farmers through a market intervention scheme, providing 190 crore in support last year with financial aid of 4 per kilogram. He added that the government remains committed to continu-

ing farmer welfare measures this season as well.

Atchannaidu said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has written to the Central Government seeking 281 crore in assistance for mango growers. He also highlighted increased allocations for horticulture development, noting that funding for fruit crop preservation programmes rose from 3.5 crore in the first year to 30 crore in the second year.

According to official figures, Totapuri mango cultivation covers 93,336 hectares in Andhra Pradesh with an estimated production of 8.84 lakh metric tonnes. So far, more than 4.42 lakh metric tonnes have been harvested, including 2.57 lakh metric tonnes procured by pulp processing units across Rayalaseema districts.

The minister reiterated that the government would continue standing by mango farmers and take all necessary measures to protect their interests.

## President Murmu Graces First Convocation of Central Tribal University

continued

by 2047, the President expressed confidence that the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh would con-

tribute meaningfully through inclusive and sustainable education focused on environmental responsibility and community empowerment.



### Lokesh Calls for Values-Driven Education

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh said education must go beyond degrees and focus on building character, compassion and a spirit of service. Addressing the first convocation of the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh in Visakhapatnam, he said artificial intelligence may provide answers, but cannot replace human values, curiosity and empathy.

He stated that the purpose of education is to create solutions that improve people's lives, and urged universities to produce not only skilled professionals but also responsible citizens and compassionate leaders.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat,

Lokesh said quality education, innovation and research are the foundation of a developed nation. He appreciated Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for his support in strengthening the education ecosystem.

Highlighting reforms under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, he said Andhra Pradesh is building future-ready universities focused on faculty quality, industry-linked skills, research and innovation. He said the state aims for every student to be employable, every university innovative and every researcher empowered.

Encouraging students, Lokesh urged them to define success by social impact rather than position. "A degree earns a profession, character earns respect, and service earns a legacy," he said, calling on graduates to contribute to public life and improve India's democratic discourse.



Governor S. Abdul Nazeer welcomed the Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu, on her arrival at INS Dega in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. President of India reached Visakhapatnam to participate in the 1st Convocation of Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh to be held at Hotel Novotel in Visakhapatnam.

## YSRCP Protests for Fair Price to Mango Farmers

Gangadhara Nellore, June 30 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party on Tuesday staged a large-scale protest at the Jain processing factory in Gangadhara Nellore, demanding a remunerative price for Totapuri mango farmers facing severe losses during the current season.

The agitation, held on the directions of YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, witnessed the participation of former Minister P. Narayana Swamy, former TTD Chairman Bhoomana Karunakar Reddy, Chittoor constituency in-charge M.C. Vijayananda Reddy, GD Nellore in-charge Kru-palakshmi, former MLA Dr. Sunil and other party leaders.

YSRCP leaders urged the government to implement the 17.50 per kilogram support price announced by the Centre and ensure immediate procurement of mango produce. They alleged that more than two lakh tonnes of mangoes in



Chittoor and Tirupati districts had gone to waste due to the government's failure to intervene.

The party accused factory managements of rejecting large quantities of produce on quality grounds and paying farmers only 4 to 5 per kilogram, resulting in heavy financial losses. Leaders also criticized the token system at factories, claiming it caused delays in unloading and in-

creased transportation costs for growers.

They alleged that cultivation expenses, labour charges and transport costs had pushed farmers into distress, while police restrictions on farmers travelling to the protest site were also condemned.

YSRCP leaders asserted that their agitation would continue until mango farmers receive fair prices and adequate support from the government.



## Lakshmi Parvathi Alleges Misuse of Telugu Academy Funds

Tadepalli, June 30 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party General Secretary and former Telugu Academy Chairperson N. Lakshmi Parvathi on Tuesday accused the coalition government of misusing Telugu Academy funds and favoring private entities in the publication sector at the expense of the institution.

Addressing the media at Tadepalli, Lakshmi Parvathi alleged that Education Minister Nara Lokesh had weakened the Academy by allowing printing-related activities to benefit private players and by diverting institutional resources. She claimed that the Academy, which was strengthened during the YSRCP government, after a legal battle, had accumulated nearly 50 crore through the publication of affordable educational books for students.

She alleged that the government's decision to provide Intermediate textbooks in PDF

format to private entities would adversely affect the sale of Academy publications and lead to financial losses. She further claimed that tender procedures had been altered to favor select private parties.

Lakshmi Parvathi also alleged that several expenditures were being incurred without the approval of the Academy's Executive Board. Criticizing the administration, she said the previous YSRCP government had maintained the dignity and financial stability of the institution, whereas the present government was undermining its objectives.

She accused the ruling coalition of promoting privatization in education and claimed that the education sector, which had witnessed reforms under former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was now facing setbacks. She demanded transparency in the functioning of the Telugu Academy and accountability in the utilization of its funds.





# YSRCP Leaders Slam Chief Minister Over Repeated Foundation Stones for Kadapa Steel Plant

**Kadapa, June 30 | TPN Bureau**

YSRCP District President Ravindranath Reddy and former Deputy CM Anjad Bhas ha have strongly criticized Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu ahead of his scheduled foundation stone laying ceremony for the JSW Steel Plant on July 3. Speaking at a media conference at the district party office, the leaders questioned the necessity of laying another foundation stone for a project that had already received all nec-



essary permissions, land allotments, and structural starts under the previous YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy administration. The opposition leaders alleged that the coalition

government is intentionally delaying the steel plant's progress while trying to claim

undue credit. They pointed out that Chandrababu Naidu had previously laid a foundation stone for the very same steel plant back in December 2018, describing the upcoming event as a repetitive political drama.

Ravindranath Reddy and Anjad Bhasa demanded that the current administration immediately halt these ceremonial events and focus instead on completing the full-scale construction work originally initiated with Jindal.

## CM Chandrababu Naidu to Visit Gudur for NTR Bharosa

**Gudur, June 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

State Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to visit Ponnampara varipalem in Chillakuru mandal on July 1st to participate in the upcoming NTR Bharosa Social Pension Distribution Program. District Collector Himanshu Shukla, alongside Gudur MLA Pasham Sunil Kumar and JC Mogili Venkateswarlu, inspected the event arrangements, helipad locations, and barricading to ensure a seamless visit. Officials anticipate a massive turnout of approximately 5000 to 7000 residents. During the visit, the Chief Minister will also review regional investments, the Krishnapatnam Port City, and furniture development to foster further industrial and employment growth in the constituency. Consequently, the District Collector has directed the medical, sanitation, and R&B departments to strictly adhere to protocol. Gudur RDO Aruna Kumari, Atmakur RDO Pavani, and DPO Vasumathi participated in this program.



## Huge Welcome Arranged for Minister Nara Lokesh in Renigunta

**Srikalahasti, June 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

Huge arrangements are being made near Kothapalem of Tirupati district Renigunta mandal for the visit of state minister Nara Lokesh to attend a TDP cadre meeting on Tuesday. Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudhir Reddy, Parliament President Panabaka Lakshmi, SAP Chairman Ravi Naidu, TUDA Chairman Dollars Diwakar Reddy, and Renigunta Mandal President Munichandra Reddy inspected the venue. Bojjala Sudhir Reddy stated that an unprecedented welcome from Renigunta International Airport with a massive 200-bike rally will be organized. Nara Lokesh will greet field-level workers and present awards to the selected best workers.



## Medical Contract Employees Demand Immediate Release of Pending Salaries

**Anantapur Urban, June 30 | TPN Bureau**

The Staff Nurses and Paramedical Contract JAC working group held a meeting at the CD Hospital premises to protest the non-payment of salaries for the past four months. Contract JAC Chairman Dinne Sarath Babu stated that 6,500 medical staff are facing severe financial distress, making it impossible to afford rent, children's education, or medicines. He urged the state government to regularize their services, provide full gross salaries, health cards, and compensation for on-duty deaths. JAC Convener T V Narayana attributed the salary delay to missing extension orders during billing and highlighted negligence at the Tadipatri Area Hospital. Prashanthi, President of the Anantapur District Staff Nurse Struggle Committee, expressed concern that the lack of appreciation for medical staff in the country is driving professionals abroad. This program was attended by Dinne Sarath Babu, T V Narayana, and Prashanthi.



## Applications Flood in for Jana Sena Party Posts in Tirupati

**Tirupati, June 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

Applications flooded into the Information Collection Committee of the Jana Sena Party for parliament district leadership roles on Tuesday morning. The process took place at the Mucku and Mucku Function Hall under the auspices of Information Collection Committee Observer and MLA Lokam Naga Madhavi. MLA Lokam Naga Madhavi, alongside MLA Arani Srinivasulu and Joint Chittoor District President Pasupuleti Hariprasad, received the submissions. As part of the member-to-leadership initiative, Jana Sena President Pawan Kalyan formed these committees to directly collect applications from grassroots workers and leaders. Pasupuleti Hariprasad stated that Pawan Kalyan aims to ensure a transparent allocation of party positions without any caste or religious differences. Lokam Naga Madhavi noted that while Tuesday's applications were exclusively from the Tirupati Assembly constituency, subsequent submissions for other constituencies under Tirupati Parliament will be received from Wednesday to Friday at the SBI office in NGO Colony.



