

**P3**

# AP to Launch Statewide Family Planning Campaign

Amaravati, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government will launch a statewide awareness campaign from July 11 to 18 to promote birth spacing, prevent unintended pregnancies and strengthen family planning services as part of World Population Day observances.

Health, Medical and Family Welfare Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said the campaign would be conducted across all districts under the slogan, "Spacing Between Births Ensures Healthier Mothers and Children." The initiative aims to encourage couples to plan pregnancies responsibly and maintain adequate intervals between births to improve maternal and child health outcomes.

The minister announced that cash incentives of 5,000 each would be awarded to three couples in every district having three or more children, benefiting a total of 84 couples statewide. In addition, six couples in each district who have maintained a minimum two-year gap between births will also receive 5,000 each. If the number of eligible applicants



exceeds the quota, beneficiaries will be selected through a lucky draw.

Medical experts have noted that maintaining at least a two-year interval between births can reduce maternal mortality by 30 per cent and infant mortality by 10 per cent.

Special focus will be placed on districts and mandals reporting higher rates of adolescent pregnancies. Awareness campaigns on postpartum contraceptive methods, including intrauterine devices and the Antara injectable contraceptive, will also be conducted.

Health and Family Welfare Commissioner K.V.N. Chakradhar Babu said doctors and healthcare personnel delivering outstanding services would be honoured with cash awards. He added that 56 lakh has been allocated for organising the campaign across the state.

# Jagan to visit YSR Kadapa District on July 7 and 8

Tadepalli, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Former Chief Minister and YSRC President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will undertake a two-day visit to YSR District on July 7 and 8. According to the schedule, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will arrive in Pulivendula at 11:30 AM on July 7 and hold a Praja Darbar at the Bhakarpuram Camp Office. During the interaction, he will receive representations from the public. He will stay overnight at his residence in Pulivendula.

On July 8, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will proceed to Idupulapaya to participate in special



prayers at the YSR Ghat on the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. He will offer floral tributes and pay homage to the late leader.

After completing the programme at Idupulapaya, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will conclude his visit and return.

# Home Minister Calls for Stronger Action Against Drugs and Cybercrime

Mangalagiri, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Home and Disaster Management Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, along with the Director General of Police, conducted a comprehensive video conference on Monday to review the functioning of police ranges and specialised units across Andhra Pradesh. The review focused on narcotics control, law and order in the Amaravati capital region, faction-related disputes, women and child safety, cybercrime, and coordination between police and prosecution.

The Minister said the State has made significant progress in combating narcotics, with 29,839 acres brought under alternative crops, 131 persons detained under the NDPS Act, and



assets worth 10.18 crore linked to drug networks frozen. She added that over 22,000 police personnel have been trained in anti-narcotics operations.

Highlighting women safety measures, she noted 1.55 crore downloads of the Shakti app, 164 Shakti teams, and tracing of 9,007 missing women and children. Cybercrime enforcement led to 1,665 cases and 12,653 URLs being removed. She reiterated commitment to a drug-free and safer Andhra Pradesh.

# CEO Vivek Yadav Launches Special Voter List Revision Camp

Amaravati, July 6 | TPN Bureau

State Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav on Monday inaugurated a special camp at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat to facilitate employees in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The three-day camp, being held from July 6 to 8 at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat Employees' Association (APSA) Hall in the third Secretariat building, aims to assist employees in updating their voter details. Vivek Yadav inspected the arrangements and urged employees to make full use of the initiative.

The camp provides services including online submission of enumeration forms, enrolment of new voters, deletion of names of deceased persons from electoral rolls and correction or change of residential addresses.



Employees are being guided to complete the process by submitting voter details from 2002, recent photographs, EPIC cards, Aadhaar cards and proof of residence.

After completing the verification process, employees were issued voter identification proceedings by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Guntur District Collector Sai Kanth Varma, Guntur RDO K. Srinivasa Rao, Joint CEO E. Venkateswara Rao, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat Employees' Association president Ramakrishna and association representatives participated in the programme.

# Pink Bus Takes Lifesaving Cancer Screening to Villages

Sravani Badugu

Amaravati: A bright pink vehicle travelling through the villages of the state is quietly transforming healthcare delivery by taking cancer screening services directly to rural communities. Operated by the Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) under the Andhra Pradesh Comprehensive Cancer Care Project (APCCC), the Pink Bus initiative is helping improve early cancer detection while making quality healthcare accessible to people in remote areas.

At present, two Pink Buses are operating across the state, providing free screening for breast, cervical and oral cancers, which are among the most common cancers in India. The mobile units are equipped with modern diagnostic facilities and staffed by doctors, nurses, radiographers, technicians and counsellors.

Besides conducting screenings, the medical teams educate villagers about the importance of early diagnosis, regular health check-ups and preventive healthcare. Awareness programmes focus on recognising early warning signs of cancer, the harmful effects of tobacco and alcohol consumption, and adopting healthier lifestyles. The initiative is also expanding to include



screening for non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, kidney ailments and cardiovascular diseases, further strengthening rural healthcare.

The programme has made a significant impact since its launch. According to official data, the two Pink Buses have conducted nearly 730 free cancer screening camps across Andhra Pradesh, benefiting more than 42,600 people. During these camps, 3,226 individuals showing suspected symptoms or abnormalities were referred to SVIMS for detailed diagnostic evaluation and specialised treatment.

The benefits of early detection are already evident. Of those referred for treatment, 759 patients have successfully completed therapy, highlighting the crucial role of timely diagnosis in improving survival

rates and treatment outcomes.

For thousands of rural families, repeated visits to tertiary hospitals are expensive and time-consuming. By bringing specialised healthcare directly to villages, the Pink Bus initiative has reduced financial and geographical barriers while addressing myths, fear and stigma associated with cancer.

Healthcare experts continue to stress that early diagnosis remains one of the most effective ways to reduce cancer-related deaths. Through free screening, counselling and sustained awareness campaigns, the SVIMS Pink Bus is not only detecting disease at an early stage but also fostering a culture of preventive healthcare, proving that accessible medical services can save lives and transform communities across the state.

# AP Launches First 'Mee Mart' in Guntur

Guntur, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government on Monday launched its first Mee Mart at Lalupuram in Guntur Rural as part of an ambitious plan to establish 1,000 such mini marts across the state. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar inaugurated the facility and described it as a transformative initiative aimed at benefiting both consumers and fair price shop dealers.

Addressing the media, Nadendla Manohar said the marts would offer more than 250 es-



sential commodities at prices 3 to 5 lower than those in the open market while maintaining quality standards. He said the initiative would provide economic stability to nearly 30,000 fair price shop dealers' families and ensure affordable access to

# ₹6.5 Crore APCO Dues to Be Cleared, Says Savitha

Mangalagiri/Amaravati, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Handlooms and Textiles S. Savitha on Monday announced that the "Nethanna Bharosa" scheme will be launched soon, stating that preparatory work has been completed, during the golden jubilee celebrations of the Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society (APCO) held at APCO Gardens, Mangalagiri.

She said 6.50 crore pending dues to handloom cooperative societies will be cleared in two



phases— 4 crore on July 15 and 2.50 crore in the first week of August. Savitha added that APCO is being strengthened through digitalisation, product diversification and skill development, and noted that its digital transformation earned the SKOCH Award 2025. She also an-

# AP Invites Private Firms for Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour Operations

Amaravati, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has invited proposals from eligible private firms for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour, Fisheries Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy said on Sunday.

The minister stated that construction of the fishing harbour, being developed at a cost of 306.29 crore with modern infrastructure facilities, has reached 95.51 per cent comple-



tion. He said the decision to involve private operators was taken after studying successful harbour management models implemented in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

According to Janardhan Reddy, private management is expected to improve cleanliness, security and the func-

# APCRDA Hosts Free Ayurvedic Health Camp

Amaravati, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) organised a free Ayurvedic medical camp at its project office in Rayapudi, Amaravati, on Monday, benefiting APCRDA employees and farmers from the capital region. Held on the ground floor of the APCRDA project office, the camp provided health consultations, medical examinations and free medicines to participants. The AYUSH medical team, com-



prising Dr Srinivasa Rao and pharmacist Srilakshmi, conducted the screenings and offered treatment to those in need.

A total of 110 people availed themselves of the medical services provided during the camp.

# Three Additional Judges Sworn In at High Court

Amaravati, July 6 | TPN Bureau



Three newly appointed additional judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court were sworn in on Monday, taking the total strength of judges in the court from 29 to 32.

Sunita Gandham, Alapati Giridhar and Purushottam Kumar Chintalapudi alias C.H. Purushottam Kumar took oath as additional judges at a ceremony held in the First Court Hall of the High Court. Chief Justice Lisa Gill administered the oath of office to the three judges.

The appointments were formalised after President Droupadi Murmu approved their elevation as additional judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, following which the Un-



ion Ministry of Law and Justice issued an official notification. With the induction of the three judges, the sanctioned strength of the Andhra Pradesh High Court has moved closer to full capacity, enhancing its judicial functioning.



Full Bench judges of the High Court, representatives of the Bar Council, members of the High Court Advocates' Association, senior advocates, judicial officers, registrars, law department officials and lawyers attended the swearing-in ceremony.

# Industries to Drive Udayagiri Development, Says Narayana

Udayagiri, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana on Monday said industrialisation would be the cornerstone of Udayagiri's development, with the government focusing on employment generation and infrastructure expansion.

Speaking at a review meeting and public gathering in Udayagiri, Narayana said 1,098.79 crore had been allocated for welfare and development works in the constituency over the past two years. He stated that four industries had already been approved and would provide employment to nearly 4,000 people.

The minister inaugurated CC roads built at a cost of 1.70 crore and said the coalition government was committed to



attracting investments and accelerating regional growth. He credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh for bringing substantial investments to Andhra Pradesh.

MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy said completion of the Veligonda project would transform Udayagiri, while MLC Beeda Ravichandra highlighted the government's efforts to improve irrigation, drinking water supply and industrial infrastructure in the region.

# 'They Had Control, We Deliver Development' says Ram Mohan

Patapatnam, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu said the previous government focused on exercising control over people rather than providing solutions and welfare, while the present coalition government is committed to development and public welfare.

Accompanied by Patapatnam MLA Mamidi Govinda Rao and Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar, Ram Mohan Naidu toured Patapatnam constituency on Monday and inaugurated several development projects. These included a 29 lakh NREGS-funded check dam at Dhanupuram, a 3.40 crore BT road from All Andhra Road to Meliaputti, additional hostel blocks at Patapatnam KGBV built at a cost of 2.55



crore, and PM Janman hostel buildings at Koduru costing 2.30 crore. He also inaugurated school infrastructure under NREGS, NABARD and APRRP schemes, besides laying the foundation stone for a 2.37 crore BT road near Bothadasingi.

Addressing a public meeting at Seedi, Ram Mohan Naidu recalled his family's long association with Patapatnam and reiterated the coalition government's commitment to balanced development and welfare across Andhra Pradesh.

# BJP Reaffirms Commitment to Syama Prasad Mookerjee's Ideals

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday celebrated the 125th birth anniversary of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee at its state office in Vijayawada, with leaders reiterating their commitment to carrying forward his vision of national unity and integration.

BJP State General Secretary Nagothu Ramesh Naidu paid floral tributes to Mookerjee and said party workers across the country and abroad commemorate his birth anniversary with pride. He described Mookerjee as a towering nationalist who devoted his life to safeguarding India's unity and sovereignty, and whose ideals continue to inspire the party's growth.

Ramesh Naidu said the Narendra Modi-led government is striving to realise Mookerjee's vision of an integrated India, adding that the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir stands as a tribute to his aspirations.

Twenty-Point Programme Implementation Committee Chairman Lanka Divakar said Mookerjee had envisioned a nation governed by a single Constitution and a common framework. BJP state office in-charge Uppalapati Srinivas presided over the event, while BJP State Media In-charge Kilaaru Dileep, district president Adduuri Sriram, state spokesperson Shaik Baji, Chigurupati Kumaraswamy, Valluru Gangadhar, Venkateswarlu Yadav, Kakani Tarun and several party leaders and workers attended the programme.

## Jyothi Surekha Upgraded to Silver at Hyundai Archery World Cup Final

continued

According to the updated results released by World Archery, Jyothi Surekha Vennam is now listed as the silver medalist in the compound women's event held during the World Cup Final in Nanjing, China, on October 18, 2025. She had originally finished third and was awarded the bronze medal.

The revision came after Mexico's Marina Bernal was disqualified for violating anti-doping regulations. Bernal's doping sample, collected on September 29, 2025, resulted in her disqualification under the World Archery Federation's anti-doping rules, prompting the governing body to revise the final standings.

Under the updated results, Andrea Becerra of Mexico retained the gold medal, Jyothi Surekha Vennam of India was

elevated to the silver medal position, and Ella Gibson of Great Britain received the bronze medal.

The official medal list published by World Archery now reflects the revised standings, confirming Jyothi's upgraded finish in one of the sport's most prestigious annual competitions.

The silver medal adds another major achievement to Jyothi Surekha Vennam's illustrious international career. Widely regarded as one of India's finest compound archers, she has consistently excelled on the global stage through her performances at World Cups, World Championships and multi-sport events. Her upgraded medal further strengthens India's standing in international archery and serves as another proud milestone for Indian sport.



## YSRCP Pays Tribute to Babu Jagjivan Ram

Ongole, July 6 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of Babu Jagjivan Ram's death anniversary, leaders of YSRCP paid floral tributes to his portrait at the district YSRCP party office on Monday. The leaders recalled his services and contributions to social justice and national development during the commemorative event. The event was attended by Ongole Parliament observer Battula Brahmananda Reddy, Darsi constituency observer Madasi Venkayya, Santhanuthalapadu constituency observer Botla Ramarao, district SC cell president G Devaprasad, district BC cell president Botla Subbarao, state SC cell spokesperson Yarazarla

Ramesh Babu, district SC cell vice president Melam Guravayya (Madhu), state SC cell secretary Dasari Koteswara Rao, Damaraju Kranthikumar state joint secretary, district SC cell joint secretary Donakonda Yohanu, state SC cell joint secretary Duddu Vinod, Ongole constituency SC cell president Devarapalli Ramanayya, Ongole constituency social media president Peter, state Panchayati Raj department general secretary Devarapalli Anji Reddy, state booth committee general secretary VV Goutham Ashok, Ongole constituency employees and pensioners association president Petluru Prasadu, and YSRCP leader TK Karunakar, among others.

## Self-Financing Amaravati Targets ₹1 Lakh Crore

Palakollu, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu on Monday strongly criticised YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's remarks on Amaravati, stating that his comments reflect a lack of understanding and inconsistency on the capital issue.

Addressing a media conference at the Palakollu Municipal Council Hall, the Minister said Jagan's statements were so contradictory that even historical references to "Tughlaq" would be surprised. He alleged that YSRCP leaders were speaking in different voices on the capital issue, citing shifting positions on Amaravati and development policies.

He recalled that Jagan had earlier supported Amaravati in

the Assembly, including demands for land allocation, but later changed his stance after coming to power. The Minister said the previous government failed to develop even a single structure in the capital region despite being in power for five years.

Ramanaidu asserted that the coalition government is committed to developing Amaravati as a self-financed capital expected to generate 1 lakh crore revenue, similar to major revenue hubs like Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad.

He further said the coalition leadership under Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh is focused on development and welfare, while accusing the opposition of engaging in destructive politics.

## YSRCP Women's Wing Opposes Beach Shacks Policy

Visakhapatnam, July 6 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Women's Wing on Monday staged a large-scale protest at RK Beach in Visakhapatnam, demanding withdrawal of the coalition government's orders permitting "Beach Shacks" that allow liquor outlets and bars along the Andhra Pradesh coastline.

Hundreds of women from across the state participated in the protest, carrying black balloons and wearing black ribbons. They burnt copies of the government orders and smashed liquor bottles on the beach, asserting that Visakhapatnam should remain a family-friendly tourist destination.

The leaders alleged that the policy compromises women's safety, public health, and the city's peaceful environment.

## Will Vangaveeti Asha Kiran Join Jana Sena?

ARN Mahesh

Speculation over the political future of Vangaveeti Asha Kiran has intensified after she announced that she would soon meet Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan. The meeting comes days after Pawan Kalyan paid tributes to former Vijayawada leader Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga on his birth anniversary, a gesture for which Asha Kiran publicly expressed her gratitude. She said the proposed meeting would focus on preserving and promoting her father's ideals, giving rise to political discussions about her possible entry into the Jana Sena Party.

According to Asha Kiran, she intends to raise several demands related to Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga's legacy during her meeting with Pawan Kalyan. These include naming Krishna district after Ranga and establishing a "Ranga Pushkar Ghat." While these demands are expected to form the core of the discussions, the announcement of the meeting has also fuelled speculation in political circles that she may formally join the Jana Sena Party. However, neither Asha Kiran nor the Jana Sena Party has made any official statement regarding her possible induction.

In recent weeks, Asha Kiran has become more active in public life through programmes organised by the Ranga Aradhana Mitra Mandali. She has been touring various districts, interacting with supporters



and admirers of Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga. Her renewed public engagement has further strengthened speculation that she may soon take an active role in politics, although no formal decision has been announced.

