

TTD Gears Up for Grand Sri Mahalakshmi Deepa Puja



Chandragiri, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has made elaborate arrangements for the grand Sri Mahalakshmi Deepa Puja scheduled to be held on July 10 at 6 PM at the Sri Kodandarama Swamy Temple premises in Chandragiri.

TTD JEO Dr. A. Sarath, who inspected the arrangements on Thursday, directed officials to ensure seamless coordination across departments and provide all necessary facilities for devotees. He emphasised that no inconvenience should be caused to the thousands expected to attend the spiritual event. The arrangements include spacious sheds, mats, materials required for the Deepa Puja, Annarasadam distribution centres,

drinking water, LED screens and temporary restrooms. Additional sanitation staff have also been deployed to maintain cleanliness during the programme.

Dr. A. Sarath further instructed the Electrical and Garden departments to enhance the temple's ambience with decorative lighting and floral arrangements to create a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

He also announced that the event will be telecast live on the Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel (SVBC), enabling devotees across the region to witness the ceremony.

Deputy EO Nagarathna, VGO Giridhar, DE Saraswathi, officials from various departments and SVBC representatives participated in the review meeting.

SC Sub-Plan Funds Must Reach Intended Beneficiaries Says Minister

Amaravati, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Minister Dola Sri Bala Veer-anjaneya Swamy directed officials to ensure 100 per cent utilisation of the SC Sub-Plan funds allocated for the current financial year by January, warning that any misuse of the funds would not be tolerated. He was speaking at a Nodal Agency meeting held under his chairmanship at the State Secretariat in Amaravati on Thursday to review the utilisation of SC Sub-Plan allocations.

The Minister reviewed department-wise expenditure and said the State had allocated Rs. 20,643 crore under the SC Sub-Plan this year. He instructed all departments to prepare action plans and utilise the funds efficiently within the stipulated



timeline.

Dola Sri Bala Veer-anjaneya Swamy stressed that every rupee under the SC Sub-Plan must be spent exclusively for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. He also urged departments to effectively utilise Central government schemes and funds. The Minister said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is committed to the overall development of Scheduled Castes and called on officials to work with sincerity to achieve that objective.

APCRDA, Barbeque Nation Offer 50 Jobs for Amaravati Youth

Amaravati, July 9 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has partnered with Barbeque Nation to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth from the Amaravati Capital Region through a special recruitment drive.

The initiative aims to fill 50 vacancies at Barbeque Nation outlets in Hyderabad. Candidates aged 18 years and above with Class 10, Intermediate or Graduation qualifications are eligible to apply.

Selected candidates will undergo three months of on-the-

job training with a monthly stipend of 6,000 before being appointed to permanent positions. Class 10 candidates will receive a minimum salary of 12,000 per month, while graduates will get at least 14,000 depending on their roles.

Vacancies are available for Cashier, Front Office Executive, Receptionist, Steward, Captain, Banquet Supervisor, Chef and other hospitality positions. The company will provide free accommodation and meals during training and after appointment. APCRDA's Social Development Department has encouraged eligible youth to register for the recruitment drive.

Kollu Ravindra Highlights Infrastructure Push

Machilipatnam, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra on Thursday said the AP government is committed to strengthening land ownership rights and improving infrastructure in the Machilipatnam Assembly constituency.

Participating in the 'Mee Bhoomi Mee Hakku' programme at Gokavaram village and inaugurating drinking water pipeline works at Campbellpet in Machilipatnam Rural mandal along with APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, he said the government was focusing on transparent governance and better public amenities.

Ravindra said Pattadar Passbooks bearing the State emblem are being issued after a comprehensive land resurvey to ensure secure ownership



rights. He said 2,817 beneficiaries received passbooks after the resurvey in five villages of Bandaru North mandal and Nelakurru village in South mandal.

He announced that 200 crore has been sanctioned under Jal Jeevan Mission to provide household tap connections in Machilipatnam. He added that road works worth 37 crore have been completed and development projects, including Machilipatnam Port, are progressing to generate employment

APSRTC Gears Up for Electric Mobility Revolution with 1,050 E-Buses

Sreeja Rachabathuni

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh is set to transform its public transport system with the introduction of 1,050 electric buses under the PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme. The Centre has sanctioned the buses for 11 cities in the State, with tenders for 750 buses finalised through Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), while the remaining 300 are under process. The project includes 145.39 crore for charging infrastructure and incentives worth nearly 1,774 crore.

The initiative aims to promote clean, sustainable and efficient urban mobility while improving passenger convenience through modern electric buses. The State government and APSRTC are working towards gradually replacing diesel buses with electric vehicles.

M.T. Krishna Babu, Principal Secretary of the State Transport Department, said the government's objective is to establish a modern public transport system through electric mobility. He clarified that the programme is being implemented under the Central Government's PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme.

"The Centre has sanctioned 10,000 electric buses across the country for cities with populations exceeding five lakh. Under a uniform policy, buses are being allocated to 22 States and six Union Territories. Andhra Pradesh is also benefiting from this national programme," Krishna Babu said.



He explained that electric buses would be operated through the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model to ensure faster adoption of technology. Under this system, operators will provide and maintain buses, while APSRTC will continue managing routes, scheduling and passenger services.

Krishna Babu said APSRTC has already been following the hire model, with around 26% of its diesel fleet operating under this system and 74% owned by the corporation. "Electric buses will also follow a similar model to facilitate a smooth transition towards green mobility," he said.

APSRTC currently operates 10,661 buses, including 8,012 owned buses and 2,649 hired buses. Under the Andhra Pradesh State Electric Mobility Policy, the corporation aims to convert its entire fleet into electric buses by 2029. Future procurements will focus mainly on air-conditioned electric buses to improve passenger comfort.

The corporation is already operating 100 electric buses under the FAME-II scheme on routes including Tirupati-Tiru-

mala, Tirupati-Nellore, Tirupati-Kadapa and Madanapalle. Officials said the buses have reduced fuel consumption and emissions while improving passenger experience.

The first phase of 750 electric buses will operate from 12 depots, including Vidyadharam in Vijayawada, Gun-tur-2, Nellore-2, Rajahmundry, Gajuwaka, Kakinada, Kadapa, Kurnool and Anantapur. Charging infrastructure works have started at various locations.

APSRTC management has assured that the transition will not affect employees and staff will be redeployed according to operational requirements.

Meanwhile, some employee unions have expressed concerns, alleging that the move could lead to gradual privatisation of APSRTC. They have urged the government to safeguard the corporation's public character while adopting new technology.

The electric bus expansion marks a significant step towards cleaner and more efficient public transportation in Andhra Pradesh.

AP to Phase In PP Bags for Paddy Procurement from Kharif

Vijayawada, July 9 | TPN Bureau

The state government will introduce durable polypropylene (PP) bags in a phased manner from the upcoming Kharif season to address the long-standing shortage of jute bags faced by paddy farmers, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar announced on Thursday. Speaking at a review meeting on two years of paddy procurement and preparations for the next Kharif season, he said PP bags would be distributed through Rythu Seva Kendras in areas facing shortages. Transportation charges for farmers



delivering paddy directly to rice mills will also be credited within 48 hours.

During the meeting, Andhra Pradesh Tenant Farmers Association State General Secretary P. Jamalayya urged the government to strengthen the procurement system by ensuring trans-

parent moisture testing at Rythu Seva Kendras, timely supply of bags, better transport facilities, procurement from tenant farmers through cultivation certificates, and improved monitoring of rice mills.

Nadendla Manohar said the coalition government procured a record 74.13 lakh metric tonnes of paddy from 10.32 lakh farmers during the latest Kharif and Rabi seasons. He added that Andhra Pradesh's Civil Supplies reforms, including improved PDS rice quality, have received national recognition, with the Centre adopting the state's 10% broken rice model for nationwide implementation.

AP Weighs Raising Professors' Retirement Age to Boost Medical Education

Amaravati, July 9 | TPN Bureau

The state government is considering increasing the retirement age of medical professors to address faculty shortages in government medical colleges and improve the quality of medical education, Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav said on Thursday. Reviewing medical education standards and budget utilisation, he directed officials to prepare a comprehensive proposal on the issue.

The Minister said around 200 of the 800 professor posts in 17 government medical colleges



are vacant, including 106 of 159 posts in 16 super-speciality departments, affecting National Medical Commission norms and postgraduate seat allocation. He instructed officials to ensure at least five government medical colleges rank among the country's top 100 institutions.

AP Targets 60 Lakh Farmers Under Natural Farming by 2035

Amaravati, July 9 | TPN Bureau

The state has set a target of bringing more than 60 lakh farmers under natural farming by 2035 as part of a joint initiative of the state and Central governments, 20-Point Programme Implementation Chairman Lanka Dinakar said on Thursday. Addressing the media after a review meeting with Agriculture Department Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary B. Rajasekhara, Rythu Sadhikara Samstha Executive Vice-Chairman Vijay Kumar and Organic Farming Certify-



ing Authority Chairman Shra- van Dutt, he said the state aims to enrol 23 lakh farmers during 2026-27.

Lanka Dinakar said 18 lakh farmers are already practising natural farming across 20 lakh acres in 8,168 villages. He add-

ed that 1,560 crore has so far been invested in promoting natural farming, while another 3,800 crore is projected over the next five years.

He said natural farming has reduced chemical fertiliser use by over 10 percent and increased farmers' incomes through higher yields. The Centre has proposed 321 crore for Andhra Pradesh during 2026-27, of which 100 crore has already been released, while the state is also expected to receive around 300 crore in incentives under the PM PRAN-AM programme for reducing fertiliser consumption.

AP to Showcase Textile Strengths at Bharat Tex 2026

New Delhi, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh is set to showcase its handloom heritage, textile strengths and investment opportunities at Bharat Tex 2026, one of the world's largest textile exhibitions, scheduled from July 14 to 17 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The Department of Handlooms & Textiles has established an expanded Andhra Pradesh Pavilion at Hall No. 9 to highlight the State's potential in handlooms, textiles, apparel and garments. The event, organised by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, will bring together global manufacturers, exporters, buyers, investors and technology providers.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the State will showcase textile parks, GI-tagged products, One District One Product (ODOP) items, export-oriented industries and traditional weaving clusters.

Minister for Handlooms & Textiles S. Savitha has been promoting initiatives aimed at preserving Andhra Pradesh's handloom heritage, expanding market opportunities and sup-



porting weavers and textile entrepreneurs.

Special Chief Secretary R. P. Sisodia is steering efforts to attract investments and strengthen the textile ecosystem, while Commissioner Rekha Rani is coordinating the Andhra Pradesh Pavilion and participation of entrepreneurs.

Leading participants include Guntur Textile Park, Tarakeswara Textile Park, Harish Fashions and APCO. Around 40 entrepreneurs and exporters from Champion and Aspirational districts will also participate to explore global markets, business opportunities and export linkages.

Officials said Bharat Tex 2026 will provide Andhra Pradesh a significant platform to enhance its global presence and accelerate the growth of the textile sector.

Star Hotels Association Seeks GST Relief for Hospitality Sector

Vijayawada, July 9 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of the Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association (ASHA), led by President R.V. Swamy, on Thursday met Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar and submitted a memorandum seeking the state's intervention on key GST-related issues affecting the hospitality sector.

The delegation included Nag-eswara Rao, General Manager, Vivanta Visakhapatnam; M.V. Pawan Karthik, Joint Secretary, ASHA; Sharan, Managing Director, GRT Vijayawada; and Murthy Chittoori, General Secretary, ASHA.

The association urged the Minister to take up with the Central Government the demand for reducing GST on commercial LPG cylinders, stating that the existing tax burden has significantly increased operating costs for hotels and restaurants. It also



sought the restoration of Input Tax Credit (ITC) for the hospitality sector, arguing that its withdrawal has sharply raised operational and capital expenditure, affecting the industry's competitiveness.

Receiving the memorandum, Nadendla Manohar assured the delegation that the issues would be examined at the appropriate level and that he would extend all possible support in pursuing the matter with the concerned authorities. The association expressed confidence that the Andhra Pradesh government would coordinate with the Centre to secure GST reforms beneficial to the hospitality industry.

Vijayawada GGH Deputy CMRO Surrendered Over Mahaprasthanam Service Lapse

Vijayawada, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Deputy CMRO of Vijayawada Government General Hospital (GGH) Dr. Mangadevi has been surrendered to the Director of Public Health following an inquiry into the failure to provide a Mahaprasthanam ambulance for transporting a deceased person.

Director of Medical Education Dr. Vishnuvardhan conducted the inquiry as per the directions of Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav after a family was forced to hire a private ambulance by paying 5,200 to transport a body to

Tiruvuru, despite the availability of a government Mahaprasthanam ambulance at the hospital. Dr. Vishnuvardhan inspected records and questioned hospital staff on Thursday. The preliminary inquiry found that Dr. Mangadevi failed to arrange the ambulance service for the family.

A show-cause notice was also issued to the Mahaprasthanam service provider, IHG Private Limited, seeking an explanation. The DME observed that ambulance services were not being operated as per the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the government.

Vijayawada Airport Pushes for Dubai Flights

Gannavaram, July 9 | TPN Bureau

The Airport Advisory Committee on Thursday reviewed the development of Vijayawada International Airport, focusing on terminal expansion, connectivity and road infrastructure.

Committee Chairman and Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry said a new contractor has been appointed for the long-pending terminal building project, which is expected to be completed by Dasara or November.

The committee proposed direct flights to Dubai and Sri Lanka and urged Emirates to launch services from Vijayawada. It also sought additional flights to Varanasi, Kochi, Goa, Kolkata, Mumbai, Surat and



Ahmedabad. Vijayawada MP Kesineni Siv-nath (Chinni) said the state and Centre were working together to speed up airport development.

AP Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkata Rao sought early resolution of airport land oustees' issues. He said a DPR has been prepared for a four-lane road linking the airport with Vijayawada West Bypass and another route through HCL Road to reduce travel time to Amaravati.

Lokesh Courts Korean Investment, Proposes AP–Korea Desk

continued

tourism and advanced electronics.To strengthen long-term collaboration, Lokesh proposed the establishment of joint training academies with South Korea. These academies would equip Andhra Pradesh's youth with skills aligned to Korean industrial standards, along with language and workplace culture training. He stated that the state's Education and Skill Development departments are ready to partner with Korean institutions to build a globally competitive workforce.Lokesh also proposed setting up an Andhra Pradesh-Korea Investment Desk to streamline investments and institutional coordination. Additionally, he requested the South Korean government to

establish a Korean Cultural Centre in Andhra Pradesh to enhance cultural exchanges and people-to-people connections.Highlighting infrastructure strengths, Lokesh pointed to Andhra Pradesh's extensive coastline, major deep-water ports such as Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam, and upcoming greenfield ports. He said these assets position the state as a cost-effective gateway to the Indian market and an export hub for regions including the Middle East, Africa and Europe.He further proposed annual economic partnership dialogues, Korean language centres in universities, city-level collaborations with Busan and Incheon, and direct air connectivity to deepen bilateral ties.

No Question of Privatisising APSRTC, Says Krishna Babu

continued

s existing diesel buses currently operate under the hire model, while 74% are owned by the corporation. Electric buses will also follow a similar model under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) system implemented through Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL). He said 750 electric buses would be introduced across 11 towns in Andhra Pradesh through Pinnacle, the successful bidder in the national tender process. Charging infrastructure and necessary facilities are being developed, with alternative arrangements planned in areas facing space constraints.

Assuring employees, Krishna Babu said the transition would not lead to job losses, retrenchment or declaration of staff as surplus. The government is also examining models such as dry lease arrangements using APSRTC drivers and maintenance support by corporation staff. The State is implementing Sustainable Electric Mobility Policy-4.0 to replace diesel buses with electric buses between 2024 and 2029. The first batch of 750 buses is expected to operate by August-September, while tenders for another 300 buses for Tirumala are under process.APSRTC Executive Director Brahmananda Reddy participated in the meeting.

Topudurthi Prakash Reddy Arrested Amid Political Tension

continued

Former Hindupur MP Gorantla Madhav was also taken into custody along with Prakash Reddy and shifted under tight security.The developments followed allegations by Prakash Reddy against M.S. Raju, accusing him of illegally accumulating assets through his official positions. Raju rejected the charges and challenged Prakash Reddy to prove the allegations while questioning his own assets.TDP district president and MLA M.S. Raju

alleged that Prakash Reddy had damaged his reputation through false remarks and said the issue should be addressed politically.The dispute intensified after Prakash Reddy alleged a conspiracy behind a recent road incident near C. Bandameedapalli in Singanama mandal and accused TDP leaders, including MLAs Surendra Babu and Paritala Sunitha, along with Minister Nara Lokesh. Police are investigating the developments and maintaining security in Anantapur.

Police Seize Weapons at Prakash Reddy's Residence

Police conducted searches at the residence of former Rapatadu MLA and YSRCP leader Topudurthi Prakash Reddy in Srinagar Colony, Anantapur, following escalating tensions with Madakasira TDP MLA M.S. Raju. During the search, police reportedly seized stones, iron rods, beer bottles and other materials. Officials intensified the investigation into allegations of a possible plan to create violence in the district. The searches came amid a war of words between Topudurthi Prakash Reddy and M.S. Raju after the former MLA levelled allegations against the TDP MLA, who challenged him to prove the charges. Police deployed security at Topudurthi Prakash Reddy's residence as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward incident. Authorities said further investigation is underway to ascertain the facts behind the seized materials and alleged preparations for clashes.

Lakshmi Parvathi Alleges Decline in Law and Order

Tadepalli, July 9 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP General Secretary N. Lakshmi Parvathi on Thursday alleged that law and order has deteriorated under the coalition government, accusing it of misusing the police machinery to target political opponents.