## NITI Aayog Member Gopardhan Das Visits Srikalahasti Swamy Temple

**Srikalahasti, June 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

ITI Aayog member Gopardhan Das visited the Srikalahasti Swamy temple along with his family on Tuesday. Upon their arrival, temple officials extended a grand welcome to the visitors. Gopardhan Das and his family members then visited Sri Swamy and Ammavar, performing special pujas and receiving blessings. Following the darshan, temple Vedic scholars offered them traditional Vedic blessings. The temple administration subsequently presented the Lord's Tirtha Prasad and Seshavastra to the family members. Vidyasagar Reddy, Lokesh Babu, and M. Hari Yadav participated in this program.



## YSRCP Leader Alleges Harassment for Questioning Corruption

**Tirupati, June 30 | TPN Bureau**

YSR Congress Party Chandragiri constituency in-charge Chevireddy Mohit Reddy has accused the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in-charge of using inappropriate language to evade public accountability, while demanding an investigation into alleged corruption and land grabbing. Speaking to the media, Mohit Reddy alleged that questioning these issues results in harassment through legal cases, asserting that the YSRCP will continue to fight for the protection of government lands. Harinath Reddy, and Venkatesh Prasad.



## Ensure Quality Electricity Supply to Agriculture, Directs MLA Paritala Sunitha

**Raptadhu, June 30 | TPN Bureau**

Raptadhu MLA Paritala Sunitha has instructed electricity department officials to ensure an uninterrupted, quality power supply for agricultural activities. She distributed newly sanctioned electricity transformers and official sanction certificates to local farmers at the Vaddupalli electricity substation located in Atmakur mandal.

Speaking at the event, MLA Paritala Sunitha stated that farmers had faced severe hardships over the past five years due to delays in securing transformers, which had brought crop cultivation to a



standstill. She emphasized that the newly formed coalition government is prioritizing the clearance of these pending sanctions. To ensure a hassle-free experience for the agricultural community, she is actively coordinating with department officials to streamline the distribution of poles, wires, and other essen-

tial electrical supplies. She also highlighted that four electricity substations were established over the last two years, leading to a record number of transformer sanctions. This program was attended by agricultural farmers, and electricity department officials.

## Collector and SP Inspect Steel Plant Venue Ahead of Chief Minister Visit

**Jammalamadugu, June 29 | TPN Bureau**

District Collector Sridhar Cherukuri, Government Whip and Jammalamadugu MLA Adinarayana Reddy, and District SP Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath inspected the ongoing venue preparations at Sunnapuralla on Monday. The administrative team evaluated the security and infrastructural readiness for the official visit of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu scheduled for July 3. The comprehensive ground inspection focused on the helipad construction, the public meeting area, and the layout at the



Kanya Theertham Temple. Under the auspices of JSW Groups, the first phase of the steel plant construction works is set to launch at Sunnapuralla Palle village. Collector Sridhar Cherukuri emphasized that the project will realize the industrial aspirations of the Rayalaseema region. He directed the JSW corporate management

and revenue officials to execute the arrangements without any lapses. The completed industrial facility is expected to boost entrepreneurship and generate employment opportunities for thousands of local youth. This program was attended by Sridhar Cherukuri, Adinarayana Reddy, and Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath.

## Veera Varma Family Represents True India Says CPM Leader BV Raghavulu

**Tirupati, June 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

CPM Polit Bureau Member BV Raghavulu praised Avaniadda Veera Varma as a secular individual who promoted love beyond caste and religion during his 84th birth anniversary conference at Vemana Vigyan Kendra. The event, chaired by CITU State Vice President Kandarapu Murali, addressed contemporary challenges. Raghavulu highlighted Veera Varma's fighting spirit within the Postal Employees' Union and noted his family lacked



dowry or caste differences. Turning to politics, Raghavulu criticized the ruling powers for corporate favoritism, looting national wealth, and ruining laborers' lives. He raised concerns over inflation tied to international conflicts, a pending trade pact with America threaten-

ing local farmers, and the suppression of secularism. He criticized the political stance of the TDP, Jana Sena, and YSRCP regarding the union government and called on democrats to sensitize citizens against the erosion of constitutional values and privatization. The event featured tributes and performances by Praja Natyamandali artists. Vandavasi Nagaraju, T Subrahmanyam, and Anjaiah participated in this program.

## Comprehensive Reforms Overhaul Srikalahasti Temple Administration

**Srikalahasti, June 30 | TPN Bureau**

The Srikalahastiswara Swamy Temple has undergone a major transformation over the past three months, shifting toward enhanced devotee facilities, strict transparency, and increased revenue. Since taking charge, Executive Officer B.K. Venkateswarlu has implemented key administrative reforms to streamline temple operations. A primary focus was eliminating the middleman culture. The Public Relations Office was overhauled by transferring suspected staff and introducing a computer-based token system alongside CCTV surveillance. These measures successfully doubled the revenue from inner sanctum tickets. Additionally, a Tirumala-style vigilance system was established for round-the-clock monitoring, leading to the apprehension of unauthorized agents and improved



staff discipline. Devotee welfare measures have also seen a substantial boost. A free food distribution scheme at Ganga Sadan and Kailasa Sadan increased accommodation occupancy from 40% to over 90%, doubling lodging revenue. To combat summer heat, the administration deployed industrial coolers, standing air conditioners, and distributed free ORS water in queue lines. Digital advancements include online ticket kiosks and web bookings for accommodation and rituals. A free experimental shuttle bus now connects the temple to the local bus stand and railway station every 30 minutes. On the spiritual

front, the traditional Vedashirvachanam ritual was made accessible to common devotees for a nominal fee, generating additional daily revenue. Furthermore, early morning prayers for sub-deities were restored, and employees received new uniforms after a five-year hiatus. Continuous internal audits by senior officials ensure the sustained quality of these services. This comprehensive administrative success was achieved through the collaborative efforts and guidance of Executive Officer B.K. Venkateswarlu, local MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy, and Chairman Kotte Sai.

## MLA Vemireddy Prasanthreddy Attends

## Closing Ceremonies as Rotela Festival Concludes

**Nellore, June 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

The five-day Rotela festival at the Bara Shaheed Dargah concluded on Tuesday, with Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prasanthreddy attending the closing ceremonies. She described the festival as highly sacred, drawing lakhs of devotees from across the country and abroad. Prasanthreddy noted that she has visited the dargah for 20 years to witness the tradition of exchanging rotis for fulfilling wishes. She offered special prayers for the prosperity of the state and the good health of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh. The legislator extended congratulations for the excellent arrangements to Minister Ponguru Narayana, Rural MLA Kotam Reddy Sridhar Reddy, District Collector Himanshu Shukla, and the dargah committee members. During the final day, she exchanged rotis with Wakf Board Chairman Aziz for the well-being of the public. Wakf Board Chairman Aziz, District SP Ajitha Vejjendla, and Kotam Reddy Giridhar Reddy participated in this program.



## MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy meets MLA Bommidi Naykar

**Nellore, June 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

On Tuesday morning, Jana Sena Party Narasapuram MLA Bommidi Naykar visited Nellore and met Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy at a private hotel.



## Fishermen Families Join TDP in Presence of MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy

**Muthukur, June 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

A total of 50 YCP families from Adalanagar under Muthukur panchayat defected to the TDP under the leadership of YCP senior leader Komari Srinivasulu. Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy extended a warm welcome to fishermen Komari Tirupathiah, Avula Srinivasulu Muniraja, and the sons of Kadali who joined the party. Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy stated that welfare schemes for all sections are being implemented at a record level after the coalition government came to power. The legislator also reminded them that the hunting break allowance for fishermen has been increased from 10 thousand rupees to 20 thousand rupees, assuring continuous support.



## MLA Neelavala Vijayashree Participates in Kumbhabhishek Mahotsav

**Palempadu, June 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

Sullurupet MLA Neelavala Vijayashree participated in the Kumbhabhishek Mahotsav of Ankamma Thalli held in Palempadu village, Doravarisatram mandal on Tuesday. On this occasion, she visited the goddess and performed special pujas, praying for the happiness, health, and wealth of the constituency residents. Neelavala Vijayashree met the temple committee members, village elders, and devotees cordially and congratulated the organizers for organizing the program successfully. Local public representatives, party leaders, and activists participated in this program.



## High-Level Security Review Ahead of CM Visit to Tirupati District

**Obulavaripalle, June 30 | TPN Bureau**

District Collector S. Venkateswar and District SP L. Subbarayudu reviewed the Advance Security Liaison arrangements at Mukkavaripalli on Tuesday, ahead of the three-day district visit by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu starting July 1. The dignitaries, including Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Pemasani Chandrasekhar, will attend the Vikasith Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Grameen program on July 2. Collector S. Venkateswar directed officials to coordinate flawlessly, ensure power supply continuity, set up green rooms, and manage strict helipad access.



Editorial

Nobody Can Escape From Corruption, Even God

The reports of alleged irregularities and corruption linked to the administration of the Lord Sri Rama Temple in Ayodhya have come as a shock to millions of devotees across India. Ayodhya is not just another place of worship; it is a symbol of faith, cultural identity, and national sentiment. Naturally, any allegation concerning its administration attracts widespread attention and concern.

The inauguration of the Ram Temple was celebrated as a historic occasion, watched by people across the country and around the world. It represented the culmination of decades of legal, political, and social developments. Therefore, expectations of transparency, accountability, and efficient administration have always been exceptionally high. However, the emergence of these allegations has raised uncomfortable questions. Many people feel that those in positions of authority have been slow to acknowledge the seriousness of the issue, creating an impression that accountability is being avoided.

