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Naidu Envisions Nellore as National Growth Hub with Major Investments

Gudur, July 1 | TPN Bureau

N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday said Nellore district will be developed into one of India's key centres for growth, development and wealth creation, driven by major infrastructure and industrial investments. He asserted that the NDA government remains committed to the welfare of the poor and ensuring dignified living conditions for all sections of society. Addressing the Pedala Sevala public meeting at Punnaravari-
palem in Gudur constituency, the Chief Minister said balanced regional development is a core priority. He noted that Visakhapatnam, Amaravati and Tirupati are being envisioned as major regional growth centres, expressing confidence that Nellore would emerge as a national growth engine. Highlighting key projects, Naidu referred to Ramayapatnam Port, Krishnapatnam Port and the proposed shipbuilding centre at Dugara-japatnam. He said Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is investing nearly 1 lakh crore in a refinery at Ramayapatnam, while industrial activity is also expected to expand at IFFCO Kisan Special Economic



Zone. Gudur has already attracted 27 major industries, with a Mega Furniture Park planned and Sri City emerging as a model industrial ecosystem. Enhanced national highways, railway expansion and port connectivity will further strengthen the district as a logistics hub, he added. Naidu said the government had rectified earlier administrative decisions by restoring Gudur to Nellore district, along with Saiduapuram and Kalavayipuram mandals, based on public demand. Governance, he emphasised, must reflect people's aspirations. He said pensions covering 28 categories, includ-

ing senior citizens, widows and persons with disabilities, are being delivered on the first day of every month. Over the past two years, the administration has focused on rebuilding governance and restoring institutions. The Chief Minister highlighted digital initiatives such as WhatsApp Governance and Mana Mitra for service delivery. Under the One Family-One Entrepreneur initiative, women are being encouraged to take up entrepreneurship, with DW-CRA groups continuing to play a key role. On irrigation, he said 36 priority projects are being fast-tracked, with 24,000 crore already spent. He reaf-

firmed commitment to completing the Veligonda Project, noting that 900 crore has been released for rehabilitation and the first phase will cost 2,500 crore. Naidu also mentioned ethanol production using maize to reduce fuel imports and announced that the Rayalaseema Steel Plant foundation stone will be laid on July 3. He condemned abusive social media posts targeting Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's family and remarks against Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, urging people to reject divisive politics and support development-oriented governance.

Freedom of Speech Comes with Responsibility, Says Pawan Kalyan

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday, issued a detailed message on social media on freedom of expression and the growing misuse of digital platforms. He said social media has become an integral part of daily life, enabling citizens to express views, raise public issues, question the government and connect with others. While affirming respect for the constitutional right to free speech, he said it is not absolute and is subject to reasonable restric-

tions under Article 19(2) of the Constitution, including national security, public order, decency, morality, defamation and incitement to crime. Pawan Kalyan said criticism of the government is welcome in a democracy, but freedom of speech cannot be used for abuse, threats, false allegations, targeting women, insulting religious beliefs or inciting violence. He said such actions are criminal offences and will attract legal consequences. He expressed concern over increasing misuse of social media through fake

P3



Hero MotoCorp Announces Over ₹3,200 Crore Investment In AP

Tirupati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, on Wednesday announced a cumulative investment of over 3,200 crore in Andhra Pradesh and laid the foundation stone for its second Global Parts Centre (GPC) in Tirupati. The new facility, with an investment of over 750 crore, will serve as a key hub for next-generation logistics and strengthen the company's global supply chain. The expansion is part of Hero MotoCorp's broader plan to transform Tirupati into a manufacturing

and electric mobility hub with world-class infrastructure. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said the investment reflects strong investor confidence in Andhra Pradesh and highlighted the state's "Speed of Doing Business" policy. He said the project will generate employment, boost industrial growth in Rayalaseema, and establish Tirupati as a leading logistics and manufacturing centre. Hero MotoCorp Executive Chairman Dr. Pawan Munjal said the investment marks a milestone in the company's nation-building journey. He said the Global

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President Murmu Urges Students to Embrace Lifelong Learning

Ananthapuramu, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Hon'ble Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday graced the first convocation ceremony of Central University of Andhra Pradesh at Anantapuramu, describing the occasion as a defining milestone in the journey of the young institution. Addressing the gathering, she said the inaugural convocation marked not just a celebration of academic achievement but also the beginning of a new chapter for graduates stepping into the wider world. She appreciated the university's long-term vision to evolve into a future-ready institution and its commitment to



the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in ensuring inclusive and

equitable quality education. Expressing confidence in the institution's growth, she said

CUAP would emerge as a centre of excellence and contribute meaningfully to the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Congratulating the graduating students, Droupadi Murmu noted that the convocation symbolised the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance and hard work. Students, she said, entered the university with aspirations and are now stepping out equipped with knowledge, confidence and opportunities to shape their futures. She emphasised that success is not solely an individual achievement but a collective outcome of parental sacrifices, teachers' guidance and societal support.

Urging graduates to give back to society, she encouraged them to serve as entrepreneurs, scientists, public servants or philanthropists and use their knowledge to uplift the underprivileged. Highlighting the need for continuous learning in a rapidly evolving technological landscape, she stressed that acquiring a degree should not mark the end of education. She advised students to adapt to emerging technologies, explore new ideas and keep acquiring knowledge throughout their lives. Describing youth as valuable national assets, the President said they have the potential to transform

P3

Jagan Criticises Coalition Govt, Reaffirms Mavigun Stand

Tadepalli, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the coalition government, alleging a complete breakdown of law and order and reaffirming that the party would continue to stand by its "Mavigun" proposal as a key political agenda. Addressing the media at Tadepalli, he said the state was witnessing "Jungle Raj," with police allegedly being misused to target political opponents. He coined the slogan "Hey Ram, Save Andhra," accusing Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of turning victims into accused and using law enforcement for political vendetta. He reiterated that Mavigun would remain a central election slogan and alleged large-scale corruption in the Amaravati capital project, claiming inflated payments were being made to contractors. He described Mavigun as a viable alternative with natural advantages and existing infrastructure. On the Dalit Christian issue, Jagan Mohan Reddy demanded that the Telugu Desam Party clearly state its position before the Justice Balakrishnan Commission. He accused TDP lead-



ers of attempting to incite caste and religious tensions while alleging Chandrababu Naidu remained silent. He said YSRCP had already supported the issue through an Assembly resolution. He also raised concerns over recent law and order incidents, including the custodial death of Sai Krishna, alleging the case was initially suppressed and later exposed after his visit to the victim's family. He questioned the missing CCTV footage and alleged attempts to dilute the investigation. He further cited the death of Dalit youth Kranthi Kumar, claiming police were downplaying the case despite video evidence, and referred to inci-

dents in Kurnool, Tenali and Srikakulam as signs of rising police excesses. Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged that names of YSRCP supporters were being removed from voter lists, affecting access to welfare schemes. He claimed farmers were suffering due to withdrawal of crop insurance, input subsidies and falling prices of key crops. He also criticised the rise of liquor-related activities, calling them culturally harmful. Concluding, he said governance standards had declined and asserted that YSRCP would continue to oppose corruption and administrative failure while firmly standing by the Mavigun proposal.



Digital India Completes 11 Years, Says Prime Minister

New Delhi, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday marked 11 years of the Digital India initiative, stating that it has transformed governance, empowered citizens, and strengthened the foundation of a Viksit Bharat. In his message, the Prime Minister said Digital India has redefined governance by making it more transparent, efficient, and citizen-centric. He noted that the initiative has enhanced public service delivery and improved "Ease of Living" through digital payments, Direct Benefit Transfer systems, and expanding Digital Public Infrastructure. He highlighted that over a billion citizens have adopted digital technology, making it a key driver of national transformation. According to him, the initiative has extended innova-

tion to villages and Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, enabling young entrepreneurs and startups to develop solutions for global challenges. Narendra Modi said Digital India has significantly strengthened sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, commerce, and governance, making services more accessible and efficient. He further stated that India is making rapid progress in emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, and quantum computing, which will open new avenues for growth and opportunity. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring technology serves humanity, empowers citizens, and supports sustainable development. The Prime Minister said Digital India remains a strong pillar for building a self-reliant and developed nation.



Education Key to Societal Change, Says Minister Nara Lokesh

Renigunta, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh on Wednesday said that true societal transformation is possible only through education, and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening government schools across Andhra Pradesh. During a visit to Srikalahasti constituency, the Minister handed over housing deeds—each of 2 cents of land—to three Class 10 toppers as part of an initiative announced by MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy. The housing plots, located in Rajiv Nagar of Srikalahasti town, were presented to students P. Jasmitha, G. Sai Poojitha and G. Mohith Charan Sai at a programme held in Kothapalem near Renigunta. Jasmitha, from Kuntipudi, secured 598 out of 600 marks, standing second in the state and first in the district. Sai Poojitha of Babu Agraharam

Municipal High School scored 594 marks, while Mohith Charan Sai of ZP High School, Thondamanadu, secured 591 marks. Lokesh interacted with the students and their parents and said the government is working to improve the standards of public education. He noted that competition for admissions in government schools is increasing, citing strong demand in schools such as Nidamaru in Mangalagiri constituency. "Our aim is to ensure 'No Admission' boards in all government schools in the future," he said. He added that the AP Model of Education can be achieved through the collective determination of students and teachers, and assured that value-based education would be prioritised. He also called upon stakeholders to actively participate in shaping students' future and congratulated the toppers for their academic excellence.



Lokesh Offers Prayers at Srikalahastiswara Temple

Srikalahasti, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh on Wednesday visited Srikalahastiswara Temple and offered prayers. On arrival, he was received by temple priests and Executive Officer Venkateswarlu.

Nara Lokesh offered prayers

Over 2.45 Lakh Candidates Qualify in AP EAPCET 2026

Kakinada, July 1 | TPN Bureau

More than 2.45 lakh candidates qualified in the Andhra Pradesh Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (AP EAPCET) 2026, the results of which were announced by Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh on Wednesday.

The examination was conducted by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada (JNTUK) on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh State Council for Higher Education (APSCHE) from May 12 to 15 and May 18 to 20 at 141 test centres across 25 districts in Andhra Pradesh and one centre in Hyderabad.

According to the AP EAPCET

to Vayulingeswara Swamy and Goddess Gnana Prasunambika and participated in special rituals. Vedic scholars blessed him and presented Teertha-Prasadam.

Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy, Temple Chairman Sai Prasad, and TDP public representatives and leaders were present during the visit.

2026 Convener, 1,82,317 of the 2,58,545 candidates who appeared in the Engineering stream qualified, registering a pass percentage of 70.52. In the Agriculture and Pharmacy stream, 63,546 of the 70,929 candidates cleared the examination, recording an 89.59 per cent pass rate. Female candidates performed better than their male counterparts in Engineering, securing a pass percentage of 71.65 compared to 69.63 among males.

Congratulating the successful candidates, Nara Lokesh said their achievement would contribute to the future growth of Andhra Pradesh. Rank cards are available on the AP EAPCET portal and through the State's WhatsApp Governance service.

Satya Kumar Calls for Respect and Safety for Doctors

Proddatur, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Wednesday stressed the need for greater respect towards doctors and cautioned against disrupting their duties, stating that medical professionals provide hope and reassurance to patients and their families.

Addressing National Doctors' Day celebrations organised by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) in Proddatur of Kadapa district, he said doctors working in challenging conditions deserve a secure and supportive environment in hospitals. He urged the public to avoid arguments and abusive behaviour towards medical professionals and to recognise their service to society.

Satya Kumar Yadav said the coalition government had recruited around 3,000 doctors in the last two years and was spending nearly 320 crore annually on their salaries. He added that a zero-vacancy policy had been adopted and nearly 12,000 para-



medical posts were filled transparently.

He noted that these measures led to an 18 per cent rise in outpatient services and a 6.5 per cent increase in inpatient admissions in government hospitals. He also highlighted preventive healthcare initiatives such as the Sanjeevani scheme, door-to-door screening under the NCD-04 survey and expanded cancer care services.

The programme was organised under IMA State President Balaraju, State Secretary Subhash Chandra Bose, local president Vinod Kumar and general secretary Varun Kumar Reddy. Senior doctors S.K.V. Prasad Reddy, Giridhar, Swaroop Kumar Reddy and Suvarna were felicitated for their contributions.

Union Bank Waives SHG Loan Charges, Benefits 1.75 Lakh Groups

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

In a major relief to women's self-help groups (SHGs) in the state, Union Bank of India has waived processing and inspection charges levied on loans extended to SHGs, a move expected to provide substantial financial benefits to lakhs of women.

MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation and NRI Empowerment Relations Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said the decision was taken following requests made during State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meetings under the guidance of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and in coordination with SERP officials.

Until now, the bank charged processing fees on cash credit loans above Rs.10 lakh and

term loans exceeding Rs.5 lakh, besides quarterly inspection charges on loan accounts above Rs.5 lakh.

Kondapalli Srinivas said the waiver would save each SHG availing a Rs.20 lakh cash credit loan of nearly Rs.93,500 over three years. Around 1.75 lakh SHGs borrowing from Union Bank are expected to gain about Rs.586.25 crore annually from the exemption.

Union Bank currently serves 2,50,255 SHGs in Andhra Pradesh with loans exceeding Rs.20,359 crore, making it the leading lender in the SHG sector. The minister thanked the bank management for considering the government's request and said the decision would support the state's "One Family-One Entrepreneur" initiative aimed at promoting women-led enterprises.

Krishna Water Released from Prakasam Barrage for 30L Delta Farmers

Vijayawada, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Water was released from the Prakasam Barrage into the Krishna Delta canal system on Wednesday to ensure timely irrigation for farmers ahead of the kharif season.

District Collector G. Lakshmi-sha, along with public representatives and officials, formally released 3,200 cusecs of water through the Krishna Eastern Main Head Regulator into the eastern and western canals. Special prayers were also offered to the Krishna River as part of the ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, the Collector said the state government was committed to farmers' welfare and ensuring adequate irrigation supply to delta regions. He said the release of water would benefit nearly 30 lakh farmers cultivating about 13.08 lakh acres under the Krishna Delta ayacut.

Lakshmisha stated that under the Jaladhara-Jalaharathi initiative launched by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, canal desiltation and repair works had



been completed to ensure water reaches the tail-end areas. Measures were also being taken to enhance groundwater recharge, he added.

State Water Users Associations Federation chairman Alla Gopalakrishna Rao said water was released as per the irrigation calendar, enabling farmers to complete paddy transplantation by the end of July and minimise cyclone-related crop losses later in the season. He said Rs. 64 crore had been spent on canal desiltation and strengthening works in the Krishna Delta, while Rs. 425 crore had been allocated statewide under

operation and maintenance works.

Former ZP Chairperson Gadde Anuradha urged farmers to use water judiciously in view of the possible impact of El Niño on rainfall and stressed the need to prioritise drinking water requirements before irrigation needs.

Krishna District Project Committee Chairman Devanaboyina Venkateswara Rao, Water Resources Department officials J. Gunakara Rao, B. Rambabu, R. Ravikiran and Anjaneya Prasad, along with irrigation officials and other representatives, attended the programme.

Lokesh Attends Luncheon at Srikalahasti MLA Sudheer Reddy's Residence

Srikalahasti, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Nara Lokesh on Wednesday attended a luncheon meeting hosted by Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy at his residence, following a visit to the Srikalahastiswara Temple. The meeting was attended by TDP public representatives and senior leaders from the undivided Chittoor district.

During the informal interaction, Nara Lokesh greeted party leaders and discussed recent political developments, focus-



ing on strengthening the party at the grassroots level and improving organisational coordination across the district. Leaders also reviewed strategies to expand the party's outreach.

Earlier, on his arrival, he was given a warm welcome by party

leaders and family members. In a gesture of respect, he sought the blessings of Bojjala Brundamma, mother of Bojjala Sudheer Reddy.

Prominent participants included MLAs Pulivarthi Nani, Gali Bhanuprakash and Murali Mohan; SAAP Chairman Anilmini Ravi Naidu; Damacharla Satya; Panabaka Lakshmi; Sugunamma; Shanmugam Reddy; Dollar Diwakar Reddy; and Sridhar Varma, among others. The meeting reflected organisational unity and coordination within the party.

AP Launches 'Drugs Vaddu Bro' Initiative

Guntur, July 1 | TPN Bureau

The Department of School Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday launched a three-day state-level workshop on the "Drugs Vaddu Bro" initiative aimed at creating drug-free schools across the state.

The workshop is being held from July 1 to 3 at Haai Land in China Kakani of Guntur district and was inaugurated by Director of School Education Tameem Ansariya.

Addressing the participants, Tameem Ansariya said the department is preparing a comprehensive handbook and curriculum framework to prevent drug abuse among school students. The initiative includes age-appropriate IEC material, integration of drug-pre-



vention content into the curriculum, monitoring systems, and separate handbooks for students, teachers and parents.

She said Andhra Pradesh is developing locally relevant content instead of replicating external models and expressed confidence that the programme would become a national model. The handbook for Classes VI to XII will focus on

healthy lifestyles and behavioural change through classroom learning.

Superintendent of Police, EAGLE Andhra Pradesh, G. Swaroopa Rani said nearly 40,000 EAGLE Clubs are functioning in schools to strengthen awareness against drug abuse. She stressed that lasting change must begin with teachers and students, along with enforcement support.

State Officer, ToFEI, Geetha Padmaja highlighted the role of schools in promoting values and life skills. The workshop was attended by Planning Director D. Madhusudhan Rao, V. Vijayadurga, Suresh Kumar of SIEMAT, and officials from education, police, health departments and SCERT experts.