Following the assassination of Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga on December 26, 1988, his son Vangaveeti Radhakrishna entered politics and was elected as an MLA from Vijayawada on a Congress ticket in 2004. He later joined the Praja Rajyam Party and subsequently moved to the YSRCP after the merger of Praja Rajyam. Following differences with YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Radhakrishna joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), where he continues to remain active. Political circles have also been discussing the possibility of him being nominated to the Legislative Council, although there has been no official

confirmation.

Political observers believe the developments are significant because the Kapu community continues to play a crucial role in Andhra Pradesh politics. Some analysts suggest that if Vangaveeti Radhakrishna remains with the TDP while Asha Kiran joins the Jana Sena Party, both NDA allies could benefit from the influence of the Vangaveeti family among Kapu voters. At the same time, the YSRCP is also focusing on strengthening its support among the community.

For now, Asha Kiran has maintained that her proposed meeting with Pawan Kalyan is intended to discuss issues connected with her father's legacy. Whether it also marks the beginning of her political journey with the Jana Sena Party remains uncertain, with clarity expected only after the meeting takes place.

## Lokesh Woos Korean Firms, Pitches AP as Manufacturing, AI Hub

continued

highlighted Andhra Pradesh's strengths in aquaculture, logistics, fintech, advanced manufacturing and its 1,053-km coastline. He also said the State aims to become India's AI capital through a Google AI Hub, a 10-GW data centre pipeline backed by Reliance, Sify and CtrlS, and India's first Quantum and AI University in Amaravati with a 133-qubit IBM quantum system and IBM-TCS cloud services.

Lokesh also met Yokota Takeshi, President of the Power Systems PU at Hyosung Heavy Industries Corporation,

inviting the company to establish an electrical equipment manufacturing unit near Tirupati or Sri City. Separately, he invited Seoul Semiconductor Vice President Taehyung Lee to set up a display fabrication unit in Andhra Pradesh. Both companies said they would examine the proposals.

## AP Appoints Special Representatives to Attract Global Investments

continued

and strengthen international business collaborations. They are also expected to identify sector-specific opportunities and assist investors in establishing operations in the

State. The appointments form part of the N Chandrababu Naidu-led government's strategy to expand Andhra Pradesh's global economic footprint by leveraging experienced professionals with strong international

networks. The initiative complements the State's ongoing efforts to attract investments in manufacturing, technology, infrastructure, clean energy and services, while positioning Andhra Pradesh as a major investment hub in India.

## YSRCP Alleges Vindictive Action Against Social Media Activists

Guntur, July 6 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP has alleged that the coalition government is targeting social media activists who are exposing governance failures and asserted that the party will extend support to victims irrespective of political affiliation.

Addressing the media on Monday in Guntur, former minister Ambati Rambabu said that the government was acting in a vindictive manner

by pursuing cases against YouTube influencers such as KVR and Ravan, pushing them towards jail through repeated legal actions. He said YSRCP would stand by those affected, stating that the government's approach had become evident.

He referred to the case of Prashna Ravan alias Bachalakura Joseph, alleging that the accused was produced before magistrates at multiple locations and later remanded to Nellore jail after charges

were altered. He also claimed that provisions of UAPA were invoked selectively. Ambati Rambabu further alleged that another influencer KVR was picked up from Hyderabad in a similar manner. He said diversion politics were being used to cover up incidents such as the custodial death of Sai Krishna and the suicide of Kranti Kumar. He also announced plans to undertake a padayatra to the DGP office by month-end regarding complaints filed by him.

## YSRCP Blames 20-Hour Delay for Fishermen's Tragedy

Visakhapatnam, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Former MLA Vasupalli Ganesh on Monday strongly criticised the coalition government over the Gangavaram fishing boat tragedy, alleging that administrative negligence and delayed rescue response led to the disappearance of six fishermen. Addressing the media at his camp office in Visakhapatnam, he said the fishermen had informed their families that they would return within two to three hours after reaching Gan-

gavaram, but later their phones stopped functioning and they went missing. He alleged that despite immediate alerts from families, rescue operations were initiated only after a delay of nearly 20 hours. Vasupalli claimed that even the Fisheries Joint Director had not reached the harbour when he visited the site, and only one helicopter was deployed for search operations, reflecting inadequate response from the government. He said weather warnings predicting rough sea conditions on

July 3 and 4 were ignored, and no proper alert system or war room coordination was activated. He also alleged that officials acted only after YSRCP leaders intervened. He further criticised the absence of key leaders during the incident and claimed that technical warning systems functional during the previous YSRCP government had been neglected under the current regime. He demanded immediate deployment of full rescue resources to trace the missing fishermen.

## CM calls for last-mile governance, faster grievance redressal

continued

N Chandrababu Naidu instructed officials to categorise grievances into financial and non-financial issues to expedite resolution and urged focused attention from district administrations. He also called for adoption of best practices and innovation in governance. On welfare and public services, the Chief Minister directed officials to establish Anna Canteens in tribal areas and stressed the need to curb crime against women and eliminate ganja networks. He said the State's efforts should align with the Centre's vision of a drug-free India and called for wider awareness campaigns.

Reviewing sanitation and urban management, he instructed officials to issue Standard Operating Procedures for drinking water supply, opera-

tion of Swachha vehicles, and door-to-door waste collection. He set a target to clear 23 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste in urban local bodies within three months and emphasised the goal of achieving zero-waste cities, with close monitoring by public representatives.

The Chief Minister also directed departments to assess outcomes under AWARE 2.0 within a month and prepare an action plan to improve telecom connectivity by installing mobile towers in remote areas in coordination with service providers.

Minister Kolusu Parthasaradhi, Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad, Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta, and senior officials participated in the review meeting.

## R'seema to be developed as global horticulture hub: CM Naidu

continued

for development of beach fronts including Suryalanka beach and a master plan for tourism promotion.

Naidu said Vizag Bay City should be built on coastal tourism, global business and innovation, and elite living standards. Officials informed that 3,291 acres of government land is available and 49 projects have been identified in the Visakhapatnam Economic

Region.

The Chief Minister set a target to establish an International Convention Centre in Visakhapatnam within three months and proposed integrating Araku-Paderu-Visakhapatnam as a tourism circuit. He said the Tirupati Economic Region must grow on par with Visakhapatnam and Amaravati regions and directed bi-monthly reviews of all three economic regions.

## AP's Natural Farming Programme Wins 2026 Food Planet Prize

continued

Co-Chair Professor Lindiwe Majele Sibanda said, "APCNF demonstrates how nature-positive farming can be implemented across entire communities and regions, providing a scalable pathway for millions of farmers while improving livelihoods, resilience and environmental outcomes."

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu hailed the award as a proud first for India and reaffirmed the government's goal of making Andhra Pradesh a 100 per cent natural farming state by 2047.

"We assure everyone that Andhra Pradesh will continue restoring natural resources, rejuvenating farmlands and strengthening farmers' well-being while supporting the spread of natural farming to

other States and countries," he said.

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu congratulated APCNF, the state's 18 lakh farmers, women Self-Help Groups, Community Resource Persons, RySS and the Agriculture Department, noting that Andhra Pradesh's natural farming model is now being replicated in 22 Indian states and Sri Lanka and Zambia.

T. Vijay Kumar dedicated the honour to women farmers, saying, "The world recognised APCNF, but the magic is in the women. This award belongs to the millions of women who made this transformation possible." He also thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his vision and leadership in scaling natural farming across the State.

## Navaneethamma Honoured with VIP Darshan After Inspiring Foot Pilgrimage

continued

a sacred silk robe (Pattu Vastram) and Teertha Prasadam, before respectfully seeking her blessings by touching her feet.

Speaking on the occasion, Navaneethamma's grandson, Sri Dikpathi, expressed his gratitude to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for

arranging a memorable VIP Break Darshan of Lord Venkateswara for his grandmother and their family members. He thanked TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu and the officials for the care, respect, and hospitality extended to the elderly devotee during their visit.

## YSRCP Launches BC Justice Campaign

Tadeipalli, July 6 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders on Monday announced a statewide campaign against what they termed as injustice to Backward Classes (BCs) under the coalition government, alleging denial of political representation, welfare benefits, and constitutional opportunities over the past two years.

Former minister Chelluboina Venu Gopala Krishna, MLC Ramesh Yadav, and former MP Margani Bharat said the party would organise a major BC convention in Vijayawada, followed by zonal-level meetings across Andhra Pradesh to highlight the issue and take it to the people. The leaders alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu failed to allocate the Deputy Chief Minister post to BCs and did not complete the constitution of

BC Corporations by appointing chairpersons. They contrasted this with the previous YSRCP government led by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, claiming it had constituted 56 BC Corporations in a single phase and ensured stronger political representation.

They further alleged that election manifesto promises made to BC communities were not fulfilled by the coalition government and said BC students were facing delays in fee reimbursement. They also claimed that a proposal for 34 per cent reservation for BCs in local body elections was obstructed during the earlier tenure of Chandrababu Naidu.

YSRCP leaders said the party would intensify its campaign across the state and take the issue of BC rights and alleged injustice to every household.

## APSSDC, BNI to Organise Mega Job Fair in Vijayawada on July 12

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC), in association with Business Network International (BNI), will organise a Mega Job Fair in Vijayawada on July 12 to provide employment opportunities for unemployed youth in the district.

The event will be held from 8 am at PB Siddhartha College of Arts and Science, Moghalrajapuram. District Skill Development Officer S. Srinivasa Rao and BNI representatives J.H. Desai, Executive Director, Vijayawada, and Achanta Meghana, Chairperson, Vijayawada, announced the details.

As part of BNI's 10th anni-

versary celebrations, the job fair will feature participation from more than 100 companies, including multinational firms such as Genpact and Teleperformance. Candidates aged between 18 and 35 years who have completed Class X, Intermediate, ITI, Polytechnic, Degree, B.Tech, Postgraduate courses or Pharmacy are eligible to participate.

Selected candidates will be offered salaries ranging from 12,000 to 50,000 per month along with other benefits. Aspirants are required to register in advance through the APSSDC portal and attend the job fair with resumes, Aadhaar, PAN card copies and educational certificates. Interviews will be conducted on the spot for suitable positions.

## Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital to Conduct Free Screening Camp

Marripalem, July 6 | TPN Bureau

A free cancer screening camp will be organised by Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital, Hyderabad, at Marripalem village, Visakhapatnam District on Tuesday to promote early detection and awareness among the public.

The camp will be held from 9 am to 4 pm at the premises of the Sri Krishna Temple in Marripalem. Men and women aged above 40 years have been urged to make use of the opportunity and undergo screening.

## 12-Day EBSB National Integration Camp Concludes at KLU

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The 12-day Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) National Integration Camp concluded at KL College on Monday, bringing together National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets from Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to foster national integration, cultural exchange and unity.

The camp featured a series of educational, cultural and recreational activities designed to strengthen camaraderie among participants. Cadets visited Suryalanka Air Force Station, the Sri Panakala Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Mangalagiri, Suryalanka Beach, a TTD temple and the historic Undavalli Caves, gaining insights into the region's heritage, culture and defence infrastructure.

Several intellectual and personality development events, including debate competitions, ex-



tempore speeches and interactive sessions, were organised to enhance leadership, communication and confidence among cadets.

A cultural evening showcasing the traditions of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh emerged as a major attraction, reflecting the spirit of unity in diversity. During the valedictory ceremony, KL College management appreciated the efforts of the NCC Directorate, camp officials and cadets for making the camp a success and commended participants for their discipline, enthusiasm and commitment to national integration.

## Malladi Vishnu Alleges Irregularities in DSC Recruitment

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Former MLA Malladi Vishnu alleged that large-scale irregularities and injustices had occurred in the recent DSC teacher recruitment process, particularly affecting persons with disabilities and candidates under horizontal reservations.

Expressing solidarity with an unemployed disabled candidate and a BC woman who are on an indefinite hunger strike at Gandhi Nagar Dharna Chowk over the Mega DSC 2025 recruitment process, Vishnu joined the protest and accused authorities of denying jobs to eligible candidates while favouring ineligible applicants.

He cited the case of Anjinappa from Anantapur district, alleging that the candidate had been deprived of employment under the disabled quota despite possessing valid certificates.



Vishnu also claimed that candidate Prabhavathi had suffered injustice in the implementation of horizontal reservations.

Questioning the alleged change in disability assessment from 30 per cent to 40 per cent, he demanded transparency in the recruitment process and termed the issue a major scandal.

Vishnu announced full support from the YSRCP to the protesters' demands and urged the government to respond to the grievances of affected candidates. State Disabled Wing president Bandela Kiran Raj was also present at the protest.

# VMC Chief Calls for Expediting SIR Process

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanchandra has directed officials to expedite the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 process to ensure timely completion of voter verification and data updation.

During a visit to the SIR control room in the Payakapuram area on

Monday, the Commissioner reviewed field-level activities, including form collection, data mapping and online data entry being carried out by Booth Level Officers (BLOs). He also offered suggestions to improve the efficiency of the exercise.

Dhyanchandra said the VMC had fully mobilised its Self-Help Group (SHG) network and BLOs after providing them with the re-

## NTR Collector Calls for Error-Free Voter Enumeration

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau



desks set up to assist voters. He instructed officials to ensure smooth implementation of the programme and create awareness among voters about availing assistance for filling and submitting forms.

Lakshmisha said that 16,80,998 enumeration forms,

accounting for 98.11 per cent, have been distributed across the district, while digitisation of 8,43,301 forms, representing 49.22 per cent, has been completed.

He noted that Tiruvuru recorded the highest digitisation rate at 65.50 per cent, followed by Mylavaram at 59.46 per cent and Nandigama at 56.04 per cent. The Collector emphasised that Booth Level Officers and other officials should carry out duties impartially and in accordance with Election Commission guidelines to ensure successful completion of the revision process.

## YSRCP Raises Alarm Over Alleged Medicine Scam at GGH

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau



The YSRCP NTR District Doctors Wing has issued a seven-day ultimatum to Government General Hospital (GGH), Vijayawada, demanding immediate action over allegations of organised theft and illegal diversion of life-saving medicines.

A delegation led by Doctors Wing chairman Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav submitted a representation on July 5 to Administrative Officer Dr. Vani Sri in the absence of the Hospital Superintendent. The move follows media reports alleging a corrupt nexus involved

in siphoning off high-value critical care medicines, including albumin injections, intended for poor patients.

The delegation also raised concerns over alleged fraudulent practices in which medicines were shown as administered to deceased patients to conceal inventory discrepancies.

Members of the delegation

## Stella College Holds Workshop on Income Tax and GST Filing

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau



The Department of Commerce at Stella College organised a two-day workshop on Income Tax and GST Returns to equip students with practical knowledge on taxation and return filing procedures.

The workshop was inaugurated by Principal Dr. Sister Inasamma and Correspondent Dr. Sister Lena Quadros. Chartered Accountant Jayanth Upaluru, Chairman of ICAI Vijayawada, Vemuri Veera Pawan, Secretary of ICAI, and Char-

tered Accountant Rajesh attended as chief guests and resource persons.

During the sessions, the experts explained concepts related to income tax, tax payments, benefits of timely filing, tax-saving opportunities and preparation of tax plans. They em-

phasised that Income Tax Returns should be carefully reviewed by a Chartered Accountant before submission to ensure compliance and accuracy.

Commerce Department Head Poojitha said the workshop would provide participants with comprehensive information on GST filing and income tax procedures. Around 80 Commerce students attended the programme along with faculty members from the Commerce Department, MBA and BBA streams, making the event an interactive learning experience.

## No Tolerance for Delay in Grievance Redressal, Warns JC

Machilipatnam, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Krishna Joint Collector M. Naveen has warned officials that delays in resolving public grievances will not be tolerated and directed all departments to dispose of complaints within stipulated timelines while maintaining quality in redressal.

Chairing the Meekosam Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme at the Collectorate on Monday, Naveen, along with in-charge DRO P. Pothuraju, KRRC SDDC Neela-

kanteswara Reddy, MEPMA PD Saibabu and DSP Srinivasa Rao, received petitions from the public.

The Joint Collector expressed concern over the growing number of pending complaints, attributing the situation to irregular PGRS reviews. He instructed officials to examine applications listed under the 'Yet-to-View' category every weekend and assign them promptly for disposal.

Naveen noted that departments such as Panchayat Raj, Municipal Administration, Ru-

ral Water Supply, Roads and Buildings, and Survey and Settlement had significant backlogs. He stressed that departments should focus not only on reducing pendency but also on ensuring quality resolution of grievances.

Among the petitions received were requests for installation of streetlights for fishermen in Koduru mandal and intervention in a property dispute submitted by a resident of Ghantasala mandal. Senior district officials from various departments attended the programme.

## SFI Demands Release of Fee Reimbursement Dues

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau



The Students' Federation of India (SFI) staged a protest in front of the NTR District Collectorate on Monday, demanding immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues, withdrawal of the FRS policy and enhancement of mess charges for welfare hostel students.

Addressing the protesters, SFI NTR district secretary C.H. Venkateswara Rao alleged that successive governments had failed to clear fee reimbursement arrears, causing uncertainty among stu-

dents pursuing higher education. He said students in universities, colleges and private educational institutions were facing difficulties, with some institutions allegedly denying access to classes and examinations due to unpaid fees.

Venkateswara Rao also demanded that monthly mess

charges for welfare hostel students be increased to 3,000, citing rising prices and inadequate food expenditure allocations.