The allegations involving several staff members and reports of administrative irregularities raise serious questions about governance. While investigations are underway and those accused are entitled to due process, the controversy underlines a larger truth: no institution, however sacred, is immune to the risks of corruption or administrative failure. Faith in a temple should never become a reason to overlook the need for transparency and accountability.

The temple trust has defended its functioning while authorities continue to examine the allegations. The concern expressed by the Uttar Pradesh government itself reflects the seriousness of the matter. The credibility of any religious institution depends not only on its spiritual significance but also on the integrity, honesty, and accountability of those entrusted with its management.

This episode serves as a reminder that corruption is not confined to government offices or commercial establishments. Wherever money, power, and administration exist, the possibility of misuse also exists. Strong oversight, transparent financial management, and independent audits are essential to protect institutions from abuse.

Faith belongs to the devotees, but accountability belongs to those who manage institutions. No individual or institution should be considered beyond scrutiny. Only impartial investigations, transparency, and timely corrective action can preserve public trust and ensure that places of worship remain symbols of devotion rather than subjects of controversy.

Editor

“The Naidu Effect”

Is Indian democracy finally maturing in its pursuit of a Viksit Bharat?

Ram Kamal



Social Engineer

The recent evidence certainly suggests so. For the first time in years, the routine political boycotts by opposition Chief Ministers at the NITI Aayog meetings were notably absent, signalling that India has shifted into a higher gear of development. The era of the "boycott brigade", where leaders often prioritized political posturing over policy, is steadily giving way to a new pragmatism.

Today, a new wave of political leadership and emerging voices, starting from Revanth Reddy and D.K. Shivakumar to V.D. Satheesan and Vijay, are recognizing that their survival hinges on the economic advancement of their states rather than petty partisan disputes. The political landscape has evolved into a strict mandate of perform or perish. Leaders now understand that failing to prioritize tangible development will invite devastating electoral defeat, making economic progress the ultimate, non-negotiable imperative for every political party.

India is experiencing a high-velocity paradigm shift where economic imperatives are finally beginning to override regional political egos. As highlighted in the recent dialogue, this transformation is best encapsulated by the rise of competitive federalism, a system where states aggressively vie against one another for investments, industries, and infrastructure

projects. Perhaps the most striking symbol of this evolving maturity was witnessed at the recent NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting, as said above. In the past, regional politics often meant prioritizing identity, caste, or ideological rhetoric over economic deliverables. Today, however, the Indian electorate, particularly the aspirational youth, demands tangible outcomes: jobs, robust startup ecosystems, and world-class infrastructure. This bottom-up pressure has forced state leadership to pivot.

Leaders across party lines, whether it is D.K. Shivakumar in Karnataka, Revanth Reddy in Telangana, V.D. Satheesan of Kerala, Vijay of Tamil Nadu or N. Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh, are all actively eyeing the same investment pools. If one state secures a major multinational manufacturing plant or a semiconductor hub, neighbouring states immediately feel the pressure to improve their own ease of doing business. The realization has dawned that sitting out of the economic race out of political stubbornness only harms the state's residents, leading to voter disenchantment. We can call these phenomena the 'Naidu Effect', which opens the eyes of sister States to reform their State and not perish like the South Indian rebels.

State leaders have recognized that the Centre holds crucial



policy levers and capital expenditure allocations. By participating in these apex dialogues, states ensure they have a voice in national policy and a hand in the allocation of resources. Boycotting merely isolates a state from the nation's broader developmental trajectory. This unprecedented attendance underscores that while political differences remain, they are increasingly being compartmentalized. When it comes to the economy, now the state leadership is ready to put down the political sword and pick up the developmental

Flow. How does this cut-throat competition among states translate into cooperation for a Viksit Bharat? The answer lies in the organic nature of holistic development and the visible development shopping done by

Chandrababu Naidu for Andhra Pradesh.

While states compete fiercely for capital, their individual successes compound to build a resilient national economy. When a state upgrades its power grid or logistical infrastructure to win a manufacturing contract, it inadvertently strengthens the national supply chain. Furthermore, complex modern industries like deep-tech AI, drone ecosystems, and defence manufacturing require multi-state supply chains and uniform national policies.

Competitive federalism to cooperative federalism

This creates a natural bridge between the two. States realize that to sustain their local growth, they must cooperate with the Centre on macroeconomic policies, taxation frame-

works, and national infrastructure corridors. The competition drives efficiency and innovation at the grassroots, while federal cooperation ensures these local successes are scaled nationally. Ultimately, India's youth are no longer swayed by empty rhetoric; they are driven by the pursuit of better livelihoods, technological advancement, and global connectivity. The transition we are witnessing, where Chief Ministers choose NITI Aayog boardrooms over protest stages, is the foundation of an organic Viksit Bharat.

**Tailpiece:** Our democracy is now maturing. Winston Churchill failed in his forecast: "Power will go to the hands of rascals, rogues, freebooters; all Indian leaders will be of low calibre & men of straw."

Education on the Edge: Bridging Aspiration and Inequality

M.S. Reddy



Education and Social Analyst

The educational journey of students from poor and middle-class backgrounds is shaped by a blend of aspiration, anxiety, and persistent barriers. For many, education is not merely a pathway to knowledge but the only viable route to economic mobility and social advancement. Yet, this journey is fraught with structural and financial challenges that demand urgent attention.

Mounting Financial Pressures

The rising cost of higher education—especially in professional fields such as engineering and medicine—has placed an unbearable burden on families. Tuition fees, hostel expenses, and associated costs often force households into debt, with some even compelled to sell assets. While education is seen as an investment in the future, the immediate financial strain continues to deter many deserving students from pursuing their ambitions.

The Changing Role of State Support

Government initiatives like fee reimbursement schemes once played a transformative role in enabling access to higher education for economically weaker sections. These schemes opened doors to professional courses and triggered significant social mobility. However, recent modifications, funding gaps, and implementation challenges have diluted their impact, raising concerns about equitable access.

Education Without Employment

A growing disconnect between education and employment has deepened the crisis. Many graduates from modest backgrounds find themselves unemployed or underemployed, unable to repay educational loans or support their families. Rising inflation and limited job opportunities exacerbate this situation, pushing vulnerable families into a cycle of debt and despair.

Institutional Gaps and Gender Progress

Despite systemic shortcomings, higher education institutions have made efforts to include marginalized

groups. Notably, female enrollment has seen encouraging growth, reflecting a gradual shift in societal attitudes. However, infrastructural deficiencies—such as inadequate faculty, poor hostel facilities, and lack of basic amenities—continue to undermine the quality of education, particularly in government institutions.

Awareness and Social Barriers

In several cases, lack of awareness among parents and adverse socioeconomic conditions prevent children from accessing education. Child labour remains a harsh reality, with many students dropping out to support family incomes. Gender bias also persists, with some families still reluctant to educate girls, opting instead for early marriages. These social constraints significantly limit educational opportunities.

Decline of Government Schools

Government schools, which serve as the backbone of education for poor and middle-class families, are witnessing a steady decline in enrollment. Inadequate infrastructure, teacher shortages, lack of sanitation, and concerns over safety contribute to this trend. While schemes like midday meals address basic needs, they are insufficient to tackle the deeper issues of educational poverty.

The Digital Divide

Access to technology has become a critical factor in modern education. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds often lack access to digital devices, reliable internet, and trained educators. This digital divide not only hampers learning but

also widens the gap between privileged and underprivileged students, particularly in an increasingly online learning environment.

Medium and Quality of Instruction

Confusion over the medium of instruction and inconsistent teaching standards further complicate the learning process. Whether in regional languages or English, the absence of quality pedagogy affects comprehension and outcomes, leaving students ill-prepared for competitive environments.

The Way Forward

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-pronged approach. Financial discipline at the household level, combined with policy support, can make higher education more attainable. Vocational and skill-based courses aligned with market demands can enhance employability and ensure quicker financial stability. Governments must strengthen fee reimbursement schemes, improve infrastructure, and ensure effective monitoring of educational institutions.

Equally important is raising awareness about educational rights, such as the provision for 25% reservation in private schools for disadvantaged students. Bridging the gap between policy and implementation is essential to ensure that benefits reach the intended beneficiaries.

The link between poverty and education remains one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Without targeted interventions, millions of talented students risk being left behind. Educationists, policymakers, and society at large must collaborate to create an inclusive system that nurtures potential, reduces inequality, and empowers the next generation. Only then can education truly serve as the great equalizer it is meant to be.



Shortage of Sustained Efforts Causes Definitive Failures

Pokkuluri Subba Rao



Veteran Journalist

India does not suffer from a shortage of ideas. It suffers from a shortage of follow-through. Policy after policy is announced with conviction, often backed by sound intent and substantial resources. Yet, the distance between announcement and execution remains India's most persistent governance deficit. That distance is measured not in ambition, but in consistency.

Inconsistency

The Indian state has, over decades, demonstrated an ability to design expansive programmes—from welfare delivery to infrastructure expansion. But design is only the first step. Outcomes depend on whether implementation is steady, predictable, and sustained across time and geography. Too often, it is not. Schemes begin with urgency and fade into unevenness. Monitoring weakens, priorities shift, and accountability diffuses.