Addressing the media at Tadepalli, Lakshmi Parvathi claimed that innocent people were being implicated in false cases while ruling party leaders were escaping action. She alleged that police were being used to suppress those questioning the government by filing serious cases and sending them to judicial remand.

Naidu Resolves Long-Pending 2,074-Acre Land Dispute

continued

orders on the spot, following which the District Registrar completed the removal process in the presence of the Chief Minister.Naidu directed officials to ensure immediate implementation rather than delay, leading to the clearance of the lands from the prohibited

list. He later handed over the official orders to the beneficiary farmers. In addition, the government cleared another long-pending issue by removing 101 acres of 'chukkalabhumu' belonging to 23 farmers in Banaganapalle from the disputed list. Farmers expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, stating

that the restrictions imposed during the previous YSRCP regime had prevented them from availing loans, selling land or carrying out transactions. Naidu assured that the government is prioritising resolution of land disputes and safeguarding farmers' ownership rights across the State.

CM Orders Resolution of Land Issues Raised by Two Women

Banaganapalle, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to resolve the land-related grievances of two women from Kadapa and East Godavari districts after they appealed for help during the Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku programme in Banaganapalle. The women, Ramalaksh-

mamma from Ramarajupalle in Kadapa district and Sai Deepthi from Mandapeta in East Godavari district, brought their land disputes to the Chief Minister's notice during the public meeting. Responding to their appeals, Chandrababu assured both women from the stage that their issues would be addressed and directed Chief

Minister's Office (CMO) officials to coordinate with the respective District Collectors for necessary action. Following the directions, CMO officials informed the District Collectors of Kadapa and East Godavari about the grievances and initiated steps towards resolving the disputes.The two women have been advised to approach the respective Collectors for further proceedings and speedy resolution of their land-related issues.

CM Naidu Announces 72.7 Lakh Pattadar Passbooks by 2027

continued

The newly issued Pattadar Passbooks come with advanced security features aimed at preventing errors and protecting ownership rights. "We have removed political imagery from land documents and restored their sanctity with the State Emblem," he added.Highlighting progress, the Chief Minister said the Record of Rights process has been completed in 1,971 villages covering Village Inam lands. The government is also implementing auto-mutation to enable seamless transfer of inherited properties to rightful heirs. He noted that long-pending disputes in Shettipalli in

Tirupati district, Vatticherukuru in Guntur district and Kangundi in Chittoor district have already been resolved. Referring to Waqf lands, Naidu said 2,074 acres in the Done Assembly constituency that were earlier placed under Section 22-A have now been removed from the prohibited list, benefiting farmers. The Chief Minister said the government is simultaneously focusing on development, particularly in Rayalaseema. He highlighted projects such as the Kadapa Steel Plant, Hero Motors manufacturing unit and AMCA Defence Fighter Jet facility as key drivers of growth. With investments of

nearly 40,000 crore, he said the region is poised to emerge as a hub for defence, aerospace, electronics, automobiles and horticulture.Naidu also flagged concerns over a 22 % rainfall deficit due to El Niño and stressed the importance of water conservation. He commended the Nandyal district administration for constructing an 18-km feeder channel and check dams to enhance groundwater recharge.Ministers Payyavula Keshav, Anagani Satya Prasad, BC Janardhan Reddy, NMD Farooq, MP Byreddy Shabari, MLAs and other public representatives were present.

Atchannaidu Slams YSRCP on Fishermen

Amaravati, July 9 | TPN Bureau

State Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Thursday accused the YSR Congress Party of neglecting the welfare of fishermen during its tenure and said the Alliance government had cleared pending compensation soon after assuming office. Addressing a press conference, the Minister alleged that the previous YSRCP government failed to release ex gratia and diesel subsidy dues to fishermen's families. He said the Alliance government disbursed 3.15 crore in pending ex gratia to the families of 63 deceased fishermen and released 9.90 crore towards diesel subsidy arrears in June 2024.



Atchannaidu said the government acted swiftly in recent incidents involving missing fishermen off the Visakhapatnam coast by coordinating search and rescue operations with the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Coastal Security Police and

other agencies. He also highlighted the successful rescue of Andhra Pradesh fishermen stranded near the Odisha coast.Criticising YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Minister alleged that the opposition was attempting to politicise fishermen's issues despite failing to address their problems while in power. He questioned why compensation claims remained pending for years under the previous government and demanded transparency regarding fishermen who lost their lives during the YSRCP regime. He asserted that the Alliance government remains committed to safeguarding the welfare and livelihood of the state's fishing community.

TDP Seeks Probe into Vijaya Dairy

Vijayawada, July 9 | TPN Bureau

TDP Krishna District Mandal President Veerapaneni Sivaram on Thursday levelled serious allegations against the management of Vijaya Dairy, alleging corruption, irregularities and a decline in the quality of its milk after Chalasani Anjaneyulu assumed charge as Chairman. Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada, Sivaram claimed that Vijaya milk sales in the city had fallen from around one lakh litres per day to nearly 60,000 litres. He de-

manded that the state government order a comprehensive inquiry into the quality of Vijaya milk and the functioning of the dairy. He alleged that land worth about 30 lakh per acre at Veeravalli was purchased for 70 lakh per acre and that factory construction works were undertaken without inviting tenders. He also sought an investigation into the roles of the Chairman's personal assistant and driver. Sivaram further alleged that Anil was appointed as General Manager despite a history of

irregularities and claimed that corruption had increased following his appointment. He also questioned the procurement of milk from a supplier allegedly producing far less than the quantity supplied and demanded a detailed probe. The TDP leader also accused the dairy management of replacing more than 20 TDP-backed dairy society chairmen and appointing unqualified persons to key positions. He urged the government to conduct a transparent inquiry into all the allegations.

The YSRCP leader claimed that during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the police and Panchayat Raj departments received national recognition, whereas the present government had weakened governance. She further accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of priva-

tising public assets and taking credit for projects initiated by the previous government. Lakshmi Parvathi also criticised Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan over his recent political remarks and accused the coalition government of failing to protect democratic values and public welfare.

Pawan Kalyan Calls for Stronger Grassroots Connect by Janasena Leaders

continued

shared their experiences. Pawan Kalyan congratulated the observers and committee members for their efforts. Janasena PAC Chairman and Minister for Civil Supplies Na-

dendla Manohar, Minister for Tourism Kandula Durgesh, MPs V. Balashowry, T. Uday Srinivas and Lingamaneni Ramesh, MLCS Nagababu and Pidugu Hariprasad, along with several MLAs, participated in the meeting.

Modi Highlights India's Global Trust, Economic Rise

continued

highlighting India's commitment to humanitarian assistance. Emphasising India's rapid economic growth, Modi said the country is currently the world's fastest-growing major economy and is on track to become the third-largest globally. He noted that India has emerged as the second-largest 5G market and is progressing towards 6G technology under the 'Make in India' initiative. "The manufacturing sector—from chips to ships—is being developed in a completely new way," he said, adding that India is also making significant advancements in space research and is working to-

wards establishing its own space station.Reflecting on India-Australia ties, Modi said his visit to Melbourne fulfilled a long-cherished goal and underlined the role of the Indian diaspora in strengthening bilateral relations. He described Melbourne as "Mini India," citing the deep cultural connect.Calling for continued progress, Modi urged the diaspora to adopt the motto "Grow More, Achieve More."He also stated that 'Operation Sindoor' had dealt a strong blow to terror camps, with its impact resonating globally. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, with chants of "Modi, Modi" echoing across the stadium.

Govt Clears ₹750 Crore 'City of Lakes and Tanks' Project

continued

sewage inflows, desilting, bund strengthening and development of blue-green infrastructure. Avilala Tank has been identified as a priority for development on the lines of Hyderabad's Tank Bund. The project cost includes 250 crore each for water body rejuvenation and integrated storm water management, along with 250 crore for allied require-

ments. The State is also exploring 500 crore (EUR 50 million) concessional assistance from KfW Development Bank, Germany.Suresh Kumar said the present approval is limited to project preparation and appraisal, including DPRs, studies and consultations. TUDA has been directed to coordinate with concerned departments and complete detailed proposals within six months.

Congress Reviews District Organisation

Vijayawada, July 9 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) on Thursday held a review meeting with District Congress Committee (DCC) and City Congress Committee presidents from 13 districts as part of the nationwide Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan, with an emphasis on strengthening the party's organisational structure at the grassroots level. The meeting, held at the APCC headquarters in Vijayawada, was attended by Congress Working Committee member Vamshi Chand Reddy, MP and former IAS officer Senthil, AICC Secretary Ganesh Yadav, APCC Vice President and Administration In-charge Kolanukonda Shivaji, and APCC General Secretary Rajeev Ratan.The leaders reviewed the functioning of the newly constituted DCCs and City Congress Committees and

assessed the implementation of party programmes across the state. They discussed strategies to strengthen organisational networks and improve coordination between district leadership and the state unit. The delegation also interacted with 21 Congress leaders representing 10 districts to evaluate how effectively the party and INDIA Alliance's campaigns and parliamentary initiatives are being communicated to the public. Based on the feedback received, a roadmap will be prepared to strengthen the organisation and address key organisational issues.The findings of the two-day review will be submitted to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal. Party leaders also appealed to DCC and City Congress Committee presidents to participate in Friday's organisational programme in large numbers.

Kanaka Rao Targets M.S. Raju Over Thopudurthi Attack

Tadepalli, July 9 | TPN Bureau

YCP SC Cell Working President Kommuri Kanaka Rao on Thursday accused the coalition government of attempting to divert public attention from the alleged attack on YCP leader Thopudurthi Prakash Reddy instead of taking action against those responsible. Addressing a press conference at Tadepalli, Kanaka Rao alleged that an attempt was made on Prakash Reddy's life by ramming a tipper vehicle into him. He claimed that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was using MLA M.S. Raju to divert the political discourse rather than responding to the incident. Kanaka Rao criticised M.S. Raju for allegedly invoking caste for political purposes and

questioned his silence over the death of Kranthi Kumar, who, he said, had worked for the TDP. He further alleged that several Scheduled Caste persons had died by suicide over the past two years due to harassment but claimed the ruling party had failed to address their concerns. The YCP leader also accused the government of neglecting SC welfare by not providing adequate funds to SC Corporations and ignoring issues affecting the Dalit community. Demanding immediate action, Kanaka Rao urged the government to conduct a thorough investigation into the alleged attempt on Thopudurthi Prakash Reddy's life instead of engaging in what he termed "diversion politics."



NTR District Achieves 72.54% Digitisation

A. Konduru, July 9 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Thursday said the next three days are crucial for the successful completion of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls and urged officials and voters to actively cooperate in the exercise.

During a visit to Chimalapadu village in A. Konduru mandal, the Collector reviewed the door-to-door survey, distribution and collection of enumeration forms, and the digitisation process. He directed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and officials to carry out the exercise transparently and in strict accordance with Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines.

Dr. Lakshmisha said awareness campaigns are being conducted across the district to encourage voters to submit their enumeration forms, while special help desks have been established in every Assembly constituency to assist the public.

The Collector announced that 1,242,947 enumeration forms, accounting for 72.54% of the total, have been digitised so far. Tiruvuru recorded the highest progress with 175,033 forms digitised (83.87%), followed by Mylavaram at 77.23%, Nandigama at 77.38%, Jaggayapeta at 76.33%, Vijayawada East at 67.02%, Vijayawada Central at 65.87%, and Vijayawada West at 64.19%.

He instructed officials to intensify efforts over the coming days to complete the remaining work without lapses and ensure that every eligible voter is covered under the revision process.

CPM Slams Power Tariff Burden



The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Thursday accused the Andhra Pradesh alliance government of imposing a massive financial burden on electricity consumers through adjustment charges and alleged that its claims of reducing power tariffs were misleading.

Addressing a press conference at the CPM office in Vijayawada, CPM State Secretariat Member Ch. Babu Rao alleged that the government had collected nearly 21,885 crore from consumers over the past two years through true-up and adjustment charges. He claimed that despite a reduction in the cost of power generation, the benefit had not been passed on to consumers and demanded a tariff reduction of 52 paise per unit.

Babu Rao also criticised the

government's decision to continue installing smart meters, alleging that the alliance had gone back on its pre-election promises. He further alleged that the government had failed to order an inquiry into the Adani-SECI solar power agreement despite corruption allegations linked to the project and challenged the government to an open public debate on electricity tariffs and smart meters.

CPM State Committee member D. Kashinath alleged that the alliance government was increasing the burden on consumers instead of providing relief. He said the party would continue its campaign against smart meter installation and electricity adjustment charges across the State.

The CPM demanded the immediate withdrawal of adjustment charges, reduction in power tariffs and a halt to the installation of smart meters.

Gandhi Co-op Bank Chief Refutes Allegations



Chairman Vemuri Venkatrao on Thursday dismissed allegations against the Gandhi Co-operative Urban Bank as "false and baseless," asserting that the nearly century-old institution has maintained transparency and financial discipline.

Addressing a press conference at the bank's headquarters in Governorpet, Venkatrao said the bank, established in 1928, is approaching its centenary and should not be defamed due to personal vendettas. He clarified that allegations relating to an auctioned property stemmed from a loan default and subsequent family dispute. He said the property was auctioned as per Co-operative Department rules, the bank recovered its dues, and

the remaining amount was distributed among the legal heirs in accordance with official guidelines. He added that departmental authorities had examined the records and found no irregularities.

Highlighting the bank's performance, Venkatrao said it has deposits of 698 crore and an outstanding loan portfolio of over 513 crore. The bank recorded a net profit of 9 crore this year and declared a 10 per cent dividend to its members. He also said the bank reduced its Non-Performing Assets (NPA) to zero by March, introduced digital banking services, and enhanced its loan limit to 1.5-2 crore. He announced that the Nuzvid and Hanuman Junction branches would shift to new premises this month, while a new head office and branch would be constructed at Patamata.

Minister Ravindra Promises Tap Water for All

Machilipatnam, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra on Thursday said the alliance government is committed to providing a household drinking water tap connection to every family in the Bandar constituency while accelerating infrastructure and welfare initiatives.

The Minister was speaking after inaugurating drinking water pipeline works at Campbellpet in Machilipatnam Rural Mandal along with RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao.

Kollu Ravindra said 200 crore has been sanctioned under the Jal Jeevan Mission to strengthen drinking water infrastructure across Machilipatnam. He added that roads spanning nearly 50 kilometres have been developed at a cost of 37



crore and that works on the Galaladibba-Polatithippa bridge, roads near the Medical College and the fishing harbour are progressing. He said proposals have also been submitted for road widening and improvements in colony roads.

Stating that development and welfare are the government's twin priorities, the Minister said efforts are underway to attract investments, generate employment for youth and promote port-linked industries in the region. He expressed confidence that ongoing projects, including the Bandar Port and Vijayawada-Machilipatnam road, would be completed soon.

The Minister also highlighted the implementation of welfare schemes, including enhanced pensions, free bus travel, Taliki Vandanam, Anadatha Sukhibhava and fishermen welfare programmes. He appealed to the public to support the government's development agenda, assuring that every village in the constituency would receive improved civic infrastructure and basic amenities.

VMC Chief Urges Public Urged to Cooperate with BLOs

Vijayawada, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanchandra has appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to ensure the successful completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls.

During a field inspection on Thursday, the Commissioner reviewed the ongoing SIR programme in the Vijayawada West, Central and East Assembly constituencies. He visited special camps at Faizarpet, Ayodhyanaagar Lotus Landmark and Patamata, where he examined the collection and digitisation of



enumeration forms and interacted with officials regarding the progress of the exercise.

Dhyanchandra appreciated the steady progress achieved in the three constituencies but directed officials to speed up the collection and digitisation of the remaining forms. He instructed officials to maintain close coordination with BLOs, promptly address issues faced by them in the field and provide necessary

guidance to overcome operational challenges.

Emphasising the importance of public participation, the Commissioner urged residents to cooperate with BLOs during door-to-door visits, provide the required information and assist in completing the Election Commission's revision process smoothly. He also appealed to citizens to treat field staff courteously and help ensure that the electoral roll revision is carried out efficiently and transparently.

West Constituency ERO A. Ravindra Rao, East Constituency ERO Vennela Srinivas, BLOs and other officials participated in the inspection.

Free Annamayya Music Camp from July 16

Vijayawada, July 9 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Department of Language and Culture will organise a free training camp on Annamayya Sankeertanas from July 16 to 29 in Vijayawada to promote the rich literary and musical heritage of saint-poet Annamacharya among the younger generation.

Announcing the programme at a press conference held at KBN College on Thursday, State Department of Language and Culture Director R. Mallikarjuna Rao said the camp is being jointly organised by the Department of Language and Culture,



KBN College and Annamayya Bhavana Vahini. He said the initiative aims to instil spiritual and human values while encouraging appreciation for classical music and literature.

The training sessions will be conducted under the guidance of Padma Shri awardee and TTD Asthana Vidwan Dr. Sobharaju, who said she would personally supervise the classes. A

valedictory programme will be held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram on July 29.

KBN College Secretary Dr. T. Srinivasu said the classes would be held daily from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and participation is open to students and youth free of cost. Principal Dr. G. Krishnaveni said certificates would be awarded to participants who successfully complete the course.

The organisers said interested candidates can register by contacting 90320 44115 or 92475 93201, or by emailing SRCclasses. Annama@gmail.com. The programme poster was unveiled during the event attended by college faculty and organisers.