Criticising the proposed FRS policy, he alleged that it was intended to reduce the number of beneficiaries eligible for scholarships and fee reimbursement schemes. Following the protest, SFI leaders submitted a memorandum outlining their demands to the District Collector.

District leaders T. Pranith, Shaikh Kaju, Narasimha Rao, Suresh and Shanmukh, along with students, participated in the demonstration.



assistance with filling forms and completing the online process. Chief City Planner K. Sanjay Ratnakumar, supervisors, BLOs and other staff accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

## NTR District to Receive Public Grievances Through PGRS

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau



NTR District Collector G. Lakshmisha has announced that petitions from the public will be received on Monday, July 6, through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) under the Meekosam initiative.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Collector said the programme is being conducted in accordance with government directives to provide a citizen-friendly platform for addressing public grievances. Applications will be accepted at the Sri Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall in the Collectorate as well as at divisional, municipal and mandal headquarters, where concerned officials will be available to in-

teract with the public and receive representations.

Lakshmisha urged residents to make use of the opportunity to bring their issues to the attention of the administration. He also informed that applicants can register their petitions online through the Meekosam portal and track the status of their applications. Citizens can obtain information on registered grievances and related details by calling the toll-free helpline number 1100.

## Buddha Prasad Felicitates 'Maha Purushudu Mandal' Theatre Artists

Avanigadda, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Avanigadda MLA Mandal Buddha Prasad lauded the artists of the play Maha Purushudu Mandal, stating that each performer brought their character to life through outstanding acting. Speaking at a felicitation programme held at his office in Avanigadda on Monday, the MLA honoured Tadepalli Aravinda Arts organiser Gangotri Sai, who portrayed Mandal Venkata Krishna Rao and directed the production, along with members of the theatre troupe. Lighting, setting, sound and digital techni-

cians associated with the play were also felicitated. Constituency youth leader Mandal Venkatram participated in the programme. Buddha Prasad said the artists had been winning the appreciation of audiences with their exceptional performances in every show. He noted that the actors' ability to evoke deep emotions and keep audiences engaged for nearly two hours reflected their talent and dedication to theatre.

He appreciated the collective efforts of the cast and technical team in making the production a memorable experience for spectators.

## APCRDA Makes Annuity Payment Details Available Online

Amaravati, July 6 | TPN Bureau



The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has made annual annuity payment details accessible through its official website and Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) unit offices to facilitate farmers who contributed land for the construction of Amaravati.

According to APCRDA, the initiative aims to ensure transparency in annuity payments by enabling farmers to check the status of payments, pending cases and reasons for non-credit through the official portal. Payment details have also been displayed at Competent Authority offices in capital region villages, while help desks have been established at unit offices to address farmers' queries.

A special help desk has also been set up at the APCRDA

headquarters in Rayapudi to resolve NPCI and bank linkage issues. Officials said several farmers had already completed the NPCI linkage process through the facility.

The authority noted that annuity payments are credited directly to bank accounts and advised farmers with inactive bank accounts or improper NPCI linkage to approach their banks immediately. APCRDA has also introduced a QR code system enabling farmers to conveniently verify payment status and account details online from their homes.

## Amaravati Championship 2026 to Begin on July 15

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The Amaravati Championship-2026 will be conducted from July 15 to August 26 under the aegis of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) as part of National Sports Day celebrations commemorating the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. NTR District Collector G. Lakshmisha announced on Monday.

Unveiling the championship posters at the Sri Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall in the Collectorate, Lakshmisha said competitions would be organised at constituency, district and state levels in 12 disciplines, including archery, athletics, bad-

minton, boxing, basketball, chess, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho, weightlifting, volleyball and yoga. The championship is open to participants in the Under-17 and Under-23 categories. Winners from across the state will receive total cash prizes worth 91.90 lakh.

The Collector urged sports persons to make use of the opportunity to showcase their talent, stating that the championship would help identify and encourage promising athletes from both rural and urban areas. DRO M. Lakshminarasimham, ZP CEO J. Aruna, DSDVO K. Koteswara Rao and District Youth Welfare Officer Kolleti Ramesh attended the programme.

## NTR District Sets Up IGNITE Help Centre

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector G. Lakshmisha on Monday inaugurated a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) help centre at the IGNITE Cell in the Collectorate premises to create awareness and assist voters in the ongoing electoral roll revision process. The Collector said the facility has been established to provide guidance on the significance of the SIR exercise, verification of details in the 2002 voter list, proper filling of enumeration forms, submission of forms to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and the digitisation process.

Lakshmisha urged voters to make

full use of the assistance centre to complete the process without any inconvenience. He said officials at the centre would offer necessary support and clarifications to ensure that eligible voters are able to participate effectively in the revision exercise.

Emphasising the importance of public participation, the Collector stated that the initiative aims to facilitate the preparation of an error-free electoral roll through extensive citizen involvement and awareness. The district administration is undertaking the exercise on a large scale to ensure accuracy and transparency in voter records.

## Collector S. Venkateshwar Hands Over CMRF Cheques to MLA Koneti Adimulam

**Tirupati, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

District Collector S. Venkateshwar handed over the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques to Satyavedu MLA Koneti Adimulam at the collectorate on Monday. These financial relief cheques were officially sanctioned to provide medical and emergency assistance to the underprivileged beneficiaries residing across the Satyavedu constituency. The handed-over funds aim to support families facing severe financial hardships due to unexpected health expenses.



## Amaravati Championship-2026 Posters Launched

**District Collector S. Venkateswar**

**Tirupati, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

Tirupati District Collector S. Venkateswar and District Sports Development Officer Shashidhara grandly unveiled the posters for "Amaravati Championship-2026." The tournament commemorates National Sports Day on August 29, honoring hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. Organized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh, the championship features under-17 and under-23 categories for boys and girls. Competitions span 12 disciplines, including athletics, archery, badminton, basketball, boxing, chess, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball, weightlifting, and yoga. These events will occur at constituency, district, and state levels from July 15 to August 26, culminating on August 29. Participating athletes will receive meals and free road transport corporation bus facilities. Shashidhara urged interested sportspersons to register using the Kreedaa application.



## SIR Program for Preparation of Transparent Voter List : Voter Registration Officer Sharada Devi

**Tirupati, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

Voter Registration Officer Sharada Devi stated that the Special Voter Amendment (SIR) program is being conducted to prepare a transparent voter list. On Monday, she inspected the process at the field level in S.T.V Nagar, S.G.S. college area, Auto Nagar, Mutyala Reddy Palli, 12 and 13 Ward Secretariats, and other surrounding areas. During her inspection, she went from house to house, met local residents, and inquired whether they had received the enumeration forms. Sharada Devi highlighted that this type of comprehensive special voter amendment is taking place for the first time since 2002. She urged the public to extend full cooperation to the SIR process being carried out under the leadership of the Election Commission. Voters were strongly advised to fill out their given forms completely and submit them to the concerned staff as soon as possible. Furthermore, she directed the field officials to conduct the entire process transparently and in strict accordance with the rules to ensure that every eligible person is successfully registered.



## PD Act Invoked Against Habitual Criminals in Tirumala: SP Subbaraidu

**Tirupati, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

Tirupati District Police have invoked the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against habitual criminals belonging to the Gogula family for repeatedly disturbing peace, terrorizing devotees, and attacking security personnel at the Tirumala shrine. The strict action was initiated following orders from District Collector Venkateswar after the accused failed to reform under ordinary laws. Gogula Kotaiah and Gogula Srinivasulu were arrested under the PD Act and shifted from Srikalahasti Sub Jail to Kadapa Central Jail. Another accused, Gogula Srikanth, is currently absconding, and a special search operation is underway to arrest him. Investigations revealed that these individuals, along with family head Gogula Nagesh, were involved in illegal hawking, extorting money from devotees, price gouging, and threatening fellow traders. To evade arrest, the accused frequently resorted to self-harm with blades and hit their heads against walls to terrorize on-duty personnel. Over the last two years, multiple cases including attempt to murder, theft, and assault were registered against them across Tirumala One Town, Two Town, Renigunta, and Yerpedu police stations.

Tirupati District SP L. Subbaraidu stated that the primary responsibility of the police is to protect the safety of lakhs of visiting devotees and the sanctity of the world-famous pilgrimage site. He warned that anyone taking the law into their own hands or threatening police personnel would face ruthless legal action, confirming that the PD Act will also be implemented against the absconding accused soon.

## Cleanliness Along with Devotion

**- Swarnamukhi Cleaning in Srikalahasti**

**Srikalahasti, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

As part of the Swarnamukhi movement, a wide-ranging cleaning program was organized in the surrounding areas of the Swarnamukhi river on Monday under the auspices of the Srikalahasti Swamy Temple. The wild plants and thorny bushes growing on the banks of the river were removed. Plastic waste, garbage and other waste were collected and the surroundings were made clean. Devotees and locals were made aware of environmental protection and river cleanliness. Speaking on the occasion, temple executive officer B.K. Venkatesulu said that keeping the Swarnamukhi river clean is everyone's social responsibility and everyone should actively participate in environmental protection. The event was attended by temple chairman Kotte Sai Prasad, BJP state vice president Kola Anand, temple board member Kola Visalakshi, special invitee Shailaja, temple officials, staff and local people.



## Lepakshi Handicrafts Expo 2026 Preparations Reviewed Ahead of Deputy CM Visit

**Vijayawada, July 06 | TPN Bureau**

Preparations for the Lepakshi Handicrafts Mahotsav - Handicrafts Expo 2026, scheduled to be held on Tuesday at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kalav edika in Vijayawada, have been intensified ahead of the visit of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad, Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Skill Development Corporation, Jana Sena Party PAC member, and State Jointing Committee member, personally inspected the arrangements and directed officials to ensure flawless execution of the event. Accompanied by Lepakshi Managing Director Viswa, ACP Manasa, and officials from various departments, Hariprasad reviewed the main stage, VIP gallery, handicrafts exhibition stalls, security measures, parking facilities, media gallery, visitor amenities, entry and exit routes, electricity, drinking water, and sanitation. He instructed officials to maintain the highest standards in organizing the event and ensure seamless coordination among all departments. During a review meeting, Hariprasad stressed the importance of providing a smooth experience for dignitaries, artisans, visitors, and media representatives. He also called for effective traffic management, robust security arrangements, and efficient venue operations in view of the Deputy Chief Minister's participation. Highlighting the significance of Lepakshi, Hariprasad said the organization represents Andhra Pradesh's rich handicrafts heritage, culture, and the creativity of thousands of artisans. He stated that the government's objective is to transform Lepakshi into a globally recognised brand by expanding market access through e-commerce platforms and promoting traditional crafts internationally. He added that under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and the initiative of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, the state government is giving priority to artisan welfare, market expansion, skill development, and integrating traditional handicrafts with modern technology. Hariprasad expressed confidence that the expo would create new opportunities for artisans by enhancing their national and international visibility while boosting employment and income in the sector.



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## Register System Brings Revolutionary Change in Srikalahasti Temple Revenue

**Srikalahasti, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

The reforms undertaken by the new Executive Officer B.K. Venkateswarlu at the Srikalahasti Swamy temple have yielded excellent results, bringing transparency and checking the broker system. A special register system introduced at the Kanchu Gadapa requires full tracking of the timing and number of devotees entering for Antaralaya darshan to stop ticket revenue leakage. Following this policy, the sale of inner temple tickets increased three times compared to the past. Because tickets are now mandatory for every devotee, additional revenue over the last two days rose drastically compared to previous monthly averages. The system has dealt a blow to the broker network as middlemen must now purchase tickets regularly, shielding devotees from extra charges. Temple employees have also adapted, allowing darshan only after proper ticket purchases. Executive Officer B.K. Venkateswarlu stated that the primary goal is providing hassle-free, transparent darshan, adding that more reforms will follow to stop irregularities and boost temple development.



## Treat Children Like Mothers in Anganwadi Centers: MLA Paritala Sunitha

**Anantapur Rural, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha suggested that Anganwadi workers should treat children like mothers. At the Panchayat Raj Department Guest House in Ramagiri mandal center, she handed over job appointment letters to 14 individuals selected as ayan under the Anantapur ICDS project to fill vacant posts across Atmakur, Anantapur Rural, and Raptadu mandals. Additionally, 172 induction electric stoves were distributed to workers under the Chennethopalali ICDS project. Sunitha emphasized that governments spend heavily on nutritious food for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers, urging staff to work responsibly, taste food before serving, and prevent administrative complaints. Later, Paritala Sunitha conducted a surprise inspection at Kasturiba Girls' School in Ramagiri mandal center. She verified the dining hall, accommodation facilities, and food quality by interacting directly with the students. She instructed the staff to clean dishes regularly and provide timely food as per government rules. Furthermore, she inspected the ongoing construction of additional school buildings being built with SSA funds of Rs 1 crore 25 lakh, ordering officials to complete the work expeditiously for an early opening.



## VPR Amritadhara Mineral Water Plant Launched at Ramatheertham: MLA

**Nellore, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

Kovuru MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy inaugurated the new VPR Amritadhara mineral water plant and the Executive Officer's office at the Sri Ramalingeswara Swamy Devasthanam in Ramatheertham on Monday. The facility was established to assist devotees during the upcoming ten-day Brahmasava festival, which commenced following the Kodimudda program. Prashanthi Reddy stated that Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy sanctioned the plant following a public appeal. She highlighted that the VPR Foundation has established over 200 water plants across Nellore district since 2016, including more than 30 within Kovuru constituency. She also discussed ongoing public services, including mobile eye care bus services in Pothireddypalem. The MLA announced that ZPTC member Lakshmaiah sanctioned Rs 20 lakh from his funds to build roads around the Ramatheertham Koneru, directing a single-layer road to be completed immediately for the festival. She urged the Endowment Department officials, the Executive Officer, and the Trust Board Chairman to coordinate administrative arrangements to ensure smooth management during the festive season.



## Ours is a Farmer Welfare Government - MP Prasada Rao

**Chittoor, July 7 | TPN Bureau**

TDP Polit Bureau member and Chittoor MP Dagumalla Prasada Rao stated that the coalition government is working for the betterment of food givers, proving its sincerity by announcing a subsidy of Rs 4 to support mango farmers. Speaking at a press conference at his office on Monday, Prasada Rao condemned the YSR Congress Party's allegations and described the current administration as a farmer welfare government. He praised Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for recognizing the hardships of mango farmers and demonstrating administrative efficiency. Prasada Rao recalled that Naidu had written a special letter to the central government requesting financial assistance of Rs 281 crore. In response, the Union Agriculture Department constituted a special



expert committee under ICAR to investigate the fall in Totapuri mango prices and find solutions to increase farmer income. He accused YSRCP leaders of completely neglecting mango farmers during their tenure and staging protests now simply to mislead the public. He emphasized that the coalition government continues to lobby the Center to safeguard agricultural welfare. TDP State Secretary Ashok Kumar and AP Mala Finance Corporation Director Babu participated in this press conference.

## Industries Strong Foundation for Udayagiri's Development

**Udayagiri, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana stated that the government is giving top priority to the comprehensive development of Udayagiri, boosting employment and economic growth through new industries. He noted that Rs 1,098.79 crore was allocated for local development over two years, and four approved industries will provide employment to four thousand people. The minister reviewed development works alongside MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, MLC Bida Ravichandra, and District Collector Himanshu Shukla, following a grand welcome by MLA Kakarla Suresh. Narayana inaugurated CC roads built with Rs 1.70 crore and addressed a public meeting at the Dargah Center. He highlighted that under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and youth leader Nara Lokesh, 25 percent of national investments were brought to Andhra Pradesh. He criticized the previous administration for a Rs 10 lakh crore debt, detailing how the coalition government put welfare back on track by reopening Anna Canteens to feed 2.25 lakh poor daily. MP Prabhakar Reddy stated that Udayagiri's progress would accelerate further, while MLA Kakarla Suresh submitted key road development and administrative proposals to the minister Ponguru Narayana.



## Minister Narayana is extremely angry over YSRCP criticism

**Nellore, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana expressed anger over YSRCP leaders criticizing the government's efforts to upgrade state schools to international standards. He insy Schools in Nellore's 14th division on Monday and reviewed facilities with education officials and teachers. Narayana stated that it is ridiculous for the opposition to target modern educational infrastructure when admissions plummeted under the previous regime. He highlighted that public demand has increased immensely, with current classrooms accommodating 120 to 150 students per section instead of the standard 40. Under the guidance of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, construction of 28 additional rooms is progressing alongside 18 activity labs, covering robotics, computers, and sciences. He added that state-of-the-art designs are ready for pre-primary to secondary classes, aiming for completion by next February to house 800 students. Ponguru Narayana, Nandan, and Balaji Rao participated.



## Welfare Schemes for Every Eligible Person in Nellore Rural: Kotamreddy Girdhar Reddy

**Nellore, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

Telugu Desam Party State Spokes person Kotamreddy Girdhar Reddy laid the foundation stone for infrastructure works worth Rs 2 crore 80 lakh at Kothur Rajiv Swagruha Sumavalli Township in the 30th Division of Nellore Rural constituency on Monday. The projects include the construction of a compound wall, pumps, motors, and an ELSR water tank with a capacity of 500 kl. Girdhar Reddy stated that the coalition government has allocated Rs 10 crore specifically for the development of the 30th Division since coming to power. He highlighted that under the blessings of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and the leadership of Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sriidhar Reddy, extensive development works are being executed across Nellore Rural at a total cost of Rs 851 crore. He assured the public that the government will work to solve local issues to the best of its ability, adding that the Nellore Rural MLA office remains constantly accessible to the citizens whenever any problem arises.