Doctors' Day Celebrated with B.C. Roy Statue Unveiling at NTRUHS

Vijayawada, July 1 | TPN Bureau

National Doctors' Day was celebrated with grandeur at Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (Dr NTRUHS) on Wednesday, marked by the unveiling of a bronze statue of B.C. Roy and the felicitation of 10 eminent doctors for their distinguished contributions to healthcare. State Health, Medical and Family Welfare Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar inaugurated the statue and presented awards to doctors honoured for their services in the medical field. Addressing the gathering, S. Suresh Kumar said medicine is a profession dedicated to humanity rather than merely a source of livelihood. He noted that technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and



telemedicine can support healthcare delivery but cannot replace a doctor's compassion and clinical judgement. He announced that the Sanjeevani programme, currently implemented in Kuppam, will be expanded across Andhra Pradesh within the next three months. He called upon doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and practitioners of AYUSH, Unani and Homoeopathy systems to contribute to the Swarna Andhra-2047 vision. Hyper Committee Chairman Justice U. Durga Prasad said the medical profession remains one

of the noblest callings and described B.C. Roy as a physician, freedom fighter and nation builder. Vice-Chancellor P. Chandrasekhar said the university had begun the tradition of honouring distinguished doctors on Doctors' Day last year and stressed the need for society to recognise their sacrifices. The awardees included Peda Veeraj, G. Deva Shankaraiah, W. Sita Ram, G. Eshwar, Indla Rama Subba Reddy, T. Murali Mohan, P. Murali Krishna, Pingali Ananda Kumar, K.M.D.F. Rahiman Siddiqui and M. Satyavalli. University Registrar T. Sai Sudheer, Controller of Examinations Srikanth, Publications Director Sudha, R&D Director Surya Prabha, faculty members, doctors, students and families of the awardees attended the programme.

Polavaram Set to Emerge as Tourism Hub, Says Ramanaidu

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu on Wednesday reviewed proposals for the beautification and tourism development of the Polavaram Project with officials, architects and representatives of Japan's Nippon Koei agency at the Secretariat in Amaravati.

Irrigation Advisor Venkateswara Rao, Engineer-in-Chief Narasimha Murthy and senior of-

ficials attended the meeting.

The minister said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had envisioned the Polavaram spillway as a landmark reflecting Telugu heritage and the state's grandeur. As part of the plan, a LiDAR survey covering 10,000 acres in the project area is being undertaken to develop Polavaram as a major tourism destination.

Proposals are being prepared to construct bridges connecting the right and left banks of the project,

while plans are also being examined to link Polavaram with Eluru, Kovvur and Rajamahendravaram through national highways.

Designs submitted by Nippon Koei envision developing the stretch from Polavaram to Bhadrachalam via Papi Hills as a tourism corridor featuring a museum, water sports facilities, temple tourism circuits, resorts, huts and amusement parks. The designs will soon be reviewed by the Chief Minister before finalisation.

Naidu to Launch Rs 3,847-Crore Projects During Kuppam Tour

Kuppam, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will undertake a three-day tour of Kuppam constituency from July 3 to 5, focusing on industrial development, welfare initiatives and party organisational programmes.

On July 3, at Pogurupalle in Gudipalli mandal, the Chief Minister will lay foundation stones for 12 industries involving investments of 3,847 crore, expected to generate about 23,000 jobs. Agreements for additional investments worth 1,026 crore will be signed in his presence. He will also inaugurate the Abis Proteins chicken processing unit, distribute appointment letters to 200 beneficiaries, launch rooftop solar systems for SC, ST and BC communities, hand over 5,179 PMAY houses, and address a public meeting.

On July 4, Naidu will inaugurate an MSME park with 167



industrial plots, open the KADA Guest House, and lay foundation stones for the Kuppam bus stand and depot. He will also inspect Net Zero houses, inaugurate CT scan and dialysis facilities at Kuppam Area Hospital, and participate in the Jana Nayakudu grievance programme at the TDP office after 18 months.

On the final day, he will review party organisational work, interact with cadre and welfare groups under P4 initiative, visit model farms and poultry units, and hold a review with officials before concluding the tour.

Gottipati Distributes Pensions and Inaugurates Community Hall

Addanki, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Wednesday distributed social security pensions to beneficiaries at Komminenivaripalem village in Addanki constituency, reaffirming the State government's commitment to welfare initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, Ravi Kumar said the government was providing monthly social security pensions to nearly 6.5 million beneficiaries across the State. He noted that around Rs. 33,000 crore was being spent annually on the pension programme, describing it as one of the country's largest social welfare schemes.

The Minister said spouse pensions were being sanctioned and disbursed without interruption and reiterated the government's resolve to extend welfare benefits to all eligible



beneficiaries. During the visit, Ravi Kumar inaugurated a community hall built at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh. He also distributed nutrition kits to pregnant women and handed over electric stoves to Anganwadi workers to strengthen maternal and child welfare services.

He said the government was committed to implementing welfare programmes while improving community infrastructure and ensuring transparent and timely delivery of public services.

Samagra Shiksha PTIs Extend Support to AP JAC Amaravati Agitation

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Samagra Shiksha Part-Time Instructors (PTIs) on Wednesday announced support for the agitation proposed by AP JAC Amaravati over unresolved employee issues.

Unity Welfare Association State President Saikam Shivakumari Reddy said PTIs would join the movement as their long-pending demands remained unaddressed despite repeated representations to authorities.

She, along with association members, met AP JAC Amaravati State Chairman Boppraju Venkateswarlu at Revenue Bhavan and expressed solidarity with the proposed agitation.

Shivakumari Reddy demanded government orders allowing PTIs to work in two shifts to provide arts and health education to students. She also sought redesigna-



tion of posts as Vocational and Physical Education Teachers.

She urged implementation of ESI and EPS benefits under G.O. No. 73 issued in May 2023, stating that provisions had not been enforced. The association also demanded job security, minimum time scale benefits, enhancement of retirement age to 62 years and gratuity support after retirement.

She warned that PTIs would intensify their agitation if demands continued to remain unresolved.

Revenue Association Seeks Safeguards for Presidential Order 2025

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Revenue Services Association has urged the state government to protect employees' service rights while implementing the Presidential Order-2025, calling for transparency, seniority protection and timely promotions. The demands were placed during a meeting convened by CCLA and Special Chief Secretary with recognised employees' associations at the CCLA office in API-IC Bhavan on Tuesday.

Association president and APJAC Amaravati chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, general secretary Ramishetty Venkata Rajesh, NTR district president Battina Ramakrishna, CCLA Employees' Association president B. Pullayya and secretary R. Durga Prasad attended the meeting.

The association sought completion of all pending Deputy



Tahsildar panels from 2018-19 to 2025-26 before implementing the new order, while ensuring that no employee loses seniority, promotions, pay, pension or other service benefits. It also requested adequate time for updating panels, transparent allocation based on employee options, special consideration for employees with exceptional circumstances, and shifting Alluri Sitarama Raju district to Zone-I and Polavaram district to Zone-II. CCLA assured the delegation that employees' interests would be protected and appropriate proposals would be forwarded to the government.

Freedom of Speech Comes with Responsibility, Says Pawan Kalyan

continued

accounts spreading obscene content, personal attacks, misinformation, image manipulation and targeted harassment. He noted that women and public figures are frequently subjected to abusive content, which cannot be justified as free expression. The Deputy Chief Minister said crime has no caste, religion or political affiliation, and warned that strict action will be taken under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the

Information Technology Act, 2000. He also said the government may consider new legislation if required to curb such misuse. He announced a dedicated system in his office to receive complaints with digital evidence such as screenshots, links and videos, which will be forwarded to authorities for action. He urged citizens to report repeat offenders and stressed that social media must be used responsibly, with respect and accountability, to strengthen democracy.

Hero MotoCorp Announces Over ₹3,200 Crore Investment In AP

continued

Parts Centre aligns with the vision of “Made in India, for India and the World” and will strengthen India’s position in the global mobility ecosystem. He also noted that the initiative is a tribute to the legacy of founder Dr. Brijmohan Lall Munjal. The project is expected to create around 4,000 jobs and significantly expand production capacity at the Tirupati facility, which already houses the company’s electric vehicle portfolio. As part of its commu-

nity initiatives, Hero MotoCorp announced a merit-based scholarship programme for engineering students in Andhra Pradesh’s IIITs across 28 districts. It also launched a safety initiative deploying VIDA electric scooters and road safety training for women police personnel in Tirupati district. The investment aligns with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision and Andhra Pradesh’s SwarnAndhra goals, reinforcing sustainable growth and skill development in the region.

Telugu Academy Chairman Threatens Legal Action Against Lakshmi Parvathi

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau Telugu and Sanskrit Academy Chairman R.D. Wilson (Sarith Chandra) on Tuesday strongly refuted allegations made by YSRCP leader and former Academy Chairperson N. Lakshmi Parvathi regarding irregularities in the functioning of the Academy and warned of legal action if she fails to withdraw her remarks. Addressing a press conference, Wilson described Lakshmi Parvathi’s accusations as baseless and defamatory. He asserted that the present administration follows a transparent system by awarding contracts through open tenders, unlike the previous regime, and called for a comprehensive inquiry into decisions taken during her tenure. Wilson said the Academy had not spent any funds on the proposed Virtual Academy project and clarified that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared only on

government directions. He also dismissed allegations concerning a proposed YouTube channel, stating that no expenditure had been incurred for the initiative. The Chairman defended Education Minister Nara Lokesh, stating that the minister only provides policy guidance and does not interfere in the Academy’s day-to-day affairs. He also highlighted efforts being made to recover funds allegedly due from Telangana and to strengthen the Academy through policy reforms. Accusing Lakshmi Parvathi of making irresponsible statements that damage the institution’s reputation, Wilson warned that he would file a defamation suit and initiate proceedings under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act if the remarks are not retracted. He maintained that the Academy remains committed to transparency, accountability, and educational development.



Satya Kumar Slams Jagan Over Reservation Demand

Amaravati, July 1| TPN Bureau Health and Medical Education Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of pursuing divisive politics and attempting to weaken Hindu society through his demand for reservations for Dalit Christians. Responding to Jagan’s remarks at a recent press conference, the Minister said the demand was unconstitutional and contrary to the principles laid down by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He pointed out that courts have previously ruled that individuals who convert to Christianity cannot continue to claim Scheduled Caste status under existing constitutional provisions. Satya Kumar alleged that extending reservation benefits to converted communities would encourage religious conversions and undermine the rights of Scheduled

Castes within Hindu society. He reiterated that the Bharatiya Janata Party opposes such proposals. The Minister also criticized Jagan’s latest political statements, describing them as “an old movie with a new release.” He said the former Chief Minister was repeating issues that had already been rejected by the people, including the three-capitals proposal. Referring to recent controversies, Satya Kumar accused Jagan of displaying selective concern on public issues while ignoring incidents that occurred during the YSRCP government’s tenure. He claimed that the people of Andhra Pradesh are fully aware of such political tactics and would not be misled. The Minister asserted that the state is currently being governed under the rule of law and maintained that those responsible for past irregularities would face legal consequences.

President Murmu Urges Students to Embrace Lifelong Learning

continued

challenges into opportunities through creativity, determination and responsibility. She added that their contribution would be crucial in building an inclusive and prosperous India. Emphasising ethical values, she said honesty, compassion, empathy and respect for nature form the foundation of holistic development and urged students to pursue excellence with integrity. **Governor Highlights Role of Higher Education** Abdul Nazeer said higher educational institutions play a

crucial role in building a self-reliant nation. He described the convocation as a historic milestone and noted that CUAP holds special significance as it was established following assurances made during the state bifurcation. He highlighted the importance of the Rayalaseema region, recalling its historical link to the Vijayanagara Empire and strengths in sectors such as sericulture and horticulture. He also pointed out that Anantapuram has evolved into a major educational hub with institutions like Sri Krishnadevaraya Univer-

sity, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Abdul Nazeer said CUAP is promoting value-based, multidisciplinary education aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, focusing on experiential learning and industry collaboration. He stressed that such institutions are key to achieving Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat@2047, and encouraged students to pursue continuous learning. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he called upon students to believe in their poten-

tial and strive for excellence. **Lokesh Urges Students to Become Job Creators** Nara Lokesh urged students to become job creators rather than job seekers. He said Andhra Pradesh is progressing towards Swarnandhra-2047 under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, aligned with the broader vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He noted that initiatives such as the National Education Policy, Digital India and Start-up India are fostering a knowledge-based economy and positioning the state as a hub for innovation and technology.

Highlighting the journey of Droupadi Murmu, he said her rise from a tribal village to the Presidency serves as an inspiration to youth across the country. Congratulating the first batch of graduates, Nara Lokesh described them as pioneers of the institution and emphasised that education is only the beginning of lifelong learning. He encouraged students to embrace innovation, build resilience and face challenges with courage while upholding values with humility and dedication.

Ravi Kumar Slams Jagan Over ‘MaVigan’ Campaign

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that the latter’s “MaVigan” campaign was aimed at obstructing the State’s development and creating uncertainty among investors. In a statement, Ravi Kumar accused Jagan of adopting contradictory positions on the capital issue and misleading the public. He said the people had already rejected the YSRCP’s three-capitals proposal in the elections and warned that continuing to promote the policy would further weaken the party politically. The Minister alleged that the



former Chief Minister was attempting to discourage industrial investments in Andhra Pradesh through his statements and political campaigns. He stressed that development and economic growth should remain the State’s priority rather than political confrontation. Referring to the Amaravati capital project, Ravi Kumar said Jagan had initially supported the project, including

the pooling of nearly 30,000 acres of land by farmers, and had even expressed willingness to reside in Amaravati. However, he alleged that Jagan changed his stance after coming to power by advocating the three-capitals model. Drawing a comparison with Hyderabad’s growth as a major employment and investment hub, the Minister said Amaravati also possesses the potential to emerge as a powerful economic engine for Andhra Pradesh. He alleged that repeated statements against Amaravati were creating confusion and slowing the State’s progress. Ravi Kumar asserted that the coalition government remains committed to developing Amaravati and attracting investments for Andhra Pradesh’s future growth.

Durgesh Hits Out at Jagan Over Capital Remarks

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Wednesday strongly criticized former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his recent remarks on the capital issue, asserting that Andhra Pradesh’s capital is linked to the future and aspirations of 5.5 crore people and cannot be treated as a political slogan. In a statement issued at Amaravati, Durgesh accused Jagan of taking contradictory stands on the capital city. He alleged that while Jagan had earlier supported Amaravati,

he later promoted the three-capitals proposal after assuming office and is now advancing a new concept called “MaVigan.” The Minister said a capital city is the heart of a state and that stability in governance is essential for attracting investments, generating employment and ensuring development. Frequent changes in capital policy, he argued, create uncertainty and hinder economic growth. Durgesh maintained that the people had already expressed their support for Amaravati through the democratic process and that continuing to

raise alternative capital proposals disregards public sentiment. He alleged that the previous government failed to make significant progress on capital development during its tenure. The Minister further stated that the present coalition government, under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, is focused on restoring investor confidence and accelerating development. He urged the opposition to act responsibly and prioritize public welfare over political controversies.

BJP Reaffirms Support for Amaravati, Slams Jagan's Capital Remarks

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday strongly criticized YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his remarks about contesting future elections with the “Mavigan Agenda,” alleging that such statements create uncertainty and hinder Andhra Pradesh’s development. In a statement, BJP Andhra Pradesh Chief Spokesperson Valluru Jayaprakash Narayana asserted that Amaravati’s status as the state capital has already attained constitutional, legal, and

administrative clarity. He said the Union Government has formally recognized Amaravati as the capital and continues to extend full support for its development. Jayaprakash Narayana maintained that reopening the capital debate at a time when the state is seeking investments from national and international companies sends a negative message and could affect investor confidence. He described Amaravati as a symbol of the aspirations and self-respect of the people of Andhra Pradesh rather than a political issue. The BJP leader said the NDA government in Andhra

Pradesh, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu with the support of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, remains committed to developing Amaravati as the state capital. He asserted that the BJP would continue to support projects aimed at strengthening the state’s growth, including Amaravati’s development, completion of the Polavaram Project, industrial expansion, and job creation. He also urged political leaders to respect democratic mandates and focus on development, investment, and public welfare rather than creating disputes over settled issues.

Durgesh Accuses Jagan of Creating Confusion Over State Capital

Amaravati, July 1, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A fresh political controversy has erupted in the state over former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy’s reported remarks on the “Mavigan” agenda and the capital issue, drawing sharp criticism from leaders of the ruling alliance. Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh accused Jagan Mohan Reddy of creating confusion over the state capital despite the people’s verdict and legal clarity on Amaravati. He

asserted that a capital city is not a political slogan or an issue to be altered according to changing political interests, but a matter linked to the future and aspirations of over five crore people of Andhra Pradesh. The Minister said Amaravati represents the state’s growth, investment potential and employment opportunities for youth. Repeated debates over shifting the capital, he argued, could adversely affect investor confidence and hinder development. He maintained that sustainable progress is possible only with a

stable capital and alleged that the previous government’s three-capitals proposal had caused uncertainty and slowed development. Durgesh further stated that the NDA-led government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, with the support of the Centre, is committed to strengthening Amaravati and accelerating infrastructure and economic growth. He urged the opposition to act responsibly and focus on public welfare rather than reviving capital-related disputes.