Take welfare delivery. Flagship programmes in employment, food security, and healthcare have shown that when execution is consistent at the last mile, the results are tangible. Leaky buckets reduce, beneficiaries gain confidence, and systems stabilise. Conversely, irregular implementation—delayed payments, patchy coverage, bureaucratic discretion—erodes both impact and trust. In governance, inconsistency is not a minor lapse; it is a structural flaw. Uneven Enforcement of

Economic policy

Economic policy tells a similar story. Investors seek more than incentives—they seek predictability. A stable regulatory environment, even if conservative, is preferable to frequent shifts that introduce uncertainty. Retro-spective changes, abrupt reversals, or uneven enforcement send a clear signal: risk is not just market-driven, but policy-driven.

Consistency, in this context, becomes an economic asset—one that lowers friction and encourages long-term commitment.

Frequent Delays – Escalation of Costs

Infrastructure offers perhaps the most visible evidence. India's highways, rail networks, and urban projects do not advance on announcements alone. They require sustained execution—year after year, allocation after allocation. Where there is continuity in planning and oversight, projects move. Where momentum is interrupted, delays multiply and costs escalate. The difference is rarely vision; it is persistence.

Consistency is core value

This pattern extends beyond the state. In education, the preference for last-minute preparation continues to undermine deep learning. In business, the temptation of quick returns often displaces the discipline required to build



endurable enterprises. Yet, the most successful institutions—public or private—are those that have internalised consistency as a core value. They deliver not occasionally, but reliably.

Sport underscores the point with clarity. Victories are celebrated, but they are only the visible tip of a long process. Champions are produced through daily training, structured systems, and sustained investment. Sporadic attention yields sporadic success. Consistent effort yields excellence. Why does consistency matter so much? First, it builds credibility. Governments that implement policies steadily earn public trust; businesses that deliver reliably retain customers. Second, it compounds outcomes. Incremental gains, when repeated, produce transformative results. Third, it strengthens resilience. Systems anchored in routine and discipline are better equipped to absorb shocks.

Flexibility and Steadiness

It is important, however, to distinguish consistency from rigidity. Effective governance demands the ability to adapt—to correct course when necessary. But adaptation without continuity leads to drift. The challenge is to combine

flexibility with steadiness: to refine methods without abandoning direction.

India's scale and diversity are often cited as reasons for uneven outcomes. While complexity is real, inconsistency is not inevitable. It is a function of institutional design and administrative will. Clear timelines, measurable benchmarks, and continuous evaluation are not optional—they are essential.

Rebalancing priorities needed

For too long, India's public narrative has privileged the dramatic over the durable. Announcements dominate headlines; execution rarely does. This imbalance has consequences. It creates cycles of expectation and disappointment, ambition and under-delivery. If India is to translate potential into performance, it must rebalance its priorities—from spectacle to systems, from intent to implementation. The journey from announcement to execution cannot be episodic; it must be continuous. Success, whether of a nation or an institution, is not an event. It is a pattern of behaviour sustained over time. Until consistency becomes that pattern, India's story will remain one of verbosity—impressive in scope, but incomplete in delivery.

## Centre Forms Prasoon Joshi-Led Panel to Strengthen Indian Film Industry

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has constituted a high-level study group under the chairmanship of Prasara Bharati Chairman Prasoon Joshi to recommend measures for strengthening India's film industry and enhancing its global competitiveness. The decision was taken during a high-level review meeting chaired by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The panel has been asked to submit its recommendations to the ministry within three months.

The study group, comprising industry experts and technology partners, will examine the opportunities and challenges facing Indian cinema. Its mandate includes identifying ways to make Indian films more competitive in international markets, encouraging the adoption of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and virtual production, and recommending strategies to help filmmakers leverage these innovations.

Another key focus area for the committee will be improving access to institutional finance for filmmakers. The panel will study the difficulties producers face in raising funds for film production and distribution and explore alternative financing models that can support both mainstream and independent cinema. It will also engage with state governments and industry stakeholders to identify best practices and propose a comprehensive policy



framework for the long-term growth of the sector.

Alongside the formation of the study group, the Centre has also introduced Model State Cinema Regulations and circulated them to all states for adoption. Since the regulation of cinemas and theatres falls under the State List, different states currently follow varying approval processes, which the Centre believes have slowed the expansion of cinema infrastructure, particularly in smaller towns and rural areas. The model regulations aim to simplify permissions and promote the establishment of more cinema halls across the country.

The government believes these initiatives will modernise India's film ecosystem by encouraging technological innovation, improving access to finance and creating a more uniform regulatory framework. Officials expect the reforms to strengthen film production, distribution and exhibition while helping Indian cinema expand its global reach and contribute more significantly to the country's creative economy.



## Supreme Court Declines Immediate Bail to Asaram in Jodhpur Rape Case

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to grant immediate interim bail to self-styled godman Asaram in the 2013 Jodhpur rape case, where he is serving a life sentence. The 90-year-old had sought bail on medical grounds, citing age-related health issues while challenging the Rajasthan High Court's order upholding his conviction.

A bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Sheel Nagu issued a notice to the Rajasthan government on Asaram's appeal and directed it to file its response within three weeks. The court said it would consider the bail plea only after hearing the state's stand or if there is clear evidence of a serious deterioration in his medical condition.

The Rajasthan High Court

had earlier upheld Asaram's conviction and life sentence for the rape of a minor girl, while directing him to surrender after cancelling the interim medical bail granted to him. He subsequently approached the Supreme Court seeking relief.

During the hearing, the apex court observed that it was not inclined to grant immediate bail without examining the facts presented by the state government. However, it clarified that Asaram could approach the court again if his health condition worsens significantly before the next hearing.

With the Supreme Court agreeing to hear his appeal, the legal challenge to his conviction will continue. Until then, Asaram will remain in judicial custody as the court considers the case on its merits.

# Kerala Private Bus Operators Announce Indefinite Protest Over Free Travel Scheme

Private bus operators in Kerala have announced an indefinite protest from July 20, alleging that the state's free travel scheme for women on Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses has severely affected their earnings and threatened the survival of private bus services. The agitation, led by the Private Bus Operators Federation, will be held in front of the State Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram.

The controversy centres around the 'Priyadarshini' scheme, introduced under the state government's Indira

Guarantee Scheme, which offers free travel for women on 3,125 ordinary KSRTC buses. According to the Transport Department, the initiative has encouraged an additional five lakh women to use state-run bus services. However, private operators claim that the scheme has resulted in a sharp decline in passenger numbers and revenue.

Bus operators have also raised concerns over worsening financial conditions. In Palakkad, drivers and conductors alleged that their daily wages have been reduced to around

## PM Modi Holds High-Level Review Meeting With Top Bureaucrats, Focus on Governance Reforms

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with the secretaries of all Central ministries, underscoring the government's continued focus on governance reforms, policy implementation and administrative efficiency. The meeting, held shortly after the Prime Minister returned from his official visit to Seychelles, marked his second major interaction with the country's top bureaucracy in less than two months.

Although the government did not immediately disclose the details of the discussions, officials indicated that the meeting was expected to review ongoing reform initiatives aimed at improving the ease of doing business and ease of living. The Prime Minister is also believed to have assessed the progress of key developmental programmes and policy measures being implemented by various ministries.

The review comes as the Centre continues to push its long-term vision of 'Viksit Bharat @2047', which seeks to transform India into a devel-



oped nation by the centenary of its Independence. Secretaries from different ministries were expected to brief the Prime Minister on the implementation of reforms, regulatory simplification and developmental initiatives under their respective departments.

This was the second such comprehensive meeting after a similar interaction held on May 21, when Prime Minister Modi brought together Union ministers and senior bureaucrats to prepare regulatory roadmaps for accelerating economic growth and improving governance. During that meeting, he had stressed the need for faster decision-making, better inter-ministerial coordination and efficient execution of government policies.

The latest review reflects the government's emphasis on monitoring policy implementation at the highest level and ensuring that ministries remain aligned with national development goals. Such interactions are seen as an important mechanism for identifying bottlenecks, improving coordination across departments and speeding up the execution of flagship programmes.

With governance reforms and administrative efficiency remaining central to the government's agenda, the meeting is expected to provide fresh momentum to ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening public service delivery, attracting investment and advancing India's long-term economic and developmental objectives.

## Courts Must Safeguard Constitutional Supremacy, Says CJI Surya Kant

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant has said that courts must remain vigilant guardians of constitutional supremacy, stressing that an independent judiciary is essential for protecting democracy, the rule of law and citizens' fundamental rights. He made the remarks while addressing an international judicial conference in Sweden attended by judges and legal experts from around the world.

Justice Surya Kant said constitutional courts have the responsibility of ensuring that all organs of the State function within the framework of the Constitution. He noted that judicial independence is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy and that courts must uphold constitutional values without fear or favour.

Highlighting the challenges faced by modern legal systems, the CJI observed that rapid



technological advancements, globalization and evolving social expectations have made constitutional adjudication more complex. He said courts must strike a balance between adapting to changing times and remaining faithful to the Constitution's core principles.

Justice Surya Kant also emphasized the importance of judicial integrity, transparency and accountability. He called for greater collaboration among judiciaries across the

world to exchange best practices and strengthen justice delivery systems.

The CJI said that constitutional courts play a vital role in preserving democratic institutions and ensuring that government actions remain within constitutional limits. He added that safeguarding constitutional supremacy is essential to maintaining public trust in the judiciary and protecting the rights and freedoms of every citizen.