## Vijayawada Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple Set for Annual Purification Fete

**Tirupati, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

The traditional temple cleaning ritual, Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam, will be performed at the Vijayawada Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple on Tuesday morning, July 7, on the occasion of its eighth anniversary. The sacred purification ritual is scheduled to commence at 7 am inside the temple premises. During the event, the presence of Sri Venkateswara Swamy, alongside the temple premises, walls, roof, and holy puja materials, will be thoroughly purified with water. A special aromatic mixture containing Namakopu, Srichurnam, Kasturi Turmeric, Pachaku, Gadda Camphor, and Gandham Powder, along with sacred water mixed with saffron, kichiligadda, and other traditional spices, will be sprinkled all over the temple structure. Following the completion of this cleaning process, devotees will be allowed inside for Sarvadarshan. The main Temple Anniversary will be celebrated on July 8, featuring special religious programs from 7:20 am to 1:45 am, including the Ashtottarasatakalahabishekam, Mahashanti Homa, Varshavardhana Homa, Mahapurnahuti, and Maha Snapana rituals.

## Exceptional Response to Way2News Dial Your MLA Program

**Sullurpet, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

The "Dial Your MLA" program organized by Way2News to directly understand and resolve public problems received an exceptional response from citizens. During the live interactive session, Sullurpet MLA Nelavala Vijayasri spoke directly to 69 people over the phone, listened to their grievances patiently, and instructed relevant authorities to initiate steps for a swift resolution. The program generated unprecedented public engagement, leaving more than 300 calls waiting. Citizens brought forward several key regional issues, including a request for the speedy completion of the Kota Poluru road, drainage issues within Naidupeta and Sullurpet municipalities, and requests for improving food quality in government hostels. Callers also requested additional bus facilities between Sullurpet and Tirupati, alongside queries regarding pensions, ration cards, drinking water, roads, electricity, and welfare schemes. Nelavala Vijayasri assured that every single issue would be brought to the attention of department officials to be resolved on a priority basis, reaffirming her aim to remain constantly available to the public.



## Amaravati Championship-2026 Poster Unveiled: District Collector Siri

**Kurnool, July 6 | TPN Bureau**

District Collector A. Siri unveiled the official poster for the upcoming Amaravati Championship-2026 at the Sunayana Auditorium located within the Kurnool Collectorate premises. The unveiling ceremony was conducted alongside various government and sports department officials. Speaking at the event, the District Collector stated that the state government is systematically organizing this championship to promote sportsmanship and encourage a healthy lifestyle among the youth. The tournament features a total of 12 sports disciplines specifically tailored for boys and girls competing within the Under-17 and Under-23 categories. Siri emphasized that the local youth should register on a large scale through the designated platform to take full advantage of this athletic opportunity.



# Editorial

## Golden Family Scheme Needs Transparency

The concept of the Bangaru Kutumbam (Golden Family) scheme is undoubtedly a good one. Any initiative aimed at supporting poor families deserves appreciation. However, the real concern lies in the manner in which the beneficiaries are being selected. The present situation has become difficult to understand and raises several unanswered questions.

When the scheme was launched, the district collectors announced that a certain number of families had been selected as beneficiaries. But there has been no clarity on how these families were identified. What are the criteria? On what basis are they being chosen? These questions remain unanswered.

Are the lists being prepared and submitted by local Telugu Desam Party leaders? Or are the authorities identifying poor families through an official survey and then selecting those who are in extreme poverty? There is no indication that such a systematic process is being followed. Similarly, if the intention is to identify poor families whose children are performing exceptionally well in their studies, there is no clarity on that either.

Such ambiguity creates doubts in the minds of the public and weakens confidence in an otherwise well-intentioned scheme. Welfare programmes become meaningful only when the process of identifying beneficiaries is transparent, fair, and accessible to everyone.

The government should, therefore, issue clear guidelines explaining the eligibility criteria and the procedure for selection. Instead of leaving the process unclear, it should invite applications from families who genuinely require assistance. This would enable the authorities to verify the applicants and identify the real beneficiaries based on objective standards.

A good concept should not lose its credibility because of a lack of transparency. The success of the Bangaru Kutumbam scheme will ultimately depend not only on the assistance it provides but also on the fairness and openness with which deserving families are selected.

Editor

# Did we just experience a world without order?

## The Fragile World Order and India's Resilient Growth Engine



For nearly two centuries, the global landscape relied on a structured—if often heavily dictated—sense of order. From Pax Americana to the oversight of the United Nations and NATO, a centralized network of interventions and sanctions served as the world's geopolitical anchor. However, recent developments in the world order have been unacceptable. The UN and the global community were silenced by a thug.

Recent years have exposed the fragility of this paradigm. The shift toward aggressive tariff policies and the escalation of the unilateral conflict between the United States and Iran have disrupted this historical order. Instead of containment, the world has faced an energy crisis and severe supply chain fractures that have rippled through both developed and developing economies.

During the late 1980s and 1990s, I worked as a journalist in the Middle East for leading dailies and news agencies. At the time, I had many Iranian friends who would often tell me that, regardless of global sanctions, they would never starve because their domestic production and consumption were fully self-reliant. Today, despite extensive conflicts and geopolitical pressure from the US and Israel, Iran manages to stand steady. While everyday life has become incredibly grueling for the average citizen, the

country as a whole has largely absorbed the shock, having grown deeply accustomed to surviving under heavy sanctions.

When we look at India, the Global headwinds and the energy toll did not shook India. Yet, amidst this global turbulence, India's economic narrative is emerging as a masterclass in macroeconomic resilience. As the world navigates the fallout of the West Asia conflict, India's first-quarter growth reports for FY27 demonstrate an economy capable of self-sustaining momentum.

The geopolitical friction in the Gulf has sent shockwaves through international markets, manifesting primarily as elevated energy costs and systemic logistics disruptions. For a global economy still finding its footing, the conflict served as a reminder of how dependent international trade remains on regional stability.

Recognizing these severe external headwinds, the Reserve Bank of India proactively adjusted its economic projections. The central bank revised its FY27 growth forecast down to 6.6% from an earlier estimate of 6.9%, explicitly citing the prolonged Iran-US conflict, high energy costs, and fractured supply lines. The manufacturing sector also felt the pinch, with the HSBC Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) easing to a three-month low of 54.2 in June, down from 55 in May, as ex-



port demand softened under global strain.

Despite these realigned forecasts and international roadblocks, India's domestic economic indicators tell a story of remarkable internal strength. The country ended Q1 of FY27 on a remarkably strong footing, powered by strong domestic consumption and robust fiscal compliance. While global trade disruptions created friction, a massive 34.6% surge in GST revenue from imports (reaching 60,038 crore) heavily supported indirect tax revenues, offsetting minor plateaus in purely domestic trade expansion.

The roadmap for the remainder of FY27 requires cautious optimism. Economists note that while the West Asia conflict has lasted longer than anticipated, minor relief is appearing via

cooling crude oil prices. However, domestic variables like a volatile monsoon outlook mean policy execution must remain agile.

Ultimately, India's ability to chart a steady path forward—with Q1 expansion holding at 6.6% and projected to climb to 6.8% by Q4—proves that the nation is no longer just vulnerable to external shocks. In a world severely lacking a steady geopolitical order, India is proving that strong internal governance, robust digital infrastructure, and a massive domestic market can keep the economic engine revving, no matter the roadblocks outside its borders.

Infographics  
Several high-frequency indicators from June underscore this momentum

Robust Fiscal Collections: Gross Goods and Services

Tax (GST) collections surged by 13.9% year-on-year to 1.95 lakh crore, bringing the total Q1 collection to 6.32 lakh crore (an 8.4% increase from the previous year).

• Surging Consumer Demand: Domestic passenger vehicle sales recorded an impressive 24% growth, showing that consumer discretionary spending remains vibrant.

• Industrial Output & Power: Reflecting high economic activity, power consumption increased by 11.6% to 166.5 billion units.

• Digital Transaction Momentum: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI)—the ultimate barometer of grassroots commerce—saw transaction volumes jump 23% and transaction values climb 20% year-on-year.

# Flip side of RTI Act

## RTI Act Burdening PIOs Amid Rising Misuse Concerns



It has been 20-odd years since the RTI Act, 2005 came into existence. It is, unarguably, one of the most empowering laws for Indians. Millions of people, through this Act, have sought information and got their grievances redressed. Besides unearthing many scams running into crores of rupees, it has also brought accountability and transparency into the system.

There may be fewer instances where information has been withheld for ulterior motives, but in the majority of cases, information requested has been furnished to the petitioners.

As per the Act, in all administrative units or offices, one officer has to be designated as Assistant Public Information Officer (APIO) and another senior officer in the hierarchy would be designated as Public Information Officer (PIO). But the Act doesn't create posts of APIOs and PIOs.

If viewed from the perspective of the Public Information Officer (PIO), who happens to be the most important cog in the wheel of the RTI Act, it is PIOs who are bearing the brunt of the workload and other arising problems in the process of implementation of the Act.

As a result, this Act imposes an additional burden on ministerial staff who, besides discharging their regular duties, have to furnish information requested under the Act.

Petitioners submit RTI requests in many modes—either directly in the office, by post, or even online.

Tracking all these petitions

is increasingly becoming difficult for PIOs and APIOs. Every day, tens of applications are received in every office. In some offices like Revenue, Municipal Administration, Panchayat Raj and Excise departments, petitions come like a torrent.

Petitioners do not wait even for a day and demand information immediately, though a mandatory period of 30 days is prescribed for furnishing information.

Some persistently follow up till they receive the information and even exert pressure on PIOs in one way or another. Furnishing information has been getting delayed due to many reasons such as workload, special programmes being launched by the government from time to time, unearthing documents from bundles lying in the record room, elections and other factors. In fact, all these reasons are beyond the powers of PIOs.

When RTI requests are received by post, disposing of such applications becomes a problem as a majority do not provide any details, including phone numbers. Some petitions are like letters, and even after reading them a few times, it is difficult to conclude what is being asked.

These petitioners, after expiry of 30 days, appeal to the first appellate authority with a day's notice to furnish information.

In a hurry, leaving all administrative work behind, officials begin the information hunt and submit it to the applicant, duly certifying all the documents.



Sometimes PIOs face flak for delays from the appellate authority, and even petitioners hurl abuses at them directly.

Sometimes the information sought runs into a few hundred pages. In a good number of cases, all the employees in the office have to be deployed to unearth old documents, which consumes two to three days or even more.

Untying cloth bundles of files is a laborious and irksome process for tracing documents, especially those over 20 years old. Entering the record room itself is considered punishment, as dust mites irritate the

nose and throat when old records are handled, leading to cough and respiratory problems.

If they approach the commission, the final appellate authority, the PIO has to go to the capital city, wait there throughout the day, bear all travel expenses, and even pay a penalty if imposed.

Some RTI activists who make their livelihood out of this Act go on filing petition after petition till the PIO's spirit is snapped and they surrender. This may be minuscule, but they are holding the system to ransom.

Another difficulty is that, as per the provisions of Section 4(1)(a), land acquisition records should be computerised and connected through a network so that access to such records is facilitated.

Unfortunately, in many states, land records have not been fully computerised, resulting in severe problems in tracing old documents. There are instances where petitioners rush to the commission even without exhausting the forum of the first appellate authority, just to harass PIOs. Unfortunately, in a few cases, the commission has entertained such

petitions. In some other cases, appeals filed during the tenure of earlier PIOs come up for hearing after a change in officers. The incumbent PIO is then forced to attend the commission proceedings, bearing all expenses for no fault of their own. Some file petitions seeking information in a specific format, which is not possible as the Act states that information has to be furnished "as is where is" basis. Others seek personal information, which is barred under the Act, and when refused with reasons, still move to the next forum. Some even threaten PIOs with legal action

if information is delayed. The problem is not with genuine petitioners but with a few activists who seek information with mala fide intentions. Like this, the Act keeps PIOs always on tenterhooks, like a Damocles sword hanging over their heads. With increasing aspirations of people and a growing trust deficit between the public and the government, people are suspecting everything and filing RTI petitions to know the status of every work undertaken by the government. The result is a growing volume of petitions, putting pressure on precious human resources.



## Shah Announces Cooperative Life Insurer

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Monday announced that the Centre will soon establish a cooperative life insurance company and launch a utility aggregator cooperative modelled on Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform. The initiatives were unveiled during the fifth Foundation Day celebrations of the Ministry of Co-operation in New Delhi.

Speaking at the event, Shah said the proposed cooperative life insurance company would build on the success of the IFFCO-Tokio model and significantly strengthen the role of cooperatives in the insurance sector. He added that the government also plans to introduce a utility aggregator cooperative, expanding the cooperative movement into new service sectors while creating greater economic opportunities for members.

Highlighting the achievements of the cooperative sector, Shah said cooperatives currently account for nearly 20 per cent of agricultural credit, 35 per cent of fertiliser distribution, 21 per cent of sugar production and 35 per cent of the country's milk production. He said these figures reflect the growing importance of cooperatives in India's rural economy.



## Monsoon Landslides Disrupt Mumbai-Pune Rail and Road Connectivity

Heavy monsoon rains triggered multiple landslides in Maharashtra on Monday, severely disrupting road and rail connectivity between Mumbai and Pune. The downpour led to the suspension of several train services, closure of key highways and large-scale traffic congestion, prompting authorities to launch restoration efforts and issue weather warnings.

According to Central Railway, landslides occurred in the Karjat-Lonavala ghat section after continuous rainfall caused boulders and debris to fall onto railway tracks. As a result, at least 16 trains were cancelled, while several long-distance services were diverted, short-terminated or rescheduled. Railway officials advised passengers to check the latest train status before starting their journeys. Restoration work is underway despite persistent rainfall.

The heavy rain also affected road transport. A major landslide near the Mumbai-Pune Expressway's "Missing Link" tunnel temporarily halted traffic, while the old Mumbai-Pune Highway was also closed as a precaution. Although movement on parts of the expressway was later restored, officials urged motorists to avoid un-

ecessary travel until weather conditions improve.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the situation and directed officials from Central and Western Railways to work together to restore normal services as quickly as possible. Emergency teams have been deployed to clear debris, inspect tracks and ensure passenger safety. Authorities said restoration efforts remain challenging because heavy rainfall is expected to continue.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Mumbai and surrounding regions, warning of extremely heavy rainfall, strong winds and the possibility of additional landslides in vulnerable areas. Residents have been advised to stay indoors unless necessary and follow official advisories.

The latest disruption highlights the challenges posed by the monsoon season in Maharashtra, particularly along the busy Mumbai-Pune transport corridor. With restoration work continuing and weather conditions remaining unfavourable, authorities are closely monitoring the situation to minimise further disruption and ensure the safety of commuters.

## PM Modi's Indonesia Visit to Deepen Strategic Partnership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Indonesia is expected to give a major boost to defence cooperation, digital partnerships and economic ties between the two countries, according to Indonesia's Ambassador to India, Ina Hagniningtyas Krishnamurthi. The visit is seen as an important step in strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership between New Delhi and Jakarta.

The ambassador said both nations are working to deepen collaboration in key sectors, including defence manufacturing, maritime security, digital technology and trade. Several agreements are expected to be announced during the visit, reflecting the growing strategic importance of India-Indonesia relations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Defence cooperation is likely to be one of the main highlights of the visit. The two countries are exploring opportunities to expand joint military exercises, strengthen naval cooperation and increase collaboration in defence production. Maritime security is also expected to feature prominently, given the strategic location of both countries



along vital sea routes. Digital technology is another area where stronger cooperation is anticipated. Discussions are expected to focus on digital public infrastructure, fintech, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. Indonesia has shown interest in India's successful digital initiatives, including its digital payment ecosystem and public digital platforms, which could serve as models for future collaboration.

Trade and investment are also expected to receive renewed attention. Both countries aim to increase bilateral trade and encourage greater investments in sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, manufacturing and critical minerals. Officials believe

stronger economic ties will complement the expanding strategic partnership.

The visit also highlights the close cultural and historical links shared by India and Indonesia. The ambassador noted that cooperation in education, tourism and people-to-people exchanges will continue to strengthen the relationship. Prime Minister Modi's visit is expected to reaffirm India's commitment to enhancing ties with Southeast Asia under its Act East Policy. As both nations seek to play a greater role in ensuring peace, stability and economic growth in the Indo-Pacific, the visit is likely to pave the way for new initiatives and long-term collaboration across multiple sectors.

## BJP, JD(S) Seek Probe into Voter Roll Revision Process

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ally Janata Dal (Secular) have demanded an inquiry into alleged irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka, accusing election officials of violating the Election Commission's guidelines. A delegation of NDA leaders submitted a formal complaint to Karnataka's Chief Electoral Officer, seeking immediate action.

The complaint, signed by Union ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy, Pralhad Joshi and Shobha Karandlaje, along with senior BJP leaders R. Ashoka, R. Ashwath Narayan and former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda, alleged that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were not conducting the mandatory door-to-door verification of voters. Instead, they claimed enumeration forms were being filled at community halls, mosques and even the homes of BLOs, which they said violated Election Commission norms.