Lokesh Calls for Unity, Announces Door-to-Door Campaign from July 15

Srikalahasti, July 1 | TPN Bureau

TDP National Working President Nara Lokesh on Wednesday urged party cadres to remain united and strengthen grassroots outreach, while announcing a statewide door-to-door campaign from July 15 to highlight the achievements of the alliance government. Addressing a cadre meeting of the Srikalahasti constituency at Kothapalem near Renigunta, Nara Lokesh said the party would stand by its workers and ensure justice for those who worked during opposition years. He credited the growth of the undivided Chittoor district to the efforts of NTR and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, citing initiatives such as Padmavati Mahila University, Annadanam programme, Pranadana Trust, and promotion of industries. He accused YSRCP of corruption and misrule, alleging that its leaders had a history linked to illegal activities, while contrasting them with TDP leaders like Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy and N. Sivaprasad. He praised Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy for mobilising resources and supporting local development.

Nara Lokesh said the cadre must expose the “anarchic actions” of YSRCP and take the alliance government’s welfare and development programmes to the people. He highlighted key initiatives, including filling 16,000 teacher posts, recruitment of 6,000 constables, and a job calendar with 10,000 posts. He also stressed the importance of maintaining strong public connect, citing his electoral victory in Mangalagiri as an example. He encouraged workers to use the MyTDP app to track activities and engagement. Emphasising that continuity in governance is essential for development, Nara Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh could attract higher investments with stable leadership. He called on cadres to work collectively, avoid internal differences, and move forward with the slogan “Jai Telugu Desam, Jai Chandrababu.” Tirupati Parliamentary constituency in-charge Panabaka Lakshmi, MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy, Kanipakam Devasthanam Chairman Mani Naidu, and SAAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu were among those present.

Atchannaidu Dares Jagan to Open Debate on Agriculture

Amaravati, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on YSRCP president and former chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of neglecting the farming sector during his five-year tenure and resorting to “crocodile tears” over farmers’ issues after losing power. Addressing a press conference, Atchannaidu challenged Jagan to a public debate on agriculture and alleged that the former chief minister was attempting to gain political mileage by making what he termed misleading statements on farmers’ welfare. The minister defended the coalition government’s performance, citing measures taken in tobacco procurement, e-crop registration, crop insurance, input subsidy, aquaculture, fertiliser supply and support to mango growers. He said the government had spent more than Rs.273 crore to support HD Burley tobacco farmers and ensured minimum support mechanisms through coordination with the Centre and the Tobacco Board. Atchannaidu claimed e-crop registration had increased significantly under the coalition



government and said Rs.324.22 crore had already been released as input subsidy for crop losses during 2024-25. He also highlighted the implementation of the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme, under which eligible farmers receive Rs.20,000 annually, including Central assistance. The minister alleged that the previous YSRCP government had left large pending liabilities in crop insurance and drip irrigation sectors and accused it of weakening natural farming initiatives. He maintained that the coalition government had restored transparency and efficiency in agriculture-related schemes and reiterated its commitment to farmer welfare. Atchannaidu asserted that farmers had already delivered their verdict on the previous regime and urged Jagan to explain the shortcomings of his administration before criticising the present government.



Maldives Delegation Visits NTR District, Studies Rural Development Initiatives

Vijayawada, July 1 | TPN Bureau

A 26-member delegation from the Maldives, undergoing training at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), concluded its field visit to NTR district on Wednesday, studying local governance and rural development initiatives. The delegation visited several villages and examined programmes related to women's empowerment, public participation mechanisms, and community-led development. They interacted with officials and observed the implementation of welfare schemes at the grassroots level. At a farewell function held in Bhavanipuram, NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha presented mementoes to the visiting delegates on behalf of the district administration. He highlighted that the state government is giving equal importance to welfare and development, with the NTR Bharosa



Dileep Presents Book 'Bharat Rising in the Modi Era' to Hari Babu

Kanumuru, July 1| TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party Andhra Pradesh State Media In-charge and author Kilaru Dileep on Wednesday presented his book "Bharat Rising in the Modi Era" to Odisha Governor Kambhampati Hari Babu during a programme held at Kanumuru village in Krishna district. During the interaction, Kilaru Dileep explained that the book focuses on India's developmental journey under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting progress in infrastructure, digital transformation, economic reforms, governance,



CPM Demands Extension of Voter Revision Deadline

Vijayawada, July 1 | TPN Bureau

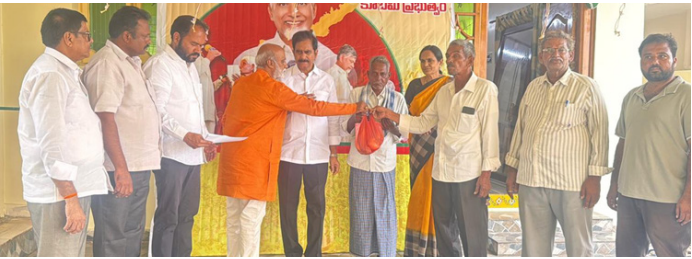
The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has demanded an extension of the deadline for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise could result in the disenfranchisement of eligible voters. During a field visit in Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada, CPM State Secretariat member Ch. Babu Rao interacted with residents and reviewed the implementation of the voter verification process. He claimed that many citizens are facing difficulties in submitting required documents and proving their eligibility. Babu Rao alleged that the burden of producing proof of past voter registration has been unfairly placed on citizens, particularly younger voters who may not have access to records dating back decades. He urged authori-

ties to take responsibility for verifying historical voter details instead of shifting the burden onto the public. The CPM leader also expressed concern over delays in document distribution and data uploading, stating that inadequate staffing has affected the smooth conduct of the exercise. He called for additional personnel, door-to-door awareness campaigns, booth-level meetings, and Gram Sabha consultations to ensure that no eligible voter is left out. Babu Rao warned that exclusion from electoral rolls could adversely affect access to welfare benefits and other government services. He urged the Election Commission to extend the July 15 deadline and ensure that every eligible citizen retains the right to vote. The CPM also appealed to political parties and civil society groups to actively support efforts aimed at protecting voting rights.

Uma Hails 'NTR Bharosa', Slams YSRCP Over Pension Record

Gollapudi, July 1 | TPN Bureau

TDP State General Secretary and former minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao on Tuesday said the Alliance government has reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare of the poor through the implementation of the 'NTR Bharosa' pension scheme. Participating in the pension distribution programme at Gollapudi in Vijayawada Rural mandal, Uma distributed pensions to beneficiaries and praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for fulfilling the promise of increasing social pensions soon after assuming office. Addressing beneficiaries, he alleged that the previous YSRCP government delayed pension hikes and deprived beneficiaries of substantial financial assistance. He stated that the Alliance government increased the pension amount to 4,000 and re-



leased arrears, ensuring immediate relief to eligible beneficiaries. Uma said Andhra Pradesh is providing social security pensions to more than 62 lakh beneficiaries every month, with an expenditure of around 2,700 crore. He added that the coalition government has spent over 68,000 crore on social pensions in two years, describing it as an unprecedented welfare initiative. The former minister said the government is implementing welfare schemes transparently without discrimination and has introduced measures allowing beneficiaries to receive multiple months of pension in certain circumstances. Recalling the welfare legacy of former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao, Uma said NTR laid the foundation for social welfare in the Telugu states, while Chandrababu Naidu is carrying that legacy forward by combining welfare programmes with development initiatives. He described the 'NTR Bharosa' pension scheme as a major support system for the elderly, differently-abled, and economically weaker sections.

NTR Bharosa Pensions Distributed Across State

Avanigadda, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Minister Vasamsetti Subhash and Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad on Wednesday participated in the NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme at Seethaya Lanka in Avanigadda town and handed over pensions to elderly beneficiaries. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Subhash said the state government released 2,711.79 crore towards pension payments for July, benefiting 62.19 lakh beneficiaries across Andhra Pradesh. Pension distribution commenced statewide on the morning of July 1, ensuring that beneficiaries received financial assistance on the first day of the month. The Minister stated that pensions were also sanctioned to 7,792 new widow beneficiaries, for which the government re-



leased 3.12 crore. He noted that since the formation of the Alliance government, expenditure on pension schemes has crossed 68,598 crore, reflecting its commitment to the welfare of the poor, elderly, widows, and differently-abled persons. Subhash recalled that former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao introduced the pension scheme in 1983 and said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu strengthened it by increasing pension amounts during previous terms. He added that the current Alliance government has raised the monthly pension to 4,000 and continues to prioritize social security despite financial challenges. The Minister said Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a model state in pension distribution through its doorstep delivery system. He credited the Alliance government with ensuring timely disbursement and improving the dignity and quality of life of beneficiaries across the state.

Burglary in Shantinagar Raises Safety Concerns

Vijayawada, July 1| TPN Bureau

A major burglary in Shantinagar has triggered concerns over public safety, with CPM leaders urging the police and government to take stronger measures to curb thefts in residential areas. According to reports, unidentified thieves broke into the residence of SK Nagina Maqbool Basha near Bhaskar Rao Kottu Center in Shantinagar while the family was away attending the Rottella Panduga festival in Nellore. Upon returning home, family members found the house ransacked and the almirah broken open. The victims reported the loss of 60 sovereigns of gold ornaments and cash, making it one of the significant thefts reported in the locality in recent times. Residents have expressed concern over a rise in burglaries in areas falling under the limits of the Payakapuram and Nunna police stations, alleging that thieves are targeting houses when occupants are away. CPM State Secretariat member Chigurupati Baburao visited the affected family and expressed solidarity with them. He later spoke with Nunna Circle Inspector SK Ali, requesting swift action to trace the culprits



and recover the stolen property. Baburao stressed the need for enhanced security measures to protect residents and their belongings. He urged the coalition government and police authorities to strengthen surveillance and policing in vulnerable neighbourhoods. Several CPM leaders, including Chintala Srinivas, P. Venkata Reddy, SK Peeru Saheb, and others, participated in the visit.

SFI Urges Early Completion of Admissions

Vijayawada, July 1|TPN Bureau

The Students' Federation of India (SFI) has urged the Higher Education Department to expedite the admission process for various higher education courses and release a common academic calendar for the new academic year. SFI State Secretary K. Prasanna Kumar and State Vice-President B. Ravi submitted a representation to Higher Education Joint Director Chappidi Krishna, seeking immediate action on admissions for Engineering, Degree, PG, Law, and other professional courses. Addressing the media, Prasanna Kumar said delays in admissions every year force thousands of students to seek admission in private institutions and universities outside Andhra Pradesh. He noted that although examination results have already been declared, the admission process has not yet been finalized. He pointed out that admissions for the previous academic year were completed only in September, resulting in academic delays and students taking semester examinations much later than scheduled. SFI demanded that admissions for PG, Law, and other higher education courses be completed by July to ensure smooth academic functioning. The student organization also requested that admissions be conducted through an offline



mode and called for the publication of a common academic calendar for all higher education institutions. Expressing concern over the proposed implementation of the Face Recognition System (FRS), SFI warned of potential technical difficulties, particularly in tribal and remote areas. The organization suggested introducing the system on a pilot basis before statewide implementation to avoid inconvenience to students.



State Marks Doctors' Day with Health and Rural Development Initiatives

Kanumuru, July 1 | TPN Bureau

National Doctors' Day and village development initiatives were marked with enthusiasm across Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday, with leaders emphasizing public service, healthcare, education, and rural development. At Dr. NTR Health University in Vijayawada, National Doctors' Day celebrations were held on the birth anniversary of renowned physician and freedom fighter Dr. B.C. Roy. Principal Secretary of Health, Medical and Family Welfare S. Suresh Kumar unveiled a bronze statue of Dr. Roy and felicitated ten distinguished doctors for their outstanding contributions to the medical profession. Addressing the gathering, Suresh Kumar described medicine as a noble service dedicated to humanity and stressed that technology, including Artificial Intelligence and telemedicine, can never replace the compassion and judgment of doctors. He announced that the "Sanjeevani" healthcare initia-

tive, currently implemented in Kuppam, would be expanded across Andhra Pradesh within the next three months. Meanwhile, Odisha Governor Dr. Kambhampati Hari Babu visited Kanumuru village in Pamarru mandal of Krishna district and inaugurated several development projects. He laid foundation stones for a modern crematorium and other infrastructure works and distributed "NTR Bharosa" pensions to beneficiaries. The Governor praised the village's efforts in combining development, education, and social service, calling it a model for rural progress. He also distributed cash incentives of 10,000 each to students who excelled in Class X examinations and encouraged them to pursue ambitious goals. State Minister Kollu Ravindra, District Collector D.K. Balaji, APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, district officials, and local legislators participated in the programme, highlighting the government's commitment to strengthening rural infrastructure and educational opportunities.



Commissioner Reviews NTR Bharosa Pension Distribution

Vijayawada, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner H.M. Dhyanachandra on Wednesday reviewed the distribution of NTR Bharosa pensions and personally handed over pensions to beneficiaries in the Old Rajarajeswaripeta area. During the visit, the Commissioner verified beneficiaries' Aadhaar details and conducted authentication through the Face Recognition System (FRS) before distributing pension amounts. He interacted with pensioners and local residents to assess whether pensions were being delivered regularly, on time, and directly at their doorsteps. Expressing satisfaction over the feedback received from beneficiaries, Dhyanachandra said the distribution process was progressing smoothly. He noted that by 3 p.m., pension distribution had reached nearly 92 percent coverage across the city. According to official figures, 18,371 of 19,751 beneficiaries received pensions in Circle-1, 23,429 of 25,147 beneficiaries in Circle-2, and 18,403 of 19,880 beneficiaries in Circle-3. In total, 60,203 pensions were distributed across the three circles. Later, the Commissioner inspected JP Apartments in Old Rajarajeswaripeta and reviewed local civic issues. He directed municipal officials to take immediate measures to resolve drainage problems and clear blockages to ensure the uninterrupted flow of sewage. Zonal Commissioner Satyanarayana, CDO Srikanth, Executive Engineer J. Srinivas, and other municipal officials accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection and pension distribution programme.



Fake Currency Racket Busted; Two Arrested

Vijayawada, July 1| TPN Bureau

Ibrahimpatnam Police in NTR district busted a counterfeit currency circulation racket and arrested two persons while seizing fake currency notes worth 4.5 lakh in 500 denominations. According to police, acting on a tip-off received on the night of June 30, officers conducted a raid at a poultry farm located on Jio Tower Road in the Khaji Manyam area of Ibrahimpatnam. During the operation, police apprehended Gunja Mangarao (40) of Ibrahimpatnam and Vallabhaneni Pavan Kumar alias Pavan (31) of Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada. Police recovered nine bundles of counterfeit 500 notes, amounting to 4,50,000, from the accused. A case was registered

and the seized notes were taken into custody. During interrogation, investigators reportedly learned that an accused identified as Raja, a resident of Anantapur and currently absconding, had established contact with Mangarao while the latter was lodged in Bengaluru Jail. After their release, Raja allegedly supplied counterfeit currency to Mangarao, who, in turn, passed the notes to Pavan Kumar and another associate for circulation in and around Vijayawada. Police identified two more accused, Raju and Raja, who are currently absconding. Authorities have formed three special teams to trace and apprehend the remaining suspects. Further investigation is underway to determine the source and extent of the counterfeit currency network.

CM Naidu Praises Collector Himanshu Shukla

Nellore, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu congratulated Nellore district for securing the top position in the state rankings and praised District Collector Himanshu Shukla for the achievement.

Speaking at the "Praja Vedika in Service of the Poor" programme at Punnapuvaari-palem in Chillakur mandal on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said Nellore had improved from second place last year to first position in the state. He also appreciated Gudur Assembly constituency for moving from 88th rank to 27th place. Chandrababu Naidu said the

district had outperformed the state average in drinking water supply, urban services, civic infrastructure, street lighting, Anna Canteens and NTR Bharosa pension distribution, which recorded 91 per cent public satisfaction.

He commended officials of the Panchayat Raj, Revenue, Fire Services, Health, Agriculture and Welfare departments, and praised SP Dr Ajitha Vajendla for effective action against ganja and crimes against women. He urged the district administration to maintain its momentum and achieve over 90 per cent positive ratings across all services.



Cybercrime Awareness Drive Held for MPDOs

Bapatla, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla district police conducted a cybercrime awareness programme for Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs) undergoing a one-month foundation training programme at the Extension Training Centre in Bapatla on Wednesday.

The programme was organised on the directions of Bapatla Superintendent of Police B. Umamaheshwar. District Social Media Cell Inspector V. Suryanarayana, along with personnel from the Bapatla Town Police, Social Media Cell and IT Core teams, participated in the session.

Addressing the trainees, V. Suryanarayana explained vari-

ous forms of cybercrime and precautionary measures to prevent financial frauds. He highlighted the growing menace of "digital arrest" scams and clarified that no such provision exists in law. He cautioned officials against fraudsters posing as CBI, police or customs officers through Skype or WhatsApp video calls.

The session also covered investment frauds, part-time job scams, loan app frauds, OTP theft and fake links. Officials were advised to educate rural communities and report cyber frauds immediately through the 1930 helpline or the cybercrime portal. Bapatla Town SI Vijay Kumar and training centre officials also attended the programme.



Chanti Assures Permanent Solution to Drinking Water Issues

Eluru, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MLA and Telugu Desam Party district president Badeti Chanti on Wednesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that social security pensions reach all eligible beneficiaries on schedule every month.

Participating in the NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme at Maradani Rangarao Colony in the 13th Division of Eluru Assembly constituency, Badeti Chanti personally visited beneficiaries' homes and handed over pension amounts. He interacted with elderly residents and bedridden patients, inquiring about their health and welfare while assuring them of continued support.

Responding to concerns raised by local residents over

drinking water shortages, the MLA said a permanent solution would be provided within the next year through special initiatives under the Amrut 2.0 scheme.

He said the coalition government was committed to distributing pensions on the first day of every month and was encouraging public representatives to stay connected with people to assess governance at the grassroots level.

