



BUZZ POINTS



Shah Assures Full Central Support to States Amid Heavy Rains
PAGE 07



Congress Rules Out Leadership Change in Punjab
PAGE 07



BJP Fields Youth Leader Abhishek Kumar Against Prashant Kishor
PAGE 07



'Abuse-Proof' Fadnavis Defends Mumbai-Pune Missing Link
PAGE 07

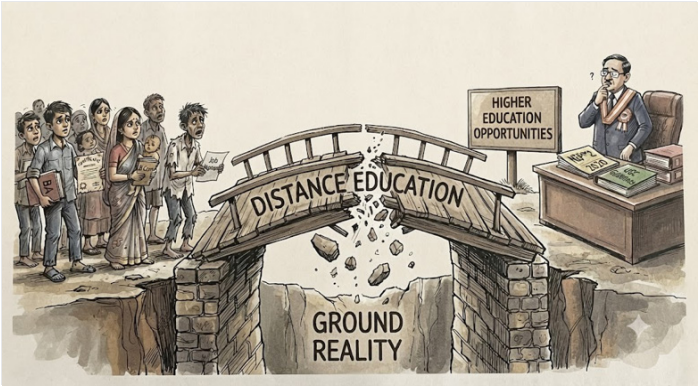
Distance Degrees Dry Up in AP, Leaving Aspirants in the Lurch

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

For thousands of youth in the state, distance education has long been the only bridge between financial hardship and higher studies. Today, that bridge is weakening. Recent University Grants Commission (UGC) data points to a sharp decline in opportunities to pursue bachelor's degrees through Open and Distance Learning (ODL), raising concern among educationists and student groups.

A review of the UGC's April 10, 2026 list for the 2025-26 academic year shows that Andhra University is the only institution in the state offering a wide range of undergraduate distance courses, including BA, B.Com and BBA programmes. In contrast, major universities such as Sri Venkateswara University and Acharya Nagarjuna University are confined to postgraduate courses, leaving general degree aspirants with limited or no options.

This trend runs contrary to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which aims to raise the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to 50% by 2035 and integrate distance learning into the mainstream. The policy emphasizes access for working individuals, rural



youth, women, and those whose education was interrupted. However, experts say these goals are not being reflected on the ground.

Speaking to True Point, Dr. Kappagantula Ramakrishna, Vice Principal of KBN College, Vijayawada, described the situation as alarming. "Distance education is not an alternative; it is the only option for many. Students who work during the day, women resuming studies, and youth from poor families depend on it. If undergraduate courses disappear, we are effectively blocking their future," he said. The crisis has deepened as admission deadlines for the current academic cycle have already passed, leaving many aspirants without any opportunity this year. For daily wage earners, in-service em-

ployees, and unemployed youth preparing for government jobs, a basic degree is essential, but increasingly out of reach.

Student organisations have strongly criticised the situation. ABVP State Secretary, Yaganti Venkata Gopi, demanded urgent action. "The government must resolve this issue without delay. Denying distance education opportunities means denying the future of thousands of students and unemployed youth," he told True Point, calling for immediate expansion of undergraduate programmes.

There is also criticism that Andhra Pradesh Ambedkar Open University, expected to play a key role in distance learning, is yet to function at full capacity, further limiting access for students from poor

- Only Andhra University offers multiple UG distance courses
- Other universities largely limited to PG programmes
- NEP 2020 goals not reflected on the ground
- Admission deadlines already closed for 2025-26
- Lack of infrastructure: roads, approvals, utilities
- Working youth, women, rural and poor students worst hit
- Student bodies demand urgent government intervention

and middle-class backgrounds. Responding to the concerns, speaking to True Point, APSCHE Chairman Prof. K. Madhu Murthy said that, following updated guidelines, universities are in the process of securing approvals from their Academic Senates. He noted that undergraduate courses would be introduced after preparing course material, adding that some universities are already a step ahead. Educationists warn that the issue goes beyond admissions, affecting social mobility, employment prospects, and family stability. They urge the government to expand UG distance education, and fully operationalise open universities, stressing that education is a right, not a privilege.



Lokesh Woos Korean Investments for AP, Launches APEX-Korea in Busan

Busan (South Korea), July 8 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh intensified the state's investment outreach in South Korea by launching APEX-Korea (Andhra Pradesh External Engagement-Korea) in Busan and holding a series of high-level meetings with financial institutions and manufacturing companies to attract investments into Amaravati and key industrial sectors.

Lokesh inaugurated the investor facilitation and out-

reach cell, APEX-Korea, established under the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB). He said the centre would serve as a bridge between the Andhra Pradesh government and Korean companies interested in investing in the state while extending support services to firms already operating in Andhra Pradesh. The inauguration was attended by Katamneni Bhaskar, Secretary, IT, Electronics & Communications; Sagili Shanmohan, CEO, APEDB; Praveen

KOTRA Chief Applauds Lokesh Team

Busan: Kyung-hoon Kim, Head of KOTRA (India & South Asia), praised the investment outreach led by Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh during the ongoing South Korea tour: Posting on X, Kim said the delegation met leading companies, including

Shoals, Solum, Apact, Samsung, LG, Booyoung and Hwa-seong, showcasing Andhra Pradesh's investment incentives and advantages. He noted that the visit is only halfway through, with an Andhra Pradesh roadshow scheduled in Seoul on Friday, and congratulated the delegation, saying, "Hats off to the team."

TTD Cancels VIP Break Darshan on Key Festival Dates

Tirumala, July 9 | TPN Bureau:

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced the cancellation of VIP Break Darshan at the Srikari Temple on several dates between July and September 30 due to important temple rituals and festivals.

According to TTD, VIP Break Darshan will not be available on July 14 (Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam), July 17 (Anivara Asthanam), July 19 (Pedda Maryada for Sri Andavan Ashram Swamiji), and July 29 (Jee-



yar Swamys' Chaturmasya Sankalpam). In August, the darshan will be cancelled on August 22 (Ankurarpanam for Pavitrotsavam) and

P3

CM Announces 10% Hike in Student Diet Charges

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday announced a 10 per cent increase in diet charges for students staying in government hostels and Gurukul institutions from the second quarter of the current financial year and directed officials to ensure better education, infrastructure and career opportunities for students from BC, SC, ST and Minority communities.

During a review meeting with Welfare Department officials at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister instructed that the revised diet charges should be implemented immediately despite the Finance Department's request to defer the decision due to financial constraints. He said education has the power to transform the lives of weaker sections.



Naidu directed officials to establish more Gurukul institutions across the state and give

priority to constructing Gurukul campuses instead of conventional hostels. He suggested developing campuses on the lines of biodiversity parks with modern facilities and assessing the benefits of implementing Net Zero practices in

residential schools.

The government has allocated Rs 100 crore as maintenance grants for hostels and residential schools. The Chief Minister instructed officials to establish special coaching centres for meritorious SC, ST, BC and Minority students to prepare them for competitive examinations such as IIT, NIT and NEET. He stressed recruiting the best teachers to provide quality coaching.

Naidu also directed officials to encourage NRIs to adopt welfare hostels, strengthen alumni networks of welfare hostels, residential schools, Gurukuls and Ashram schools, and promote voluntary partici-

pation by professionals willing to provide educational and medical services.

He instructed officials to ensure that welfare schemes such as SASKI, Poorvodaya and VBG Ram G reach eligible beneficiaries. He also emphasised improving livelihoods through horticulture crops, rubber, coffee and turmeric cultivation among weaker sections. The Chief Minister highlighted existing initiatives, including reservations in liquor shops for traditional toddy tappers, quarry quotas for Vaddera communities, and financial assistance to barbers, fishermen and handloom workers. Meanwhile, Naidu directed

Pawan Kalyan Delivers on Healthcare Promise to Artisans

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has initiated special medical camps for artisans across the state, fulfilling a promise made during the inauguration of the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Festival within 24 hours. Acting on his directions, cluster-wise healthcare camps were launched to provide medical support to traditional artisans.

On Wednesday, special camps were organised for lace

artisans in Narsapuram and Kalamkari artisans in Srikalahasti. In Narsapuram, 105 lace artisans underwent health check-ups. Doctors identified eye-related ailments in 37 artisans, including cataracts in 16 cases. Arrangements are being made in coordination with the Medical and Health Department to provide cataract surgeries for those requiring treatment. Spectacles were also provided to 21 artisans with minor vision defects.

In Srikalahasti, 53 Kalamkari artisans

P3

AP Approves Compassionate End-of-Life Care Guidelines

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

The government has approved comprehensive guidelines to facilitate compassionate end-of-life care for terminally ill patients in line with the Supreme Court's directions. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav approved the framework on Wednesday after reviewing it with senior officials.

The guidelines are intended for patients suffering from irreversible illnesses with no



possibility of recovery and who remain dependent on life-support systems such as ventilators. The government said the new protocol will ensure

legal protection for doctors and family members involved in end-of-life decisions while upholding a patient's right to die with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The framework provides for the creation of an advance directive by a mentally competent patient, nomination of a guardian, and mandatory review by both primary and secondary medical boards before any withdrawal or withholding of life-support treatment. The decision

P3

Pawan Kalyan Mourns Demise of Young Niranjan

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Niranjan, recalling his recent interaction with the young boy and paying tribute to his courage and positive spirit.

Responding to Niranjan's passing through a post on X, Pawan Kalyan said the news had deeply shaken him. He recalled his visit to Niranjan's residence in Hanumakonda a few days ago, where he met the



boy while he was battling a severe illness. The Deputy Chief Minister said Niranjan's happiness and smile upon seeing him remained unforgettable. He praised the young boy's courage,

P3

Sharmila Pays Floral Tribute to YSR, Hails His Enduring Legacy

Idupulapaya, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President Y.S. Sharmila Reddy paid floral tributes at the memorial of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) at Idupulapaya on the occasion of his 77th birth anniversary and described him as a legendary leader whose legacy continues to inspire millions.

Addressing the gathering, Sharmila said YSR's family extended far beyond blood relations and comprised crores of people whose lives were trans-



formed by his welfare initiatives. She said that although YSR served as Chief Minister for only five years, the benefits of his development and welfare programmes reached every household.

She recalled that around 700 people reportedly died of grief following YSR's untimely demise, reflecting the deep affection people had for him. Sharmila hailed YSR as a champion of farmers and highlighted flagship schemes such as Arogyasri, fee reimbursement, loan waivers, free electricity and Jalayagnam. She said the fee reimbursement scheme helped poor students become doctors and engineers, while Arogyasri saved countless lives. She added that YSR lives on forever in the hearts of the people and thanked crores of Telugu people for continu-

YS Jagan pays tribute to Dr. YSR on 77th birth anniversary

Idupulapaya, July 8 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy paid rich floral tributes to former Chief Minister Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy on his 77th birth anniversary at the YSR Ghat in Idupulapaya. Accompanied by members of the YSR family, he offered floral wreaths at the memorial and participated in special prayers conducted by religious leaders. Remembering Dr. YSR as a visionary leader whose legacy of welfare and development con-



tinues to inspire millions, Y.S. Jagan and party leaders recalled his invaluable contributions to the poor, farmers,

healthcare, education, and irrigation. They described him as a leader who dedicated his life to public service and per-

manently earned a place in the hearts of the people.

Dr. YSR's wife Y.S. Vijayamma, daughter-in-law Y.S. Bharathi, other family members, senior YSRCP leaders, present and former public representatives, party workers, and supporters also paid floral tributes and participated in the commemorative prayers. Large numbers of admirers gathered at the YSR Ghat to honour the late leader, reaffirming that Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's ideals of inclusive development, social justice, and people-centric governance continue to serve as an enduring inspiration for future generations.



Ministers Launch LIDCAP Outlet at AP Secretariat

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Social Welfare Minister Dola Sri Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy and BC Welfare Minister S. Savitha on Wednesday said the coalition government is providing modern tools to traditional artisans to strengthen their livelihoods and ensure long-term economic security.

The ministers inaugurated a LIDCAP leather outlet in the fourth block of the AP Secretariat and said the government is committed to the welfare and development of leather workers. Speaking on the occasion, Dola Sri Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy said leather manufacturing units are being established at Yadavalli in Markapur district and G. Konduru in Krishna district to create employment opportunities. He added that the

government is restoring LIDCAP to its former prominence.

Savitha said the government's objective is to provide year-round employment and sustainable income to traditional artisans through modern equipment. She noted that the new outlet would offer quality leather products to Secretariat employees and visitors with a 10 per cent discount for employees.

LIDCAP Chairman Pilli Manikyarao said the organisation's lands had been protected from encroachment and that high-quality leather products were being made widely available. Following the inauguration, the ministers purchased leather products from the outlet. Social Welfare Secretary M.M. Naik and LIDCAP Managing Director Prasanna Venkatesh also attended the programme.

Swamy Thanks CM for 10% Increase in Hostel Mess Charges

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

The AP govt has decided to increase mess charges by 10 per cent for welfare hostels and residential schools, a move welcomed by Minister Dola Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy. The Minister expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for approving the enhancement, saying it reflects the government's commitment to strengthening student welfare.

Speaking on the decision, Dola Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy said the coalition government is providing poor students with quality education and welfare facilities comparable to corpo-

rate institutions. He stated that significant reforms have been implemented in welfare hostels and residential schools over the past two years, transforming them into better learning environments.

The Minister alleged that welfare hostels and residential schools had become centres of neglect and problems during the YSRCP government's tenure. He said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision is to ensure that students from economically weaker sections achieve greater opportunities in life. The government, he added, will not hesitate to spend whatever is necessary to secure a bright future for poor students.

Savitha Hails Govt's Welfare Boost for BC Students

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles Minister S. Savitha welcomed the state government's decision to increase diet charges by 10 per cent for students in all welfare hostels and residential schools and sanction 500 crore under the SASCI scheme for the construction of permanent buildings for Mahatma Jyotiba Phule (MJP) residential institutions.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Minister thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, describing the decisions as a reflection of the government's commitment to strengthening education and welfare for BC students. She said the enhanced diet charges would help provide better-quality and nutritious food in view of rising

prices.

Savitha noted that the coalition government had cleared 110 crore in pending diet bills left by the previous YSRCP government and has been regularly releasing diet and cosmetic charges. She added that six MJP girls' residential schools had recently been upgraded into junior colleges, while 10 new residential schools had been sanctioned.

The Minister said the government aims to make BC residential schools as comfortable as students' own homes by providing quality education, nutritious food and improved infrastructure, including inverters, CCTV cameras and RO plants. She said the allocation of 500 crore for permanent campuses would further strengthen residential education and thanked the Chief Minister on behalf of BC students across the state.

HappyNest Records 1.5 Million Safe Work Hours

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has announced that the HappyNest residential housing project in Amaravati has achieved 1.5 million safe man-hours without a Lost Time Injury (LTI), marking a significant milestone in construction safety.

Being executed through NCC Limited, the project comprises 1,200 residential apartments across 12 towers, each with 18 floors above the ground level. APCRDA said the achievement reflects its commitment to maintaining high standards of workplace safety, operational discipline and engineering excellence during the construction of the Capital City Amaravati and the Amaravati Government Complex.

Officials attributed the milestone

to strict implementation of safety protocols, continuous monitoring, regular worker training and proactive preventive measures at the project site. A special event was organised at the project camp on Wednesday to commemorate the achievement, where appreciation awards and incentives were presented to personnel for their contribution to maintaining safety standards.

Key officials associated with the milestone include K. Nagaraju, Chief Engineer (Civil-I), AGICL; M. Chandramohan Rao, Superintending Engineer, APCRDA; M. Yajurved Reddy, Executive Engineer; M. Paramjyothi Raju, Project Director; G. Brahmanayudu, Deputy General Manager, NCC Limited; and Feed-back Infra Private Limited, the Project Management Consultant.

Rajya Sabha MP Chintakayala Vijay Meets CM

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Rajya Sabha Member Chintakayala Vijay on Wednesday met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to discuss issues concerning the state ahead of the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The meeting assumes significance as the Monsoon Session is scheduled to commence in New Delhi on July 20. During the interaction, Vijay briefed the Chief Minister on several key matters proposed to be raised in Parliament and held detailed discussions on issues related to Andhra Pradesh's development and interests.

According to an official statement, the discussions focused on ensuring that the state's priorities receive adequate attention during the parliamentary session. The Chief



Minister and the Rajya Sabha MP reviewed important subjects affecting Andhra Pradesh and deliberated on strategies to effectively present them before the Centre.

The meeting was held as

part of the state's efforts to secure greater support and attention for Andhra Pradesh's developmental requirements and other priority issues during the forthcoming session of Parliament.

Pattiseema Lifeline for Krishna Delta, Says Minister

Pattiseema, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu on Wednesday said the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme has emerged as a lifeline for the Krishna Delta by diverting surplus Godavari waters until the completion of the Polavaram Project. After inaugurating water release by switching on the pumps at the Pattiseema and Tadipudi lift irrigation schemes, the Minister said the 1,300-crore project had enabled cultivation worth thousands of crores and ensured water security for the delta region.

Offering Jala Harathi to the Godavari, Ramanaidu said over 442 TMC of water had been transferred to the Krishna Delta through Pattiseema, creating agricultural output worth nearly 50,000 crore. He credited Chief



Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's foresight for initiating the river-linking project and criticised YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for previously dismissing Pattiseema and failing to utilise it during his tenure.

The Minister said the state government is fully prepared to tackle the impact of a possible Super El Niño through advance planning and efficient water management. He noted that the Jaladhara-Jala Harathi programme has completed 98 days,

focusing on water conservation, groundwater recharge and strengthening irrigation infrastructure. Despite poor inflows into major Krishna basin reservoirs, Pulichintala currently holds 28 TMC of water due to prudent management, he said.

Ramanaidu also pointed out that irrigation experts had recorded July 5 as the first day in 70 years without inflows into the Godavari. Following an increase in inflows to 56,000 cusecs, the government decided to divert 8,000 cusecs daily through Pattiseema to the Krishna Delta. He appealed to farmers to support the government's water conservation efforts by cultivating less water-intensive crops wherever feasible, while reiterating that drinking water would remain the state's highest priority, followed by irrigation requirements.

Ramprasad Reddy Seeks ₹1,000 Crore Khelo India Support for AP Sports

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Transport, Youth Services and Sports Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy sought Central support for strengthening sports infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh during his meetings in Delhi.

The Minister met Vineel Krishna, Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and requested early sanction of Khelo India proposals worth 1,000 crore. The proposals include sports complexes, multipurpose halls, athletics



tracks, football fields, swimming pools and other modern facilities across the state.

Ramprasad Reddy also sought 42.62 crore in Central funds for constructing a modern football turf in Rayachoti, Annamayya district. He said efforts are un-

derway to establish a sports hub in the district with Central assistance and that improved infrastructure would help rural youth access quality training and compete at national and international levels.

In another development, the Minister met former Indian boxer Vijender Singh Beniwal in Delhi and discussed plans to establish an international-standard boxing academy in Andhra Pradesh. They discussed promoting boxing, providing world-class coaching facilities and creating better opportunities for young athletes in the state.