The BJP and JD(S) also alleged that WhatsApp groups had been created to encourage voters to visit these locations for enrolment, raising concerns over the transparency and neutrality of



the revision exercise. The opposition leaders urged the Election Commission to investigate the matter, claiming that evidence of the alleged violations had already surfaced on social media and in sections of the media.

Responding to the allegations, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar rejected the accusations, asserting that the state government had no role in conducting the voter list revision. He said the Special Intensive Revision was being carried out entirely under the supervision of the Election Commission and that Booth Level Officers were following the poll body's instructions.

Taking a swipe at the BJP, Shivakumar described the com-

plaint as politically motivated and claimed the opposition was anxious because the Congress government was actively creating awareness about the voter verification exercise. He maintained that his government would not interfere in the Election Commission's work.

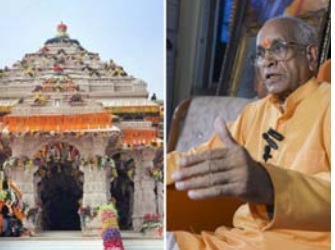
The dispute has intensified political tensions in Karnataka ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections. While the BJP and JD(S) continue to press for an independent inquiry into the alleged procedural lapses, the Congress government insists the revision process is being conducted fairly and transparently under the Election Commission's supervision.

## Champat Rai Steps Down as Ram Temple Trust Gen' Secretary

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has accepted the resignation of its General Secretary, Champat Rai, amid the ongoing investigation into the alleged theft of donations collected at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The decision was taken during a crucial meeting of the Trust on Monday, with trustees also appointing senior member Bajrang Bagra as the new General Secretary.

Champat Rai had stepped down from his post on June 27, citing moral responsibility after allegations surfaced regarding the alleged embezzlement of devotees' donations. Trustee Anil Mishra had also resigned around the same time. Under the Trust's by-laws, however, the acceptance of their resignations only relieves them of their official responsibilities. They continue to remain life members of the Trust.

The resignations come amid a widening probe into the alleged



misuse of temple donations. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been examining the handling of cash offerings and the system used to count and record donations received from devotees. Several people have already been arrested in connection with the case, and investigators are looking into possible lapses in supervision and financial management.

Ahead of the Trust meeting, treasurer Govind Dev Giri clarified that he had no role in the day-to-day counting of donations and maintained that all audit records were secure. He said local trustees and authorised person-

nel were responsible for managing the counting process and supported a thorough investigation into the allegations.

The controversy has sparked political debate, with Opposition parties demanding greater transparency and accountability in the management of the temple's finances. Trust president Nitrya Gopal Das appealed against politicising the issue and expressed confidence that the investigation would establish the facts while preserving the sanctity of the Ram Temple.

The Trust's decision marks a significant step in addressing the controversy as the investigation continues. While new leadership has been put in place to oversee the Trust's day-to-day affairs, authorities remain focused on completing the probe into the alleged financial irregularities and ensuring that donations made by millions of devotees are handled with complete transparency and accountability.



## Modi Steps In After Kejriwal's 'Who Are You?' Jibe at BJP Chief

A political row intensified on Monday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi publicly praised BJP president Nitin Nabin, responding to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's "Who are you?" remark aimed at the party leader. The exchange has triggered fresh war of words between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The controversy began after Kejriwal questioned Nitin Nabin's identity while reacting to his criticism over allegations related to the Ram Temple. The AAP leader's remark drew sharp reactions from BJP leaders, who accused him of disrespecting the party's newly elected national president.

Stepping into the debate, Prime Minister Modi shared posts on social media highlighting Nabin's humble background and student life in Delhi. The posts described how Nabin lived with friends, travelled by public buses and led a simple lifestyle while pursuing his education. Praising the BJP chief, Modi said his simplicity, openness and commitment were a matter of pride for every BJP worker. Kejriwal responded by thanking the Prime Minister

for introducing Nabin to the public but shifted the focus back to his allegations regarding the Ram Temple. He questioned why those allegedly involved in irregularities related to temple funds and land matters had not been punished, reiterating his demand for action against those responsible. The BJP launched a strong counter-attack, with several leaders accusing Kejriwal of arrogance and attempting to divert attention from the issue. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta criticised the AAP leader for his "Who are you?" remark, while Delhi minister Parvesh Verma also mocked Kejriwal in a social media response, escalating the political confrontation.

The latest exchange has further sharpened political tensions between the BJP and AAP ahead of upcoming electoral battles. While the BJP has projected Nitin Nabin as a grassroots leader known for his simplicity and organisational work, the AAP continues to press its allegations regarding the Ram Temple issue. The verbal clash has once again brought political rhetoric to the forefront, with both parties showing no signs of backing down.



## West Bengal Rajya Sabha Bypolls Scheduled for July 24

The Election Commission has announced by-elections for three Rajya Sabha seats from West Bengal, paving the way for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to strengthen its position in the Upper House. Polling for the vacant seats will be held on July 24, with counting scheduled on the same day.

The vacancies arose after former Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Sushmita Dev and Prakash Chik Baraik resigned from the Rajya Sabha and quit the party in June amid political developments following the West Bengal Assembly elections. Ray and Baraik's terms were due to end in August 2029, while Dev's tenure was scheduled to continue until April 2030.

As per the Election Commission's schedule, nominations will be filed between July 7 and July 14, scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on July 15, and candidates can withdraw their nominations until July 17. Voting, if required, will be conducted in the West Bengal Assembly on July 24 from 9 am to 4 pm, followed by counting from 5 pm onwards.

Rajya Sabha members are elected by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)

through the system of proportional representation using a single transferable vote. With the 294-member West Bengal Assembly now having a changed political composition after the recent state elections, the BJP is expected to comfortably secure all three seats if the election is uncontested.

The expected victory would increase the BJP's strength in the Rajya Sabha from 114 to 117 members, while the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would reach 155 seats in the 245-member House. Although the alliance would still remain short of the two-thirds majority required for passing constitutional amendment bills, the gain would significantly improve its legislative position in the Upper House.

The development is politically significant as the Centre has indicated its intention to pursue major constitutional reforms, including advancing the implementation of women's reservation and pushing its "One Nation, One Election" proposal. A stronger presence in the Rajya Sabha is expected to aid the government in building support for such key legislative initiatives in the coming months.



## NIA Alleges Hafiz Saeed Orchestrated Pahalgam Terror Attack

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary chargesheet in the Pahalgam terror attack case, naming Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed as an accused. The chargesheet, submitted before the NIA Special Court in Jammu, alleges that Saeed masterminded the cross-border conspiracy behind the at-

tack and has been charged both in his individual capacity and as the chief of the banned LeT and its proxy outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF).

According to the NIA, Hafiz Saeed has been booked under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

(UAPA). The agency has accused him of waging war against India, planning the terror conspiracy from Pakistan and directing activities through the TRF, which investigators say acted as a front for the LeT.

The Pahalgam terror attack, which took place on April 22, claimed the lives of 25 tourists and a local resident, making it

one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years. The incident triggered nationwide outrage and led to an intensified counter-terrorism response by Indian security agencies.

Officials said the latest chargesheet strengthens the prosecution's case by formally linking the attack to Pakistan-based terror leadership. The

NIA maintains that the assault was part of a larger cross-border conspiracy aimed at destabilising peace in Jammu and Kashmir. The agency has indicated that further investigations are continuing to identify additional conspirators and gather more evidence related to the planning, financing and execution of the attack.



## PoK Protest Leader Seeks Opening of LoC for Humanitarian Relief

Amid escalating unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) leader Sardar Aman Khan has appealed to India for humanitarian assistance, alleging that the Pakistani administration has imposed an economic blockade that has left residents facing severe shortages of food, medicines and other essential supplies. His appeal comes as protests against Islamabad's policies continue to intensify across the region.

Addressing a large gathering at Rawalakot's Eidgah Ground, Khan urged New Delhi to extend humanitarian support and called for the Line of Control (LoC) to be opened for civilians if conditions worsen. In a video widely shared on social media, he said the people of PoK urgently needed India's help, claiming that security forces had tightened restrictions following a crackdown on demonstrators. Meanwhile, NDTV reported that it could not independently verify the authenticity of the video.

During his speech, Khan asked the crowd whether they should march towards the LoC, prompting loud chants in support from those gathered. He warned that if the authorities continued responding to peaceful demands with force, the movement could take a different course. The JAAC leader also accused Islamabad of worsening the humanitarian situation through its actions against

protesters.

The protests in PoK have grown significantly over the past month, evolving from demonstrations over inflation, rising electricity costs and shortages of subsidised wheat into a broader movement demanding political reforms and greater autonomy. Last week, thousands of protesters reportedly raised slogans such as "PoK is not part of Pakistan" and "We want freedom," reflecting growing public dissatisfaction with Islamabad's administration of the region. Tensions increased further after Pakistani authorities declared the JAAC a terrorist organisation in June and launched a crackdown on its leadership. According to protest organisers, several leaders were arrested, while clashes between security forces and demonstrators resulted in casualties. The JAAC has accused police of using excessive force to suppress peaceful protests, allegations that have further fuelled public anger.

The ongoing unrest has drawn widespread attention as analysts describe it as one of the most serious challenges to Pakistan's control over the region in recent years. While the protesters continue to demand political rights, economic relief and administrative reforms, Khan's appeal for humanitarian assistance from India has added a new dimension to the crisis, highlighting concerns over the welfare of civilians caught in the prolonged confrontation.



## Russian Missile Strike on Kyiv Kills Eight Ahead of NATO Summit

At least eight people were killed and dozens injured after Russia launched a fresh wave of ballistic missile attacks on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, just a day before the NATO summit in Turkey. The strike, the second major assault on the city in less than a week, caused widespread destruction to residential buildings and infrastructure while rescue teams searched for survivors trapped under debris.

According to Ukrainian authorities, multiple explosions were heard across Kyiv as air raid sirens sounded early Monday morning. Fires broke out in several neighbourhoods after missiles struck residential areas, while emergency workers rushed to evacuate civilians and extinguish the flames. Officials said dozens of people were wounded, and the death toll could rise as rescue operations continued.

The latest attack comes at a crucial diplomatic moment, with US President Donald Trump expected to hold talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the NATO summit. Trump is also scheduled to speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin, as international efforts to revive peace negotiations continue despite the escalating conflict.

Ukraine said its air defence systems intercepted several incoming drones and missiles, but some ballistic missiles managed to evade defences and hit their targets. The attacks damaged apartment buildings,

public infrastructure and vehicles, leaving several parts of the capital without power. Authorities urged residents to remain in shelters as the threat of further strikes remained high.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in eastern Ukraine, particularly around the strategic town of Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk region. While Russia has claimed advances in the area, Ukrainian officials insist their forces continue to defend the town and have rejected Moscow's claims of full control. The battlefield remains one of the war's most fiercely contested fronts.

The renewed missile barrage underscores the continuing intensity of the conflict, now well into its fifth year. Military analysts believe Russia is attempting to increase pressure on Ukraine ahead of key diplomatic meetings, while Kyiv is urging its Western allies to provide additional air defence systems and military assistance.

The NATO summit is expected to focus heavily on the war in Ukraine, regional security and future military support for Kyiv. Zelensky is likely to press alliance members for stronger commitments, while Trump's meetings with both Zelensky and Putin will be closely watched for any signs of progress toward reducing tensions. Despite renewed diplomatic efforts, the latest attack highlights the fragile security situation and the challenges facing any future peace initiative.

## Iran Thanks India for Solidarity at Ayatollah Khamenei's State Funeral

Iran has expressed heartfelt gratitude to India for participating in the state funeral of its late Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, describing the gesture as a symbol of the long-standing friendship and mutual respect shared by the two nations. The message was issued by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in India through a statement on social media following the funeral ceremonies held in Tehran.

A high-level Indian delegation represented the country at the funeral. The delegation included Bihar Governor Lt Gen (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain and Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita. Several prominent Indian political and religious leaders, including Congress leader Salman Khurshid, People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti, and representatives of Sikh, Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities, also attended the ceremonies to pay their respects.

In its statement, the Iranian Embassy thanked the Government and people of India, particularly the official delegation, for standing with Iran during a period of national mourning. It said the presence



of Indian leaders, parliamentarians, scholars, intellectuals and religious representatives reflected the deep historical, cultural and human ties between the two countries.

The embassy described India's participation as a "powerful expression of mutual respect and sincere solidarity." It added that the people of Iran would never forget India's gesture of friendship, compassion and respect, calling it a valuable foundation for further strengthening bilateral relations. The embassy also conveyed its appreciation to all Indians who expressed sympathy and support following Khamenei's death.

Meanwhile, Tehran witnessed massive crowds as the funeral procession for Ayatollah Khamenei moved through the capital. According to Iranian state media, the proces-

sion is expected to be one of the largest public gatherings in the country's modern history. Thousands of mourners lined the streets, waving flags and paying their final respects as the flag-draped coffin was carried through the city.

Authorities imposed extensive security arrangements and appealed to people to remain calm and avoid overcrowding along the route. The procession is scheduled to travel across Tehran before Khamenei's burial at the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad, his birthplace. The funeral ceremonies have become a significant national event, drawing widespread public participation and international attention while highlighting the diplomatic outreach shown by countries, including India, during Iran's time of grief.

## Khamenei's Funeral Draws Huge Crowds Amid Calls for Revenge

Massive crowds gathered in Tehran for the funeral of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, where grief over his death was accompanied by strong anti-US and anti-Israel sentiments. Thousands of mourners waved Iranian and red flags, carried portraits of Khamenei, and chanted slogans calling for revenge against those they blamed for his killing.

One of the most striking moments of the gathering drew widespread attention as analysts describe it as one of the most serious challenges to Pakistan's control over the region in recent years. While the protesters continue to demand political rights, economic relief and administrative reforms, Khan's appeal for humanitarian assistance from India has added a new dimension to the crisis, highlighting concerns over the welfare of civilians caught in the prolonged confrontation.

Addressing the gathering made remarks calling for the death of US President Donald Trump, drawing loud cheers from the crowd. Protesters also displayed banners and placards with messages targeting Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reflecting widespread anger following Khamenei's assassination earlier this year.

The funeral, held at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Grand Mosque, attracted hundreds of thousands of mourners and was one of the largest public gatherings in Iran in recent years. Many participants had arrived before dawn, dressed in black and carrying flags symbolising mourning and revenge. Red flags, traditionally associated



with calls for justice in Shia Islam, were prominently displayed throughout the ceremony.

The event was not only a religious ceremony but also a political demonstration of unity and defiance. Senior Iranian leaders, military commanders and religious figures attended the funeral, while crowds repeatedly shouted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." The emotional atmosphere reflected continuing tensions between Iran, the United States and Israel after the conflict that claimed Khamenei's life.

Despite the hostile slogans, diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran remain under discussion, although negotiations have been delayed during the funeral pe-

riod. The ceremonies are expected to continue with processions across several Iranian cities before Khamenei is laid to rest in Mashhad, one of the country's holiest cities.

The funeral has drawn global attention, not only because of the enormous turnout but also due to the open calls for vengeance voiced by some mourners. Analysts believe the event highlights the deep anger among Khamenei's supporters and underscores the fragile state of relations in the Middle East following months of conflict. The procession has become a powerful symbol of both national mourning and political resistance, with Iran using the occasion to project unity while tensions with the US and Israel remain high.

## Indian Embassy Issues Fresh Thailand Travel Advisory

The Indian Embassy in Bangkok has issued a fresh travel advisory for Indian citizens visiting Thailand following changes to the country's visa and immigration rules. The advisory aims to help travellers avoid delays or denial of entry by ensuring they carry all required documents and meet the latest entry requirements before departure.

The advisory comes after Thailand ended its visa-free entry scheme for Indian passport holders, making it essential for travellers to obtain the appropriate visa based on the purpose of their visit. The embassy has urged visitors to check all travel documents carefully and comply with Thai immigration regulations to ensure a smooth journey.

According to the embassy, travellers must carry a passport with at least six months' validity from the date of arrival. They should also have confirmed return or onward tickets, hotel reservations, and a clear travel itinerary. In addition, all passengers are required to complete the Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC) online within 72 hours



before arriving in the country. The digital form generates a QR code that may be requested during immigration checks.

The embassy has also highlighted financial requirements for tourists. Those travelling under Visa on Arrival (VOA) or similar tourist provisions should carry at least 20,000 Thai Baht (around 58,000) in cash per traveller, as immigration officials may ask visitors to show proof of sufficient funds before granting entry. Officials have advised passengers to keep all required documents readily accessible while passing through immigration counters.

The advisory further cautions travellers against entering Thailand on a tourist visa or Visa on Arrival if they in-

tend to work in the country. Individuals with confirmed job offers should obtain the appropriate employment visa before travelling, as using a tourist visa for employment may violate Thai immigration laws. Transit passengers have also been advised to carry all necessary documents, including visas and onward travel tickets required for their final destination.

The embassy stressed that every traveller, even those travelling in groups or with family, should carry their own passport, visa and supporting documents. Immigration authorities may conduct individual checks, and incomplete documentation could lead to delays or refusal of entry.