TDP Alleges Irregularities in Vijaya Dairy

Vijayawada, July 9 | TPN Bureau

TDP Krishna District Mandal President Veerapaneni Sivaram Prasad on Thursday levelled serious allegations of corruption and administrative irregularities against Vijaya Dairy Chairman Chalasani Anjaneyulu, claiming the co-operative has witnessed a decline since he assumed office.

Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada, Sivaram Prasad alleged that the sale of Vijaya milk in the city had dropped from nearly one lakh litres per day to around 60,000 litres. He claimed that the quality of milk had deteriorated and accused the management of recruiting unqualified personnel.

He further alleged that land worth around 30 lakh per acre at Veeravalli was purchased at 70 lakh per acre and that factory construction works were



taken up without inviting tenders. He demanded a government inquiry into the land transactions, recruitment process and overall functioning of the dairy.

Sivaram Prasad also sought an investigation into the appointments of senior officials and alleged that large-scale irregularities were taking place in milk procurement. He claimed that several TDP-backed milk society presidents were removed for political reasons and accused the management of favouritism.

CPI Slams Arrest of 'Prashna Ravan'

Challapalli, July 9 | TPN Bureau

CPI State Secretary Gujjula Eswaraiiah on Thursday criticised the arrest of activist 'Prashna Ravan', alleging that the government was suppressing democratic dissent by filing serious cases against those who question its policies.

Addressing a press conference at the Sri Chandra Rajeshwara Rao Vikas Kendra in Challapalli, Esaraiiah described the arrest as an attack on democratic values and questioned whether handcuffing critics was an appropriate response to public questioning. He said dissent should be addressed through dialogue rather than police action. The CPI leader also demanded the immediate withdrawal of cases against 'Prashna Ravan' and alleged political ven-



Buddha Prasad Inaugurates Anganwadi Centre

Koduru, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad on Thursday said the alliance government is committed to improving the welfare of women and children by strengthening grassroots infrastructure and education.

He was speaking after inaugurating a newly constructed Anganwadi Centre at Hamsaladevi in Koduru mandal. The building was constructed with 5 lakh under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and 10 lakh from MUDA funds.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA said the government is giving top priority to providing better facilities for mothers and children through well-equipped Anganwadi centres. He added that quality infrastructure and improved services would contribute to better nutrition, health and early

childhood education in rural areas. Following the inauguration, Buddha Prasad visited the Mandal Parishad Primary School and interacted with students. He assessed their reading abilities and encouraged teachers to focus on improving learning outcomes and ensuring quality education at the primary level.

The MLA appreciated the efforts of teachers and Anganwadi staff in serving rural communities and urged them to continue working with dedication for the benefit of children.

Project Committee Chairman Devanaboyina Venkateswara Rao, ICDS Project Director M.N. Rani, MPDO Sudha Praveen, Panchayat Raj DEE Pagadala Suresh Babu, MEO T.V.M. Ramdas, CDPO Mohammad Shehnaz Begum, local public representatives, Anganwadi workers and villagers participated in the programme.

Collector Urges Cooperation for Voter Roll Revision

Machilipatnam, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Collector and District Election Officer D.K. Balaji on Thursday called upon political parties, Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and the public to extend full cooperation for the successful completion of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls as the first phase of the exercise nears completion.

Addressing a meeting with representatives of political parties at the Machilipatnam North Mandal Tahsildar's office, the Collector said the distribution, collection and digitisation of enumeration forms must be completed before the first phase concludes on July 14. He urged voters who are still holding the forms to submit them to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) without delay. Balaji said constituency-level meetings are being conducted to clarify doubts and ensure transparency in the revision process. He noted that lists of deceased, shifted, duplicate and untraceable voters have already been shared with BLOs, BLAs, AEROs and EROs for verification. Public



awareness campaigns are also being carried out through announcements on garbage collection vehicles and publicity autos across the constituency.

The Collector reiterated that the electoral roll revision is being conducted impartially in accordance with Election Commission guidelines and urged every eligible voter to participate in the process. He also reviewed polling station rationalisation and responded to queries raised by political party representatives.

Meanwhile, the Collector announced that the special 'Meekosam' Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme scheduled to be held at Pamarru on July 10 has been cancelled due to administrative reasons. The programme will now be held at the same venue on July 17, and the public has been requested to attend on the revised date to submit their grievances.

CPI Slams Arrest of 'Prashna Ravan'

Challapalli, July 9 | TPN Bureau

CPI State Secretary Gujjula Eswaraiiah on Thursday criticised the arrest of activist 'Prashna Ravan', alleging that the government was suppressing democratic dissent by filing serious cases against those who question its policies.

Addressing a press conference at the Sri Chandra Rajeshwara Rao Vikas Kendra in Challapalli, Esaraiiah described the arrest as an attack on democratic values and questioned whether handcuffing critics was an appropriate response to public questioning. He said dissent should be addressed through dialogue rather than police action. The CPI leader also demanded the immediate withdrawal of cases against 'Prashna Ravan' and alleged political ven-



detta behind the action.

He further called for a three-month extension of the ongoing electoral roll revision process, claiming many eligible voters had yet to complete registration. Alleging that the exercise could lead to the deletion of genuine voters, he urged authorities to conduct awareness programmes and ensure a transparent revision process.

Several CPI leaders, including Donepudi Shankar, Narla Venkateswara Rao and Addada Prasad Babu, attended the press conference.

Anasuya Opens Shubhapradam Showroom

Vijayawada, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Film actress Anasuya Bharadwaj inaugurated the newly established Shubhapradam showroom on Besant Road in Vijayawada on Thursday. The showroom, launched under the tagline "Ladies First... Best in Fashion," offers sarees, dress materials, western wear, blouses and one-gram gold jewellery under one roof.

Speaking on the occasion, Anasuya appreciated the initiative of making fashionable apparel and accessories available at affordable prices. She said she was delighted to wear a red and green saree from the showroom during her visit to Vijayawada and added that sarees remain an integral part of Indian tradition and are her preferred attire for festive occasions. She also shared that she is currently working on three upcoming films.

Shubhapradam Chairman Satyanarayana said the Vijayawada outlet is the brand's fourth showroom and has been designed exclusively for women's fashion. He stated that products are available in a price range from 99 to 40,000, catering especially to middle-class customers with quality products at reasonable prices. Proprietors Sunitha, Gnaneshwar, Bhavani and Rohan were also present at the inauguration.





Polavaram Tourism Hub Designs Near Completion: Minister

Amaravati, July 09 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has brought the designs for the proposed Polavaram Tourism Hub to the final stage, with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu scheduled to review them during his visit to the Polavaram project on July 13, Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said on Thursday.

The minister chaired a review meeting at the Secretariat with officials and representatives of Japan's Nippon Koei agency to assess the tourism hub proposals and the project's progress.

Addressing the meeting, Ramanaidu said the Chief Minister would inspect the ongoing Polavaram works and finalise the tourism hub designs during his visit. He added that Chandrababu Naidu had directed officials to ensure that the Pola-

varam spillway reflects Telugu heritage and showcases the pride of Andhra Pradesh.

The minister said nearly 10,000 acres had been identified through a LiDAR survey for developing the tourism hub. The government is also in discussions with the National Highways Authority to connect NH-365BB with NH-516E to improve access to the Polavaram project.

According to the proposal, the tourism circuit will extend from Polavaram to Bhadrachalam through the scenic Papikondalu region. Plans include a Godavari-themed museum, water sports facilities, temple tourism, resorts, cottages, amusement parks and other visitor attractions aimed at transforming the area into a major tourism destination.

Senior irrigation officials, architects, agency representatives and technical experts attended the review meeting.

Police Rescue Two Children Using Drone Surveillance

Eluru, July 9 | TPN Bureau

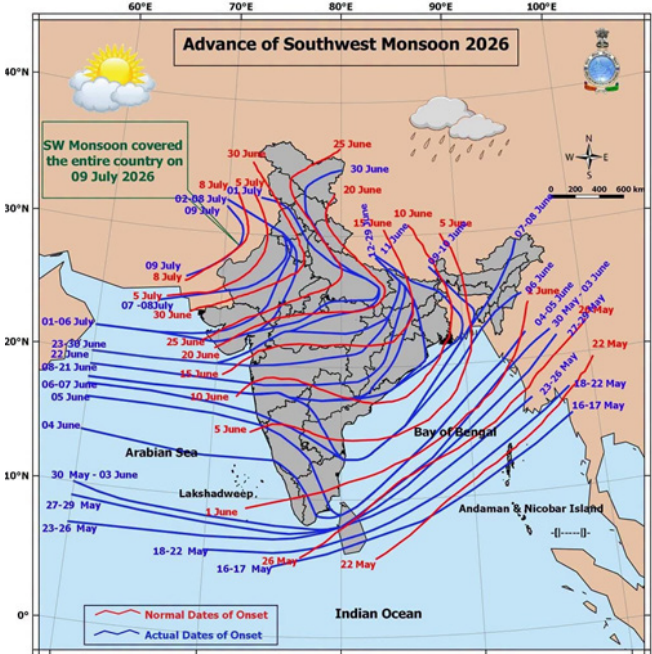
The Eluru Police's Shakti Team rescued two young children found collecting waste near the Ponangi dumping yard after spotting them through drone surveillance during routine patrolling. The operation was carried out under the directions of Eluru Superintendent of Police K. Pratap Shiva Kishore and Eluru DSP D. Sravan Kumar, under the supervision of Eluru Women Police Station Inspector M. Subba Rao.

The Shakti Team has been conducting regular drone-assisted patrols in Vangayagudem and Ponangi areas under the limits of Eluru I Town and Rural Police Stations to strengthen law and order. During one such patrol, the team identified a boy and a girl, both aged around six to seven years,



scavenging at the dumping yard. Police personnel immediately reached the spot and rescued the children.

On the instructions of K. Pratap Shiva Kishore, the children were provided with new clothes and footwear before being handed over to the District Child Welfare authorities for rehabilitation and care. Senior police officials commended the Shakti Team, while local residents appreciated the police for using modern technology not only to prevent crime but also to protect vulnerable children.



Rain, Thunderstorms Likely Across State

Amaravati, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms is likely across several parts of Andhra Pradesh on Friday, July 10, according to the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority. Managing Director Prakhar Jain said the state is expected to witness cloudy weather with thunderstorms and light to moderate rain in many districts.

Prakhar Jain said North Andhra, Konaseema, Eluru, Guntur, Bapatla, Prakasam, Nellore, Kurnool, Nandyal, Kadapa, Annamayya, Chittoor

and Tirupati districts are likely to receive light to moderate rainfall at isolated places, while the remaining districts may experience light rain in a few locations. Gusty winds are also expected, and people have been advised to remain alert.

The Disaster Management Authority urged residents not to take shelter under trees or near large hoardings during thunderstorms and strong winds. People were also advised to stay away from snapped or hanging power lines that may result from rain and gusty winds, and to immediately alert the authorities if such hazards are noticed.

Ancient Vaishnava Idols Unearthed at Oleru Shiva Temple

Malla Chandra Sekhar

Bhattiprolu: The discovery of 15 ancient stone idols during excavation works at the 300-year-old Sri Visweswara Swamy Temple in Oleru village of Bhattiprolu mandal, Bapatla district, has created widespread interest among devotees and historians over the presence of Vaishnava traditions at the Shaivite shrine.

The idols were unearthed while digging the foundation for the reconstruction of the temple using an excavator. According to temple committee members and residents, 12 of the recovered sculptures have been identified as idols of the Alvars, the revered saints of the Vaishnava devotional tradition.

The remaining sculptures include an idol of Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, a statue of Vishwakshena, considered the commander-in-chief in Vaishnava worship tradition, and another finely carved stone sculpture. The idols, made of black stone, display artistic features reflecting the craftsmanship of ancient periods.

The presence of Vaishnava



idols inside a Shiva temple has raised curiosity among historians and devotees. While Shiva temples generally feature sculptures associated with Shaivite traditions, the discovery of Alvar idols and Vishnu-related sculptures has opened discussions about the historical significance of the site.

A resident said the discovery has brought excitement among villagers and devotees. "We have been worshipping Lord Shiva at this temple for generations. Finding these ancient idols during the renovation work is a matter of great surprise and happiness for us. We hope the

Archaeology Department will study them and reveal the history behind these sculptures," he said.

Locals have raised the possibility that a Vaishnava temple may have existed in the area centuries ago and that the idols could have been buried to protect them during periods of destruction caused by invasions or natural calamities. Another view is that the location might have represented the Harihara tradition, where Shaiva and Vaishnava forms of worship coexisted.

Following the discovery, devotees from nearby villages visited the temple and performed special rituals for the unearthed idols.

Historians said the exact details regarding the period of the idols, the rulers under whom they were created and the reasons for their presence at a Shiva temple can be established only after a detailed study by the Archaeology Department.

Officials said scientific examination, including analysis of sculptural styles and field inspection, would help reveal the historical importance of the rare discovery.

Minister Ravi Kumar Assures Swift Redressal of Public Grievances

Santamaguluru, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Thursday reaffirmed the Andhra Pradesh government's commitment to resolving public grievances promptly during a public interaction at his camp office in Puttavariapalem of Santamaguluru mandal.

The Minister met residents from various villages, listened to their concerns and received representations on issues affecting them. He directed the concerned officials to coordinate with relevant departments and take immediate steps to ensure the grievances are addressed without delay. Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the coalition government is giving top priority to resolving people's problems through a responsive and accountable administration. He assured that every representation submitted by the public would be examined carefully and that all genuine and eligible issues would be resolved at the



earliest in accordance with established procedures.

The Minister said the government remains committed to maintaining direct interaction with citizens and ensuring that public services are delivered efficiently by strengthening coordination between officials and local administration.

Badeti Chanti Lays Foundation for Ayyappa Temple

Eluru, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MLA and District Telugu Desam Party President Badeti Chanti on Thursday said the Andhra Pradesh government is committed to the phased development and restoration of ancient temples to strengthen the city's spiritual heritage. He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for a new Ayyappa Swamy temple at the Sri Vasudeva Swamy Temple, along with Sridevi and Bhudevi, in Powerpet, Eluru.

The MLA later participated



in the Maha Poornahuti ritual, where special prayers were conducted under the guidance of temple priest Kandukuri CShabarish.

Badeti Chanti appreciated devotees for taking the initiative to renovate historic temples in Eluru and lauded donors for

extending financial support to the project. He announced a personal contribution of 1 lakh towards the construction of the Ayyappa Swamy temple.

AMC Chairman Mamillapalli Parthasaradhi, Temple Chairman Javaji Rama Gopal, Corporator Erramshetty Suman, Telugu Desam Party Division In-charge Dakarapu Rajeswara Rao, and party leaders Navuduri Srinivas, Jogi Srinivas, Gurram Sambamurthy, Sheerla Vasu and Ganta Rambabu also participated in the programme.

Husband Held for Wife's Murder Over Suspicion

Vetapalem, July 09 | TPN Bureau

A 38-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her husband in Desaipeta village of Vetapalem mandal after a domestic dispute escalated in the early hours of Thursday. Police have launched a manhunt for the accused, who fled the scene after the incident.

The victim, identified as Annapureddy Veeramma alias Shaik Asha, was living in Kapladoddi Colony. After the death of her first husband

around 14 years ago, she married auto driver Rafi of Ramanagar, Vetapalem. Asha had two daughters from her first marriage, while the couple also had a son.

According to police, Rafi frequently consumed alcohol and allegedly subjected Asha to physical and mental harassment, accusing her of having an illicit relationship. Family members alleged that he also assaulted Asha's children and had recently been pressuring her elder daughter to take up work, leading to repeated arguments

between the couple.

On Thursday morning, another quarrel reportedly broke out, during which Rafi allegedly strangled Asha using a mobile phone charging cable, killing her on the spot before fleeing.

Based on a complaint lodged by Asha's daughter, Vetapalem Police registered a case. Rural Circle Inspector Sudhakar Rao is investigating the incident. Clues and forensic teams from Bapatla and Mangalagiri visited the crime scene and collected evidence. Police are searching for the absconding accused.

Kannababu Alleges Diversion Politics by Coalition Government

Kakinada, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Pradesh Minister Kurasala Kannababu on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the coalition government, alleging that it was attempting to divert public attention from governance failures and corruption by targeting YSR Congress Party president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Addressing a press conference in Kakinada, Kannababu claimed the government had failed to address people's issues and was instead resorting to personal at-

tacks against Jagan and his family. He criticised what he described as derogatory remarks made about the relationship between Jagan and his mother, calling them inappropriate and lacking political decency.

The former minister accused the government of using "diversion politics" by raising issues unrelated to public welfare while ignoring concerns such as law and order, missing fishermen and crimes against women. He alleged that citizens questioning the government were being subjected to harassment and false cases.

Kannababu also criticised the

government's economic policies, alleging that public assets and major infrastructure projects, including the Ramayapatnam Port, were being handed over to private players at undervalued prices. He claimed that welfare initiatives and development projects initiated during the previous YSRCP government were being weakened or privatised.

He further alleged irregularities in Amaravati construction costs and accused the government of prioritising corporate interests over public welfare. The coalition government has not responded to these allegations.



Speed Up Implementation of CM's Promises: Satya Kumar Yadav

Vijayawada, July 09 | TPN Bureau

State Health and Family Welfare Minister and NTR District In-charge Minister Y. Satya Kumar Yadav has directed officials to expedite the implementation of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's assurances, stressing that every promise made to the public must be fulfilled within the stipulated timeframe.

Chairing a constituency-wise review meeting at the AVS Reddy Conference Hall in the Vijayawada Collectorate on Thursday, the minister assessed the progress of commitments made across seven Assembly constituencies and one Parliamentary constituency in NTR district. He instructed officials to ensure close coordination, prepare pending proposals without delay and accelerate development works.