MEPMA Signs 12 MoUs Under OFOE Initiative

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

The Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), under the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, on Wednesday signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with 12 business partners to promote entrepreneurship among Self-Help Group (SHG) women under the "One Family - One Entrepreneur" (OFOE) programme.

The Business Partners' Conference, held at the APCRDA office in Amaravati, was chaired by Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana. During the event, leading brands presented franchise opportunities in sectors including embroidery, beauty and wellness, food and beverage,



ages, retail, ice creams and millet products. Gomil, promoted by EBG Group Pvt. Ltd., and Beautitwa will receive special promotion under the "SWAYAM-AP" brand.

The initiative will support SHG families across Urban Local Bodies in establishing franchise units through MUDRA and CGTMSE loan linkages, bank partnerships, entrepreneurship training and technical guidance from MEPMA. Investment re-

quirements range from 2 lakh to 20 lakh for home-based units, kiosks, container outlets and boutique models.

Addressing the gathering, P. Narayana said the OFOE programme aims to ensure that every urban poor family has at least one sustainable livelihood enterprise, while empowering women entrepreneurs and strengthening the urban economy. Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar urged franchise partners to actively support SHGs in becoming successful entrepreneurs in line with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision.

The conference was attended by Commissioner and Director P. Sampath Kumar, Mission Director Karuna Vakati, Additional Mission Director K.N. Venkateswara Rao, senior officials, bankers and representatives of partner organisations.

Minister Orders Probe Into RIMS Hostel Illness

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles Minister S. Savitha on Wednesday directed Kadapa district officials to ensure the best possible medical care for students who fell ill after allegedly consuming contaminated food at the RIMS Medical Hostel.

Expressing concern over the incident, Savitha spoke to District Collector Cherukuri Sridhar, District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Ravi Rathod and the

RIMS Hospital Superintendent, seeking a detailed report on the incident. She instructed officials to keep the affected students under continuous medical supervision and ensure they receive quality treatment.

Officials informed the Minister that the students' health condition was stable and that treatment was being provided at RIMS Hospital. They said some students were likely to be discharged by Wednesday night, while those who remained physically weak

would continue to receive medical care.

Savitha warned that negligence in the care of students would not be tolerated. She also directed authorities to conduct medical examinations for the remaining hostel residents and ensure that only fresh food and properly boiled and cooled drinking water are served. The Minister urged officials to remain vigilant in view of changing weather conditions to prevent similar incidents.

Kollu Ravindra Hands Over ₹10 Lakh Aid to Families of Missing Fishermen

Visakhapatnam, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra, along with MLAs Vamsi Krishna Srinivas and Lokam Naga Madhavi, on Wednesday visited the families of six fishermen who went missing during a fishing expedition and assured them of the government's full support. At the AP Mechanised Boat Operators Association office in the Fishing Harbour, the leaders handed over financial assistance of 10 lakh each to the affected families.

Ravindra said seven fishermen had ventured into the sea, but only one, Chinna, survived. Despite extensive search operations by the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy, the remaining six fishermen could not be traced and were presumed dead after four days. He said the compensation comprises 5 lakh each from the Fisheries Department and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The Minister said assistance would also be provided for the lost fishing boat and reiterated that the government would continue extending all possible support to the affected families. He added that rescue efforts had been launched immediately after the accident was reported.



Later, Ravindra visited Chinna, the lone survivor, at a hospital in Visakhapatnam and reviewed his condition with doctors. He directed officials to provide the best possible medical treatment and assured Chinna and his family of financial assistance as well as a replacement for the fishing boat, valued at around 50 lakh, that was lost in the accident.

Ravindra said the coalition government has extended 3 crore in assistance to fishermen since assuming office and announced plans to restore the fishing boat insurance scheme and strengthen tracking systems in fishing vessels to improve safety. He also cautioned against attempts to politicise the tragedy, warning that strict action would be taken against those spreading misinformation or acting irresponsibly over the incident.

Temple Faith Should Not Be Sacrificed for Politics

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy on Wednesday condemned attempts to exploit religious faith for political gain and spread misinformation about Hindu temples, warning that the government would not tolerate any conspiracy to hurt devotees' sentiments. Addressing the media at the State Secretariat, he said the government is committed to transparent temple administration and improved facilities.

The Minister said the combined income of 22 major temples rose from 1,379.19 crore in 2023-24 to 1,503.90 crore in 2025-26, while pilgrim footfall increased from 634.68 lakh to 805.04 lakh. He said temples such as Vijayawada Kanaka



Durga, Annavaram, Srisailem, Simhachalam, Dwaraka Tirumala, Srikalahasti and Kanipakam recorded steady growth.

Ramanarayana Reddy said free annaprasadam is being served at 111 temples for nearly three crore devotees annually, with plans to expand it to 59 more temples. He added that 789.92 crore has been sanctioned for 659 temple development projects and reiterated the government's focus on transparency and digital services.

Minister Calls for Stronger Digital Outreach

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Information and Housing Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy on Wednesday directed the Andhra Pradesh Digital Corporation (APDC) to strengthen the state's digital communication strategy to ensure wider and more effective dissemination of government welfare schemes and development initiatives.

During a review meeting at the APDC office in Tadepalli, the Minister was informed that the government's social media platforms had recorded millions of viewer touchpoints over the past two years. He instructed officials to expand digital outreach and ensure verified information from all government departments is shared with APDC in a timely manner for faster public communication. Parthasarathy also called for a comprehensive plan to engage digital influencers in government communication and establish a coordination mechanism with the Police Department



to disseminate verified information. He stressed the need for high-quality digital content, including reels and short-form videos, to enhance public engagement across platforms such as X, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook.

The Minister further directed APDC to activate social media units across all 175 Assembly constituencies to improve grassroots outreach. He also interacted with APDC employees, reviewed their concerns and assured them of the government's continued support. Executive Director Dr. Rani Sushmita, I&PR Special Officer Galla Seshekumar and other officials attended the meeting.

Tele-MANAS Saves Youth After Suicide Attempt

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

A 21-year-old youth from Proddatur in Kadapa district was rescued after a suicide attempt through the timely intervention of the Tele-MANAS mental health helpline, the Andhra Pradesh Health Department said on Wednesday.

According to officials, the youth consumed rat poison on Tuesday following personal problems and later contacted the Tele-MANAS helpline (14416) after becoming anxious about his condition. Mental health professionals and counsellors at the Tele-MANAS centre operating from Vijayawada Government General Hospital immediately counselled him over the phone and also spoke to his father, who was unaware of the

incident.

Based on their advice, the youth was rushed to the Proddatur District Hospital, where doctors provided emergency treatment, including inducing vomiting, enabling him to recover. He was later discharged after his condition stabilised.

On Wednesday, Tele-MANAS staff conducted counselling sessions for both the youth and his father. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav commended Tele-MANAS Consultant Dr. Sreekanth, counsellor Shaik, Proddatur District Mental Health Programme Psychiatrist Dr. Kavitha Prasanna, Clinical Psychologist K. Shilpa and Psychiatric Social Worker P. Bhaskar for their prompt response in saving the young man's life.

CM Announces 10% Hike in Student Diet Charges

continued

tobacco companies to immediately begin procurement operations and purchase tobacco at the Minimum Support Price fixed by the state government, ensuring that prices do not fall below Rs 200 per kg. Reviewing tobacco procurement with officials and traders at the Secretariat, he expressed displeasure over the functioning of the Tobacco Board and questioned the slowdown in purchases in Andhra Pradesh compared with Karnataka.

The Chief Minister warned companies against causing hardship to farmers and reviewed procurement commitments made by 28 companies. He particularly criticised ITC Limited, Godfrey Phillips India Limited and VST Industries for slow procurement.

TTD Cancels VIP Break Darshan on Key Festival Dates

continued

August 24 (second day of Pavitrotsavam).

In September, cancellations will be in effect on September 8 (Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam), September 14 (Ankurarpanam for Srivari Brahmotsavam), and throughout the Srivari Brahmotsavam from Septem-

The three companies had submitted indents for 95.50 million kg but had purchased only 17.6 million kg so far.

Company representatives said excess cultivation, lower exports and supply exceeding demand had affected procurement. Officials informed that while companies placed indents for 142 million kg, farmers produced 232 million kg, resulting in oversupply and price pressure.

Ministers D.B.V. Swamy, S Savitha, G Sandhyarani, N.M.D. Farooq, K. Atchanaidu, Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Dola Bala Veera Anjaneya Swamy, along with Minority Welfare Advisor Mohammed Sharif, participated in the meetings.

ber 15 to 23.

TTD also clarified that VIP recommendation letters will not be accepted on the days preceding these events, except for Protocol Dignitaries.

Officials have urged devotees to take note of these changes and plan their Tirumala pilgrimage accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

Pawan Kalyan Delivers on Healthcare Promise to Artisans

continued

underwent comprehensive health examinations, including specialised and routine medical tests to assess their overall health.Pawan Kalyan also ensured immediate medical attention for Mahalakshmi, a lace artisan from Pasaladivi in Narsapuram constituency, who had informed him about her eye problems during the handicrafts festival. Following his instructions, Mahalakshmi and fellow lace artisan Ande Lakshmi were

taken in a special vehicle to Sankara Eye Hospital at Pedakani for detailed examinations. Doctors confirmed that both women had vision-related ailments and provided them with spectacles, eye drops and prescribed medicines.The initiative is aimed at improving the health and well-being of artisans, many of whom depend on fine handwork for their livelihood, by ensuring timely diagnosis and access to specialised medical care.

Satya Kumar Yadav Alleges YSRCP Trying to Disturb Social Harmony

Vijayawada, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Wednesday alleged that the opposition was attempting to exploit the prevailing positive atmosphere in the state by creating caste and religious divisions. He said strict action should be taken within the ambit of law against those spreading communal hatred and claimed that provocative video messages were being circulated from neighbouring states to incite tensions.

The Minister alleged that YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had made statements aimed at weakening the foundations of Hindutva and criticised actor Prakash Raj for remarks that, according to him, encouraged divisive narratives. Referring to Jagan's recent "Mavigan" remarks, Satya Kumar Yadav questioned the intent behind the statement and said only Jagan could explain its meaning. He also alleged that the former Chief Minister had earlier



shifted from supporting Amaravati to advocating three capitals and was now raising a new and inconsistent argument.On local body elections, the Minister said the NDA alliance was preparing a coordinated strategy focused on development in both rural and urban areas. He said the three alliance partners would soon hold discussions, and the respective party leaderships would decide candidates and seat allocation for the upcoming local elections.

YSR Legacy Inspires YSRCP Fight

Tadepalli, July 8 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy on Tuesday said the welfare ideals of former Chief Minister Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) would continue to guide the party's struggle for the people.

YSR Congress Party leaders paid floral tributes to YSR on his birth anniversary at the party's central office in Tadepalli. Among those who participated were former ministers Jogi Ramesh, Vellampalli Srinivas and Sailajanath, former MP Nandigam Suresh, MLCs Lella Appi Reddy and



Ruhulla, former MLA Sudhakar Babu, and representatives of various party wings. The programme also featured cake cutting, distribution of clothes to the poor and a blood donation camp.Speaking on the oc-

Will Police Arrest Prakash Raj in Ravan Row?

Ravi Podili

The arrest of YouTuber Ravan in the state has sparked a political debate, with actor Prakash Raj's comments on the issue drawing sharp reactions from government supporters and social media users.

Initially, cases were registered against Ravan for allegedly making objectionable remarks against Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, following which he was arrested. After his release on bail, further allegations surfaced regarding his remarks on religious issues and other controversial statements. Authorities later registered additional cases, including provisions under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Ravan is currently lodged in Nellore Central Jail as a remand prisoner.

The developments have led to differing reactions from political circles and civil society. Some people who had earlier expressed support for Ravan distanced themselves after serious charges were included, while others questioned the manner in which legal action was initiated.

Meanwhile, actor Prakash Raj has been regularly responding to the issue through his social media platforms. He



criticised the arrest and questioned the government's approach, stating that people were closely observing the developments.

Prakash Raj's remarks have drawn criticism from sections of social media users, who accused him of selectively responding to certain issues. Critics questioned his strong reaction to Ravan's arrest while pointing to his silence on other political developments involving parties and leaders with whom he has previously shared public platforms.

In one of his recent social media videos, Prakash Raj referred to the possibility of police examining Ravan's mobile phone as part of the investigation. He also raised concerns about whether those supporting Ravan could face pressure during the process. His comments led to further debate, with some users questioning the reasons behind his contin-

ued focus on the case.

Supporters of Prakash Raj, however, argue that his statements reflect concerns over freedom of expression and the manner in which criminal cases are handled. They maintain that questioning government action is part of a democratic process.

The controversy has also brought attention to Prakash Raj's political associations. He has previously participated in public events alongside leaders of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and expressed views on various political and social issues.

The ongoing debate over the Ravan case has highlighted wider discussions on freedom of speech, social media responsibility, religious sentiments, and the role of public figures in political matters. As the legal proceedings continue, further developments in the case are being closely watched.

BJP Plans Expansion in Andhra, Says PVN Madhav

Vijayawada, July 8 | TPN Bureau

BJP President PVN Madhav on Wednesday said the party is preparing a comprehensive strategy to expand its organisational presence across the state. He was addressing a workshop for BJP official spokespersons and media panellists in Vijayawada, attended by State Media In-charge Kilaru Dileep, State Chief Spokesperson Jayaprakash and Telugu and Sanskrit Languages Corporation Chairman R.D. Wilson.

Madhav alleged that several anti-national and divisive forces were operating in Andhra Pradesh and accused certain groups of attempting to provoke communal tensions, insult Hindu deities and encourage forced religious conversions. He said freedom of expression should not be misused to spread hatred or make statements supporting terrorism, adding that all religions should be respected while safeguarding one's own faith.Highlighting development initiatives, Madhav said the "double-en-

gine" governments led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu were accelerating Andhra Pradesh's growth. He cited green corridors, economic corridors, solar power expansion, the Google data centre, the steel plant, Amaravati development, Machilipatnam Port and the Polavaram Project as major initiatives. He also alleged corruption in the Obulapuram mining issue and said development should not be obstructed by political conspiracies.

Vijayasai Reddy Alleges Attack on Hinduism, Targets YSRCP Support

Amaravati, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Former MP Vijayasai Reddy said Indian culture is "magnificent" and called for strict action against those making derogatory remarks against deities, Hinduism, or the country. In a post on X, he asserted that both society and the law must respond firmly, irrespective of caste or religion.

Referring to YouTuber Bachalakuri Joseph, also known as Ravan, and actor

Prakash Raj, Vijayasai Reddy alleged that support extended to them amounts to an attack on Hinduism. He further claimed that the backing by YSRCP reflects a broader pattern that needs to be examined.Vijayasai Reddy questioned the origins and support systems behind individuals making controversial remarks, urging people in the Telugu states to reflect on the issue. He alleged that some groups are justifying religious conversions and using offen-

sive language against Indian culture and national interests. He also claimed that those endorsing such views should be held equally accountable. According to him, there is a "planned agenda" operating behind the scenes to target the country and Hinduism.

Vijayasai Reddy called upon the governments of the Telugu states and the Centre to take comprehensive action to curb what he described as "religious extremism" and protect cultural values.

Akhila Priya–Brijendra Reddy Row Sparks Tension

Allagadda, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Political tensions escalated in Allagadda of Nandyal district on Wednesday as a war of words between TDP MLA Bhuma Akhila Priya and former YSRCP MLA Gangula Brijendra Reddy intensified over allegations related to the Ahobilam Mutt.

Brijendra Reddy had alleged that Akhila Priya was involved in irregularities concerning the affairs of the Ahobilam Mutt. Rejecting the al-

legations as baseless, the MLA challenged the former legislator to prove the charges.Addressing the media, Bhuma Akhila Priya asserted that she had not committed any corruption and declared that she was prepared to resign from her MLA post if Brijendra Reddy substantiated the allegations with evidence. She also announced that she would remain at the Ahobilam Mutt and invited him to present proof there. If he failed to do so, she demanded that he publicly apologise

to the people for making false accusations.

Following her statement, Akhila Priya reached Ahobilam. Meanwhile, Brijendra Reddy, who was travelling from Allagadda to Ahobilam, was stopped by the police amid concerns over a possible confrontation between supporters of the two leaders.

Police deployed additional security in the area to prevent any untoward incidents and maintain law and order as political tensions continued to rise.

Machilipatnam, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of the TDP and Jana Sena on Tuesday strongly criticised Perni Kittu over his alleged provocative remarks made during the birth anniversary celebrations of former Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, stating that they would not be intimidated by threats or political rhetoric.

Addressing the media, the alliance leaders said they had faced several legal and political challenges in the past and would continue to stand firm. They recalled

Lokesh Woos Korean Investments for AP, Launches APEX-Korea in Busan

continued

Aditya, CEO, AP Maritime Board; Shubham Bansal, Commissioner of Industries; and several South Korean industrialists.

During his visit, Lokesh met the senior leadership of BNK Financial Group, including Lee Kwang-jun, Managing Director; Son Dae-jin, CEO, BNK Capital; Jung Deok Min, Chairman, Make in India Korea; Keum Sik, Chairman, SB Sunbo; and Choi Seung Hoon, Vice President-Global Cooperation, Hyundai Motors.

He invited BNK Venture Capital to join Andhra Pradesh's Research, Technology and Innovation Hub (RTIH) as a member or mentor to support startups and MSMEs through investments, fund management and consultancy services. He also urged the group to explore infrastructure financing opportunities for Amaravati, industrial parks and power projects, encourage Korean clients from the electronics, semiconductor, shipbuilding and energy sectors to invest in Andhra Pradesh, and establish a BNK Financial branch in Amaravati.

BNK Financial executives said the group comprises Busan Bank, Kyongnam Bank, Savings Bank and subsidiaries in securities, capital, asset management, credit information, systems and venture capital, with 398 domestic branches and 75 overseas outlets across China, India, Southeast Asia and Central Asia.They said the proposals would be placed before the company's senior leadership for consideration. BNK Financial Group manages assets worth nearly \$101.9 billion (about 9.64 lakh crore).

Lokesh also met Ryan Kang, CEO and President Director of Boo Young Group, and Millie Richardson, Business Strategy & Planning Manager, urging the

company to establish a footwear and components manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh. He highlighted the state's investor-friendly policies, ready industrial infrastructure, logistics connectivity and single-window clearance system. Ryan Kang expressed interest in setting up the facility and discussed the availability of ready-built industrial sheds while exploring investment opportunities.

The minister also held discussions with executives of Hwaseung Corporation, a leading OEM supplier to global brands including Adidas, which manufactures nearly 20 million pairs of sports shoes annually. Company representatives said they plan to initially focus on exports before entering the domestic market and noted that Hwaseung's auto parts division already operates in Pune, Chennai and Gudapalli in Anantapur district. They said the company would examine the latest investment proposals from the Andhra Pradesh government. The meeting was attended by Jeon Hyun-ho, Lee Moo-jung, Yoon Jin-min, Kwak Myung-chul, Lee Jin-seok (Mark Lee) and Konstantin Vasiliev.