## General Dhiraj Seth Assumes Charge as India's 31st Army Chief

General Dhiraj Seth on Tuesday took charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, who retired after more than four decades of distinguished service in the Indian Army. Before assuming the top post, General Seth served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and has held several key operational and strategic appointments during his nearly 40-year military career.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla, General Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986. He is the first officer from

the Armoured Corps to become Army Chief since General Shankar Roy Chowdhary in 1997. Over the years, he has commanded formations at every level, including the Southern Command and South Western Command, and has extensive experience in conventional operations, counter-insurgency and capability development.

General Seth assumes leadership of the 1.3-million-strong Indian Army at a time when the force is undergoing rapid modernisation, with a strong focus on self-reliance, technology-driven warfare, integrated theatre commands and en-

hanced border preparedness. Defence officials believe his operational expertise and emphasis on future-ready military capabilities will help drive the Army's ongoing transformation.

After taking charge, General Seth paid tribute at the National War Memorial, while outgoing Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi expressed confidence in his successor's leadership. The change of command marks a significant transition as the Army continues to strengthen its operational readiness and adapt to evolving security challenges.



## Rajnath Singh Unveils DFP-2026 to Fast-Track DRDO Projects and Boost Defence Innovation

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the Delegation of Financial Powers to DRDO (DFP-2026), a major reform aimed at improving the efficiency, accountability and timely execution of strategic research and development (R&D) projects undertaken by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The new framework is expected to streamline financial decision-making and accelerate the development of indigenous defence technologies.

According to the Ministry of Defence, DFP-2026 significantly enhances financial and functional powers at various levels within the Department of Defence R&D. The revised framework is designed to reduce procedural delays, enabling DRDO to execute critical defence projects more efficiently while ensuring greater accountability in the utilisation of financial resources.

Speaking at the launch, Rajnath Singh said the reform would facilitate the faster production and induction of advanced defence systems, platforms and technologies into the Armed Forces. He also noted that the framework would strengthen collaboration between DRDO, industry and academic institutions, reinforcing the government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat by promoting self-reliance in defence technology and enhancing India's overall defence preparedness.

The revised financial frame-

work introduces dedicated provisions for trial campaigns, testing and evaluation activities, along with the authority to sanction pre-project R&D initiatives. It also clearly defines financial powers related to grants for Extra-Mural Research Projects, Defence Innovation Accelerator-Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs) and Technology Development Fund (TDF) projects, ensuring smoother implementation of innovation-driven programmes.

The reform comes at a time when DRDO is working on several high-priority projects, including the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), Project Kusha, the Agni missile series and the Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control System. Officials believe the enhanced financial autonomy under DFP-2026 will help speed up these programmes and improve coordination across research, development and production stages.

Senior defence officials, including Chief of Defence Staff General N.S. Raja Subramani, Defence Secretary and DRDO Chairman Rajesh Kumar Singh, and other top ministry officials attended the launch event. The government believes the new framework will strengthen India's defence innovation ecosystem, reduce project timelines and accelerate the delivery of cutting-edge technologies to the armed forces, further enhancing the country's strategic capabilities.



## 11-Year-Old Dies After Tree Crashes Onto School Bus in Mumbai's Chembur

An 11-year-old student lost his life and four others were injured after a large tree collapsed onto a school bus in Mumbai's Chembur area on Tuesday afternoon. The accident occurred on Road No. 11 while the bus, carrying 12 students, was on its way to school. Heavy rains and strong winds are suspected to have caused the tree to fall.

According to officials, the impact crushed the front portion of the bus. The conductor, local residents and emergency responders quickly launched a rescue operation and evacuated the children before the Mumbai Fire Brigade reached the spot. Five injured students were rushed to Zen Hospital for treatment. Doctors declared 11-year-old Vihan Shrivastav dead due to critical injuries, while the remaining four children are

reported to be in stable condition.

The incident has triggered concerns over public safety during the monsoon season. Residents alleged that they had repeatedly urged the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to trim or remove ageing trees in the area, warning that a similar incident had occurred earlier. They claimed no preventive action was taken despite repeated complaints.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall and thunderstorms in Mumbai and its suburbs, prompting authorities to advise residents to remain cautious. Officials are investigating the incident while civic authorities are expected to review the condition of old trees across vulnerable areas to prevent similar tragedies during the ongoing monsoon.

# Bangladesh's Strategic Shift Towards China Raises Security Concerns for India

RAVI PODILI

Bangladesh, a nation whose independence was achieved with India's decisive support in 1971, is increasingly moving closer to China and Pakistan, triggering fresh strategic and security concerns in New Delhi. Since the fall of the government led by Sheikh Hasina in 2024 and the formation of an interim administration after she sought refuge in India, Dhaka's foreign policy has undergone a significant shift, with a noticeable rise in moves perceived as unfriendly towards India.

The recent visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to China has further intensified these concerns. During the visit, Bangladesh and China signed 17 agree-

ments, many of which are viewed by Indian strategic observers as having potential implications for India's regional security. One of the major developments was the revival of the proposed Bangladesh-Myanmar-China Economic Corridor, a project that could enhance China's strategic presence in South Asia.

Chinese President Xi Jinping reportedly placed special emphasis on expanding China's role in Bangladesh's maritime infrastructure. China has announced plans to modernize the strategically important Chittagong Port while discussions were also held to develop Mongla Port into a major regional hub.

A particularly significant development is Bangladesh's decision to cancel an earlier agreement with India

concerning land adjacent to Mongla Port. In 2015, during Sheikh Hasina's tenure, nearly 110 acres near the port had been allotted to an Indian developer for establishing an Indian Economic Zone. However, the interim government led by Younis Ahmed reportedly revoked the agreement last October, citing delays in project implementation, and has now allocated the same land to China.

Indian analysts view this as part of China's broader regional maritime strategy. Beijing has already secured a significant presence at Pakistan's Gwadar Port and Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port. With its expanding role in Chittagong and now Mongla, China is strengthening its influence across the northern Indian Ocean.

Mongla Port's proximity to India is of particular concern. Located just about 188 kilometres from Kolkata Port, it could potentially provide China with greater access to monitor maritime activities along India's eastern coastline and the Bay of Bengal. Security experts believe enhanced Chinese infrastructure in Bangladesh may increase surveillance capabilities over India's eastern naval operations and the northeastern region.

Further concerns have emerged over reports that Bangladesh is considering Chinese participation in the Teesta River project in northern Bangladesh. The project lies close to the strategically vital Siliguri Corridor, often referred to as India's "Chicken's Neck," which connects

the northeastern states with the rest of the country. Any significant Chinese presence near this corridor is viewed as a matter of strategic sensitivity. As China's footprint grows in Bangladesh, India may need to devote additional military and surveillance resources along its eastern frontier and the Bay of Bengal, complementing its existing focus on the borders with China and Pakistan.

However, India has also strengthened its own strategic posture in the region. In response to China's expanding maritime influence, New Delhi has developed strategic partnerships around the Indian Ocean, including operational access to Myanmar's Sittwe Port, Oman's Duqm Port, and Indonesia's Sabang Port. Simultaneously, India continues to



upgrade the Andaman and Nicobar Islands into a major military and maritime hub. Defence analysts believe that while the emerging China-Pakistan-Bangladesh alignment presents new geopolitical challenges,

India remains focused on countering these developments through strengthened border security, maritime partnerships, diplomatic engagement, and advanced defence capabilities.

## Israel Says Troops Will Stay in Southern Lebanon Until Hezbollah Is Disarmed



outlines a process under which the Lebanese state would gradually assume full control over southern Lebanon while working toward the disarmament of Hezbollah. It also envisages the eventual withdrawal of Israeli forces once security conditions are met and the Lebanese Armed Forces establish effective control in the region.

However, the proposal has faced strong opposition from Hezbollah. The group's leadership has categorically rejected any plan requiring it to surrender its weapons, arguing that its armed wing remains essential for defending Lebanon against Israeli military action. Hezbollah

has also accused the Lebanese government of compromising national sovereignty by considering the agreement.

The differing positions have raised concerns among analysts, who warn that implementing the agreement could prove extremely difficult. Many believe the Lebanese government lacks the political authority and military capacity to force Hezbollah to disarm, making the conditions for an Israeli withdrawal challenging to fulfil. Some experts have cautioned that the arrangement could result in a prolonged Israeli military presence in southern Lebanon rather than bringing a lasting resolution to the conflict.

Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts continue to prevent renewed fighting along the Israel-Lebanon border. Senior US military and diplomatic officials have held separate meetings with Lebanese leaders and Israeli representatives in an effort to advance the framework and reduce regional tensions. Both sides have expressed support for avoiding further escalation, although major differences remain over the future of Hezbollah and the timetable for Israeli troop withdrawal.

The proposed framework marks one of the most significant diplomatic initiatives between Israel and Lebanon in decades. Yet with Israel insisting on Hezbollah's disarmament before any withdrawal and Hezbollah firmly rejecting that demand, the path to implementation remains uncertain. For now, Israeli forces are expected to remain in southern Lebanon while negotiations continue, leaving the region in a fragile state despite ongoing international mediation efforts.

# What Is a Heat Dome? Understanding the Weather Phenomenon Driving Extreme Temperatures Worldwide

As record-breaking temperatures continue to affect several parts of the world, meteorologists are drawing attention to a weather phenomenon known as a heat dome, which is responsible for many prolonged and intense heatwaves. Experts say these events are becoming more frequent and severe as global temperatures rise due to climate change.