RTC Vijayawada Zone-2 Chairman Reddy Appalanaidu, Mala Finance Corporation Director Dasari Anjaneyulu, AMC Chairman Mamilapalli Parthasaradhi, EDA Chairman Peddiboyina Siva Prasad, Deputy Mayor Karri Srinivas, Corporation Commissioner A. Bhanu Pratap and other leaders attended the programme.

Swarna Panchayat Funds Misuse Allegations Rock Gram Panchayat

CH Raju

Kadiyapulanka : A major controversy has erupted in Kadiyapulanka Gram Panchayat of Kadiyam mandal in East Godavari district after villagers alleged large-scale financial irregularities, tax manipulation and misuse of public funds under the "Swarna Panchayat" digital governance system. A formal complaint, along with supporting documents, has been submitted to the District Collector and Panchayat Raj Department seeking a comprehensive inquiry.

According to the complaint, Panchayat Secretary R. Venkatalakshmi Devi, who assumed charge in January this year, allegedly diverted and manipulated funds within a span of five months. Villagers have accused her of reducing property tax assessments for commercial establishments on the Swarna Panchayat portal without approval of the elected body, resulting in an estimated loss of 22.07 lakh to the Panchayat.

It is alleged that liabilities of The Indian Fruits Limited (Assessment No. 2408 and 2415) were drastically reduced from over 20 lakh to a few lakh rupees, causing significant revenue loss. Similar irregularities have been reported in assessments linked to Sri Venkata Surya Subbaraya Rice Mill,



GNR Villa and other properties.

The complaint also alleges diversion of funds through fake salary entries and unauthorised payments. It is claimed that salaries were credited to individuals who are not employed by the Panchayat and that funds were transferred to personal bank accounts linked to the secretary. Allegations further include repeated transfers of 2-3 lakh at intervals between November 2025 and June 2026 without supporting bills.

Villagers have also raised concerns over alleged coercion of sanitation workers, claiming that excess salary payments for absent days were later recovered as bribes under threat of withholding wages. Irregularities have also been flagged in diesel procurement, bleaching powder purchases and other maintenance expenditures, with allegations of duplicate billing and inflated claims. Officials are also examining

possible violations of 15th Finance Commission guidelines, which prohibit diversion of funds to individual accounts. It has been alleged that expenditure records and measurement books do not match, raising further suspicion of financial mismanagement.

Responding to the allegations, Panchayat Secretary R. Venkatalakshmi Devi denied any wrongdoing, stating that the charges were baseless. She added that she would respond in detail after reviewing the documents submitted in the complaint.

Meanwhile, villagers have demanded a high-level inquiry and strict action, questioning whether accountability mechanisms will be enforced or whether the matter will be politically influenced. The complaint has triggered widespread discussion across the district, with calls for immediate intervention by higher authorities to safeguard public funds.

MLA Vows to Develop P. Gannavaram as a Model Constituency

P. Gannavaram, July 1 | TPN Bureau

P. Gannavaram MLA Giddi Satyanarayana on Wednesday said he is committed to transforming the constituency associated with the legacy of philanthropist Dokka Seethamma, into a model constituency in the state.

Participating in the NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme at Appanapalli village in Mamidikuduru mandal, the MLA said nearly 90 per cent of development works across the constituency's four mandals had been completed. He noted that roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects were accorded priority as part of efforts to strengthen basic amenities.



Giddi Satyanarayana said pensions worth Rs. 14.61 crore were being distributed transparently to 34,120 beneficiaries in the constituency. He observed that the pensions provide financial security to elderly persons, differently able individuals and widows facing economic hardship.

The MLA assured that efforts

would continue to extend pension benefits to all eligible beneficiaries in the future. He said the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, was implementing welfare schemes transparently with a focus on Andhra Pradesh's development.

ABM School Reopens After Encroachment Dispute

Markapur, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Markapur MLA Kandula Narayana Reddy on Wednesday announced the reopening of the historic ABM High School, stating that the institution's properties had been freed from the clutches of land encroachers.

The MLA inaugurated the school by cutting a ribbon at the ABM Compound gate, painted parts of the school building and planted a sapling on the campus.

Addressing the gathering, Kandula Narayana Reddy said the school, established in 1874, had served generations of students for nearly 147 years until its closure in 2023. He said the institution, which had produced thousands of successful alumni,



had fallen victim to land encroachment but was being revived through collective efforts.

The MLA appealed against creating obstacles to the school's functioning and announced a personal contribution of Rs. 5 lakh for its revival. He also said six acres had been allotted for a burial ground for Dalit communities and promised land allocation for a community hall.

Kandula Narayana Reddy

further announced plans to construct a hostel for Scheduled Caste students on the campus and reiterated his commitment to the constituency's development, including completion of the Veligonda Project, establishment of industries and development of the region as a horticulture hub. Pastors, Christian community members, Dalit representatives and Telugu Desam Party leaders attended the programme.

Rythu Sangham Launches 'Hello Rythanna-Chalo Eluru' Rally

Eluru, July 1 | TPN Bureau

An auto-rickshaw publicity campaign was launched in Eluru on Wednesday to mobilise participation for the "Hello Rythanna-Chalo Eluru" programme scheduled for July 3 as part of the 23rd State Conference of the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham to be held from July 3 to 5.

The campaign commenced from Uddaraju Raju Ramam Bhavan in Powerpet and was flagged off by CITU district president R. Lingaraju and senior leader Kandi Viswanadham.

Addressing the gathering, Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham State Assistant Secretary K. Srinivas said a farmers' rally would begin at 2 p.m. from Jute



Mill Centre on July 3, followed by a public meeting at 3 p.m. at the Indoor Stadium grounds near the District Collectorate. He appealed to farmers from all crop sectors to participate in large numbers.

K. Srinivas expressed concern over farmers not receiving remunerative prices for their produce and demanded implementation of the Swaminathan

Commission recommendations. He called for enhanced support prices and assistance for tobacco, aquaculture, oil palm, cocoa, paddy, vegetable, dairy and poultry farmers.

CITU district general secretary DNV Prasad, Pampana Ravikumar, S. Sai Krishna, Koteswara Rao and other farmers' leaders attended the programme.



JAC Leader Criticises Jagan Over Kapu CM Remarks

Vijayawada, July 1 | TPN Bureau

AP Unemployed JAC State President Samayam Hemanth Kumar criticised YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his reported remarks on offering the Chief Minister's post to the Kapu community, questioning the credibility of such promises.

Hemanth Kumar said Kapu leaders should remain cautious and not be misled by political assurances, alleging that Andhra Pradesh had lost a decade of development during Jagan Mo-han Reddy's tenure. He stated that the state had witnessed renewed progress under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Referring to the closure of

Anna Canteens during the previous regime, Hemanth Kumar questioned whether a leader who had discontinued welfare measures for the poor could genuinely commit to handing over the Chief Minister's post to any community. He also asked what assurances were being offered to Dalits and other sections.

He said political positions cannot be guaranteed merely through caste influence and asserted that any promise can only be fulfilled after securing electoral victory.

Hemanth Kumar further urged the coalition government to implement reservations for SC, ST, BC, EWS and minority candidates at the preliminary stage of all competitive examinations.



Chartered Accountants Mark CA Day with Blood Donation Camp

Chirala, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Chartered Accountants' Day was celebrated in Chirala of Bapatla district with a blood donation camp organised as part of a social service initiative on Wednesday.

The camp was conducted at Apadbandhu Blood Bank under the leadership of chartered accountant Nanduri Sridhar. More than 10 accountants voluntarily donated blood during the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Nanduri Sridhar said blood donation was equivalent to saving lives and stressed the need for greater public participation in such humanitarian activities. He noted that many lives are lost due to the non-availability of blood during emergencies and urged people to come forward and donate blood to help those in need.

He said organising a service-oriented programme on Chartered Accountants' Day was a matter of great satisfaction and reflected the profession's commitment to social responsibility.

Apadbandhu Blood Bank Director Santosh, medical staff, chartered accountant Kunda Srinivasa Rao and several other dignitaries participated in the event.



AP Leads Nation in Social Pension Coverage, Says Parthasarathy

Eluru, July 1 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh is the only state in the country providing social security pensions on such a large scale, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy said on Wednesday while distributing NTR Bharosa social pensions in Padamara Digavalli village of Nuzvid mandal in Eluru district.

The minister said pensions amounting to Rs. 112.49 crore were being disbursed to 2,55,107 beneficiaries across the district. He visited beneficiaries at their homes, interacted with families, enquired about local issues and resolved some grievances on the spot with the help of officials. He also received petitions from residents before handing over pension benefits.

Kolusu Parthasarathy said

the state government, despite financial constraints, was prioritising welfare under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He noted that pension amounts were enhanced in line with election promises and were being delivered at beneficiaries' doorsteps on the first day of every month. The minister also announced that the Centre was expected to sanction 80,000 houses for Andhra Pradesh in the first phase, with priority being given to rural areas. He said the government was considering extending pensions to more eligible beneficiaries in the near future.

Tahsildar Shaik Samsiddin, officials from various departments, secretariat staff, public representatives, coalition leaders and pension beneficiaries participated in the programme.

Editorial

Prices of e-Vehicles Should Be Slashed

Electric vehicles (EVs) are no longer a futuristic concept; they are becoming an essential part of India's strategy to reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels. Both the Union and State Governments have been encouraging the adoption of electric mobility through subsidies, policy incentives, and infrastructure development. Yet, one major obstacle continues to stand in the way of mass adoption—the high price of electric vehicles.

Despite limited charging infrastructure in many parts of the country, people are showing a willingness to shift towards electric scooters and cars. This reflects growing public awareness about environmental protection and the long-term benefits of EVs. However, affordability remains the biggest challenge. For many middle-class and low-income families, the cost of purchasing an electric vehicle is still beyond their reach.

The Delhi Government's decision to gradually phase out non-electric scooters and auto-rickshaws is a bold step towards tackling the city's severe air pollution. While the objective is commendable, such policies must also consider the financial realities of ordinary citizens. Setting deadlines without ensuring affordable alternatives may place an unfair burden on those who depend on these vehicles for their livelihood.

If governments are serious about accelerating the transition to clean mobility, reducing vehicle prices should become a top priority. Greater subsidies, tax concessions, low-interest financing, and incentives for manufacturers can help bring down costs. Public investment in charging infrastructure must also go hand in hand with promoting EV ownership.

Governments have often extended substantial financial support to industries in the name of economic growth. Extending similar support to ordinary citizens for purchasing electric vehicles would be an investment in cleaner cities, better public health, and a sustainable future.

India's vision for widespread electric mobility, as envisaged by policymakers, can become a reality only when electric vehicles are not merely environmentally friendly but also financially accessible to every household.

Editor

From Loneliness to Social Connection: A Path to Healthier Societies

Prof. Madhusudan Reddy Burra



Education Expert 9949700037

Health, according to the WHO, is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not just the absence of disease or infirmity. The recent report released by the “WHO Commission on Social Connection” speaks about in-depth issues related to social health and its importance. Social health is a key part of our overall well-being. At the heart of social health lies social connection—how we relate to and interact with others—which has a profound impact on our health. This report is based on careful research, expert advice, and real-life experiences and examples.

Importance of Social Health
Humans are social by nature. Mankind survived and thrived by working together. Our brains are wired to connect with others. From the moment we are born and throughout our lifetime, social interactions shape our brain and, subsequently, our mental health. Social health matters as much as our physical and mental health. All three are interlinked. Without good social health, it is hard to enjoy good health. Social disconnection is gradually increasing as technology burgeons. Due to social disconnection, 1 in 6 persons feels lonely globally. Social disconnection increases the risk of death due to heart problems, stroke, depression, and anxiety. Loneliness is leading to 8.71 lakh deaths annually across the globe. The COVID-19 lockdowns and other social restrictions kept people apart, and many felt lonely and isolated. Currently, the digital AI era is rapidly and pro-

foundly changing our lifestyles, enhancing the scope of social disconnection.

Social Connection Means...

Social connection is about the many ways we relate to and interact with others. It includes family, friends, classmates, coworkers, neighbours—even people we chat with online. Social connection has three dimensions: structure (social human networks, talking, spending time), function (practical help, emotional support, and information you give and receive), and quality (how your relationships make you feel). We can connect with people in both online and offline modes.

Social Disconnection: Loneliness and Social Isolation

Social disconnection results when a person does not have enough social contact, does not feel supported by the relationships they have, or when the relationships are strained or negative. Loneliness is a painful feeling that occurs when the relationships you have do not match what you want or need. You may feel lonely even when surrounded by people. You may have friends but not feel understood or supported. Life after a breakup, moving to new places, or losing loved ones are occasions when individuals may feel lonely. If loneliness lasts for a long time, it may lead to serious health problems. Social isolation is more about numbers—having very few relationships or not meeting people frequently. Someone who lives alone and rarely



talks to others might be socially isolated. A person can be isolated but not feel lonely—some people like being alone. However, social isolation can harm physical and mental health, especially in the long run.

Impact of Social Disconnection, Loneliness, and Social Isolation

Loneliness is common everywhere, among all age groups, and affects males and females equally. Young people between 13 and 29 years of age feel the loneliest. Globally, around 17–21 % feel lonely, with higher levels among teenagers. This may be because teenagers seek stronger social connections. People in poorer countries with low income are more likely to feel lonely (24 %) than those in richer countries (11 %). Poverty may limit movement and opportunities to meet others, making it harder to maintain relationships. Social isolation is another challenge to overall health. Up to

1 in 3 adults are isolated, and 1 in 4 teenagers are socially isolated. People with disabilities, refugees, migrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, indigenous groups, and ethnic minorities are more prone to loneliness and/or social isolation. The impacts include effects on mortality, physical and mental health, brain development, education, work, and the economy.

Causes of Loneliness and Social Isolation

The reasons for loneliness and isolation differ from person to person and may arise from personal life, lifestyle, relationships, neighbourhoods, and government policies. Health, education, income, personality, type of work, communities, life transitions, and digital technology all play a role. Higher education and income groups often have better chances of maintaining relationships. Long-term health issues may lead to loneliness. Having few relatives and friends

can also contribute. Some individuals are shy or anxious, making communication difficult. Safe and supportive communities enhance social health. Moving to new places or losing a job can lead to loneliness. The impact of digital technology is mixed. While it may help some cope, excessive screen time or negative online experiences can worsen loneliness. Young people's mental health is particularly affected.

In short, staying socially connected is not just good for individuals—it is vital for society. Let us advocate, campaign, network, and collaborate to reduce loneliness and isolation by strengthening social connections. Awareness through social media, television programs, public events, and campaigns can help. Local, national, and global efforts, along with supportive government policies, can significantly improve social connection through community and relationship-based strategies.

Fee Regulation in Education: Reform or Repetition?

Sikharam Narahari



President, The Parents Association of Andhra Pradesh (PAAP)

The Andhra Pradesh government's proposed move to introduce fresh regulations on fees in private schools and intermediate colleges raises a familiar yet critical question: will this initiative genuinely ease the financial burden on parents, or will it become another well-intentioned policy that falters in implementation?

For over two decades, the state has witnessed a steady expansion of private educational institutions, while the establishment of new government institutions—from KG to PG—has remained negligible. This vacuum has effectively handed over the responsibility of education to private players, leaving parents with limited choices and mounting financial pressure. Despite significant public expenditure on schemes such as Amma Vodi and Thalli Deevana, concerns about affordability and quality continue to persist.

Historically, attempts to regulate school fees have not yielded the desired results. The District Fee Regulatory Committee (DFRC), constituted in 2009, was tasked with approving fee structures for schools. However, weak enforcement and legal challenges rendered it largely ineffective. Schools continued to hike fees arbitrarily,

often disregarding stipulated norms. Later, the Andhra Pradesh School Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission (APSERMC) attempted to impose caps on fees in 2021, but its efforts were struck down by the High Court, which emphasized the need to curb profiteering rather than impose rigid fee controls.

The new policy appears to acknowledge these past shortcomings. Its proposal to include parent representatives in district-level committees is a welcome step, potentially giving parents a stronger voice in decision-making. Similarly, the introduction of an online grievance redressal system could empower parents to report issues such as hidden charges, forced purchases, and unjustified fee hikes.

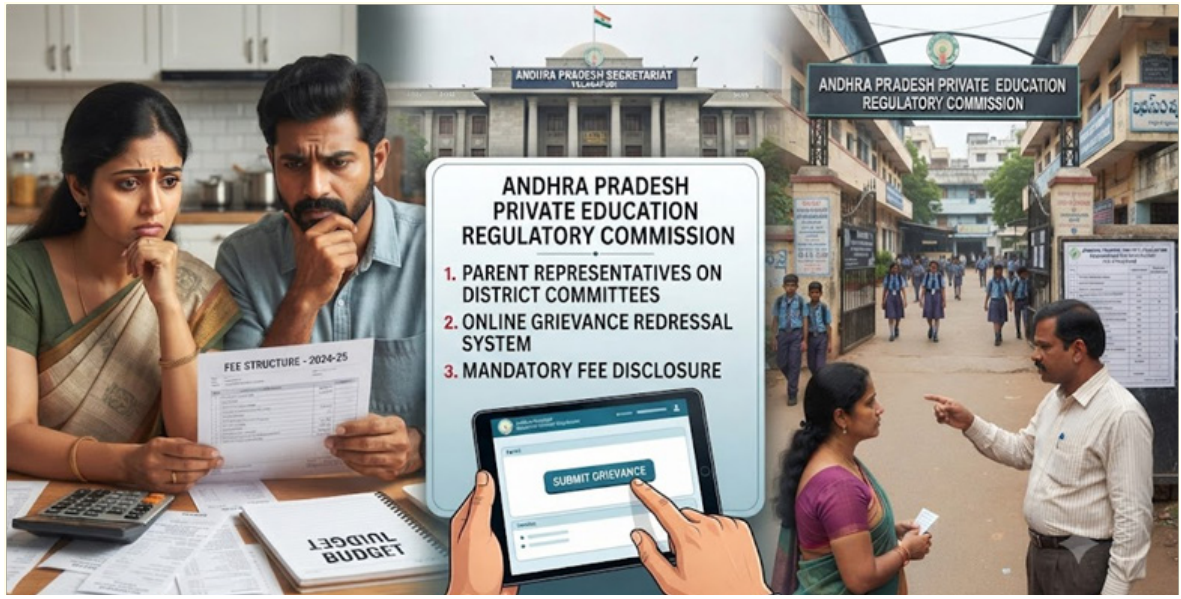
Transparency measures—such as mandating schools to declare fee structures in advance—are also promising. Drawing lessons from other states like Telangana and Tamil Nadu indicates a willingness to adopt best practices. If implemented effectively, these steps could offer some degree of financial relief and accountability. However, the key challenge remains unchanged: enforcement. Previous regulatory frameworks failed not because of a lack of policy, but due to inadequate implementation.