Lokesh also visited the Busan manufacturing facility of Shoealls, a South Korean producer of MFDS-certified smart healthcare footwear. He inspected advanced manufacturing technologies, including medical magnetic generators, vibration chips, cooling systems and ergonomic designs aimed at improving blood circulation, reducing muscle fatigue and enhancing foot health. Company representatives explained that Shoealls is developing AI-enabled smart medical footwear in collaboration with Seoul National University and Ewha Womans University Medical Center and holds multiple patents in medical and ergonomic technologies.

Pawan Kalyan Mourns Demise of Young Niranjan

continued

stating that despite suffering from a serious health condition, Niranjan displayed remarkable hope and self-confidence towards life.

Pawan Kalyan said it was painful that such a brave child had left the world at a young

age. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to Niranjan's family and prayed for strength for them to overcome their grief.

Remembering Niranjan fondly, Pawan Kalyan said the boy's smile, courage, and affection would remain forever in his heart. He prayed for Niranjan's soul to rest in peace.

Modi Receives Warm Welcome in Melbourne

continued

the warmth shown by the diaspora outweighed the city's winter chill. He praised the Australian-India Orchestra's rendition of "Maa Tumhe Salaam," calling it a memorable performance that reflected the power of music in strengthening people-to-people ties and highlighted the global appeal of "Vande Mataram" as India marks its 150th anniversary.

The Prime Minister also ap-

preciated a unique musical performance featuring Australia's ancient Didgeridoo alongside India's Tabla, describing it as a symbol of the deep cultural connection between the two nations. He further lauded a Kathak performance presented during the community reception, expressing happiness that Indian classical dance continues to gain popularity across Australia.

AP Approves Compassionate End-of-Life Care Guidelines

continued

must also be communicated to a First Class Judicial Magistrate, while disputes may be taken to the High Court.The Director of Medical Education, Director of Secondary Health and District Medical and

Health Officers have been entrusted with monitoring implementation. Satya Kumar Yadav directed officials to enforce the guidelines rigorously, ensuring transparency and preventing any misuse at every stage of the process

fulfil the mandate given by the people.

Criticising Perni Kittu's remarks, the alliance leaders said political leaders should focus on resolving public issues instead of making inflammatory statements. They urged him to engage in constructive politics by offering suggestions for the development of Machilipatnam rather than issuing threats.They maintained that the public expects responsible political discourse and would not support politics based on intimidation or personal attacks.



Lakshmisha Promotes APAIMS for Farmers

Vijayawada, July 8 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Wednesday urged farmers to make effective use of the Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Information Management System (APAIMS) app, stating that it offers multiple services that can help improve agricultural productivity and farm income.

During an inspection of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and private fertilizer outlets in Penuganchiprolu, the Collector reviewed fertilizer distribution and interacted with farmers. According to officials, farmers expressed satisfaction with the online fertilizer supply system, stating that it ensured timely availability of fertilizers such as urea and DAP while preventing diversion.

Dr. Lakshmisha said the APAIMS app enables farmers to access weather forecasts, market prices, crop advisories and the

latest updates from the Agriculture Department directly on their mobile phones. He appealed to farmers to download the app and make full use of its services.

Emphasising transparency in fertilizer distribution, the Collector said special information centres had been established at fertilizer outlets and that assistance was also available through the Collectorate Command Control Centre and local Agriculture Department officials. He advised farmers to prioritise horticulture crops, short-duration paddy varieties and intercropping to minimise the impact of possible weather uncertainties caused by El Niño. Such practices, he said, would reduce water consumption, lower crop risks and help farmers achieve better yields and higher incomes.

Jaggayyapeta Assistant Director of Agriculture C. Bhavani and Agriculture Department officials accompanied the Collector during the inspection.



Ata Nizam Baba Receives Langar Seva Award

Amaravathi, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Spiritual leader Ata Muhammad Nizamuddin Shah Taj Qadri, popularly known as Ata Nizam Baba, was honoured with the prestigious Langar Seva Award during the 104th Urs Shareef Parcham (Flag Hoisting) ceremony organised by the Hazrat Syed Baba Tajuddin Auliya Nagpur Shareef Trust.

The award recognises Ata Nizam Baba's decades of humanitarian service through the Langar Shareef, a community kitchen run by the Astana-Ata-e-Bagh Sarkar Tajul Auliya Darbar (AABSTA Darbar) at Zampani in Andhra Pradesh. The initiative provides free meals to lakhs of people irrespective of caste, creed, religion or social background, promoting the Sufi ideals of

compassion, equality and communal harmony.

The honour was presented by Trust Chairman Ali Janab Pyare Khan Saheb, General Secretary Taj Ahmad Raja Saheb and trustees Faruk Bawala Saheb, Jichkar Saheb, Mustafa Topiwala Saheb and Haji Imran Saheb, who commended Ata Nizam Baba for his unwavering commitment to serving the underprivileged.

Accepting the award, Ata Nizam Baba dedicated the recognition to his spiritual guru, devotees and volunteers who have supported the Langar service over the years. He reaffirmed his commitment to expanding the community kitchen and said service to humanity remains the highest form of devotion, describing the Langar Shareef as a symbol of love, equality and universal brotherhood.

CMRF Aid Extended to 59 Poor Patients

Avanigadda, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad said the Alliance government is giving top priority to providing healthcare support to poor and needy people. He stated that medical assistance is being extended through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) without considering political affiliations.

A CMRF cheque distribution programme was held at the MLA's office in Avanigadda on Wednesday, where Buddha Prasad distributed financial assistance cheques worth 1,08,66,041 to 59 beneficiaries from various villages in the constituency.

Speaking on the occasion,

the MLA said the government is committed to supporting poor families facing financial difficulties due to medical expenses. He informed that since the formation of the Alliance government, CMRF assistance of 13.90 crore has been provided to 1,608 beneficiaries in the Avanigadda constituency.

Buddha Prasad said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been responding positively to the medical needs of poor families and ensuring timely processing of applications for financial assistance.

The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad for extending support during their medical emergencies.

NTR Health University VC Chandrasekhar Calls on Governor

Vijayawada, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Vice-Chancellor of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences Dr. Pulala Chandrasekhar, along with senior officials of the university, paid a courtesy visit to the Governor of Andhra Pradesh at Raj Bhavan.

During the meeting, Dr. Chandrasekhar presented a commemorative photo album to the Governor featuring memorable moments from the university's recent Convocation held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada. The Convocation was attended by the Governor.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences in promoting quality education in health sciences and congratulated the university authorities for successfully conducting the Convocation.

Dr. Chandrasekhar thanked the Governor for gracing the Convocation ceremony and for extending continued encouragement and support to the university.

The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by the Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Director (Research & Development), and Director of Publications during the visit.

The interaction concluded on a positive note, with the university reaffirming its commitment towards academic excellence, research, innovation, and strengthening healthcare education in Andhra Pradesh.



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Anagani Inaugurates New Tahsildar Office

Uyyuru, July 7 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Revenue, Stamps and Registration Anagani Satyaprasad on Tuesday inaugurated the newly constructed Tahsildar Office in Uyyuru Mandal, highlighting the government's commitment to strengthening public service delivery through improved administrative infrastructure.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji, Penamaluru MLA Bode Prasad, Joint Collector M. Naveen and other officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said modern government offices play a key role in providing



efficient, transparent and citizen-friendly services. He expressed confidence that the new building would enhance the functioning of the Revenue Department and enable officials to deliver services to the public more effectively.

Collector D.K. Balaji said the new Tahsildar office would provide a better working environment for staff and improve access to revenue-related services for residents of Uyyuru Mandal. He urged officials to ensure prompt disposal of public grievances and maintain transparency in administration. The dignitaries inspected the newly constructed office building and interacted with officials regarding the facilities provided. Local public representatives, revenue officials and residents attended the inaugural programme.

The new Tahsildar office is expected to strengthen administrative efficiency and provide improved services to people seeking various revenue and land-related transactions in the mandal.

No Compromise on Mid-Day Meal Quality: Collector Lakshmisha

Penuganchiprolu, July 8 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said nutritious food is essential for building a healthy future for students and stressed that there should be no compromise on the quality of meals served under the mid-day meal scheme in schools.

The Collector made a surprise inspection at the Zilla Parishad High School in Penuganchiprolu on Wednesday to review the implementation of the scheme. He examined the quality of food, adherence to the prescribed menu,



kitchen hygiene, storage of cooking ingredients, and availability of safe drinking water. He also reviewed the cooking process and issued instructions to the staff concerned.

Dr. Lakshmisha directed officials to ensure that students are

served hot, hygienic, and nutritious meals every day. He emphasized the need for maintaining cleanliness in kitchens and called for regular monitoring of food quality to avoid lapses.

During the visit, the Collector interacted with students and enquired about their studies, quality of food, and facilities available at the school. He advised them to make effective use of educational and welfare schemes provided by the government and to aim for higher goals in life.

The inspection highlighted the administration's focus on student health and welfare.

Balaji Stresses Fair Polls, PCPNDT Enforcement

Machilipatnam, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Collector and District Election Officer D.K. Balaji on Wednesday emphasised transparency in the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls and directed strict enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act during two separate review meetings.

At a meeting with representatives of political parties at the Gannavaram Tahsildar's office, Balaji said the SSR exercise was being carried out impartially in accordance with Election Commission of India guidelines. He urged political parties to cooperate with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral rolls.

The Collector explained that



door-to-door verification, collection of enumeration forms, digitisation of voter data and disposal of objections were progressing as per prescribed norms. He appealed to political parties to assist BLOs by providing information on shifted, deceased and tenant voters and by creating awareness among the public. He also informed that help desks and the Election Commission's helpline (1950) were available to assist voters.

Later, chairing the District Level Multi-Member Appropriate Authority Committee meeting at the Collectorate, Balaji warned that there would be no compromise in implementing the PCPNDT Act, which prohibits prenatal sex determination. The committee approved applications for registration, renewal and modification of permissions for several scanning centres after examining inspection reports and required documents.

The Collector also unveiled a poster publicising the state's toll-free complaint number 1800-233-2447 and urged citizens to report violations related to prenatal sex determination and gender discrimination. District Judge Gajula Venkateswarlu, District Medical and Health Officer Dr. P. Yugandhar, Additional SP V.V. Naidu and other officials attended the meeting.

R&B Chief Engineer Addresses Contractors' Concerns

Vijayawada, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Chief Engineer (Buildings), Roads and Buildings Department, K. Naveen on Wednesday assured prompt resolution of issues raised by contractors during an interaction with a delegation of the State Association of Building Contractors (SABCA) at the R&B office on Bandar Road.

The SABCA delegation paid a courtesy visit to K. Naveen and felicitated him with a shawl on his appointment as Chief Engineer

(Buildings). During the meeting, the contractors discussed various field-level issues relating to building construction works being executed by the R&B Department across Andhra Pradesh.

Responding to their concerns, Naveen reviewed the progress of ongoing works, fund releases and technical approval procedures. He immediately contacted the concerned Superintending Engineers (SEs) and Executive Engineers (EEs) over the phone and directed them to address the issues without

delay.

Contractors appreciated the Chief Engineer's quick response and expressed confidence that the pending issues would be resolved at the earliest.

Several contractors from different parts of the state also joined the meeting through video conference and highlighted local issues related to ongoing projects.

Among those present were Bhupendra Sinha, Secretary of the SABCA Guntur-Prakasam Committee, and others were present.



Collector Launches Research Book on Mental Health and Resilience

Vijayawada, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Dr. G. Lakshmisha, NTR District Collector and District Magistrate of NTR district, unveiled the research book "Unseen Battles of the Mind - Research on Mental Health and Resilience" at the Collectorate in Vijayawada. The book launch was organised by the Ambavaram Centre for Psychological Research & Wellbeing Association.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lakshmisha highlighted the increasing importance of mental health awareness and stressed the need for early intervention and scientific approaches to psychological well-being. He appreciated the efforts of the editorial team and contributors for bringing research-based insights on contemporary mental health challenges.

Edited by Dr. Ambavaram Pratap Reddy, the book comprises 11 research chapters authored by Dr. Tejavathi U.C., Dr. M. Sravana Krishna Kumari, Dr. Sripathi Jagadeeswara Rao,

Padala Ramadevi, Dr. Bithra Bhanu Shankar, Bhavana Chinka, Sirisha Kommanna, Athith M. Gowda, Dr. Ambavaram Pratap Reddy, Dr. Saipriya Peta, and Lalitha Devi.

The publication covers various topics, including financial stress, anxiety and depression, artificial intelligence in mental healthcare, suicide prevention, adolescent mental health, obsessive-compulsive disorder, academic stress, workplace mental health, psychological resilience, and the impact of social media on students.

The event was attended by Dr. Ambavaram Pratap Reddy, Dr. Saipriya Peta, Dr. Tejavathi J., Dr. Sravani, Dr. Anitha Jyothi, Ramadevi, Praveena Sana, Sailaja, Gogineni Padmaja, Teja Singh, psychologists, researchers, academicians and invited guests.

The organisers said the book aims to connect psychological research with public awareness and serve as a useful reference for professionals, educators, students and mental health practitioners.



Collector Reviews Voter Form Digitisation Process

Ramavarappadu, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Election Officer and District Collector DK Balaji inspected the digitisation process of enumeration forms as part of the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in Krishna district on Wednesday.

The Collector visited the Ramavarappadu Gram Panchayat office in Vijayawada Rural Mandal under the Gannavaram Assembly Constituency and reviewed the online data entry process of enumeration forms collected during the door-to-door survey.

During the inspection, Balaji examined the procedures being followed by officials and directed them to speed up the digitisation work while ensuring accuracy. He instructed the staff to carefully verify voter details during data entry and ensure that the information of all eligible voters is recorded correctly.

The Collector stressed the importance of maintaining quality standards and completing the process within the stipulated timeframe. He also advised officials to avoid errors in voter data and conduct thorough verification at every stage.

The Collector was accompanied by R. Kumudini Singh, APC, Samagra Shiksha and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Gannavaram Constituency, Hariharanath, Project Director, DRDA, election department staff and other officials.

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Complete Bank Linkage for Thalliki Vandanam Benefits: Shahid Babu

Machilipatnam, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Social Welfare Department Assistant Director Shaik Shahid Babu has urged eligible Intermediate SC students to immediately complete bank account formalities to avail benefits under the Andhra Pradesh government's 'Thalliki Vandanam' scheme.

In a press note issued on Wednesday, Shahid Babu said students without bank accounts should open one in their own name at the earliest. He also advised those who already have bank accounts to complete Aadhaar seeding and NPCI mapping, as financial assistance under the scheme would be directly credited only to accounts with the required verification.

He said the department had launched a special drive to clear pending cases across

Krishna district. The number of pending cases has been reduced from 4,230 on July 2 to 1,477 by July 6 through coordinated efforts by field-level officials.

According to the department, the remaining pending cases include 249 in Machilipatnam, 289 in Gannavaram, 386 in Gudivada, 122 in Avanigadda and 431 in Uyyuru.

Shahid Babu said Assistant Social Welfare Officers, wardens, Welfare and Education Assistants and college managers had been instructed to personally contact eligible students and ensure completion of bank account opening, Aadhaar seeding and NPCI mapping.

He appealed to all eligible students to complete the pending formalities without delay to receive financial assistance under the Thalliki Vandanam scheme.



Collector Reviews Preparations for CM's Polavaram Visit

Eluru , July 8 | TPN Bureau

Eluru District Collector K. Vetri Selvi on Wednesday inspected key locations at the Polavaram Project in view of the proposed visit of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on July 13 to review the progress of the project works.

The Collector first examined the site identified for the heli-pad and later visited the ECRF dam, powerhouse, turbine unit and other major project locations expected to be included in the Chief Minister's itinerary. She reviewed the proposed exhibition showcasing the progress of construction works and sought details from project of-

ficials on the arrangements being made.

K. Vetri Selvi instructed officials to deploy engineering personnel at every inspection point to brief the Chief Minister on the status and progress of the ongoing works.

Joint Collector M.J. Abhishek Gowda, RDO M.V. Ramana, Polavaram Project Authority Chief Engineer Ramesh Kumar, Superintending Engineer K. Ramachandra Rao, Executive Engineers D. Srinivasu and P.V. Venkataramana, Deputy Engineer Madhava Rao, members of the engineering team, Tahsildar Joji, public representatives and coalition leaders participated in the inspection.

Anti-Dengue Awareness Rally Held

Chirala, July 8 | TPN Bureau

An Anti-Dengue Masotsavam awareness rally was organised at the Area Hospital, Chirala, Bapatla District on Wednesday under the aegis of the District Health Department to educate the public on dengue prevention and control measures.

The rally was flagged off by Bapatla District Medical and Health Officer Dr. S. Vijayamma and District Hospital Services Coordinator Dr. Padmavathi. Addressing participants, the health officials urged people to remain vigilant against dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases during the monsoon season. They stressed that maintaining clean surroundings and eliminating stagnant water were the most effective measures to prevent mosquito breeding.

The officials also appealed to the public to observe "Friday



Dry Day" every week by cleaning water storage containers, coolers and other places where water accumulates. They said regular household inspections and larval surveys by health workers would help curb the spread of dengue. People experiencing fever were advised to seek immediate treatment at government hospitals, where diagnostic tests and medical services are available free of cost.

Doctors Sridevi of Epurupalem PHC, Sai Vaishnavi and Jyothirmayi of Chirala PHCs, along with medical officials from Vetapalem and Pandillapalli PHCs, participated in the awareness rally.

MLA Distributes CMRF Cheques to Beneficiaries

P. Gannavaram, July 8 | TPN Bureau

P. Gannavaram MLA Giddi Satyanarayana on Wednesday distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques and Pattadar Passbooks with the State emblem at separate programmes in the constituency, stating that both initiatives were aimed at providing financial and legal security to beneficiaries.

At the MLA's camp office, Giddi Satyanarayana distributed CMRF cheques worth 46.84 lakh to 83 beneficiaries under the 33rd phase. He said the relief fund, implemented by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, was helping poor families meet medical expenses during times of illness. He also urged eligible residents to utilise the "Pawananna Arogya Bharosa" programme, which of-



fers free health check-ups, medicines, surgeries and spectacles. Later, under the "Mana Bhoomi-Mana Hakku" programme at Kundalapalli village, the MLA distributed Pattadar Passbooks bearing the State emblem to 390 farmers. He said the coalition government had repealed the Land Titling Act and was committed to safeguarding farmers' interests. He also advised farmers facing issues during the ongoing resurvey to approach local revenue officials for prompt resolution. Coalition leaders and public representatives participated in both programmes.

Enumeration Form Submission Mandatory by July 14 Says Collector

Rajamahendravaram, July 8 | TPN Bureau

EG District Collector and District Election Officer Keerthi Chekuri has urged all voters to submit their enumeration forms to the respective Booth Level Officers (BLOs) by July 14, stating that only those who submit the forms will have their names included in the draft electoral roll to be published on July 21 under the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme.