The review covered financial and non-financial projects in each constituency, including the Kattaleru flyover, Tribal Skill Development Centre and Tribal

Community Hall in Tiruvuru; the Durga Malleswara Swamy Temple development plan and a 150-bed Government General Hospital in Vijayawada West; and the upgradation of GJC College, construction of a wholesale fish market and a drug rehabilitation centre in Vijayawada Central.

The minister also reviewed retaining walls and Anganwadi centres in Vijayawada East, the Muthyalampadu Bridge and Jakkampudi Land Pooling Project in Nandigama, and repairs to the Polampalli Project along with the proposed upgradation of Jaggayyapeta Community Health Centre into a 100-bed hospital.

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni), MLAs Gadde Rammoan, Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, Sriram Rajagopal (Tatayya), Tangirala Soumya, Vasantha Krishna Prasad, Yarlagadda Venkata Rao and senior officials attended the meeting.



YS Jagan assures support to Fisherman Chinna

Visakhapatnam, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday spoke over the phone with fisherman Chinna, the lone survivor of a tragic fishing boat accident off the Visakhapatnam coast, and assured him of the party's full support in securing justice and government assistance.

Currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Visakhapatnam, Chinna recounted the ordeal to Jagan, describing how the boat carrying seven fishermen capsized while returning from the sea. He explained how he managed to swim for several hours before being rescued, while the remaining six fishermen went missing.

Chinna alleged that despite the Coast Guard and government authorities being informed soon after the accident, rescue operations were inadequate, resulting in the loss of six lives. He also said the fishing boat, valued at nearly 50 lakh, had been purchased through loans and its sinking had left his family without any means of livelihood.

Expressing concern, Jagan criticised the government's response, stating that while compensation of 10 lakh each had been announced for the families of the six deceased fishermen, Chinna had received no financial assistance despite surviving the tragedy and undergoing medical treatment.

Assuring him of continued support, Jagan said the YSR Congress Party would press the government to provide compensation for the lost boat and adequate assistance for Chinna's recovery and rehabilitation. He also told the fisherman that he was prepared to visit Visakhapatnam personally if required and vowed that the party would continue fighting until justice was delivered.

quate, resulting in the loss of six lives. He also said the fishing boat, valued at nearly 50 lakh, had been purchased through loans and its sinking had left his family without any means of livelihood.

Expressing concern, Jagan criticised the government's response, stating that while compensation of 10 lakh each had been announced for the families of the six deceased fishermen, Chinna had received no financial assistance despite surviving the tragedy and undergoing medical treatment.

Assuring him of continued support, Jagan said the YSR Congress Party would press the government to provide compensation for the lost boat and adequate assistance for Chinna's recovery and rehabilitation. He also told the fisherman that he was prepared to visit Visakhapatnam personally if required and vowed that the party would continue fighting until justice was delivered.

Two Fishermen Injured in Boat Fire Off Kakinada Coast

Tuni, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Two fishermen sustained serious burn injuries after a fire broke out on a fishing boat off the coast near Ellayyapeta in Thondangi mandal of Kakinada district on Wednesday.

According to the injured fishermen, the incident occurred while the crew was preparing food onboard during a fishing expedition. Flames reportedly spread from a gas cylinder and quickly engulfed the boat, triggering panic among the four fishermen on board.

The victims jumped into the sea to escape the blaze and were later rescued after another fishing boat, which was travelling behind them, reached the spot. They safely boarded the second

vessel and returned to the shore.

The injured fishermen were initially shifted to a private hospital in Tuni for treatment. One of the victims, identified as Kotes, suffered severe burn injuries and was later referred to a hospital in Kakinada for advanced medical care.

The fishermen also said that their mobile phones were destroyed in the fire. The extent of damage to the fishing boat is yet to be officially assessed.

Authorities are expected to investigate the cause of the accident, while the condition of the injured fishermen is being closely monitored. The incident has once again highlighted the safety risks faced by fishermen during deep-sea fishing operations.

Editorial
Regional Sentiment
for Politics, Business
Beyond Borders

Whether one belongs to Telangana or Andhra appears to matter only in politics. For businesspersons and big contractors, however, such distinctions rarely exist. This observation was recently echoed by Pawan Kalyan while responding to criticism over his visit to Telangana. Interestingly, similar sentiments were expressed by Telangana Rakshana Sena president Kavitha, who alleged that business interests often transcend regional boundaries and accused prominent political leaders of maintaining close financial ties with entrepreneurs irrespective of their state identity.

These allegations, whether ultimately proved or disproved, reinforce a reality that the public has witnessed repeatedly. 'Emotions and sentiments seem to be reserved for the people, not for political leaders.' Whenever power and positions are at stake, regional identity becomes a convenient political tool. Dividing people in the name of Andhra and Telangana may yield electoral gains, but it rarely benefits ordinary citizens.

History, however, cannot be ignored. Before the formation of Telangana, there was a widespread perception that leaders and influential businesspersons from Andhra enjoyed disproportionate control over opportunities and resources. That sentiment significantly strengthened the demand for a separate state. Unfortunately, the political movement also created divisions among common people, leading to unnecessary differences between Andhra and Telangana.

Over time, those differences have largely faded. Social media controversies may erupt over issues such as the recent "Idupu Kayitam" debate, but they often disappear as quickly as they emerge. The overwhelming majority of people in both states continue to wish for peace, prosperity, and development for one another. Families, friendships, and business relationships flourish across state boundaries without discrimination.

The irony is unmistakable. While political rhetoric frequently highlights regional identity, economic and commercial partnerships continue without interruption. This exposes the selective use of regional sentiment. Andhra and Telangana are remembered only when political leaders find it electorally advantageous. Beyond politics, the people of both states have demonstrated that cooperation and coexistence remain far stronger than manufactured divisions.

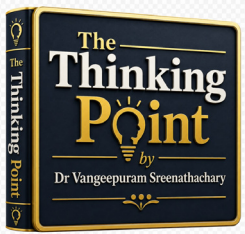
Editor

The Attention Crisis: The Battle For Our Minds

Dr Vangeepuram
Sreenadha Chary



Consultant psychologist
9848023090



Every generation has fought a defining battle. Our grandparents fought poverty. Our parents fought for opportunities. This generation may be fighting a quieter but equally significant battle—the battle to protect its attention. In a world overflowing with information, the greatest challenge is no longer finding knowledge but safeguarding the ability to think without constant interruption.

Attention is one of the most valuable human abilities. It is the gateway to learning, creativity, sound judgement, meaningful relationships, and personal fulfilment. Every achievement, every discovery, every work of art, and every scientific breakthrough has been built upon the simple human ability to focus deeply on what truly matters. Yet never before has this precious resource been under such relentless pressure. According to DataReportal's Digital 2025 Global Overview Report, the average internet user now spends nearly 6 hours and 40 minutes online each day, much of it on smartphones and social media. That amounts to almost one-fourth of every day—and nearly one hundred full days in a year. Every interruption may seem insignificant, but together they reshape the brain's habits of attention.

Today, our attention is being pursued by countless competitors. Smartphones vibrate. Notifications demand immediate responses. Social media platforms refresh endlessly. Streaming services automatically play the next video. Advertisements compete for every glance. Artificial intelligence personalises content to keep us engaged for longer. Every digital platform is designed to capture a few more seconds of our time. Individually, these interruptions may appear harmless. Together, they quietly reshape the way we think, learn, work, and live.

The modern economy is no

longer driven only by products or services; it is increasingly driven by attention. Technology companies invest enormous resources to capture human attention and prolong screen time. The competition is no longer merely for customers—it is for human attention. Every moment we spend scrolling, clicking, or watching has become part of the global attention economy. Economists increasingly describe this as the "attention economy"—a world in which companies compete not merely to sell products but to capture and hold human attention. In this economy, attention has become one of the world's most valuable resources.

This invisible competition carries consequences that extend far beyond the digital world. Constant interruptions weaken our ability to concentrate for long periods. Deep reading gives way to rapid scanning. Reflection is replaced by reaction. Conversations become shorter, while distractions become longer. Many people now find it difficult to complete a book, enjoy uninterrupted family conversations, or even remain fully present during meetings without checking their phones.

Young people face perhaps the greatest challenge. Today's students possess access to more information than any previous generation in history. Yet access to information is not the same as the ability to learn. Learning requires sustained attention, thoughtful reflection, and intellectual discipline. Without these qualities, information remains scattered knowledge rather than



lasting understanding. The danger is not that young people know too little, but that they may never have enough uninterrupted time to think deeply about what they know. Educational researchers consistently observe that uninterrupted study improves comprehension, memory and problem-solving far more effectively than learning interrupted by frequent digital distractions.

The consequences extend beyond education. Attention shapes relationships. Genuine listening requires undivided attention. Empathy begins when one human being is fully present for another. Families may share the same room while living in different digital worlds. Friends may exchange hundreds of messages without experiencing meaningful conversations. We are becoming increasingly connected through technology while risking disconnection from one another. We are spending more time communicating than ever before, yet many people feel they are being heard less than ever before. Every evening, dining tables across the country silently illustrate this attention crisis. Parents answer office messages. Children scroll through videos. Grandparents watch television. Everyone is connected to a device, yet conversation often becomes the missing member of the family.

Civilizations are not built merely by intelligence; they are built by sustained attention. Every great civilization, every scientific discovery, every inspiring speech, every meaningful relationship and every social reform began with someone giving complete attention to something that truly mattered. When attention becomes fragmented, wisdom also becomes fragmented. Protecting our attention is therefore not merely a personal habit—it is a responsibility towards future generations.

The challenge before society is not to reject technology but to master it wisely. Smartphones are remarkable tools. Artificial intelligence offers extraordinary possibilities. Social media has connected communities across continents. The problem is not technology itself. The problem begins when technology quietly takes control of the attention that should remain under human choice. Technology should serve humanity; humanity should never become a servant of technology.

The irony is striking. Humanity has built technologies capable of connecting billions of people across continents within seconds. Yet many individuals struggle to remain fully present for a single uninterrupted conversation. The challenge before us is no longer access to information

but mastery over attention. The solution begins with awareness. Families must create spaces free from digital interruptions. Schools should teach students not only digital literacy but also attention literacy—the ability to focus, reflect, and think critically. Workplaces should recognise that uninterrupted concentration is not a luxury but a necessity for creativity and innovation. Above all, individuals must consciously decide where they invest their most valuable resource: their attention.

History may remember the twenty-first century not merely as the age of artificial intelligence, but as the age when humanity realised that the greatest battle was no longer for land, wealth or information—it was for the human mind. It may also remember it as the period when humanity discovered that the greatest battle was not taking place on distant borders, but within the human mind itself.

In a world competing for our attention, the greatest victory is learning to choose where our minds will stay. Because the quality of our attention ultimately determines the quality of our lives.

(The Author is a Consultant Psychologist, Academic & Research Mentor, and Guinness, Asia, Limca, and India Book Records Holder)

Beyond Numbers: Centring Women's Rights in Population Policy

Sudhamurali



Education Expert
8309622246

As debates around demographic change intensify, discussions on population growth in India are increasingly framed through the lens of economic necessity—declining working-age populations, rising elderly numbers and fears of future labour shortages. While these concerns merit attention, reducing the issue to a simplistic call for "more children" reflects a narrow and incomplete understanding of society. Population policy cannot be divorced from the lived realities of women, whose bodies and lives are central to this debate but whose voices are often sidelined.

Childbirth is not a statistical event; it is a life-altering experience. From pregnancy to postpartum recovery and years of caregiving, women undergo profound physical, emotional and financial changes. Health concerns such as anemia, hormonal imbalances, chronic fatigue, postpartum depression and sleep deprivation are not abstract issues—they directly shape a woman's quality of life. Yet, public discourse on population rarely gives these realities the attention they deserve. Advocacy for higher birth rates is rarely matched by equally serious commitments to maternal healthcare, mental health services, or institutional support systems.

The disparities among women further complicate the issue. For a daily-wage labourer, pregnancy can mean a direct loss of income. Without access

to maternity leave or social security, many women in construction, agriculture and the informal sector continue physically demanding work throughout pregnancy, often at great risk to their health. Their challenges rarely find space in policy discussions that otherwise call for increased fertility.

In contrast, women in corporate and formal sectors face a different set of pressures. Career interruptions, stalled promotions and workplace bias often accompany pregnancy. Even when healthcare access is better, the struggle to balance professional responsibilities with motherhood remains intense. The fear of being perceived as less committed or less capable continues to shape decisions around childbirth.

Workplace infrastructure itself reflects systemic gaps. Many organisations still lack basic facilities such as rest areas for pregnant employees, safe and hygienic restrooms, nursing spaces and childcare support like crèches. For women in the unorganised sector, these facilities are almost absent. Without structural changes, encouraging higher birth rates becomes not only unrealistic but also unjust.

Beyond childbirth lies the equally critical issue of child-rearing. A society that calls for more children must also answer what support it offers in raising them. Access to quality education, healthcare, nutrition, clean water and safe living conditions determines whether a child can grow into



a productive citizen. Merely increasing population numbers without strengthening these systems risks deepening inequality rather than driving development.

Equally important is the unequal distribution of caregiving responsibilities. While decisions around having children are often presented as shared, the burden of raising them falls disproportionately on

women. From managing a child's health to responding to school needs and handling daily care, mothers remain the default caregivers. This imbalance underscores the need to reframe childcare as a shared responsibility involving fathers, families, institutions and the state. Population discussions must also account for broader structural concerns—environmental sustainability,

resource availability, employment opportunities and housing. Growth without planning can strain already limited resources, undermining long-term stability. A holistic approach is essential to ensure that population policies align with sustainable development goals. At its core, the decision to have children is deeply personal. Choices about whether, when and how many children

to have are tied to women's autonomy, dignity and constitutional rights. Any population policy that overlooks these principles risks being both ineffective and unjust. A nation's strength cannot be measured solely by its population size. It depends on the well-being of its people—especially women. Healthy mothers, equitable opportunities, robust healthcare systems and social support

structures are the true foundations of sustainable progress. The conversation on population must continue, but it must evolve. It should no longer view women merely as instruments of demographic growth. Instead, it must recognise their rights, dignity and individuality. Only then can policy move beyond numbers and towards meaningful, inclusive development.

Centre Waives Customs Duty on Key Electronics Components

+ In a major boost to India's electronics manufacturing sector, the Central government has exempted Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on select goods used in the manufacture of display assemblies, lithium-ion cells and inductor coil modules. The move is expected to strengthen domestic production of smartphones, laptops, wearable devices and smart televisions while reducing dependence on imports.

The Finance Ministry issued three separate notifications implementing the duty exemption for goods used in manufacturing these critical electronic components. According to the notifications, the exemptions on inputs used in display assemblies and inductor coil modules will remain in force until March 31, 2029.

The decision aligns with the Centre's broader strategy to promote domestic electronics manufacturing under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. By lowering the cost of manufacturing key components within the country, the govern-



ment aims to attract greater investment, improve supply chains and make India a stronger global manufacturing hub.

Industry experts welcomed the move, describing it as a significant policy reform. Rajat Mohan, Managing Partner at AMRG Global, said the government has consolidated separate customs exemptions for machinery used in manufacturing lithium-ion cells for mobile phones and electric vehicles into a single technology-neutral exemption.

According to Mohan, the revised framework removes end-use-based distinctions, simplifies customs procedures and

reduces compliance and interpretation issues for manufacturers. The policy is expected to provide greater operational flexibility to companies setting up integrated lithium-ion cell manufacturing facilities.

The exemption is also likely to encourage fresh investments in battery manufacturing, particularly as demand for lithium-ion batteries continues to rise across multiple industries. Sectors expected to benefit include battery gigafactories, electric vehicle manufacturers, consumer electronics companies, battery energy storage system manufacturers, renewable energy projects, telecom infra-

structure providers, data centres, medical device manufacturers, drone makers and industrial automation firms.

The government has been steadily expanding policy support for the electronics sector through incentives, infrastructure development and customs reforms. India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing electronics manufacturing destinations in recent years, with mobile phone production witnessing substantial growth under the PLI scheme.

Industry stakeholders believe the latest customs duty exemption will further improve India's competitiveness in global electronics manufacturing by lowering production costs, encouraging local value addition and reducing import dependence. The move is also expected to support the government's vision of making India a global hub for advanced electronics and battery manufacturing while creating employment opportunities and strengthening the country's manufacturing ecosystem.

Cotton Sowing Gains Momentum as Monsoon Revives



Cotton sowing across India has gathered momentum in July following improved southwest monsoon rains in major producing states, although the total cultivated area remains below last year's level. The revival of rainfall in key agricultural regions has encouraged farmers to accelerate planting operations after delays caused by an erratic monsoon onset.

According to Agriculture Commissioner P.K. Singh, cotton has been sown over 63.18 lakh hectares as of July 5, compared to 82 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year. While the acreage is still around 23 percent lower, the gap has narrowed significantly as rainfall improved during July.

Officials said the sowing season, which generally concludes by July 15, has been extended until July 30 this year to compensate for the delayed arrival of the monsoon. Cotton cultivation begins earlier in northern states such as Punjab and Haryana before spreading to southern and western regions, depending on local weather conditions.

Agriculture experts said good rainfall in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh in the central zone, fol-

lowed by Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

Despite the recent improvement in sowing, cotton production is expected to remain under pressure. The Agriculture Ministry's latest estimates place cotton output for the 2025-26 season at 290.91 lakh bales (170 kg each), compared with 297.24 lakh bales in the previous year, indicating a modest decline in production.