A heat dome forms when a strong, slow-moving high-pressure system settles over a region and traps hot air near the Earth's surface. The high-pressure system acts like a lid, preventing the hot air from escaping. As the trapped air is compressed, temperatures continue to rise, often resulting in several days of unusually hot and dry weather. Clear skies associated with the system also allow more sunlight to reach the ground, further increasing surface temperatures.

Climate scientists explain that while heat domes are naturally occurring weather events, global warming has



made them more dangerous. Rising average temperatures mean that when a heat dome develops, it starts with a warmer baseline, making heatwaves more intense and longer-lasting. Research indicates that human-driven climate change has increased both the frequency and severity of extreme heat events across many regions of the world. The impact of heat domes extends far beyond uncomfortable temperatures. Extended periods of extreme heat can trigger droughts, increase the risk of wildfires, strain electricity grids and reduce agricultural productivity. Human health is also significantly

affected, particularly among older adults, children, outdoor workers and people with existing medical conditions. High nighttime temperatures are especially dangerous because they prevent the body from recovering after extremely hot days. During the first half of 2026, several regions, including parts of the United States, Europe and India, experienced unusually intense heat linked to heat dome conditions. In Europe, temperatures climbed close to 40 degrees Celsius in multiple countries, prompting health alerts, school closures and emergency measures. Similar conditions have also contributed to

prolonged heatwaves in North America and parts of Asia. Experts recommend taking extra precautions during heat dome events. Staying hydrated, avoiding outdoor activities during the hottest hours of the day, wearing lightweight clothing and seeking air-conditioned or shaded environments can significantly reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses. Authorities also encourage people to regularly check on elderly relatives, neighbours and other vulnerable individuals during prolonged periods of extreme heat.

Scientists warn that unless global greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, heat domes and the extreme heat they produce are likely to become increasingly common in the years ahead. While weather forecasting has improved, limiting the long-term impact of these events will require broader efforts to address climate change, strengthen public health systems and improve urban planning to better withstand rising temperatures.

## Bangladesh Measles Outbreak Crosses 1 Lakh Suspected Cases, Death Toll Climbs to 716



across the country. Of these, over 80,000 have recovered and been discharged, while thousands continue to receive treatment. Hospitals in several regions have struggled to cope with the surge in patients, particularly young children. Health officials say the outbreak has affected 58 of Bangladesh's 64 districts, making it one of the largest nationwide disease outbreaks in recent years. Dhaka has recorded the highest number of suspected infections, followed by Rajshahi, Chattogram and Khulna. Many cases have been reported from densely populated urban settlements, where overcrowding and gaps in vaccination coverage have

accelerated transmission. Children under the age of five remain the worst affected. According to health authorities, they account for nearly 79% of reported infections, with most severe cases occurring among children who had not received the recommended measles vaccinations. Infants below nine months, who are often too young for routine immunisation, have also been particularly vulnerable during the outbreak. To contain the spread, the Bangladeshi government launched a nationwide measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign in April, targeting young children in high-risk districts. Authorities have also intensified dis-

ease surveillance, expanded testing and strengthened hospital preparedness to improve case detection and treatment. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified the situation as a high national public health risk, citing widespread transmission and immunity gaps among children. Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that spreads through respiratory droplets and can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis and death, especially among young children. Health experts stress that vaccination remains the most effective protection against the disease and continue to urge parents to ensure their children receive both recommended doses of the measles vaccine.

As Bangladesh races to contain the outbreak, public health officials warn that sustained vaccination efforts, improved surveillance and community awareness will be critical to preventing further infections and reducing the rising death toll.

# UAE Launches First Passenger Train Service as Etihad Rail Connects Abu Dhabi and Fujairah



The United Arab Emirates has marked a major milestone in its transportation history with the launch of its first inter-emirate passenger train service, operated by Etihad Rail. The inaugural service between Abu Dhabi and Fujairah has generated tremendous public interest, with more than 10,000 tickets sold even before the official launch, reflecting strong demand for the country's long-awaited national railway network.

The first scheduled train departed Fujairah Station at 5:34 am and arrived at Mohamed bin Zayed City Station in Abu Dhabi in approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes. Running at speeds of up to 200 kmph, the service significantly reduces travel time between the two emirates while offering passengers a comfortable alternative to road transport.

During the introductory phase, three daily services will operate in each direction. Ticket prices begin at AED 55 for Comfort Class and AED 120 for Premium Class. Passengers can book tickets through the Etihad Rail mobile application and the company's official website. The trains are equipped with modern amenities, including complimentary Wi-Fi, charging ports, spacious seating, overhead luggage storage and dedicated areas for larger baggage, making the journey convenient for both business and leisure travellers.

The launch represents the first phase of the UAE's ambitious passenger rail project. In the coming months, the network will expand further with the opening of stations in

Dubai and Al Dhaid on September 30, followed by stations in the Al Dhafra region later this year. The final phase, including the Sharjah station, is expected to be completed by March 2027, ultimately connecting 11 cities and regions across the UAE.

Officials say the railway is designed to transform domestic travel by offering a faster, safer and more environmentally friendly mode of transportation. The service is expected to benefit daily commuters, tourists and business travellers while easing road congestion and supporting the country's sustainability goals. The stations have also been integrated with local public transport networks, allowing passengers to seamlessly connect with buses, taxis and other mobility services upon arrival.

Each of the 13 passenger

trains can accommodate up to 400 travellers, with the fleet designed to deliver a modern travel experience. The scenic route between Abu Dhabi and Fujairah passes through desert landscapes and mountain terrain, offering passengers views rarely seen from the country's highways.

The launch of Etihad Rail's passenger service is considered one of the UAE's most significant infrastructure achievements in recent years. Beyond improving connectivity between emirates, the project is expected to boost tourism, encourage economic growth and strengthen regional mobility. With additional routes set to become operational over the coming months, the national railway network is poised to redefine travel across the UAE and establish rail as a key component of the country's future transport system.

# Sensex Falls 249 Points, Nifty Slips Below 23,900 as IT Stocks Lead Market Decline

Indian equity markets ended lower on Tuesday, with benchmark indices coming under pressure amid heavy selling in information technology (IT) stocks on the monthly derivatives expiry day. The BSE Sensex declined around 250 points to close at 76,478.67, while the NSE Nifty50 slipped 80.5 points to settle at 23,865.75, ending below the crucial 23,900 mark.

The markets started the session on a positive note, supported by encouraging global cues. However, gains proved short-lived as investors booked profits in IT shares, dragging the benchmarks into negative territory. Weak sentiment in the technology sector was largely driven by con-

cerns that higher interest rates in the United States could weigh on corporate technology spending, affecting Indian IT companies that derive a significant share of their revenue from overseas clients.

Among the sectoral indices, Nifty IT emerged as the worst performer, with heavyweights such as Infosys, TCS, HCLTech and Wipro witnessing significant selling pressure. Auto stocks also remained under pressure after the Delhi government's new Electric Vehicle Policy 2026-30 sparked concerns over the future demand outlook for conventional two-wheelers. Eicher Motors was among the notable losers, as investors worried about Royal



Enfield's relatively limited presence in the electric motorcycle segment.

Despite Tuesday's decline, market experts noted that the overall performance during

June remained positive. The Sensex gained over 2% during the month, while the Nifty

also posted healthy gains, supported by easing crude oil prices, measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen the rupee and improve foreign capital inflows, and resilience in banking and financial stocks.

Analysts believe investors are now closely watching several key factors that could determine the market's near-term direction. These include the start of the first-quarter earnings season, global interest rate expectations, foreign institutional investor (FII) activity, monsoon progress and international crude oil prices. With monthly expiry-related volatility behind them, attention is expected to shift toward corporate earnings and mac-

roeconomic indicators.

The Indian rupee also weakened for the second straight session, ending 13 paise lower at 94.66 against the US dollar, reflecting cautious investor sentiment amid global uncertainties.

While Tuesday's session ended on a subdued note, market participants remain optimistic about the medium-term outlook. Analysts believe strong domestic fundamentals, continued policy support and improving corporate earnings could help Indian equities regain momentum in the coming weeks, though investors are likely to remain selective amid global economic uncertainties and sector-specific headwinds.

## Calcutta Stock Exchange Shares Rally on Revival Buzz, But Experts Urge Investors to Stay Cautious



Shares of the Calcutta Stock Exchange (CSE) traded in the unlisted market have witnessed a sharp rally after the West Bengal government announced plans to revive the century-old bourse. While the development has sparked optimism among investors, market experts remain cautious, warning that significant regulatory, technological and commercial challenges must be overcome before any revival becomes a reality.

The renewed interest in CSE followed the state government's announcement during the recent budget presentation, where it expressed its intention to bring the exchange back into active operation. The proposal has fuelled buying activity in the unlisted market, with CSE shares rising from around 1,500 on June 21 to nearly 1,800

by June 30. Some trading platforms have even quoted prices close to 2,000 per share, although transaction volumes remain relatively low.

The Calcutta Stock Exchange, one of India's oldest stock exchanges, has not conducted equity trading since April 2013 after regulatory action by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). In February 2025, the exchange applied for voluntary exit, and SEBI initiated the process by appointing a valuer. However, no final decision has yet been taken on the application. Following the state's revival proposal, CSE is now expected to withdraw its exit request.

Despite the surge in investor interest, analysts believe reviving the exchange will be a difficult task. Any proposal would require SEBI's approval and

substantial investments in modern trading infrastructure, technology and regulatory compliance. Experts also point out that attracting meaningful trading volumes would be a major challenge, given the overwhelming dominance of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in India's equity markets.