Addressing a media conference at the Collectorate on Wednesday, Chekuri said BLOs are distributing forms door-to-door, collecting completed forms and accelerating the digitisation process. Voters living outside the district can submit forms online through the ECI portal or



the ECI NET App.

She said voter details are being mapped with the 2002 electoral roll, while those marked as "No Mapping" will remain in the draft roll and receive notices for citizenship verification. As of 8 a.m. on July 8, 99.39 per cent of forms had been distributed and 69.59 per cent digitised. Chekuri advised voters to approach BLOs, helpdesks or the 1950 helpline for assistance. Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop and Collectorate officials attended the programme.

Nirmala Sitharaman to Attend Palnadu Bankers' Meet on 17th

Guntur, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Guntur MP Krishna Devarayalu said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will visit Palnadu district and participate in a bankers' meeting along with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at Narasaraopet on July 17.

Speaking to the media, Krishna Devarayalu said the meeting aims to ensure that benefits of Central Government schemes reach eligible beneficiaries. He said loan applications related to various government schemes would be received during the programme and loans worth 1,500 crore to 2,000 crore are expected to be disbursed through public and private sector banks.

The MP said efforts are being made to bring bankers directly to customers so that poor, middle-class and lower-middle-class families can easily access financial support. He stated that the meeting would focus on improving the implementation of around 20 Central Government schemes, of which 16 are considered key programmes.

Krishna Devarayalu said special attention is being given



to women's empowerment by establishing a cluster in each of the 28 mandals in Palnadu district. He added that arrangements are being made to implement the PM Surya Ghar scheme across seven Assembly constituencies.

He further said steps have been taken to provide loans

against Recognition of Forest Rights (RFR) pattas held by tribal communities.

The MP said the initiative would help beneficiaries access financial assistance and promote entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities through various Central schemes.

YSRCP Pays Floral Tribute to YSR on 77th Birth Anniversary

Kaikaluru, July 8 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders led by Eluru district YSRCP president and former Kaikaluru MLA Doolam Nageswara Rao (DNR) paid rich tributes to former Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy on the occasion of his 77th birth anniversary at Santha Market in Kaikaluru on Wednesday.

Doolam Nageswara Rao and party leaders garlanded the statue of Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and remembered his contributions to the State and its people. Addressing the gathering, Doolam Nageswara Rao said that although Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy was no longer physically present, he continued to live in the hearts of the people as a farmer-friendly leader and ded-



icated public servant.

He said the former Chief Minister's contributions to the education and healthcare sectors were unparalleled and highlighted landmark welfare initiatives such as 108 emergency services, Aarogyasri and fee reimbursement, which benefit-

ed the poor. He described Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy as a leader who stood firmly for the poor and weaker sections of society.

State, district, constituency, Mandal and village-level YSRCP leaders, party workers and supporters participated in the programme in large numbers.

School, College Buses Inspected to Ensure Student Safety

Markapuram, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Acting on the instructions of the District Superintendent of Police, a joint inspection of school and college buses used for student transportation was conducted in Markapuram on Wednesday. The inspection was carried out under the supervision of the Markapuram Town Circle Inspector by Markapuram Rural Sub-Inspector Aaron and Motor Vehicle Inspector Madhava Rao.

The officials examined vehicle registration documents, fitness certificates, insurance papers, driving licences and other



mandatory records. They also inspected the overall roadwor-

thiness and technical condition of the buses to ensure compliance with safety standards.

During the inspection, school and college managements and bus drivers were instructed to give top priority to student safety by maintaining vehicles in proper condition, avoiding overspeeding and refraining from carrying passengers beyond the permitted capacity. They were also directed to strictly adhere to all traffic rules and prescribed safety norms.

The officials warned that any negligence in ensuring the safe transportation of students would be dealt with seriously.

MP Demands Thorough Probe into TDP Leader's Murder



Eluru, July 8 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar on Wednesday strongly condemned the murder of TDP leader Karumuri Durga Reddy at Perampeta in Jangareddygudem Mandal and demanded that those responsible be brought to justice.

The MP paid tributes to Durga Reddy's mortal remains at the Jangareddygudem Government Hospital before interacting with family members and party leaders. Addressing the media, he said the killing had shocked the otherwise peaceful Chintalapudi constituency. While reports suggested that a family property dispute may have led to the murder,

he said a comprehensive investigation would examine all aspects, including allegations regarding the accused's links with the YSRCP and complaints of police negligence.

Tension prevailed at the hospital as family members, TDP leaders and party workers raised slogans seeking justice and action against officials. They alleged that despite repeated complaints about threats to Durga Reddy's life, the police failed to act and officials were biased in the land dispute. Putta Mahesh Kumar assured the bereaved family that the case would be investigated thoroughly and that action would be taken against any officials found negligent.

Kambala Srinivas Rao Gifts Silk Sarees to Thousands of Women

Rajamahendravaram, July 08 | TPN Bureau

Social activist and founder of Vishwa Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Ramasena, Kambala Srinivas Rao, has launched a major women's welfare programme, distributing silk sarees to every woman in selected villages across Rajanagaram, Jaggampeta, and Polavaram Assembly constituencies in East Godavari district. Moving away from the earlier lucky draw method, Srinivas Rao has decided that this year every woman in the identified villages will receive a pattu saree with no exceptions. The grand distribution programme will commence on Saturday at Seethanagaram and Srirangapatnam villages and other selected areas.

As part of Guru Pujanotsavam celebrations, around 25,000 women teachers will also be gifted silk sarees. Addressing a press conference at Manjeera Hotel in Rajamahendravaram on Wednesday evening, after returning from



a US visit, Rao said the happiness reflected on the faces of women who received sarees in previous years motivated him to expand the initiative on a larger scale. Srinivas Rao, who is actively involved in BJP organisational work and oversees party activities in Jaggampeta constituency, expressed profound respect for the teaching fraternity. Several teacher unions have proposed his candidature for the upcoming Teachers' MLC elections. He clarified that as a disciplined party worker, he will fully abide by the decision of the BJP state leadership and high command on the matter.

The programme highlights Srinivas Rao's ongoing commitment to women's empowerment and rural social service.

NTR Vaidya Seva Launched at Gorantla Super Speciality Hospital

Chirala, July 8 | TPN Bureau

A major healthcare milestone was achieved in Bapatla district with the launch of NTR Vaidya Seva at the 100-bed Sri Gorantla Super Speciality Hospital in Chirala on Wednesday. The facility was inaugurated by Chirala MLA Madduluri Malakondaiah and Bapatla MLA Vegesana Narendra Varma in the presence of hospital directors Dr. Gorantla Rajesh and Dr. Sravani.

Dr. Rajesh said the hospital would provide advanced treatment for cardiac ailments, stroke, dialysis, ENT, urology and general surgery under NTR Vaidya Seva, helping patients avoid travel to distant cities. He said the hospital had performed over 300 angiograms and 100 stent procedures in the last 18



months. Malakondaiah said the government was providing funds through NTR Vaidya Seva and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support healthcare for the poor. He added that 10 crore was sanctioned to assist 990 beneficiaries in the Chirala constituency.

The hospital management said patients without NTR Vaidya Seva cards could also avail free treatment through Letters of Credit from the MLAs.

Putta Mahesh Distributes ₹48 Lakh in CMRF Aid

Eluru, July 8 | TPN Bureau

MP Putta Mahesh said helping the poor brings the greatest satisfaction as he distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques worth 48 lakh to 60 beneficiaries at his camp office in Eluru on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the MP said the Chief Minister's Relief Fund has been providing crucial financial support to people facing economic hardship while seeking medical treatment. He noted that over the past two years, nearly 1,500 beneficiaries from the Eluru Parliamentary constituency had received financial assistance of around 10 crore through the CMRF, expressing satisfaction over being able to extend timely



support to those in need.

Putta Mahesh personally handed over the cheques and interacted with the beneficiaries, enquiring about their well-being. Later, he conducted a public grievances programme at his office, where he received petitions from residents. The MP spoke with officials on the spot and made efforts to resolve several issues raised by the petitioners through immediate intervention.

Editorial

Politics Must Not Drown an ₹87,000-Crore Project

The ‘₹87,000-crore project’ that was envisioned to bring water to Telangana has unfortunately become a platform for *challenges and counter-challenges* in politics. A project that was meant to irrigate lakhs of acres is today struggling in the midst of political rivalry. Before deciding ‘who is right and who is wrong’, the foremost responsibility is to ensure that ‘public money is not wasted’.

If the previous BRS Government led by K. Chandrashekar Rao committed mistakes in the planning or execution of the project, those responsible must certainly be held accountable. No one should be spared if public funds have been misused. However, accountability should not become a political weapon. Instead of arriving at a conclusion and taking corrective measures, the Congress Government appears to be spending more time projecting it as a ‘failed project.’ The emphasis seems to be on highlighting political failures rather than identifying solutions to make the project functional.

On the other hand, the BRS maintains that it did not commit any mistake and argues that the Congress Government has failed to utilize or rectify the project. While both parties continue to trade accusations, the real question remains unanswered: ‘Will lakhs of acres receive water or not?’ If not, ‘What is the alternative?’

Equally important is the silence of farmers’ organizations, which should be at the forefront of demanding a practical solution. If water is reaching agricultural fields even without the project functioning as intended, then a fundamental question arises: Why was the project built at such an enormous cost?

The people deserve clear answers to these questions. Political leaders have a responsibility not merely to score points against one another but to safeguard public resources and fulfil the purpose for which such massive investments were made. It is time to end the controversy, move beyond political rhetoric, and focus on finding a lasting solution that serves the interests of Telangana’s farmers and taxpayers.

Editor

Memorization in the Age of AI: A Reflection from the Gita

Swathi Dev

Education Expert

At a recent roundtable conference on education, the keynote speaker reflected on the sweeping changes brought by the information age and the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence. He observed how vast amounts of information now reach us in seconds, reshaping the way we learn and remember. In contrast, he reminded the audience of an earlier era, when theologians and pundits devoted themselves to memorizing the Vedas and sacred texts, carrying entire traditions in their minds.

In making this point, he recalled a recent conversation with me. He mentioned that Swathi is now engaged in Bhagavad Gita studies, and as part of that journey, she is memorizing verses from the Gita. His reflection led to a provocative question: in the near future, will anyone continue the practice of memorization? The Value of Memorization

The question is not trivial. AI can provide instant meanings, analyses, and reviews of the Bhagavad Gita. Yet memorization is not about recall—it is about internalizing wisdom. Reciting shlokas embeds rhythm, meaning, and philosophy into the mind, shaping thought patterns and emotional resilience. It is a discipline that strengthens focus and offers peace in moments of confusion.

When verses are memorized, they become available not just on a device but within the self. In moments of stress or uncertain-

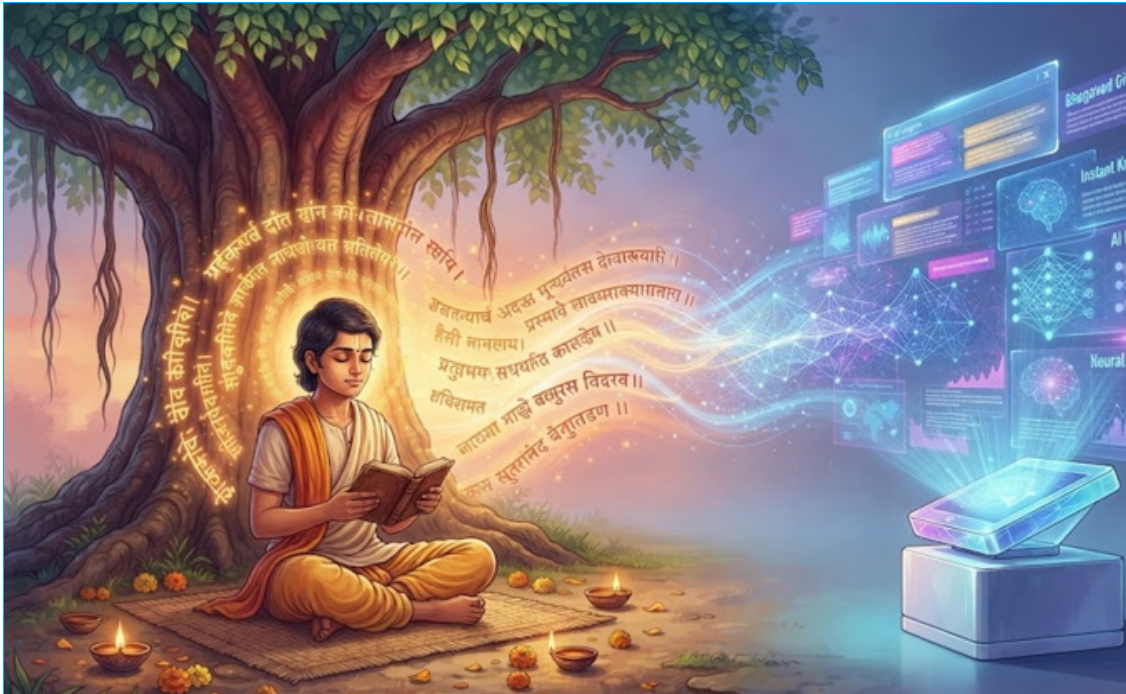
ty, the mind can draw upon them instantly, without needing to “search.” This immediacy is what makes memorization transformative.

Tradition Meets Technology
Memorization once served as the backbone of cultural continuity. Oral traditions preserved knowledge across generations, ensuring that wisdom was not lost even when written texts were scarce. Today, technology has reduced our reliance on memory—calculators replaced mental arithmetic, mobiles replaced memorized phone numbers, and now AI replaces the need to recall facts.

Yet practices like memorizing the Gita remain relevant, not as a necessity for information storage, but as a path to personal transformation. AI can explain meanings, but memorization ensures those meanings live within us. It is the difference between reading wisdom and living it.

A Holistic Perspective
The World Health Organization defines health as complete physical, mental, and social well-being. The Gita contributes to this vision by:

- Reducing anxiety through acceptance of time's eternal flow.
- Encouraging detachment from results, lowering stress.
- Promoting clarity in decision-making.
- Strengthening social



bonds when recited in groups.

Enhancing spiritual health by connecting with universal truths.

Memorization, in this sense, is not just spiritual—it is therapeutic. It trains the mind to focus, calms the emotions, and builds resilience in a world of constant distraction.

Philosophy Made Personal
The Gita explores the three modes of material nature, the eternal soul, the laws of cause and effect, and the importance of performing duty without attachment. These are not abstract ideas—they are practical guides for living. Memorization ensures these truths are not just read but lived, becoming part of one's daily consciousness.

When verses are internalized,

they act like a compass. They guide choices, temper reactions, and provide strength in adversity. This is why memorization is more than an intellectual exercise—it is a spiritual discipline.

Waste of Time—or Timeless Practice?

If the goal is quick access to information, AI is unmatched. But if the goal is personal transformation, discipline, and resilience, memorization is irreplaceable. In fact, both complement each other: AI can explain meanings, while memorization ensures those meanings shape our inner world.

The practice may become rarer, but its value will remain timeless. Memorization is not about competing with technology—it is

about cultivating the human spirit.

Reflection

The keynote speaker's question lingers: will memorization survive in the AI era? Perhaps fewer will undertake it. Yet those who do will discover that memorization is not a relic of the past, but a timeless practice. AI can provide knowledge; memorization provides wisdom. And wisdom, unlike information, must be lived, not just accessed.

(Author is an accomplished education professional contributing to innovative projects in early childhood care, adolescent empowerment, career guidance, and strengthening government school education.)

When Politics Divides, Democracy Suffers

Ravi Podili

Sr Journalist

“Democracy is not merely a form of government; it is primarily a mode of associated living.” —B.R. Ambedkar

Democracy, at its core, is meant to foster collective progress and peaceful coexistence. It is a system where differences are debated, not weaponized, and where governance is rooted in public welfare rather than political rivalry. However, the current political climate in Andhra Pradesh raises a troubling question: is politics still serving the people, or is it steadily dividing them?

Across the state, there is a growing perception that politics has moved away from its primary purpose. What should ideally be a contest of ideas, policies, and development agendas is increasingly turning into a battleground of personal attacks, allegations, and constant confrontation. Social observers point out that political intensity, which traditionally peaks during election seasons, now persists throughout the year. As a result, ordinary citizens are left navigating an atmosphere of continuous tension.

People fundamentally seek peace and stability in their daily lives. Development, welfare, and economic growth naturally follow when society is harmonious. Yet, in Andhra Pradesh, public discourse appears to be dominated by criticism of opponents rather than constructive dialogue. This shift has led to a growing sense of disillusionment among citizens who expect politics to address real issues affecting their lives.

Recent remarks by Janasena M.L.A. Mandali Buddha Prasad have added weight to this concern. His candid reflection on whether one should continue in such a political environment has sparked widespread

debate. Analysts view this as a symptom of a deeper issue—the steady erosion of civility and mutual respect in political engagement. When elected representatives themselves express discomfort, it signals a broader systemic problem that cannot be ignored.

Critics argue that political leaders, instead of competing to solve public problems, are increasingly focused on weakening their opponents. The rise of social media has amplified this trend, turning political communication into a relentless cycle of propaganda, misinformation, and personal attacks. Meaningful criticism, which is essential for a healthy democracy, is often overshadowed by sensationalism. This not only dilutes the quality of political discourse but also widens societal divisions.

The role of certain media outlets and digital platforms has also come under scrutiny. Observers note that prioritizing sensational narratives over factual reporting contributes to polarization. When media becomes an extension of political battles rather than a neutral platform for information, it undermines public trust and deepens existing divides.

At the same time, opposition parties and civil society groups have raised concerns over the government's response to dissent. Allegations that the gov-

ernment is taking legal action against critics have sparked debate about the balance between maintaining law and order and protecting democratic freedoms. The government, led by YSRCP, maintains that its actions are strictly within the framework of law and are necessary to ensure stability. However, this ongoing tension highlights the delicate balance that must be maintained in any democracy.

Beyond political narratives and institutional debates, the real impact is felt at the grassroots level. Increasingly, political differences are straining personal relationships—families, friendships, and communities are experiencing divisions along political lines. Intellectuals warn that such social fragmentation is unhealthy and poses a long-term risk to societal cohesion.

For democracy to thrive, both the ruling party and the opposition must exercise restraint and responsibility. Politics should not be about perpetual conflict but about constructive engagement. Mutual respect, tolerance of differing views, and a commitment to dialogue are essential pillars of a functioning democracy. Ultimately, the purpose of politics must return to its fundamental goal—serving the people. There is a growing and justified demand among citizens for governance that prioritizes public welfare over political rivalry. If democracy is to remain meaningful, it must unite rather than divide. The path forward lies not in louder arguments, but in wiser conversations.



Between Faith and Doubt: Finding the Middle Path

P Subba Rao

Veteran Journalist

The debate between theism and atheism has long been framed as a binary clash: belief in God versus denial of God. Yet this framing oversimplifies the complexity of human experience. Faith and doubt are not mutually exclusive; they often coexist within the same mind. To strike the right balance is not to dilute conviction but to recognize that both perspectives offer insights into meaning, morality, and the human condition.