Agriculture officials remain optimistic that continued favourable monsoon conditions over the coming weeks will help improve crop establishment and narrow the acreage gap further, while supporting higher productivity during the current kharif season.

Woman Doctor Quits After Assault by Shiv Sena Corporator

A woman doctor who was allegedly assaulted by Shiv Sena corporator Rakesh Mhatre at a municipal hospital in Maharashtra has resigned from her position, citing fear for her safety. Her decision comes a day after a fellow doctor, who was also allegedly attacked during the same incident, quit his job and left the city.

Speaking about her decision, the doctor said she no longer felt safe returning to work. She claimed that she had already left the city and alleged that she continued to fear intimidation by those involved in the incident.

"I resigned because I am scared. I have left the city and will not return to work there," she said, expressing concern over her personal safety.

However, Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) Chief Medical Officer Dr. Deepa Shukla stated that the two doctors—identified as Dr. Vaibhav Salunkhe and Dr. Srushti Baviskar—had not for-



mally submitted resignation letters either to the municipal hospital or to the third-party agency through which they were appointed. According to her, both doctors were absent from duty without prior notice. The incident occurred at the KDMC-run Shastri Nagar Hospital in Dombivli. According to officials, the dispute began after two doctors advised the family of a newborn to shift the infant to another medical facility because the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) had

no vacant beds.

The patient's relatives reportedly approached corporator Rakesh Mhatre for assistance. He subsequently arrived at the hospital along with several associates, where an argument allegedly escalated into violence.

A video of the incident, widely circulated on social media, showed Mhatre allegedly striking the woman doctor from behind before confronting and assaulting another doctor and members of the hospital staff.

The footage triggered widespread condemnation from the medical fraternity and the public, with several doctors' associations demanding strict action against those responsible and stronger security measures for healthcare workers.

Following the public outcry, police arrested Mhatre on Wednesday. Soon after his arrest, he was admitted to Thane Civil Hospital, reportedly on health grounds. His hospitalization has drawn criticism from several quarters, with allegations that he was receiving preferential treatment.

The incident has reignited concerns over the safety of healthcare professionals, particularly those working in government and municipal hospitals. Medical associations have repeatedly called for stringent implementation of laws protecting doctors from violence, arguing that such attacks create fear among healthcare workers and adversely affect patient care.

Three-Year-Old Girl Dies After Drowning in Rainwater on Flooded Street

A three-year-old girl died after accidentally slipping into rainwater accumulated outside her home in Ghaziabad on Thursday, as heavy monsoon showers caused widespread flooding, traffic disruptions and infrastructure damage across parts of the National Capital Region (NCR).

The deceased, identified as Manvi, was a resident of Sarvodaya Nagar under the Vijay Nagar police station limits. According to eyewitnesses, the child was playing outside her house when she accidentally slipped into the rainwater that had collected on the street due to severe waterlogging.

Local residents immediately rushed to rescue the girl after noticing the incident and pulled her out of the water. However, she had stopped breathing by the time she was rescued. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the tragic incident.

The incident sparked outrage among residents, who blamed inadequate drainage systems and persistent waterlogging for the child's death. They alleged that poor civic infrastructure had turned residential streets into dangerous waterlogged zones and demanded urgent measures to



improve drainage facilities before further tragedies occur during the monsoon season.

Heavy rainfall continued throughout the day in Ghaziabad, disrupting normal life and prompting the district administration to declare a holiday for government schools. Authorities said the decision was taken in view of widespread flooding and difficulties faced by students and commuters.

The downpour also caused severe traffic congestion on National Highway-9 near the Ghazipur border, where extensive waterlogging led to long queues of vehicles on the Delhi-Ghaziabad route. Commuters remained stranded for

hours as traffic crawled through submerged stretches of the highway.

In another rain-related incident, a portion of a road in Vasundhara Sector 13 caved in beside an under-construction basement following continuous rainfall. A parked car and a scooter fell into the crater created by the collapse, while a nearby electricity pole tilted precariously, raising safety concerns. Although no injuries were reported, both vehicles sustained considerable damage.

Neighbouring Noida also experienced severe waterlogging in several areas, including Sectors 12, 16 and 33. Roads remained submerged under

knee-deep water, disrupting vehicular movement and making it difficult for pedestrians to commute. Several two-wheelers broke down after water entered their engines, forcing riders to push their vehicles through flooded roads.

The series of rain-related incidents has once again drawn attention to the shortcomings in urban drainage infrastructure and monsoon preparedness across the NCR. Residents have urged civic authorities to take immediate corrective measures to improve stormwater drainage, prevent waterlogging and ensure public safety during the ongoing rainy season.

Torrential Monsoon Rains Batter India, Disrupt Normal Life

Torrential monsoon rains lashed several parts of the country on Thursday, triggering widespread flooding, traffic disruptions, landslides, building collapses and property damage, while rescue teams worked round the clock to restore normalcy and assist affected residents.

The national capital witnessed one of the season's heaviest spells of rainfall, with widespread waterlogging bringing traffic to a standstill across several areas. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert after Safdarjung recorded 72.6 mm of rainfall in 24 hours, while Tukhmirpur in northeast Delhi recorded 160 mm. Major roads, including the Delhi-Noida Expressway, witnessed long traffic jams as commuters struggled through flooded streets.

In Maharashtra, rescue operations continued at a waste-to-energy plant in Pimpri Chinchwad near Pune after a building collapsed when a massive garbage mound gave way due to heavy rain. One more body was recovered on Thursday, taking the toll higher, while around eight people remained trapped beneath the debris. Nine people have been rescued so far.

Heavy rainfall also affected neighbouring Gurugram, where



part of the balcony of a luxury apartment complex collapsed. No injuries were reported, but residents demanded a structural audit of the building.

In Rajasthan, several districts experienced heavy rainfall, with Badesar, Nimbahera and Bayana recording the highest precipitation. The IMD forecast extremely heavy rainfall in parts of Kota and Bharatpur divisions, while rainfall activity is expected to gradually decline across the state after July 11.

The IMD announced that the southwest monsoon has now covered the entire country, reaching the remaining parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. Although the nationwide coverage was completed a day later than usual, India has received surplus rainfall so far in July, recording 101.9 mm against the normal 73.8 mm during the first nine days of the month.

Kerala continued to experience heavy showers, prompting the IMD to issue orange alerts for Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad districts. Property damage, uprooted trees, flooded roads and inundated low-lying areas were reported across the state.

The death toll in the Wayanad landslide rose to five after two more bodies were recovered from the tunnel project site, while three people remained missing.

In Thane district of Maharashtra, monsoon-related incidents claimed three lives over the past week and forced authorities to evacuate nearly 800 residents to safer locations. Officials said heavy rains also caused extensive damage to infrastructure, with 136 houses partially or completely collapsing, highlighting the continuing impact of the active southwest monsoon across the country.



US-Iran Tensions Escalate as Gulf Nations Come Under Fire

The fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran has effectively collapsed after fresh American airstrikes targeted multiple locations inside Iran, triggering a swift military response from Tehran and raising fears of a wider regional conflict.

According to Iranian officials, US forces carried out coordinated strikes on strategic sites in southeastern Iran, including areas around Iranshahr and the port city of Chabahar. The attacks reportedly damaged infrastructure, including dock facilities and a maritime traffic control tower, while power outages were reported in several affected areas. At least one person was killed in the strikes.

In retaliation, Iran launched missiles and drones targeting locations in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar, claiming the attacks were aimed at American military assets stationed in the Gulf. The strikes prompted authorities in the three Gulf nations to activate air defence systems and issue missile alerts, forcing residents to seek shelter as tensions escalated across the region.

Iran's chief negotiator and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf accused Washington of violating the ceasefire agreement and warned that Tehran would respond firmly to any further military action. He reiterated that

Iran would not tolerate attacks on its territory and vowed that future responses would be stronger if hostilities continued.

The renewed military confrontation has also placed diplomatic efforts under severe strain. Talks aimed at reducing tensions and reopening the Strait of Hormuz now face an uncertain future, with both sides accusing each other of undermining peace efforts.

The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most critical shipping routes for crude oil and natural gas exports. Any prolonged disruption in the region could have significant consequences for global energy markets, shipping, and international trade.

Regional governments have appealed for restraint, warning that continued military exchanges could destabilize the Middle East further. Security has been tightened across several Gulf countries, while international observers continue to monitor developments closely.

The latest exchange of strikes marks another dangerous phase in the US-Iran conflict, highlighting the fragile security environment in West Asia. With diplomatic channels under pressure and military operations continuing, concerns are growing that the conflict could expand beyond Iran and involve more countries in the region.



US Launches Major H-1B Visa Fraud Probe, Cognizant Under Scanner

The US Department of Labour has launched a large-scale investigation into alleged fraud involving the H-1B and PERM employment visa programmes, with Indian IT major Cognizant among the companies mentioned during the initial phase of the probe.

The investigation is being led by the Department of Labor's Office of the Inspector General in coordination with the federal Task Force to Eliminate Fraud, headed by US Vice President JD Vance. Officials say the initiative is aimed at identifying widespread abuse of foreign worker programmes and protecting American jobs.

Labor Department Inspector General Anthony D'Esposito said investigators have already issued dozens of subpoenas and are pursuing leads received from whistleblowers. During a media interview, he stated that some of the complaints involve major companies, including Cognizant, though no formal allegations or charges have been announced against the company. According to the department, the investigation focuses on alleged fraudulent visa applications, labor trafficking, coercive wage-kickback schemes, and other practices that may exploit foreign workers while disadvantaging American em-

ployees. Authorities say such abuses undermine the purpose of employment-based visa programmes, which are intended to address genuine labor shortages.

The H-1B visa allows US employers to hire highly skilled foreign professionals in specialized occupations, while the PERM programme is the labour certification process required for many employment-based green card applications. Thousands of Indian technology professionals travel to the United States each year through these programmes, making the investigation significant for India's IT sector.

Federal officials emphasized that the probe is still in its early stages and that the issuance of subpoenas does not indicate guilt. Investigators say they will examine all evidence before reaching any conclusions, and additional companies could come under scrutiny as the investigation progresses.

The development has drawn attention across the technology industry because several global IT firms rely heavily on H-1B visas to deploy skilled professionals in the United States. The outcome of the investigation could influence future enforcement of employment visa regulations and compliance standards for companies operating in the US.

Australian Uranium to Boost India's Clean Energy Mission

India and Australia have taken a significant step in strengthening their clean energy partnership by finalising arrangements for the long-term supply of Australian uranium to India. The agreement is expected to play a crucial role in supporting India's ambitious nuclear energy expansion while deepening strategic ties between the two nations.

Australia possesses nearly 28 percent of the world's known uranium reserves, making it one of the largest suppliers of the mineral globally. Despite its vast reserves, Australia does not operate nuclear power plants and exports uranium exclusively for peaceful purposes under strict international safeguards.

For India, the agreement comes at a critical time as the country seeks to rapidly expand its nuclear power capacity to meet rising electricity demand while reducing carbon emissions. The government has set ambitious targets to increase nuclear energy capacity as part of its long-term clean energy strategy.

Nuclear energy is considered



an important component of India's energy transition because it provides reliable, round-the-clock electricity without producing greenhouse gas emissions during power generation. Unlike solar and wind energy, nuclear plants can supply uninterrupted power, helping stabilize the electricity grid as renewable energy capacity grows.

The uranium supply arrangement also enhances India's energy security by diversifying its sources of nuclear fuel. A stable supply of uranium will help ensure the smooth operation of existing nuclear reactors and support future expansion plans without depending heavily on limited domestic reserves. Beyond energy coop-

eration, the agreement reflects the growing strategic partnership between New Delhi and Canberra. The two countries have expanded collaboration across trade, defence, critical minerals, and supply chains, while working together to promote stability and economic resilience in the Indo-Pacific region.

Experts believe the uranium partnership will strengthen India's efforts to achieve its climate goals while ensuring long-term energy security. As electricity demand continues to rise, access to reliable nuclear fuel is expected to play a vital role in supporting sustainable economic growth and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Quran Verses Become Iran's Diplomatic Message at Khamenei Funeral

The funeral of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was not only a religious ceremony but also a carefully choreographed display of diplomacy. According to reports, Iranian officials selected specific Quranic verses to be recited before foreign delegations, with each passage believed to carry a symbolic political message tailored to the visiting country.

The unusual practice has sparked widespread discussion among diplomats, religious scholars, and political analysts. Instead of delivering direct political statements, Iran is believed to have used verses from the Quran to communicate its views on regional cooperation, resistance, justice, and international relations.

One of the most closely watched moments involved the Saudi Arabian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed bin Abdulkarim. The Quranic verses recited in their presence were interpreted as emphasizing reconciliation, unity among Muslims, and the importance of peaceful coexistence despite longstanding political differences.

Delegations from several other countries, including regional allies and partners, were also greeted with different Quranic passages. Observers noted that



the verses appeared to reflect each country's relationship with Iran, conveying messages of friendship, solidarity, caution, or shared responsibility through religious symbolism rather than conventional diplomatic language.

Analysts say this approach reflects Iran's unique blend of religion and statecraft, where Islamic teachings are often woven into political messaging. In the Islamic Republic, religious references frequently serve as instruments of diplomacy, allowing Tehran to express strategic positions in a manner deeply rooted in its ideological framework.

The ceremony itself attracted leaders, diplomats, and representatives from across the Middle East and beyond, highlighting Iran's continued efforts to maintain regional influence during a period of political transition.

The use of Quranic verses added another layer of significance to the event, turning a state funeral into a platform for subtle diplomatic communication.

Experts believe the symbolic messaging demonstrates how Iran continues to rely on cultural and religious traditions to shape its foreign policy narrative. Rather than issuing formal statements, the carefully selected Quranic passages conveyed messages that were open to interpretation while reinforcing Tehran's broader political and diplomatic objectives.

The episode underscores the important role religion continues to play in Iran's engagement with the international community, where ceremonial events often serve multiple purposes—honoring tradition, reinforcing ideology, and quietly conveying diplomatic signals to the world.

Flight Instructor Jumps From Plane, Student Lands Aircraft Safely

A routine flight training session in Argentina turned into a shocking tragedy after a flight instructor allegedly jumped from a moving aircraft mid-air, leaving his young student alone in the cockpit. The student pilot managed to remain calm under extreme pressure and successfully landed the plane safely.

The incident took place near Toledo in Argentina's Córdoba province during a training flight involving a small Cessna aircraft. The instructor, identified as 42-year-old Leandro Andrés Bertazzo, was flying with a 22-year-old student pilot when the unexpected incident occurred.

According to investigators, the instructor reportedly told the student that she knew what to do before removing his headset, unfastening his seat belt, opening the aircraft door, and exiting the plane while it was still in flight. The student was left to take complete control of the aircraft without her instructor beside her.

Despite the sudden and traumatic situation, the student maintained control of the aircraft, contacted authorities, and carried out a successful



landing. Aviation officials praised her composure and decision-making during what was an extremely challenging emergency.

The flight school where Bertazzo worked expressed shock over the incident, saying there had been no visible warning signs before the tragedy. Colleagues described him as an experienced instructor and said the decision came as a surprise to those who knew him.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the exact circumstances behind the incident. Officials are examining the instructor's background, possible personal difficulties, and other factors that may have contributed to

the tragedy.

The incident has raised discussions within the aviation community about the importance of mental health support, psychological evaluations, and safety measures in flight training environments. Experts noted that while aviation has strict safety procedures, unexpected human factors can create serious challenges during operations.

The student pilot's ability to handle the aircraft and complete the landing has been widely recognised as an example of exceptional presence of mind. The investigation into the instructor's death continues as authorities work to understand what led to the mid-air incident.



Iran Reveals First Footage of Khamenei Residence After Strikes

Iranian state media has released the first official video showing the extensive damage inside the residential compound of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei following the joint US-Israel military strikes earlier this year. The footage offers the first public glimpse of the destruction caused by the attack that dramatically reshaped Iran's political landscape.

The video shows massive sections of the compound reduced to rubble, with collapsed walls, shattered interiors, and debris scattered throughout the premises. The heavily fortified complex, known as Beyt-e Rahbari, served as the headquarters and official residence of Iran's Supreme Leader and has long been regarded as the country's most powerful political and religious center.

The strikes, carried out jointly by the United States and Israel, targeted several strategic military and leadership facilities across Iran. Khamenei's compound was among the most prominent targets during the operation, which resulted in his death and marked one of the most significant developments in the history of the Islamic Republic.

Until now, Iranian authorities had released only limited information about the damage, while satellite imagery and unofficial reports had suggested that the compound had suffered severe destruction. The newly released footage appears to confirm those assessments, revealing the scale of devastation inside buildings that were previously inaccessible to the public.

The release of the video comes as Iran continues to commemorate Khamenei and navigate a period of political transition following the leadership change. Analysts believe the footage is intended to reinforce Iran's narrative surrounding the conflict while highlighting the impact of the strikes on one of the country's most symbolic locations.

The conflict between Iran, the United States, and Israel triggered widespread military escalation across the Middle East, with attacks on strategic facilities, military installations, and key infrastructure. Although diplomatic efforts have sought to ease tensions, the region remains volatile, and the latest footage serves as another reminder of the lasting consequences of the conflict.



Explosions Rock Bushehr as US-Iran Conflict Intensifies

Fresh explosions were reported in Iran's southern province of Bushehr as the military confrontation between the United States and Iran entered a more dangerous phase. The attacks came amid growing fears that the conflict could spread across the Gulf region and further disrupt global trade and energy supplies.

Iranian authorities said multiple blasts were heard near strategic facilities in Bushehr, while emergency services and security forces were deployed to assess the damage. The latest strikes followed recent American military operations targeting Iranian infrastructure, which Washington says are aimed at weakening Tehran's military capabilities.