Thailand remains one of the most popular overseas destinations for Indian tourists, attracting millions of visitors every year. The latest advisory is intended to ensure that Indian travellers are fully prepared for the updated immigration procedures and can enjoy a hassle-free visit by complying with all entry requirements before leaving for Thailand.



## Trump Renews Feud with Meloni Ahead of NATO Summit

US President Donald Trump has reignited his public feud with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni by sharing a provocative social media post just days before the NATO summit, where both leaders are expected to meet. The post, shared on Trump's Truth Social platform, featured an edited image of Meloni looking at him with the caption, "Restraining order needed," implying that the Italian leader was overly interested in him.

The latest exchange follows a dispute that began after last month's G7 summit. Trump had claimed that Meloni repeatedly asked him for a photograph and suggested that she was eager to be seen alongside him. He also criticised European policies on immigration and energy while accusing Italy of being reluctant to support US military operations related to Iran.

Meloni strongly rejected Trump's remarks, calling them "completely made up." She insisted that neither she nor Italy had ever begged for a photograph and stressed that Italy's decisions are guided solely by its national interests. Speaking to Italian media, Meloni said she believes in maintaining a strong alliance with the United States but added that genuine partnerships must also be based on honesty and mutual respect.

Trump's latest post has drawn fresh attention because

it comes on the eve of the NATO summit in Turkey, where the two leaders are expected to interact. While neither side has officially commented on the meme, the incident has sparked criticism from political leaders in Italy, with some accusing Trump of undermining relations between close allies through personal attacks. Italian officials, however, have sought to downplay the controversy, emphasising that the strategic partnership between the United States and Italy remains strong despite disagreements between their leaders.

The public spat marks a significant shift in the relationship between Trump and Meloni, who were once viewed as ideological allies. Their ties have become strained over differences on issues including the Iran conflict and broader foreign policy priorities. Trump's repeated social media attacks have added a personal dimension to the diplomatic disagreement, drawing widespread international attention.

As NATO leaders prepare to discuss security challenges and transatlantic cooperation, the renewed feud risks overshadowing the summit. Observers say the exchange highlights growing tensions within the alliance and raises questions about how personal political rivalries could influence diplomatic relations among key Western partners.



## Sri Lanka Prison Violence Claims 25 Lives, Military Put on Standby

At least 25 people were killed and around 100 others injured after violent clashes erupted between rival groups of inmates at Negombo Prison in Sri Lanka, marking one of the country's deadliest prison incidents in recent years. The unrest began on Sunday and continued into Monday, prompting authorities to place the military on standby as police worked to regain control of the overcrowded facility.

According to police and hospital officials, the violence broke out between convicted prisoners and inmates being held on remand. The exact cause of the clash has not yet been established, and investigations are underway to determine what triggered the confrontation. Officials said parts of the prison were still being secured as rescue and identification efforts continued.

Local media reported that both inmates and prison officials were among those killed. Several of the injured suffered serious gunshot wounds and were rushed to Negombo General Hospital for treatment. Television footage showed buses transporting wounded prisoners under heavy police escort while armed security personnel guarded the prison complex.

Sri Lankan Army spokesperson Brigadier Waruna Gamage said the military had been requested to assist police if required but had not yet entered the prison. Security forces re-

mained on standby as authorities sought to restore order and prevent the violence from spreading further.

The incident has once again highlighted the severe overcrowding in Sri Lanka's prison system. The country's prisons currently house more than 39,000 inmates despite having a capacity of only about 10,000, creating difficult living conditions and increasing the risk of unrest. Experts have repeatedly warned that overcrowding, inadequate facilities and the presence of organised criminal gangs make prisons vulnerable to violent outbreaks.

Authorities have launched multiple investigations into the incident, including efforts to identify those responsible for the violence and determine whether security lapses contributed to the escalation. Officials are also assessing the extent of the damage inside the prison and reviewing security procedures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The Negombo prison clash is the deadliest episode of prison violence in Sri Lanka in more than five years and has raised fresh concerns over conditions inside the country's correctional facilities. As investigations continue, officials are focused on restoring normalcy, treating the injured and ensuring the safety of prison staff and inmates while addressing long-standing challenges facing the prison system.

# Markets Rally for Fourth Straight Session

Indian benchmark equity indices continued their upward momentum for the fourth consecutive trading session, with the Sensex surging 521 points and the Nifty closing comfortably above the 24,400 mark. Positive global cues, sustained foreign institutional investor (FII) buying and broad-based sectoral gains helped fuel the rally, keeping investor sentiment upbeat.

The BSE Sensex ended the session at 78,285.07, gaining 521.16 points or 0.67 percent, while the NSE Nifty 50 climbed 159.50 points, or 0.66 percent, to settle at 24,430.35. Both indices traded in positive territory throughout the day, reflecting strong buying interest across key sectors.

The broader market also participated in the rally. The Nifty Midcap index advanced around 0.4 percent, while the Smallcap index gained nearly 0.7 percent, indicating healthy participation beyond large-cap stocks. Market breadth remained positive, with advancing stocks comfortably outnumbering declining ones on both exchanges.

Financial stocks emerged as the biggest contributors to the day's gains, supported by renewed buying in private and public sector banks. Construction and consumer services stocks also witnessed robust demand, while select auto, capital goods and infrastructure companies attracted investor interest. Realty and industrial stocks extended their recent gains as optimism over domestic economic growth continued to strengthen.

Market experts attributed the sustained rally to multiple



factors, including continued FII inflows, easing concerns over global interest rates and improving domestic macroeconomic indicators. Expectations of a favourable monsoon, steady corporate earnings and declining crude oil prices have also boosted confidence among investors.

The ongoing rally reflects growing optimism that India's economic fundamentals remain strong despite global uncertainties. Analysts believe the market is drawing support from resilient domestic demand, stable inflation and expectations that the Reserve Bank of India will maintain a

balanced monetary policy in the coming months.

However, experts also cautioned that after four consecutive sessions of gains, some profit booking cannot be ruled out. Investors have been advised to remain selective while focusing on fundamentally strong companies rather than chasing momentum-driven stocks. Volatility may increase ahead of key global economic data releases and the upcoming corporate earnings season.

Looking ahead, market participants will closely monitor foreign investment flows, quarterly earnings announce-

ments and global developments for fresh cues. The progress of the monsoon, movement in crude oil prices and policy signals from major central banks are also expected to influence sentiment in the coming weeks.

Despite the possibility of short-term volatility, the broader outlook remains positive. The latest rally highlights the resilience of Indian equities and reinforces investor confidence, with many analysts believing the market could maintain its upward trajectory if supportive domestic and global conditions continue.

# Market Expansion Boosts Multicap Investment Case

The recent rally in the Indian stock market has expanded well beyond large-cap companies, strengthening the investment case for multicap mutual funds. According to a report by Axis Mutual Fund, the broader participation from mid-cap and small-cap stocks is creating opportunities for investors who seek diversified exposure across different segments of the equity market.

Over the past few months, market gains have no longer been concentrated in a handful of heavyweight stocks. Instead, a wider range of companies across sectors and market capitalisations has contributed to the upward momentum. This broad-based rally has improved the outlook for multicap funds, which are mandated to invest across large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap stocks.

Axis Mutual Fund believes that maintaining consistent exposure to all three market segments can help investors benefit from different phases of the market cycle. While large-cap stocks typically provide stability during periods of uncertainty, mid-cap and small-cap com-



panies often deliver stronger growth when market conditions are favourable. A multicap strategy allows investors to participate in both stability and growth without having to constantly shift allocations.

The fund house also noted that predicting which market segment will outperform at any given time is extremely difficult. Instead of making tactical bets, investors may be better served by remaining invested across the market spectrum through professionally managed multicap funds. This approach reduces the need to time

the market while ensuring participation in emerging investment opportunities.

Experts point out that India's economic growth story continues to support a wide range of businesses rather than just the largest listed companies. Sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure, financial services, consumer goods and technology have all witnessed increased investor interest, contributing to the broader market rally.

Another advantage of multicap funds is diversification. By spreading investments across companies of varying sizes,

these funds help reduce concentration risk. If one segment underperforms, gains from another segment may help balance overall portfolio returns. This diversified approach makes multicap funds suitable for long-term investors looking to build wealth while managing market volatility.

However, financial experts caution that investors should align their investment choices with their financial goals, risk tolerance and investment horizon. While mid-cap and small-cap stocks can generate higher returns, they may also experience greater volatility during market corrections.

With the broader market continuing to attract investor attention, multicap funds are increasingly being viewed as an effective way to participate in India's long-term growth story. By offering balanced exposure across market segments and allowing professional fund managers to identify opportunities, these funds can serve as a strong core holding for investors seeking diversified equity exposure and long-term capital appreciation.

# Global Liquidity Concerns Hit Equity Flows

Foreign investors continued to reduce their exposure to equities for the second consecutive week, with India-focused funds witnessing withdrawals of nearly \$250 million amid weakening global liquidity and cautious investor sentiment. The latest trend reflects a broader shift in capital allocation as global investors reassess risk across emerging markets.

According to recent market data, total foreign withdrawals from Indian equities stood at around \$580 million during the week. Of this, India-dedicated funds accounted for \$250 million in outflows, while the remaining withdrawals came through broader Global Emerging Market (GEM) and Asia ex-Japan investment allocations. Although the outflows have increased compared to the previous week, they remain significantly lower than the heavy selling witnessed earlier this year. The cautious approach is not limited to India. US equity funds also experienced their second straight week of outflows, with investors pulling nearly \$17 billion



from the market. This follows an earlier week that saw withdrawals of approximately \$8 billion, suggesting that global investors are becoming more selective after a period of strong equity market gains.

Market analysts believe the moderation in global liquidity is one of the key reasons behind the recent trend. Concerns over interest rates, slowing capital flows and changing risk appetite have prompted investors to trim exposure to emerging markets, including India. At the same time, profit booking after recent market rallies has also contributed to the outflows.

The broader emerging market landscape has remained under pressure as well. Global Emerging Market funds recorded another week of net redemptions, extending a prolonged streak of outflows. Several Asian markets, including Taiwan and South Korea, also witnessed foreign fund withdrawals, reflecting a cautious stance among international investors.

Sector-wise, investor sentiment has weakened across commodity-linked funds. Energy, metals and gold-related investment funds have experienced notable outflows as investors shifted towards more defensive strategies

amid uncertain global conditions. Despite the recent selling, market experts believe India's long-term investment story remains intact. Strong domestic economic growth, resilient corporate earnings, healthy retail participation and continued support from domestic institutional investors continue to provide a solid foundation for the equity market. Analysts also note that the current pace of foreign selling is considerably lower than the sharp outflows recorded during March and April.

Going forward, investors will closely monitor global central bank policies, geopolitical developments, corporate earnings and foreign investment flows for fresh market cues. While short-term volatility may persist, many experts believe India's structural growth prospects remain attractive over the long term. As a result, the recent withdrawals are being viewed more as a temporary shift in global capital allocation than a sign of weakening confidence in the Indian market.

# Knack IPO Allotment Today

Investors who applied for the Knack Packaging Initial Public Offering (IPO) are eagerly awaiting the allotment, which is expected to be finalised today. The public issue received an overwhelming response during the subscription period, reflecting strong investor confidence and increasing expectations of a healthy market debut.

The 439.5-crore IPO was open for subscription from July 1 to July 3 and attracted robust demand across all investor categories. Institutional investors, non-institutional investors and retail participants showed significant interest, making the issue heavily oversubscribed. The strong response has reduced the chances of allotment for many applicants, particularly in the retail segment where demand far exceeded the shares available.

Once the allotment process is completed, investors can check their application status through multiple online platforms. The status can be verified on the registrar's website by entering details such as the PAN number, application number or DP/Client ID. Applicants can also check their allotment status on the websites of the BSE and



NSE using their application details.

If shares are allotted, they will be credited to investors' demat accounts before the listing date. Applicants who do not receive an allotment will have their blocked funds released or refunds initiated as per the IPO schedule. According to the timeline, refunds and credit of shares are expected to be completed on July 7, while the company's shares are scheduled to make their stock market debut on July 8. The latest Grey Market Premium (GMP) has remained positive ahead of the listing. Shares are reportedly commanding a premium of around 17-18 over the upper price band, indicating an expected listing gain of nearly 10-11 percent if market condi-

tions remain stable. However, market experts caution that GMP is an unofficial indicator and should not be treated as a guarantee of actual listing performance. Knack Packaging is engaged in manufacturing printed and laminated woven polypropylene bags and customised industrial packaging solutions. The company serves a wide range of sectors, including agriculture, food, chemicals, fertilisers, pet food and construction materials. It plans to utilise the proceeds from the fresh issue primarily for setting up a new manufacturing facility in Gujarat and for general corporate purposes.

With strong subscription numbers and encouraging grey market sentiment, market participants will now closely watch the company's stock market debut. While positive demand has raised expectations of a strong listing, analysts advise investors to consider the company's long-term business prospects rather than focusing solely on listing-day gains. The performance of the broader market on the listing day will also play an important role in determining the stock's opening performance.

# Kotak Expects Mixed Q1 for Consumer Firms

Consumer sector stocks are expected to remain in focus as the June quarter earnings season begins, with Kotak Institutional Equities identifying Titan, Marico and Nestlé India among its top investment picks. The brokerage expects these companies to deliver strong quarterly performances, while forecasting relatively weaker results for ITC and Jubilant FoodWorks.

According to Kotak's latest quarterly preview, India's consumer sector is likely to witness resilient demand despite a challenging macroeconomic environment. Stable raw material costs, timely price increases and healthy consumption trends are expected to support earnings for several leading companies, particularly in the staples and jewellery segments. Among the brokerage's preferred picks, Titan is expected to report another robust quarter, driven by continued strength in its jewellery business. The company is likely to benefit from sustained demand for gold jewellery, festive purchases and an expanding retail network. Strong sales growth in its flagship Tanishq brand is also expected to contribute significantly to overall earnings.

Marico is another company expected to deliver an impressive performance. The FMCG major is likely to benefit from improving rural demand, fa-



vourable pricing and healthy volume growth across its key product categories. Similarly, Nestlé India is projected to post solid revenue growth, supported by strong consumer demand, product innovation and stable input costs.

Kotak is also optimistic about companies such as Hovana Consumer, Godrej Consumer Products, Tata Consumer Products, Colgate-Palmolive India, Hindustan Unilever, Dabur and Britannia Industries. The brokerage believes these companies are well-positioned to maintain healthy revenue growth while managing operating margins through efficient cost control and disciplined pricing strategies.

In contrast, ITC is expected to face a more challenging quarter. The brokerage anticipates pressure on its cigarette business following recent tax-related price hikes, which could weigh on sales volumes and profitability. Jubilant FoodWorks is also likely to report weaker earnings due to

slower demand in the quick-service restaurant segment and margin-related challenges.

Beyond the staples segment, Kotak remains positive on select discretionary businesses. Decorative paints, adhesives and premium consumer categories are expected to perform well, reflecting improving urban demand and continued spending on home improvement and lifestyle products. The brokerage also sees encouraging momentum in the beverages segment, with companies benefiting from strong summer demand and healthy consumption trends.

As investors prepare for the earnings season, market participants will closely monitor management commentary on consumer demand, inflation, rural recovery and input costs. Analysts believe these factors will shape expectations for the remainder of the financial year.

Overall, Kotak's outlook suggests that while India's consumer sector continues to display resilience, performance will vary across companies. Businesses with strong brands, pricing power and consistent execution are expected to outperform, while firms facing demand pressures and margin challenges may struggle to match investor expectations in the June quarter.

# SEBI Plans Short-Selling Boost

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is reportedly considering significant reforms to make short selling easier by expanding the number of stocks available under the securities lending and borrowing mechanism. The proposed changes are aimed at improving liquidity in the cash market and encouraging greater investor participation while reducing excessive dependence on derivatives trading.

At present, investors can borrow and short sell only around 176 stocks listed under the Securities Lending and Borrowing Scheme (SLBS), despite the National Stock Exchange having nearly 2,600 listed companies. SEBI is now exploring ways to nearly double the number of eligible stocks by relaxing some of the existing qualification criteria.

Apart from widening the list of eligible securities, the market regulator is also reviewing collateral requirements. Currently, investors may be required to provide collateral of up to 130 percent of the value of borrowed shares. SEBI is considering lowering this requirement, bringing it closer to international markets such as the United States and Europe, where collateral requirements are generally around 100 percent.

The proposed reforms are part of SEBI's broader efforts to



strengthen India's cash equity market. Over the past few years, derivatives trading has grown rapidly, far outpacing activity in the cash segment. Regulators have expressed concerns that a large number of retail investors have suffered losses in derivative products due to excessive speculation and leverage.

By making short selling more accessible, SEBI hopes to improve price discovery, enhance market efficiency and increase liquidity. Short selling allows investors to profit from falling stock prices by borrowing shares, selling them in the market and later repurchasing them at lower prices to return to the lender. While the strategy carries higher risks, it also plays an important role in balancing markets by preventing excessive overvaluation of stocks. Market experts believe expanding the securities lending and borrowing framework could attract more institutional

investors and professional traders to the cash market. A larger pool of eligible stocks would provide greater flexibility while helping investors hedge their portfolios more effectively. The regulator is reportedly reviewing eligibility norms related to trading volumes, liquidity and derivatives activity before finalising the revised framework. Any relaxation of these conditions is expected to bring many more actively traded companies under the lending and borrowing mechanism.