The Value of Belief

For many, theism provides a moral compass and a sense of belonging. Religious traditions have historically shaped cultures, inspired art, and offered solace in times of suffering. The belief in a higher power can instill humility, reminding individuals that they are part of something larger than themselves. At its best, faith nurtures compassion and community, encouraging people to act with integrity and empathy.

The Power of Doubt

Atheism, on the other hand, challenges blind adherence to dogma. It insists on evidence, rational inquiry, and intellectual honesty. Doubt is not destructive—it is a catalyst for progress. By questioning inherited beliefs, societies have advanced in science, ethics, and governance. Atheism underscores human responsibility: if there is no divine overseer, then morality must be grounded in human dignity and reason.

The Middle Ground: Agnosticism and Pluralism

Between these poles lies agnosticism, which acknowledges the limits of human knowledge. Agnostics neither affirm nor deny the divine but remain open to mystery. Similarly, pluralism embraces diversity of belief, recognizing that no single worldview holds all answers. This middle ground fosters dialogue rather than division, allowing believers and non-believers to learn from one another.

Case Studies in Balance

History offers examples of leaders who navigated this tension. Mahatma Gandhi drew strength from Hindu spirituality yet respected secular ethics. Albert Einstein spoke of a “cosmic religious feeling” while rejecting traditional dogma. These figures illustrate that balance is not compromise but synthesis—an ability to draw wisdom from both faith and reason.

Toward a Shared Future
In a world fractured by ideological battles, the balance between theism and atheism is not merely philosophical—it is practical. Interfaith dialogue, secular governance, and ethical cooperation are essential for coexistence. Theism without openness risks fanaticism; atheism without humility risks nihilism. The middle path acknowledges the human need for meaning while honoring the pursuit of truth.

Contemporary balance between theism and atheism is



most visible in public figures, institutions, and movements that embrace both faith-based values and secular reasoning—examples range from scientists who respect spirituality to governments that integrate secular law with religious diversity.**These cases show how modern societies navigate belief and doubt without collapsing into extremes.

Examples of Balance

- Barack Obama
- As U.S. President, Obama openly identified as Christian but emphasized secular governance.
- He often spoke about respecting atheists and agnostics, framing morality as both faith-inspired and reason-driven.
- His approach highlighted how leaders can draw personal strength from religion while ensuring pluralism in public life. [philosophy.institute](https://philosophy.institute/philosophy-of-religion/future-theism-atheism-debate-philosophy/)
- Neil deGrasse Tyson
- The astrophysicist avoids labeling himself strictly atheist or theist.

- He acknowledges the cultural role of religion while advocating for scientific skepticism.

- Tyson's stance reflects a balance: respecting belief traditions without compromising scientific inquiry. [John Monyok Maluth](https://johnshalom.com/theism-vs-atheism-a-deep-dive-into-the-pros-and-cons-for-modern-humans/)

Elon Musk
- Musk identifies as non-religious but often references “higher purpose” and “cosmic questions.”
- His language blends atheistic rationalism with quasi-spiritual awe about humanity's role in the universe.
Indian Supreme Court
- India's judiciary often rules in ways that balance religious freedom with secular law.
- For example, judgments on temple entry, marriage rights, and education policies show attempts to respect faith while upholding constitutional secularism.
- This reflects pluralism in practice, where theism and atheism coexist under a legal framework.



BJP Fields Youth Leader Abhishek Kumar Against Prashant Kishor

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has named Abhishek Kumar, a young party leader, as its candidate for the crucial Bankipur Assembly bypoll in Bihar. He will take on Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor, setting the stage for a high-profile contest between two first-time electoral candidates.

The bypoll was necessitated after the Bankipur seat fell vacant following the election of former MLA Nitin Nabin to the Rajya Sabha. Considered a BJP stronghold, the constituency has emerged as one of the most closely watched political battles in Bihar.

Abhishek Kumar is a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) and has served as the state vice-president of the BJP's youth wing. He has been actively involved in grassroots organizational work and is regarded as a close associate of senior BJP leader Nitin Nabin. His selection reflects the party's strategy of promoting young leaders with strong local connections.

The BJP believes Abhishek Kumar's organizational experience and connect with party workers will help retain the Bankipur seat. Senior party leaders have described his candidature as a recognition of dedicated grassroots workers rather than relying only on established political faces.

On the other side, Prashant Kishor is making his electoral debut after years of working as one of India's most influential political strategists. Through his Jan Suraj Party, he has been campaigning for governance reforms and political change in Bihar. His decision to contest from Bankipur, traditionally a BJP bastion, has made the bypoll a major political contest.

The election is expected to draw significant attention as it will test Prashant Kishor's popularity as a political leader against the BJP's strong organizational network. Apart from the BJP and Jan Suraj Party, other political parties are also in the fray, making the contest highly competitive.

With both principal candidates entering electoral politics for the first time, the Bankipur bypoll is being viewed as more than just a local election. The outcome could influence the political narrative in Bihar ahead of future electoral battles and provide an indication of voter sentiment toward emerging political alternatives and established parties alike.



India Plans Longest Bullet Train Corridor from Delhi to Siliguri

India is moving ahead with an ambitious high-speed rail expansion plan that could transform long-distance travel across the country. The proposed Delhi-Varanasi-Siliguri bullet train corridor is set to become one of India's biggest railway infrastructure projects, with the potential to reduce travel time between Delhi and Siliguri to around six hours.

The corridor is part of the government's broader plan to develop multiple high-speed rail networks across India. Among the proposed routes, the Delhi-Varanasi-Siliguri line stands out as one of the longest, connecting the national capital with eastern India and serving as an important gateway towards the Northeast.

The proposed high-speed corridor is expected to cover approximately 1,700 kilometres, making it longer than India's first bullet train project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The route is planned to connect major cities including Delhi, Noida, Mathura, Agra, Lucknow, Varanasi, Patna, Begusarai, Khagaria, Katihar, and New Jalpaiguri (Siliguri).

At present, travelling from Delhi to Siliguri by conventional trains takes nearly 20 hours. The bullet train project aims to reduce this journey significantly by using dedicated high-speed tracks and trains capable of reaching speeds of up to 320 kmph.

The project is expected to improve connectivity between northern, eastern, and north-eastern regions of India. Faster transportation links could boost tourism, encourage business activity, improve passenger convenience, and create new economic opportunities around the proposed stations.

Another major high-speed rail route under consideration is the Delhi-Lucknow-Varanasi corridor, which is expected to strengthen connectivity across Uttar Pradesh. The proposed network could reduce travel time between major cities and provide a faster alternative to existing rail and road transportation.

Railway authorities are currently focusing on surveys, feasibility studies, and detailed planning before moving towards construction. The project will require significant investment, land acquisition, and advanced engineering solutions to build dedicated high-speed infrastructure.

The bullet train network is part of India's larger vision to modernize railway infrastructure and introduce faster, safer, and more efficient modes of transportation. The ongoing Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project is expected to provide valuable experience for future high-speed rail corridors.

If completed, the Delhi-Siliguri bullet train corridor could bring a major change in India's transportation system by connecting key regions with high-speed rail connectivity. The project has the potential to strengthen economic links, reduce travel time, and redefine the future of railway travel in the country.

Shah Assures Full Central Support to States Amid Heavy Rains

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday reviewed the flood and heavy rain situation in Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Jammu & Kashmir, speaking separately with the chief ministers of the three regions and assuring them of all possible assistance from the Centre. The move comes as intense monsoon rains continue to disrupt normal life in several parts of the country.

During his conversations, Shah spoke with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, and Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to assess the impact of heavy rainfall and the preparedness of state administrations in handling the situation. He assured the leaders that the Central government would extend every possible support for rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts.

Several parts of Maharashtra, especially Mumbai and nearby districts, have been experiencing heavy rainfall, leading to waterlogging, traffic disruptions, and delays in rail services. Gujarat has also witnessed widespread rains, while parts of Jammu & Kashmir have been affected by flash floods and landslides caused by persistent monsoon activity.

Shah emphasized that the Centre is closely monitoring the evolving weather situation and remains in constant touch with the affected states. He assured the chief ministers that additional resources would be made available if required to strengthen rescue and relief operations.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast continued heavy to very heavy rainfall in several regions, prompting authorities to remain on high alert. Disaster response agencies, including the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and state emergency teams, have been deployed in vulnerable areas to assist local administrations and respond to emergencies.

Authorities have urged residents in low-lying and flood-prone areas to remain cautious, avoid unnecessary travel, and follow official weather advisories. Emergency teams are continuing rescue and monitoring operations as the southwest monsoon remains active across western and northern India.

The Central government has reiterated its commitment to providing all necessary assistance until the situation returns to normal. Coordination between central agencies and state governments is expected to continue to ensure timely relief, safeguard lives, and minimize damage caused by the ongoing heavy rains and flooding.



'Abuse-Proof' Fadnavis Defends Mumbai-Pune Missing Link

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis strongly defended the Mumbai-Pune 'Missing Link' expressway project in the State Assembly after the Opposition criticized the government over a recent landslide that temporarily disrupted traffic. Declaring that he was "abuse-proof," Fadnavis rejected allegations of corruption and structural failure.

The controversy erupted after heavy monsoon rains triggered a landslide on the recently inaugurated 7,000-crore Missing Link project, forcing authorities to suspend traffic for nearly 18 hours. Opposition parties accused the government of poor construction quality and misuse of public funds.

Responding to the criticism, Fadnavis accused the Opposition of spreading misinformation and making baseless allegations. He asserted that the project remains structurally sound and said the incident was caused by an extreme natural event rather than engineering flaws.

The Chief Minister clarified that the landslide damaged an outer protective arch after mountain debris fell on it, but stressed that the tunnel and the main structural components remained completely safe. He said the integrated safety systems functioned effectively, enabling emergency teams to respond immediately and clear the debris before reopening the route.

Fadnavis also claimed that the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government had stalled the project, citing multiple objections. According to him, the current government revived and completed the project despite those challenges.

Taking a swipe at criticism on social media, Fadnavis remarked that he had become "abuse-proof" after years in public life. He said political attacks did not concern him but warned that he would not tolerate attempts to defame Maharashtra or undermine major infrastructure projects.

Highlighting the significance of the expressway, he noted that the Missing Link includes India's tallest cable-stayed bridge and some of the world's widest twin tunnels, making travel between Mumbai and Pune faster and safer while bypassing the accident-prone ghat section.

Drawing a comparison with the Konkan Railway, Fadnavis said that major infrastructure projects often face initial challenges but improve over time through engineering solutions and continuous maintenance. He argued that development should not be halted because of isolated incidents.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the broader monsoon situation in Maharashtra, stating that disaster management teams are actively engaged in relief operations across rain-affected districts. He assured the Assembly that the government remains committed to ensuring public safety while continuing with ambitious infrastructure development across the state.



Maa Baglamukhi Temple Donation Row: Inquiry Ordered

A controversy has emerged at the famous Maa Baglamukhi Temple in Madhya Pradesh's Agar-Malwa district, where allegations have surfaced that cash, gold, and silver offerings from devotees were collected through a private system outside the official temple management structure. The district administration has ordered an inquiry into the matter.

According to the allegations, an unauthorized committee was collecting donations and valuable offerings from devotees inside the temple premises by issuing private receipts. It is also alleged that the collected funds were deposited into private bank accounts instead of being properly recorded through the official temple management system.

The Maa Baglamukhi Temple at Nalkheda is managed by a government-constituted temple committee headed by the local Sub-Divisional Magistrate. However, complaints received by the administration claim that another group, operating in the name of a private service committee, had been collecting donations since 2024 without official approval.

Following the complaints, Agar-Malwa Collector Preeti Yadav formed a three-member inquiry committee to investigate the allegations. The panel has been tasked with examining temple records, receipt books, bank details, and other financial documents. Statements of people associated with the matter will also be recorded as part of the investigation.

The inquiry committee will determine whether any financial irregularities occurred and identify those responsible if violations are established. Officials have stated that strict action will be taken against anyone found guilty of wrongdoing. The issue has triggered political reactions in Madhya Pradesh, with opposition leaders demanding a transparent investigation into the management of devotees' donations. They have called for accountability and proper handling of temple funds.

The state government has maintained that any person found involved in financial misconduct will face action. Officials have also clarified that the alleged private donation collection system was not part of the officially recognized temple management process. Maa Baglamukhi Temple is one of Madhya Pradesh's prominent religious destinations and attracts thousands of devotees every year. The temple is especially known for special rituals and religious ceremonies, drawing visitors from different parts of the country.

The controversy has once again highlighted concerns over transparency in the management of religious donations. The final report of the inquiry committee is expected to reveal whether the allegations are true and what further steps will be taken by the authorities.



Congress Rules Out Leadership Change in Punjab

The Congress has firmly ruled out any change in its Punjab leadership ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, putting an end to speculation over a possible reshuffle in the state unit. The party leadership has made it clear that the current organizational structure will remain unchanged as it focuses on strengthening its election campaign.

AICC General Secretary and Punjab in-charge Bhupesh Baghel stated that the party high command has taken a final decision and that Amarinder Singh Raja Warring will continue as the president of the Punjab Congress. He emphasized that the appointment of a state party chief is a well-considered decision and is not subject to change due to internal pressure or political speculation.

Baghel dismissed reports of an imminent leadership change, saying the Congress is concentrating on preparations for the Assembly elections rather than internal disagreements. He stressed that party discipline would be strictly maintained and that all leaders are expected to work together to strengthen the party's prospects in the state.

The clarification comes amid reports of differences within the Punjab Congress, with some leaders and supporters seeking a larger role for former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi. However, the party leadership has reiterated that organizational appointments have already been finalized and there is no plan to revisit those decisions.

Baghel urged party workers and leaders to focus on building the organization at the grassroots level instead of engaging in internal politics. He said personal ambitions should not take precedence over the party's larger objective of returning to power in Punjab.

The Congress has already finalized its key election committees, with Raja Warring continuing as the state unit chief while senior leaders have been assigned important campaign and organizational responsibilities. The leadership believes the existing structure provides the right combination of experience, stability, and representation to effectively challenge the ruling Aam Aadmi Party and other political opponents.

By ruling out any leadership change, the Congress hopes to end speculation and project a united front ahead of the crucial Punjab Assembly elections. The party is aiming to strengthen its grassroots network, maintain internal unity, and present itself as a strong alternative to the ruling government as it prepares for the electoral battle.



12,000 Police, Drones Deployed for Secure Puri Rath Yatra

Odisha Police has announced a massive security arrangement for the annual Puri Rath Yatra, deploying around 12,000 police personnel along with advanced surveillance systems to ensure the smooth conduct of the grand religious festival. The security plan focuses on crowd management, traffic regulation, emergency response, and the safety of lakhs of devotees expected to participate.

The Rath Yatra will witness a huge gathering of devotees in Puri, prompting authorities to prepare a multi-layer security strategy covering land, sea, and air surveillance. Officials have planned extensive arrangements to prevent any untoward incidents and ensure the festival proceeds peacefully.

As part of the security measures, drones and anti-drone systems will be deployed to monitor aerial activity and prevent unauthorized drone operations. Security teams will maintain continuous surveillance across important locations to quickly identify and respond to possible threats.

A special maritime security arrangement has also been planned, with the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and Odisha Police Maritime units conducting coordinated patrols along the coastal areas. Quick Response Teams will be positioned at strategic locations to handle emergency situations.

Several central and state security agencies, including the CRPF, BSF, Railway Protection Force, and Coast Guard, will assist Odisha Police during the festival. Authorities have also arranged anti-sabotage checks, bomb disposal squads, sniffer dog teams, and special tactical units as part of the overall security framework.

Special focus has been placed on crowd control and preventing stampede-like situations. Barricading arrangements, regulated entry and exit points, emergency routes, and coordination between police personnel and district administration officials have been planned to manage the movement of devotees effectively.

Police teams have also intensified security checks at hotels, lodges, railway stations, bus terminals, and other public areas in Puri. Authorities are monitoring suspicious activities and carrying out verification procedures to maintain law and order throughout the festival period. With a massive number of devotees expected to attend the historic celebration, Odisha is combining traditional security methods with modern technology to ensure a safe and peaceful Rath Yatra. The use of drones, surveillance systems, and deployment of multiple security agencies reflects the scale of preparations for one of India's biggest religious gatherings.

The state administration has assured devotees that all necessary precautions are being taken to maintain safety, provide smooth arrangements, and ensure the successful completion of the nine-day festival.



Oil Prices Surge Over 2% as US-Iran Tensions

Global crude oil prices climbed more than 2% after renewed military tensions between the United States and Iran heightened concerns over the security of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes. The latest escalation has raised fears of supply disruptions, pushing energy prices higher in international markets.

The rise in oil prices comes amid fresh military exchanges in the Gulf region, increasing uncertainty over the movement of crude shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. Nearly 20% of the world's oil supply passes through this narrow waterway, making any threat to its security a major concern for global energy markets.

Investors reacted swiftly to reports of heightened tensions, with traders pricing in the possibility of supply interruptions if the conflict intensifies. Shipping companies are also closely monitoring the situation, as increased military activity could affect the safe passage of oil tankers and commercial vessels operating in the region.

Higher crude prices have renewed concerns about global inflation, as rising energy costs could increase transportation and manufacturing expenses worldwide. Economists warn that sustained increases in oil prices may complicate the efforts of central banks to manage inflation while supporting economic growth.

Energy-importing countries, including India, are expected to closely monitor developments since higher crude prices could translate into increased fuel import costs and put pressure on domestic inflation. Governments may also face challenges in managing fuel prices if the geopolitical situation worsens.

Financial markets reflected growing uncertainty, with investors shifting toward safer assets while keeping a close watch on further geopolitical developments. Market participants believe that oil prices could remain volatile as long as tensions persist in the Gulf region. Despite the current spike, analysts note that the extent of any long-term price increase will depend on whether the conflict disrupts actual oil production or shipping operations. If exports through the Strait of Hormuz continue without major interruptions, prices could stabilize. However, any escalation affecting the flow of crude oil could lead to sharper price gains.

With geopolitical risks rising and energy markets remaining sensitive to developments in West Asia, traders and policymakers around the world are expected to closely track the evolving situation. The coming days will be crucial in determining whether diplomatic efforts can ease tensions or whether further military action will continue to drive volatility in global oil markets.



Pakistan Links Offender Deportation to Extradition Demand from UK

Pakistan has reportedly informed the United Kingdom that it is willing to accept the deportation of a convicted child sex offender of Pakistani origin only if Britain also extradites two Pakistanis accused by Islamabad of spreading anti-state propaganda and criticizing Army Chief General Asim Munir. The reported demand has added a new dimension to diplomatic discussions between the two countries.

The convicted offender, widely known by the nickname "Daddy," was a central figure in the Rochdale child grooming gang scandal that shocked the United Kingdom. British authorities have been attempting to deport him after he completed a lengthy prison sentence for multiple child sexual abuse offences, but legal and diplomatic challenges have delayed the process.