In response, Iran launched missile and drone attacks against what it described as US military assets in Bahrain and Kuwait. Air defence systems were activated across several Gulf countries, and authorities issued emergency alerts as projectiles were intercepted. The attacks have significantly heightened tensions across the region, with neighbouring countries increasing security around key installations.

The escalating conflict has also created a humanitarian and maritime crisis. Reports indicate that nearly 6,000 seafarers remain stranded around

the Strait of Hormuz as commercial shipping faces severe disruption. Several vessels have been unable to move due to security concerns, raising fears over global energy supplies and international trade.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's busiest oil transit routes, carrying a significant share of global crude oil exports. Any prolonged disruption could push up energy prices and affect economies worldwide. Shipping companies are closely monitoring the situation, while governments continue to advise caution for vessels operating in the region.

Diplomatic efforts to restore calm have suffered a major setback after both Washington and Tehran accused each other of violating ceasefire commitments. Regional leaders have called for restraint, warning that continued military exchanges could trigger a broader conflict involving multiple countries in West Asia.

With military operations continuing and diplomatic negotiations under increasing pressure, the situation remains highly volatile. International observers fear that unless both sides return to dialogue, the conflict could deepen further, posing serious risks to regional stability, global shipping, and the world economy.



SBI Mutual Fund Eyes 530 Million Customers

India's largest asset manager, SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF), believes its biggest growth opportunity lies within the vast customer base of its parent, the State Bank of India (SBI). With more than 530 million SBI customers, the fund house aims to convert millions of traditional savers into long-term mutual fund investors.

According to the company's leadership, only around 5.5 million SBI customers currently invest in mutual funds, leaving nearly 99% of the bank's customer base untapped. SBI MF sees this as a massive opportunity to deepen financial inclusion and expand retail participation in capital markets.

The company plans to leverage SBI's extensive branch network and digital platforms to make investing more accessible. A major focus will be on simplifying the investment process through digital channels, enabling customers to invest in mutual funds as easily as they open fixed deposits or other banking products.

SBI MF is also adopting a "SIP-first" strategy, encouraging customers to begin their investment journey with Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs). The fund house believes SIPs can become the preferred savings tool for millions of Indians, much like recurring deposits have traditionally been.

The company expects digital initiatives, including seamless

integration with SBI's YONO banking platform and the roll-out of Universal KYC, to significantly boost investor participation. These initiatives are aimed at making investing quicker, simpler, and more convenient for first-time investors.

Currently, SBI Mutual Fund receives around 4,000 crore in monthly SIP inflows, with nearly one-third of that coming through SBI's own distribution network. The company believes there is substantial room to grow this contribution by increasing awareness and expanding customer outreach.

The strategy comes as SBI Mutual Fund prepares for its highly anticipated 12,000-crore IPO, one of the largest public offerings in India's financial services sector. The company remains focused on expanding its investor base rather than relying solely on high-net-worth individuals or institutional investors.

Management believes India's mutual fund industry is still in its early stages of growth, with enormous potential to attract millions of new investors over the coming years. By leveraging SBI's nationwide presence and trusted brand, SBI Mutual Fund aims to play a key role in bringing more households into the formal investment ecosystem and accelerating the country's financial inclusion journey.



Devson Catalyst SME IPO Fully Subscribed on Day 1

The Devson Catalyst SME IPO received an enthusiastic response from investors on the very first day of bidding, with the issue being subscribed nearly three times within hours of opening. The strong demand reflects growing investor interest in the company's business and future growth prospects.

As of the first day, the IPO had received bids for over 73 lakh shares against approximately 25.87 lakh shares on offer, translating into an overall subscription of around 2.83 times. The issue will remain open for subscription until July 13. Retail investors led the demand, with their reserved portion attracting strong subscriptions. Non-institutional investors (NIIs) also showed healthy participation, while the qualified institutional buyers (QIB) category witnessed encouraging interest on the opening day.

The company aims to raise around 42 crore through the SME public issue. The IPO is priced in the 112-118 per share band and is scheduled to list on the BSE SME platform.

Adding to the positive senti-

ment, the IPO is commanding a Grey Market Premium (GMP) of around 50, implying a potential listing premium of more than 42% over the upper end of the price band. While GMP is often viewed as an indicator of investor sentiment, it remains unofficial and should not be considered a guarantee of listing gains.

Devson Catalyst manufactures industrial catalysts, adsorbents, and ceramic balls used across sectors such as refining, petrochemicals, fertilizers, steel, and chemicals. The company plans to utilize the IPO proceeds to establish a new manufacturing facility, meet working capital requirements, and support general corporate purposes.

With strong subscription numbers on Day 1 and robust grey market interest, the Devson Catalyst SME IPO has emerged as one of the most closely watched SME offerings of the month. However, investors are advised to evaluate the company's financial performance, business fundamentals, valuation, and long-term growth prospects before making an investment decision.

Markets Rebound; Sensex Gains 238 Points, Nifty Ends Above 23,950

Indian benchmark equity indices bounced back on Thursday after the previous session's sharp sell-off, with investors returning to quality stocks amid improving global sentiment and optimism ahead of the first-quarter earnings season.

The BSE Sensex closed 238 points higher, while the Nifty 50 finished above the 23,950 mark, recovering a portion of the losses suffered in the previous trading session. The rebound was supported by buying in heavy-weight banking, financial, and select technology stocks.

Broader markets outperformed the benchmark indices. The Nifty Midcap 100 gained around 1.4%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 advanced nearly 1.8%, reflecting renewed investor interest in mid- and small-cap shares.

Among sectoral indices, banking, financial services, auto, and consumer-focused stocks witnessed healthy buying. Investors also accumulated fundamentally strong companies after the recent market correction, helping the indices



recover steadily through the session.

Market participants were encouraged by easing global concerns after signs of reduced geopolitical tensions and stable crude oil prices. Continued foreign institutional investor (FII) buying also supported sentiment, while expectations of healthy quarterly earnings from major listed companies added to the positive mood.

Analysts said the day's gains indicate that investors remain optimistic about India's long-term growth story despite short-term volatility. However, they cautioned that markets may continue to witness stock-specific movements as the earnings season gathers pace and

investors assess corporate performance.

Going forward, market direction is expected to be influenced by quarterly earnings announcements, global economic developments, crude oil prices, foreign fund flows, and central bank policy expectations. Traders are also expected to keep a close watch on inflation trends and international geopolitical developments.

While the recovery provided relief after the previous session's decline, analysts believe sustained upward momentum will depend on strong corporate earnings, stable macroeconomic indicators, and supportive global cues in the coming weeks.

Millworks Technologies IPO GMP Crosses 105% Ahead of July 14 Launch

The upcoming Millworks Technologies IPO has generated strong excitement in the grey market, with its Grey Market Premium (GMP) soaring above 105% just days before the issue opens for subscription on July 14. The sharp rise in GMP indicates robust investor interest and expectations of a strong stock market debut.

The Bengaluru-based precision engineering company plans to raise around 160.3 crore through a fresh issue of 48.44 lakh equity shares. The IPO has been priced in the range of 315 to 331 per share and will remain open for subscription until July 16.

Millworks Technologies manufactures high-precision machined components, sheet metal parts, and integrated assemblies for mission-critical sectors such as aerospace, defence, railways, semiconductors, and industrial engineering. The company operates under both Build-to-Print (BTP) and Build-to-Spec (BTS) manufacturing models, serving leading original equipment manufacturers.

The company's financial performance has been a major fac-



tor behind the strong investor sentiment. In FY26, Millworks reported a significant jump in both revenue and profit, reflecting rapid business expansion and improving operational efficiency. This impressive growth has boosted confidence among market participants ahead of the public issue.

The company plans to utilize the IPO proceeds to purchase new plant and machinery, meet working capital requirements, and support general corporate purposes. These investments are expected to strengthen its manufacturing capabilities and support future growth.

Market experts caution that while a high GMP reflects positive sentiment, it is an unofficial indicator and does not guarantee listing gains. Investors are advised to evaluate the company's fundamentals, financial performance, industry outlook, and valuation before making investment decisions.

With strong grey market buzz, healthy financials, and exposure to fast-growing sectors such as aerospace and defence manufacturing, the Millworks Technologies IPO is emerging as one of the most closely watched SME public issues of the month.

Choice International Soars on ₹899 Crore Investment Deal

Shares of Choice International surged nearly 8% after the company announced a major strategic investment in its broking subsidiary by South Korea's NH Investment & Securities. The development was welcomed by investors, who viewed the deal as a strong endorsement of the company's long-term growth strategy and its expanding presence in India's financial services sector.

Under the agreement, NH Investment & Securities will invest 899 crore in Choice Equity Broking Private Limited, the stockbroking arm of Choice International. The investment is expected to strengthen the subsidiary's capital base and support its expansion across broking, wealth management, investment banking, and digital financial services. The transaction also marks a significant partnership between one of South Korea's leading financial institutions and an Indian financial services company.

The proposed investment will be made through a combination of primary capital infusion and acquisition of a minority stake in Choice Equity Broking. Following the completion of the transaction, NH Investment & Securities will become a strategic shareholder, while Choice



International will continue to retain management control of the business. The deal remains subject to customary regulatory approvals and other closing conditions. Market participants believe the partnership will provide Choice International with access to global expertise, advanced technology, and international best practices. It is also expected to help the company accelerate innovation in digital trading platforms, strengthen its product offerings, and improve customer experience across retail and institutional segments. The collaboration may also open opportunities for cross-border financial products and services in the future.

Choice International has been steadily expanding its footprint in India's financial services industry through its

broking, advisory, lending, and wealth management businesses. The company has consistently focused on technology-driven growth, increasing its client base and expanding into new markets. The latest investment is seen as another milestone in its strategy to become a larger and more competitive financial services platform.

The announcement triggered strong buying interest in the stock, with investors betting that the capital infusion would enhance the company's growth prospects and improve its competitive position in India's rapidly evolving brokerage industry. Analysts believe the strategic alliance could help Choice International scale its operations faster while benefiting from NH Investment & Securities' international expertise and financial strength.



TCS Q1 Profit Misses Estimates Despite Strong Revenue Growth

India's largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), reported a mixed set of results for the first quarter of FY27. While the company delivered better-than-expected revenue growth, its net profit fell short of market expectations due to higher costs and a one-time charge.

TCS posted a consolidated net profit of 13,349 crore, marking a 5% year-on-year increase. However, the figure was below analysts' estimates. Revenue rose to 72,275 crore, exceeding market forecasts and reflecting healthy demand from key clients.

The company's growth was largely driven by strong performance in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) segment, along with the benefit of a weaker rupee, which boosted earnings from overseas operations. TCS also reported healthy deal wins during the quarter, reinforcing confidence in its business pipeline.

A one-time legal settlement and higher employee-related expenses weighed on profitability, preventing earnings from matching Street expectations. Even so, the company maintained healthy operating margins and generated strong cash flows during the quarter.

TCS announced an interim dividend of 12 per equity share, with July 15, 2026, fixed as the record date for determin-

ing eligible shareholders. The dividend will be paid later this month.

The company also highlighted the growing contribution of its artificial intelligence business, saying AI-led services continue to witness strong client demand. Management noted that enterprises are increasing investments in AI, cloud transformation, cybersecurity, and digital modernization despite global macroeconomic uncertainty.

The order book for the quarter remained robust at \$9.5 billion, supported by several large transformation deals across global markets. Management expressed confidence that the strong deal pipeline and expanding AI capabilities would support long-term growth.

TCS also expanded its workforce during the quarter by adding more than 9,000 employees, reflecting optimism about future business opportunities. Employee attrition remained under control, indicating improved workforce stability.

Despite a cautious global technology spending environment, the company said it remains well-positioned to benefit from increasing digital transformation initiatives. Investors will now closely watch management's outlook on demand trends, discretionary spending, and AI-driven growth as the earnings season gathers momentum.



Oberoi Realty Shares Fall After Court Restrains Fresh Allotments

Shares of Oberoi Realty declined more than 2% after the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the company not to make any fresh allotments or create third-party rights in its luxury residential project in Gurugram until a pending dispute is resolved.

The court's interim order came while hearing a petition filed by Advance India Projects Limited (AIPL), which has challenged the transfer of the project's development licence and claimed rights over the development. AIPL has also sought cancellation of the sale deed executed in favour of Oberoi Realty.

During the hearing, the Haryana government informed the court that the matter is already under consideration by the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP). The representation seeking cancellation of the licence is scheduled to be heard on July 20.

Until the DTCP takes a decision, the High Court has re-

strained Oberoi Realty from making fresh allotments or creating any third-party rights in the project. The order is temporary and will remain in force until the regulatory authority disposes of the pending representation.

The development weighed on investor sentiment, leading to a decline in the company's stock despite the strong response received for its recently launched Gurugram project. The company had earlier reported robust bookings, highlighting strong demand for its first luxury residential venture in the National Capital Region.

Market participants will now closely monitor the outcome of the DTCP hearing, as it could determine the future course of the project. Analysts believe the legal proceedings may create short-term uncertainty for the stock, although the long-term impact will depend on the final regulatory decision.

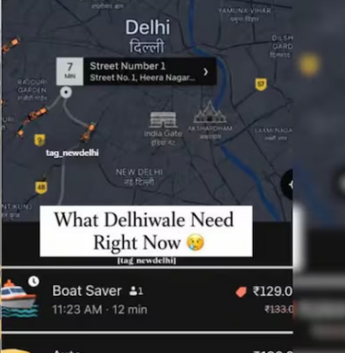
Delhi Rains Trigger Chaos, Social Media Responds With Humour

Heavy monsoon rains brought Delhi-NCR to a standstill on Thursday, leaving roads submerged, traffic crawling for hours, and thousands of commuters stranded. While residents struggled to navigate flooded streets, social media users responded in their own way—turning the city's annual monsoon woes into a flood of memes and jokes.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for Delhi after intense overnight rainfall caused widespread waterlogging across the capital and neighbouring cities, including Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad. Several major roads were inundated, leading to severe traffic congestion and disrupting normal life. Videos shared online showed vehicles moving through knee-deep water, commuters wading across flooded roads, and long queues of traffic stretching for kilometres. Many office-goers reported spending hours stuck on highways, while schools and businesses faced delays due to the



weather conditions. Authorities advised people to avoid unnecessary travel and remain indoors wherever possible. As images of flooded streets spread across social media, netizens wasted no time turning frustration into humour. Memes comparing Delhi's roads to rivers, swimming pools, and water parks quickly went viral. One popular joke described the capital as offering "free water sports," while another sarcastically welcomed people to the "Venice of India." Several users quipped that boats would be more useful than cars during the rainy



season. Gurugram also became a major talking point online after severe waterlogging brought traffic to a near halt on key roads, including NH-48 and Sohna Road. Residents criticised civic authorities for recurring drainage failures, pointing out that similar scenes unfold every monsoon despite repeated promises of infrastructure improvements. Beyond the humour, the flooding once again highlighted long-standing concerns over urban planning and drainage infrastructure in Delhi-NCR. Experts have repeatedly argued

that rapid urbanisation, shrinking natural water bodies, and inadequate drainage systems have made the region increasingly vulnerable to heavy rainfall. Even moderate downpours often result in waterlogged roads, flooded underpasses, and widespread traffic disruptions. Emergency teams were deployed to clear waterlogged areas and restore normal traffic movement, while civic authorities monitored vulnerable locations across the city. Weather officials have also warned that more rain is likely over the next few days, urging residents to stay alert and follow official advisories.

Although the memes provided comic relief amid the chaos, many residents stressed that the recurring flooding is far from amusing. The annual monsoon disruption continues to affect transportation, businesses, and daily life, underscoring the urgent need for improved drainage systems and better urban planning to prevent similar situations in the future.

Rain Revives Noida-Gurugram Rivalry Over Infrastructure

Heavy monsoon showers across the National Capital Region have once again ignited the long-standing rivalry between Noida and Gurugram, with residents of both cities taking to social media to debate which city is better equipped to handle heavy rainfall. What started as weather updates quickly transformed into an online battle over urban planning, drainage systems, and civic infrastructure.

After intense rainfall lashed Delhi-NCR, several parts of Gurugram witnessed severe waterlogging, traffic jams, and stranded vehicles. Major roads, including NH-48, Golf Course Road, and Sohna Road, experienced heavy congestion as rainwater accumulated in low-lying areas. Office-goers spent hours commuting, while many companies advised employees to work from home to avoid travel disruptions. Meanwhile, Noida residents highlighted that their city remained comparatively functional despite receiving significant rainfall. Many users posted pictures of relatively clear roads, claiming that better drainage systems and planned urban development helped Noida cope more effectively with the downpour. The contrasting visuals soon sparked comparisons between the neighbouring cities.

Social media platforms were flooded with memes, sarcastic comments, and side-by-side photographs. Some users jok-



ingly declared Noida the "winner" of the rain challenge, while others mocked Gurugram's recurring flooding problems despite being one of India's leading corporate hubs. The online banter revived a rivalry that has existed for years, with residents often comparing infrastructure, roads, traffic management, and quality of life.

However, many experts cautioned against making simplistic comparisons. They pointed out that both cities face unique geographical and planning challenges. Gurugram's rapid urbanisation, shrinking natural water bodies, encroachment on drainage channels, and inadequate stormwater infrastructure have made it particularly vulnerable to urban flooding during intense rainfall.

Urban planners also noted that Noida benefits from being a more systematically planned city with wider roads, designated drainage networks, and stricter development regula-



tions. Even so, certain parts of Noida also experienced waterlogging and traffic disruptions, although on a comparatively smaller scale.