Another concern is the exchange's commercial viability. Market participants argue that simply reopening the platform may not be enough unless CSE can develop a unique business model that differentiates it from larger competitors. Without sufficient liquidity and investor participation, sustaining operations could prove difficult despite government backing.

While the exchange's report-

ed book value per share is above 3,000, experts caution that investors should not rely solely on this figure when valuing the stock. Unlisted shares often experience sharp price swings due to limited trading activity, making them inherently risky investments. The recent rally, they say, appears to be driven more by optimism than by any confirmed operational progress.

For now, the proposed revival remains at an early stage. The future of the Calcutta Stock Exchange will largely depend on regulatory approvals, successful infrastructure upgrades and its ability to attract participants in an increasingly competitive market. Until concrete steps are taken, analysts advise investors to remain cautious despite the recent surge in unlisted share prices.

## India's Economic Growth Moderates, but Strong Domestic Demand Keeps Recovery on Track: HSBC

India's economic growth is showing signs of moderation after a period of robust expansion, but strong domestic demand continues to support the country's overall growth trajectory, according to a recent report by HSBC. The global financial services firm believes that while certain sectors are witnessing a slowdown, resilient consumer spending, government investment and healthy domestic activity are likely to keep the economy on a stable growth path.

HSBC's latest assessment indicates that the pace of economic expansion has eased compared to previous quarters, reflecting weaker external demand and a gradual cooling in manufacturing activity. However, the report highlights that India's domestic economy remains relatively insulated from global uncertainties due to its large consumer base and sustained public spending on infrastructure and development projects.

One of the key factors supporting the economy is resilient domestic consumption. Strong household spending, particularly in urban areas, has continued to drive demand for goods and services despite inflationary pressures. The report also points to healthy activity in the services sector, including financial services, hospitality and retail, which has played a crucial role in maintaining economic momentum.

Government capital expenditure has emerged as another major growth driver. Continued investments in roads, railways, airports and other infra-



structure projects have generated employment opportunities while supporting demand for industries such as cement, steel and construction. HSBC noted that these investments are helping offset weaker global trade and export-related challenges.

The report also observed that inflation has gradually eased compared to previous highs, providing some relief to consumers and businesses. Although food prices remain volatile due to weather-related factors, overall inflation has stayed within a manageable range, allowing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) greater flexibility in balancing growth and price stability. Lower inflation is expected to improve purchasing power and support consumption in the coming months.

At the same time, HSBC cautioned that global risks continue to pose challenges for the Indian economy. Slower growth in advanced economies, geopolitical tensions and uncertainty surrounding international trade could impact exports and private investment. Neverthe-

less, India's relatively strong domestic fundamentals are expected to cushion the impact of these external headwinds.

Looking ahead, HSBC remains optimistic about India's medium-term prospects. The report suggests that sustained reforms, rising private consumption, improving rural demand and continued infrastructure spending will help maintain economic expansion even if the pace of growth moderates slightly. Analysts believe that India's structural strengths—including its young workforce, expanding digital economy and growing manufacturing base—will continue to support long-term development.

While the economy may no longer be growing at the rapid pace seen earlier, HSBC's outlook indicates that India's growth story remains intact. Strong domestic demand, policy support and resilient economic fundamentals are expected to help the country navigate global uncertainties and maintain its position as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

## Mann Fleet Partners Files IPO Papers, Plans to Use Funds for Debt Repayment and Business Expansion

New Delhi-based mobility solutions provider Mann Fleet Partners has filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise capital through an initial public offering (IPO). The company intends to use a significant portion of the proceeds to reduce its debt while also strengthening its operations and supporting future growth.

The proposed IPO consists of a fresh issue of 60.12 lakh equity shares along with an offer for sale (OFS) of 19.1 lakh shares by existing shareholders. While the fresh issue will bring new capital into the company, the OFS will allow some existing investors to partially reduce their holdings. According to the draft documents, the promoter group, led by the Mann family, currently owns 96.61% of the company's equity, with public shareholders holding the remaining stake.

Mann Fleet Partners plans to utilise the net proceeds from the fresh issue primarily for the prepayment or repayment of outstanding borrowings. The company believes reducing its debt burden will strengthen its balance sheet, lower finance costs and improve its financial flexibility as it expands its operations. The remaining funds will be



used for general corporate purposes, including business development and operational requirements.

Established as a provider of premium mobility solutions, Mann Fleet Partners offers a wide range of transportation services to corporate clients, government departments, embassies, travel agencies and event management companies. The company operates a fleet of more than 364 owned vehicles, catering to corporate travel, chauffeur-driven rentals, airport transfers and large-scale event transportation. It also serves international clients through a vendor network spanning cities such as London, New York, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Colombo and Jeddah.

Over the years, the company

has built a reputation for handling transportation requirements for high-profile events and VIP delegations. Its client base includes multinational corporations, government organisations and diplomatic missions, giving it a diversified revenue stream and a strong presence in the organised mobility segment.

The IPO comes at a time when India's organised mobility and corporate travel industry is witnessing steady growth, driven by increasing business travel, tourism and demand for professional transportation services. Industry experts believe companies with established fleets, technology-driven operations and long-term corporate relationships are well positioned to

benefit from this trend. However, investors are also expected to closely evaluate the company's financial performance, debt levels and future growth strategy before making investment decisions.

The IPO's issue price, opening date and listing schedule are yet to be announced. Once approved by SEBI, Mann Fleet Partners is expected to proceed with the public offering, giving investors an opportunity to participate in the growth of one of India's established corporate mobility service providers. With debt reduction and operational strengthening at the core of its fundraising plan, the company hopes the IPO will provide a solid foundation for its next phase of expansion.

## India's Flex-Fuel Push May Have Limited Impact as EV Adoption Accelerates, Says Bernstein

India's ambitious plan to expand the use of flex-fuel vehicles may deliver only modest economic benefits as electric vehicles (EVs) continue to gain momentum, according to a report by global brokerage Bernstein. While the country is expected to make further progress in ethanol blending, the report argues that investing heavily in a nationwide flex-fuel ecosystem may not provide returns proportionate to the cost involved.

India achieved its target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol ahead of schedule and is now expected to increase the blending ratio to between 25% and 27% by 2030. Bernstein believes this goal is technically achievable, particularly for newer vehicles. However, it questions whether expanding to high-ethanol fuels such as E85 through large-scale flex-fuel infrastructure is economically justified at a time when EVs are becoming increasingly competitive.

According to the brokerage, even under an optimistic scenario, higher ethanol blending and flex-fuel vehicles together would reduce India's crude oil imports by only about 4-5% by the end of the decade. More importantly, flex-fuel passenger vehicles themselves are expected to contribute just 1-1.5 percentage points of those savings, with the majority coming from higher ethanol blending and the growing adoption of



EVs, hybrid vehicles and CNG-powered models.

Bernstein also highlighted the rapid improvements in electric mobility. Falling battery prices, expanding charging infrastructure and lower running costs are making EVs increasingly attractive to consumers. As the total cost of EV ownership moves closer to that of petrol-powered vehicles, the brokerage believes many of the objectives of the flex-fuel programme—such as reducing oil imports and lowering emissions—can be achieved more efficiently through electric mobility.

The report also points to practical challenges in expanding ethanol use. More than 80% of vehicles currently on Indian roads were originally designed for E10 fuel and may not perform optimally with higher ethanol blends. In addition, India's ethanol production depends heavily on sugarcane, molasses and maize, making supply vulnerable to poor monsoons and fluctuations in agri-

cultural output. Bernstein noted that during a weak monsoon in 2023, India even had to import maize, raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of ethanol production.

Drawing comparisons with global markets, the brokerage observed that countries such as the United States, China and Thailand have faced challenges in scaling flex-fuel programmes due to infrastructure limitations and changing market dynamics. Brazil remains a notable exception, but Bernstein believes India's conditions differ significantly because EV technology is now advancing much faster than when Brazil built its ethanol ecosystem.

Despite its reservations, Bernstein does not oppose India's ethanol programme. Instead, it recommends that policymakers continue strengthening the existing blending initiative while remaining cautious about committing large investments to a nationwide flex-fuel network. The brokerage suggests that such investments would become more attractive only if crude oil prices remain consistently high, second-generation biofuels become commercially viable or the pace of EV adoption slows considerably. Until then, Bernstein believes electric vehicles are likely to play a bigger role than flex-fuel technology in shaping India's future transportation landscape.

# From ₹45 Lakh Salary to Startup Setback: Founder's Honest Story Highlights the Cost of Chasing Entrepreneurial Dreams

Leaving a secure, high-paying job to build a successful startup is a dream shared by many young professionals. However, one entrepreneur's candid account of failure has gone viral on social media, reminding aspiring founders that the startup journey can be as unforgiving as it is rewarding.

The tech professional, a graduate from a premier Tier-1 college, revealed that they resigned from a lucrative job paying over 45 lakh per annum to pursue entrepreneurship. Driven by the ambition to build something meaningful, the individual launched two startups. Despite months of effort, dedication, and risk-taking, both ventures failed, wiping out personal savings and leaving the founder back at square one.

In the emotional post shared on Reddit, the founder admitted that the financial losses were painful, but the biggest setback was the loss of self-confidence. They explained that the repeated failures gradually eroded their belief in



their own abilities, making it difficult to even consider applying for jobs again.