According to reports, Pakistan has requested the extradition of former government adviser Shahzad Akbar and journalist and former military officer Adil Raja. Islamabad accuses both individuals of spreading false information and engaging in activities considered harmful to the state while living in the UK. Both men have denied the allegations, claiming the charges are politically motivated.

British authorities are re-

portedly reluctant to link the deportation of a convicted criminal with the extradition of political figures. Legal experts point out that criminal deportation and political asylum are governed by separate legal frameworks, making such an arrangement difficult to implement under UK law.

The issue has reignited debate in Britain over immigration policies and the deportation of foreign nationals convicted of serious crimes. Several politicians and victims' rights groups have argued that individuals convicted of grave offences should be deported after completing their prison sentences.

The matter has also highlighted broader differences between the UK and Pakistan over extradition agreements, political asylum, and freedom of expression. Human rights organizations have expressed concerns that political critics deported to Pakistan could face legal action or persecution upon their return.

At present, discussions between the two governments are ongoing, but there is no indication that the UK is willing to accept Pakistan's reported conditions. As negotiations continue, both sides are expected to balance legal obligations, diplomatic relations, and human rights considerations before reaching any final decision.

Trump Ends Iran Ceasefire, Signals Talks

US President Donald Trump has declared that the interim ceasefire agreement with Iran is effectively "over" following a fresh wave of military escalation between the two countries. However, despite the renewed hostilities, Trump indicated that diplomatic negotiations for a broader peace agreement could continue.

The latest developments came after the United States launched fresh military strikes on Iranian targets in response to attacks on American military installations in Bahrain and Kuwait. The renewed exchange of fire has significantly weakened hopes of preserving the temporary ceasefire that had been negotiated earlier this year.

Speaking on the escalating conflict, Trump accused Iran of repeatedly violating the terms of the ceasefire and warned that Washington would respond forcefully to any further attacks on US personnel or interests. At the same time, he stressed that his administration remained willing to pursue diplomatic engagement if Iran demonstrated a genuine commitment to peace.

The renewed conflict has further heightened tensions



across West Asia, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil shipping routes. The uncertainty has already triggered a sharp rise in global crude oil prices and increased concerns over disruptions to international energy supplies.

Military exchanges between the two nations have intensified in recent days. The US carried out airstrikes targeting Iranian military infrastructure, while Iran responded with missile and drone attacks on American bases in the Gulf region. Both sides have accused each other of breaching the ceasefire agreement and vvdDespite the deteriorating security situation, Trump reiterated that negotiations aimed at achieving a long-term peace settlement had not been abandoned. He suggested that

diplomatic channels remain open, although the immediate priority would be ensuring the safety of American forces and protecting strategic interests in the region.

The latest escalation has drawn concern from several countries, with fears that prolonged military action could destabilize the region further, disrupt global trade, and intensify volatility in energy markets. Governments around the world are closely monitoring developments, urging both Washington and Tehran to return to dialogue and avoid a wider conflict.

As tensions continue to rise, financial markets remain on edge, with investors watching geopolitical developments closely for signs of either further escalation or renewed diplomatic efforts.



Fresh US-Iran Strikes Raise Fears of Wider Gulf Conflict

The conflict between the United States and Iran has escalated once again, with both countries carrying out fresh military strikes that have intensified tensions across the Gulf region. The latest exchanges have increased fears of a broader regional conflict and raised concerns over the security of global energy supplies.

The fresh round of hostilities follows a series of retaliatory attacks after recent US military operations targeting Iranian-linked facilities. Iran responded with missile and drone strikes aimed at American military assets and strategic locations in the Gulf, prompting further military action by the United States.

A major focus of the escalating conflict is the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's busiest and most strategically important oil shipping routes. Nearly one-fifth of the world's crude oil passes through the narrow waterway, making any disruption a significant threat to global energy markets. Shipping companies have become increasingly cautious, while several vessels have reportedly altered their routes due to rising security concerns.

The renewed fighting has pushed global crude oil prices higher as traders worry that prolonged military action could disrupt oil exports from the Gulf. Higher energy prices have also renewed concerns over global inflation, adding pressure on financial markets already dealing with economic

uncertainty.

Military analysts believe both nations are attempting to demonstrate strength without triggering a full-scale war. However, the continued exchange of missile attacks, airstrikes, and drone operations has increased the risk of miscalculation, which could rapidly expand the conflict beyond the two countries.

Several regional allies and international powers are closely monitoring the situation. Diplomatic efforts are underway to prevent further escalation, with many countries urging both Washington and Tehran to exercise restraint and return to dialogue. The United Nations and several world leaders have also expressed concern over the growing instability in West Asia.

The conflict has affected investor sentiment worldwide, leading to volatility in stock markets and increased demand for safe-haven assets. Energy-importing nations are also watching developments carefully, as any prolonged disruption in Gulf oil shipments could impact fuel prices and economic growth.

As tensions continue to rise, the situation remains highly unpredictable. The coming days are expected to be crucial in determining whether diplomatic initiatives can reduce hostilities or whether the region will witness a deeper and more prolonged military confrontation with global economic consequences.



Pakistan Cargo Plane Goes Missing Over Arabian Sea

A Pakistan-registered K2 Airways cargo aircraft disappeared from radar over the Arabian Sea while flying from Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates to Karachi, triggering a large-scale search and rescue operation by Pakistani authorities. The Boeing 737-400 freighter was carrying five crew members when it lost contact with air traffic control.

According to aviation officials, the aircraft reported a navigation system malfunction shortly before communication was lost. Flight-tracking data indicated unusual altitude changes in the aircraft's final minutes, followed by a steep descent before it vanished from radar approximately 155 nautical miles southwest of Karachi. The exact cause of the disappearance remains unknown, and authorities have not confirmed whether the aircraft crashed.

Pakistan's Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and other maritime agencies have launched an extensive search operation in the Arabian Sea. Naval ships, surveillance aircraft, helicopters, and nearby commercial vessels have been deployed to locate the missing aircraft and its crew. Rescue teams continue to search the suspected area despite challenging sea conditions.

The missing aircraft belonged to Karachi-based K2 Airways, a private cargo airline. The Boeing 737 freighter had been operating regular cargo services be-

tween regional destinations and was on a routine flight when the incident occurred. Airline officials have said they are fully cooperating with investigators and government agencies involved in the search.

Aviation experts have described the aircraft's final flight path as unusual. Even in the event of an engine failure, a commercial aircraft is generally expected to glide for some distance before descending. However, the sudden altitude fluctuations and rapid loss of height recorded before radar contact was lost have raised several questions that investigators will seek to answer.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed authorities to intensify the search and rescue mission and ensure that all available resources are deployed to locate the aircraft. Officials have assured the families of the crew that they will continue to receive timely updates as the operation progresses.

The disappearance has once again highlighted the importance of aviation safety and emergency response capabilities in the region. While investigators continue to examine all possible causes behind the incident, the immediate priority remains locating the aircraft, recovering the crew, and determining exactly what happened during its final moments. Search operations are expected to continue until definitive information is obtained.

Trump Revives Greenland Push, Backs Turkey at NATO Summit

US President Donald Trump reignited debate within the NATO alliance by once again calling for the United States to take control of Greenland while criticizing several NATO allies for what he described as a lack of support during the recent conflict with Iran. His remarks came as leaders gathered in Ankara, Turkey, for the NATO summit.

During a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Trump said several European allies had failed to stand firmly with Washington during the Iran crisis. He specifically expressed disappointment with countries including Britain, France, Germany, and Italy, arguing that the alliance had not fully backed US interests during the conflict.

Trump also revived his long-standing proposal that Greenland should come under US control, describing the Arctic island as strategically vital for American national security. He argued that its location has become increasingly important due to growing Russian and Chinese activity in the Arctic region. However, Denmark has consistently rejected any suggestion of transferring sovereignty over Greenland, maintaining that the autonomous territory is not for sale.



In a major policy announcement, Trump said the United States would lift sanctions imposed on Turkey in 2020 following Ankara's purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defence system. He also indicated that Washington is willing to consider selling F-35 stealth fighter jets to Turkey, a move that could significantly improve defence ties between the two NATO allies, although it would still require approval from the US Congress.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan welcomed the announcement and expressed optimism about strengthening defence cooperation with the United States. The development could mark a significant improvement in relations between Washington and Ankara after years of strained ties over military and security issues.

Speaking about the war in Ukraine, Trump said he believed both Russian President Vladimir

Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy were interested in reaching a negotiated settlement to end the conflict. He stressed the need for diplomacy while reaffirming America's commitment to NATO's collective security. Meanwhile, NATO leaders announced new multinational defence procurement initiatives worth around \$50 billion, aimed at enhancing the alliance's military readiness and addressing emerging global security challenges.

The summit highlighted continuing differences among NATO members over defence spending, regional conflicts, and strategic priorities. Despite these disagreements, alliance leaders reiterated their commitment to strengthening collective defence and maintaining unity in the face of growing geopolitical tensions involving Russia, the Middle East, and the Arctic region.

Japan's 500-kmph Maglev Train Set to Revolutionize High-Speed Travel

Japan is moving closer to transforming rail travel with its next-generation Superconducting Maglev train, a cutting-edge high-speed rail project that is expected to connect Tokyo and Nagoya in just 40 minutes. Capable of reaching speeds of up to 500 kmph, the Maglev train is designed to become one of the fastest commercial rail services in the world.

The project is part of the Chuo Shinkansen high-speed rail corridor, which uses advanced magnetic levitation technology instead of conventional wheels. The trains float above the guideway using powerful superconducting magnets, eliminating friction and allowing them to travel at extremely high speeds while ensuring a smooth and quiet ride.

Once operational, the Maglev service will cut the travel time between Tokyo's Shinagawa Station and Nagoya from the current journey of around 90 minutes by bullet train to approximately 40 minutes. The route is expected to significantly improve connectivity between two of Japan's largest economic and industrial hubs. The ambitious project involves extensive engineering work, with nearly 90 percent of the route passing through tun-



nels to minimize environmental impact and accommodate Japan's mountainous terrain. Construction has faced delays due to environmental concerns, rising costs, and complex tunneling operations, but authorities continue to push the project forward.

The Maglev system has already demonstrated its capabilities during testing, setting a world speed record of 603 kmph for a manned train. The commercial service, however, will operate at a maximum speed of around 500 kmph to ensure safety and reliability. Officials believe the project will not only reduce travel time but also strengthen regional economic growth, ease congestion on existing transport networks, and provide a more efficient mode of intercity travel. The new line is expected to sup-

port business travel, tourism, and long-term infrastructure development. The technology also represents a major step forward in sustainable transportation. Since the trains operate using electric power and magnetic levitation, they are expected to offer an environmentally friendly alternative to short-haul air travel by reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency.

Although the project has encountered construction challenges and rising expenses, Japan continues to view the Maglev railway as a landmark investment in the future of transportation. Once completed, it is expected to redefine high-speed rail travel and reinforce Japan's position as a global leader in advanced railway technology.

Sensex Crashes 1,677 Points as US-Iran Tensions

Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp sell-off as escalating tensions between the United States and Iran rattled investor confidence, triggering heavy selling across sectors. Concerns over rising geopolitical risks, surging crude oil prices, and weak global cues pushed benchmark indices deep into the red, making it one of the steepest market declines in recent months.

The trading session began on a weak note, but selling pressure intensified as the day progressed. The Nifty 50 slipped below the crucial 24,000 mark and touched an intraday low of 23,805.20 after reports of renewed hostilities in the Middle East heightened fears of a prolonged conflict. Investors rushed to book profits and reduce exposure to equities amid growing uncertainty.

At the close of trade, the BSE Sensex plunged 1,677.12 points, or 2.15%, to settle at 76,503.60, while the Nifty 50 dropped 516.65 points, or 2.12%, to end at 23,882.05. The sharp decline erased significant investor



wealth in a single session and reflected the cautious mood prevailing across global financial markets.

The sell-off was broad-based, with almost every major sector ending in negative territory. Banking and financial stocks led the decline, while information technology, auto, metal, realty, oil & gas, and capital goods stocks also witnessed heavy losses. Mid-cap and small-cap stocks were equally affected as investors shifted away from riskier assets.

A major concern for investors was the sharp rise in crude oil

prices following the renewed geopolitical tensions. As India imports the majority of its crude oil requirements, higher oil prices raise fears of increased inflation, a wider trade deficit, and pressure on corporate earnings. Rising fuel costs could also impact consumer spending and economic growth, prompting investors to adopt a cautious approach.

Market experts believe that while India's economic fundamentals remain strong, external factors are currently dominating investor sentiment. Geopolitical developments, fluctua-

tions in crude oil prices, foreign institutional investor activity, and global economic trends are expected to influence market movements in the coming days.

Analysts advise investors not to panic during such periods of volatility. Instead, they recommend focusing on quality stocks with strong fundamentals and maintaining a long-term investment perspective. Temporary market corrections are considered a normal part of the investment cycle and often provide opportunities for disciplined investors.

Going forward, market participants will closely monitor developments in the Middle East, movements in global oil prices, foreign fund flows, and upcoming corporate earnings. Any easing of geopolitical tensions could help restore confidence, while further escalation may keep markets volatile in the near term. Despite the current uncertainty, experts remain optimistic about India's long-term growth story and believe the market could recover once global conditions stabilize.

Global Markets Sink as Trump Declares US-Iran Ceasefire 'Over'



Global financial markets came under heavy pressure after US President Donald Trump declared that the ceasefire between the United States and Iran was "over," reigniting fears of a wider conflict in the Middle East. The announcement triggered a sharp sell-off across global equities, while crude oil prices surged amid concerns over potential supply disruptions.

Wall Street futures fell by more than one percent, signaling a weak start for US markets. Investor sentiment turned sharply negative as geopolitical tensions intensified, prompting traders to move away from riskier assets and seek safer investment options such as gold and the US dollar.

European and Asian markets also witnessed significant declines, reflecting growing concerns that a prolonged conflict could hurt global economic growth. The uncertainty surrounding the geopolitical situation led investors to book profits and reduce exposure to equities across major markets. One of the biggest reactions

came in the energy market, where Brent crude oil prices jumped nearly 5 percent. Traders fear that escalating tensions in the Middle East, a region responsible for a significant share of global oil production, could disrupt supply chains and tighten crude availability. Rising oil prices have renewed concerns about inflation and increased input costs for businesses worldwide.

The surge in crude oil prices is particularly worrying for oil-importing nations such as India, where higher energy costs could increase inflation, widen the trade deficit, and put pressure on economic growth. Analysts believe sustained high oil prices could also complicate central banks' efforts to manage inflation and interest rates.

Global investors also shifted money into traditional safe-haven assets. Gold prices moved higher, while demand for the US dollar increased as investors sought stability during the period of heightened uncertainty. Bond yields fluctuated as market participants reassessed the outlook for the global

economy.

Market experts believe that geopolitical developments are likely to remain the key driver of financial markets in the coming days. Any further escalation between the United States and Iran could increase volatility across equities, commodities, and currency markets. Conversely, signs of renewed diplomatic efforts could help restore investor confidence. Despite the sharp market reaction, analysts advise long-term investors to avoid panic selling and remain focused on quality investments. While geopolitical events often trigger short-term volatility, markets have historically recovered once uncertainties begin to ease.

Investors around the world will now closely monitor further developments in the Middle East, movements in crude oil prices, and official statements from global leaders. These factors are expected to play a crucial role in determining market direction and investor sentiment over the coming weeks.

India Inc Set for Uneven Q1 Results as Banking and Infra Outperform

India Inc's earnings season for the first quarter of FY2025-26 is expected to present a mixed picture, with private banks, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Siemens, and Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) likely to emerge as the key growth drivers. However, weak performance from oil marketing companies (OMCs) could limit the overall growth in corporate profits.

Market analysts expect private sector banks to post healthy earnings, supported by steady loan growth, stable asset quality, and resilient net interest income. Strong credit demand across retail and corporate segments, along with disciplined risk management, is likely to help banks maintain solid profitability despite a challenging interest rate environment.

Infrastructure and capital goods companies are also expected to deliver encouraging results. L&T is projected to benefit from a robust order book, continued execution of large



infrastructure projects, and sustained government spending on public infrastructure. Siemens is likely to report improved earnings, driven by rising demand in industrial automation, electrification, and engineering solutions. Meanwhile, BEL is expected to continue its strong momentum, supported by increased defence spending and healthy order inflows from the government.

In contrast, oil marketing companies may report weaker earnings during the quarter.

Volatility in global crude oil prices, pressure on marketing margins, and fluctuations in fuel pricing are expected to impact profitability. These factors could significantly drag down the aggregate earnings growth of listed companies, offsetting gains made by stronger-performing sectors.

Analysts believe the overall earnings season will highlight the widening gap between sectors benefiting from domestic economic growth and those facing external market pressures.

Banking, infrastructure, capital goods, and defence are expected to remain among the strongest performers, reflecting continued investment activity and government-led spending.

On the other hand, sectors closely linked to commodity price movements may continue to experience earnings pressure due to volatile global conditions. Investors are therefore expected to closely monitor management commentary on future demand, order pipelines, margin trends, and capital expenditure plans, as these will provide important signals about the outlook for the rest of the financial year.

Overall, while the first-quarter earnings season is expected to deliver healthy growth in select sectors, the weakness in oil marketing companies could prevent broader corporate earnings from showing stronger expansion, making stock-specific performance more important for investors.

Gold Slumps on Rate Fears as Strong US Dollar Dulls Safe-Haven Appeal

Gold prices witnessed a sharp decline in futures trading on Wednesday, with the precious metal falling 2,308 per 10 grams on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). The drop was largely driven by a stronger US dollar and rising crude oil prices, which reduced the appeal of gold as a safe-haven investment.

Market analysts said renewed geopolitical tensions in West Asia pushed crude oil prices higher, raising concerns over inflation. Higher oil prices strengthened expectations that major central banks, particularly the US Federal Reserve, could keep interest rates elevated for a longer period. This boosted the US dollar, making gold more expensive for overseas buyers and reducing demand for the yellow metal.

On the MCX, gold contracts for August delivery declined sharply as traders trimmed their positions amid weak global market sentiment. International gold



prices also moved lower, reflecting concerns over persistent inflation and the possibility of tighter monetary policy in the United States.

Although gold is traditionally considered a hedge against inflation and geopolitical uncertainty, higher interest rates tend to reduce its attractiveness because the metal does not generate any interest income. Investors often shift towards interest-bearing assets during such periods, putting pressure on bullion prices.

Analysts believe gold prices

are likely to remain volatile in the near term as global markets closely monitor developments in the Middle East, fluctuations in crude oil prices, and upcoming US economic data. Any signals regarding future interest rate decisions by the Federal Reserve are expected to significantly influence the direction of gold prices.

Market participants are also keeping an eye on the movement of the US dollar and bond yields, both of which play a crucial role in determining bullion prices. A

stronger dollar generally weighs on gold, while lower bond yields tend to support the precious metal.

Despite the recent correction, experts believe the long-term outlook for gold remains constructive, supported by ongoing geopolitical uncertainties, central bank purchases, and sustained investor interest in safe-haven assets. However, short-term price movements are expected to remain highly sensitive to global macroeconomic developments.