The debate soon shifted beyond social media humour to larger questions about sustainable urban development. Residents argued that cities should not compete over who floods less but instead focus on improving drainage infrastructure, preserving natural water channels, and preparing for increasingly frequent extreme weather events driven by climate change.

As more rain is forecast across Delhi-NCR in the coming days, civic authorities in both Noida and Gurugram have intensified monitoring of vulnerable areas while urging residents to avoid unnecessary travel during periods of heavy rainfall. The latest episode has once again highlighted that resilient infrastructure, rather than online rivalry, remains the real challenge for India's rapidly growing urban centres.

Laid Off at 56, Corporate Veteran Finds New Hope as Delivery Partner

A touching story of resilience has gone viral after a 56-year-old man from Noida, who lost his corporate job after 14 years, shared how he is now working as a delivery partner to support his family. His journey has sparked widespread discussions about layoffs, age discrimination, and the struggles older professionals face in today's job market.

The story surfaced through a LinkedIn post by social entrepreneur Kiran Verma, who had booked a parcel delivery through Porter. What began as a routine interaction soon turned into an emotional conversation. The delivery partner, Manoj, revealed that he had spent 14 years working in the administration department of an insurance company before being laid off during a workforce reduction in 2023. Since losing his job, Manoj has struggled to find another permanent position. He explained that his age and health concerns have made it extremely difficult to secure employ-



ment despite his years of experience. Left with few options, he joined Porter as a delivery partner to earn a livelihood and provide for his family.

During their conversation, Manoj mentioned that he had not received any delivery requests that day and was simply waiting for work. His words reflected the uncertainty of gig employment, where earnings depend entirely on the number of assignments available. The interaction deeply moved Verma, who later shared the story on LinkedIn, where it quickly resonated with thousands of readers. The post triggered an



outpouring of support online. Many users expressed sympathy for Manoj and pointed out that experienced employees are often among the hardest hit during layoffs. Others criticised hiring practices that favour younger candidates while overlooking skilled professionals with decades of experience. Several people also shared similar stories of losing long-term jobs and struggling to restart their careers later in life.

The story also reignited discussions about the growing gig economy in India. While platform-based jobs provide immediate earning opportunities,

many argued that they should not become the only option for experienced professionals who lose stable employment after years of dedicated service.

Porter responded to the viral post by acknowledging Manoj's determination and appreciating his commitment to work. The company reiterated its focus on providing flexible earning opportunities for people from different backgrounds.

Beyond one individual's struggle, Manoj's story has become a symbol of a larger challenge facing today's workforce. As layoffs continue across several industries and the employment landscape evolves, many experienced professionals are finding themselves forced to take up temporary or gig-based jobs to make ends meet. His journey stands as a powerful reminder that behind every delivery is a person carrying years of experience, resilience, and an unwavering determination to move forward despite life's setbacks.

"Take an Uber": Manager's Rain Response Sparks Online Outrage

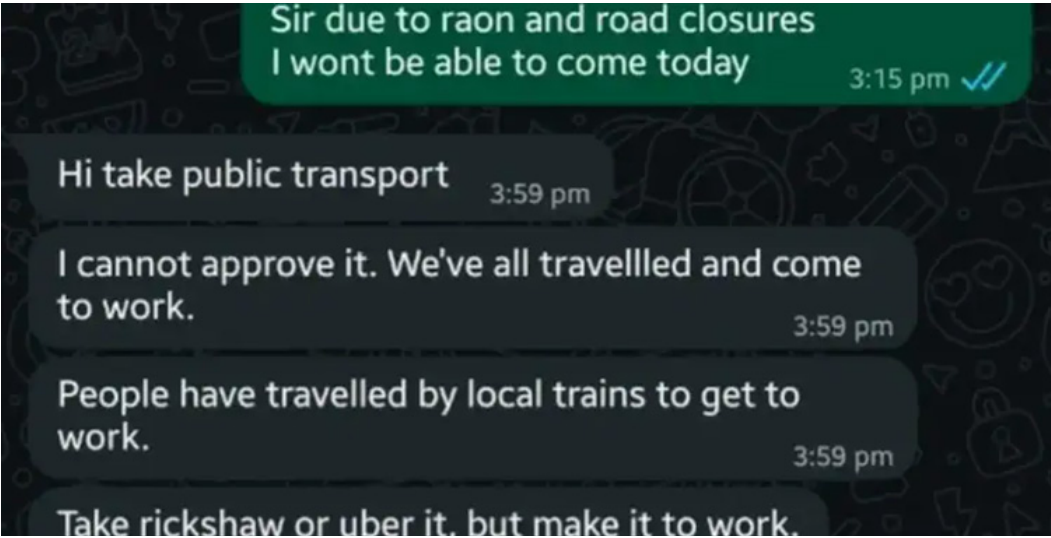
A workplace conversation from Pune has gone viral after a manager allegedly refused an employee's request to work from home during heavy monsoon rains, triggering widespread criticism over workplace empathy and employee safety.

The incident came to light after screenshots of a WhatsApp conversation were shared on Reddit by the employee's friend. The post quickly gained attention, with users debating whether companies should prioritise employee safety during extreme weather conditions.

According to the chat, the employee informed the manager that he would not be able to reach the office because continuous heavy rain had led to severe waterlogging and road closures across Pune. He requested permission to work from home until conditions improved.

Instead of approving the request, the manager reportedly advised the employee to "take an Uber" or use public transport, stating that other employees had also managed to reach the office despite the weather. The work-from-home request was denied, leaving the employee frustrated and questioning whether he should continue working at the company.

The screenshots quickly spread across social media platforms, with many users calling the manager's response



insensitive and unrealistic. Several people pointed out that during extreme weather, employee safety should take precedence over office attendance. Others noted that expensive cab fares, flooded roads, and disrupted transport services make commuting difficult and sometimes dangerous.

Many professionals shared their own experiences of being pressured to report to work despite heavy rain, flooding, or other emergencies. The discussion expanded into a broader debate about workplace culture, with users arguing that some organisations continue to value physical presence over employee well-being.

The controversy comes at a time when Pune has been expe-

riencing intense monsoon rainfall, resulting in widespread waterlogging, traffic congestion, and disruptions to daily life. Several areas have reported flooded roads, stranded vehicles, and long commuting delays, prompting authorities to advise residents to avoid unnecessary travel.

Social media users also compared the incident with companies that allow flexible work arrangements during adverse weather. Many argued that if employees can perform their duties remotely without affecting productivity, organisations should adopt more compassionate policies during emergencies.

The viral conversation has reignited discussions about

toxic workplace culture, managerial sensitivity, and the importance of flexible work arrangements. Many users stressed that leadership is not just about meeting business targets but also about understanding the challenges employees face outside the workplace.

While the identity of the company involved has not been disclosed, the incident has become another example of how workplace decisions can quickly attract public attention in the age of social media. For many, the episode serves as a reminder that empathy and employee welfare are becoming increasingly important expectations in today's professional environment.

"Not Your Servant": Cab Driver Cancels Ride Over Passenger's Cigarette

A viral video showing a cab driver refusing to continue a ride after a passenger lit a cigarette inside the vehicle has sparked a heated debate on passenger etiquette, personal boundaries, and the rights of drivers.

The incident came to light after a video was shared on the social media platform X, showing a tense exchange between a taxi driver and a passenger. According to the video, the passenger lit a cigarette inside the cab without asking for permission, prompting the driver to object immediately.

The driver calmly questioned the passenger, asking whether he had sought permission before smoking. He made it clear that smoking was not allowed inside his vehicle and insisted that the passenger respect the rules of the car.

However, the passenger reportedly argued that since he had booked the taxi, he did not need anyone's permission to smoke. He claimed that paying for the ride gave him the right to do so.

The driver firmly rejected the argument, explaining that although the passenger had hired the service, the vehicle remained his personal property. Refusing to compromise, he cancelled the



trip on the spot and asked the passenger to leave the car. He also declared that he did not want the fare, saying, "I'm a taxi driver, not your servant."

The video quickly went viral, attracting thousands of comments across social media. A large section of users praised the driver for standing up for himself and maintaining clear boundaries. Many argued that passengers should respect a driver's vehicle just as they would respect someone's home or personal property.

Several users also pointed out that cigarette smoke lingers inside a car, creating discomfort for both the driver and future passengers. They said smokers should always seek permission before lighting a cigarette in someone else's vehicle.

Some users, however, felt the confrontation could have been



handled more calmly. They suggested the driver could have first asked the passenger to extinguish the cigarette before cancelling the ride. Others countered that the passenger's dismissive attitude left the driver with little choice.

The exact location and date of the incident have not been independently verified. Nevertheless, the clip has triggered a broader discussion about mutual respect between passengers and drivers, especially in app-based taxi services.

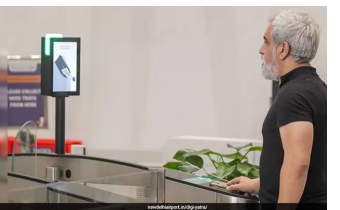
As the debate continues online, many believe the episode serves as a reminder that paying for a service does not give customers unlimited rights. Basic courtesy, respect for personal property, and consideration for others remain essential, whether travelling in a taxi or any other shared space.

Your Face Is Your Boarding Pass: Biometric Travel Takes Off

The future of air travel is rapidly becoming a reality as airlines and airports around the world increasingly adopt facial recognition technology, allowing passengers to complete their journey without repeatedly showing passports or boarding passes. Instead, a quick facial scan is all that's needed to move through check-in, security, immigration, and boarding.

Biometric travel uses advanced facial recognition systems to verify a passenger's identity at multiple checkpoints. Once travellers register their biometric details, cameras installed throughout the airport match their face with travel documents already stored in secure databases. This enables a seamless, contactless experience while reducing the need for manual document verification.

Several international airlines and airports have already rolled out biometric boarding systems. Passengers can simply walk up to a checkpoint, look at a camera for a few seconds, and continue their journey without producing physical identification. The technology significantly shortens queues and speeds up air-



port operations, particularly during peak travel periods.

Supporters of biometric travel believe it offers numerous advantages. Faster check-in, reduced waiting times, improved security, and fewer physical interactions make the travel experience smoother and more efficient. Airport authorities also benefit from better passenger flow management and more accurate identity verification, helping to reduce fraud and document-related errors. India has also embraced this trend through the DigiYatra initiative, which enables registered domestic passengers to use facial recognition technology at participating airports. The system allows travellers to enter terminals, clear security, and board flights with minimal document checks, creating a paperless and contactless airport experience.

The Indian government is simultaneously working on broader airport modernisation, including smart security systems, automated passenger processing, and faster immigration procedures to improve convenience and reduce congestion at busy airports.

Despite its advantages, biometric travel has also raised concerns over privacy and data protection. Critics argue that collecting and storing facial data requires strong cybersecurity measures, transparent policies, and strict safeguards against misuse. Privacy advocates continue to call for clear regulations governing how biometric information is collected, stored, shared, and eventually deleted.

Technology experts believe biometric verification will soon become a standard feature of international air travel. As artificial intelligence and digital identity systems continue to evolve, passengers may no longer need to carry multiple travel documents through airports. Instead, their face could become the only credential required for a faster, safer, and more seamless journey from check-in to boarding.



FIFA Refereeing Chief Responds to Argentina–Egypt World Cup Controversy

FIFA's Head of Refereeing has finally addressed the controversy surrounding the Argentina vs Egypt match at the FIFA World Cup 2026, following widespread criticism over several key officiating decisions that sparked intense debate among fans, players, and football experts.

The match became one of the tournament's most talked-about fixtures after a series of contentious calls by the referee, including decisions involving penalties, fouls, and the use of VAR. Supporters from both teams questioned whether the officiating had influenced the outcome of the game.

Responding to the criticism, FIFA's refereeing chief defended the officials, stating that every major decision was made after following the established protocols and reviewing the available evidence. He stressed that the referee and the VAR team worked together to ensure that decisions were based on the Laws of the Game rather than public opinion.

He acknowledged that controversial moments are an unavoidable part of football but insisted that FIFA has full confidence in its match officials. According to him, every referee undergoes extensive training and detailed performance reviews throughout the tournament to maintain the highest standards of officiating.

The official also explained that VAR is designed to correct clear and obvious errors rather than re-evaluate every decision made on the field. He noted that while technology has significantly improved the accuracy of refereeing, it cannot eliminate every disagreement or subjective interpretation.

Despite FIFA's clarification, the match continues to generate debate across the football world. Fans and analysts remain divided over whether some of the crucial decisions should have been handled differently, with many continuing to discuss the incidents on social media and sports platforms.

The governing body reiterated its commitment to transparency and continuous improvement in refereeing standards. FIFA also emphasized that match officials are regularly assessed after every game, with feedback used to enhance consistency throughout the tournament.

The Argentina–Egypt controversy has once again highlighted the intense scrutiny faced by referees on football's biggest stage. While FIFA stands by its officials, the debate has renewed discussions about the role of VAR, referee accountability, and the ongoing effort to make officiating as fair and consistent as possible.



France Coach Reacts to All-Argentine Referee Panel for Morocco Quarter-Final

France head coach Didier Deschamps has responded to FIFA's decision to appoint an all-Argentine refereeing team for France's FIFA World Cup 2026 quarter-final against Morocco, a move that has sparked discussion across the football world.

Speaking ahead of the crucial knockout fixture, Deschamps said he respects FIFA's appointment process and believes match officials should be judged by their professionalism rather than their nationality. He stressed that his team's focus remains entirely on preparing for the match instead of worrying about the referee selection.

The appointment attracted attention because Argentina are one of France's biggest international rivals, particularly after the memorable 2022 FIFA World Cup final. The decision led to debate among fans and analysts, with some questioning whether the refereeing panel's nationality could become a talking point.

Addressing those concerns, Deschamps dismissed suggestions that the appointment would influence France's approach. He said experienced referees are expected to remain impartial and make decisions according to the Laws of the Game, regardless of where they

come from. The French coach also emphasized that his players have been instructed to concentrate solely on their performance on the pitch. According to him, dwelling on external issues such as refereeing appointments would only distract the team from its objective of reaching the semi-finals.

Meanwhile, FIFA has maintained confidence in its referee selection process, stating that officials are appointed based on performance, experience, and merit throughout the tournament. The governing body expects every match official to uphold the highest standards of fairness and neutrality.

The quarter-final between France and Morocco is one of the most anticipated matches of the tournament, with both teams aiming to secure a place in the final four. As excitement builds, the refereeing appointment has added another layer of intrigue to an already high-profile contest.

Despite the debate surrounding the officiating team, Deschamps made it clear that France's priority is delivering a strong performance and letting their football do the talking on one of the biggest stages in world football.

Ashwin Questions 'Rest Culture', Backs Players Wanting to Play

Former India spinner R. Ashwin has questioned the growing trend of workload management in international cricket, saying that players who are fit and eager to play should not be forced to take breaks. His remarks have sparked fresh debate over player rotation and workload management in modern cricket.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin referred to wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson, who has often expressed his desire to play whenever given the opportunity. Ashwin said he shares a similar mindset and believes that if a player is physically fit, there is no reason to keep them out of the playing XI in the name of workload management.

"I don't want to rest," Ashwin said, adding that he has always preferred being on the field rather than sitting out. He argued that constantly resting players could become a "dangerous culture" if it prevents cricketers from building rhythm, confidence, and consistency. Ashwin stressed that every player is different and workload management should not be applied uniformly. While some players may genu-



inely need breaks because of injuries or heavy schedules, others are capable of handling continuous cricket and should be allowed to decide if they want to play.

The veteran spinner also highlighted that maintaining match rhythm is crucial, particularly for bowlers and players who rely on regular game time to stay at their best. According to him, frequent breaks can sometimes affect performance more than they help. His comments have reignited discussions about how cricket boards manage player fitness, especially with packed international calendars and multiple franchise leagues. Many teams now rotate players across formats to reduce the risk of injuries and extend careers.



However, Ashwin believes there should be greater flexibility in the system, with individual preferences and physical condition taken into account rather than following a one-size-fits-all policy.

The remarks have received mixed reactions from cricket fans. While many agreed that players should have the freedom to play if they are fit, others pointed out that workload management has helped reduce injuries and prolong the careers of several international stars.

Ashwin's views once again underline the ongoing debate in world cricket—whether protecting players through regular rest is more important than allowing them to maintain form and momentum by playing consistently.



ECB Faces ICC Scrutiny Over Ben Stokes 'Retirement' Video

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has landed in controversy after posting a social media video that jokingly suggested England Test captain Ben Stokes was retiring. The clip briefly shocked cricket fans before it was revealed to be part of a promotional campaign, but it has now reportedly drawn the attention of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The video, shared on the ECB's official social media platforms, created widespread confusion as it appeared to announce Stokes' retirement from international cricket. Given Stokes' status as one of England's most influential cricketers, many fans initially believed the announcement was genuine.

It was later revealed that the clip was intended as a promotional teaser rather than an actual retirement announcement. However, the post had already spread rapidly across social media, prompting criticism from fans who felt the campaign was misleading.

The ICC is reportedly examining whether the content breached its media and communication guidelines. While no formal disciplinary action has been announced, the governing body is said to be reviewing the circumstances surrounding the video.

rounding the post and its potential impact on the sport's credibility.

Several cricket followers criticised the campaign, arguing that sensitive topics such as a player's retirement should not be used for promotional purposes. Others defended the ECB, saying the video was meant to generate excitement and was not intended to deceive fans for long.

Ben Stokes himself has made no retirement announcement and remains fully committed to England's international commitments. The all-rounder continues to be a key figure in England's Test setup and is expected to lead the side in upcoming assignments.