Without strict monitoring and timely action, even the most well-designed system risks becoming ineffective.

There is also a need for balance. While curbing excessive fees is essential, overregulation could inadvertently impact the functioning of quality institutions. Education, by its very nature, involves costs, and policies must ensure that regulation does not stifle innovation or sustainability in the sector. The High Court's earlier observation—that decisions should involve consultation with school management—remains relevant and must be carefully considered.

At the heart of the issue lies the role of parents, which has historically been minimal. The new policy offers an opportunity to change that dynamic. But for this shift to be meaningful, parents must actively engage, raise concerns, and utilize the mechanisms provided.

Ultimately, the success of this policy will depend not on its intent, but on its execution. Regulation on paper alone cannot bring relief. It requires consistent enforcement, stakeholder cooperation, and a genuine commitment to safeguarding both affordability and quality in education. The government must ensure that this reform does not become another chapter in a cycle of unfulfilled promises. For parents and students alike, the stakes are too high to allow history to repeat itself.



Democratizing Technology

Confronting the Reality of Techno-Casteism in India

Dr Nagam Kumaraswami



Assistant Professor Palamuru niversity

Over the past three decades, public movements and civic responses in India have undergone a profound transformation. From the nationwide outrage following the Nirbhaya incident to the Shaheen Bagh protests, the year-long farmers' agitation, and recent youth-led digital mobilizations, social media has emerged as a powerful platform for public expression. At a time when mainstream media is often perceived as constrained by corporate and political interests, digital platforms such as Facebook, X, and Instagram have enabled citizens to organize, protest, and amplify their voices. However, beneath this apparent democratization lies a troubling reality: digital spaces in India are far from equal and are increasingly shaped by existing social hierarchies, particularly caste.

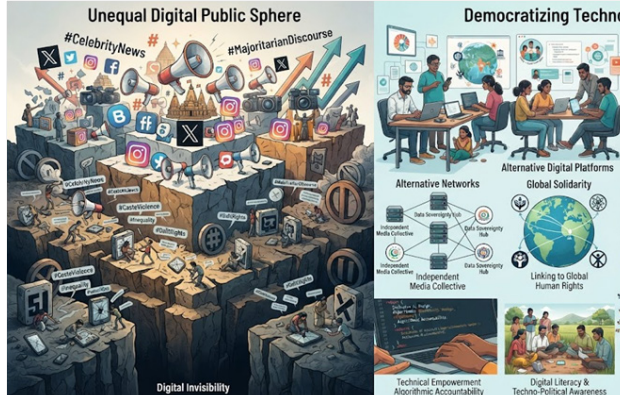
While social media appears inclusive, its functioning reflects deep-rooted inequalities. Issues concerning dominant social groups often gain rapid visibility and traction, while atrocities against marginalized communities—particularly SC, ST, BC, and minority groups—receive limited attention. Incidents of caste-based violence or discrimination rarely achieve the same digital momentum as other issues, revealing an imbalance in

whose voices are heard and amplified. This disparity highlights what can be termed “techno-casteism”—the extension of caste-based dominance into digital ecosystems.

Theoretical frameworks help explain this phenomenon. Philosopher Jürgen Habermas envisioned the “public sphere” as a space for rational and equal participation. In contrast, India's digital public sphere is shaped by unequal access to cultural capital, economic resources, and technological influence. Similarly, Herbert Marcuse's critique of the “culture industry” is relevant in understanding how media and technology, while appearing liberating, often reinforce dominant ideologies. In the Indian context, algorithms, content moderation systems, and platform policies may unintentionally—or systematically—reflect caste and social biases, marginalizing already underrepresented voices.

This raises a critical question: how can technology be democratized in such a context?

First, there is a need to build alternative digital platforms and knowledge systems. Marginalized communities must move beyond reliance on mainstream platforms and invest in independent digital publications, data repositories, and communication



networks. Documenting caste-based discrimination through credible, evidence-based research can strengthen advocacy and counter invisibility.

Second, the struggle must extend to the global arena. Linking caste discrimination with international human rights frameworks can generate global awareness and accountability. Producing content in widely accessible languages and connecting local struggles with global movements against inequality can put pressure on technology companies to recognize and address caste-based biases within their systems.

Third, technical empowerment is essential. Marginalized communities must not remain passive users of technology but actively participate in its creation and governance. Encouraging representation in fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, and software development is critical. Inclusive approaches to AI and algorithm design can help challenge embedded biases and create more equitable digital systems.

Equally important is fostering digital solidarity. Collective responses across marginalized groups can amplify issues that would otherwise remain overlooked. An incident affecting one community must be seen as a shared concern, triggering broader digital engagement and sustained advocacy. Expanding digital literacy in rural and underserved areas, along with promoting techno-political awareness, can further strengthen this collective capacity.

Ultimately, technology is not neutral; it reflects the values and power structures of those who design and control it. Addressing techno-casteism requires both structural reform and social awareness. The principles of “Educate, Agitate, Organize” remain as relevant in the digital age as they were in earlier struggles for equality.

Only through conscious effort, inclusive participation, and sustained resistance can digital spaces evolve into truly democratic platforms. Until then, the promise of technology as an equalizer will remain incomplete.

Commercial LPG Prices Slashed by ₹183.50

Commercial LPG cylinder prices have been reduced by 183.50 with effect from July 1, providing significant relief to restaurants, hotels, caterers and other businesses that depend on cooking gas for their daily operations. The price revision applies to 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders, while domestic LPG cylinder prices remain unchanged.

Following the latest revision, the price of a commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi has been brought down to 2,930 from 3,113.50. Similar price cuts have been announced in other major cities, easing operating costs for commercial establishments that had been hit by earlier price hikes triggered by supply disruptions during the West Asia crisis.

The reduction marks the first cut in commercial LPG prices in 2026 after several months of increases linked to higher global energy prices and supply constraints. Industry experts believe the move will help businesses in the hospitality and food services sectors, many of which had been grappling with rising input costs. Lower fuel expenses are expected to improve margins for restaurants, hotels, roadside eateries and small enter-



prises that rely heavily on commercial LPG.

Despite the relief for commercial users, there has been no change in the price of 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinders, meaning household consumers will continue to pay the existing rates. Oil marketing companies revise LPG prices every month based on international fuel prices, import costs and other market factors.

The latest price cut comes as fuel supplies have gradually stabilised following earlier disruptions in global energy markets. Businesses across the country are expected to benefit from lower operating costs, while consumers may also see some indirect relief if commercial establishments pass on part of the savings through more stable prices for food and related services.



Ayodhya Lawyers Boycott Temple Theft Accused

The decision by lawyers in Ayodhya to refuse legal representation to those accused in the alleged Ram Temple donation theft case has sparked a debate over the constitutional right to a fair trial. The Faizabad Bar Association resolved that none of its members would defend the accused, citing the religious significance of the Ram Temple and the sentiments of devotees.

The Bar Association reportedly warned that lawyers who chose to represent the accused could face disciplinary action. The move has drawn criticism from legal experts, who argue that every accused person is entitled to legal representation, irrespective of the charges against them. They maintain that denying legal assistance

goes against the principles of natural justice and the constitutional guarantee of a fair trial.

The case involves allegations of theft of donations collected at the Ram Temple. Police have arrested several individuals, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) is probing the alleged misappropriation of funds and the methods used to carry out the theft.

The controversy has reignited discussions on whether public sentiment should influence the legal profession. While many support strict action against those accused of misusing temple donations, legal experts stress that the justice system requires every individual to receive a fair hearing and proper legal defence before guilt is established in court.

Amarnath Pilgrimage Under Tight Security



The annual Amarnath Yatra has begun under significantly tightened security arrangements, with authorities introducing stricter protocols to ensure the safety of pilgrims visiting the Himalayan shrine in Jammu and Kashmir. The measures come in response to ongoing security concerns and aim to make the pilgrimage safer and more organized.

This year, the movement of pilgrims is being closely monitored through multi-layered security arrangements involving

El Niño Clouds India's July Rain Forecast

India is likely to receive below-normal rainfall in July, raising concerns over agriculture and kharif sowing, according to the latest weather outlook. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated that rainfall during the month may fall below the long-period average, with El Niño conditions playing a key role in suppressing monsoon activity across several regions.

July is typically the wettest and most crucial month of the south-west monsoon season, contributing a major share of India's annual

rainfall. A shortfall during this period is especially significant as it directly impacts sowing of key kharif crops such as rice, pulses, cotton and oilseeds. Farmers across several states are already closely monitoring rainfall patterns as delays can affect crop cycles and overall agricultural productivity.

The forecast comes after a weak start to the monsoon season, with June recording significantly below-normal rainfall in many parts of the country. Meteorologists have linked the subdued performance to emerging El Niño conditions in the

Private Bill Seeks Arrest Powers Over PM, CMs

A private member's Bill proposing a constitutional amendment to remove the legal protection that prevents the arrest or detention of sitting Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers and Union or State ministers during their tenure has sparked debate. The proposal seeks to amend provisions that currently provide immunity to these public office holders while they are in office.

The Bill argues that no individual holding public office should be above the law and that constitutional equality requires elected representatives to be treated like any other citizen in criminal investigations. According to the proposal, removing such protections would strengthen accountability, enhance transparency and reinforce public confidence in democratic institutions.

The proposed amendment aims to ensure that investigating agencies can take legal action against serving ministers, including the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers, without waiting for them to demit office. Supporters believe the move would help prevent delays in criminal investigations involving high-ranking public officials and promote greater



responsibility in governance.

However, the proposal has also triggered legal and political debate. Critics argue that removing constitutional safeguards could expose top elected leaders to politically motivated cases, potentially affecting the stability and functioning of governments. They contend that constitutional protections were designed to prevent the misuse of legal processes for political purposes rather than to shield individuals from accountability.

Legal experts have noted that any amendment to constitutional provisions involving high constitutional offices would require extensive parliamentary discussion and broad political consensus. Since the proposal has been introduced as a private member's Bill, its chances of becoming law re-

main limited unless it receives support from the government and Parliament.

Private member's Bills are introduced by Members of Parliament who are not ministers. While they often generate discussion on important public issues, only a small number have been enacted into law in India's parliamentary history.

The introduction of the Bill has nevertheless revived debate over the balance between constitutional protections and public accountability. As Parliament considers the proposal, discussions are expected to focus on whether existing safeguards should be retained or revised to ensure that all public officials remain equally answerable under the law while protecting democratic institutions from potential misuse of investigative powers.

Kerala Questions Adani-MSM Port Deal

The Kerala government has said it was not consulted before the announcement of a 13,000-crore deal under which Terminal Investment Limited (TIL), the port operating arm of global shipping giant Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), will acquire a 49% stake in Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited (AVP-PL). The transaction, announced by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), is being described as the largest foreign private investment in India's port infrastructure.

Speaking in the Kerala Assembly, Chief Minister V.D. Sathiesan said the state government was not informed about the transaction before it was made public. He pointed out that under the concession agreement governing the Vizhinjam International Seaport project, any change in the ownership structure of the concessionaire requires prior approval from the state government. According to him, the sale of a 49% stake amounts to a change in ownership and cannot proceed without the state's consent.

The Chief Minister also said the government would closely examine the implications of the deal before taking a decision. He stressed that the Vizhinjam port is a critical infrastructure project,



making national security and public interest important considerations. The government will assess whether the proposed investment could affect the port's operations or lead to market dominance by a single global shipping company.

Concerns were also raised over the possibility of monopoly in port operations. Leaders across the political spectrum argued that Vizhinjam should remain a competitive, multi-user facility where all shipping companies receive equal access. They cautioned that allowing one major shipping operator to gain excessive influence could affect fair competition and the long-term commercial interests of the port. Adani Ports had announced that TIL would invest about \$1.4 billion for the 49% stake, valuing the Kerala-based deep-water transshipment port at around \$2.85 bil-

lion. The company said the partnership is expected to accelerate the port's expansion, increase cargo traffic and strengthen Vizhinjam's position as a major international transshipment hub. However, the transaction remains subject to regulatory approvals.

Developed under the public-private partnership model, the Vizhinjam International Seaport is owned by the Kerala government and operated by Adani Ports under a long-term concession agreement. The latest development has triggered fresh debate over the balance between attracting foreign investment and safeguarding the state's rights under the concession agreement. As the government examines the proposal, the future of one of India's most strategically important port projects is likely to remain under scrutiny.



Cabinet Clears ₹14,115-Crore Road Projects

The Union Cabinet has approved two major road infrastructure projects worth 14,115 crore in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, aimed at improving connectivity, reducing traffic congestion and strengthening the country's highway network. The projects include a six-lane tunnel in the national capital and a new access-controlled highway in Uttar Pradesh.

One of the key approvals is for the construction of an 8.1-km six-lane tunnel on NH-148AE in Delhi. Estimated to cost 6,969.67 crore, the tunnel will connect the Dwarka Expressway with Nelson Mandela Marg in Vasant Kunj. The project is expected to significantly improve travel between West Delhi, South Delhi, Dwarka, Gurugram and the Indira Gandhi International Airport while easing congestion on several busy roads in the capital.

The tunnel will pass beneath the ecologically sensitive Southern Delhi Ridge using advanced Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) technology, minimizing environmental impact. The project also includes an elevated corridor, a flyover and a U-turn facility to improve traffic flow and connectivity in the surrounding areas.

The Cabinet also approved the construction of the 117.7-km Kanpur-Kabrai access-controlled highway on NH-34 in Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of 7,145.14 crore. The greenfield corridor is expected to enhance regional connectivity, improve freight movement and reduce travel time across the Bundelkhand region. It is also likely to boost economic activity by facilitating faster transportation of goods and passengers.

The government said both projects form part of its broader strategy to modernise India's road infrastructure and improve logistics efficiency. Better highways are expected to reduce travel time, lower vehicle operating costs and support industrial and commercial growth in the regions they serve.

The projects are expected to generate employment during construction while providing long-term benefits through improved connectivity and smoother traffic movement. With the latest approvals, the Centre continues its focus on expanding high-quality transport infrastructure to support economic development and enhance mobility across the country.



₹35-Crore Plot to Topple Vijay Govt Probed

The Tamil Nadu government has claimed to have foiled an alleged conspiracy to destabilise the Vijay-led Tamil Nadu Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government, less than two months after it assumed office. State intelligence agencies are investigating what they describe as an attempt to engineer the resignation of multiple ruling party MLAs to bring down the government.

According to officials, the alleged plan involved persuading at least 15 TVK legislators to resign simultaneously, creating political instability. The case came to light after TVK MLA N. Elaiyaraaja filed a complaint with the Chennai Police, alleging that he was offered 35 crore to support a no-confidence motion against Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar, a senior TVK leader. The MLA also claimed he was threatened and warned not to reveal the offer. Based on the complaint, police launched an investigation and arrested an employee of a consultancy firm in Chennai. The probe later led to the arrest of two more individuals from Karur. Investigators are examining the alleged network behind the conspira-

cy and whether others were involved in the operation.

The investigation has also brought the name of DMK MLA and former minister V. Senthil Balaji into focus. Sources said investigators are probing alleged links between some of the arrested individuals and the senior DMK leader. However, no charges have been announced against Senthil Balaji, and the investigation is continuing.

Reacting to the developments, Tamil Nadu Minister C.T. Nirmal Kumar accused the DMK of attempting to destabilise the elected government and demanded strict legal action against everyone involved. The DMK, however, rejected the allegations, accusing the ruling TVK of trying to create a political narrative by selectively leaking details of an ongoing investigation. The opposition party challenged the government to produce concrete evidence if it possessed any.

The case has intensified the political confrontation between the ruling TVK and the opposition DMK, with investigators expected to continue questioning the arrested individuals to determine whether a wider conspiracy existed.

Trump Sets New Deadline for Iran Nuclear Deal

US President Donald Trump has intensified pressure on Iran by setting a fresh deadline for reaching a new nuclear agreement, signalling that Washington is prepared to adopt a tougher approach if diplomatic efforts fail. The move comes amid heightened tensions in the Middle East, with concerns over Iran's nuclear programme and the security of key global shipping routes continuing to dominate international discussions.

Speaking about the issue, Trump stressed that the United States remains open to negotiations but expects Iran to engage seriously in efforts to curb its nuclear activities. He warned that if a deal is not reached within the specified timeframe, the US could consider stronger measures, although he did not elaborate on the exact steps that might follow.