The proposed reforms are still under discussion, and SEBI is expected to finalise the details later this year. If implemented, the changes could mark one of the most significant developments in India's equity market structure, making the cash market more vibrant, transparent and competitive while offering investors additional tools to manage risk and investment strategies.

# Satluj Leaked Online

Pirated copies of Diljit Dosanjh's much-awaited film Satluj have surfaced online shortly after the movie was removed from streaming platform ZEE5 in India. The illegal leak has sparked fresh concerns over digital piracy while adding another chapter to the controversy surrounding the film's release.

Satluj, which began streaming on ZEE5 on July 3, was unexpectedly taken down within two days. The platform announced that the film would remain unavailable in India until further notice but did not disclose a specific reason behind the decision. Soon after the removal, users on social media claimed that high-definition versions of the film had appeared on piracy websites, with download and streaming links circulating widely.

The leak has drawn mixed reactions from internet users. While some viewers encouraged

others to watch the pirated version after losing access to the official release, many strongly opposed the move. Several social media users pointed out that piracy causes financial losses to filmmakers and producers and discourages original content creation. They urged audiences to wait for the film's official return rather than supporting illegal distribution.

Piracy remains a serious offense under Indian law. The Copyright Act, 1957, along with provisions of the Information Technology Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), prescribes penalties for the unauthorized sharing and distribution of copyrighted content. Offenders may face imprisonment as well as hefty fines depending on the nature of the violation.

The controversy surrounding Satluj predates its OTT release.



The film, originally titled Punjab '95, is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra. It reportedly faced objections from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), which suggested numerous edits and changes before granting certification. As a result, the film remained unreleased for years before finally arriving on ZEE5 under a new title.

Even before its removal from the platform, Diljit Dosanjh had hinted that the film might face hurdles after release. Directed

by Honey Trehan and produced by Ronnie Screwvala, Satluj also stars Arjun Rampal in a significant role.

While ZEE5 has indicated that it is exploring legal avenues regarding the film's availability, the appearance of pirated copies has complicated the situation further. The incident has once again highlighted the growing challenge of online piracy, raising questions about digital content protection and the importance of respecting intellectual property rights in the age of streaming platforms.

# Beyond the MBA Dream

For thousands of MBA aspirants, earning admission to the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) represents the pinnacle of academic success. However, a candid social media post by student Vivek Kundu has sparked widespread discussion by highlighting the emotional and mental challenges that accompanied his first year at the prestigious institute. His reflections have resonated with students across the country, reminding many that success often comes with hidden sacrifices.

In a video shared on Instagram, Kundu described five "hidden costs" that shaped his first year at IIM Ahmedabad. Despite having an impressive background—including debating at Stanford University and cracking the CAT examination—he admitted that life at the country's top management

school tested him in unexpected ways. He said the real challenges were not academic alone but personal and emotional.

The first challenge, according to Kundu, was dealing with endless choices. Campus life offered a constant stream of competitions, club activities, networking events and social gatherings. Trying to participate in everything left him exhausted and unable to fully enjoy any experience. He realised that learning to say "no" was just as important as managing time, as the fear of missing out could easily become overwhelming.

Another major hurdle was comparison. Surrounded by classmates from IITs, top multinational companies, government services and prestigious academic backgrounds, Kundu found himself questioning his own achievements. He said the



environment reset everyone's accomplishments, making imposter syndrome a common feeling during the initial months. He also recalled receiving a "C" grade in his first finance quiz, an experience that shook his confidence. Rather than giving up, he gradually rebuilt his self-belief by asking questions freely and seeking help from classmates. The experience taught him that growth often begins with accepting setbacks instead of fearing them.

Kundu admitted that the demanding schedule also affected his personal life. He realised he

had gone an entire week without having a meaningful conversation with his family. Since then, he has made it a rule to video-call home regularly, even if only for a few minutes. Finally, he questioned the culture of glorifying sleep deprivation, saying that sacrificing rest reduced his ability to think clearly and affected his overall well-being. His honest reflections have drawn praise online, with many users calling his advice a valuable reminder that emotional resilience is just as important as academic excellence.

# Mahindra's Heartwarming Gesture

Industrialist Anand Mahindra has won praise on social media after successfully tracing an elderly street violinist from Kolkata whose emotional story had recently gone viral. What began as a search to help the struggling musician ended on a touching note, with the artist expressing his gratitude through music instead of words.

The story revolves around 80-year-old Bhagwan Mallick, who earns a modest living by playing a decades-old violin on the streets of Kolkata. Despite his advancing age and failing eyesight, Mallick continues to perform every day to support himself and his wife. According to viral posts about him, he earns barely 100 a day, yet has never given up on his passion for music. His moving story touched thousands of people online, including Anand Mahindra.



Deeply moved by the video, Mahindra had earlier expressed his desire to extend financial support to the veteran musician. However, the original post did not reveal Mallick's whereabouts, making it difficult to reach him. Refusing to give up, Mahindra sought help from his team, hoping they could locate the elderly artist.

A few days later, Mahindra shared a heartening update on X, revealing that two colleagues

from his Kolkata office had successfully found Bhagwan Mallick and his wife. They personally delivered Mahindra's contribution to the couple, fulfilling his promise to support the musician. The businessman thanked his colleagues for their efforts and shared photographs and a video of the meeting.

What made the moment especially memorable was Mallick's heartfelt response. Instead of offering a simple verbal thank-

you, he picked up his violin and played the patriotic classic Saare Jahan Se Achha. Sharing the clip, Mahindra described the elderly musician as "dignity and grace personified." He also encouraged people living nearby to visit Mallick and listen to his music, saying that, above all else, artists seek an appreciative audience.

The story has resonated deeply with social media users, many of whom applauded Mahindra's compassion and quick action. Others hoped the attention would bring more opportunities and financial stability to the veteran musician. The incident serves as a powerful reminder that even a small act of kindness can make a meaningful difference in someone's life. It also highlights the positive role social media can play in connecting people, amplifying untold stories and inspiring collective compassion.

# Diary of Memories

A simple act of kindness by a young man has touched thousands online after he discovered a rain-soaked diary filled with cherished memories and appealed to social media users to help reunite it with its owner. The incident has sparked an emotional response, with many calling the diary a priceless collection of someone's most personal moments.



The diary was found lying on a roadside after heavy rain by a man named Aditya. Curious about what it contained, he carefully opened its damp pages and realised it was far more than an ordinary notebook. Instead of daily notes or reminders, the diary held handwritten love messages, romantic song lyrics, colourful sketches and decorative keepsakes, including chocolate wrappers that had been thoughtfully pasted onto the pages. Despite being damaged by rain, the diary still reflected the time, creativity and emotions invested in making it.

Believing the diary held immense sentimental value, Aditya shared a video of his discovery on Instagram. In the clip, he gently flips through the

pages while expressing hope that the internet could help locate the rightful owner. He suggested that the diary may have belonged to a young woman, pointing to its detailed decorations and scrapbook-like appearance. His caption urged viewers to share the video widely so it could eventually reach the person who had created it with so much care.

The video quickly gained traction across social media, attracting thousands of reactions and comments. Many users described the diary as a "treasure chest of memories" and imagined the emotional story behind it. Some wondered whether it had been accidentally lost during the rain, while others speculated that the owner may have intention-

ally discarded it after a painful chapter in life. Several comments reflected on how memories may fade from paper but remain impossible to erase from the heart.

The heartwarming episode has also reminded people of the enduring charm of handwritten memories in an increasingly digital age. While photographs and messages are now often stored on smartphones and cloud platforms, many felt that a handmade diary carries a unique emotional value that technology cannot replace. Aditya's thoughtful gesture has been widely praised, with social media users hoping that the diary eventually finds its way back to its owner and preserves a piece of someone's unforgettable past.

# Mango Loot Sparks Outrage



A viral video showing people scrambling to collect mangoes from an overturned truck has triggered widespread outrage on social media, with many users questioning the lack of empathy displayed at the accident site. Instead of helping the driver or checking if anyone had been injured, dozens of people were seen gathering the scattered fruit in bags, sacks and even pieces of cloth.

The video, which has been widely shared on social media platform X, captures a truck lying overturned on the roadside with heaps of mangoes spread across the ground. Within minutes, passersby and locals rushed to the scene—not to assist with rescue efforts, but to collect as many mangoes as they could. Some arrived carrying bags, while others improvised with sarees and dupattas to carry away the fruit. The exact location of the incident has not been official-

ly confirmed, although several social media users claimed that it occurred somewhere in Karnataka based on the vehicle's registration number.

The clip quickly went viral, drawing sharp criticism from internet users. Many expressed disappointment over the crowd's behaviour, saying the first priority should have been to ensure the driver's safety and inform emergency services rather than taking advantage of the situation. Several users described the incident as an example of declining civic sense and compassion, with one comment reading, "Humanity is dead." Others referred to it as evidence of a "low-trust society," where personal gain often takes precedence over helping those in distress.

Some users also shared personal experiences to highlight the financial losses caused by such incidents. One person recalled how a truck owned by his family

overturned while carrying onions during a period of high prices. According to the user, the entire load was looted within minutes, resulting in losses worth lakhs of rupees. Many argued that while scattered goods may appear abandoned, they remain the property of the owner, who ultimately bears the financial burden of the accident.

As of now, there has been no official statement regarding the driver's condition or whether anyone was injured in the accident. The viral video has nevertheless reignited conversations about public responsibility during emergencies, with many urging people to prioritise helping accident victims instead of exploiting unfortunate situations for personal benefit. The incident serves as a reminder that compassion and civic responsibility should come before opportunism, especially when lives may be at risk.

# When Rain Meant Fear

For many people, the arrival of the monsoon brings joy, cool weather and nostalgic memories. But for Mumbai entrepreneur Shubham Gune, rain once symbolised fear, sleepless nights and the constant struggle to protect his family's home from flooding. In a heartfelt LinkedIn post, Gune shared how he spent seven years growing up in a flood-prone chawl, where every heavy downpour turned into a battle against rising water levels. His emotional account has resonated with thousands on social media.

Recalling his childhood, Gune said the ordeal usually began around midnight whenever heavy rain lashed the city. Water would first seep in through the windows, then under the door, before gradually flooding the entire house. As the water level rose, his family had to act quickly. Mattresses, clothes, books and shoes

were lifted onto tables and cupboards to prevent them from getting soaked. The family then spent hours removing the water with buckets, often continuing until the rain eased or daylight arrived. Sleep was rarely an option on such nights.

Gune contrasted his experience with the romantic image often associated with Mumbai's monsoon. While films and social media celebrate rainy evenings with cutting chai, Marine Drive and nostalgic songs, he said those beautiful moments felt distant from the reality of families living in vulnerable homes. For years, he believed that the charm of the monsoon was reserved for those who did not have to worry about flooded floors and damaged belongings.

His life, however, has changed dramatically over the past decade. Today, Gune

lives in a home where rain no longer enters through the windows or doors. Instead of spending nights bailing out floodwater, he now watches the rain peacefully from behind dry windows. Reflecting on this transformation, he wrote that "the same rain falls differently on different roofs," a line that struck a chord with readers across the internet.

Concluding his post, Gune expressed gratitude for how far he has come. He said that although he still folds his hands in prayer whenever it rains, the meaning of that prayer has changed. Instead of asking for relief from flooding, he now offers thanks for the opportunities that transformed his life. His story has inspired countless users online, serving as a powerful reminder that behind every success lies a journey of resilience, perseverance and hope.



Image Credit: Shubham Gune/LinkedIn

# India Eye XI Change for Crucial Third T20I

India are expected to make a key change to their playing XI for the third T20I against England at Trent Bridge as they look to register their first win of the series. After a disappointing start to the UK tour, the visitors are under pressure to bounce back, with much of the spotlight once again falling on teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi following his historic international debut.

The five-match series has not gone according to plan for India. The opening T20I was washed out by rain after India

posted a competitive total, while England chased down 191 in the second game to take the lead. The defeat exposed weaknesses in India's bowling attack, prompting the team management to consider strengthening the pace department ahead of Tuesday's clash.

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi is likely to make way after enduring a difficult outing in Manchester. His four-over spell proved costly, with England taking advantage of his lack of rhythm. Bishnoi conceded 60 runs without claiming a wick-

et, and a 29-run over—including three back-foot no-balls—proved to be a turning point in the match. Reports suggest India could replace him with pacer Prince Yadav, whose ability to generate movement with the new ball may suit the conditions at Trent Bridge better than an additional spinner.

Attention will also remain firmly on 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who became India's youngest-ever international cricketer when he debuted in the second T20I. Although the youngster managed only 14

runs, he impressed with his fearless approach, including a confident six off Jofra Archer. Former cricketers have urged the team management to continue backing him, arguing that one modest innings should not define a player of his immense potential.

India's batting unit has shown flashes of brilliance but has struggled to convert promising starts into match-winning totals. Abhishek Sharma has been the standout performer, producing aggressive knocks in both games, while



skipper Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan have contributed useful runs without dominating the English attack. The middle order will be expected to provide a stronger finish if India are to level the series.

With England carrying momentum and India searching for answers, the third T20I has assumed added significance. A victory would not only revive India's hopes in the series but also boost confidence ahead of

the remaining matches. Fans will be eager to see whether the expected bowling change and another opportunity for Vaibhav Sooryavanshi can help India turn the tide against an in-form England side.

## Bishnoi Under Fire After England Defeat

India leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi has come under intense criticism following the team's defeat to England in the second T20I, with former India cricketer Aakash Chopra describing his repeated no-balls as an "unpardonable crime" in the shortest format of the game. The remarks came after Bishnoi endured one of the toughest outings of his international career, as England chased down India's target to take the lead in the five-match series.

Bishnoi struggled throughout his spell, conceding 60 runs in four overs without taking a wicket. His most difficult moment came during a single over in which he leaked 29 runs, including three back-foot no-balls. The costly mistakes handed England extra deliveries and momentum at a crucial stage of the chase, making it significantly easier for the hosts to stay on course for victory.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Chopra said bowling no-balls in T20 cricket is unac-



ceptable because every extra delivery gives the batting side another scoring opportunity. He pointed out that while front-foot no-balls can occasionally happen, repeatedly overstepping the back line is entirely avoidable. According to Chopra, Bishnoi's errors proved extremely expensive and ultimately hurt India's chances of defending their total.

The former opener also analysed India's overall performance, saying the visitors failed to seize key moments despite posting a competitive score. He felt England's aggres-

sive batting and better execution under pressure made the difference. Chopra added that India's bowlers lacked discipline during crucial phases, allowing the hosts to maintain control of the chase.

Bishnoi's disappointing performance has also fuelled speculation over his place in the playing XI for the third T20I. Reports suggest the Indian team management may consider bringing in an additional fast bowler to better exploit English conditions. With the series still alive, the selectors and coaching staff are expected to

weigh their options carefully before announcing the team for the next match.

India now face the challenge of bouncing back quickly as they prepare for the third T20I. The team will be eager to improve its bowling discipline and level the series against an England side brimming with confidence. Whether Bishnoi retains his place or India opt for changes, the focus will be on delivering a much-improved performance in what has become a must-win encounter for the visitors.

The upcoming match is expected to test India's ability to recover from setbacks and respond under pressure. A disciplined bowling display, sharper execution in key moments and stronger teamwork will be crucial if the visitors hope to keep the series alive. For Bishnoi, the next few days could prove pivotal as he looks to put behind a disappointing outing and reaffirm his place in India's T20 plans.

# Neymar Bids Farewell to Brazil

Brazilian football superstar Neymar has announced his retirement from international football following Brazil's heartbreaking exit from the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The emotional decision marks the end of a remarkable 16-year journey with the national team, during which he established himself as one of the greatest players in Brazil's football history.

Brazil's World Cup campaign came to a disappointing end after a shock 2-1 defeat to Norway in the Round of 16. The five-time world champions were expected to progress deep into the tournament, but Norway produced a memorable performance to knock out one of the pre-tournament favourites. Although Neymar scored a late penalty in stoppage time to reduce the deficit, it was not enough to prevent Brazil's elimination.

Visibly emotional after the final whistle, the 34-year-old struggled to hold back tears as he reflected on the end of his



international career. Speaking to the media, Neymar said he had given everything he could for his country and felt it was the right moment to step away from international football. His heartfelt words signalled the conclusion of an era for Brazilian football.

Neymar's final appearance for Brazil came at MetLife Stadium in the United States, the same venue where he made his senior international debut in 2010. The emotional full-circle moment added even greater

significance to his farewell. Over the course of his career, Neymar became Brazil's all-time leading goalscorer, finishing with 80 goals in 130 appearances while also providing numerous assists and unforgettable performances.

Throughout his international career, Neymar represented Brazil in four FIFA World Cups and played a central role in many of the team's biggest successes. He helped Brazil lift the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2013 and captained the nation

to its first-ever Olympic gold medal in men's football at the Rio 2016 Games. Despite his extraordinary individual achievements, the FIFA World Cup trophy remained the one major honour that eluded him.

Injuries often disrupted Neymar's World Cup campaigns, limiting his opportunities to lead Brazil to global glory. Nevertheless, he remained the face of Brazilian football for more than a decade, inspiring millions with his flair, creativity and match-winning ability.