For investors, the current environment calls for caution, as gold prices may continue to witness sharp fluctuations depending on inflation trends, monetary policy expectations, energy prices, and overall global market sentiment. While long-term investors may continue to view gold as a portfolio diversifier, short-term traders should be prepared for increased volatility in the bullion market.

Laser Power & Infra IPO: Power Sector Potential vs Falling GMP Challenge

Laser Power & Infra Ltd. is set to launch its 742-crore initial public offering (IPO) on July 9, but a sharp decline in the grey market premium (GMP) has made investors more cautious ahead of the issue. While the company operates in India's fast-growing power transmission and distribution sector, market experts advise investors to focus on the company's long-term fundamentals rather than short-term GMP movements.

The IPO has been priced in a band of 203-214 per share and comprises a fresh issue worth 542 crore along with an Offer for Sale (OFS) of 200 crore by existing promoters. At the upper end of the price band, the company is valued at nearly 3,000 crore. The public issue will close on July 13, and the shares are expected to be listed on the BSE and NSE on July 16.

The company plans to use the proceeds from the fresh issue primarily to reduce its outstanding debt, while the remaining funds will be utilized for general corporate purposes. Lower debt levels are expected to strengthen its balance sheet and provide greater financial flexibility for future expansion.

Laser Power & Infra manufactures power cables, conductors, and transmission prod-



ucts, besides executing engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) projects. With more than three decades of experience in the industry, the company is well-positioned to benefit from India's rising investments in power infrastructure, electrification, and transmission networks.

Despite its strong business prospects, the grey market premium has declined considerably in recent days, indicating that expectations of strong listing gains have weakened. The fall in GMP reflects cautious investor sentiment and softer demand in the unofficial market. However, analysts caution that GMP should not be treated as the sole indicator of an IPO's potential performance.

Brokers believe the company offers investors an opportunity to participate in India's

long-term infrastructure and power sector growth, driven by increasing electricity demand and continued government spending on transmission and distribution projects.

At the same time, investors should remain mindful of potential risks, including dependence on large customers, volatility in raw material prices, and execution challenges associated with EPC projects.

Overall, Laser Power & Infra's IPO appears suitable for investors with a medium- to long-term investment horizon who are optimistic about India's infrastructure growth story. However, those looking for immediate listing gains may prefer to remain cautious, as the declining grey market premium points to a relatively muted stock market debut.

PGIM India Freezes New SIP Entries in Overseas Funds

PGIM India Mutual Fund has temporarily suspended fresh Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) registrations in three of its overseas fund schemes, effective July 9. The decision has been taken to ensure compliance with the overseas investment limits prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The suspension applies to the PGIM India Global Equity Opportunities Fund of Fund, PGIM India Emerging Markets Equity Fund of Fund, and the PGIM India Global Select Real Estate Se-

curities Fund of Fund. Fresh SIP registrations submitted after the prescribed cut-off date will not be accepted. However, investors who have already registered SIPs before the deadline will continue to have their investments processed without any interruption.

This is the latest in a series of measures introduced by the fund house to regulate inflows into its international schemes. Earlier, PGIM India had capped fresh SIP investments at 50,000 per day per investor per scheme

and had also suspended fresh Systematic Transfer Plan (STP) registrations, while allowing existing SIPs and STPs to continue. The company had previously paused fresh subscriptions to these schemes before reopening them with revised investment limits.

The restrictions are primarily aimed at ensuring that the mutual fund remains within the regulatory ceiling for overseas investments applicable to Indian asset management companies. Since the overall industry limit

for investing in foreign securities is closely monitored, many mutual funds have imposed similar restrictions whenever they approach the maximum permissible investment threshold.

Importantly, the latest decision affects only new SIP registrations. Existing SIPs will continue without any changes, and investors can continue holding, redeeming, or switching their investments as per the scheme rules. Other investor services remain unaffected.

The three overseas schemes

offer Indian investors exposure to global equity markets and international real estate securities, helping diversify portfolios beyond domestic investments. Such funds have gained popularity among investors seeking geographical diversification and access to global growth opportunities.

However, regulatory limits on overseas investments have led several fund houses to periodically restrict fresh inflows until additional investment capacity becomes available.



For existing investors, the latest move does not alter their investment plans or returns. New investors interested in these schemes will have to wait until PGIM India Mutual Fund reopens fresh SIP registrations after sufficient regulatory head-

room becomes available.

The development highlights the continued demand for international investment opportunities among Indian investors, even as mutual fund companies balance investor interest with regulatory compliance.

Train Coach Turned Into a Honeymoon Suite

A video showing a First AC train coach transformed into a romantic honeymoon suite has gone viral on social media, drawing widespread attention and mixed reactions. The unusual makeover has impressed many viewers with its creativity, while others have raised concerns about railway rules, safety, and whether such decorations should be allowed inside a moving train.

The viral clip features a private First AC coupe lavishly decorated with balloons, fresh flowers, rose petals spread across the beds, heart-shaped ornaments, and illuminated "I Love You" lettering. The entire compartment resembles a luxury honeymoon suite rather than a regular train cabin. The decoration was reportedly arranged as a surprise for a newly married couple, making their train journey a memorable experience.

Many social media users praised the thoughtful gesture, calling it a unique and romantic



way to celebrate the beginning of married life. Several users commented that such personalized experiences make travel more enjoyable and create life-long memories. The video quickly gained thousands of views, likes, and shares, with many appreciating the creativity behind the idea.

However, not everyone was impressed. Some users questioned whether decorating a railway coach with balloons, flowers, and decorative lighting complies with Indian Railways' safety regulations. Critics point-

ed out that certain decorative materials could pose fire hazards or obstruct emergency movement inside the compartment. Others wondered whether the passengers had obtained prior permission from railway authorities before making such extensive changes to the coach's appearance.

Responding to the growing discussion, railway officials clarified that the passengers had booked the entire First AC coupe, giving them exclusive access to the private compartment during the journey. Officials

stated that passengers are generally allowed to decorate their private space as long as the decorations do not damage railway property, interfere with train operations, inconvenience other passengers, or violate safety guidelines. They also emphasized that any decoration must remain within permissible limits and should not compromise the safety of the train or its occupants.

The incident has once again highlighted how social media can turn ordinary travel experiences into viral sensations. While many people admired the romantic gesture, the debate also underscored the importance of balancing creativity with public safety and adherence to railway regulations. The video continues to attract attention online, with users divided between celebrating the innovative surprise and questioning the practicality and safety of such elaborate decorations inside a train.

Football Fan's Sacrifice Rewarded After World Cup Dream Comes True

A heartwarming story of a young England football fan who gave up his house deposit to take his grandfather to the 2026 FIFA World Cup has received a fairy-tale ending. After their emotional journey captured the internet's attention, the money he had sacrificed was unexpectedly returned, turning an unforgettable trip into a life-changing experience.

Twenty-one-year-old Jacob Allmendinger from East Yorkshire had spent five years saving £10,000 (around Rs 12 lakh) as a deposit for his first home. However, instead of buying a house, he chose to spend the entire amount on taking his 80-year-old grandfather, Geoff Golliker, to the FIFA World Cup in North America.

Jacob said the decision was easy because opportunities to earn money would come again, but spending a World Cup with his grandfather was a once-in-a-



lifetime experience. Geoff had been taking Jacob to football matches since he was a child, and the grandson wanted to repay him by creating one final unforgettable adventure together.

Their touching story quickly went viral as the pair documented their travels across the United States and Mexico while following England's World Cup campaign. Football fans around the world were moved by the close bond between the grandfather and grandson, with many

describing their journey as a reminder that memories are often more valuable than material possessions. Their viral popularity also caught the attention of a US-based company, which publicly promised to reimburse Jacob's savings if England defeated DR Congo in the tournament. When England secured the victory, the company honoured its promise and returned the entire amount Jacob had spent.

Speaking after receiving the surprise, Jacob said he had been overwhelmed by the positive re-

sponse from people across the world. Many shared personal stories about losing grandparents and said they wished they had created similar memories with their loved ones. Geoff added that the pair had been recognized by fans throughout their trip, making the experience even more special.

The emotional story has resonated with thousands online, with many praising Jacob for choosing priceless family memories over financial security. While buying a home remains an important goal, many social media users said his decision proved that some experiences simply cannot be measured in money.

The story has become one of the most inspiring World Cup moments off the pitch, reminding people that love, gratitude, and time spent with family often become life's greatest treasures.

Zoho Founder Sridhar Vembu's Veshti Sprint in Japan

Zoho founder and Chief Scientist Sridhar Vembu has gone viral after sharing a light-hearted video of himself rushing to catch a bullet train in Japan while dressed in a traditional white veshti and shirt. The clip has struck a chord with social media users, many of whom praised him for proudly embracing Indian culture while travelling abroad.

The video, posted on X (formerly Twitter), shows Vembu carrying a backpack and hurrying through a Japanese railway station alongside a companion in an attempt to board the high-speed train before departure. Sharing the clip, he humorously captioned it, "Nothing says Japan like running to catch the train."

The simplicity of the moment quickly captured the internet's attention. Instead of the formal business attire often associated with global technology leaders, Vembu chose to travel in traditional Indian clothing. His appearance in a veshti at one of the world's most modern rail-



way systems sparked admiration from thousands of users.

Many people applauded his confidence, saying the video demonstrated that true self-assurance comes from being comfortable with one's identity rather than dressing to meet others' expectations. Others appreciated his grounded personality, noting that despite leading one of India's most successful software companies, he continues to maintain a simple lifestyle.

The comments section was also filled with humour. Some users joked about the contrast

between India's relaxed approach to time and Japan's world-famous punctuality. Others remarked that running while wearing a veshti is no easy task, making the clip even more entertaining.

However, not everyone viewed the video positively. A few social media users questioned whether rushing to catch a train reflected poor time management, while others debated whether traditional attire was practical for such situations. Despite the criticism, the overwhelming response celebrated Vembu's authenticity and cul-

tural pride.

The viral moment came during Vembu's visit to Japan, which has a broader purpose beyond sightseeing. He is exploring partnerships between small and medium-sized enterprises in rural Japan and businesses in rural India. According to Vembu, the initiative aims to connect companies that value skilled craftsmanship and long-term manufacturing traditions.

He has said that many smaller Japanese firms have successfully preserved their artisanal heritage, making them ideal partners for businesses in India's smaller towns and villages. His vision is to strengthen rural entrepreneurship and revive traditional craftsmanship through international collaboration.

What began as a simple dash to catch a train has evolved into a widely shared symbol of cultural confidence, simplicity, and the idea that tradition and modernity can comfortably travel together.

Virat Kohli Lookalike's Mall Prank Triggers Frenzy



A social media prank featuring a man who closely resembles Indian cricket superstar Virat Kohli has gone viral after it created massive excitement at a shopping mall in Lucknow. While many people initially believed the former India captain had made a surprise appearance, the stunt has since sparked a heated debate online over public safety and the ethics of celebrity impersonation.

The prank was carried out by content creator Kartik Sharma, who is well known on social media for his striking resemblance to Virat Kohli. To make the act as convincing as possible, Sharma recreated Kohli's signature hairstyle, beard, tattoos, and wore a Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) jersey. He also arrived at the mall in a BMW accompanied by four men dressed as bodyguards, creating the impression that a high-profile ce-

lebrity had arrived.

As soon as he entered the mall, shoppers rushed toward him, convinced they were seeing the cricket icon in person. Within minutes, hundreds of people gathered around him, eager to click selfies, record videos, and catch a glimpse of the "star." The crowd grew so large that mall security personnel stepped in to escort Sharma and control the gathering. Visitors on multiple floors leaned over railings to watch the commotion, making the prank one of the most talked-about viral videos of the day.

After the video gained traction online, Sharma clarified that it was purely an entertainment prank. He stated that he is a lookalike creator and a devoted Virat Kohli fan, not the real cricketer. He also claimed the video was filmed under supervision and that no one was put at risk during the shoot.

Despite the clarification, social media users remained divided. Some praised Sharma's remarkable resemblance to Kohli and described the prank as harmless entertainment. Others, however, criticized the stunt, arguing that it unnecessarily misled fans, created overcrowding in a public place, and could have become dangerous if an emergency had occurred. Several users also questioned whether such impersonation pranks should be permitted when they have the potential to disrupt public spaces and divert security personnel from their duties.

The viral incident has once again highlighted the immense popularity of Virat Kohli and how quickly celebrity lookalikes can attract attention. At the same time, it has reignited discussions about the fine line between creative social media content and responsible public behavior.

Love Floats Above the Flood

A wedding in Indore has captured hearts across social media after heavy monsoon rains flooded the venue, turning what was meant to be a grand celebration into an unforgettable display of love and resilience. Instead of allowing the unexpected weather to disrupt their special day, the bride and groom chose to continue with the ceremony, creating a viral moment that has touched thousands online.

The wedding was held at a marriage garden on CAT Road, where relentless rainfall left the entire venue submerged in nearly two feet of water before the ceremonies could begin. The couple had travelled from Delhi for the occasion, but despite the flooded surroundings, they decided not to postpone their wedding.

The most memorable moment came when the groom lifted his bride in his arms and carried her through the waterlogged venue to the mandap. Dressed in their traditional wedding attire, the couple smiled throughout the challenging situation, refusing to let the rain dampen their spirits. Videos of the touching gesture quickly spread across social media, earning widespread admiration.



Even the wedding rituals were carried out in ankle-deep water. The couple completed all seven pheras while standing in the flooded mandap as rain continued to pour. Guests also embraced the unusual circumstances, carefully wading through the water to attend the ceremony and later making their way to the dining area. Shoes and slippers could be seen floating around the venue, adding to the surreal scenes.

The incident comes as Indore has experienced continu-

ous heavy rainfall over the past several days, leading to widespread waterlogging across the city. The flooded wedding venue became another example of the impact of the intense monsoon, but the couple's determination transformed the situation into an inspiring story rather than a disappointing one.

Social media users flooded the comments section with messages of appreciation. Many described the groom's gesture as the true meaning of love, while others called it the most memorable "monsoon wedding" they had ever seen. Several users praised the couple for choosing togetherness over inconvenience and turning an unexpected challenge into a cherished memory.

However, a few users also raised concerns about safety, pointing out that conducting wedding rituals in standing water could have posed electrical and other hazards. Despite these concerns, the overwhelming response celebrated the couple's positivity and commitment.

The viral wedding has become a reminder that while perfect celebrations may be planned, it is often unexpected moments of love, courage, and determination that create memories lasting a lifetime.

Elderly Woman's High-Speed Workout in Park Sparks Safety Debate

A viral video of an elderly woman performing an intense workout on an outdoor gym machine at a public park in Bengaluru has ignited a lively debate on social media. While many viewers admired her energy and enthusiasm for staying fit, others expressed concern over the potential safety risks of using public exercise equipment without proper guidance.

The short video shows the woman, dressed in a traditional saree, vigorously using an outdoor air-swing exercise machine. Her rapid back-and-forth movements caught the attention of park visitors, including children, who can be seen watching the unusual workout session. The clip quickly spread across social media platforms, drawing

thousands of views and comments.

The video was shared by a Bengaluru-based social media user, who questioned whether such equipment should be used without supervision. He argued that outdoor gym machines in public parks should have clear instructions and safety guidelines displayed nearby, especially for senior citizens and first-time users.

The post triggered a broader discussion about the growing popularity of open-air gyms installed in parks across Indian cities. Many users pointed out that while these facilities encourage fitness and healthy lifestyles, they often lack instructional boards explaining the correct way to use the equip-

ment. Some also noted that improper use could lead to falls, muscle injuries, or other accidents.

However, several users defended the elderly woman, saying there was no evidence she was using the machine incorrectly. They praised her determination to remain active and argued that age should not be seen as a barrier to exercising. Many described her as an inspiration, encouraging others to prioritize physical fitness regardless of age.

Others felt that the focus should not be on criticizing the woman but on improving public infrastructure. They suggested that civic authorities should install easy-to-understand safety instructions, recommend appro-

priate age limits where necessary, and carry out regular maintenance of outdoor gym equipment to ensure public safety. The viral clip has highlighted the importance of balancing fitness promotion with public safety. As outdoor gyms become increasingly common in parks, experts and citizens alike believe that awareness, proper signage, and responsible usage are essential to prevent injuries while allowing people of all ages to enjoy the benefits of exercise.

The debate continues online, with the video serving as both an inspiring example of healthy ageing and a reminder that public fitness facilities should be designed with safety and accessibility in mind for everyone.





Ishan Kishan,Abhishek Sharma Stay on Top of ICC T20I Rankings

India's Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma have retained the No. 1 and No. 2 spots respectively in the latest ICC Men's T20I batting rankings, providing a positive boost for Indian cricket despite the team's difficult series against England.

While India has struggled in the ongoing T20I series, the two left-handed batters have continued to dominate the rankings thanks to their consistent performances over the past year. Their impressive run in international cricket has helped them remain ahead of the competition.

England's dominant performances against India have also been reflected in the updated rankings, with several of their players making significant gains. Young batter Jacob Bethell climbed seven places to enter the top 10 after producing a match-winning knock during the series.

All-rounder Sam Curran enjoyed one of the biggest jumps in the latest update. His contributions with both bat and ball earned him major improvements in the batting, bowling, and all-rounder rankings, underlining his growing importance to the England side.

Veteran leg-spinner Adil Rashid also moved up in the bowling rankings after another impressive display, while fast



Argentina Star Hails Lionel Messi as the Greatest Player Ever

An Argentina teammate has showered Lionel Messi with praise, calling him not only the best player in the world but also the greatest footballer in history. The glowing tribute comes as Messi continues to inspire both teammates and fans with his remarkable performances and enduring influence on the game.

Speaking about the Argentine captain, the player said Messi's impact goes far beyond his incredible statistics and trophies. He highlighted the veteran forward's leadership, humility, and ability to change the outcome of a match with moments of brilliance, describing him as a once-in-a-generation footballer.

The teammate also praised Messi's dedication and professionalism, saying that even after achieving almost everything in football, he continues to train with the same passion and commitment. According to him, Messi sets the standard for the entire squad, motivating younger players to improve every day.

Since leading Argentina to FIFA World Cup glory in 2022, Messi has continued to play a crucial role for the national team. His experience, vision, and creativity remain central to Argentina's success as they prepare to defend their world title at the 2026 FIFA World

Cup.

Messi's influence extends beyond the pitch. His calm personality and willingness to guide younger teammates have made him one of the most respected figures in world football. Many players who have shared the dressing room with him have spoken about his positive attitude and inspirational presence.

The Argentine legend has enjoyed an extraordinary career filled with countless records and individual honors, including multiple Ballon d'Or awards, league titles, Champions League triumphs, and international success with Argentina. His achievements have cemented his place among football's all-time greats.

The latest praise from his teammate adds to the long list of football stars, coaches, and experts who consider Messi the greatest player to have ever played the game. His consistency, longevity, and ability to perform on the biggest stages continue to set him apart from his peers.

As Argentina prepares for another major international tournament, Messi remains the heart of the team. Fans around the world will once again look to the legendary forward to produce moments of magic and lead his country in its quest for more silverware.