The renewed push for a nu-



clear agreement comes after months of uncertainty over diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran. While both sides have expressed interest in avoiding a wider conflict, deep differences over uranium enrichment, sanctions relief and regional security continue to hinder progress.

One of the major concerns surrounding the standoff is the Strait of Hormuz, a strategi-

cally important waterway through which a significant share of the world's oil supply passes. Any escalation in tensions or disruption to shipping in the region could have far-reaching consequences for global energy markets and international trade.

The Trump administration has maintained that preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons remains a top foreign

policy priority. At the same time, US officials have indicated that diplomacy remains the preferred path, provided Iran demonstrates a willingness to comply with international commitments.

Iran, however, has consistently maintained that its nuclear programme is intended for peaceful purposes. Tehran has repeatedly argued that it will not negotiate under pressure and has called for the removal of sanctions as part of any future agreement.

With the new deadline now in place, global attention is focused on whether renewed diplomatic engagement can break the prolonged deadlock. As both nations weigh their next moves, the coming weeks are expected to be critical in determining whether negotiations can produce a breakthrough or whether tensions in the region will escalate further.

Netanyahu's Goal Against Iran Remains Elusive



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly declared that his government is committed to achieving "total victory" against Iran and the network of armed groups it supports across the Middle East. However, despite military successes and intensified operations, analysts believe that eliminating the Iranian threat remains a highly complex and long-term challenge.

Israel has significantly expanded its military campaign in recent years, targeting Iranian military infrastructure, weapons facilities and allied militias operating in countries such as Syria and Lebanon. The government argues that these operations are necessary to prevent Iran from strengthening its regional influence and advancing its nuclear ambitions.

While Israeli forces have carried out a series of precision strikes that have weakened some of Iran's military capabilities, experts note that Tehran continues to possess extensive resources, regional

alliances and strategic influence. This has made it difficult for Israel to achieve the decisive outcome envisioned by Netanyahu.

Iran's support for groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and other allied organisations across the region remains a major security concern for Israel. Even if military operations reduce the capabilities of these groups, analysts argue that rebuilding networks and restoring influence could take relatively little time, making any victory temporary rather than permanent.

The conflict has also placed increasing pressure on Israel's economy, military and diplomatic relations. Extended military operations require significant financial resources and manpower, while the humanitarian impact of regional conflicts has drawn growing international scrutiny. Many global leaders continue to call for diplomatic efforts to prevent a broader regional war.

Netanyahu, however, has maintained that Israel cannot

afford to ease pressure on Iran, insisting that national security remains the government's highest priority. His administration believes that sustained military action is essential to preventing future threats and ensuring the country's long-term safety.

At the same time, observers argue that a lasting solution is unlikely to come through military action alone. They believe that diplomacy, regional cooperation and international engagement will ultimately be necessary to address the underlying political and security challenges that have fueled tensions for decades.

As the conflict continues to evolve, Israel's campaign against Iran remains one of the defining issues in Middle Eastern geopolitics. Whether Netanyahu's goal of "total victory" can ever be fully achieved remains uncertain, but the pursuit of that objective is expected to continue shaping Israel's security policies and regional strategy for years to come.

US Finalises Alien Registration Rule

The United States has officially finalised its alien registration rule, introducing new compliance requirements for certain non-citizens living in the country. Issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the regulation is aimed at strengthening immigration enforcement by ensuring that foreign nationals who are required to register with the government do so and keep their records up to date.

Under the new rule, most foreign nationals who have already completed the standard immigration process, including many H-1B visa holders, international students and lawful permanent residents, are not required to register again because they are already considered registered through their



visa issuance and entry records.

However, the regulation introduces new obligations for certain groups. Children who were previously registered before turning 14 must apply for re-registration and submit biometric information, including fingerprints, within 30 days of their 14th birthday. In addition, all registered non-citizens aged

18 and above are required to carry proof of registration at all times while residing in the United States.

The DHS estimates that between 2.2 million and 3.2 million people could ultimately be affected by the rule. Many of them are individuals who entered the country without formal inspection or whose information was never fully captured

in the federal immigration system. Authorities believe the updated registration framework will improve record-keeping and help immigration agencies monitor compliance more effectively. Failure to comply with the registration requirements could lead to serious consequences, including fines, imprisonment or other legal penalties. The government has stated that enforcing the rule will remain a priority as part of its broader immigration strategy.

The finalisation of the regulation marks another step in the US government's efforts to tighten immigration oversight while clarifying which categories of immigrants must meet additional registration and documentation requirements.

New Tools May Boost Trump Deportations

US President Donald Trump is reportedly preparing to accelerate deportations using new legal and technological tools after facing a setback in his effort to end birthright citizenship. While the court ruling limited one aspect of his immigration agenda, recent legal developments have opened up alternative ways for the administration to pursue its broader goal of increasing deportations.

According to reports, the administration is planning a more targeted approach rather than conducting large-scale immigration raids in major cities. Officials are expected to rely heavily on data analysis, digital records and advanced targeting systems to identify individuals who may be eligible for deportation. The strategy is aimed at making enforcement operations more efficient while avoiding the public backlash



often associated with high-profile raids.

A major boost to the administration's plans came after a federal appeals court allowed the expanded use of expedited removal, a process that enables immigration authorities to deport certain undocumented immigrants without a full court hearing. Under the policy, individuals who cannot prove they have lived in the United States continuously for more than two

years could face swift removal from the country.

The administration is also expected to make greater use of government databases and digital information to locate people living in the country without legal status. Officials believe that technology-driven enforcement can help immigration agencies identify potential targets more quickly and carry out deportations with fewer personnel.

Immigration advocates, however, have raised concerns that expanded use of expedited removal and data-based enforcement could increase the risk of wrongful deportations and reduce due process protections for affected individuals. Civil rights groups argue that rapid deportation procedures may not provide enough opportunity for people to prove their legal status or challenge removal orders.

Despite the legal setback on birthright citizenship, the latest developments indicate that immigration enforcement remains a central priority for the Trump administration. With new legal authority and technology-driven strategies at its disposal, the administration appears determined to intensify deportation efforts in the coming months, even as court challenges and political debate over immigration policy continue.

China Launches 350 kmph Bullet Train

China has expanded its high-speed rail network with the launch of a new 350 kmph bullet train connecting Xi'an in Shaanxi Province with Shiyan in Hubei Province. The new railway, which passes through the rugged Qinling Mountains, is expected to significantly improve connectivity between central and western China while reducing travel time by more than six hours.

The service officially began with the departure of the first high-speed train from the newly inaugurated Xi'an East Railway Station. Covering a distance of about 257 kilometres, the new rail corridor is designed to operate at speeds of up to 350 kmph, making it one of the fastest railway lines in the country.

One of the biggest benefits of the project is the dramatic reduction in travel time. The journey between Xi'an and Shiyan, which previously took more than six hours, can now be completed in around one hour. The railway also connects with the existing Wuhan-Shiyan high-speed line, reducing travel time between Xi'an and Wuhan to just 2 hours and



41 minutes.

Constructing the railway through the Qinling Mountains posed significant engineering challenges due to the region's mountainous terrain. The successful completion of the project highlights China's continued investment in advanced railway infrastructure and its expertise in building high-speed transport systems across difficult landscapes.

The new corridor is expect-

ed to boost tourism, trade and economic cooperation between Shaanxi and Hubei provinces. Faster connectivity will improve the movement of people and goods, strengthen regional integration and create new opportunities for businesses and local industries. Authorities also expect the railway to support long-term economic development by encouraging investment and increasing access to key urban

centres.

China already operates the world's largest high-speed rail network, and the latest addition reinforces its commitment to expanding modern transportation infrastructure. The Xi'an-Shiyan railway is expected to play an important role in enhancing mobility, promoting regional growth and making travel faster, safer and more convenient for millions of passengers.

Pakistan Seeks Support on Indus Issue

Pakistan has stepped up its diplomatic campaign over the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), warning that undermining the decades-old agreement could have serious consequences for the international rules-based order. At an international conference held in Islamabad, senior Pakistani leaders urged the global community to intervene, describing the treaty as a cornerstone of regional peace and stability.

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said the Indus Waters Treaty is far more than a water-sharing arrangement, calling it a symbol of peaceful cooperation between two nuclear-armed neighbours. He argued that using water as a political tool would set a dangerous precedent and weaken confidence in interna-

tional agreements.

Pakistan Peoples Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also addressed the conference, asserting that the Indus River is the country's lifeline and warning that any attempt to reduce or divert Pakistan's allocated water would be viewed as a serious threat to national security. He maintained that Pakistan would continue to defend its water rights through diplomatic and legal means while calling for adherence to international law.

Another strong statement came from Pakistan's Climate Change Minister Musadik Malik, who argued that the future of the Indus Waters Treaty would determine the credibility of post-World War II international agreements. He warned that if such a long-standing treaty could be sus-

pended, confidence in other global accords would also be undermined.

India suspended its participation in the 1960 World Bank-brokered treaty following the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, stating that the agreement would remain in abeyance until Pakistan takes credible and irreversible steps to end cross-border terrorism. The move marked one of the sharpest downturns in bilateral relations in recent years.

As diplomatic tensions continue, the future of the Indus Waters Treaty remains uncertain. The dispute has become a key flashpoint in India-Pakistan relations, with both countries standing firm on their respective positions while the international community closely monitors developments.



Sensex Rebounds 444 Points, Nifty Reclaims 24,000

Indian benchmark equity indices bounced back strongly on Wednesday, snapping a two-day losing streak as broad-based buying across key sectors lifted investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex surged 444 points, while the Nifty 50 reclaimed the crucial 24,000 mark, ending the session on a positive note despite continued weakness in information technology stocks.

The market opened on a firm note, supported by encouraging global cues and sustained buying interest in domestic equities. Buying momentum gathered pace through the day, helping the Nifty touch an intraday high of nearly 24,050 before closing close to that level. The recovery came after two consecutive sessions of losses

and reflected renewed optimism among investors.

Auto, FMCG, realty and financial stocks emerged as the biggest gainers, providing the primary support to the benchmark indices. Strong monthly automobile sales boosted investor confidence in auto stocks, while heavyweight consumer goods companies also witnessed healthy buying. Realty shares joined the rally, adding to the market's overall strength.

However, the gains were partially capped by continued selling pressure in the IT sector. Technology stocks remained under pressure following weaker-than-expected quarterly guidance from KPIT Technologies, which dampened sentiment across the sector. Investors



tors also remained cautious about the outlook for export-oriented IT companies amid global economic uncertainties. Market breadth remained

positive throughout the session, with advancing stocks comfortably outnumbering declining ones. More than 160 companies on the BSE touched fresh 52-week highs, indicating that buying interest extended beyond frontline stocks and into the broader market. The strong participation across sectors suggested improving investor confidence after recent volatility.

Analysts attributed the day's rally to a combination of supportive global market trends, encouraging domestic data and sector-specific buying. Positive cues from international markets, robust automobile sales numbers and strength in FMCG stocks helped offset concerns surrounding the IT sec-

tor. The rebound also reflected value buying after the recent correction in benchmark indices. Going forward, market participants are expected to keep a close watch on upcoming corporate earnings, global economic developments, foreign institutional investor activity and macroeconomic indicators. While the recovery has improved near-term sentiment, analysts believe sustained momentum will depend on earnings growth and global market stability.

The strong finish has nevertheless provided relief to investors, with both the Sensex and Nifty ending the day on a positive note and setting the stage for the remainder of the week's trading sessions.

Ashok Leyland Shares Jump 5% After June Vehicle Sales Rise 25%

Shares of commercial vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland rallied as much as 5% on Wednesday after the company reported a strong 25% year-on-year increase in total vehicle sales for June, boosting investor confidence and driving buying interest in the stock. The impressive sales performance reinforced optimism about sustained demand in the commercial vehicle segment and lifted the company's market sentiment.

During the trading session, Ashok Leyland's stock climbed to an intraday high of 165.75 on the National Stock Exchange. Although some profit booking at higher levels trimmed the gains later in the day, the stock still ended the session with a healthy increase, reflecting investors' positive response to the company's latest sales numbers.

The company reported total vehicle sales of 19,194 units in June, compared with 15,333 units sold during the same month last year. The robust growth was driven by improved demand across several commercial vehicle categories, highlighting the company's strong market position and



consistent operational performance.

Ashok Leyland has been witnessing healthy demand in both medium and heavy commercial vehicles, supported by increased infrastructure activity, logistics demand and replacement purchases. The latest sales figures indicate that

the commercial vehicle industry continues to recover steadily, benefiting manufacturers with strong product portfolios and extensive dealer networks.

The company's performance also contributed to the broader strength seen in auto stocks, which remained among the

top-performing sectors during the trading session. Investors were encouraged by positive monthly sales updates from several automobile manufacturers, resulting in buying across the sector. Ashok Leyland emerged as one of the biggest gainers following its better-than-expected sales growth.

Market analysts believe that continued government spending on infrastructure, improving freight movement and stable economic activity are likely to support demand for commercial vehicles in the coming months. They also expect fleet replacement demand and higher construction activity to remain key growth drivers for companies such as Ashok Leyland.

Investors will now closely watch the company's upcoming quarterly financial results to assess whether the strong sales momentum translates into higher revenues and profitability. For now, the healthy June sales performance has strengthened confidence in Ashok Leyland's growth outlook and reaffirmed its position as one of India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturers.

SEBI Bars 221 Entities in Major Pump-and-Dump Crackdown

In one of its biggest enforcement actions against stock market manipulation, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred 221 entities from accessing the securities market for periods ranging from one to seven years. The regulator also imposed a 10 crore penalty on alleged mastermind Hanif Shekh for orchestrating a large-scale pump-and-dump operation that misled thousands of retail investors.

According to SEBI's detailed order, the accused entities artificially inflated the prices and trading volumes of select stocks through synchronized and manipulative trades. Once the share prices were driven higher, they allegedly lured unsuspecting investors by circulating bulk SMS messages and promotional recommendations, encouraging them to purchase the stocks at inflated prices.

After attracting retail investors, the operators allegedly sold their holdings at the elevated prices, earning substantial illegal profits while leaving late entrants with heavy losses as the stock prices eventually crashed. This fraudulent practice, commonly known as a "pump-and-dump" scheme, is considered one of the most harmful forms of market manipulation.

SEBI's investigation found



that the proceeds generated from the scheme were routed through multiple conduit entities in an attempt to conceal the identity of the ultimate beneficiaries. The regulator said the complex network of transactions was designed to disguise the flow of illicit gains and make it difficult to trace those responsible for the manipulation.

Besides imposing a 10 crore monetary penalty on Hanif Shekh, SEBI directed all 221 entities to stay away from the securities market for varying periods depending on their level of involvement in the scheme. The regulator stated that such stringent action was necessary to protect investors and maintain confidence in India's capital markets.

The order underscores SEBI's increasing focus on curbing fraudulent trading practices, particularly those targeting small investors through misleading recom-

mendations circulated via text messages and other communication channels. The regulator has repeatedly warned investors against acting on unsolicited stock tips and has urged them to rely only on registered investment advisers before making investment decisions.

Market experts believe the latest crackdown sends a strong message that manipulative practices will invite severe regulatory action. They also noted that stricter surveillance systems and data analytics have enabled SEBI to detect complex trading patterns more effectively than in the past.

The action is expected to strengthen investor confidence by reinforcing the regulator's commitment to ensuring fair and transparent markets. It also serves as a reminder for retail investors to exercise caution and verify the credibility of investment recommendations before investing in the stock market.

Jio BlackRock to Launch Two Global Funds

Jio BlackRock Asset Management is preparing to expand its global investment offerings by launching its first two outbound funds from Gujarat's GIFT City within the next two months. The move marks a significant milestone for the joint venture between Jio Financial Services and global investment giant BlackRock as it strengthens its presence in international investing and offers Indian investors greater access to overseas markets.

According to the company's Chief Investment Officer, Rishi Kohli, the first two funds will focus on global equities and emerging markets. The products are currently in the advanced stages of regulatory filings after the company secured the necessary approvals to operate from GIFT City. The initiative is aimed at providing investors with diversified international investment opportunities beyond domestic markets.

Kohli revealed that the fund house evaluated nearly ten investment products from BlackRock's extensive global portfolio before narrowing the list to the first two offerings. The selection was based on feedback received from family offices, wealth managers and distribution partners, who expressed strong demand for global investment products that go beyond traditional index-based exposure.

The company believes outbound investment products represent an attractive opportunity as Indian investors increasingly seek geographical diversification. While many investors currently invest in popular global indices such as the S&P 500 and Nasdaq, Jio BlackRock intends to offer ac-



tively managed global investment strategies that provide exposure to a broader range of international markets.

Following the launch of the outbound funds, Jio BlackRock also plans to introduce inbound investment products through GIFT City. These offerings are expected to be rolled out around six months later and will allow overseas investors to access Indian investment opportunities through the international financial services hub.

GIFT City has emerged as India's gateway for cross-border financial services, ena-

bling asset management companies to launch products catering to both domestic and international investors under a globally competitive regulatory framework. Jio BlackRock's expansion into the hub reflects its broader strategy of building a comprehensive investment platform with access to global markets.

The latest announcement comes as the asset management company continues to expand its product portfolio following its entry into the Indian mutual fund industry. By combining Jio Financial Services' digital reach with Black-

Rock's global investment expertise, the company aims to offer a wide range of investment solutions for retail as well as institutional investors.

With regulatory approvals in place and product filings progressing, the launch of the two global funds is expected to take place within the next two months. The move is likely to strengthen Jio BlackRock's position in the rapidly evolving asset management industry while providing Indian investors with easier access to international investment opportunities.