The incident has sparked a broader discussion about the growing use of marketing tactics on social media. As sports organisations increasingly rely on digital platforms to engage fans, many believe promotional campaigns should avoid creating unnecessary confusion over major career announcements.

While the ICC reviews the matter, the episode serves as a reminder that official communications from cricket boards carry significant weight, and even promotional content must strike a balance between creativity and credibility.



Heated Exchange Between Egypt Coach and Scaloni

Tempers flared after the FIFA World Cup 2026 clash between Argentina and Egypt, as Egypt's head coach was involved in a heated exchange with Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni shortly after the final whistle.

According to reports, the Egyptian coach confronted Scaloni while both teams were leaving the pitch. The discussion quickly became animated, with emotions running high following a fiercely contested encounter that had already been filled with controversial moments.

Despite the tense situation, Scaloni chose not to escalate the confrontation. The Argentina coach remained calm, briefly responded to his counterpart, and then walked away, avoiding any further argument. His composed reaction was praised by many observers, who felt it helped prevent the incident from becoming more serious.

The disagreement is believed to have stemmed from frustrations over decisions made during the match, including contentious refereeing calls and heated moments be-

tween players on the field. The emotionally charged atmosphere carried over into the post-match interactions between the two coaching staffs.

Players and support staff from both teams were seen stepping in to ensure the situation did not worsen. The exchange ended without any physical altercation, and both teams eventually headed to their dressing rooms.

The incident quickly became a major talking point on social media, with fans debating the reasons behind the confrontation. While some sympathised with the Egyptian coach's frustration, others praised Scaloni for maintaining his composure under pressure.

Neither coach made any controversial remarks about the incident during their post-match media interactions, choosing instead to focus on the game and their respective teams' performances.

The episode added another dramatic chapter to an already intense World Cup encounter, highlighting the emotions and pressure that often accompany high-stakes matches on football's biggest stage.

Pakistan Replaced Shan Masood With Babar Azam as Test Captain

The Pakistan Cricket Board's decision to reinstate Babar Azam as Test captain in place of Shan Masood was driven by concerns over leadership and on-field decision-making rather than individual batting performances, according to senior PCB selector Aaqib Javed.

Speaking on a PCB podcast, Aaqib Javed said the selectors were unhappy with Pakistan's repeated inability to dismiss opposition lower-order batters during overseas tours in countries such as Australia, South Africa, the West Indies, and Bangladesh. He believed these recurring problems reflected shortcomings in leadership, tactical planning, and game management rather than the players' individual abilities.

Javed stressed that the captaincy change was not made because of Shan Masood's personal performances with the bat. Instead, the selectors felt the team needed stronger leadership to make better tactical decisions in crucial moments and improve overall performance in the longest format.

The PCB has also made it clear that Babar Azam's ap-



pointment is part of a long-term plan. According to Javed, the board intends to back Babar as Test captain for the next two to three years without judging him solely on short-term results. The selectors believe his experience and maturity make him the right person to guide Pakistan through the upcoming World Test Championship cycle.

Babar previously captained Pakistan in 20 Test matches between 2020 and 2023, recording 10 wins, six defeats, and four draws before stepping down from the role. The PCB now hopes his return will bring greater stability and consistency as Pakistan prepare for upcoming international

assignments.

Shan Masood, meanwhile, remains part of Pakistan's Test squad despite losing the captaincy. The leadership change comes after a difficult period for the team, with Pakistan struggling to produce consistent results under his tenure. Reports indicate that concerns over tactical decisions, over-rate management, and the team's overall record also influenced the board's decision.

With Babar Azam back at the helm, the PCB is hoping the team's renewed leadership can deliver improved performances and restore Pakistan's competitiveness in Test cricket over the coming years.

Cristiano Ronaldo's Two-Word Message Goes Viral Amid Retirement Speculation

Cristiano Ronaldo has sparked an emotional wave across the football world after sharing a simple two-word message — "Obrigado todos" ("Thank you all") following Portugal's exit from the FIFA World Cup 2026. The post quickly went viral, with many fans interpreting it as a farewell message amid growing speculation about his international future.

Portugal's World Cup campaign came to an end after a narrow 1-0 defeat to Spain in the Round of 16. The heartbreaking loss marked the conclusion of what Ronaldo had earlier confirmed would be his final FIFA World Cup appearance, bringing an end to a remarkable journey spanning six World Cups.

Although his brief social media post fueled retirement rumors, Ronaldo stopped short of announcing his retirement from international football. Instead, he expressed gratitude to fans, teammates, and everyone who supported him throughout his World Cup journey.

Following the defeat, the 41-year-old legend also stated that he would not make any hasty decisions regarding his future with the Portugal nation-



al team. He said he intends to take time before deciding whether to continue representing his country beyond the World Cup.

Ronaldo's emotional message received millions of reactions within hours, with football fans, former players, and celebrities paying tribute to one of the greatest careers in the history of the sport. Many described his World Cup legacy as inspirational, despite Portugal never lifting the trophy during his era.

Throughout the 2026 tournament, Ronaldo added more milestones to his extraordinary career, continuing to rewrite

football's record books while leading Portugal with his trademark determination and leadership.

As speculation continues over his next move, Ronaldo's message has been widely viewed as a heartfelt thank-you rather than a formal goodbye. Whether he continues playing for Portugal or chooses to retire from international football, his impact on the game remains unmatched.

For now, the football world waits for Ronaldo's final decision, but one thing is certain—his legacy as one of the greatest players in football history is already secure.

Chiranjeevi's 12-Hour Action Shoot Leaves Mega158 Team Amazed

Megastar Chiranjeevi has once again proved why he remains one of Indian cinema's most dedicated performers. The veteran actor recently stunned the cast and crew of his upcoming film Mega158 by completing an intense 12-hour action shoot without showing signs of fatigue, earning widespread appreciation from everyone on the set.

The film, directed by Bobby Kolli, is currently being shot in Hyderabad, where the team is filming one of the movie's biggest and most ambitious action sequences. Choreographed by renowned stunt masters Ram-Lakshman, the sequence is designed to showcase Chiranjeevi in a vintage, mass-action avatar that fans have long been waiting



to see.

According to reports, Chiranjeevi spent nearly 12 continuous hours performing physically demanding scenes alongside a large team of stunt artists. Despite the challenging schedule,

the 70-year-old actor reportedly maintained remarkable energy and enthusiasm throughout the shoot, surprising the entire production unit with his commitment and professionalism.

Members of the crew were

said to be amazed by the actor's discipline and fitness. Many reportedly noted that even younger actors would find such a demanding schedule exhausting, but Chiranjeevi completed every sequence with unwavering focus. His dedication has further boosted excitement surrounding the film. This action schedule is considered one of the highlights of Mega158, with the makers aiming to recreate the larger-than-life action style that made Chiranjeevi a superstar. The team believes the sequence will be a major treat for fans when the film hits theatres.

The film marks Chiranjeevi's second collaboration with director Bobby Kolli after the blockbuster Waltair Veerayya. Expectations are already high, and the makers are reportedly planning to unveil the film's title teaser as a special birthday treat for the Megastar's fans.

Produced by KVN Productions, Mega158 features music by Thaman, cinematography by Vijay Karthik Kannan, production design by Avinash Kolla, and editing by Antony Ruben. Actress Anaswara Rajan plays a key role in the film, which is being mounted on a grand scale.

With the latest shooting update creating a buzz across social media, fans are eagerly waiting to witness Chiranjeevi's powerful comeback in an action-packed entertainer that promises vintage style, mass appeal, and high-octane entertainment.

Akhil's Lenin Clears Censor With U/A Certificate

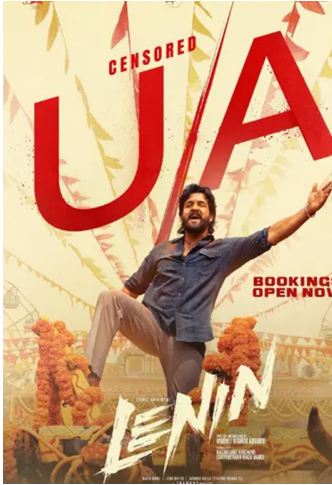
Akhil Akkineni's much-awaited comeback film Lenin has completed its censor formalities ahead of its theatrical release. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has awarded the film a U/A certificate, clearing it for audiences with parental guidance for younger viewers.

The film has been certified with a runtime of 158 minutes (2 hours and 38 minutes), indicating a narrative packed with action, emotion, and drama. According to the censor report, Lenin is an intense action entertainer with several

high-impact sequences forming a major part of the story.

To secure the U/A rating, the makers made a few minor changes suggested by the CBFC. Around 32 seconds of footage featuring graphic violence, including scenes of decapitation and excessive bloodshed, were removed. A few visuals were also darkened to reduce the intensity of violent imagery while preserving the overall narrative.

The censor clearance has further heightened expectations for the film, especially as Akhil returns to the big screen after a gap of nearly



three years. The actor has expressed strong confidence in the project during promotional events, describing the emotional climax as one of the movie's biggest highlights.

Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, Lenin stars Bhagyashri Borse as the female lead, while Sivaji, Pramod Panju, Brahmaji, Sunil, and Easwari Rao play key supporting roles. The film is jointly produced by Nagarjuna Akkineni and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under the banners of Manam Enterprises, Sithara Entertainments, and Annapura Studios. The music is composed by S. Thaman, whose soundtrack and background score have already generated considerable buzz.

With its censor process now complete and advance bookings expected to gather momentum, Lenin is gearing up for a grand theatrical release. Industry observers believe the film could become a crucial milestone in Akhil Akkineni's career, thanks to its rural action backdrop, emotionally driven storyline, and high-octane action sequences that have already created significant excitement among fans.



Rashmika Mandanna Wraps Intense Underwater Sequence for Mysaa

Actress Rashmika Mandanna has completed filming a challenging underwater action sequence for her upcoming Telugu film Mysaa, adding to the growing excitement surrounding the ambitious action thriller. The makers recently shared the update, revealing that the demanding sequence is expected to be one of the film's biggest highlights.

Directed by debutant Rawindra Pulle, Mysaa has been progressing steadily through its production schedules. Rashmika is said to be playing a never-before-seen character, making the film one of the most anticipated projects in her career.

According to the production team, the recently completed underwater sequence required extensive preparation and was filmed over several days. The makers believe the visuals will offer audiences a spectacular cinematic experience and showcase Rashmika in a completely new avatar.

The film is currently in its sixth major shooting schedule and is moving closer to completion. Once filming wraps up, the team is expected to announce the official theatrical release date and begin full-fledged promotions.

Produced by Unformula Films, Mysaa is being mounted on a grand scale as a multilingual release. The action thriller also features Tarak Ponnappa in a pivotal role, while acclaimed composer Jakes Bejoy is scoring the music.

With Rashmika balancing multiple high-profile projects across Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi cinema, Mysaa has already generated significant buzz. The completion of the underwater sequence has further heightened anticipation, with fans eagerly waiting to see the actress in one of her most physically demanding and action-oriented roles to date.

With Rashmika balancing multiple high-profile projects across Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi cinema, Mysaa has already generated significant buzz. The completion of the underwater sequence has further heightened anticipation, with fans eagerly waiting to see the actress in one of her most physically demanding and action-oriented roles to date.



Dulquer Salmaan's DQ41 Title to Be Revealed Today

Excitement is building around Dulquer Salmaan's upcoming Telugu film, tentatively titled DQ41, as the makers have officially announced that the film's title and first-look poster will be unveiled today at 10:08 AM. The announcement has generated considerable buzz among fans eager to see the actor's next Telugu venture.

The newly released announcement poster carries the intriguing tagline "#LoveWillSpeakAgain," hinting at a romantic drama layered with mystery and emotional storytelling. The visual features dreamy aesthetics, suggesting that the film will offer a blend of romance, emotions, and suspense.

Directed by debutant Ravi Nelakuditi, the film stars Pooja Hegde as the female lead opposite Dulquer Salmaan. Their fresh on-screen pairing has already created excitement, with fans looking forward to their chemistry in what promises to be a heartfelt entertainer.

The supporting cast includes an impressive lineup of seasoned actors such as Ramya Krishnan, Jagapathi Babu, Rao Ramesh, Sachin Khedekar, and Dheekshith Shetty, all of

whom are expected to play pivotal roles in the narrative. Their presence has further raised expectations for the project.

Produced by SLV Cinemas, the film is being mounted on a grand scale. The music is composed by G.V. Prakash Kumar, whose soundtrack is expected to add emotional depth and enhance the overall cinematic experience.

The film has already completed a major shooting schedule, with the production team wrapping up key sequences in picturesque locations. As filming progresses smoothly, the makers are now preparing to launch the promotional campaign with the title and first-look reveal.

Dulquer Salmaan, who enjoys a strong fan following in Telugu cinema thanks to successful films like Mahanati, Sita Ramam, and Lucky Baskhar, is expected to continue his impressive run with this project. The upcoming title announcement and first-look poster are likely to offer audiences their first glimpse into the film's world and further raise anticipation for one of the most awaited Telugu releases.

'Vadhala' Trailer Unveils a Gripping Psychological Thriller

The makers of Vadhala have released the film's theatrical trailer, offering audiences a glimpse into an intense psychological thriller packed with mystery, suspense, and emotional conflict. The trailer has generated considerable curiosity with its dark visuals, gripping narrative, and intriguing performances.

Veteran actor Jagapathi Babu plays the lead role, portraying a character caught in a web of psychological turmoil and mysterious events. The trailer hints at a story where reality and illusion blur, keeping viewers guessing about what is true and what is merely a product of the mind.

Actress Laya marks an important presence in the film alongside Hrithika Srinivas, with both appearing in emotionally charged roles that seem central to the unfolding mystery. The trailer suggests that every character carries hidden secrets, adding multiple layers to the suspense-filled narrative.

Directed by Akella V. Krishna, Vadhala focuses on psychological tension rather than conventional action, relying on strong performances, eerie visuals, and a haunting background score to create an atmosphere of suspense. The trailer avoids revealing major plot twists while offering enough intrigue to keep audiences invested.

The cinematography captures the film's dark and unsettling mood, while the background music enhances the feeling of mystery throughout the trailer. Together, the visuals and sound design create a gripping cinematic experience that promises edge-of-the-seat entertainment.

Produced by Kishore Naidu Chirumamilla and Tammareddy Bharadwaj under the Charithra Chitra Production banner,



MS Raju's Agadha Locks August 14 Release

Veteran filmmaker M.S. Raju is all set to explore a new genre with his upcoming mystical thriller Agadha, and the makers have officially announced its theatrical release date. The much-awaited film will hit cinemas on August 14, 2026, raising excitement among audiences eager to experience its unique blend of mystery, fantasy, and suspense.

The release date was unveiled along with a striking new poster that reflects the film's mysterious and supernatural tone. Ever since its first-look poster and teaser were released, Agadha has

generated considerable curiosity for its intriguing concept and visually rich presentation.

Written and directed by M.S. Raju, the film marks a significant departure from the filmmaker's signature style of feel-good entertainers. This time, he ventures into the world of mystical thrillers, promising an engaging cinematic experience filled with suspense and fantasy elements.

The film stars Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Shravan Reddy, Jovika Vijaykumar, and Ulka Gupta in lead roles. The ensemble cast is expected to deliver



liver performances that complement the film's mysterious narrative.

The makers have deliberately kept the storyline under wraps, revealing only glimpses of the film's mystical universe through the teaser. The promotional material hints at a suspense-filled narrative with supernatural and fantasy elements, leaving audiences eager to discover the secrets hidden within the story.

Mounted as a pan-India project, Agadha is being produced under the Sri Adi Varaha Entertainments banner. The film is expected to release in multiple languages, aiming to reach

audiences across the country. With the release date now confirmed, the promotional campaign is likely to gather momentum in the coming weeks. The combination of M.S. Raju's new creative direction, an intriguing premise, and visually impressive promotional material has already created strong anticipation among movie lovers.

As August 14 approaches, Agadha is shaping up to be one of the most interesting mystical thrillers of the year, promising a cinematic experience that blends mythology, suspense, fantasy, and emotion on a grand scale.

As August 14 approaches, Agadha is shaping up to be one of the most interesting mystical thrillers of the year, promising a cinematic experience that blends mythology, suspense, fantasy, and emotion on a grand scale.

'Every Family Will Connect With The India Story' Says Kajal

Actress Kajal Aggarwal has expressed immense confidence in her upcoming film The India Story, saying that its powerful theme will resonate with audiences of all ages and connect with every family.

Speaking during the film's promotions, Kajal revealed that the entire cast and crew have worked tirelessly to bring the story to life. She said the film deals with

a subject that is both relevant and emotionally engaging, making it a story that families can easily relate to.

According to Kajal, the makers have presented the issue in a compelling and entertaining manner without compromising on the film's emotional depth. She believes audiences will not only enjoy the movie but also leave theatres with meaningful

thoughts about its central message.

The actress also praised director Chettan DK and the technical team for their dedication and commitment throughout the making of the film. She appreciated the effort that went into presenting a socially relevant subject in a cinematic and engaging way. Shreyas Talpade plays the male lead alongside Kajal, and

the film marks their first on-screen collaboration. Their pairing has already generated interest among moviegoers, with the promotional material receiving a positive response.

The film has been creating buzz ever since its teaser and posters were released. The makers have positioned it as a socially relevant drama that blends emotion with a thought-provoking

narrative, aiming to entertain while raising awareness about an important issue.

With Kajal openly expressing her confidence in the project, expectations surrounding The India Story have increased significantly. Fans are now eagerly awaiting the film's release, hoping it delivers a meaningful cinematic experience that appeals to audiences across generations.