The entrepreneur confessed that preparing for interviews has become mentally challenging, with self-doubt constantly raising the question of why any company would hire someone whose startups did not succeed. According to the founder, this fear has become a significant obstacle in rebuilding

their professional career.

The story resonated with thousands of social media users, many of whom shared similar experiences of failed ventures, career breaks, and financial setbacks. Several commenters encouraged the founder not to view the startup failures as wasted years but as valuable learning experiences that demonstrate resilience, leadership, and problem-solving skills.

Others pointed out that failure is an inherent part of entrepreneurship, noting that a majority of startups do not survive despite hard work and innovative ideas. Many reassured the entrepreneur that employers increasingly value candidates who have taken calculated risks, managed teams, and learned from setbacks.

The viral post has sparked wider discussions about the realities behind startup culture, where success stories often receive attention while failures remain largely invisible. The founder's honesty has been praised for presenting a more balanced picture of entrepreneurship—one that includes uncertainty, emotional struggles, and the courage to start over.

The story serves as a reminder that while entrepreneurship offers immense opportunities, it also demands resilience. Failure, though painful, can become a stepping stone toward future success when viewed as a lesson rather than the end of the journey.

# American Couple Reveals Five Surprising Reasons They Fell in Love With Life in India

An American couple has captured social media's attention after sharing five unexpected aspects of life in India that completely changed their perception of the country. Sam and Karis, who have been travelling across India with their children, posted a viral Instagram video describing how the country's culture, traditions and sense of community made a lasting impression on their family.

One of the biggest surprises for the couple was India's welcoming attitude towards children. Before arriving, they had heard concerns that travelling with kids might be difficult. Instead, they discovered that children are warmly embraced wherever they go. According to the couple, their kids were treated with affection and allowed to simply enjoy being children, rather than being expected to behave quietly in public spaces. They described this acceptance as one of the most heartwarming parts of their stay.

Another unexpected experience was driving on Indian roads. While many foreign visitors find Indian traffic intimidating, Sam said he actually enjoys driving in the country. He described every journey as an adventure, adding that the constantly changing road con-



ditions make each trip exciting rather than stressful.

The couple also grew to appreciate India's strong sense of community. In many Western countries, dropping by someone's home without prior notice is often considered impolite. In India, however, neighbours casually visiting each other reflects close social bonds. Sam and Karis said they have come to value these spontaneous interactions, which make everyday life feel more connected and welcoming.

Festivals and celebrations also stood out during their stay. Whether it was a major religious festival or a small family gathering, they admired how Indians find reasons to celebrate throughout the year. They said these occasions bring people together through music, dance, food and laughter, creating unforgettable memories for both adults and

children.

The final surprise was India's monsoon season. Instead of viewing the rains as an inconvenience, the couple said they learned to appreciate the slower pace of life that comes with the season. They felt the monsoon encouraged people to pause, spend more time with family and adapt naturally to the rhythm of nature.

Their post received an overwhelmingly positive response online, with many Indians thanking them for highlighting these often-overlooked aspects of everyday life. Several users agreed that India's warmth, hospitality and vibrant culture are experiences that visitors can truly appreciate only after living in the country. The couple's story offers a refreshing reminder that meaningful travel often lies in embracing local traditions and discovering joy in everyday experiences.

# Bangladesh-Born Techie Walks Away From ₹9.4 Crore Google Paycheck to Build His Own AI Startup

Choosing entrepreneurship over a highly paid corporate career is never an easy decision, but a Bangladesh-born technology professional has done exactly that. After earning nearly 9.4 crore (around \$1 million) annually at Google, Yousuf Imran decided to leave the tech giant and launch his own artificial intelligence startup, betting on the future of AI innovation.

Imran's journey began when his family moved from Bangladesh to New York during his childhood. Growing up in an immigrant household, he developed a strong work ethic

that eventually helped him build a successful career in Silicon Valley. Before joining Google in 2020, he spent nearly two decades in enterprise sales and technology, gaining expertise in helping businesses adopt advanced AI and machine learning solutions.

Although Google offered financial security and industry-leading opportunities, Imran said he increasingly felt that the rapid growth of artificial intelligence presented a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build something of his own. He admitted experiencing a fear of missing out as AI startups

transformed the technology landscape, motivating him to take the entrepreneurial leap.

Rather than resigning impulsively, Imran spent months preparing for the transition. He reportedly saved around \$200,000 to fund his new venture for two years and kept an additional \$150,000 aside to cover personal expenses, including his mortgage. This financial cushion allowed him to focus on developing products without the immediate pressure of generating revenue.

His startup, Mangosteen Studio, is focused on building AI-

powered sales tools designed to improve productivity for account executives and sales teams. Imran believes his years of experience in enterprise sales provide him with a competitive advantage, enabling him to solve real-world business problems using artificial intelligence rather than simply following industry trends. The former Google executive also revealed that repeated layoffs across the technology sector reinforced his belief that even prestigious jobs offer limited long-term security. Instead of relying on corporate stability, he chose to

invest in his own skills, experience and vision for the future.

Reflecting on his decision, Imran acknowledged that leaving Google meant giving up a substantial salary and access to cutting-edge technology resources. However, he believes the opportunity to create, innovate and retain ownership of his work outweighs the financial risks. His story has inspired many aspiring entrepreneurs, serving as a reminder that careful planning, industry expertise and confidence can make even the biggest career risks worth taking.



# 'Toxic' CEO Sparks Outrage After Allegedly Forcing 14-Hour Workdays and Publicly Humiliating Employees

A startup founder has come under intense criticism after a former employee shared disturbing allegations about the company's work culture, describing it as "toxic" and emotionally draining. The viral account claims the CEO routinely humiliated staff, demanded extremely long working hours and created an atmosphere of fear through constant threats and public criticism.

According to the employee's post, workers were expected to put in up to 14 hours a day, often without regard for their personal lives or well-being. Missing deadlines or failing to meet expectations reportedly resulted in public reprimands during meetings, leaving many employees anxious and demoralised. The former staff member alleged that criticism

was delivered harshly rather than constructively, making everyday work increasingly stressful.

The post further claimed that the CEO frequently threatened employees with termination if they failed to meet demanding performance targets. This constant pressure allegedly created a workplace where staff members feared making even minor mistakes. Rather than encouraging collaboration or innovation, the environment was described as one driven by intimidation and unrealistic expectations.

In addition to the long working hours, the employee alleged that taking leave or requesting a better work-life balance was often discouraged. Workers reportedly felt compelled to remain available

beyond office hours, contributing to exhaustion and burnout. The former employee said the relentless workload eventually affected both mental health and overall job satisfaction. The social media post quickly gained traction, prompting widespread discussion about toxic leadership and workplace culture in startups. Many users shared similar experiences from their own careers, saying that excessive working hours, public humiliation and fear-based management are more common than many people realise. Several commenters argued that no salary or career opportunity is worth sacrificing one's mental health and dignity.

Others stressed that strong leadership should inspire employees rather than intimidate them. They pointed out that

high-performing organisations are built on trust, respect and open communication, not fear or constant pressure. Many also encouraged workers facing similar situations to document inappropriate behaviour, seek professional support and consider healthier workplaces if conditions fail to improve.

Although the allegations have not been independently verified, the viral post has reignited conversations about employee well-being and corporate accountability. It serves as a reminder that productivity cannot be sustained through intimidation alone and that healthy workplace cultures are increasingly becoming a priority for both employees and employers in today's competitive job market.



# US-Based Techie Earning ₹2 Crore Plans Early Retirement in Mexico at 38, Prioritises Financial Freedom Over Corporate Success



For many professionals, earning a multi-crore salary is the ultimate career milestone. But for Carlos Santana Roldán, a software engineer based in California, financial independence—not a bigger paycheck—is the real goal. Despite earning nearly 2 crore (\$200,000) annually, the 38-year-old plans to retire within the next few years and return to his home country, Mexico.

Roldán's career began modestly in Mexico, where he worked as a software engineer for companies serving US clients. During the early years of his career, he earned between \$800 and \$1,500 a month. Seeking better opportunities and higher pay, he moved to the United States in 2013, where his career progressed steadily through several technology companies.

His biggest financial breakthrough came while working at Snap. Thanks to the rapid

rise in the company's stock price, his annual compensation peaked at around \$420,000 (approximately 4 crore) in 2021. However, Roldán says the impressive income never changed his long-term priorities. Instead of spending lavishly, he invested most of his earnings in real estate projects back home in Mexico.

Over the past five years, he has built holiday rental cabins in Mexico and even developed custom booking software to manage the business. These investments now generate passive income, giving him confidence that he can eventually step away from full-time employment without compromising his lifestyle.

Roldán admits that working in the US offered tremendous earning potential, but it also exposed him to layoffs, visa-related uncertainties and the pressures of the corporate world. These experiences encouraged him to focus on

building financial security outside traditional employment. According to him, true wealth lies in having the freedom to choose how you spend your time rather than relying on a monthly salary.

Today, most of his investments remain in Mexico, where he hopes to spend the next phase of his life with his family. His immediate goal is to complete one more holiday rental property before leaving software engineering for good.

Roldán's journey has resonated with professionals worldwide, especially those pursuing the Financial Independence, Retire Early (FIRE) movement. His story highlights that high earnings alone do not guarantee happiness; disciplined investing, long-term planning and creating multiple income streams can offer something even more valuable—financial freedom and the ability to retire on one's own terms.

Cullum, however, the focus remains on ensuring his captain stays fit, motivated and capable of leading England's Test side for many more years.