Advit Jewels Hits Lower Circuit After Strong Listing

The stock market witnessed contrasting performances from two newly listed companies on Wednesday, as Advit Jewels slipped into the lower circuit after a stellar debut, while Waterways Leisure Tourism, the operator of Cordelia Cruises, extended its losses following a weak market listing. The sharp moves have prompted market experts to advise investors to remain cautious before taking fresh positions in either stock.

Advit Jewels made an impressive debut on the exchanges, listing at 187 on the BSE and 188.90 on the NSE, representing premiums of 35.5% and 36.9%, respectively, over its IPO issue price of 138. The strong listing reflected robust investor demand, following the IPO's overwhelming subscription of more than 212 times.

However, the initial enthusiasm was short-lived. Soon after listing, investors rushed to book profits, dragging the stock to its 5% lower circuit at 179.46. Analysts noted that such volatility is common in newly listed stocks, especially after a sharp listing premium, as early investors seek to lock in gains.

Despite the decline, market experts remain optimistic about Advit Jewels' long-term prospects. The company has reported strong financial growth over the past two years, nearly tripling its revenue while maintaining healthy



EBITDA margins of around 29-30%. It has also delivered a robust return on net worth, factors that supported its premium valuation during the IPO. However, analysts caution that the company is still relatively small, with limited geographical diversification, making the stock susceptible to near-term volatility. Investors who received IPO allotments may continue to hold for the medium term, while fresh investors are advised to wait for a few quarterly results before making significant investments. In contrast, Waterways Leisure Tourism, which operates the Cordelia Cruises brand, had a disappointing stock market debut. The shares listed at 690 on the BSE and 681 on the NSE, both significantly below the IPO issue price of 808. Selling pressure continued after listing, extending the stock's losses as inves-

tors remained concerned about the company's valuation and near-term growth prospects. Analysts believe the divergent performances highlight the importance of evaluating individual company fundamentals rather than relying solely on IPO hype. While Advit Jewels benefited from strong financials and investor enthusiasm, Cordelia's weaker listing reflects concerns over pricing and future earnings potential.

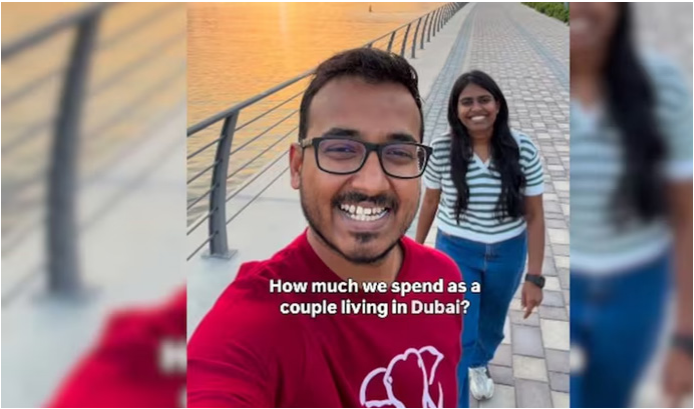
For traders, experts recommend avoiding impulsive decisions immediately after listing. Existing investors in Advit Jewels may consider partial profit booking or holding with a long-term perspective, while those interested in Cordelia are advised to wait until the stock stabilises and establishes a clear trading trend before taking fresh exposure.

₹3.6 Lakh a Month: The Cost of Living in Dubai

An Indian couple living in Dubai has gone viral after sharing a detailed breakdown of their monthly expenses, revealing that they spend between 13,000 and 14,000 UAE dirhams (approximately 3.34 lakh to 3.6 lakh) every month. Interestingly, the total does not include travel, luxury shopping, or other lifestyle indulgences, prompting many social media users to call it a realistic picture of life in the UAE.

The couple, who regularly post videos about their life in Dubai, explained that their biggest monthly expense is a 6,000-dirham EMI, which accounts for nearly half of their overall budget. Apart from loan repayments, they spend around 1,500 dirhams every month on household utilities, including electricity, water, internet and other essential services.

Food is another major expense. Since they rarely cook at home, their grocery bill is relatively low at around 500 dirhams a month. However, frequent dining out signifi-



cantly increases their food budget, with restaurant bills touching nearly 1,500 dirhams every month. Their spending pattern highlights how convenience and eating out can substantially raise the cost of living in Dubai.

Transportation also takes up a sizeable portion of their monthly expenses. The husband spends nearly 1,700 dirhams on his car, covering fuel, parking charges and Salik toll fees. Meanwhile, the wife, who commutes regularly between Dubai and Abu Dhabi for work,

spends between 1,700 and 2,000 dirhams each month on travel.

In addition to these recurring expenses, the couple pays 250 dirhams every week for domestic cleaning services. They also allocate another 1,000 dirhams every month for miscellaneous expenses, which include everyday purchases and other unavoidable costs.

Adding all these expenses together, the couple estimated that their fixed monthly expenditure comes to around 13,000 to 14,000 dirhams, or

roughly 3.6 lakh. They clarified that this figure does not include vacations, shopping, entertainment or other discretionary spending, meaning their actual monthly expenses could be even higher depending on their lifestyle and personal choices. The video has sparked widespread discussion on social media, with many viewers appreciating the couple's honesty in sharing the financial realities of living in Dubai. Several users commented that the expense breakdown appeared far more realistic than the commonly circulated claims suggesting that people can comfortably live in the city on much smaller budgets. Others noted that households with children would likely face even higher costs due to school fees and additional family-related expenses.

The viral post has once again highlighted the high cost of living in Dubai while reminding aspiring expatriates that careful financial planning is essential before making the move.

Microsoft Employee's Honest Post Goes Viral



A Microsoft employee's candid post about being laid off has gone viral, offering an unusual perspective on job losses in the tech industry. Instead of expressing anger or disappointment, the employee said they felt relieved, explaining that the uncertainty surrounding possible layoffs had been far more exhausting than the layoff itself.

The post, shared on the anonymous workplace platform Blind, surfaced as Microsoft reportedly prepares another round of workforce reductions. The employee revealed that they had already sensed what was coming after noticing several changes at work. According to the post, they had been quietly reassigned from projects, received less feedback from their manager and felt increasingly sidelined, making it clear that their role was at risk.

The employee wrote that while losing a job is never enjoyable, months of speculation and anxiety had taken a much greater emotional toll. They said they were relieved because the uncertainty was finally ending. The constant rumours, organisational restructuring and discussions about improving efficiency

had created a stressful work environment, with employees frequently wondering whether they would be the next to lose their jobs.

The post struck a chord with many professionals, especially those working in the technology sector, where layoffs have become increasingly common over the past few years. Several users praised the employee for expressing feelings that many workers experience but rarely admit publicly. Others shared similar stories of living through prolonged uncertainty before eventually receiving layoff notices.

According to reports, Microsoft is expected to cut a small percentage of its global workforce as part of its continued

focus on cost management and increased investment in artificial intelligence. While the latest round of layoffs is expected to affect fewer employees than previous cuts, it reflects the broader restructuring taking place across the technology industry.

The employee concluded the post by saying that although they might feel differently once the layoff actually happens, they currently view it as an opportunity for a fresh start. Their message has resonated widely online, highlighting the emotional burden of prolonged workplace uncertainty and sparking conversations about the mental health challenges employees face during periods of corporate restructuring.

How a ₹23,000 Salary Led to ₹3 Lakh Debt



A 27-year-old man has gone viral after revealing how reckless spending on parties, spa visits and credit cards left him trapped in more than 3 lakh of debt, despite earning only 23,000 a month. His candid confession on social media has sparked widespread discussion about financial discipline and the dangers of overspending.

In a post titled "Fell in a debt trap because of my foolishness," the man admitted that poor financial decisions and an extravagant lifestyle pushed him into a severe debt crisis. He shared that he had accumulated liabilities through multiple personal loans and maxed-out credit cards, making it increasingly difficult to manage his monthly finances.

The man explained that after paying rent and other household expenses, he is left with enough money to contribute only about 4,000 a month towards loan repayments. He had also applied for a fresh personal loan of 3 lakh in the hope of consolidating his existing debt into a single, longer-term repayment plan. However, all his loan applications were rejected.

He further revealed that nearly 80 per cent of his outstanding credit card dues had already been converted into Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs). Even then, keeping up with the repayments has become nearly impossible on his current salary. As a result, his credit score has started declining due to high credit utilisation, making it even harder to secure financial assistance.

Calling himself a "27-year-old fool," the man admitted that the money had been spent entirely on parties and spa visits, leaving him with little to show for the debt he had accumulated. He added that he is the sole earning member of his family, making the financial burden even more stressful.

The post attracted hundreds of responses from social media users, many of whom offered practical financial advice. Some suggested negotiating loan settlements with lenders, while others warned against damaging his credit history through defaults. Several users encouraged him to adopt a frugal lifestyle, increase his income by switching jobs or taking up additional work, and systematically repay the debt over the next few years.

The viral post has become a cautionary tale about the risks of uncontrolled spending and excessive reliance on credit. It also highlights the importance of budgeting, responsible borrowing and maintaining financial discipline, especially for young professionals at the beginning of their careers.

Mexico's 'Batman' Vigilante Sparks Debate Over Street Justice



A mysterious masked vigilante has captured global attention after a series of incidents in Mexico earned the individual the nickname "Batman of Lagos de Moreno." The unidentified figure has sparked a heated debate over whether the actions represent a fight against crime or a dangerous case of vigilante justice.

The incidents occurred in Lagos de Moreno, a municipality in the Mexican state of Jalisco, where several men accused of stealing motorcycles were found bound to street poles with heavy-duty duct tape. In many cases, the alleged stolen motorcycles were left beside them, while the suspects' faces were marked with the Spanish word "ratero," meaning "thief." Some also had mustaches and cat whiskers drawn on their faces, adding to the bizarre nature of the incidents.

Photographs of the restrained men quickly spread

across social media, where users began referring to the unknown vigilante as the "Batman of Lagos de Moreno." While many online praised the figure for taking action against rising crime, others expressed concern over individuals taking the law into their own hands.

Authorities, however, have made it clear that they do not support such acts. Police in

Jalisco are investigating the incidents and have classified the tied-up men as victims of assault, regardless of the allegations against them. Officials say there is currently no legal evidence proving the men committed the thefts they were accused of, and they have launched a search to identify those responsible for the attacks. Investigators believe the same individual or group may

be behind at least five similar incidents reported over a span of about ten days. Authorities have reportedly identified two vehicles that could be linked to the case, although no arrests have been made so far. The story has reignited discussions about vigilantism in Mexico, where frustration over crime and public dissatisfaction with law enforcement have occasionally led citizens to take justice into their own hands. While some residents view the masked figure as a symbol of resistance against criminals, legal experts warn that bypassing the justice system can lead to abuse, mistaken identities and further violence.

As the mystery surrounding the so-called "Batman" deepens, the case continues to divide public opinion, raising a difficult question: when faith in the justice system weakens, does vigilantism become a solution—or simply another crime?

From Janitor to CEO: Indian-Origin Man Defies the Odds



An Indian-origin entrepreneur has inspired thousands online after sharing his remarkable journey from working as a janitor in Canada to becoming the CEO of a successful technology company. His story has resonated widely, highlighting the power of perseverance in the face of rejection and discrimination.

The entrepreneur, Sarbjee Johal, recalled arriving in Canada with big dreams but facing repeated setbacks because of his strong Indian accent. During job interviews, he was allegedly told that his accent would make it difficult for him to find employment. The repeated rejections left him discouraged, but instead of giving up, he accepted a janitor's job to support himself while continuing to pursue better opportunities.

Despite the challenges, Johal refused to let criticism define his future. He spent years improving his communication skills, expanding his professional network and gaining valuable experience in the technology sector. His determination eventually led him to establish ReplyWise, an artificial intelligence-powered customer support platform that helps businesses automate responses and improve customer service.

Reflecting on his journey, Johal said that the biggest lesson he learned was the impor-

ance of persistence. He believes that success rarely comes overnight and that resilience is often the deciding factor between failure and achievement. His message encouraged people facing rejection to keep moving forward instead of allowing temporary setbacks to determine their future.

The story quickly gained traction on social media, where users praised Johal's determination and positive outlook. Many described his

experience as a reminder that immigrants often face additional hurdles while trying to build careers in new countries. Others appreciated his decision to openly discuss the discrimination he encountered, saying it highlighted the importance of creating more inclusive workplaces.

Several commenters also pointed out that language or accent should never be viewed as a measure of a person's talent or potential. They praised Johal for proving that

hard work, continuous learning and self-belief can overcome prejudice and open doors to success.

Johal's journey from cleaning offices to leading a technology company has become a powerful example of resilience. His story serves as a reminder that setbacks can become stepping stones when met with determination, and that refusing to give up can ultimately transform even the most difficult beginnings into extraordinary success.

Rare Miyazaki Mangoes Stolen from Orchard, Loss Runs into Lakhs

Hazaribagh, July 1 | TPN Bureau



In a bizarre and rare incident, nine premium Miyazaki mangoes, considered among the world's most expensive fruits, were stolen from a private orchard in Barkagaon area of Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district. The fruit grower has estimated the loss to be worth several lakh rupees.

The orchard owner, Praveen Kumar, said the theft took place during the night when unidentified persons entered his farm and plucked the mangoes. The stolen fruit weighed around 1.5 kg in total. According to him, the market value of the rare variety could go up to nearly Rs 4 lakh, depending on quality and demand.

Praveen Kumar had procured two Miyazaki mango saplings from West Bengal about a year ago at a cost of Rs 2,400. After careful nurturing and continuous monitoring, the trees bore fruit for the first time this season. "I had been taking care of the plants every day. But when I checked in the morning, nine mangoes were missing," he said, expressing shock over the incident.

Miyazaki mangoes, originally from Japan, are known for their deep red to purplish colour, exceptional sweetness and rich aroma. Often referred to as the "Egg of the Sun," this variety is cultivated under highly controlled conditions, including regulated temperature and sunlight exposure. Farmers typically use protective coverings and reflective techniques to enhance fruit quality.

Globally, Miyazaki mangoes are treated as luxury produce, sometimes fetching extremely

high prices in international markets and auctions. While domestically grown varieties may be priced lower, they still command significant value due to their rarity.

The unusual theft has drawn attention in the region, highlighting how even agricultural produce is now being targeted due to its high market value. Local authorities are yet to confirm whether a formal complaint has been registered, but the incident has left growers concerned about the security of high-value crops.

Seven IPL Franchises Reportedly Keen on Hardik Pandya

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya has reportedly become one of the most sought-after players ahead of the next Indian Premier League (IPL) season, with as many as seven franchises expressing interest in acquiring the star all-rounder if he becomes available. According to reports, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have emerged as the frontrunners in the race, adding a fresh twist to one of the biggest transfer speculations in IPL history.

Hardik returned to Mumbai Indians before the 2024 season in a high-profile trade from Gujarat Titans and was immediately appointed captain, replacing Rohit Sharma. The move generated intense debate among fans and experts, with the all-rounder facing criticism throughout the season. Despite the difficult start, Hardik gradually regained his form and

leadership credentials through impressive performances for both Mumbai Indians and the Indian national team.

Recent reports suggest that several franchises are closely monitoring Hardik's situation, believing that his experience, leadership qualities and match-winning abilities make him one of the most valuable players in the league. Franchises are reportedly preparing to make significant offers should Mumbai Indians decide to part ways with their captain.

Among the interested teams, Chennai Super Kings are believed to be leading the race. The five-time champions are reportedly exploring long-term leadership options as they prepare for life after MS Dhoni. Hardik's ability to contribute with both bat and ball, along with his captaincy experience, makes him an attractive candi-

date to guide CSK into its next era.

Apart from Chennai, several other IPL franchises are also said to be interested in securing Hardik's services. His versatility as a pace-bowling all-rounder, combined with his ability to perform under pressure in high-stakes matches, has made him one of the league's most coveted players. Teams looking to strengthen both their leadership group and overall squad see Hardik as a game-changing acquisition. However, there has been no official confirmation from Mumbai Indians, Hardik Pandya or the IPL governing authorities regarding any potential transfer discussions. As things stand, Hardik remains under contract with Mumbai Indians, and any move would depend on future trade negotiations and franchise decisions.

The speculation has generated significant excitement among cricket fans, with social media buzzing over the possibility of Hardik wearing a different jersey next season. While many Mumbai Indians supporters hope the franchise retains its captain, others are eager to see how the transfer market unfolds in the coming months.

With the IPL known for producing dramatic player movements and blockbuster trades, Hardik Pandya's future is likely to remain one of the biggest talking points until the next trading window officially opens. Until then, fans can only wait for an official announcement to determine whether one of the league's premier all-rounders will continue with Mumbai Indians or begin a new chapter with another franchise.



Ishan Kishan Becomes ICC's No. 1 T20I Batter

Indian wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has climbed to the top of the ICC Men's T20I batting rankings, replacing his teammate Abhishek Sharma to become the world's No. 1 batter in the shortest format. The latest rankings mark another significant milestone in Kishan's career, rewarding his consistent performances in recent T20 internationals.

Kishan's rise to the top comes after an impressive run with the bat, during which he has produced a series of impactful innings. His aggressive approach at the top of the order, coupled with his ability to score quickly while maintain-

ing consistency, has helped him accumulate crucial ranking points and edge past Abhishek Sharma in the latest ICC update.

Abhishek Sharma, who had held the No. 1 position, slipped to second despite continuing to enjoy an excellent run in international cricket. The presence of two Indian batters at the top of the rankings highlights the country's growing dominance in the T20 format and reflects the depth of talent available in India's batting line-up.

Kishan has emerged as one of India's most reliable performers in white-ball cricket. Known for his fearless stroke



play and attacking intent, the left-handed batter has repeatedly provided explosive starts and has also shown the ability to anchor an innings when required. His versatility has made him a key player in India's T20 setup.