Gambhir Explains Why Sanju Samson Left Out of Playing XI

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has addressed the decision to leave Sanju Samson out of the playing XI, saying that team selection is based on current form and the overall balance of the squad rather than individual popularity.

Speaking after the match, Gambhir made it clear that every player is selected on merit and recent performances. He stressed that while Samson is a talented cricketer, the team management has to back players who are delivering consistently and fit the combination required for specific conditions.

"We have to look at the form," Gambhir said, emphasizing that selection decisions are never personal. According to him, maintaining consistency in team selection is crucial, and players who are performing well deserve continued opportunities.

The head coach also pointed out that competition for places in the Indian team is extremely intense, with several players fighting for limited spots. As a result, even experienced and talented cricketers may occasionally have to sit out despite their abilities.

Sanju Samson's omission has been a major talking point among cricket fans, with many expressing disappointment on social media. The wicketkeeper-batter has built a loyal fan following over the years, and his absence from the playing XI once again sparked debates over team selection.

However, Gambhir urged everyone to look at the bigger picture, stating that the management's focus is always on fielding the strongest possible XI based on current performance, opposition, and match conditions. He added that players outside the playing XI must remain prepared because opportunities can arise at any time during a long series.

The coach also praised the professionalism shown by players waiting on the sidelines, saying healthy competition within the squad ultimately benefits Indian cricket. He expressed confidence that Samson will continue to work hard and be ready whenever the team requires his services.

With India's team selection continuing to generate discussion, Gambhir's remarks underline the management's philosophy of rewarding form and maintaining a balanced side rather than making decisions based solely on reputation. As the series progresses, fans will be watching closely to see whether Sanju Samson gets another opportunity to prove himself in India's colours.



Jofra Archer Pinpoints India's Batting Flaws

England fast bowler Jofra Archer has offered a candid assessment of India's batting performance, suggesting that the visitors struggled because they failed to adapt to changing match conditions and allowed England's bowlers to dictate the game.

Following England's impressive victory, Archer explained that his team's bowling attack remained disciplined throughout the contest. Instead of searching for spectacular deliveries, England focused on maintaining consistent line and length, forcing the Indian batters into mistakes.

According to Archer, India's batting unit found it difficult to build meaningful partnerships when the pressure increased. He noted that once England managed to pick up early wickets, the visitors struggled to regain momentum, allowing the hosts to stay in complete control of the match.

The pacer also highlighted the importance of patience in English conditions. He suggested that successful batting requires players to leave deliveries outside the off stump, remain disciplined, and wait quickly to conditions is often the difference between success and failure in Test cricket.

Despite India's disappointing performance, Archer acknowledged the quality of the opposition and stressed that every match against India is highly competitive. He believes both teams will continue to challenge each other throughout the series as they make tactical adjustments.

With the series still alive, India will now be under pressure to address its batting shortcomings in the upcoming matches. Cricket fans will be eager to see whether the Indian batting lineup can learn from its mistakes, improve its approach, and produce a stronger performance in the next Test.



Felix Auger-Aliassime Reflects on Painful Wimbledon Loss to Novak Djokovic

Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime admitted that a brief lapse in concentration proved costly during his heartbreaking Wimbledon quarterfinal defeat to Novak Djokovic. After pushing the seven-time champion to five sets in one of the tournament's most thrilling matches, the Canadian said he was disappointed to come up just short of a historic victory.

Reflecting on the marathon contest, Auger-Aliassime revealed that he remained confident throughout most of the match. However, he acknowledged that he "lost focus a little bit" during a crucial game in the third set after maintaining an extremely high level of concentration for more than two and a half hours. He believes that brief dip allowed Djokovic to seize the momentum.

Despite the setback, the Canadian refused to blame a lack of belief for the defeat. He said he continued to trust his game until the very end, trying to serve well, make smart decisions, and stay patient against one of the greatest players in tennis history. According to

Auger-Aliassime, the deciding moments simply did not go his way.

He also praised Djokovic's remarkable ability to stay composed under pressure. The Serbian star's experience, consistency, and mental toughness made the difference during the biggest moments of the match, especially in the deciding-set tie-break.

The quarterfinal turned into one of the longest and most memorable matches in Wimbledon history, with both players producing exceptional tennis over more than five hours. Auger-Aliassime matched Djokovic shot for shot for long periods and came within touching distance of reaching

his maiden Wimbledon semifinal.

Although disappointed with the result, the Canadian said he would take plenty of positives from the performance. Competing toe-to-toe with a player of Djokovic's caliber has given him confidence that he can challenge for major titles in the future.

For Djokovic, the hard-fought victory secured another Wimbledon semifinal appearance and kept his Grand Slam ambitions alive. For Auger-Aliassime, the defeat was painful, but his performance demonstrated that he has the talent and resilience to compete with the very best on the sport's biggest stage.



Tilak Under Pressure as India Face Must-Win 4th T20I Against England

India will head into the fourth T20I against England with everything on the line, as the visitors look to keep the series alive in a must-win encounter. With England holding the advantage, the pressure is firmly on the Indian team to deliver a strong all-round performance.

One player who has come under particular scrutiny is Tilak Varma. The talented left-hander has struggled to make a significant impact in the series so far, failing to convert his starts into match-winning innings. As a result, questions are being raised about his place in the playing XI and whether he can deliver when the team needs him the most.

Tilak has earned a reputation as one of India's brightest young batting prospects, but his recent performances have fallen short of expectations. With India's middle order needing greater stability, the upcoming match presents a crucial opportunity for him to silence his critics and play a defining role.

India's batting unit has lacked consistency throughout the series, with top-order failures putting additional pressure on the middle order. The team management will expect experienced players to shoulder greater responsibility while hoping youngsters like Tilak can rise to the occasion.

Apart from batting concerns, India will also be looking for improved performances from its bowling attack. The bowlers have shown flashes of brilliance but have struggled to contain England during key moments. Taking early wickets and maintaining control during the middle overs will be essential if India hopes to level the contest.

England, meanwhile, will enter the match full of confidence after their recent performances. Their batting lineup has displayed aggressive intent, while the bowling unit has consistently applied pressure, making them favorites heading into the crucial encounter.

A victory for India would keep the series alive and set up an exciting finish, while another defeat would hand England the series. With so much at stake, fans can expect an intense battle as both teams look to seize the momentum.

All eyes will be on Tilak Varma, whose performance could play a decisive role in determining India's fate. A match-winning knock would not only help India stay alive in the series but also reaffirm his status as one of the country's most promising young cricketers.



Vihari Slams BCCI's Zimbabwe T20I Squad

Former India batter Hanuma Vihari has strongly criticized the BCCI selectors over India's squad for the upcoming T20I series against Zimbabwe, questioning the inclusion of a few players and calling some of the selection decisions "shocking."

Vihari was particularly critical of the selection of fast bowlers Yash Thakur and Mayank Yadav. He argued that neither bowler had delivered standout performances during the recent IPL season and felt their inclusion in the national squad was difficult to justify based on current form.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Vihari pointed out that Mayank Yadav has struggled with injuries and did not feature regularly in the IPL. He also noted that the pacer has not consistently bowled at the express pace that made him a sensation earlier. Regarding Yash Thakur, Vihari said the fast bowler failed to make a significant impact in the IPL and was even left out of the playing XI in several matches, making his national call-up a surprise.

The squad announcement has triggered widespread debate among cricket fans and experts, with many questioning the selectors' approach. While the BCCI has opted for a

young-looking pace attack featuring fresh faces, critics believe recent performances should have carried greater weight in the selection process.

The selection controversy has also extended beyond the bowling department. Former India captain Ajinkya Rahane expressed his surprise over the omission of wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson, who played an important role in India's successful T20 World Cup campaign. Rahane said he hoped the selectors had communicated the decision to Samson and backed the Kerala batter to make a strong comeback in the near future.

Despite the criticism, the BCCI appears committed to giving opportunities to emerging players as it begins preparations for future ICC tournaments. The Zimbabwe series is expected to serve as a platform for several young cricketers to prove themselves at the international level.

With the series set to begin soon, all eyes will be on the new-look Indian squad. The performances of players like Yash Thakur and Mayank Yadav will be closely watched as they look to justify the selectors' faith and answer their critics with strong performances on the field.



Preity Mukhundhan Missed a Big Opportunity in Allu Arjun's 'Raaka'

Rising actress Preity Mukhundhan, who recently gained widespread recognition with the success of Blast, almost became a part of Allu Arjun's much-awaited pan-Indian film Raaka. However, due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts, she had to let go of the opportunity.

The surprising revelation came from director Atlee during the promotional event of Preity's upcoming romantic comedy Idhayam Murali. Speaking at the event, Atlee praised Preity's acting skills, screen presence, dancing ability, and dedication, describing himself as a great admirer of her work.

He revealed that he had personally approached Preity for an important role in Raaka. However, the actress was already committed to the shooting schedule of Idhayam Murali and was unable to adjust her dates. As a result, she had no choice but to decline the offer despite her interest in the project.

Following her exit, the role was reportedly offered to actress Femina George, who eventually came on board. The makers have not disclosed any details about the character,

keeping the role under wraps and adding to the curiosity surrounding the film.

Although missing a major project like Raaka may seem disappointing, Preity's career continues to gain momentum. She is currently focused on the release of Idhayam Murali, a romantic comedy featuring Atharvaa in the lead role. The film has generated positive buzz, and the actress is hopeful of delivering another successful performance.

Meanwhile, Raaka remains one of the most anticipated films in Indian cinema. Directed by Atlee and headlined by Allu Arjun, the big-budget entertainer is expected to feature large-scale action, spectacular visuals, and a star-studded cast, making it one of the most awaited releases.

While fans wondered how Preity would have looked in Raaka, Atlee's public appreciation has only strengthened her reputation in the industry. Missing one prestigious project may have been disappointing, but it has also highlighted that she is now firmly on the radar of some of Indian cinema's biggest filmmakers, opening the door to more exciting opportunities in the future.



'Ramayana' Reportedly Seals Biggest Theatrical Distribution Deal

Director Nitesh Tiwari's ambitious mythological epic Ramayana has reportedly created history even before its theatrical release by securing what is being described as the biggest theatrical distribution deal in Indian cinema. The development has generated massive excitement across the film industry and among movie fans.

According to industry reports, Karan Johar's Dharma Productions has acquired the Indian theatrical distribution rights for the film in a deal reportedly worth 350 crore. If the reported figure is accurate, it would surpass previous records and become the largest theatrical distribution agreement ever signed for an Indian film.

Trade experts believe the record-breaking deal reflects the enormous confidence the industry has in the film's box-office potential. The movie has already generated unprecedented buzz thanks to its grand scale, star-studded cast, and cutting-edge visual effects. The makers are also reportedly planning one of the widest theatrical releases ever for an Indian film.

Produced by Namit Malhotra, Ramayana features an impressive ensemble cast led by Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash

as Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman, and Ravi Dubey in a key role. The film has been mounted on a massive scale and is expected to redefine visual storytelling in Indian cinema.

One of the biggest attractions of the project is its world-class technical team. The film's music brings together two legendary composers—Hans Zimmer, who is composing the background score, and A.R. Rahman, who is handling the songs. The visual effects are being created by the Oscar-winning VFX company DNEG, further raising expectations for the cinematic spectacle.

Ramayana is being developed as a two-part epic, with the first installment scheduled for a grand theatrical release during Diwali 2026. The makers have repeatedly described the project as a global cinematic experience aimed at taking Indian storytelling to international audiences.

Although the reported distribution deal has not yet been officially confirmed by the production house, the news has already become one of the biggest talking points in the trade. If finalized at the reported value, Ramayana could set a new benchmark for theatrical business in India even before audiences witness the film on the big screen.

Prabhas' 'Spirit' Roars Ahead with 70% Shoot Wrapped Up

Prabhas' much-awaited action entertainer Spirit has entered a crucial stage of production, with the latest shooting schedule currently underway in Hyderabad. Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the film is progressing at a brisk pace, and the makers are now filming some of the most intense sequences of the movie. According to reports, the current schedule is taking place in Hyderabad's Kukatpally area, where the team is shooting key scenes featuring Prabhas. The schedule is expected to continue late into the night, highlighting the importance of this phase in the film's production.

Sources indicate that nearly 70% of the film's shooting has



already been completed, with the production unit spending the last few weeks filming extensively across various locations in Hyderabad. The makers are reportedly focused on

completing the remaining portions on schedule so that post-production work can begin without delays.

Spirit is one of the most anticipated Indian films current-

Climax to Be the Game-Changer? Nani's The Paradise Raises Expectations



Natural Star Nani's much-awaited pan-Indian film The Paradise has once again become the talk of the town after an exciting update from lyricist Kasarla Shyam sent fans into a frenzy. As shooting progresses steadily, the latest buzz suggests that the film's climax could be one of its biggest highlights.

Kasarla Shyam recently shared on social media that he had witnessed the filming of the climax sequence and was completely blown away by what he saw. Calling the climax "next level," he urged fans to bookmark his post, confidently hinting that audiences are in for an unforgettable cinematic experience.

His enthusiastic reaction immediately went viral, with Nani's fans flooding social media with excitement. The update has significantly boosted anticipation, especially after the film experienced multiple release date changes over the past few months.

Originally planned for a March 2026 release, The Paradise was later shifted to August and is now reportedly eyeing a September 2026 theatrical release. Despite the delays, the production is progressing smoothly, and the makers are focused on delivering a film that lives up to the massive expectations.

Directed by Srikanth Odela, who previously delivered the

blockbuster Dasara with Nani, The Paradise is expected to be a gritty action drama with a strong emotional core. Their successful collaboration has already raised confidence among movie lovers, making this one of the most anticipated Telugu films in production.

The movie features Kayadu Lohar as the female lead and boasts an impressive supporting cast that includes Mohan Babu, Sonali Kulkarni, Babu Mohan, Tanikella Bharani, and Sampurnesh Babu. The music is being composed by Anirudh Ravichander, whose soundtrack is also eagerly awaited by fans. While the makers have remained tight-lipped about the story, every update from the sets continues to generate tremendous buzz. Fans are now eagerly waiting for the first single, teaser, or another official glimpse from the production team.

If Kasarla Shyam's comments are anything to go by, the climax could become one of the film's biggest talking points after its release. With Nani, Srikanth Odela, and Anirudh Ravichander joining forces, The Paradise is shaping up to be a grand cinematic spectacle that fans hope will exceed all expectations.

Rajkummar Recreates Ganguly's Iconic Lord's Celebration in 'Dada' First Look

The makers of Dada – The Sourav Ganguly Story have unveiled the much-awaited first-look poster of Rajkummar Rao as former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly, giving fans an exciting glimpse into one of the most anticipated sports biopics in recent years. The poster was released on Ganguly's birthday, making the occasion even more special for cricket lovers.

The first look recreates one of the most iconic moments in Indian cricket history—Ganguly waving his jersey from the Lord's balcony after India's memorable NatWest Trophy victory over England in 2002. Rajkummar Rao's appearance, body language, and expression closely mirror the legendary celebration, instantly drawing comparisons with the former Indian captain. Soon after the poster was unveiled, it went viral across social media. Fans praised Rajkummar Rao's remarkable transformation, with many applauding the actor's dedication to portraying one of India's greatest cricketing icons. The first look has significantly raised expectations for the biopic, which is expected to chronicle Ganguly's inspiring journey from a talented young cricketer to one of the most successful and influential captains in Indian cricket history.

Sourav Ganguly also shared the poster on social media and described it as one of the best birthday gifts he could have received. He expressed his excitement about watching Rajkummar Rao bring his life story to the big screen, further fueling anticipation for the project. Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane, the film is expected to explore Ganguly's



leadership, resilience, and the fearless attitude he instilled in the Indian cricket team during his captaincy. Along with his cricketer achievements, the biopic is also expected to delve into key moments from his personal and professional life, offering audiences a comprehensive look at the man affectionately known as "Dada."

The makers have officially announced that Dada – The Sourav Ganguly Story is scheduled to release in theatres on May 14, 2027. With Raj-

kummar Rao leading the cast and Vikramaditya Motwane directing the project, the film has already emerged as one of the most eagerly awaited sports dramas in Indian cinema.

As excitement continues to build, fans are now eagerly looking forward to the teaser, trailer, and more glimpses from the film, hoping it captures the passion, determination, and legacy of one of India's most celebrated cricket captains.

ly in production, primarily because it marks the first collaboration between Prabhas and blockbuster director Sandeep Reddy Vanga. The film is expected to present Prabhas in the role of a powerful police officer, a character that has generated tremendous excitement among fans ever since the project was announced.

Actress Triptii Dimri plays the female lead, while Harshvardhan Rane is widely reported to be portraying the antagonist. The film also boasts a strong technical crew, with Harshavardhan Rameshwar composing the music. The combination of an action-packed storyline, an acclaimed director, and Prabhas in a never-before-seen avatar has sig-

nificantly raised expectations. Although the makers have kept most story details under wraps, updates from the film's sets continue to fuel anticipation among fans. Every production milestone has become a talking point on social media, with movie lovers eagerly awaiting the teaser and further official announcements.

With the latest schedule focusing on emotionally charged and high-intensity sequences, Spirit appears to be moving steadily toward completion. If the current pace continues, fans can expect more exciting updates from the makers in the coming months as one of Indian cinema's biggest action dramas prepares for its next phase.



Akhil Says 'Lenin' Climax Will Be the Film's Biggest Highlight

As Lenin gears up for its theatrical release, actor Akhil Akkineni has significantly raised expectations by repeatedly praising the film's final 20 minutes. During the ongoing promotional campaign, Akhil has described the climax as the biggest strength of the movie, saying it will leave audiences surprised and emotionally moved.

According to Akhil, the climax is the heart of Lenin. He revealed that the final act features an unexpected twist that completely changes the narrative and delivers a powerful emotional payoff. He expressed confidence that audiences would walk out of theatres with a lasting impression after experiencing the film's ending.

His comments have sparked widespread curiosity among fans, with social media buzzing over what the much-talked-about climax could be. Many believe the film could feature a gripping emotional revelation or an action-packed finale that may become one of its biggest talking points after release.

Lenin stars Bhagyashree Borse as the female lead, while veteran actor Sivaji plays a crucial role. The film has generat-

ed healthy pre-release buzz through its trailer, songs, and promotional activities, with Akhil actively interacting with fans and the media to build excitement.

The project is especially significant for Akhil, who is aiming to make a strong comeback at the box office. Directed by Murali Kishore Abburu, Lenin is expected to blend action, romance, family emotions, and commercial entertainment, making it appealing to a wide audience.

Trade analysts believe that Akhil's confidence in the climax has become one of the film's biggest promotional assets. If the final 20 minutes live up to expectations, the film could benefit from strong word-of-mouth and sustained box office collections. At the same time, the makers now face the challenge of delivering on the high expectations they have created.

With the release date fast approaching, all eyes are on Lenin to see whether its much-hyped climax can deliver the impact Akhil has promised and turn the film into a memorable cinematic experience.