While Neymar has brought the curtain down on his international career, he is expected to continue playing club football. His retirement from the national team leaves Brazil searching for a new leader as a younger generation prepares to take centre stage. For football fans around the world, Neymar's farewell marks the end of one of the most memorable international careers of the modern era, leaving behind a legacy that will be celebrated for years to come.

## Yamal Hails Ronaldo Ahead of Portugal Clash

Spain's teenage sensation Lamine Yamal has showered praise on Cristiano Ronaldo ahead of their highly anticipated FIFA World Cup clash against Portugal, describing the veteran forward as the toughest opponent he has ever faced. The young Barcelona star's comments have added extra excitement to one of the tournament's most eagerly awaited knockout encounters.

Yamal, who has enjoyed a remarkable rise in international football over the past two years, acknowledged Ronaldo's lasting influence on the game despite the Portuguese captain being in the final phase of his illustrious career. Speaking before the crucial match, the 18-year-old said facing Ronaldo is always a unique challenge because of his experience, leadership and unmatched ability to deliver in the biggest moments.

The Spanish winger recalled previous meetings against Portugal and admitted that Ronaldo's presence alone changes the complexion of a game. According to



Yamal, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner continues to command immense respect from opponents with his movement inside the penalty area, aerial dominance and relentless desire to score. He added that competing against one of football's greatest players is both a learning experience and a source of motivation.

Ronaldo, meanwhile, has once again played a crucial role in Portugal's World Cup campaign. The veteran striker has led from the front with important goals and inspirational performances, proving that age has done little to diminish his impact on the international

stage. His leadership has been instrumental in guiding Portugal into the knockout rounds, where they remain among the favourites to lift the trophy.

Yamal has been equally impressive for Spain, emerging as one of the standout young players of the tournament. His pace, creativity and confidence on the ball have troubled defenders throughout the competition, making him a key figure in Spain's attacking setup. The youngster has already produced several match-winning performances, strengthening his reputation as one of world football's brightest talents.

The upcoming encounter also symbolises a fascinating clash between two generations. On one side is Ronaldo, a global icon whose career has spanned more than two decades and countless records. On the other is Yamal, a teenage prodigy widely viewed as one of the future faces of football. Their duel has captured the imagination of fans, who are eager to witness experience take on youthful brilliance.

Both Spain and Portugal enter the match with strong squads and high expectations. While Spain will rely on their energetic attack and possession-based style, Portugal will look to Ronaldo's experience and the team's balanced lineup to secure victory.

Regardless of the outcome, Yamal's admiration for Ronaldo reflects the mutual respect shared between football's past and future. As two of the sport's biggest stars prepare to share the same stage, fans around the world can look forward to a memorable contest that promises quality, intensity and plenty of drama.

## Anvay Dravid Leads India U-19 Fightback



Anvay Dravid, the younger son of former India captain Rahul Dravid, announced his arrival on the international junior stage with a sparkling knock of 87 runs off just 67 balls in the second Youth ODI against Sri Lanka Under-19 in Hambantota. The stylish wicketkeeper-batter played a mature and attacking innings to rescue India from a difficult position and steer the team to a competitive total.

Electing to bat first, India Under-19 found themselves in early trouble after losing four wickets for just 81 runs inside the first 19 overs. With Sri Lanka's bowlers firmly in control, the visitors desperately needed a partnership to stabilise the innings. Anvay rose to the occasion, displaying composure beyond his years while taking calculated risks to shift the momentum in India's favour.

Battling confidently, the 17-year-old struck nine boundaries and one six during his impressive knock. His fluent stroke play kept the scoreboard

moving and prevented Sri Lanka from tightening their grip on the contest. More importantly, he stitched together a crucial 145-run partnership for the fifth wicket with Arjun Rajput, who contributed a valuable 76 off 81 deliveries. Their stand completely transformed the innings after India's shaky start.

Anvay reached his maiden Youth ODI half-century in just 47 balls, underlining his aggressive intent. As he moved closer to what looked like a well-deserved century, expectations grew among fans. However, his innings came to an end on 87 when he was dismissed by left-arm pacer Gimhan Mendis, who emerged as Sri Lanka's standout bowler with a five-wicket haul. Despite losing momentum in the closing overs, India managed to post a respectable total of 285 in 47.2 overs.

The innings marked a significant improvement for Anvay, who had scored only 14 runs on his Youth ODI debut in the opening match of the series.

His ability to bounce back immediately has drawn praise from cricket followers, many of whom have highlighted his temperament and batting technique. While comparisons with his legendary father are inevitable, Anvay's latest performance suggests he is eager to build his own identity in Indian cricket. Having progressed through Karnataka's age-group system, Anvay has consistently impressed at the junior level before earning his India Under-19 call-up. His latest knock is expected to boost his confidence as the series continues and strengthen his credentials as one of the country's promising young batters.

For India Under-19, the innings not only provided a strong platform in the match but also showcased the depth of emerging talent in the squad. As Anvay continues his cricketing journey, fans will be keenly watching his progress, hoping this memorable innings is the first of many significant contributions in India's colours.

## FIFA's Balogun Call Sparks Row

FIFA has found itself at the centre of a major controversy after allowing United States striker Folarin Balogun to play in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 despite an automatic one-match suspension. The governing body's unexpected decision has triggered widespread debate, with several football officials and fans questioning whether the rules were applied fairly.

Balogun had been shown a straight red card during the United States' 2-0 victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina in the previous round after a VAR review ruled that he had stamped on an opponent's ankle. Under FIFA's disciplinary regulations, a straight red card usually results in an automatic suspension for the team's next match, making the striker unavailable for the crucial clash against Belgium.

However, in a surprising development, FIFA announced that the implementation of Balogun's suspension would be deferred for one year on probation, effectively making him eligible to feature in the knockout encounter. The governing body cited provisions within its disciplinary code that allow sanctions to be suspended under exceptional circumstances.

The decision gained even greater attention after reports emerged that US President



Donald Trump had personally contacted FIFA President Gianni Infantino, urging him to review the punishment. Trump later welcomed the outcome publicly, calling it the correction of what he believed was an unfair decision. While neither FIFA nor Infantino directly linked the ruling to political intervention, the timing fuelled speculation and intensified criticism.

Belgium's football federation reacted strongly, expressing surprise over the ruling and questioning how an automatic suspension could be overturned so close to an important knockout match. The federation reportedly began examining possible legal options while insisting that the decision appeared inconsistent with FIFA's own regulations.

The controversy has also drawn criticism from several football experts and former players, who argued that disciplinary rules must be applied

equally to every team regardless of stature or external influence. Many warned that any perception of political involvement could damage the credibility of international football's governing body.

On the other hand, the United States coaching staff welcomed the decision, maintaining that Balogun's challenge did not deserve a straight red card in the first place. They argued that allowing the striker to play ensured a fairer sporting outcome after what they considered an excessively harsh punishment.

With Balogun now available for the high-stakes encounter against Belgium, attention has shifted from on-field preparations to FIFA's disciplinary process. Regardless of the match result, the decision has become one of the biggest talking points of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, raising fresh questions about consistency, transparency and governance in world football.

# Jr NTR's Voiceover Boosts Buzz Around Akhil's Lenin



The makers of Akhil Akkineni's upcoming film Lenin have sparked excitement among fans by unveiling a striking new poster that hints at Jr NTR's association with the project. While the poster does not feature the RRR star directly, it subtly teases his contribution, triggering widespread speculation across social media.

The newly released poster is simple yet intriguing. It showcases a roaring tiger alongside the film's title logo, without revealing any cast members. Fans were quick to decode the symbolism, and the makers soon confirmed that the tiger represents Jr NTR, who has lent his voice to the film. The "Man

of Masses" actor has provided the voiceover and narration for Lenin, adding another layer of anticipation ahead of its theatrical release.

Jr NTR's involvement has generated considerable buzz among movie lovers, with many believing that his powerful voice will elevate the storytelling. Although he does not appear on screen, his narration is expected to play a significant role in setting the tone for the rural action drama. The announcement has also delighted fans of both Akhil Akkineni and Jr NTR, who are eager to witness this unique collaboration.

Directed by Murali Kishor Abb-

uru, Lenin stars Akhil Akkineni in the lead role opposite Bhagyashri Borse. The film is set against a rural backdrop and promises a blend of action, drama and emotion. The recently released trailer has already generated positive responses, with viewers praising Akhil's transformed look and speculating about the film's mythological undertones and intense narrative.

Lenin is particularly important for Akhil Akkineni, who is making his return to the big screen after a long gap. Expectations are high, as the actor is looking to bounce back with a strong performance in what is being described as one of the most crucial films of his career.

The production team has been actively promoting the movie through posters, teaser videos and promotional events ahead of its release.

Scheduled to hit theatres on July 10, Lenin has steadily built momentum in the days leading up to its release. The addition of Jr NTR's voiceover has only strengthened the film's promotional campaign, creating fresh excitement among audiences. With an intriguing storyline, a new avatar for Akhil and the support of one of Telugu cinema's biggest stars, Lenin is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu releases of the season.



## Pradeep Unveils PR Show's First Film

Actor-director Pradeep Ranganathan has taken a major step in his filmmaking journey by launching his own production banner, PR Show, and announcing its maiden project. The filmmaker, known for blockbuster hits like Love Today, has surprised fans with an unconventional launch that introduces six directors and a fresh ensemble cast, signalling his commitment to nurturing new talent in Tamil cinema.

The announcement was made through an intriguing promotional video that quickly caught the attention of movie lovers. Instead of revealing a conventional star-driven project, the teaser focused on a unique creative concept and the people behind it. The biggest surprise was the introduction of The Alpha Unit, a six-member filmmaking collective comprising Vishal TR, Yash V, Naren Saoda, Chanakkiyan R, Dhanush Kumar and Ilamparithi. Together, they will direct the film, making it one of the rare Tamil projects to be helmed by a team of six directors.

Pradeep Ranganathan has written the story for the film, while young music composer Sai Abhyankkar has been roped in to score the soundtrack. Editing duties will be handled by Pradeep E. Ragav, with Dinesh Purushothaman serving as the cinematographer. Although the film's official title has not yet been announced, it is currently being referred to as PRS01. The makers have promised to re-

veal more details about the story and supporting cast in the coming weeks.

Adding to the excitement is the lead cast. Pradeep Ranganathan himself will headline the film alongside actress Mamitha Baiju, reuniting the popular on-screen pair after their successful collaboration in Dude. Their reunion has generated significant buzz among fans, who are eager to see the duo share screen space once again. The promotional song titled "Aane Wala Star", released along with the announcement video, has further heightened anticipation for the project.

The launch of PR Show reflects Pradeep's ambition to expand beyond acting and directing by backing innovative stories and emerging filmmakers. Rather than relying on established names, his decision to entrust an entire feature film to six young directors has been widely appreciated as a bold and refreshing move. Industry observers believe the initiative could open doors for fresh storytelling and provide aspiring filmmakers with a valuable platform.

With production expected to begin soon, PRS01 has already emerged as one of the most talked-about announcements in Tamil cinema. Combining an unconventional directorial team, a popular lead pair and Pradeep Ranganathan's growing reputation as a storyteller, the film has generated high expectations even before shooting gets underway.

## Court Permits Allu Arjun's Virtual Appearance

Actor Allu Arjun has received temporary relief in the Sandhya Theatre stampede case after a Hyderabad court allowed him to attend the proceedings through virtual mode instead of appearing in person. The decision comes after the actor's legal team sought permission, citing his professional commitments, and marks a significant development in the ongoing legal proceedings related to the tragic incident during the Pushpa 2: The Rule premiere.

The case is linked to the stampede that occurred outside Hyderabad's Sandhya Theatre during a special screening of Pushpa 2 in December 2024. A massive crowd had gathered to catch a glimpse of Allu Arjun, leading to chaos that claimed the life of a woman and left her young son seriously injured. Following an investigation, police filed a chargesheet naming 23 accused, including Allu Arjun as Accused No. 11, alleging lapses in crowd management and safety arrangements.

Initially, the Nampally Court had directed Allu Arjun to appear in person. However, his lawyers later filed a petition requesting permission for him to participate through video conferencing. After considering the plea, the court allowed the request, enabling the actor to join the hearing virtually while his legal representatives appeared before

the court physically. The matter has been adjourned for further proceedings.

The court's decision has come as a relief for the actor, who has maintained that he is cooperating fully with the investigation. His legal team has consistently stated that he has complied with the directions of the authorities and remains committed to the judicial process. The permission to appear virtually does not affect the merits of the case, which will continue to be heard by the court in the coming months. The Sandhya Theatre tragedy sparked widespread debate over crowd control measures at high-profile film events and the responsibilities of organisers, theatre management and celebrities during public appearances. The incident led to increased scrutiny of security arrangements at film premieres, with calls for stricter protocols to prevent similar accidents in the future.

Meanwhile, Allu Arjun continues to balance the legal proceedings with his professional commitments. While the case remains under judicial consideration, the court's decision allowing his virtual appearance offers procedural relief as the investigation and trial move forward. Fans and industry observers are now awaiting the next hearing, which is expected to determine the future course of the high-profile case.



## Ranbir Kapoor's Upcoming Films Create Buzz

After the phenomenal success of Animal, Ranbir Kapoor has emerged as one of Bollywood's most sought-after stars, with an impressive lineup of high-profile films that has generated tremendous excitement among fans and the industry alike. His upcoming projects span mythology, action, romance and sequels, positioning him at the centre of some of Indian cinema's biggest productions over the next few years.

Leading the list is Nitesh Tiwari's ambitious two-part epic Ramayana, where Ranbir will portray Lord Ram in what is widely regarded as one of the most significant roles of his career. Mounted on a massive scale with cutting-edge visual effects, the film also features Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana. The project has already created enormous buzz and is expected to be one of the biggest Indian cinematic spectacles ever made.

Another highly anticipated film in Ranbir's schedule is Love & War, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The film reunites the actor with Bhansali after Saawariya and brings together an exciting cast that includes Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal. Given Bhansali's reputation for grand storytelling



ing and powerful performances, expectations surrounding the project are exceptionally high. Ranbir is also expected to return in Animal Park, the sequel to Sandeep Reddy Vanga's blockbuster Animal. The first film was a massive commercial success and ended with hints of an even more intense continuation. Fans are eagerly waiting to see Ranbir reprise his role in what promises to be a darker and more action-packed chapter.

Adding to the excitement are reports linking the actor to Brahmastra: Part Two – Dev. Although an official announcement is still awaited, the sequel remains one of the most anticipated fantasy films in Bollywood. The first instalment laid the foundation for a larger cinematic universe, and audiences are keen to see how Ranbir's character

evolves in the next chapter.

Speculation also continues around Ranbir's involvement in other big-budget franchises, including Dhoom 4, though the makers have yet to make an official confirmation. Even without these unannounced projects, his existing slate is enough to keep fans excited for years to come.

With a combination of mythological epics, emotional dramas, action entertainers and franchise films, Ranbir Kapoor's upcoming lineup reflects both scale and variety. Industry observers believe these projects could further cement his position among Bollywood's biggest stars. If the films live up to expectations, the next few years may well belong to Ranbir Kapoor, whose career appears to be entering its most successful phase yet.

## Sanjay Dutt, Sehwaag Surprise in Pritam and Pedro

Rajkumar Hirani's debut web series Pritam and Pedro has become the talk of the town, not only for its engaging storyline and humour but also for the surprise cameo appearances of Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt and former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwaag. Their unexpected entries have emerged as one of the biggest highlights of the series, delighting viewers and creating a buzz across social media.

Streaming on JioHotstar, Pritam and Pedro has been receiving positive feedback for its light-hearted narrative, witty dialogues and entertaining performances. However, audiences were caught completely off guard when Sanjay Dutt and Virender Sehwaag made surprise appearances in the series. The makers had managed to keep their cameos under wraps before the release, making the reveal even more impactful for viewers.

Sanjay Dutt's cameo has particularly impressed audiences. The veteran actor brings his trademark charisma and effortless comic timing to the screen, adding extra energy to the show's humorous moments. Though his appearance is brief, fans believe it leaves a lasting impression and perfectly complements the tone of the series. His presence has become one of the most dis-



cussed aspects of the show, with viewers praising the makers for keeping it a surprise until the release.

Equally surprising is the appearance of former Indian opener Virender Sehwaag. Known for his fearless batting and witty personality off the field, Sehwaag showcases a natural ease in front of the camera. His comic timing and relaxed screen presence have earned appreciation from fans, many of whom never expected to see the cricket legend in such an entertaining role. Social media has been flooded with reactions celebrating his performance and calling it one of the most pleasant surprises in the series.

Created by acclaimed filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani, Pritam and Pedro marks his entry into the digital streaming space. The series blends comedy, emotion and

slice-of-life storytelling, staying true to the filmmaker's signature style. The addition of high-profile cameo appearances has further elevated audience interest and encouraged more viewers to tune in.

The positive word-of-mouth surrounding Pritam and Pedro continues to grow, with many viewers recommending the show for its wholesome entertainment and clever writing. While the lead cast has received praise for their performances, it is the surprise appearances of Sanjay Dutt and Virender Sehwaag that have become the biggest talking point. Their memorable cameos have added an extra layer of excitement, proving that well-executed surprises can significantly enhance the viewing experience and keep audiences engaged long after the credits roll.