The latest rankings are expected to boost Kishan's confidence as India prepares for a packed international calendar. Securing the No. 1 position is not only a personal achievement but also recognition of his hard work and consistency against top-quality international bowling attacks.

Indian cricket continues to enjoy a strong presence in the

ICC rankings across formats, with several players occupying top positions in batting, bowling and all-rounder categories. Kishan's achievement further strengthens India's reputation as one of the leading teams in T20 cricket.

Fans celebrated the announcement on social media, congratulating the 27-year-old on reaching the summit of the rankings. Many also praised the healthy competition between Kishan and Abhishek Sharma, saying it reflects the impressive depth of India's batting resources.

With international cricket becoming increasingly com-

petitive, maintaining the No. 1 ranking will be a fresh challenge for Kishan. Every series and every innings will carry added significance as rival batters look to close the gap.

For now, however, Ishan Kishan can celebrate a memorable achievement. Rising to the top of the ICC T20I batting rankings is a testament to his consistent performances, fearless approach and ability to deliver when it matters most. As India looks ahead to upcoming tournaments, fans will hope the left-hander continues his outstanding form and cements his place among the world's elite T20 batters.

Kerala Cricket Association Revokes S Sreesanth's 3 Year Ban



Former India fast bowler S Sreesanth has received a major relief after the Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) decided to revoke the three-year ban imposed on him. The decision was taken during a Special General Body meeting after Sreesanth submitted an unconditional apology expressing regret over his remarks against the state cricket body.

The ban was originally imposed after the KCA accused Sreesanth of making statements through television interviews and social media that allegedly brought disrepute to the association. The former

pacer had challenged the disciplinary action in the Thiruvananthapuram Munsiff Court, but his petition was dismissed. Following the legal setback, he tendered an unconditional apology, paving the way for a reconciliation with the association.

After reviewing the apology, members of the KCA unanimously agreed to lift the suspension. The association stated that Sreesanth had expressed genuine regret for his comments and, considering the circumstances, it decided to revoke the disciplinary action. However, the KCA also issued a

clear warning that any similar conduct in the future would invite strict action.

The decision allows Sreesanth to resume his involvement in cricket-related activities under the KCA's jurisdiction. One of the immediate outcomes is that he can continue his role as co-owner of the Aries Kollam Sailors franchise in the Kerala Cricket League (KCL), a position that had come under uncertainty following the suspension.

Sreesanth remains one of India's most recognizable fast bowlers, having represented the country in all three for-

mats. He played a crucial role in India's victorious campaigns in the 2007 ICC T20 World Cup and the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup, earning a reputation for his aggressive bowling and passionate on-field celebrations.

Over the years, however, his career has also been marked by several controversies. In 2013, he was handed a life ban by the BCCI over the IPL spot-fixing scandal. Although he was later acquitted in the criminal case, the cricket ban remained in place before eventually being reduced to seven years. He returned to domestic cricket in 2021 before announcing his re-

tirement from the game in 2022.

The latest decision by the Kerala Cricket Association marks another significant chapter in Sreesanth's turbulent cricket journey. While the lifting of the ban restores his standing with the state association, the KCA has made it clear that maintaining professional conduct will remain a key expectation going forward. The development has been welcomed by many cricket fans, who view it as an opportunity for the former India pacer to continue contributing to the sport in administrative and mentoring roles.

Jacob Duffy Returns for West Indies Series

New Zealand have received a significant boost ahead of their upcoming One-Day International (ODI) series against the West Indies with the return of pace bowler Jacob Duffy to the national squad. The experienced seamer, who missed the recent Test tour of England due to a family commitment, has been recalled as the Black Caps announced a 16-member squad for the five-match series.

Duffy's return strengthens New Zealand's pace attack at a crucial stage of the season. The fast bowler has been a consistent performer in white-ball

cricket and is expected to play an important role with both the new ball and during the death overs. His experience will add depth to the bowling unit as New Zealand look to continue their impressive record in the 50-over format.

Another notable inclusion in the squad is Matt Fisher, who has earned his maiden ODI call-up after producing impressive performances in domestic cricket. The young pacer has been rewarded for his consistency and now has an opportunity to make his international debut. His selection reflects New Zealand's continued em-



phasis on developing emerging talent while maintaining a balanced squad.

The squad largely retains its experienced core, with the selectors opting for continuity ahead of the series. The team management believes the combination of seasoned campaigners and promising youngsters provides the ideal balance as the Black Caps prepare for a challenging contest against the West Indies.

The ODI series is expected to play a key role in New Zealand's preparations for future ICC tournaments. Team management will be keen to assess

player combinations, strengthen bench depth and give younger cricketers valuable international exposure while maintaining a competitive edge.

For Duffy, the recall marks an important opportunity to re-establish himself in New Zealand's white-ball plans after his brief absence from international cricket. His return comes at a time when competition for places in the pace department remains intense, making every performance crucial.

Cricket fans have welcomed the squad announcement, par-

ticularly Duffy's comeback and Fisher's maiden selection. Many believe the blend of experience and youth gives New Zealand a strong chance of performing well against the West Indies.

With the ODI series fast approaching, the Black Caps will be aiming to start on a positive note and build momentum. Duffy's return and Fisher's inclusion have added fresh excitement to the squad, while the selectors remain confident that the team possesses the depth and quality needed to deliver strong performances throughout the series.

Julian Quinones Emerges as a Key Figure Ahead of World Cup 2026

Julian Quinones' journey from the streets of Colombia to becoming one of Mexico's most important footballers is a story of perseverance, ambition and adaptation. As Mexico prepares to co-host the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the Colombian-born forward has emerged as a crucial player for El Tri, carrying the hopes of a nation eager to make a deep run in the tournament.

Born in Nariño, Colombia, Quinones moved to Mexico as a teenager in search of better opportunities in professional football. He joined the youth setup of Tigres UANL and gradually worked his way through the ranks, showcasing his pace,

strength and goal-scoring ability. Over the years, he established himself as one of the most dangerous forwards in Liga MX, earning admiration from fans and recognition from football experts across the country.

Quinones enjoyed successful spells with clubs such as Lobos BUAP, Tigres UANL, Atlas and Club América. His performances were instrumental in helping Atlas secure back-to-back Liga MX titles, ending a decades-long wait for championship success. The forward's ability to score crucial goals and create opportunities for teammates made him one of

the league's standout performers.

After spending several years in Mexico and becoming a naturalized citizen, Quinones became eligible to represent the Mexican national team. The decision marked a significant turning point in his career. Although born in Colombia, he embraced the opportunity to wear the Mexican jersey and quickly became an important part of the national setup.

His inclusion initially sparked debate among some supporters, but Quinones soon silenced critics with his performances on the pitch. His versatility allows him to play across

the front line, while his physical presence and attacking instincts provide Mexico with an additional dimension in attack. Coaches have praised his work ethic, adaptability and commitment to the team.

With the 2026 World Cup approaching, Quinones is expected to play a key role in Mexico's plans. The tournament, which will be jointly hosted by Mexico, the United States and Canada, presents a unique opportunity for the Mexican national team to shine on home soil. Expectations are high, and experienced players like Quinones are likely to be central to the team's ambitions.



Beyond football, Quinones' story represents the broader themes of migration, opportunity and belonging. His rise from a young Colombian prospect to a Mexican international highlights how sport can transcend borders and create new identities.

As Mexico continues its preparations for the biggest tournament in world football, Julian Quinones stands as one of the team's most compelling figures. His remarkable journey and consistent performances have transformed him into a symbol of determination and an important player in Mexico's quest for World Cup success.

Train Episode to Be Major Highlight in Aadarsha Kutumbam

The excitement surrounding Venkatesh and Trivikram Srinivas' upcoming family entertainer Aadarsha Kutumbam continues to grow, with the latest industry buzz suggesting that a specially designed train sequence will be one of the film's biggest highlights. The project has already generated immense curiosity among movie lovers as it marks the first-ever collaboration between Venkatesh and Trivikram as actor and director. According to reports from industry circles, Trivikram has conceived an elaborate episode set aboard a moving train, which is expected to seamlessly blend comedy, family emotions and engaging drama. Known for his witty writing and entertaining storytelling, the director has reportedly designed the sequence to keep audiences thoroughly entertained while also serving as an important turning point in the narrative. Sources indicate that the train episode will occupy a significant portion of the film's runtime rather than being a brief action or comedy sequence. It is said to feature a series of humorous incidents, emotional interactions and cleverly written dialogues that reflect Trivikram's trademark style. The episode has reportedly been crafted to bring out Venkatesh's impeccable comic timing, an aspect that has



earned him immense popularity among family audiences over the years. The production team is believed to have invested considerable effort and resources into executing the sequence on a

grand scale. From the train set-up to the screenplay and performances, every detail has reportedly been planned with precision to ensure that the episode becomes one of the most memorable portions of

the film. Industry insiders believe the sequence could emerge as a major talking point after the movie's theatrical release. Aadarsha Kutumbam is one of the most eagerly awaited Telugu films because it brings together two celebrated names in the industry. Although Trivikram has previously written blockbuster films featuring Venkatesh, this project marks their first collaboration with Trivikram at the helm as director. The unique combination has significantly raised expectations among fans and trade circles alike. The film features Srinidhi Shetty as the female lead, while Nara Rohit, Satya, Yogi Babu and several other prominent actors play key supporting roles. Produced by Haarika & Hassine Creations, the family entertainer is being mounted on a lavish budget with high production values. While the makers have not officially confirmed the reports regarding the train sequence, the ongoing buzz has only added to the anticipation surrounding the film. Fans are now eagerly waiting for more updates, confident that Trivikram's storytelling and Venkatesh's entertaining performance will make Aadarsha Kutumbam one of the most talked-about releases when it finally arrives in theatres.



Rajamouli Reveals Only 80 Days of Shoot Left for Varanasi

SS Rajamouli has shared an exciting update on his much-anticipated film Varanasi, starring Mahesh Babu in the lead role. The ace filmmaker revealed that the ambitious project is in its final leg of production, with only 80 days of shooting remaining before filming is officially wrapped up. Speaking about the film's progress, Rajamouli said that a major portion of the shoot has already been completed. The team has successfully finished several large-scale action sequences, and the remaining schedule will primarily focus on filming key connecting scenes and completing the narrative. According to the director, the production is moving as planned and is expected to conclude within the next 80 days. The update has thrilled Mahesh Babu's fans, who have been eagerly waiting for fresh news about the film. Ever since the project was announced, Varanasi has been one of the most talked-about Indian films, thanks to the first-ever collaboration between Mahesh Babu and Rajamouli. Expectations are exceptionally high following the global success of RRR, with audiences anticipating another cinematic spectacle

from the acclaimed filmmaker. The film stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas as the female lead, marking her return to Indian cinema after a long gap. Malayalam star Prithviraj Sukumaran plays a pivotal role, while veteran actor Prakash Raj is also part of the impressive ensemble cast. Backed by producer K.L. Narayana, the film features music composed by M.M. Keeravaani and is being mounted on a massive scale for a worldwide audience. Rajamouli has previously revealed that Varanasi will combine mythology, adventure, fantasy and cutting-edge visual effects to deliver a unique cinematic experience. Designed for IMAX and other premium formats, the film promises breathtaking visuals while retaining an emotional core centered on the relationship between a father and son. With the production entering its final phase, anticipation for the film continues to soar. Fans are now looking forward to the completion of filming and the launch of the movie's promotional campaign. Varanasi is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on April 7, 2027, and is expected to be one of the biggest Indian releases of the year.

'Ladies' Glimpse of Toxic Showcases Power-Packed Female Cast

The makers of Yash's much-awaited pan-Indian action drama Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups have unveiled a brand-new promotional glimpse titled "Ladies & Ladies," putting the spotlight on the film's formidable female cast. Featuring Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Rukmini Vasanth, Tara Sutar and Huma Qureshi, the video has generated tremendous excitement among fans ahead of the film's release. Unlike previous promotional material that primarily focused on Yash's character, the latest glimpse shifts attention to the women who are expected to play pivotal roles in the story. Each actress is introduced with a striking screen pres-

ence, hinting at characters who are stylish, fearless and influential within the film's gritty world. The teaser suggests that these women will be much more than supporting characters, with each one seemingly carrying a distinct identity and purpose. Nayanthara commands attention with a powerful and intense appearance, while Kiara Advani impresses with her glamorous yet mysterious avatar. Rukmini Vasanth and Tara Sutar also leave a strong impact with stylish introductions, and Huma Qureshi rounds out the ensemble with a commanding presence. The teaser combines elegant visuals with glimpses of action, making it clear that the female characters

will have significant roles in the narrative. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic is one of the most anticipated Indian films in production. Set against the backdrop of a dark and dangerous underworld, the film promises a unique blend of action, drama and emotion. Yash headlines the project, marking his return to the big screen after the phenomenal success of the KGF franchise. The film is being mounted on a grand scale and is expected to offer a visually rich cinematic experience. The newly released glimpse has received an overwhelmingly positive response on social media, with fans praising the film's stylish presentation, lav-

ish production values and the impressive lineup of leading actresses. Many viewers have described the teaser as refreshing for giving equal importance to the female characters, while others have appreciated the mystery surrounding their roles. With every new promotional update, Toxic continues to build massive anticipation among audiences across the country. While the latest glimpse offers only a brief introduction to its leading ladies, it successfully raises curiosity about how these powerful characters fit into Yash's action-packed world. Fans are now eagerly awaiting the film's next trailer and more details about its intriguing storyline.



Climax Twist Expected to Be the Biggest Strength of Rao Bahadur

Satyadev's upcoming psychological drama Rao Bahadur is steadily building strong anticipation ahead of its theatrical release, with industry buzz suggesting that the film's climax twist could emerge as its biggest talking point. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Venkatesh Maha, the movie has already attracted attention for its intriguing promotional material, unique narrative and the confidence displayed by everyone associated with the project. According to reports, one of the film's major highlights will be a powerful climax that completely changes the audience's perception of the story. Throughout the film, Satyadev's character is said to exhibit unusual behaviour, leaving viewers constantly questioning his motives and mental state. While subtle clues are reportedly scattered across the narrative, the true reason behind his actions is said to remain hidden until the final moments. Sources indicate that the climax revelation is both shocking and emotionally charged, offering a fresh perspective on the protagonist and tying together the film's psychological



elements in an impactful manner. If the reports prove accurate, the ending could become one of the most discussed aspects of Rao Bahadur after its release, adding to the film's appeal among audiences who enjoy suspense-driven storytelling. Directed by Venkatesh Maha, Rao Bahadur is being promoted as a psychological drama with a distinctive narrative style. The film stars Satyadev in the title role, alongside Deepa Thomas and Vikas Mupala in pivotal roles. Presented by Mahesh Babu's GMB Entertainment and produced by A+S Movies, SriChakraas Entertainments and Mahayana Motion Pictures, the film has generated considerable curiosity ever since its teaser and trailer were unveiled.

Adding to the excitement, Rao Bahadur recently received glowing praise from superstar Mahesh Babu and filmmaker Sukumar after special screenings. Both lauded Venkatesh Maha's vision and Satyadev's performance, further raising expectations for the psychological drama. Their endorsements have significantly boosted the film's pre-release buzz among moviegoers. With its intriguing premise, strong performances and a reportedly unforgettable climax, Rao Bahadur has emerged as one of the most awaited Telugu releases. Whether the much-talked-about twist lives up to the hype will only be known once the film reaches theatres, but the growing buzz suggests audiences are in for a gripping cinematic experience.

Triptii Dimri Calls Spirit a 'Special Experience'

Prabhas' highly anticipated action drama Spirit is steadily becoming one of the most talked-about Indian films in production, and the latest comments from leading lady Triptii Dimri have only added to the growing excitement. The actress recently opened up about the project, describing it as a "special experience" while choosing to keep the film's key details under wraps. In a recent interview, Triptii expressed her enthusiasm about working on the film and said she is thrilled to be part of the ambitious project. Although she refrained from revealing any plot details, the actress hinted that the film is shaping up exceptionally well. She added that it is still too early to discuss the story but expressed confidence that audiences would enjoy what the team is creating. Spirit marks Triptii's second collaboration with director Sandeep Reddy Vanga after the blockbuster Animal. Their previous partnership earned widespread acclaim, and fans are eager to see what the actress brings to this high-octane action entertainer alongside Prabhas. The film also marks the first-ever collaboration between Prabhas and Vanga, making it one of the most awaited releases in Indian



cinema. Prabhas will reportedly be seen playing a fierce police officer, a role that promises intense action and powerful drama. Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the film is expected to feature the filmmaker's trademark blend of emotion, violence and compelling character arcs. Recent reports also suggest that the team has been filming an important college-based romantic sequence featuring Prabhas and Triptii, further increasing curiosity about the film's narrative. Apart from Prabhas and Triptii Dimri, Spirit boasts an impressive supporting cast that includes Vivek Oberoi as the primary antagonist, along with Prakash Raj and veteran actress Kanachana in pivotal roles. The film is jointly produced

by T-Series and Bhadrakali Pictures, with Harshavardhan Rameshwar composing the music. Ever since its announcement, Spirit has remained one of the most anticipated pan-Indian projects. Fans have been eagerly following every update, from the first-look poster to reports from the film's shooting schedules. With Triptii Dimri now calling the project a "special experience," expectations have risen even higher. While the makers continue to keep the storyline under wraps, the combination of Prabhas, Sandeep Reddy Vanga and Triptii Dimri has already generated massive buzz. Scheduled for a theatrical release on March 5, 2027, Spirit is expected to be one of the biggest cinematic events of the year.